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Doris Beaumont's tree



The “PIP”



Parque Independent Press

April 2012

March 10, 2012 was the wedding day for my good friend, Marilyn Leitold and Terry Sharton. Their story is an interesting one. Marilyn and Terry were high school sweethearts 50 years ago. At that time they dated for a couple of years and then went their separate ways. Terry joined the Navy, married and had a daughter, Torrey. Marilyn never made it to the altar.

In 2011, during an internet search, Marilyn contacted Terry who did not know who she was! She reminded him, and they started a long-distance relationship (she lives in Scott's Valley and he in Morro Bay). After dating for a few months, Terry asked Marilyn to marry him. (Terry had lost his wife to cancer the year before).

Because Marilyn had never been married, she was to experience it all. She picked a beautiful white wedding gown, a short veil and wore her “something old, something new....etc.

They were married at St. Agustin's Catholic Church in Scott's Valley with their reception at the Hollins House at the Pasatiempo Golf Course. A 1959 yellow Cadillac convertible was their means of transportation to their reception.

The weather cooperated and guests enjoyed a spectacular view from the Hollins House of the Santa Cruz harbor while we waited for Terry and Marilyn to arrive.

While waiting, we were served a variety of delicious hors d'oeuvres as well as various wines, beer, champagne and soft drinks. The first course of our meal was a spinach salad with bacon and hard-boiled egg. The main course was prime rib, halibut steak or chicken. The dessert was, naturally, wedding cake provided by Buttercream bakery. Delicious.

As you are reading this story, the Shartons are spending their honeymoon on a river cruise in Paris. What a way to start to a new life together.



Marilyn (nee Leitold) and Terry Sharton

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<http://www.wlmsburg.org/SR-PIP/PIP.htm>

Masonic Family Information



Youth Groups

DeMolay –	Apr 12 & 26	7 pm
Job's Daughters –	Apr 14 & 25	7 pm
Rainbow for Girls	Apr 5 & 19	7 pm

Masonic Lodges

Confidence	Apr 2	7:30 pm
Paideia	Apr 16	6 pm.
SCSLV dinner	Apr 3	6:30 pm

Eastern Star

SC Redwoods 7:30 meetings

Apr 9 – Birthday tables - potluck 6:30

Apr 23 – Honor PMs & PPs

Apr 27 - Electa Circle 11:30

Wild Lily 7:30 meetings

Apr 18 – OVDGM – Send in the Clowns

(From Mar 2012 SF Mission Lodge Trestleboard)

The first Masonic funeral that that ever occurred in California took place in 1849, and was performed over a brother found drowned in the Bay of San Francisco.

On the body of the deceased was found a silver mark, upon which was engraved the initials of his name. A little further investigation revealed to the beholder the most singular exhibitions of Masonic emblems that were ever drawn by the ingenuity of man upon the human skin. There is nothing in the history of the traditions of Freemasonry equal to it

Beautifully dotted on his left arm in red and blue ink, which time could not efface, there appeared all the emblems of the entire apprenticeship. There was the Holy Bible, square and compass, the twenty four inch gauge, and common gavel. There were also the Masonic pavement, representing the ground floor of King Solomon's Temple, the

identical tassel which surrounds it, and the blazing star in the centre. On his right arm, and artistically executed in the same indelible liquid, were the emblems pertaining to the Fellow-Craft's degree, viz., the square, the level and the plumb. There were also the five columns representing the Tuscan, Doric, Ionic, Corinthian and Composite.

In removing his garments from his body the trowel presented itself, with all the other tools of operative masonry. Over his heart was the pot of incense. On other parts of his body were the bee-hive, the book of constitutions, guarded by the Tyler's sword pointing to a naked heart; the All-Seeing Eye, the anchor and ark, hour glass, scythe, the forty-seventh problem of Euclid, the sun, moon, stars and comets; the three steps which are emblematical of youth, manhood and age.

Admirably executed was the weeping virgin, reclining on a broken column upon which lay the book of constitutions. In her left hand she held the pot of incense, the Masonic emblem of a pure heart; and in her right hand was a sprig of acacia, the emblem of the immortality of the soul.

Immediately beneath her stood winged Time, with his scythe by his side, which cuts the brittle thread of life, and the hour-glass at his feet, which is ever reminding us that our lives are withering away. The withered and attenuated figure of the destroyer was placed amid the long and flowing ringlets of the disconsolate mourner.

It was a spectacle such as Masons never saw before, and in all probability, will never witness again. The name of the deceased was never ascertained.

What's going on?

