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Saint Lucia's Day (sometimes *Lucy* for short) is the Church feast day dedicated to Saint Lucy and is observed on the 13th of December. Its modern day celebration is generally associated with Sweden and Norway, and is also observed in Denmark, Estonia, Italy, Latvia, Finland, Hungary, Malta, Bosnia, Croatia, Slovakia, Spain and St. Lucia, West Indies. In the United States it is celebrated with cookies on the mantel for a large number of people of Scandinavian ancestry, often centered around church events.

In traditional celebrations, Saint Lucy comes as a young woman with lights and sweets. It is one of the few saint days observed in Scandinavia. In some forms, a procession is headed by one girl wearing a crown of candles (or lights), while others in the procession hold only a single candle each.



The "PIP"



Parque Independent Press

December 2012

My son dated Theresa through his junior and senior years in high school. When he left to attend school in Phoenix, they broke up, but Theresa has always remained close to our family. In fact, her children call us Grandma Shirley and Grandpa Don.

Her daughter, Haley, is an ice skater who had a competition in Anaheim on November 4, Theresa called and asked if Don could get her family, and another family, discounted tickets for Disneyland through his job at Lemoore Naval Air Station. She then invited me to come and share her "suite" with her family at La Quinta and I decided to go.

Haley did well in her skating competition, which was on Sunday, and since her father was not arriving until Monday afternoon, (he is a policeman and could not get time off that day), they were not going to Disneyland until Tuesday and Wednesday.

On Monday morning, I took Haley to Santee Alley, which is in the heart of the fashion district of Los Angeles. This place is amazing and reminds me of the international market place in Honolulu. There are stalls to the right and left of you and the owners are out hawking their wares.

There are over 150 stores in Santee Alley selling thousands of items including everything from the latest trends in clothing styles, apparel for the whole family, jewelry and accessories, shoes and boots, toys and gifts, perfumes and cosmetics and more.

It is a real alley and located within two blocks of Santee Street, Maple Avenue, Olympic Blvd and 12th Street and it open 365 days a year from 9:30 to 6:00 p.m.

Her father arrived that evening, so the next day, 9 of us spent the day in Disneyland. The other family's son, Max, was 5 years old and had never been.

We arrived at the park at 9:30 (doors opened at 10) and left at 7:50 in the evening. I walked the entire time....(naturally, I was able to sit down and

eat...and stood in line), but other than that...I walked and walked and walked!

The kids were so excited and the big event was to go to the new "Cars Land" exhibit which includes a ride in a race car. The concept is simple. Get into your race car, then blast off against another car, racing around the mountains above town, screaming all the way. It combines thrill and concepts the way Splash Mountain does, only you don't get your hair wet.



At the end of the evening and by the time we were in our rooms, we ALL crashed. It was a long day, but an eventful one.

(above is Haley, Theresa, Logan and Dave)

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Articles due on same day as monthly Board Meetings.

All issues of the PIP can be found at:
<http://www.wlmsburg.org/SR-PIP/PIP.htm>

Masonic Family Information



Youth Groups (start at 7 p.m.)

DeMolay –	Dec 13	Dec 27
Job's Daughters –	Dec 8 &	Dec 26
Rainbow for Girls	Dec 6 &	Dec 20

Masonic Lodges

Confidence	Dec 3	7:30pm
Paideia	Dec 12	7:00pm
SCSLV dinner	Dec 4	6:30 pm

Eastern Star

SC Redwoods 7:30 meetings

12/10 Holiday Party

Installations:

- Nov 16 – Carmel – 6:30
- Nov 17 – SCR – 3 p.m.
- Nov 18 – Magnolia 2 p.m.
- Nov 25 – La Posa – 3 p.m.

Campers Turn Out For Eastern Star Installation

By Bob Morgan

Some of our Paradise Park members and numerous other RV campers from the Gold Panners NCT Chapter #154 turned out for the installation of fellow campers Ginny Bennis as Worthy Matron and Gary Bennis as Worthy Patron at Linden Eastern Star Chapter #372 in California. Not only did they turn out to honor their Sister and Brother, but some of the campers served as Installing Worthy Matron, Installing Worthy Patron, Installing Chaplain, Installing Marshal, and Installing Organist. Other campers helped organize the event, served the meal, and served as chef in the kitchen.

