

ELUSIAN FIELDS

January 2004

The Official Paradise Valley Estates Residents' Newspaper

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Martin Luther King Day

On the third Monday in January, we will commemorate the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. with a federal legal holiday established in 1986 by President Ronald Reagan. From 1955, when he received his doctorate degree in theology and began to preach at a Baptist church in Montgomery, Alabama, until 1968, when he was assassinated while in Memphis, Tennessee, to lead a workers' strike, Dr. King organized and led non-violent protests against unequal treatment of African-American people. His most famous protest march took place on August 28, 1963, when a crowd of more than 250,000 people gathered in Washington, DC. From the steps of the Lincoln Memorial that day, Dr. King delivered a speech that was later entitled "I Have a Dream." The March was one of the largest gatherings of black and white people that the nation's capital had ever seen, and no violence occurred. People filled the entire Mall and the avenues that bordered it. I was there throughout that day – in an official capacity – because I was the Duty Officer for the Naval Material Command (NMC).

At that time, "temporary" buildings from World Wars I and II still lined the Mall from the Washington Monument at 16th Street to about 21st Street, where the Vietnam Memorial is today. The most substantial of these structures were the three-story Main Navy and Munitions Buildings. Built during WW-I of reinforced concrete and brick, with huge, double-hung windows, their false fronts were joined together and stretched for three blocks along the Mall, facing the south side of Constitution Avenue. Each concrete building consisted of a main corridor running parallel to the street and six wings of equal size stretching out from the main corridor toward

the reflecting pool at the center of the Mall.

NMC had the responsibility for security, maintenance, and general housekeeping for the entire complex. Naval officers stood regular watches, eight hours in length, during which they were responsible for supervising the civilian security force in their routine duties and handling any unusual situation requiring on-the-spot decisions and actions.



When I came in at 7:30 that Saturday morning, the Mall was already beginning to fill. Constitution and Independence Avenues had been restricted to pedestrian traffic, but I was in uniform and persuaded the police to let me drive across Constitution and enter the back of the Navy Building from 17th Street. Our security force had been told that this would be no ordinary weekend.

All of them were on telephone alert. We immediately called every one of them to come in, but not because we were afraid of any violence or vandalism. Instead, we opened all the doors that faced Constitution Avenue so that the marchers could use our restrooms, and we stationed security guards in all ground floor corridors to guide them to those facilities and make sure they didn't go wandering through the offices or up the stairs to the upper floors.

Throughout the day thousands of the marchers stopped by to use our facilities. Many of them thanked me and the security personnel for making those restrooms available. I didn't get to hear Dr. King's famous speech, or even see him, but I like to think that I contributed a little to that march and to its maintaining that peaceful character which Dr. King constantly reminded his followers was the surest way to success for their cause. Would that all political protests were as calm and non-violent.

— by Marty Wildberger

Son and Daughter of Norway

It's interesting that a stalwart son of Norway was born in a town named Mexico — Mexico, Missouri, that is, but that is where Bill Ekern came from. Corinne, who also has Norwegian heritage, was born in Los Angeles, an only child. Bill was number three in a family of eight children. He felt that the two older brothers had already broken records in sports and scholastics, but he held his own and became proficient in both. He thinks that Mexico was the ideal small town in which to grow up.

Bill retired as a LtCdr in the Navy. Early on, he was stationed in Coronado. One of his buddies knew a girl attending UCLA who fixed up some of the Navy men with some UCLA coeds on blind dates. Bill was one of the men and Corinne one of the girls. Overseas duty prevented them from getting well acquainted, but they remembered each other and took over where they had left off when Bill got back to the States. Corinne traveled to Missouri alone on the train, and she and Bill were married in Mexico on Christmas day, 1946.

The newlyweds went to Louisville, Kentucky, where Bill had a job as a chemist working for Seagram. Corinne, who had a degree in nutrition from UCLA and further training at Scripps in La Jolla, had a job as a dietician in the Kentucky Baptist Hospital. In due time, Bill decided he might want to switch to mining engineering. He was advised to experience actual mining before switching careers and spent a summer at a lead and zinc mine in Utah. He found the mining interesting but didn't think life in the town was suitable for raising a family.

The Ekerns have five children and thirteen grandchildren and were and are deeply involved with the activities of all of them, especially in sports; spending hours attending sporting events to cheer on the grandchildren.

After the mining experiment, they moved to Salt Lake City, Richland, Washington, and Fort Worth, Texas. Apparently, it is a given that in the field of engineering, one is going to move around frequently as the jobs open up. When they were in Fort Worth, Bill thought he wouldn't be able to pry Corinne loose, she liked it so much. They were both



Bill and Corinne Ekern

surprised when the next tour in Sunnyvale lasted twenty-six years. During some of this time Corinne stayed at home with the children and then resumed her career as a nutritionist. After retirement, they moved to Davis to be close to the college atmosphere.

The only thing that worried Bill about in moving to PVE was the question of whether or not Corinne would find enough to keep her busy. He needn't have been concerned. Corinne is not only active here, especially as activities chairman, but in the community of Fairfield as well. Her contacts have resulted in many outstanding programs for us. The Norwegian dancers have been delightful. Someone suggested that the "son of Norway" should be the captain of the cruise ship on our trip to Norway for the 2003 Holiday Gala. We are all grateful that Bill's concerns didn't prevent them from joining us in this retirement community.

— by Joan Teague

New Staff Additions

We are pleased to welcome some new talent to the Elysian Fields staff. Jackie Peterson will assist Marj Parker in paper layout. Jack Biederman will back up photographer Marty Wildberger. Jan Olson will be a feature writer contributing a monthly fitness column.

— Hal Carter, Editor

PVE Enjoys “Holidaze”

Sparkling icicles hanging from tile roofs, tiny multi-colored lights tucked in evergreen garland spiraling around light posts, forest animals outlined in fairy lights, wreaths with bright ribbon bows decorating doors and patios – PVE announced the holidays with a joyous spirit.

Special programs designed and performed by residents highlighted the season. Carol Block, music director of the PVE Chorus, led the group in a wonder-inspiring Christmas Cantata that emphasized the true meaning of the winter holidays. Narrated by Betty St George, and sung in four-part harmony, the cantata was a professional-quality presentation. Cletus Nelson led the traditional Community Carol Singalong, assisted by chorus members with merrily jingling sleigh bells.

The Solano Winds community concert band performed a lively concert of Wagnerian opera and John Williams adventure film music, and concluded with a medley of holiday songs that encouraged audience participation. Highlight of the evening was the announcement of a grant to the Solano Winds funded by the DeLong Family Foundation. Bud DeLong, whose earlier gift to PVE was the graceful pavilion on the lawn near the creek, presented a check to Mr. Robert Briggs, conductor of Solano Winds, as “a tangible way to say thank you for all the beautiful music you bring us here at PVE.”

Three evening bus trips to see the brightly



Bette and Joe Peterson with the mural of the fjords

decorated Fairfield community climaxed with dessert and coffee at Marie Callender’s restaurant. These trips enabled residents no longer comfortable with night driving to enjoy the excitement of the

season, and were another example of how our community works for inclusion in activities.

Residents in cocktail party finery arrived at the Community Center to find the entrance trans-



George Keever and Fred-a Jurian and the ice ship

formed into an elaborate cruise ship. “Captain” Ron Ridley greeted guests and invited them to board the SS Paradise for a Winter Wonderland Cruise. Dining Services Director David Kalbaugh, Marketing Director Sharon Dominick, and their staffs used imagination and creativity to produce “a willing suspension of disbelief” in all of the participants. A committee of resident volunteers, headed by Peg Cutshall and Betty Peterson had made scores of elegant ornaments, and resident artists provided beautiful murals, “portholes” and table decorations that enhanced the illusion of a brilliant evening aboard a renowned ocean liner. Elly Vasak’s charming poetic invitation gave hints of the many activities available on the SS Paradise and guests reveled in the Casino, the Cabaret, the Lounge and the Main Dining Room.

A talented group of singers entertained in the Cabaret. Edvard Grieg’s music was the unifying theme for a series of acts, as our resident barbershop quartet opened the show with a spirited Christmas song, sung in both English and Norwegian. Swede Walleen, John Regan, Steiny Steinkraus and Cletus Nelson made up this foursome. Cletus Nelson then assumed the persona of Edward Grieg’s father, introduced his “wife”, Edna Biederman, and the duo sang a lovely Grieg melody, accompanied at the piano by Carol Block. Edna’s solo, “I Love You, Dear” ended with a heartfelt hug and kiss for her “real” husband, Jack. She then accompanied him as he sang, Be My Love, in a thrilling tenor rendition.

After a brief interlude of classical music by
(Continued on page 4)

Holidaze *Continued from page 3*

Florence Hardwick, the cabaret show continued with a creative musical/narrative act featuring the voice of Ceil Bellinger and the clarinet virtuosity of Otto Va-



High rollers

sak. Jean Petersen, PVE's resident café singer, sang her signature, Sentimental Journey to close the show.

Guests then dispersed to the buffet smorgasbord of smoked seafood delicacies and generous slices of baron of beef, prepared and served by a hospitable kitchen and wait staff.

PVE Directors and managers circulated with bottles of wine, refilling glasses with smiling efficiency.

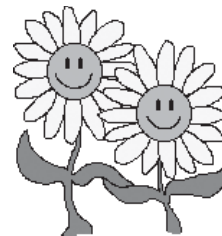
There was guitar music in the Club, and dance music in the main dining room. The floor was crowded with line dancers showing the results of their weekly classes in the art of ensemble dancing.

Elaborate chocolate desserts, now a tradition

at PVE, crowned the evening's "midnight buffet" atmosphere. And when the evening ended, and passengers reluctantly left the SS Paradise, unflappable bus drivers Robert and Dan saw everyone safely to their doors.

The "holidaze" of 2003 at PVE concluded with a New Year's Eve celebration. Events planned, designed and performed by volunteers have been the hallmark of our community, and the most appreciated gift in a season of "comfort and joy."

— by Liz Wildberger



Adopt-A-Plant Program Ends

About a year ago PVE announced that all of the live indoor plants would eventually be replaced by artificial ones. As a plant lover and gardener, I proposed an "adopt-a-plant" program that was well received and had many volunteers as eager as I to keep the live plants. Live plants create oxygen that all of us need and are much more beautiful than silk and plastic.

The plants have been well cared for, and I would like to thank all of the volunteers who worked so hard: Louise, Charlotte, Ginny, Peg, Virginia, Gay, Barbara, Nita, Bev, Bettie, Grace, Marianne, Julie, Lois, Clara, and Delfina.

And let's not forget the men: Bill A, Swede, James, Lorne, and Ray H.

We now relinquish our adoptions and transfer our responsibilities to a well qualified young woman, Debbie Turner, whom PVE has hired for the job. We wish her well!

— by Bette Peterson



Jean Peterson sings

A New Year's Message

Imagine a holiday gala without elaborate and glamorous decorations, a Laurel Creek Health Center without festive wreaths on every resident's door or splendidly decorated trees in halls and lobbies. Can you picture a get-together where there is no chorus providing a musical performance that enchants the audience? No "Angels" cruising the halls at Laurel Creek with juice carts, coffee service, and pleasant conversation? No cheerful "sales associates" in The Store purveying merchandise suitable, and reasonably priced, for holiday gift giving? No "Bookies" sorting and shelving the many donated books and magazines for all to enjoy? No Termite activity in the wood shop designing creative items that make our lives more pleasant? No Safety Committee looking out for our well being? And the list goes on. Indeed, we are a community of volunteers, a place where each resident helps to make life good for all of us who call PVE home.

Appropriately, at this holiday season, and we approach the new year, we'll "drink a cup of kindness yet, for auld lang syne." Here's to you, our many volunteers, our caring residents, and our friendly and helpful PVE staff.

HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM THE ELYSIAN FIELDS

Move-ins since the Last Issue

Harlan, Ridge and Marjory
5208 Freedom Court
Carefree, AZ

Hale, Patricia "Pat"
3208 Estates Drive
Suisun, CA

Friends in High Places

One of the great pleasures of living here in Paradise is meeting people at dinnertime and getting acquainted. Invariably the subject comes around to, "and what did you do during the war?" As you know, not everyone was in the service but many have very interesting stories to tell. I have to admit I enjoy relating tales from my days in the Army, much to my wife's chagrin, as she has heard them all – a lot! However, when folks hear that I had been with General Patton's Third Army, they often ask me if I had ever met the General. Most people know that he was a strict martinet with his troops, had a quick temper, was prone to criticism, and in general tough to live with. He was known as "Old Blood and Guts." The G.I's quipped: Yeah, our blood and his guts!" In retrospect though, it was a good thing for our country that we had men like him in charge of our forces.

Now the chances of me, a second lieutenant, ever meeting such a high-ranking officer are extremely rare, but believe it or not, I did have contact with him! It was during the Battle of the Bulge. My unit, an antiaircraft battery, was "dug in" near Arlon, Belgium. I was in a three-quarter ton truck sitting next to the driver as we pulled into an intersection where a military policeman was directing traffic. I leaned over the driver to ask the M.P. some directions and saw approaching us on our left a jeep with Plexiglas windshield and a man standing up in it with a shiny star-studded helmet. He was pointing at us. I didn't even look to see the pearl-handled revolvers General Patton reputedly carried, when he shouted, "Lieutenant, get the hell out of the way!" We moved immediately. Otherwise, I would have finished the war as a private. The whole thing reminded me of the old story: "Met him? I had lunch with him!" If you haven't heard that story, ask me about it but not at dinner!



—by Bal Balensiefer

Tennis at PVE

The November Tennis Clinic was a big success with about 17 participants. The really big news, however, is that Jan Olson has arranged for Mike Freidman to return every month. The fourth Monday, from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m., Mike will be with us. Mike is a top USTA teaching professional. He is recognized as a leading California teaching pro by the USTA. He has been the head pro at the Millennium Sports Club at Rancho Solano for the past three years and has been teaching for 20 years. He is involved with a number of youth programs, so we are fortunate that he agreed to devote part of his day off to be with us.

A sign-up sheet will be placed in the green book at the desk for those interested. In order for maximum personal attention, two groups of six will be organized. From 9 to 10 the first six will work with Mike, and from 10 to 11 the second group will take over. The sign-up sheets should appear after the first of the year. This event is for all residents. In November some participants were on the PVE court for the first time, and we look for an increasing use of the court by our residents. See you January 25th.

—by Jack Lindeman



illustrious leader, John Kroyer gave all of us some tips on how to speed up our games. Let's face it, folks, sometimes we more experienced players take time for granted and don't realize how long it takes us to find our ball. Time is of the essence!

The recipient of the December INTREPID GOLF-ER AWARD was Jack Biederman. The award was presented for his skillful and exemplary ability at putting the golf ball, combined with his natural golfing talents, which enabled his team to place in the November winner's circle. Jack's outstanding sportsmanship and team spirit are true traits of an INTREPID GOLFER!

The winner circle for the December tournament includes Duncan Kelly, Bettyann Fritz, Clarke Reynolds, and James Graham taking first place. The second place team was manned by Bill Stoneberg, Dominic Battistella, Glen Grewe and Earl Graham. Third place winners were Don Herington, Pat Maguire, Carl Johnson and Glenn Dow.

Because of the winter season, the January tournament has been cancelled and the February one is on hold until further notice. The next scheduled tournament will be in March. Watch out for the flyer in your mail box this coming February. Until then, keep your clubs dry and eat lots of greens.



On The Links with PVE Golf Club

Driving to Paradise Valley Golf Course on Wednesday the 3rd of December was so foggy it looked like you could cut it with a knife. But that did not discourage most of the PVE golfers as we were able to field six teams. After some pre tee-off chatter about equipping our carts with golf ball radars, Duncan Kelly's team stepped up to the tee and fired off their super sonic drives. You think I am kidding; well something must have been hot, because the fog parted right down the fairway and then totally disappeared. I think that makes a pretty good story, especially since Duncan's team won the Tournament. What else made the fog go away? The sun came out and it turned into a perfect fall day.

In the PVE lounge, after the tournament, our

Need Your ID, Ma'am

One summer morning during WWII, I received a phone call from a former college classmate serving in the Naval Air Force and stationed in Norfolk, VA. "Hey Marge," he said, "this is John O'Hara."

"How nice to hear from you, John. Where are you?"

"Norfolk. My training calls for a solo flight and I chose Philadelphia, so I can see you. How about meeting for lunch?"

"I'd love to. Tell me the time and place."

"Let's try twelve noon, at the Benjamin Franklin lobby." I agreed.

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John and I found one another in the hotel lobby and had a relaxed luncheon before I drove him to the Philadelphia Navy Yard for his return flight. We drove through the guarded gate, John flashed his identification, and then directed me to the runway. As we stepped out of the car, John called out to a lieutenant walking nearby. It was Guy Himmelberger, known to John from boot camp. We all talked briefly before Guy hurried on his way.

John said farewell to me, and I waved until he was airborne. I blithely pulled up to the guard at the gate and prepared to wave goodbye to him, also. He held up his arm for me to STOP. "Identification!" He looked quite stern.

"I haven't any."

"How did you get in here?"

"I came with Lt. John O'Hara."

"When?"

"About an hour ago."

"Where is he?"

"He's in the air, returning to Norfolk."

"He's in the air?" His voice picked up more alarm.

"He's enroute to Norfolk," I repeated purposely. The guard took a deep breath and lowered his brow.

"I can't give you clearance without identification."

I called up all of my resources. "I am an American, born of American parents in a Philadelphia hospital." I paused for a moment, and then eagerly added, "I am a driver for the American Red Cross Motor Corps. Does that help you?"

"Let me see your Red Cross identification."

"It's not in my wallet, but here's my Pennsylvania driver's license." (In the 1940's, Pennsylvania licenses did not use photos.)

"This doesn't help me," he said. "Wait right here."

He went inside the guardhouse and picked up the telephone. I couldn't hear his conversation, but his gestures suggested frustration. He returned. "I don't know what to do with you. You'll have to wait until we make contact with Lt. O'Hara. Pull to the side over there and turn off your engine."

I followed orders with my heart pounding. Now my attitude of freedom and innocence changed to fear. Could I be held against my will or be charged as a spy against this great republic? One by one,

the line of cars behind me drove through the gate. I sat for an eternity in impossible Philadelphia heat. About the time John might have landed in Norfolk, I had a flash of reality. I approached the guard. "There is someone here who can identify me. John and I talked to him when we came in."

Over the loud speaker, alerting the entire Navy Yard sounded a booming voice, "Lt. Guy Himmelberger. Calling Lt. Guy Himmelberger. Lt. Guy Himmelberger come to the Main Gate immediately." This was repeated many times.

Guy finally showed up and confirmed he knew me. The guard called out, "OK, you're clear!" It's hard to say which one of us heaved the heavier sigh of relief.

— by Marge Gruber

Employee Appreciation Fund Report

The Resident Council is happy to report that the 2003 Employee Appreciation Fund Drive was successfully completed on December 1, 2003. PVE residents contributed \$105,073. This compares to a total of \$94,725 for 2002. 87% of the units contributed this year as compared to 82% in 2002.

260 eligible employees received a check this year. Distribution was made on December 19, 2003 in time for the holiday season. A minimum of \$25 was given to all employees who were on the payroll during the November-December pay cycle. All other eligible employees received checks based on the number of hours worked during the year. The average check was \$404.

A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL THE RESIDENTS WHO CONTRIBUTED THIS YEAR. Please make it a point to say a few words of thanks to all our dedicated employees. Their efforts make our life at PVE a great pleasure.

JOE PETERSON
President, Resident Council

PETE PALMOS
Treasurer, Resident Council

It Pays to Advertise!

When memoir class started, I wrote several stories about my grandparents. Now I want to write about my parents Peg and Ken Batt, a bit about Dad in World War I, and about their romance after the war.

Dad grew up in a small town in Indiana – Lafayette, home of Purdue University and Indiana’s transportation lifeline, the Monon Railroad. When World War I erupted Dad enlisted in the army and was in the cavalry.

One Saturday night some of the men got together for a drink. One of the men held up a bottle of bourbon to the man beside him and said, “Say when.” The man replied “Three fingers” and received a generous slosh of whiskey in his glass. Next, my dad was asked the same question. Dad had no idea what “Say when” meant, so he let the server fill up the glass. The man in charge then raised his glass and said:, “Gentlemen, to the regiment. Bottoms up” All downed their whiskey in one slug. Dad a glass FULL but down it went in one swallow. He won the reputation on this first night in the regiment as “the hardest drinking Hoosier in the regiment!”

After the war Dad settled in an apartment with his mother in Montclair, N.J. near his married brother Bill and his family. Dad had no academic degree to advertise for a job so he put this ad in the New York Times: “One newly discharged 1st Lieutenant in the U.S. Cavalry, brilliant in math and science, desires position in business with good chance of advancement.” Jesse Strauss, president of R.H. Macy’s, saw the ad, interviewed Dad, and hired him.

Dad proved to be “as advertised” and became comptroller of Macy’s within a few years. It pays to advertise!

— by Mibby Taylor



Public Telephones for Korean War Vets

One of my first assignments with Pacific Telephone in the early 1950s was in the business office in Vallejo, CA. My duties included answering customer complaints over the telephone and, in some cases, visiting customers in their homes or businesses to help solve their problems. In the early years after World War II, many areas did not have lines to provide telephone hook-ups, so many people had to wait for service. Another of my duties was to visit these customers and explain why they had to wait for telephone service.

The Korean War was going strong and many of the wounded servicemen were being treated at Camp Stoneman Hospital. Telephone service to this hospital was the responsibility of Pac Bell’s Vallejo office. This hospital was the first stop in the United States for wounded servicemen, and they wanted to call home immediately to their families, wives, girl friends, and others.

Unfortunately, there were no coin telephones in the hospital wards. This frustrated the servicemen. Most of the wounded were not ambulatory so they were unable to get to a telephone booth. At this point, and not knowing any better, I said, “Why don’t we put coin telephones on rolling carts so these wounded servicemen can call out from their bedsides?”

The engineers said this could not be done. It was too expensive and not very practical. However, not being a person to give up easily, I insisted that we try the idea in one ward. After much procrastination from the engineers and pressure from the Vallejo manager, we installed a coin telephone on a cart and a plug beside each bed. The idea was a smashing success, so we provided the same system in all the wards in the Camp Stoneman Hospital.

At first, we provided trained people to help the wounded place their calls. After the system was working without hitches, the ward nurses were able to handle the calls. We were contacted by other hospitals on the West Coast seeking information and details about our system. I’m sure most of them later used the coin telephone on a cart system to provide telephones for the wounded vets of the Korean War.

— by Tom Winburn

“Ditching” at Sea

One of my duties as a Flying Tigers Chief Pilot was arranging for “ditching” training for all flight crew members, an annual requirement for qualification. Most of these training sessions were held cooperatively with the Coast Guard near San Francisco.

However, the most effective training was the annual summer Coast Guard ditching and rescue seminar held in Honolulu. It was a daylong seminar and took place at Ft. DeRussy at Waikiki. After a lecture and film, three hundred airline and military flight crews would board a Coast Guard cutter and be taken to the open Pacific Ocean. Once the cutter was in position, trainers would work with twenty-five flight crew members at a time, lowering them overboard into a whaleboat. Trainees had to scramble down rope cargo nets, enter the whaleboat, and then launch a 25-man raft bouncing along beside the whaleboat. Once in the life raft, flight crew members had to launch the raft and then demonstrate the proper use of all raft equipment.

When the Coast Guard was satisfied that members of a flight could get into a raft, a helicopter was sent to the scene, lowering lines to demonstrate how a water pick-up was conducted. After all 300 participants were “rescued”, the group returned to the cutter, where an evening buffet dinner was served on the fantail, and an after-dark program was presented. This phase of training involved how night “ditching” was conducted; especially how flight crew members were rescued.

A Coast Guard R5D (C-54) plane would leave Barber Point Air Station on Oahu, bound for the cutter that was still at sea. After the cutter spread a mile-long flare path, Coast Guard personnel on the cutter’s bridge would fire flare shells from its five-inch bow gun to further illuminate the area. This procedure enabled both the plane in trouble and rescue crew aboard the Coast Guard cutter to see each other effectively.

One year I was invited to ride on the “distressed” plane from Barber Point to see the rescue efforts from above. This was quite an impressive experience, and heart-stopping as well, since the plane would descend to fifty feet above the water and follow the right side of the flare path before pulling up!

These annual seminars were very good training and always informative. All Flying Tiger crew members, both cockpit and cabin were checked annually for proficiency in ditching procedures. This cooperation between airlines and the U.S. Coast Guard undoubtedly contributed to saving lives throughout the Pacific when a distress signal indicated “ditching” was imminent.

— by Don Sanders



Clerisy’s Book Selections

Members of Clerisy, PVE’s book discussion group, have selected Wallace Stegner’s *Angle of Repose* for their Thursday, January 22 meeting. Winner of the 1972 Pulitzer Prize for fiction, Stegner has a passionate appreciation for the western landscape, with magnificent descriptions of the mountain peaks, deep canyons, and vast stretches of plain and prairie. Although the term ‘angle of repose’ refers to a resting point, Stegner’s novel helps us recognize America as a nation in constant flux. It is an intensely American story.

In February, readers will discuss Dan Brown’s adventure/thriller, *Angels and Demons*. Date for the February meeting is Thursday, February 19. Dan Brown, author of the best selling *DaVinci Code*, has set the book *Angels and Demons* in Rome. Reviewers say, “Life-or-death cliff hangers, thrilling cat-and-mouse maneuvers, romance, religion, science, murder, mysticism, architecture, and action.”

All residents are invited to attend the book review session, meeting in the Round Room (Conference Room) at the PVE Community Center at 7:30 p.m.

What's Coming Up

- ◆ *Ballet Folklorico* at the Mondavi Center, Davis
- ◆ *Degas Sculptures* at the Palace of the Legion of Honor, San Francisco
- ◆ *Stars on Ice* at Arco Arena, Sacramento
- ◆ *Bay Model and Shopping*, Sausalito
- ◆ *Mrs. Grossman's Paper Company and Antiquing* in Petaluma
- ◆ *"H.M.S. Pinafore" – Lamplighter's Theater*, Dean Leshner Center, Walnut Creek
- ◆ *Happy Birds* at PVE
- ◆ *Sheraton Palace Hotel Tour*, San Francisco

What We're Working On

- ◆ *California Symphony* – Dean Leshner Center, Walnut Creek
- ◆ *San Francisco Rooftop Gardens Tour*
- ◆ *Smuin Ballet*
- ◆ *Hendry Winery Tour and Tea at the Victorian Blue Violet Mansion*, Napa
- ◆ *"Solid Gold Cadillac"* – Willows Theater, Concord
- ◆ *Cache Creek*
- ◆ *"Cinderella" – Moscow Ballet* at the Marin Center, San Rafael
- ◆ *Solano Winds* at PVE
- ◆ *Crocker Art Museum & