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Don, Abigail, Shirley & Joseph



The "PIP"



Parque Independent Press

October 2012

Don and I left on Tuesday, August 14 for a 3- week visit with my daughter, son-in-law and their twins, Joseph and Abigail. Being out of the Park for that lengthy period of time, I was only able to get a little bit of park info for this issue of the PIP, so I'm using my reports back from Pennsylvania as filler!. (these are e-mails I sent to some friends)

August 16, 2012

Hello!

I'm in Pa in Julie's house watching TV. I had a bad morning and thought I was going to get a case of vertigo, but Julie went to the store and bought me some Meclazine to help clear it up...it worked after about 5 hours.

Where can I start? We had a long plane flight because we were not scheduled to change planes in Phoenix, but had to...then we arrived in North Carolina and on the flight from NC to PA (4 hours), my seatmate was a 16 month old! (who sat in her mother's lap). She slept for about 2 hours, but was lively for the rest of the time. The mother had left the father and was moving to NC to live with her parents....said the father had "issues" (read...bad temper)...

Ok, we are in PA and take a shuttle to Philadelphia and was able to see the Liberty Bell! I was so excited....been wanting to see it for years. I was not disappointed...the only problem is that all of the "historical" sites have many guards and purse searches, etc....isn't that a shame?



We took an hour and a half bus tour of the city and I loved that city. Would like to spend a few days there looking around.

Now we are in New Columbia at Ryan and Julie's house. They live in a small 3-bedroom, with a large double car garage and a full basement downstairs. Thank goodness for that as they have so much stuff.

The twins are so cute...they are teeny..little bitty people. I honestly don't know how Julie does it....they feed every 2 hours, round the clock..have to be burped and changed and then it takes awhile for them to go back to sleep...only to be awakened again. Julie does a lot of sleeping on the couch. Ryan is a great help, but he works a lot of hours. However, when he comes home, he goes right to the babies to help.

As I said, their house is small, but they have a wonderful enclosed screen porch on the back

of the house which faces a forest. It's very relaxing back there, but muggy during the daytime.

Today Ryan and Julie and the babies went to Ryan's office picnic....Don stayed behind with me as I was just so sick with this vertigo...I'm so ecstatic that I'm feeling better. I was sending out e-mails on my kindle, but right now I'm using Julie's computer to write this up and send it to you all. Writing on a kindle is horrible as it is so easy to make typos and takes so long as one can only type so fast by hitting individual keys.....you know what I mean....

Julie has stuff all over as she told me they bought the house...one week later the furniture was delivered and another week later the babies were born....and she has had no time of her own since. She owes a ton of thank you notes...but has not had time to write them.

August 21, 2012

When I wrote about taking a tour of Philadelphia, I forgot to mention a scam to which we were party. We were standing on a street corner when this guy comes up to us and tells us he had just been released from the hospital....pulls up his sleeve and shows a tube thingy dangling from his arm, said he had a heart problem and he was on his way home when his car was towed. In his other hand he had a tow notice that he waved around. Said he needed \$9.00 to get the train to take him to his house. Yep, we gave him the \$9.00....because we thought it was an unusual scam.

On Sunday, Julie drove over to a fabric store by the name of Verna's fabrics which is owned/run by the Amish. She told me to watch out for horse drawn carriages as we were in Amish country. We passed about 6 of them...Then Monday I went out on my own to find the fabric store (since it was closed on Sunday). The GPS led me on a wild chase through the countryside and although I finally ended up at Verna's I found it by going past beautiful farms with acres and acres of corn in the fields.

PA is a beautiful state and it rains a lot so the land is green, green, green. Then you see a splash of red for a barn or white for the covered bales of hay. Beautiful spot.

She lives in a smaller home...but on about ½ acre with a thick forest behind her. She has so much grass, she needs a riding mower to cut it. They don't have one. Fortunately they have a double car garage and a full basement for all of their stuff!

Yesterday we took the babies to Sam's Club. She has to use the double stroller that we bought her for a shower gift. It's huge and takes up most of the room in the back of her Tahoe. Since we bought so much stuff, I had to sit between the car seats in the back and Julie piled the food and other stuff in the front seat, around the stroller in the back, and by my feet. I think she does a lot of shopping after Ryan comes home from work.

August 26, 2012

Don's sister, Barbara lives in Batavia as well as her daughter, Tracy, HER daughter, Marrian and HER daughter Bathory. Don's other sister, Ann, lives in Alabama and it was a two-day drive for her to get to Batavia. Julie, Ryan and the children traveled in their Tahoe and Don and I took our rental car and met them in Batavia.

On the way, we stopped to see the field that was used for the World Series of Little League, in Williamsport, PA. Ryan and Julie live only 15 miles away.



Fortunately when we drove through Williamsport, the games were not scheduled until later in the day, so I was able to get this picture without anyone blocking the view.

We had a great visit in Batavia with all of us meeting for Chinese one night. On Friday and Saturday mornings we went garage sale-ing and I snagged several bargains. Julie was able to get more clothing for the twins.



On our way back to PA, I took this picture of a carving from a tree stump on a residential street.

September 1, 2012

Don and I left later in the day than we planned for Hershey, Lancaster and Gettysburg. There was a plumbing problem and at the last minute Don had to go to the store to get tools to fix it.

We exited to use the “facilities” at a McDonald’s and on the

way back to the freeway, came upon a store that was called “Surplus” something or other...but on the wall was a sign that said FABRIC. Wow!...Don pulled right over. When we went inside, he about dropped his mouth....there were surplus tools...he was in heaven. I did buy some fabric for \$5.39 a yard, which is a good price, but the selection was small. Don spent more time in the store than I did.

Our drove to Hershey, PA. Don’t know what I expected to see there...but I wasn’t all that thrilled. We visited a place called something like “Hershey World” which reminded me of Downtown Disney...with chocolate, Twizzlers, Reese’s Pieces instead of Mickey and Donald. One could purchase all kinds of items with the Hershey name on it (or Reese’s or Twizzlers). Naturally the items were very overpriced....so Don and I ended up with milk shakes..his a chocolate chocolate and mine a peanut butter chocolate. Delicious. There was a large Hershey Park nearby which looked like a huge amusement park with all kinds of wild rides. Wasn’t interested in that.

We found our hotel in Lancaster, and at first I was concerned as it was about 10 miles out of town and I wanted to be near the Amish (thinking they were in town). Well, the hotel was smack dab in the middle of Amish farmland. We arrived in the area around 4 p.m. and the stores closed at 5, so we were only able to visit a couple.

Dinner that evening was at the Revere Tavern....this tavern was once a home owned by James Buchanan, whose sister, I believe was married to Stephen Foster. We had a delicious dinner and then back to the hotel.

We stayed at a Best Western and I have to say that the continental breakfast was the best I’ve ever seen. Not only did they have the usual fresh fruit mixture, muffins, make your own waffles, but also individually-wrapped Jimmy Dean breakfast sausage, egg and cheese on croissants. Also, the donuts they served were real donuts! Not those “fakey” kind with white powder....but real maple bars, and plain cake with chocolate icing..etc.

The next day we drove around Bird In Hand, Paradise and Intercourse. We had to be careful driving in order to watch out for the horse-drawn buggies.



The farms were beautiful....really the entire state of Pennsylvania is beautiful...but the Amish farms....so clean looking....I think I was expecting some sort of “village” where they all lived....and then, as we were driving around, I would notice these beautiful two story homes with no utility lines going to them.



(notice the clothes line right of center...no utility wires)
 The Amish do not use electricity and so many homes had long clothes lines with the washing gently flapping in the breeze. At one point we stopped the car to watch a man driving a 6-mule team pulling some kind of farm equipment.



Don and I picked up handouts one gets at a hotel and I wanted to go to a fabric outlet (which turned out to be about 1/3 the size of M & L in Buena Park), an Amish quilt store....drop dead GORGEOUS quilts....all handmade and expensive (about \$1500)....and finally a knife store. I sat in the car and Don was inside buying himself a new knife and a sharpening stone.

Since we arrived in Lancaster late the day before, we spent Friday in the area and decided to visit Gettysburg on another visit.



On the way back to New Columbia, we stopped at Cabela's.....this is a "mecca" for outdoorsmen....hunters and fishermen. The place was full of stuffed animals and everything one would need to hunt, fish or hike. There aren't any in California and I know Don would have liked to spend the entire day wandering around. I sniffed around for 5 minutes then sat down and read my book.

Julie and I spent Saturday morning going to garage sales. She bought more clothes for the children and even a tent in the shape of a castle for \$3.00. I'm looking for a suitcase to bring home all of my treasures. Didn't find one today, so may have to go to a thrift shop on Monday

Whoever had the winning bid on the stepping stones at the Labor Day Celebration silent auction please call Darlene @ (831)425-1478.

They left half of the things there and I have them at my house. There was a tea basket, book and plant that went with the stones.

NOTICE!!!!



Annual Holiday Party will be on **SATURDAY**, December 15 ...and **not** on Sunday, December 16....

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Masonic Family Information



Youth Groups

DeMolay – Oct 11 & 25 7 pm
Job's Daughters – Oct 13 & 24 7 pm
Rainbow for Girls Oct 4 & 18 7 pm

Masonic Lodges

Confidence Oct 1 7:30pm
Paideia Oct 10 7:30pm
SCSLV dinner Oct 2 6:30 pm

Eastern Star

SC Redwoods 7:30 meetings

Sep 24 – Brother's Night
 Oct 8 – Elections 6:30 dinner
 Oct 18 – 20 – Grand Chapter in Fresno
 10/24 – Day of the Dead

Wild Lily 7:30 meetings

Oct 3 - Farewell*****

CONGRATS to Tami McDonald, DGM
 for Monterey Bay Area



Trish Mancini & Anna Avery
 Initiation at SC-R

Monday, September 10, an initiation was held at Santa Cruz Redwoods, OES. Two of the initiates were members of Paradise Park....Anna Avery and Trish Mancini.

There was a tremendous turnout from the Park with 25 sideliners and 20 of those were PPMC members

Refreshments at the end of the evening were provided by Patsy and Howard Benfield who served Boston Cream Pie and mixed fresh fruit.



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

Birthday Festivities at the Picnic Grounds

By Lois Laidlaw

Bill Laidlaw celebrated his 70th birthday at a surprise party on Saturday, September 8 that Lois organized for him with the help of many other people.

Ray Hoffman requested his help at the picnic grounds and brought him in his golf cart to meet 70 greeters. He was really surprised. There were relatives, old friends and new friends from the Park, new neighbors and neighbors from their former house as well as employees.

The guests enjoyed a big BBQ of tri tip and chicken cooked to perfection by Andrew Almanza who did a fabulous job. Everyone brought a potluck dish to share so great food was in abundance.

In addition to great food, friendship and conversation, Bill's cousins from the Peninsula provided live music with a Blues Band with two of his cousins warbling blues songs. Guests enjoyed dancing on the basketball court to the great music including his 93 year old Aunt Pam who ventured out on the court in her wheel chair keeping time with the music with her raised hands while two of

her daughters and son in law danced around with her.

One cousin flew in from Honolulu, another from San Diego while others came from Mendocino County and the SF Peninsula.

On a sad note – just prior to guests arriving, Bill's sister Judy, who drove up from LA with her son, was helping Lois's daughter and daughter-in-law get the decorations set up and collapsed. .

911 was called and emergency crew responded immediately and whisked her off to Dominican where she underwent extensive surgery to repair a dissected upper aorta artery to the heart. (Ironically, Bill is on the Park emergency team who directed the ambulance and fire truck through the entrance, but had no idea that it was his sister who was the emergency.) She also required six blood transfusions after the procedure. Thankfully, she is now in stable condition.

In spite of that sadness, everyone had a rousing good time.

Note: Bill hiked the back side of Half Dome with his teen age grandsons on Labor Day and will be receiving his 3rd Degree at the Santa Cruz Lodge on 9/18.



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SECTION PARTIES

By Bob Sand

Section One's hat party attracted 87 folks and included not only a parade of outstanding hats, but prizes, appetizers, an endless potato bar, variety of salads, hot dishes and yummy desserts including two huge homemade cheese cakes.

Master of Ceremonies, Dick Fisher, orchestrated the event and directed winners to the prize table to make their selection. Sixties music provided by John Hughes; Bob Sand bartended with free margaritas; and Karen Eneboe acted as treasurer. If you missed seeing Cal Crawford in his winning hat, check out the bulletin board at the office.

Nick O'Donnell and wife volunteered to host next year's event with help from Tim and Natalie Heer. This year's hosts are pictured in their chosen hats.



Karen Eneboe, Dick & Connie Fisher, Bob & Tiny Sand, Harvey & Johnny Hughes

Those Were the Days

By Don Hansen

Family, friends, neighbors and fun. hosted by Robert Charves and Don Hansen for the Section 4 party. Co-hosts were Pat McDonald, Tom and Sharon Hansen and Tony Fleming. Over 65 people attended for a dinner of tri tip, baked potatoes, beans

and rolls. Those attending provided hot entrees, salad, appetizers and desserts.

Bob and I just moved back to Paradise Park last December and we were amazed by all the people in Section 4 who offered to help with the party. A big thank you to all of those who helped make this party so successful.

Art, Wine and Tri-Tips – Wow what a day in Capitola!

By Shirley Moore

On Sunday September 9, the sun was shining brightly and the sea breeze was just enough to keep the crowd comfortable as they strolled through the streets of Capitola. What a nice surprise to find my neighbors, Char Reynolds, and her daughter, Linda, at the shuttle bus stop as we headed out to the festival. The 3 of us spent the afternoon together enjoying the displays of beautiful artwork, photography, jewelry, pottery and more.

Robert Wunce welcomed us warmly at his jewelry booth and we "oohed" and "aahed" over his beautiful display of silver and stones. About one hour into our wanderings we decided to visit the Rainbow Girls' food booth for lunch. Linden Swanson was in charge of the booth, with help from Paul Dangreau, Bill Lind, Dan Macdonald, Holly and Billy Swanson, the Mother Advisor and several Rainbow Girls.

The barbecued tri-tip sandwich with caramelized onions was big and delicious. They also offered pasta salad with barbecued chicken, iced tea, lemonade and brownies. Many other booths offered different food choices, but I'm sure the tri-tip was the best.

We continued our stroll through town, watching the crowd spend their money while we resisted splurging. Our only purchase for the day, other than lunch, was the 3 postcards Char bought. I definitely plan to go again next year and will watch for other events featuring the Rainbow Girls barbecue. Hope I'll see you there!

Men's Club

By Bob Morgan

With the summer season drawing to a close, the Men's Club has once again resumed its regular monthly luncheon meetings. Our September meeting found Brother Mark Hasey making a return engagement and speaking on the subject of Masonry during the American Revolution. Mark has an extensive collection of Masonic books, and he speaks very knowledgeably on subjects involving our ancient and honorable fraternity.

Our newly elected Club President, Mark Zevanove, wielded the gavel and led the group through its various items of business. One subject that was well discussed was the purpose and functions of the Almoner's Fund. This little known charitable fund serves a very valuable purpose here in Paradise Park by providing emergency assistance to any member who finds themselves in serious financial circumstances. One unique aspect of the fund is that only the elected Almoner has any knowledge of who is assisted by the fund, and no report is ever made to the Men's Club as to who received funding, or how much funding they received. The source of money for the Almoner's Fund is the confidential contributions made by members of the Men's Club.

The meal was prepared by Suzie Zevanove and consisted of delicious roasted rosemary chicken, scalloped potatoes, fresh green salad, grapes and cookies for dessert.

For those men who may not be familiar with this club, it is open to all men in the Park, and meets on the first Wednesday of each month. Refreshments are served at 11:30, lunch is at 12:00 and the price of the meal is an unbelievably low \$6.00 per person. No invitation is necessary, just show up and enjoy the fellowship..

What's going on?



Eduardo has been busy. He placed these nice railings on the way to Rocky Beach.



He built eight new tables for the picnic grounds. The old ones kinda "pinched" your behind when you sat down! These new ones are GREAT as you have plenty of room to swing your legs getting onto your seat.



Shed in picnic grounds recently painted



A surprise party was held on Thursday, September 13 at the home of Darlene Stumpf to honor 65 years young, Pat McDonald. Shown surrounding the honoree are Sharon Simas, Darlene, Annie Levy and Cyndy Crogan.

Emergency Response Team Meeting

September 29, 2012
 Small Social Hall
 10:00 – 12:00 p.m

This meeting is for everyone that has a pager and a radio assigned to them. A sign-in sheet to log in your radio serial number and you pager ID number will be provided.

Please bring your Traffic Control binder with up for updating.

Everyone is welcome to this open meeting.

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Meet & Greet with the BoD

Friday, September 14 was the first “meet and greet” social for the new directors of our Board. A classic black urn fountain was placed in the center of the food table to draw your attention.

The food was excellent for the more than 60 people who came in and out. Some of the treats included cheeses, salami, sandwich wraps, taquitos, and home made pizza, as well as a selection of cookies for dessert.

Wine was provided with most of those attending bringing their beverage of choice. The directors visited each table and asked the members about their concerns and suggestions for improvement. A nice way to start the Board year.....

After returning from visiting our grandchildren, Don returned to Lemoore and I stayed in Santa Cruz. That left me without transportation. When Jill and Corey Keller found out I would not have a vehicle, they offered to lend me their second car. Then at the OES meeting, Arlene Mancini told me that I should not be without a car for a week and offered their family van. The next morning at Tuesday coffee, John Mancini reiterated their offer of allowing me to use their car. What wonderful neighbors and friends I have here in PPMC! (p.s. I borrowed Jill and Corey’s!)

There comes a time in life when you have to let go of all the pointless drama & the people who create it & surround yourself with people who make you laugh so hard that you forget the bad and focus solely on the good. After all, life is too short to be anything but happy.

The following is my interpretation of the minutes I took at the meeting. For the official record, please see the latest Bulletin.

Open **Board of Directors Meeting** September 15, 2012.

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors was held on Saturday, September 15, 2012 at 10:40 in the small social hall. President, Sam Cannon presided with Joanne Nelson, Nick Cannon, Gary Brandenburg and Lois Keithly in attendance. The benediction was given by Lois Keithley followed by the flag salute led by Nick O'Donnell.

Mark Zevanove spoke about the Almoner's Fund explaining the usage and how funds are raised. Bill Lind is chairman but one may speak about this to any member of the Men's Club. If you know of anyone in need, please let them know. Donations are also welcome.

Gary Brandenburg – Moved to reaffirm the policy no person may be employed in a full time permanent position who is a member, associate member, or alternate member. However, members can be part-time employees for no longer than six months, temporary employment for three months or contracted employees.

Nick O'Donnell - Closed board meeting minutes of July 21 were approved as read. Closed board meeting minutes of August 18 were approved as read. Open minutes of August 18 were approved as read.

Michelle Green – Requested a special meeting regarding the members' concerns regarding building permits. The meeting would include Michelle Green, the Board and Michael Bates. Scheduled for time in November. Information will be placed in the Bulletin. Addendum A is now part of the Building Packet.

Manager -Terry Douglas – no report due to the passing of his mother

President - Sam Cannon – thought the meet and greet went well last night

Treasurer - Gary Brandenburg – \$683,179.36 (in checking/savings and reserve accounts). Making some progress in accounts receivable...14 members that owe over \$1,000. Financial report has not been printed in the Bulletin but are in the office if a member would like one.

Nick O'Donnell – Labor Day – congratulated all of the members who contributed to that wonderful event.

Lois Keithley– A marvelous Labor Day...and a public thank you to people who stepped up and hosted the event. \$5500 made on silent auction and over \$1000 made at the snack shack at the beach.

Tree Committee - Jessica Snyder Chair and no open trees in the binder at this time.

ByLaws – Dick Lovelace – asking Board to look at items that did not make it on recent ballot.

Security – cameras definitely deterring people from coming into the park at all hours

ERT – Ray Hoffman – Seven 911 calls four outside and three within. Guests were blocking the road and the garbage truck had to back up to St. John's. ERT meeting in the SSH.on Sept 29.

Long Range Planning - met with Dick Tibbett who is an expert on evaluation of fixed assets.

Wine and Cheese continues to grow.

Michelle Green – difficulty in notifying membership of dates and times of meetings

JoAnne Nelson - Meetings that can be scheduled are in the calendar. Some committees don't work that way,. ... Incident reports are way down...due to members trying to work hard to solve these problems.

Unfinished Business – Internal Combustion Engines – 2 or 3 wheeled vehicles with combustion engines are not to be ridden on PPMC roads. Change to the rules and procedures or is it a policy?

Christmas Party December 15 **SATURDAY**) and December 8 for Board meeting.

STAKING - we don't make any decisions....information is sent out to members

Meeting was adjourned at this time.

Open Forum – Wilma Vinson – wanted Jessica Snyder know that Cheryl Dangreau kept excellent minutes for the tree committee and had all of the information for the committee. Was a very good committee chairman.

Shirley Moore – Cheryl gave her reports to the office.

Bob Morgan – spoke about rules and procedures...board discussed items in closed session that should be discussed in open meetings. M

Marty Miller – wondered if he was on Staking Committee

Shirley Radder – asked why it was different putting Marty on the Staking Committee from placing Gayle Logan Silva on the Bylaws Committee.

Michelle Green – emailed and volunteered to be on three committees and was selected for one, however two more committees have vacancies and she would like to be on those committees.

Charlotte Hoffman – can't understand why Michelle was not considered for the Building committee with her employment background.

Michael Sawley – spoke about how he was not allowed to speak at the last Board Meeting. He was interrupted by Natalie Heer and Sam gaveled them quiet.

Bob Morgan – regarding a letter of protest

Shirley Morgan – Board unanimously approved the Dog Park and was put on hold wanted to know the status. Sam stated it will be taken “under consideration.”

Meeting adjourned at 12:40.


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Interview with Annie

The PIP interviewed Annie on September 14, 2012 regarding the “rumor” that she quit her position due to the way she was treated by people who attend Tuesday Coffee.

Annie: In response to your questions about who contacted me and my experience after leaving Paradise Park....

There were a lot of people who contacted me that were out of the ordinary, who you would never expect... that were not politically connected or involved or vocal...who were very quiet and at first I took this as flattery...that they were sad to see me go and that is basically what they were. They always asked questions like why did I go and I would tell them my reasons for leaving. But then about probably in August..they started to be more inquisitive...demanding...not in a bad way.

“Have you seen this? Is this true? Do you know what this is?”

Kinda broke my heart because they were getting information saying that the key reason I left was because of Tuesday Morning Coffee people. And that broke my heart.....**because if any of those people at Tuesday Coffee ever actually thought that, I would be so upset.**

Anytime they would contact me on that I would say the opposite. It wasn't because of that....I can name 10 Tuesday Coffee people off the top who helped me on a daily basis...Florence

Gustafsson delivering stuff for the Park doing anything I asked of her.

Charlotte and Ray doing my Bulletins, assembling them... sending them all out....Shirley Radder doing Bulletins when I needed it. I called John Mancini on a regular basis when I was getting different things told to me about the bylaws and I would call him. At that time he was the Chairman of the Bylaws Committee.

I would call and say, “John, I don't understand “a” “b” “c” or “d.”

Not only would he help me, but he would say “I'll be right down” he would come right away. He would bring visual aids....and say “this is the bylaw”...“this is what it means” and “this is why what you did, or what the office did, is incorrect.”

If I had that support park-wide, the job would have been a breeze.

He helped me understand the bylaws because there are so many different interpretations.

PIP: Did you feel you did not have the support park wide?

Annie: No...I felt especially where the bylaws were concerned....I felt like even if I said, “this is what I'm doing...is this correct?” There were so many different interpretations. I would be told different answers. In defense of a lot of people, they felt they were giving me the correct answer. But that's why I would go to the chairman of the bylaws committee because I felt that was the correct way to go...if I couldn't get clarification from the Board.

Sam encouraged me a lot to go to the Chairman.

Dick Lovelace attends Tuesday morning coffee and I would call him about some kind of security thing....and he was on the radio taking care of it. And I would say let me know if I need to do anything.

PIP: It's important that you clarify your experience with Myron.

Annie: Myron was never anything but polite to me...he would come in and ask for a b c or d...I would get it and if I couldn't get it...I'd say, "You know what? I can't put my hands on it right now but I will and I'll either call you, put it in your mail box or email it to you" and he would say "That's absolutely fine," and he would leave. He was **never** rude to me.

There were very few people that were rude to me...it was very rare. There were a few and I got to the point near the end where I said you need to call me back when you are calm and when you can listen to what I say because I'm not going to let you talk to me like this. This is unacceptable.

They would call me back later and say I'm sorry...this is what I need and this is why I need it and we would go from there...but Myron was NEVER

rude or a problem....

Due to time restraints, the interview with Annie was concluded and will continue another day.

A dice game played by a wealthy Canadian couple aboard their boat proved so popular that they asked Edwin Lowe (of Bingo fame) if he would make up some samples for them to give as gifts. Lowe was so impressed with their "Yacht Game" that he offered to buy the rights. They agreed, sacrificing all future royalties for a few free copies of the game - a game Lowe manufactured and sold with great success under the catchier name Yahtzee.



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Enchiladas will be prepared on October 6 and delivered to the
park the following week

Behind the teacher's desk

A Time of Surprises

By Betty Schulz

I am a Kindergarten Teacher. Each time a new school year starts it is like Christmas all over again. What will my new class be like? Will there be more boys or more girls (it makes a difference). Will the parents be willing to help, or will they be the sort who drop their kids off each morning and rarely be seen again. What about siblings, will there be the younger brothers or sisters of the children I have had in the past?

All these questions and many more went through my mind this past August as I gradually slipped out of summer relaxation/vacation mode and got back into the swing of things at the elementary school where I teach in Vallejo.

This year handed me surprises beyond my expectations. As we approached the beginning of the school year, my class size steadily rose beyond the 32 that is the class size limit in Vallejo and on upward to 36, 38, 40 and finally 45! There were children everywhere in the classroom!

Fortunately for me and for the children as well, the school district provided each of us (my fellow kindergarten teacher and I) with a full time substitute. My wonderful principal, fully aware of the chaos that can be caused by so many young children entering school for the first time, also provided us each with our own full-time bi-lingual aide (a nice surprise as support of this kind was not the norm with previous administrations).

What was it like to have 45 in a Kindergarten class? It was pretty amazing. This is where the big surprises really came in. First of all, and thankfully, there were not many children who cried a lot when Mom left. The children would crowd on the floor and

would listen carefully to the stories I read (who wouldn't enjoy hearing about the "Three Billy Goats Gruff"?) without a whole lot of fuss (this was a surprise after the noisy classes of the past two years). This class also liked to dance.

My collection of cds of songs and dances for 5 year olds was put to use early on. The first time I put on one of my favorite kid dances, "Boogey Walk" all 45 children were up and dancing, following the instructions, and having a very good time. Imagine 45 young bodies stepping to the left, stepping to the right then jumping, jumping, jumping – that's the boogie walk! It was pretty amazing.

More surprises came from the parents. They did not look like a promising bunch with neon red hair and multiple tattoos and/or piercings. But as a teacher I have learned I should not prejudge. These moms have stepped right in to help in the classroom and buy supplies. I hesitated in talking to one mom regarding her rambunctious son, only to discover I had the support of **both** the parents. Every morning there are a number of parents who stick around while I take lunch count and attendance (something that didn't always happen in the past). And one day when the kids had failed to finish cutting out a project, a number of moms who had arrived a bit early to pick up their children came in the room to help finish up the project.

The new class was created after a week and a half. It was only a matter of days before all three of the kindergarten classes were back up to 32 students. That was definitely no surprise. I continue to be surprised by these young learners: the new student who came in apparently knowing nothing actually knew about 10 letters of the alphabet, the little girl who befriends a crying (continued on next page)

Calendar of Events

SEP

Sep 18	Tuesday Coffee	9:00 – 11:00	SSH
Sep 19	BINGO	6:30	Social Hall
Sep 21	Quilts of Valor	10:30	Sue Lovelace, 501 Amaranth
Sep 22	Bylaws Committee	10:00	SSH
Sep 25	Tuesday Coffee	9:00 – 11:00	SSH
Sep 27	Wine & Cheese	4:00 – 6:00	Gayle Logan Silva

OCT

Oct 1	Knitten Kittens	11:30	SSH
Oct 2	Tues Coffee	9:00	SSH
Oct 5	Quilts of Valor	10:30	Sue Lovelace, 501 Amaranth
Oct 9	Tues Coffee	9:00	SSH
Oct 12	Italian Dinner	6:30	Social Hall
Oct 13	Fire Brigade	9:00	Fire House
Oct 14	Oktoberfest	11:30	Messiah Lutheran Church
Oct 14	SLVC Band Concert	2 p.m.	Picnic Grounds
Oct 16	Tues Coffee	9:00	SSH
Oct 17	BINGO	6:30	Social Hall
Oct 19	Quilts of Valor	10:30	Sue Lovelace, 501 Amaranth
Oct 19	Meet & Greet	4-6 p.m.	Social Hall
Oct 20	BoD meeting	10:30	Social Hall
Oct 20	Pot Luck	5:30	Social Hall
Oct 27	Bylaws Committee	10:00	SSH

classmate and plays with her all of recess, the little sister of one of my students who wants to hug me goodbye each day, the boys playing basketball at recess taking turns without being reminded, the student who got moved to the new class who says hello and tells me I am pretty. And if things get tough, I put on a cd and we sing and dance! What do 45 children look like?



Here is a picture of my classroom door with stars for all of the 45 children.

Here is a picture showing the stars for the 32 children presently enrolled.

Oktoberfest 2012



OCTOBER 14, 2012

11:30 - 2:30 PM

Messiah Lutheran Church
801 High Street

Advance Adult Tickets \$10.00 Children 12 and under Free
Day of the Event Adult Tickets \$20.00

Tickets available now

Darlene Stumpf

425-1478

Wild Lily Chapter Presents Italian Dinner and Silent Auction

October 12, 2012



PPMC Social Hall

Dinner: appetizers, antipasto, salad, lasagna,
dessert

Cost \$15.00

Tickets will NOT be sold at the door
Purchase from Carol Morgan





Order Sheet for Paradise Park Sweatshirt/Hoodies/Microfleece

All sizes are Men's sizes

(mark selection with an "x")

Sweatshirts (Hanes) \$25.00

Sizes: Small Colors: White
 Medium Wine
 Large Navy
 XLarge Forest Green
 2XL Gray
 3XI Black

Hoodies (Hanes) \$30.00

Sizes: Small Colors: White
 Medium Wine
 Large Navy
 XLarge Dark Green
 2XL Gray
 3XI Black
 Red

Quarter Zip Micro Fleece Pullover \$35.00

Sizes: Medium Colors : Gray
 Large Navy
 XLarge Redwood
 2XL Black

Logo: Gray Bridge/Green Trees/Green "Paradise Park"
 Gray Bridge/Green Trees/Red Roof/Red Lettering
 Name added below "Paradise Park" for an additional \$5.00

Name: _____ Address: _____

Phone: _____ Added name for \$5.00 _____

(Note: 10% of all proceeds to go to Paradise Park Masonic Club Bingo program)

Questions: Contact Shirley Radder @ radder@lemoorenet.com or (559) 582-8514