

ELUSIAN FIELDS

April, 2002

The Official Paradise Valley Estates Residents' Newspaper

Volume IV, Issue 4

HEALTH, BENEFITS AND TIDBITS

By John Vernon

It's hard to believe that three years have passed since I first wrote an article on benefits. Sooo...**It's time to update!** Military retirees, dependents and survivors may seek assistance as follows:

U.S. Air Force. The USAF Retiree Activities Office is at Travis AFB in the old hospital, Building 381, Room 118E. The phone numbers there are (707) 424-3904/3905. This office is staffed by several dedicated USAF retirees namely, Joe Rowan, Bill Tubbs, and Jim Herd. They are accommodating, friendly, and eager to help. These gentlemen will assist retirees from all branches of service concerning death benefits, survivor benefits, military pay, etc.

U.S. Army. The USA Retiree Service Office is at Fort Lewis Washington. It has toll numbers which are (253) 966-5811/5812. However, Casualty Assistance at Fort Lewis is toll free. It is (888) 634-7496. For Army specific questions these are the numbers to call.

U.S. Navy. The USN Retiree Activities Office is located in Tennessee. The toll free number is (800) 255-8950 and Navy questions may be directed there.

U.S. Marine Corps. The USMC Retiree Activities Office is in Washington D.C. The toll free number is (800) 847-1597 for assistance.

U.S. Coast Guard. The USCG Retiree Office is also in Washington D.C. and may be reached at (800) 323 7233 which is toll free.

Other Numbers For All Branches Of Service:

Retirement Pay, Cleveland OH is (800) 321-1080. Annuities Benefits, Denver, CO. is (800) 435-3396. Casualty Assistance at Travis AFB is (866) 869-7250 or (707) 424-2972. DEERS Address Change is (800) 538-9552.

Please remember that the USAF Retired Activities

Office at Travis will assist retirees from all services. The office has a great track record. When significant problems arise this may be the first place you'd want to contact!

Below are TRICARE TelephoneNumbers:

TRICARE For Life (TFL) National Enrollment and Information is (888) 363-5433. **TFL Benefits** (local) thru Health Net Federal Services is (800) 977-6753.. **TRICARE PLUS** Information at David Grant USAF Medical Center is 423-2326. **TRICARE Senior Pharmacy** is (877) 363-6337. **MEDICARE** is (800) 633-4227.

TRICARE PLUS. There are approximately fifty residents who desire to be in this program whereby a military physician at David Grant is assigned for Primary Care. As of this writing, the program still remains closed for individuals not previously empanelled. The closest estimate for it to be open is in the April/May time frame. Those residents will be notified on a timely basis when openings occur.

TRICARE FOR LIFE (TFL). This program appears to be working well. Some individuals are experiencing billing problems at Laurel Creek. When this occurs, please fill out a Patient Inquiry Form located in the Mail Room. It will be forwarded to Denise in Finance. If the problem involves coverage for treatment, then call Health Net Services at (800) 977-6753. Also, you may visit the TRICARE Center on the first floor, at the north end of David Grant.

CONCURRENT RECEIPT. This provision would provide military retirees with VA disabilities to receive full VA Compensation and full Retirement pay separately. On March 13, 2002, The House Budget Committee earmarked \$581 million in its draft of the FY 2003 Budget Resolution. Source of Information is the TROA Website and conversation I had with Congressman Mike Thompson's staff in Washington D.C. This is be-

Continued on page 3

WINE AND ROSES

By Betty St George

Turtle Lake, North Dakota was Ernie Haas' birthplace. The Dakotas claim a surprising number of our residents as native children; however very few lived in that locale for very long. At the age of three it was, 'California here we come.' Lodi was their chosen spot. With exception of the WWII period, Ernie spent most of his years in Lodi until he and Sara came to PVE.