By Myron Coleman

As you may remember last September I had surgery on my right knee. I have been trying to get back to walking like I should be doing but the knee just hasn't been cooperating. However last week I was able to walk about a half a mile before the knee started telling me to stop.

This morning I walked by the picnic grounds. I noticed the new "work" table that has been built there. It isn't completed yet but you can clearly see it will be used after it gets the necessary plumbing.

The worktop is built of building blocks as legs and a poured concrete work top



New sink with Virgil's kitchen in background.



Virgil's Kitchen Door



Looks nice and built to last..

And.....

By Shirley Radder

After the flea market, the committee, chaired by Alcinda Walters, voted to use some of the funds earned to install a shower, drinking fountain and sink next to the restrooms in Section 4 by the tennis courts.

Quickly Terry Douglas was johnny-on-the-spot and installed these items. The need of a sink to wash one's hands after using the toilet was desperate! Adding the shower to rinse off after splashing around in the river will come in useful this summer.



The drinking fountain is attached to the sink, but turns on separately.

Men's Club Happenings

By Bob Morgan

The first Wednesday of each month finds about 20 of our local Brothers gathering for food, fun and fellowship. This month we had the pleasure of hearing former State Senator Bruce McPherson speak on the subject of taxation and State legislation. And, as an aside, he did mention that he is running for the 5th Supervisorial seat which encompasses Paradise Park, Scotts Valley and portions of the San Lorenzo Valley.

Responding to questions from the audience, candidate Bruce expressed a sincere interest in learning more about the challenges being faced by Paradise Park, such as the log jams, build-up of silt, overgrowth of trees in the River, and the chuck-holed Ocean Street Extension. Hopefully, if elected, he would be able to do more for us than was done by his predecessor in office.

Our chicken and rice lunch was prepared by Bill Lind who had frozen the leftovers from the Valentines dinner in order to keep them for the Men's Club luncheon.

Are you interested in learning more about the Men's Club? Just show up at 11:30 on the first Wednesday of any month - - no reservations are required.

Q: Why do people clink their glasses before drinking a toast?

A: It used to be common for someone to try to kill an enemy by offering him a poisoned drink. To prove to a guest that a drink was safe, it became customary for a guest to pour a small amount of his drink into the glass of the host. Both men would drink it simultaneously. When a guest trusted his host, he would only touch or clink the host's glass with his own.

Important Warning - Very Real

Kids are putting Drano, tin foil and a little water in plastic drink bottles and capping it up - leaving it on lawns, in mail boxes, in gardens, on driveways etc., just waiting for you to pick it up intending to put it in the rubbish, but you'll never make it!!! If the bottle is picked up, and the bottle is shaken even just a little - in about 30 seconds or less, it builds up enough gas, which then explodes with enough force to remove some of your extremities.

The liquid that comes out is boiling hot as well. Don't pick up any plastic bottles that may be lying in your yards or in the gutter, etc. Pay attention to this. A plastic bottle with a cap. A little Drano. A little water. A small piece of foil. Disturb it by moving it; and BOOM!! No fingers left and other serious effects to your face, eyes, etc. Please ensure that everyone that may not have email access are also informed of this.

For verification and more information, click on:

http://www.snopes.com/crime/warnings/bottle_bomb.asp

Rainfall total as of 4 October 2011 is:
29.75 inches per J. Mancini.



Colonoscopy Journal

THE WRITER: Dave Barry is a Pulitzer Prize-winning humor columnist for the Miami Herald.

I called my friend Andy Sable, a gastroenterologist, to make an appointment for a colonoscopy.

A few days later, in his office, Andy showed me a color diagram of the colon, a lengthy organ that appears to go all over the place, at one point passing briefly through Minneapolis. Then Andy explained the colonoscopy procedure to me in a thorough, reassuring and patient manner.

I nodded thoughtfully, but I didn't really hear anything he said, because my brain was shrieking, 'HE'S GOING TO STICK A TUBE 17,000 FEET UP YOUR BEHIND!'

I left Andy's office with some written instructions, and a prescription for a product called 'MoviPrep,' which comes in a box large enough to hold a microwave oven. I will discuss MoviPrep in detail later; for now suffice it to say that we must never allow it to fall into the hands of America's enemies...

I spent the next several days productively sitting around being nervous. Then, on the day before my colonoscopy, I began my preparation. In accordance with my instructions, I didn't eat any solid food that day; all I had was chicken broth, which is basically water, only with less flavor.