Those pictured below are PPMC members Bob and Carol Morgan, Chuck and Jean Cook, and other campers Dennis and Peggy LeClert, Gary and Ginny Bennis, Ben and Pat Neu, Don and Joyce Temple, Gene and Karen Boesch, Gene and Sue Cripe, Walt and Joan Patterson, Paul and Ivy Laffoon and Nancy Pozar.

Belonging to NCT (Masonic Camping Travelers) isn't just about campouts and RV Ralleys, it is also about Masonic fellowship and being supportive of our Sisters and Brothers in Masonry, and the Gold Panners certainly proved that point with their support of their fellow campers.

Anyone who has an RV and is interested in belonging to this group should contact the Morgans or the Cooks for more information.



PPMC LAND BEING REASSESSED BY SANTA CRUZ COUNTY ASSESSOR??

By John A. Mancini

It was announced at the October Board meeting, that PPMC received a \$61,000 property tax bill from the County Assessor's Office and that our parcel tax valuation was being raised to 10 million dollars from 4 million. I had a conversation on 10/30/12 with Sean Saldavia, the County Assessor, relating to our reassessment. He was not aware of that fact and promised to check and get back to me. At 5PM on 11/1/12 I received a phone call from Sean who confirmed that the tax billing and the land assessment valuation were valid and correct.

Now do not get excited! The tax billing is the same one that we get each year relating to the allotments that have been sold since January 1, 2004. The change in land valuation is part of the same event. It is the result of the County's changing its assessment method relating to PPMC, which started after we signed the agreement with the County Assessor effective January 1, 2004. That same law firm, ***that you are paying to respond to the County in this matter***, reviewed that 2004 document and advised PPMC that we were required to sign it.

The \$61,000 property tax bill needs to be billed to the appropriate members and the increased land valuation is what generated the bill. Our previous bookkeeper, Pat Mc Donald, had been handling these billings each year with no problems. I presume that our new bookkeeper has been trained in this billing process. I believe that PPMC has only 30 days, from the date of the County Assessor's billing, to make payment to avoid a 10% penalty.

Read on to see an explanation of the assessment scheme.

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY ASSESSOR'S OFFICE ASSESSMENT METHOD - NEW ASSESSMENT METHOD FOR PPMC

By John A. Mancini

Outside of PPMC and in the rest of California, property tax assessments are made in accordance with the California Revenue and Taxation Code and Proposition 13. Upon sale, that method is to take the full value of the sale price of a property and divide up this valuation between the land and the improvements on that land.

Prior to the new Assessor's agreement, which was effective January 1, 2004, the Assessor used a system in Paradise Park that was different than the above described standard assessment practice. That system took the full value of the allotment sale price subtracted \$12,000 and used the remainder for the tax valuation for the improvements. The other \$12,000 was added to the tax valuation for our single Club parcel of land. The Assessor has now started using the standard method of property tax assessment. The first step was to assign a starting valuation to the land that is associated with each allotment. The total of this starting land valuation is the property tax land billing that PPMC receives at tax time and is subject to being raised 2% per year under Proposition 13. When an allotment is sold, the sale price is divided up between the improvements and the land. The division is based upon the Assessor's evaluation of the size and use value of the land and the condition of the improvements. The Member receives the tax bill for the improvements as always with the first TADS billing. The Club is billed for the taxes due on the valuation of the land that has been added by the Assessor as a separate billing. This increase of taxes will be passed on to the Member

on that allotment. Bylaws Article IV, Section 1H reads:

“PPMC shall pass through to the respective Members all property or other taxes imposed upon it by the County of Santa Cruz or any other governmental entity.”

This tax billing is presented to PPMC as one (1) bill for our single parcel of land and includes the added land property taxes for all allotments that have changed hands since the Assessor has instituted the new assessment method. In each succeeding year, the allotment land property tax can be increased by 2% as allowed under Proposition 13. A spreadsheet, that accompanies the billing, breaks down the bill by allotment. It is from this spreadsheet that a Member billing is generated.

Problems have arisen because the Assessor has been late with the billings. The first billing was three years behind and since then the Assessor has caught up. The Assessor is now consistently one year behind. Whenever a membership is sold, the allotment is added to the list of tax billings that are subject to this split billing. The list continues to grow in both numbers of allotments and the size of the tax billing. The assessment is still in conformance with Proposition 13, which requires that the first years tax valuation be 1% of the market value (sale price) plus any bond or fee indebtedness previously incurred. Under Proposition 13, the assessed valuation of an allotment (land + improvements tax valuation) will increase a maximum of 2% in each succeeding year.

John Tyler, the 10th president, had the most children of any president: 15
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Behind the Teacher's Desk

By Betty Schulz



Halloween is a big holiday in Kindergarten. Weeks before the big day children were confiding with me about what they were going to be. Parents also chimed in with questions about the class Halloween party. This year, with 32 children in my class, I knew I was in for a special time, full of the expected and the unexpected.

In the unexpected corner were the treats. Previous years I have asked for money to cover the cost of the party and then bought and put together the party myself. This year I decided to let the parents take over. Weeks before the big day, I put up a sign up sheet for parents to contribute to the party. It was quickly filled with more than enough for our class party. But that did not stop parents from asking to help. Wow! I did finally put an end to the sign ups and began suggesting that they contribute to the Christmas party when the time came. We had plenty for the class and the younger sibs. There was a lot left over.

After the party, I stored the unopened juice, napkins and paper plates for the Christmas party which should be a smashing success based on the generosity of the parents shown at the Halloween party.

More unexpected came the morning of Halloween. Because we have added lunch to the kindergarten day, we needed to supply the children with lunch. We thought it would work well if we used the prepackaged sack lunches the district provides for children who get

Welcome to our New Neighbors

By Pat McDonald

Meet one of our newest PPMC Members, **Jessica and Tony Snyder** – and 1-year old **Kaylie**, too! They purchased 437 York from Lagille Rodriguez and became Members in July 2012.

Jessica is daughter of **Mark and Karla James** and doesn't ever NOT remember Paradise Park. She was 6 or so when they were living in the Park while the house they were moving to in Fairfield was being finished.

Jessica was home-schooled at that time by her Mom. She remembers that there were very few full time kids back in that day and is delighted that there are so many more today. She told the story of one friend who taught her to climb the monkey bars at the Green Swing park and recalled how she and another buddy were on the Big Green Swings thinking how great it would be to own that 2-story house across the street (the one she now owns!!)



Tony works as a computer forensics expert, doing things like data collection for patent investigations. Jessica is a full-time Mom right now, but has worked as a therapist for autistic children. She was part of a home support team for youngsters from 16 months old to 17 years old or so. She has ongoing CEU needs (Continuing Education Units) so does online courses to keep up her

credentials. Kaylie is a charmer who turned one in July and is truly the apple of BOTH parents eyes! Baby number two is due in March, 2013 and is going to be another girl! Jessica and Tony were married three years ago in Asilomar and like being near the water.

Jessica and Tony love their new house – their main plan for remodeling is to paint, both inside and out. Hobbies for Tony include reading and movies (Star Wars is a favorite) and for Jessica, cooking and reading. Kaylie's top hobbies that Mom and Dad provide include parks and walking and she does GREAT at both! Jessica is already volunteering as a Member of the Tree Committee.

When you see our new Members, welcome them to Paradise Park!

Dale and Brenda Hansen have a twin set of great grandchildren and they planned a visit to see them in November. Here is a picture of the family...older brother, Ian (8), holding Xavier and Jayden (6) holding Arianna.

Living in North Carolina does not keep them from being "dyed in the wool" Raider's Fans!



What's Going On?

By Myron Coleman

Just a little more information on these Yard Waste Areas. This photograph was taken near our covered bridge. This first one shows that more yard waste has been added since my last photograph. And something caught my eye on this one. The red circle will draw your attention to this area of the pile. This second photograph is a close up of what is inside the red circle. The red arrows are pointing to some NAILS protruding thru an older piece of wood. THIS IS NOT YARD WASTE!



This pile will be loaded by our crew onto our large truck by using the tractor. Our crew think they are working with yard waste--not construction waste. These Yard Waste Areas are not general dump sites.



The below photograph was taken on York. The red arrow points to the sign that says this site will close on November 12. The white lines are intended to help you realize the size of this pile of yard waste.

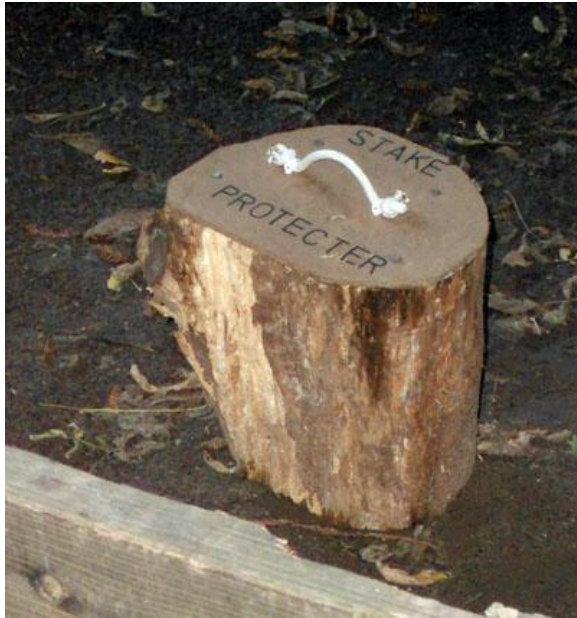


Walking along these yard waste areas one can see yard waste bins that appear to be empty nearby.

How many Yard Waste Areas are there in Paradise Park at this time? The two that I have photographed are located in section #1. The volume of these two yard waste piles might be one load by itself. Each truck load could be costing us as much as \$300. If we have only one truck load in each section it could cost us as much as \$1,500 total for disposal. **The use of the green waste bins might be able to cut the cost in half if not more.**

On one of my walks, as I passed the Picnic Grounds I spotted the Horseshoe Pit and remembered that Ray Hoffman was talking about making a guard for the stakes at each pit location. It's to protect someone who might get a little clumsy and fall in such a way they could get injured by a stake.

Sometimes at construction sites rebar is temporarily covered to prevent injuries. I've seen tennis balls be placed on top of the rebar and I have seen scrap lumber be placed on top of the rebar and then hit a couple of times with a sledge hammer to hold it into place.



But this stump guard with handle is a great idea. Just pick it up by the handle and set it aside until the game is over and then replace it on the stake. Its even labeled! But that is another story.

Yes, I tried it out and picked it up and replaced it on the stake.

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John Tyler, the 10th president, had the most children of any president: 15!



In a 2004 episode of Sesame Street, Cookie Monster said that before he started eating cookies, his name was Sid.

The following is MY impression of the monthly board meeting. For the official version, please see the latest Bulletin.

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors was held on Saturday, November 10, 2012 at 9:30 a.m. in the small social hall. President, Sam Cannon presided with Joanne Nelson, Nick Cannon, and Gary Brandenburg in attendance. The benediction was given by Joanne Nelson followed by the flag salute led by Gary Brandenburg.

Some highlights from closed session: Board did not approve original location for the dog park.

Karla James agreed to donate her website to the Park.

Open session minutes approved.

Manager -Terry Douglas – extended the dump sites until December 1; storage of vehicles and unlicensed vehicles are not permitted...need to be garaged. Park vehicles on allotments and not on common property without manager's approval. Box dots will be installed on Keystone. Contractors are not to display their signs. Talk ensued regarding this item. Manager to handle on a case by case basis.

President – Sam Cannon – managed to get ParadiseParkMasonicClub.org and ".com" website from Karla and she

continues to help us set up the site. It will be the official site of Paradise Park managed by the staff. Met with Grand Master in June.... authored a letter, Grand Master was pleased and we are going to meet with new Grand Master.....therefore name status remains as is.

Bookkeeper tendered her letter of resignation. Shirley Radder suggested that since the Board has a new policy of only allowing members to work 32 hours part time, and since Pat McDonald is aware of all of our financial problems and how to handle them, that we rehire Pat McDonald as Bookkeeper.....idea met with silence.

Treasurer - Gary Brandenburg – spent a big chunk of money on the painting of the office and paving areas.

JoAnne Nelson – Emergency Cards – request that you fill these out so office has more updated information.

Committee Reports – Laidlaw has a tree that needs immediate attention. Terry Douglas will be cutting it down.

Bylaws – meeting at 1:30 today

Website – is well in hand. Suggested that the website committee decide what can or cannot be on the website. Membership should have a clear understanding as to what is and what is not allowed on the website.

Unfinished Business – Internal Combustion Engines – Lois was absent

MAG Committee – Survey to negotiate gas rates...number one provider is Amerigas, but there are many inconsistencies among all of the customers. MAG would like to bring them into being consistent and allow us to have better rates. Priorities are rates and customer service. Bid sheets to be sent to interested companies...

Building – applications for replacing windows...deck replacement needs staking.

Staking - it was a long, drawn out report. If you want more information, be sure to read the official minutes in the Bulletin.

Open Forum - **Sharon Simas** would like a key to her mailbox.

Bob Morgan – conduct of non-confidential business in closed board meetings. There appears to be a pattern building of the board disregarding their open policy meeting. You are creating the impression the Board has no concern for the membership,.

Carol Nelson – what is the Board's policy regarding this? Is PPMC under this same regulation?

Pat McDonald – policy stays until a different policy is adopted; closed minutes should not specify names. Not appropriate.

JoAnn Nelson – stated this Board had not adopted an Open Policy.

John Mancini – who puts out committee meeting notices? They never say where they are going to be held. Staking, Budget, Orientation and Mediation are exceptions, otherwise most meetings are held in the small social hall.

Bob Morgan - is the Board going to adopt the open board policy or not?

Tim Heer – could not find a policy regarding open board.

Board will continue with open board meetings.

Pat McDonald – huge cash flow issue....

Michael Sawley – thank you for keeping the open forum on the record so matters go into the minutes.

Gayle Logan Silva - \$150 assessment fee from the state. Is anyone on Board going to contact? Sam will handle.

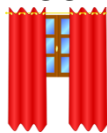
Wilma Vincent – slow speeders? Box dots will be placed along Keystone Way and in Section 4.

Adjourned: 11:33.

Calendar of Events

Nov 13	Tues Coffee	9:00 a.m.	SSH
Nov 16	Quilts of Valor	10:30 a.m.	Sue Lovelace, 501 Amaranth
Nov 20	Tues Coffee	9:00 a.m.	SSH
Nov 21	Bingo	7:00 p.m.	Social Hall
Nov 22	Wine & Cheese	4:30 p.m.	Social Hall
Nov 24	Bylaws Committee	10:00a.m.	SSH
Nov 27	Tues Coffee	9:00 a.m.	SSH
Nov 27	Tree Committee	12:00	SSH
DEC			
Dec 2	Electa Circle Party	1:00 p.m.	Masonic Temple Santa Cruz
Dec 3	Knittin' Kittens	11:30	SSH
Dec 4	Tues Coffee	9:00 a.m.	SSH
Dec 5	Men's Club	11:30	SSH
Dec 7	Quilts of Valor	10:30	Sue Lovelace, 501 Amaranth
Dec 7	Board Meet & Greet	6 – 7:30	Social Hall
Dec 8	Board Meeting	10:30	SSH
Dec 8	Fire Brigade	10 a.m.	Fire House
Dec 8	Pot Luck	5:30	Social Hall
Dec 11	Tues Coffee	9:00 a.m.	SSH
Dec 13	Wine & Cheese	4 – 6 p.m.	Social Hall
Dec 15	PPMC Holiday Party		
Dec 18	Tues Coffee	9:00 a.m.	SSH
Dec 19	NO BINGO!!!!!!		
Dec 21	Quilts of Valor	10:30	Sue Lovelace, 501 Amaranth
Dec 22	Bylaws Committee	10:00	SSH
Dec 25`	Merry Christmas!!!!		
Dec 27	Wine & Cheese	4- 6 p.m.	Social Hall
Dec 31	Happy New Year!		

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Electa Circle Holiday Party
Sunday, December 2, 2012

Social and Bazaar 1:00 p.m. Dinner 2:00 p.m.

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Donation: \$10 per person Children 5 years and under eat for free
Please bring a canned food or dried food item for our annual food drive

For tickets, contact Cathy Fennelly, Electa Circle President, 831-475-7521 or
e-mail cathrynbfennelly@sbcglobal.net or any member of Santa Cruz
Redwoods Electa Circle (i.e. Charlotte Hoffman, Shirley Moore, Virginia
Williams, Carol Morgan, Darlene Stumpf or Patsy Benfield).

Proceeds will be used for the fraternal purposes of Santa
Cruz Redwoods #273 Order of the Eastern Star.