West Virginia was Sara's home. She grew up in a small town along the Ohio River. Her schooling was there and culminated with graduation



from Marshall University. Shortly thereafter Sara joined the Navy. She admits she didn't have a clue about Navy life. Off to the training school in North Hampton at Smith College for two months where they were known as midshipmen. Two more months at another eastern college as Wave Officers before heading out to their first duty station. For Sara it turned out to be Alameda Naval Air Station. She had no idea about what a great place it was. The year was 1943 and Ernie was returning from a tour on Guadalcanal to the Alameda Naval Air Station. They met. The courtship lasted eight years before marriage. Sara served 4 ½ years in the Navy. Somehow she contracted TB. When she recovered she was given a Medical Retirement Discharge. Lt. Sara Haas, USN (Ret) is the sponsor and Ernie is her dependent.

At this point, Ernie interjected a few facts. He served longer and attained a higher rank even

though he is Sara's dependent. Ernie learned to fly in college in the Civilian Pilot Training program. College of Pacific was among the first 10 universities to receive funds for CPT. Did you know that College of Pacific was originally in San Jose and had an outstanding Aeronautical program before they moved to Stockton? Ernie's goal in the beginning was to learn to fly and become a civilian pilot. WWII was looming on the horizon. He joined the Navy earlier but did not report until April 1941. Off to Pensacola, FL for training. Ernie claims he had a checkered career that included tours in the Pacific, an assignment at the US Navy Test Pilot School in Patuxent, MD. He spent a year on Guam working for the Navy as a civilian. He was responsible for the quantity and the quality of food for all the civilian contractors who were there rebuilding the island. Remember in those days all contractors who worked for the War Department or the Department of Defense were on a cost plus 10% basis.

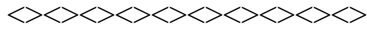
A couple of years were spent back at College of Pacific. Now Sara was not sitting idle during all this. After she retired, it was back to school for her too. UC Berkeley was her choice for her MA. The Stockton Unified School District was delighted to have her on the staff as a reading specialist.

Ernie was trying different ideas. One of them was a venture into the frozen food business. He was co-owner of a frozen food processing plant called Lodi Frosted Foods. Their specialty was melon balls. Next, he ventured into wines. He started out working at The Eastside Winery as traffic and office manager. The winery is still there and it is the only cooperative winery left. Within the industry they were best known for Korbel Brandy. After years in the business Ernie is well known and respected by his peers. He was CEO of his own winery, served as Chairman of the California Wine Advisory Board and Vice Chairman of the California Brandy Advisory Board.

The Sara and Ernie love to travel. It always seems as though they are either coming, going or planning their next adventure. They have never been too busy not to volunteer their talents

HEALTH, BENEFITS (con't)

ginning to look more like a reality since this is the first time money appears to be provided. Those of you with old VA disability ratings should look to submit new claims for upgrading as this could add many \$\$\$\$ to your income. Stay tuned for more info in future issues.



GOURMET CORNER

By Mike Michael

Here we are, having hardly started to work our way through the current menu and we have a new one on the horizon; we may have it in less than a month. The early draft looks interesting.

When the Dining Services Committee meets, we inevitably remind ourselves that we live in a very desirable environment. Off on the edge of that environment, we as a committee, try to address the little things which require refinement, correction or change – all in a continuing effort to improve. Some of these items could include:

For those who have difficulty handling a soup spoon, you may wish to ask your wait person to serve soup in a mug (from *The Café*). If you are bringing a guest to the dining room, tip-off the Maitre D's Stand and ask to be assigned to a table with an experienced wait person. Management is working to update the wait staff on a number of shortcomings. These include, handling drinking glasses with fingers away from the lip – preferably lifting the glasses by the stem; rolls should be

baked darker; wait persons should be better informed on the content of daily specials – some of us are allergic to various products and need the information; plates from each course at a table should be cleared at the

same time (unless specifically requested otherwise); bread and butter plates remain on the table until the main course plates are removed; some fruit is not yet cut to bit size; some wait persons can not pronounce – or correctly pronounce some dish items.

Henceforth, to avoid possible embarrassment,



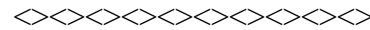
when several people are at Maitre D's Stand, awaiting seating assignment, the hostess will NOT try to match groups. Rather, follow-up folks may be asked if they wish to join the person(s) who were just seated.

We have had requests for South-West Polenta – this will be on a future menu.

PARKING continues to be a big problem, particularly at lunch and during special outside functions. Management is addressing this, including further limiting employee and outsider-groups from parking within the Community.

A happy medium seems to have been reached on how well cooked (or undercooked) vegetables should be. The Committee will consider – based on a request – that house wine be changed from Chablis to Chardonnay. A taste test will be conducted prior to making a recommendation.

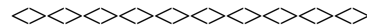
Last but not least, a referral to the Resident Council has been a proposal to shorten Sunday Brunch hours. Currently only a very few folks – less than a dozen – dine during the last hour of Brunch.....In the meanwhile, eat hearty and healthy!



WINE AND ROSES (con't)

to the residents of PVE. Sara was Chairman of the Resident Services Committee for 3 ½ years and Ernie currently serves on the Resident Council.

Sometime ask Ernie about his plane that was sabotaged at Alameda or the information he received just prior to Pearl Harbor. The stories are great. We all have so much to share with each other.

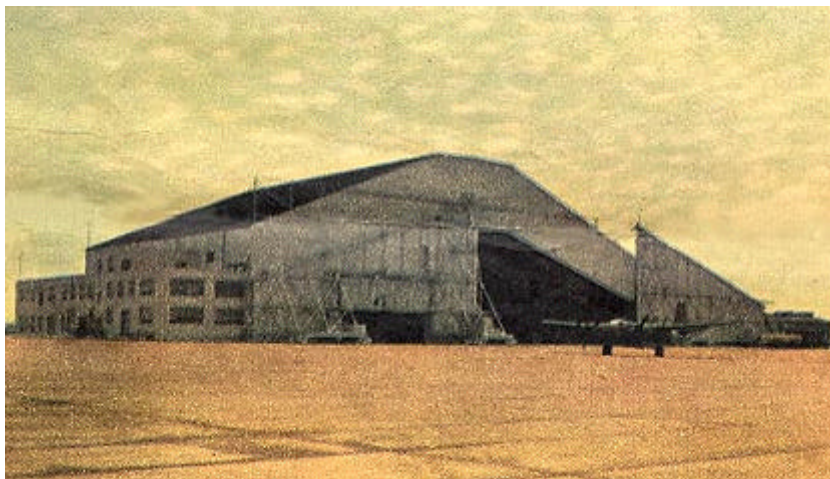


****REMINDER****
RESIDENCE COUNCIL
GENERAL MEETING
Tuesday, April 23, 2:30 to 3:30 pm
MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM

ALL RESIDENTS ARE
ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND

CLIMATIC HANGER

By Ancil Baker



Everybody talks about the weather, but nobody does anything about it – wrong!!!

A single concentration point where weather could be made to do man's will exactly was constructed at the Air Corps Proving Ground, Eglin Field, about sixty miles east of Pensacola, FL; and I arrived on the scene from Japan in February, 1947 just in time to position aircraft and equipment to give the facility its initial shake-down.

The Navy flyers from Pensacola had shown the Doolittle Flyers how to make short-field take-offs at this isolated air field. My flying school classmate, Ross Greening had been Doolittle's second in command and now I found survivor, Sgt. Horton working for me.

It had become increasingly obvious to all of us in the Army Air Corps that there had to be a better way of cold weather testing other than moving aircraft and equipment all the way to Ladd Field, Alaska and then relying on nothing but fate to give continuous cold weather. Time was lost waiting for unpredictable and unreliable cold conditions which mostly were of short duration. Communication between Alaska and distant designers and manufactures was by crude dots and dashes through the Army Signal Corps. Ask John Wester.

Admittedly, in our first two years we learned a lot about airplanes, clothing and survival from bush pilots, Pan Am Airways, Norwegian arctic explorers Vilhjalmur Stefansson, British Air Explorers Sir Hubert Wilkins, National Geographic Researcher Bradford Washburn, Ashley

McKinley, the Russians and others. We had learned how to preheat engines and instruments, how to dilute engine oil, and had redesigned hoses, hydraulic seals and oil coolers.

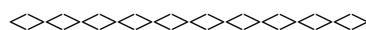
Col. Ashley McKinley conceived the idea of a Climatic Hanger. McKinley had been Admiral Byrd's photographer in the Antarctic and was with me at Ladd Field in Alaska; later we served together at Wright Field in Dayton, OH. The Climatic Hanger provides any temperature for any length of time and has virtually unlimited instrumentation capability. It measures 200' by 250' and is 70' high – and will hold an awful lot of hay! Whenever a hurricane whistled through, everybody, including dogs,

cats and canaries could squeeze in. It accommodated the big B-36 with lots of room for other aircraft and equipment. The huge centrifugal compressors are in a space that resembles the engine room of a battle ship. Once we even created our own rain storm. The last of my ten years as a test pilot was spent there.

Major Borsoti had seen signs of compressibility as his P-51 reached the speed of sound in a test dive. Chuck Yeager had tried unsuccessfully to push a P-80 through the sound barrier. An experimental rocket-propelled aircraft was being developed and Air Force test pilots were having to take over the testing formerly done by factory test pilots.

The job was passing me by and I switched to Cold War routine training of big bomber crews with a transfer to the Strategic Air Command's 15th AF Headquarters. It was responsible for the combat readiness of B-29, B-50 and B-36 Wings based in the western states. In 1950 it sent its 98th Wing of B-29s to Japan for use in the Korean War and furnished crews for that Wing for more than three years.

After moving to PVE, Dominic Battistella told me that he was there at Eglin at the same time as myself – elsewhere in the 724 square miles of this, the largest of our Air Force Bases.



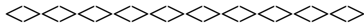
DINNER GROUP

By Lucille Thyrring

The Wellness Department and the Dining Services Program are coordinating a time for those who are recently single as well as those who have lost a loved one some time ago to gather and share a meal. The idea is to use this common bond to share stories, have a good time, and support one another. For many, it is a difficult thing being single in a community made up of so many couples.

Residents who would like to participate should sign up in the Green Book located at the Reception Desk in the Community Center. Beginning in April, up to eight persons will be selected to receive an invitation to dinner on a Thursday night. The invitation will include a discussion topic for the evening. Some topics that you might see are: "Where were you in December 1941?, What were you doing the day the War in Europe ended?, Who is your favorite band leader?, or Where did you go on your last vacation?"

This is an opportunity for our community to reach out and support our residents who sometimes need a dinner companion; who sometimes have a funny story that they would like to share; and who sometimes need to recall memories of a loved one they have lost.



VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION LUNCHEON

By Deborah Dow,
Activity Coordinator

The Laurel Creek Health Center will present their annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon on April 11- "PVE Angles in Paradise," so mark your calendars. Invitations are being sent. For information call 432-1221.

SCIENCE EXAMINATION

This was discovered in the normal run of e-mail. It concerns children's answers to science examination questions.

Q. Name the four seasons.

A. Salt, pepper, mustard and vinegar.

Q. Explain one of the processes by which water can be made safe to drink.

A. Flirtation makes water safe to drink because it removes large pollutants, like grit, sand, dead sheep and canoeists.

Q. How is dew formed?

A. The sun shines down on the leaves and makes them sweat.

Q. How can you delay milk turning sour?

A. Keep it in the cow.

Q. What causes the tides in the ocean?

A. The tides are a fight between the earth and the moon. All water tends to flow towards the moon, because there is no water on the moon and nature hates a vacuum. I forget where the sun joins the fight.

Q. What are steroids?

A. Things for keeping carpets on the stairs.

Q. What happens to your body as you age?

A. When you get old, so do your bowels and you get intercontinental.

Q. What happens to a boy when he reaches puberty?

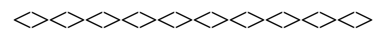
A. He says good-bye to his boyhood and looks forward to his adultery.

Q. Name a major disease associated with cigarettes.

A. Premature death.

Q. What is artificial insemination?

A. When a farmer does it to the bull instead of the cow.



SPORTS AND RECREATION

Golf and Pool by John Kroyer

Poor golfers, rained out again for the March PVE tournament. Take heart, though, we should have nine months for playable golf ahead of us now. Visit the Paradise Valley Golf club driving range to get your game in shape.



POOL:

The indoor athletes have been at work. PVE held its first mixed doubles pool tournament. Four couples participated. A match consisted of winning two games out of three. When a team lost two matches they were eliminated. The finals consisted of Mary Chavis and Ed Milson playing Alice O'Toole and John Kroyer. Mary and Ed emerged easily as the champions. Possibly this can become an annual event with more participants.

OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST

The horseshoe pit has had its spring-cleaning and is ready for play.

Efforts are continuing to create a bocce ball court. If it comes to fruition, my feeling is that more people than presently anticipated will become enthusiastic participants.

TENNIS by Millie Healy

Wellness month and "sole searching."

Constant pounding, stops and starts, changing direction, (providing you are moving on the court). That's what your feet go through on a tennis court while playing tennis.

For some relief after playing and you are just sitting watching TV or even playing bridge, use the "tennis ball roll." Roll a tennis ball back and forth under each foot for two minutes. Remember it is very helpful to remove your shoes!! This massages the bottom of the feet and relieves pain associated with arch strain, foot cramps, and plantar fasciitis, (the inflammation of the band of tissues that protects the sole of the feet).

This exercise is probably good for people other

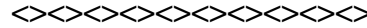
than tennis players if you have foot cramps, etc.

It has been said "a sore foot is like a toothache--- it makes your entire body hurt".

Court Quip: "Sorry Al, I'm playing like a zombie, guess I had too many gin soaked golden raisins with my cereal this morning!!!

BINGO:

Bingo jackpot winners reported by deadline time since the last report: Lois Lithgow, and Wanda Godsey.



WELCOME NEW WILDLIFE!

SIGHTING OF TWO WILD TURKEYS

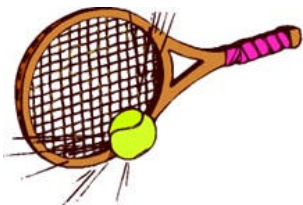
PVE MARKETING NEWS

By Patti Luccioni

Move-Ins for the month of March, 2002

Slate, Louis "Lew" & Helen
2310 Estates Drive
Tiburon, CA
Referred by the Rays

Reynolds, Clarke & Patricia "Pat"
1209 Estates Drive



A TAIL-GUNNER'S TALE

By William C. "Andy" Anderson

(Note: This was sent to us by Cletus Nelson and is taken from a column written by the publisher of the Sonoma Index-Tribune. It had appeared in a publication sent to Air Force veterans on a page titled "Encore," featuring "favorite true war stories." Andy was the editor of "Encore" and was author of the true war story which follows.) We got a chuckle out of it and believe you will also.)

As any bomber crew that flew in World War II knows, the tail gunner was one of the most important members of the team. Ours was no exception, Nick being a slender dry-behind-the-ears fire-brand of Italian extraction who was well liked by the crew members.

We were assigned to the 15th Air Force in Italy, and our 451st Bomb Group had just rallied off the bomb run after targeting a ball-bearing plant in Austria. As commander of the aircraft, I asked for a battle damage report over the intercom. Happily, the damage assessment was minimal, considering the heavy concentration of flak guns in the area.

After the crew members checked in from all positions, our tail gunner suddenly broke in. "Skipper, I've got a problem."

"What is it, Nick?"

"It's a little embarrassing. I was using the relief tube when we hit that turbulence back there. Now an important part of my anatomy is stuck to the barrel of my gun."

It took a bit of doing to sort this all out. The B-24 Liberator, being unpressurized, was colder than a witch's heart at 26,000 feet. Anything damp would stick to the frozen metal in a death grip.

"You have to warm up that gun barrel, Nick. You know what to do."

There was a moment of silence as Nick considered this. Then said, "Lieutenant, you gotta be kidding."

"I'm not kidding. You have to fire your guns."

There was a loud exclamation, then, "Lieutenant, you know the recoil of these twin 50s..."

"I know. But you're going to be stuck for the duration until you get that gun barrel heated. Now fire off a few rounds. The rest of our formation would be beholden if you didn't shoot any of them down."

There were further muffled exclamations over the intercom, followed by the vibration of the tail guns being fired. After a long period of silence came a loud oath followed by a long sigh of relief. "Mission accomplished, skipper. My manhood and I are once again as one. Bloody but unbowed."

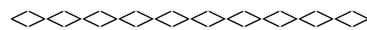
"There's some sulfa in the medicine kit. Do you want the waist gunner to come back and put a bandage..."

"Not on your life, lieutenant. Some things are sacred!"

Not long after that, the war ended in Europe. I had been blessed with a top-drawer bomber crew, and it was my good fortune to bring them home mostly in one piece. All were covered with medals and distinction.

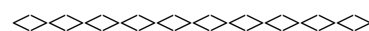
Combat seems to be a crucible in which lifetime relationships are formed, and our crew was no different. In the years following military discharge, we kept in close touch. At our reunions, no subject or war story was taboo—except for one. No one, but no one, ever discussed how Nick, our tail gunner was wounded.

To this day, not even Nick's offspring know where their father had been injured to be awarded the Purple Heart. And it is highly doubtful they will ever know. As Nick so poetically put it, "Some things are sacred."



THANK YOU

The Hyslop family wishes to acknowledge with unlimited gratitude the expression of sympathy and support by friends and neighbors here at PVE during this time of loss and grief. We extend our heartfelt thanks to one and all.



COFFEE & BULL SESSION (CN'BS)

By Tom Martin

Before I report on any happenings I need to correct a very grave blunder in my March article to the *Elysian Fields*. I regret to say that June Alison was not the very gracious donor of cookies for one of our January meetings. I have called the real donor and apologized to her as best I know. I pray that will suffice. However, in the future any donations of goodies to the **CN'BS** will have to be made anonymously for I refuse to risk making the same mistake again.



Discussion at our sessions has continued to be lively and varied. One such was about one family's reunions that goes back to 1866. That was when most folks seldom every traveled

more than 20 miles from home. This particular family has pictures and accounts of those early gatherings including how they fed a couple of hundred people. The primary mode of transportation then was horse and wagon. Today, baby boomers are still carrying on the tradition of family reunions. Most people arrive by SUV, with quite a few who travel by jet most of the way.

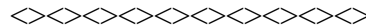
Our conversation at times does get around to local events. Such as the recent news item about the crematorium that had stacked the deceased all over the property without having performed their service for which the families paid. We also discussed the pilot who used his station wagon and hangar to store urns of ashes he was paid to spread at sea off the California Coast. Surprisingly, no one expressed any strong feeling of - "*plant me back home.*"

The day after the California Primary, there was lively discussion as to how little we know of local

politics and the local candidates. It was said that often times we choose a candidate only because the name is the same as a relative or friend - or it is a good ethnic sounding name. Or maybe more than we care to admit are more influenced by that deluge of campaign literature in the weeks before the election.

As usual there was a fair amount of good jokes...like - the one about an old one-ton pickup truck that did quite well carrying a ton and a half of chickens. Or the one about a young priest in a poor parish whose exploits with his racing donkey (an ass) that invariably drove the Bishop of that parish to his grave.

Last, let me extend an open invitation to join your friends at our **CN'BS** every Wednesday at 10:00 a.. in *The Club*. There is room for all coffee drinkers and any who care to speak and/or listen. Wives - if you are tired of having your husband around the house all day - send him over to the *The Club* for our **CN'BS**.



THE ANSWER

By Elly Vasak

What do you do when you don't know what to do?

I know that the answer is "Pray."

What do you pray for when you don't know what to pray for?

What do you say when you don't know what to say?

Why do I worry when I know I shouldn't worry?

Why are there more clouds than sun?

Why do I ever try to solve my own problems

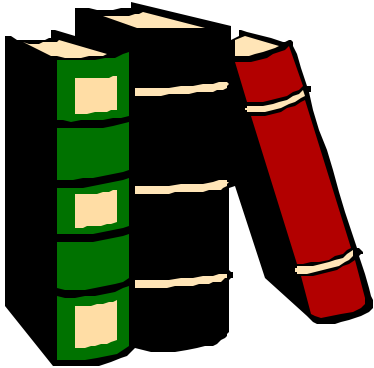
When the answer is "His will be done?"

L

FROM YOUR LIBRARY

By Bev Clemson, Head Bookie

It is Spring Cleaning in your Library! Therefore, you will find several boxes containing surplus books stored in the Computer Room. **Please** help yourself if you find something you would like to have.



The book *John Adams* is going through its circuit. It is highly recommended by the Bookies. Everyone who loves his country should read about its founding, even if it is already a known fact. If you would

care to read it, please sign up on the sheet by the Sign-Out List. If there is another good book you would like to see in the Library, please contact one of your Bookies. We are: Bev Clemson, Bernie Cress, Bettie Hillier, Bernie Murray, Isabel Redfield, Nancy Stoneberg, Joan Teague and Marianne Walleen.

Jean Myers has donated five boxes of books from her father's estate. They are, of course, dispersed throughout the Library, but just to let you know - more "new" books are in again. There were several good biographies and a quite a few books on boats. Thank you Jean and Stephen Myers.

We are thinning out the magazines on the top of the bookcase containing art books. If you would like to read or have any, please help yourself.

You may surmise that your Library is getting quite full! With this in mind, we will be thinning out the Fiction Section soon, as well as a few other places.

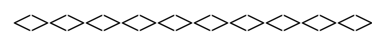


DID YOU KNOW?

Submitted by Bob Steinkraus

For everyone who thinks they know everything.

1. Rubber bands last longer when refrigerated.
2. Peanuts are one of the ingredients of dynamite.
3. There are 293 ways to make change for a dollar.
4. The average person's left hand does 56% of the typing..
5. A shark is the only fish that can blink with both eyes.
6. There are more chickens than people in the world.
7. Two-thirds of the world's eggplant is grown in New Jersey.
8. The longest one- syllable word in the English language is "screeched,"
9. On a Canadian two dollar bill, the flag flying over the Parliament building is the American flag.
10. All of the clocks in the movie "Pulp Fiction are stuck on 4:20.
11. No word in the English language rhymes with month, orange, silver, or purple.
12. Dreamt is the only English word that ends in the letters "mt".
13. All 50 states are listed across the top of the Lincoln Memorial on the back of the \$5 bill.
14. Almonds are a member of the peach family.
15. Winston Churchill was born in a lady's room during a dance.
16. Maine is the only state whose name is just one syllable.
17. There are only four words in the English language which end in "dous": tremendous, horrendous, stupendous, and hazardous.
18. Los Angeles' full name is *El Pueblo de Nuestra nora Reins de los Angeles de Porciuncula.*
19. A cat has 12 muscles in each ear.
20. An Ostrich's eye is bigger than its brain.
21. Tigers have striped skin not just striped fur.



STREET NAMES AT PVE

By Marty Wildberger

When PVE opened in November 1997, many of its first residents were dismayed by the street names that had been assigned to the Courts and Drives of our new community. By now most of us have gotten used to these names and the new residents tend to accept them as a given. We all have a lot of more important things to think about, like “what will be on the new menu?” or “will the lawn watering system ever find a happy medium between drought and flood?” But in those early days, street names were an issue! Most of us found no problem with “Constitution Avenue” or “Independence Court.”

After all, these names matched those two famous avenues that bordered The Mall in our nation’s capital. But then, why not continue with that theme and name the other streets for the States the way the other major avenues in Washington, DC were named? Well, the most famous of these, “Pennsylvania Avenue,” was already the name of a major thoroughfare in Fairfield, and many other State names had also been taken up locally. Besides, how could you select seven names from the remaining States without slighting residents who came from the States that were not chosen?

So the developers of Paradise Valley Estates made what they must have thought was a truly Solomon-like decision. They decided to pick names that they thought would be patriotic and would fit with the military background of most residents. They were also very careful not to select names that would seem to favor any particular service. However, they had problems. Some of the best names were already taken – for instance, “Courage Drive” is a main road in the industrial park that includes the Jellybelly Factory and the Budweiser Brewery. However appropriate or inappropriate it might be for the industries located on it, that street name could not be changed, and the Postal Service would not permit a duplicate. The developers also seem to have suffered from a lack of imagination – for instance, if “Courage” was taken, why not use “Bravery” or “Valor?”

Of course, there are several other routes they

might have taken. A lot of older communities have named their streets for famous battles – those won by the United States, of course. But even this could lead to controversy. Most of the best names from the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812 are also place names and have also been the names of aircraft carriers – Ticonderoga, Saratoga, Lake Champlain, etc. As a twenty-three year veteran of naval aviation, I would have been happy to have had these aircraft carrier names re-used as names for our streets, but my Air Force and Army colleagues might not have been as pleased. There are some less famous battles from those early wars whose names are available, but would we really like to live on a Court named “Cowpens?” – especially since historians disagree as to whether that battle was really a victory for the Continental Army. If they wanted to avoid controversy, the developers would be well advised to steer clear of battles from the Civil War, as well as the more recent official and unofficial wars.

My own choice would have been to name each street for its first resident who moved in. That’s how “Wildberger Avenue” in Parkville, MD, got its name from my great-grandfather, who built the first house there. That approach might have given us a variety of interesting names, but some of them, like my great-grandfather’s, might have been a little long, hard to remember or hard to spell.

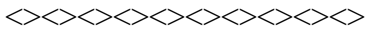
Actually, as time has passed, we’ve gotten used to the street names we have, and even come to like them. And they really do fit. Most of the residents on Constitution Avenue have, at some time, sworn to uphold it – the U. S. Constitution, that is, not the pavement on their street. All the residents on Independence Court are living independently else they would be in the Laurel Creek Health Center. Most residents on Flag Court display the flag, especially on national holidays. All the residents on Military Court have some connection with the military, and almost all of them served in it. Uniform Court is less uniform looking than when it was built, but the similarity of house style and colors is only slightly relieved by the variety of flowers and front yard decorations.

All of us on Victory Court and Victory Drive

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can claim a personal victory just because we have been able to reach retirement at all, much less to enjoy it in these surroundings. So it is with all our streets. The residents of Peace Court are peaceful – usually. Those on Freedom Court are free and prize that freedom. Only “Paradise Valley Estates Drive” does not quite fit this scheme. Of course, everyone living there is a bona-fide resident of Paradise Valley Estates, so the name does describe them, but there is still some rancor about only being able to fit “Estates” on the street signs. Still, most, if not all, its residents can expect to leave behind some estate, however large or small, and all of these estates, taken together, make the name fit.

So, careful reflection from a distance of almost five years suggests that the street names of Paradise Valley Estates, however they were originally chosen, are indeed appropriate, representative and even descriptive of their residents. But, perhaps it's just that we've grown accustomed to them.



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WHAT'S COMING UP

By Lise Hansen

- ◆ *Dinner at Pietro's & "Best of Andrew Lloyd Weber,"* Fairfield
- ◆ *"Over the River and Through the Woods,"* Dean Leshner Center, Walnut Creek
- ◆ *Murray Perahia* at Zellerbach Hall, Berkeley
- ◆ *San Francisco Symphony Open Rehearsal/ Lunch at Max's Opera Café*
- ◆ *Stanford Shopping Center,* Palo Alto
- ◆ *International Gem Show & Sale,* San Mateo
- ◆ *Cache Creek Indian Casino*
- ◆ *"Getting Away With Murder,"* Dreamweaver's Theater, Napa
- ◆ *Wildflower Train,* Sunol
- ◆ *Yo Yo Ma and the Silk Road Ensemble,* Zellerbach Hall, Berkeley
- ◆ *Ironstone Winery,* Murphy
- ◆ *Trout Fishin' with Capt. Nimmo*
- ◆ *"Party Music," Napa Valley Symphony*
- ◆ *Beach Blanket Babylon*

WHAT WE'RE WORKING ON

By Lise Hansen

- ◆ *Napa County Iris Garden*
- ◆ *Pardee Museum House & Fortune Cookie Factory,* Oakland
- ◆ *Solano Symphony "Annual Pops Concert,"* Fairfield Center for Creative Arts
- ◆ *"Giselle,"* San Francisco Ballet
- ◆ *Antiquing in Petaluma*
- ◆ *CA Symphony Family Concert*
- ◆ *Pink Flamingo Day*
- ◆ *"Anything Goes" Reno overnighter*
- ◆ *"The Pleasure of Seeing Her Again" starring Olympia Dukakis,* American Conservatory Theater, San Francisco
- ◆ *Feather Falls Casino,* Oroville
- ◆ *"Seniorama" Senior Follies,* Santa Cruz
- ◆ *"Roses on Parade,"* Pasadena Tournament of Roses.