Then, in the evening, I took the MoviPrep. You mix two packets of powder together in a one-liter plastic jug, then you fill it with lukewarm water. (For those unfamiliar with the metric system, a liter is about 32 gallons). Then you have to drink the whole jug. This takes about an hour, because MoviPrep tastes - and here I am being kind - like a mixture of goat spit and urinal cleanser, with just a hint of lemon.

The instructions for MoviPrep, clearly written by somebody with a great sense of humor, state that after you drink it, 'a loose, watery bowel movement may

result.' This is kind of like saying that after you jump off your roof, you may experience contact with the ground.

MoviPrep is a nuclear laxative. I don't want to be too graphic, here, but, have you ever seen a space-shuttle launch? This is pretty much the MoviPrep experience, with you as the shuttle. There are times when you wish the commode had a seat belt. You spend several hours pretty much confined to the bathroom, spurting violently. You eliminate everything. And then, when you figure you must be totally empty, you have to drink another liter of MoviPrep, at which point, as far as I can tell, your bowels travel into the future and start eliminating food that you have not even eaten yet. After an action-packed evening, I finally got to sleep.

The next morning my wife drove me to the clinic. I was very nervous. Not only was I worried about the procedure, but I had been experiencing occasional return bouts of MoviPrep spurts. I was thinking, 'What if I spurt on Andy?' How do you apologize to a friend for something like that? Flowers would not be enough.

At the clinic I had to sign many forms acknowledging that I understood and totally agreed with whatever the heck the forms said. Then they led me to a room full of other colonoscopy people, where I went inside a little curtained space and took off my clothes and put on one of those hospital garments designed by sadist perverts, the kind that, when you put it on, makes you feel even more naked than when you are actually naked..

Then a nurse named Eddie put a little needle in a vein in my left hand. Ordinarily I would have fainted, but Eddie was very good, and I was already lying down. Eddie also told me that some people put vodka in their MoviPrep.

At first I was ticked off that I hadn't thought of this, but then I pondered what would happen if you got yourself too tipsy to make it to the bathroom, so you were

staggering around in full Fire Hose Mode. You would have no choice but to burn your house.

When everything was ready, Eddie wheeled me into the procedure room, where Andy was waiting with a nurse and an anesthesiologist. I did not see the 17,000-foot tube, but I knew Andy had it hidden around there somewhere. I was seriously nervous at this point.

Andy had me roll over on my left side, and the anesthesiologist began hooking something up to the needle in my hand.

There was music playing in the room, and I realized that the song was 'Dancing Queen' by ABBA. I remarked to Andy that, of all the songs that could be playing during this particular procedure, 'Dancing Queen' had to be the least appropriate.

'You want me to turn it up?' said Andy, from somewhere behind me. 'Ha ha,' I said. And then it was time, the moment I had been dreading for more than a decade.. If you are squeamish, prepare yourself, because I am going to tell you, in explicit detail, exactly what it was like.

I have no idea. Really. I slept through it. One moment, ABBA was yelling 'Dancing Queen, feel the beat of the tambourine,' and the next moment, I was back in the other room, waking up in a very mellow mood.

Andy was looking down at me and asking me how I felt. I felt excellent. I felt even more excellent when Andy told me that it was all over, and that my colon had passed with flying colors. I have never been prouder of an internal organ.

Colonoscopies are no joke, but these comments during the exam were quite humorous..... A physician claimed that the following are actual comments made by his patients (predominately male) while he was performing their colonoscopies:

1. Take it easy Doc. You're boldly going where no man has gone before.
2. Find Amelia Earhart yet?

3. 'Can you hear me NOW?'
4. 'Are we there yet? Are we there yet?'
- 5 'You know, in Arkansas, we're now legally married.'
6. 'Any sign of the trapped miners, Chief?'
7. 'You put your left hand in, you take your left hand out...'
8. 'Hey! Now I know how a Muppet feels!'
9. 'If your hand doesn't fit, you must quit!'
10. 'Hey Doc, let me know if you find my dignity.'
11. 'You used to be an executive at Enron, didn't you?'
12. 'God, now I know why I am not gay.'

And the best one of all:

13. 'Could you write a note for my wife saying that my head is not up there?'

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Guide for Old Holy Cross Cemetery
2271 7th Avenue
Santa Cruz

Irish Hill Way

The roadway that runs diagonally across the back of the cemetery is called Irish Row in honor of the many natives of Ireland that are buried along this path. It is a well-known fact that the immigrant Irish pioneered the mid-country region of Santa Cruz.

Driven from their home country by a deadly famine which raged across the land during the 1840s, millions were forced to flee to the U.S. and Canada. Most considered it to be only temporary exile and they would return home “when times got better.”

To this end, many would reach down, scoop up a handful of soil and put it into a jar or drawstring bag as a reminder of their impending journey back home. It quickly became a custom and was known as “packing the Auld Sod.”

Many visitors to the early day houses of the mid-country Irish farmers would remark about seeing these jars on the fireplace mantle. The tragedy was that, although they found a better life in North America, few would ever return to their homeland, even for a visit. So these jars and bags followed the pioneers into their graves, neatly tucked away in a vest pocket.

Another tradition followed closely by the Irish buried at Holy Cross cemetery is to engrave the village and county of birth on the tombstones of the dead. It was a source of pride for the family left behind. It is also a boon to the historical researcher as it made it quite easy to trace the migration patterns followed by the famine Irish.

Also it is interesting to note many Irish graves are surrounded by what is known as a “Tree-of-Life” coping. A coping is a very short wall which traces the boundaries of a grave site.

In this case, the wall is constructed to look like a fallen tree which has been cut into pieces and placed around the plot. The “Tree-of-Life” is taken from a reference in the Book of Genesis in the Bible – located in the Garden of Eden, indicating the brevity of human life.

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Recreation Committee Events

April 2 – Come and watch the Final Game of the NCAA Basketball Tournament in the Social Hall. Time TBA



April 7 - Easter Egg hunt in the Picnic Grounds. 10 a.m. Sign up in the office.

April 14 – Game Night in the Social Hall Ping Pong, Cribbage, Board Games and more!

April 21 – Potluck followed by Quarterly BOD informational meeting.

INSURANCE

By John A. Mancini

Why do we buy insurance? I believe it is out of fear and with insurance we can sleep less worrisome at night. Think of it as an investment in mental wellbeing. Think about the purpose of insurance. It is to protect one against a loss that could cause great financial distress or maybe even bankrupt us if it must be paid out of our personal assets. Always remember that insurance is not an investment that will earn money for you. Be suspect of anyone who tries to sell you insurance as an investment.

Insurance is sold by companies with the idea that they are spreading risk, over a large number of customers, with the idea that only a statistical number will need to be paid for a loss. It is the hope that the insurance premiums paid will exceed losses that are paid and that the insurance company will realize a reasonable profit.

In my mind there are three categories of insurance that are being offered to us as individuals. I will discuss a variety of insurance in each category and try to help the reader to decide their insurance needs. I consider myself as "insurance poor" so that I have familiarity with many types of insurance. I'll bet that I come up with some insurance that is unfamiliar to you. I intend to give you examples of how having the right insurance has helped me. Those categories are:

Basic insurance that most individuals should have

Luxury insurance for individuals with greater personal assets

Rip-off insurance that is a waste of money

I will write from my own personal experience and not as an insurance agent. Before you try to act on any of my advice, please consult with an insurance professional. I hope that my writings will give you sufficient background knowledge to ask the right questions that will lead

you to the correct insurance. Now lets get to the meat of this article.

BASIC INSURANCE

Homeowner's or Renter's Insurance

This type of insurance will cover your personal possessions and house, in the case of a homeowner, for damage or loss due to fire, theft, storm damage (not flood or earthquake) and piping breakage. Renter's insurance covers the loss of your personal contents in a rented dwelling due to the same above stated events. In addition personal liability coverage is offered with both kinds of insurance. The amount of coverage is a matter to be decided between you and your insurance professional.

Auto Insurance

The most important part of auto insurance is the liability. With our sue-happy society, one should consider \$500,000. Also with the number of uninsured motorists, having a \$100,000 or more coverage would be a good idea. This insurance will cover you and your vehicle in case of an accident with an uninsured motorist. Comprehensive coverage is inexpensive and will cover fire, theft and a broken windshield. Collision insurance will depend on the age of your car. Remember that with a total loss you can only expect to receive the Blue Book value, not what you think the car is worth to you. A reliable insurance agent can guide you in your purchase.

Life Insurance

Who do you have to provide for when you die? If it is a wife and children, you need to replace your earning power. Yes, the wife needs to be insured also as who will look after the children while the husband is working, should the wife die? In my opinion, the only kind of life insurance to buy is term insurance. You are only paying for insurance coverage and not building up any cash value. This

way you can get adequate coverage at a reasonable cost. Another use for insurance is to provide assets while the family is building up savings. Remember that the coverage is only as good as the credit rating of the company issuing the policy. Finally I would suggest getting a reliable insurance broker (not a salesman who sells for one insurance company) to guide you within the parameters I have laid out.

Health Insurance

Wherever possible, coverage under a group policy will be the most cost effective. Look to unions, professional organizations, government sponsored insurance and social organizations such as AARP to reduce your cost and increase benefits.

This is a big problem these days for many. I do not have an easy fix for this one. Those of working age look to their employer for coverage. Employees are being asked to pay an ever increasing percentage of the insurance cost. HMO's like Kaiser still seem like the best value for the money. PPO's, that use a limited number of designated providers, appear to be the next bet. Coverage that is supplied under group coverage usually covers preexisting conditions. Finally there is insurance, which allows you to choose any medical provider. This is the most expensive. Without insurance you are at the mercy of the medical provider charging the full billing amount, which can be staggering. With an insurance company, you benefit from their price negotiating power.

Even we who are on Medicare need supplemental medical insurance unless we can afford to pay the 20% of the cost of covered medical costs not covered by Medicare. The supplemental insurance picks up this cost. A reliable insurance professional should be able to guide you in your purchase of this insurance. Those that are fortunate enough to have

employer coverage in retirement will have this as their supplemental insurance.

Long Term Care Insurance

I debated with myself where to place this insurance. If you have all of the other basic insurances, this should get next consideration. This is another area that one should look into group policies as I mentioned above. It is said that the longer we live, the more likely we will need long term care. The earlier in life that you purchase it, the cheaper it is. Again I do not have any magic formula to tell you whether you need this coverage. Hopefully a reliable insurance professional can give you guidance. Even at 76 years of age, I am giving serious thought to buying it. I am fortunate to be retired military so can buy government sponsored insurance.

LUXURY INSURANCE

Umbrella Liability Insurance

The need for this type of insurance coverage will depend upon the value of your personal assets. Remember that an insurance company will only cover you for the policy limit should you get sued and lose. Most homeowner and auto coverage is a maximum of \$500,000. Legal judgments are often more than that. An umbrella policy takes up where your basic coverage stops. Because the umbrella isn't used until your other coverage has been used, it is very reasonable. I pay \$316 per year for \$2,000,000 coverage. Take an inventory of the assets that you need to protect and could lose.

Jewelry Insurance

Yes I know you have unscheduled jewelry coverage under your homeowners (HO) insurance. I am now speaking from knowledge of my insurance carrier which is CSAA. Jewelry would only be covered for loss due to theft and only up to \$2,500 total value. The only other coverage would be if your home burned and this resulted in loss of your jewelry, you would be covered up to your personal property

coverage. You could also get a certified appraisal of the jewelry and then get scheduled coverage at an additional cost. You would be covered for both loss and theft of the jewelry. I have found from experience that coverage is more expensive on HO insurance than jewelry insurance. I also found, from experience, that insurance companies try to settle for less than the appraised value and make you do all the work of getting the jewelry replaced.

I now use Jewelers Mutual Ins. Co. which is the largest insurers of jewelry in the United States. I have found them to be more satisfactory for a number of reasons:

- Less expensive for same appraised valuation
- Coverage for both loss or theft
- In case of a loss, they deal directly with jeweler of my choice for replacement
- Payment is directly to jeweler
- Jewelry is replaced in kind up to full appraised value

RIP-OFF INSURANCE
Whole Life Insurance

Life insurance is not an investment so the pitch to build up a cash value is bull. Buy term insurance and put the difference that you would spend for whole life in savings or an investment/retirement plan. The savings over your insurance lifetime could be a lot of money.

Don't buy your young child or grand kid an insurance policy. Put the money in their college fund. Better yet, make that a 529 Plan filled with good mutual fund investments.

Annuity Insurance Policy

If you are fortunate enough to have exhausted all tax deferred investment avenues such as company 401-k plan, conventional IRA, Roth IRA and have so much money in personal taxable investments that you are in the maximum tax bracket, then an annuity may be for you. If this does not describe your financial picture, I would advise staying

away from the annuity trap. The only one who makes money is the salesman who may earn up to a 10% commission for selling a policy to you.

Other Insurance

The following types of insurance do not afford necessary coverage or is coverage that one would seldom collect a claim. For this reason they are real moneymakers for the company that offer them and very little value to you as a policyholder. One would be wise to spend this money for other more cost effective insurance coverage or maybe for savings.

- Mortgage Insurance
- Credit Card Insurance
- Identity Theft Insurance
- Credit Watch Insurance

I know there must be more but I can't think of any more. Just tell people that it is insurance and some will buy

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All in the Family

Santa Cruz Sentinel - 22 February 2012

The father of a man sought by county authorities and a woman who escaped from jail last week was himself arrested Wednesday morning. Leo Beus, 55, was arrested on suspicion of possession of stolen property at a residence on Riverside Avenue in Santa Cruz.

Property crime detectives from the Sheriff's Office were following up on several leads to burglaries in unincorporated areas of the county. Detectives contacted Beus, who is on probation for possession of stolen property. Detectives found him to be in possession of several items that had been reported stolen. He was arrested and booked into Santa Cruz County Jail.

Beus is the father of Nicholas Beus, 28, who is currently being sought by county authorities. The younger Beus is a parolee-at-large who has been convicted of burglary, vehicle theft and drug possession, according to State Parole. Parole agents said he was ordered to attend a residential drug treatment program, to which he failed to report. He appeared on the county's Most Wanted list on Feb. 9 and fled from authorities last week. He's considered a "significant threat to public safety," and is believed to have ties to a white supremacist gang.

Leo Beus' 22-year-old daughter and Nicholas' sister, Brittany Beus, is also in custody at the County Jail. She escaped from the Blaine Street Women's Jail on Feb. 13 and was apprehended near Highway 9 in Ben Lomond. She was originally arrested Feb. 6 in Santa Cruz on suspicion of possession of stolen property, drunken-driving causing bodily injury and driving with a suspended license. She is scheduled to appear in court Friday on those charges.

(Editor's note: Mr. Beus had recently been a guest at allotment 318 for several weeks.)

Iditarod musher saves fallen dog with CPR

Larry Brown Sports

An Iditarod musher dramatically saved one of his fallen dogs by administering a CPR technique earlier this week.

Scott Janssen, who is running his second Iditarod, noticed that the tug line of his sled slacked while exiting a famously tricky section of the Alaskan race. Janssen saw that one of his dogs - 9-year-old Marshall - was on the ground after collapsing.

Janssen says he began sobbing, but he didn't wait long to try and save the dog. He began a dog-saving technique taught to him by another musher where the dog's tongue is folded into its mouth, and the mouth is shut.

"I had my mouth over his nose, breathing into his nose as I was compressing and rubbing his chest, trying to work the air out," Janssen said.

He said he was doing the CPR for what felt like an eternity, but was likely no more than five minutes. He implored the dog to respond. "I'm like c'mon dude, please come back," Janssen explains. "And he did."

Marshall gave a hacking cough and became alert. Thankful to have the dog alive, Janssen put Marshall on the sled and carried him about 32 miles to the next checkpoint where he received an IV after being examined by a vet.

The dog seems to be fine, though he is bummed that he won't be making the trip with the rest of the racing team, Janssen says.

Marshall had completed the race about six times and this was set to be his last. And after a life-saving experience, Janssen will likely return to the trail to try and complete the race for the second time.

March 17, 2012 Open Meeting of the Board of Directors

The following is my interpretation of the minutes I took at the meeting. For the official record, please see the latest Bulletin. (Note: for this month, I listened to a tape of the meeting as I was not present. The tape was not clear, but I did the best I could.)

President Cannon called the meeting to order at 10:10 in the small social hall. Those present were Directors Brandenburg, Cook, McDonald and Simas and Manager Terry Douglas. Invocation was given by Director Simas; with the pledge of allegiance led by Director Brandenburg.

Open Forum - John Mancini questioned the high legal expenses and asked for an explanation of same. He also wondered about Pat McDonald having to pay a deposit for the Friday Night Forum, but others do not have to pay a deposit. Sam said the matter had been taken care of and Pat's check was returned to her

Minutes of February 28, 2012 open board meeting were approved as read.

Manager's Report –Terry talked about the proper procedure for variances, new building committee forms and proposed security systems and their costs. **President's Report** – Sam Cannon reported he's working with Sgt Ross regarding the homeless camping around the perimeter of the Park. Dept of Fish & Game have agreed to assist in the clean up of the woody debris in the river.

Tree Committee recommended some tree removal which the Board approved.

Bylaws – John Mancini still working on the Morgan Opus. Board approved to have proposals 1,3,4,5,9,11,12,13,17 and 18 sent to Park Attorney for review.

Picnic Grounds – Jim Clark - new outdoor sink installed near Virgil's kitchen Las Palmas Ponderosa has scheduled a degree presentation for April 28.

Insurance Professional Services coverage has been denied. Member disclosure item is an issue and President

Cannon will address this in the next Bulletin.

ERT – Hoffman – Only one 911 call and committee replaced four pagers

Budget – Michael Sawley – are working on the new budget but still need input from some committees and the Board.

Website Committee – Michael Sawley Wondered if other websites should be listed on the official site. Concerns regarding how current are postings. Michael S. will present a training session on how to use the website at the quarterly town hall meeting.

Ad Hoc Discrepancy Committee Committee has been working on this and are trying to get more information.

Unfinished Business – Brandenburg stated there is no written report regarding investments, but one will be completed next month.

Security – Dick Lovelace – Neighborhood Watch Program will be presented by Sheriff Ross at April Town Hall meeting. Board approved to spend up to \$5,000 on security camera system.

Ladder Purchase –Men's Club will donate approximately \$200 toward the purchase of a ladder.

Board approved to adopt as a rule and procedure that all Park vehicles have a identification sticker.

Ombudsmen program – to be placed on the agenda for appointment of an Ad Hoc Committee.

New Business – Board is considering hiring a new Legal Counsel. This to be discussed during closed session.

Minutes – several members not satisfied with "action" minutes vs narrative minutes. It was pointed out that minutes are NOT for the benefit of those members who cannot attend these meetings. Recordings are available in the office for anyone that would like to hear the what happened at the meeting.

Bulletin – Complaints about the brevity of the Bulletin. Nothing of substance in it. It was stated that at one time Interim

Manager, Tim Heer, was looking for ways to cut costs and one way was to remove superfluous information from the Bulletin.

Real Estate - Ad Hoc Committee consisting of Helen Kuckens, Mark Zevanove, Curt Diesner, Carole Nelson to meet with the BoD in April before presenting to counsel.

Nominating Committee – Nominated are Michelle Green, Lois Keithley, Joanne Nelson, Nick O'Donnell, Wilma Vinson and Cindy Weigelt. Members may submit names by petition no later than April BoD meeting.

Recess called for CEO Committee presentation on drainage and water problem.

Meeting adjourned at 2:15

An audio-visual presentation of the latest COE Technical Report 102 entitled "PARADISE PARK MASONIC CLUB - HIGHWAY NINE DRAIN SYSTEM INTO PARK" was presented to the Board and Membership on Saturday, March 17, 2012. You can read and obtain your own copy on the Paradise Park website at www.ppmc-sc.org. Click on the "member login" box in the upper right-hand corner. An authentication box appears; enter your user name and password; click on members only; then click on shared documents; and then select "CEOReport102.0" to display the report. If you have a problem, call the PPMC office. If you still have a problem, ask Claude to email you a copy.

The report is authored by Malcolm Kirby and Claude Lindquist. It presents more than sixty pages of drain maps, tables, calculations, etc. of technical information; and discussions of legal issues involving liability decisions, pollution issues, case law, legal bibliography, and appendices. Two reams of As-Built drawings received from Caltrans in response to a request through Sam Cannon were displayed. A number of remedies, both short-term and long-

term, to Park drain problems are presented.

Because the legal issues are involved and can be mind numbing, Malcolm and Claude presented a short skit to introduce and highlight many of the major ideas. The participants are *PPMC*, *Caltrans*, and *Big Trees Railroad*. You can read all about the details in the report. But now sit back; we hope you enjoy our skit!

Skit Highlighting Legal Issues Involving Highway 9 Drainage

Scene: The conference room of PPMC, 10 a.m., April 1, 2012.

Participants: Representatives of PPMC, Caltrans, and Big Trees Railroad in suits.

Atmosphere: Collegial becoming confrontational as the meeting progresses.

At stake: \$250,000-\$500,000 or more of remedial repairs of Highway 9 drainage.



PPMC: Thank you for coming. We would like to talk about your drain pipes and their liability.

Caltrans: Happy to be here. What would you like explained?

PPMC: The Big Trees Railroad representative hasn't arrived yet.

Caltrans: This is easy and we can do this so let's go ahead.

PPMC: Discharge from your Highway 9 and drains damaged our property and puts us at risk.

Caltrans: Did you suffer damages?

PPMC: Yes. Erosion cost to repair piping, buildings, personal property, diminished value of PPMC land,

allotments, reduced number of buildable lots, stigma, health hazard and structural damage.

Caltrans: Well, you waived your rights. You are too late; time has expired under the statute of limitations.

PPMC: But aren't there easements?

Caltrans: We don't have any. There is an old saying, "no easement no liability"

PPMC: You forgot about the two you have. One at the park entrance and the other at the exit road.

Caltrans: Yes, but they have a hold harmless paragraph, so we are not liable.

PPMC: What about Implied Easements through usage. Like the farmers closing the gate for 24 hours once a year to prevent their neighbor from claiming right -of-way is "grandfathered"

Caltrans: Yes, we have implied easements to discharge highway runoff.

PPMC: Well spoken. But remember that other old saying: " He who owns the pipe is responsible."

Caltrans: But, don't you recall that by attaching your own pipe you extended our pipe?

PPMC: Are you suggesting that liability was transferred to us?

Caltrans: Yes. At least partly. Under Tort law, liability is shared by all owners

PPMC: Makes sense to me. So, I guess we should disconnect when we are not using it.

Caltrans: Not so fast. We would measure by length of pipe, not time.

PPMC: Set that aside and consider the "California Rule."

Caltrans: So what about it?

PPMC: You are the upper landowners, so you are liable.

Caltrans: But we are being reasonable. Our culverts follow standard practices.

PPMC: That is not the point - Your culverts are artificial, not natural, and they concentrate and channel water and divert it to a small number of places. Underground culverts are considered to be "unreasonable."

Caltrans: But, you also have culverts and they are attached to ours.

PPMC: Yes. And we are considering replacing them with rock falls, swales, and berms.

Caltrans: What else?

PPMC: How about pollutants?

Caltrans: What about them?

PPMC: We are conveying polluted water to the river and discharging it there.

Caltrans: So?

PPMC: It violates the Clean Water Act and we could be fined. The NRDC sued you and won.

Caltrans: Yes. We have a program to clean up the water at the catch basins. Here is a map of our test locations.

PPMC: Will you clean up Highway 9?

Caltrans: Yes.

PPMC: That leaves us with the U.S. Constitution, 5Th Amendment?

Caltrans: Holy Smoke, the 5th?

PPMC: Do you agree that you channel water runoff for the benefit of the public?

Caltrans: Yes, it benefits the public.

PPMC: And what about the water itself, is that water public?

Caltrans: I think so.

PPMC: Well, then, the constitution says that public benefits should not be paid for by private parties. And using private facilities for public benefit is a form of "taking" under Federal law.

Caltrans: Is that the bottom line?

PPMC: So, public water flowing through private channels ditches, pipes, is public use of private facilities, and the cost of such use, including damages, should not be born by private citizens.

Caltrans: Not to change the subject but where is that railroad representative?

PPMC: Yes, well he just arrived. Shall we start over?

Caltrans: No, let's not. I'll tell him to get ready to write some checks.

PPMC: Our office manager has prepared some hors d'œuvres and convivial beverages for you to enjoy.

Caltrans: Thanks but I'm not feeling too well and need to go.



Ryan and Julie Duty left on Monday, March 19, 2012 for their trek across the U.S. to start their life in Pennsylvania. Follow them on: www.dutyaviation.blogspot.com

Calendar of Events

MAR

Mar 20	Tuesday Coffee	9:00 – 11:00	SSH
Mar 21	BINGO	6:30	SSH
Mar 24	Bylaws Committee	10:00	SSH
Mar 27	Tuesday Coffee	9:00 – 11:00	SSH
Mar 31	Rundell Family Gathering		Social Hall

APR

Apr 2	Knittin' Kittens	11:30	SSH
Apr 2	Final Game of NBA		Social Hall
Apr 3	Tuesday Coffee	9:00 – 11:00	SSH
Apr 4	Men's Club	11:30	SSH
Apr 6	Quilts of Valor	10:30`	Sue Lovelace, 501 Amaranth
Apr 7	Easter Egg Hunt	10:00	Picnic Grounds
Apr 10	Tuesday Coffee	9:00 – 11:00	SSH
Apr 12	Wine & Cheese	4:00	Social Hall
Apr 14	Fire Brigade Training	9:00	Fire House
Apr 14	Game Night		Social Hall
Apr 16	Rainbow Girls	7:00	SSH
Apr 17	Tuesday Coffee	9:00 – 11:00	SSH
Apr 18	Bingo	6:30	Social Hall
Apr 20	Quilts of Valor	10:30	Sue Lovelace, 501 Amaranth
Apr 20	Town Hall	6:00	SSH
Apr 21	Board Meeting	10:00	SSH
Apr 21	Recreation Committee	4:00	SSH
Apr 21	Pot Luck & Open Forum	5:30	Social Hall
Apr 24	Tuesday Coffee	9:00 – 11:00	SSH
Apr 26	Wine & Cheese	4:00	Social Hall
Apr 28	Bylaws Committee	10:00	SSH

Wine & Cheese Gathering



About 25 members attended the first wine and cheese function held on Thursday, March 8 at the Social Hall. Hostess Pat Herzog greeted all those who were present and expressed the hope these social gatherings can continue in the future. Guests brought a bottle of wine and a heavy hors d'oeuvres dish to share.



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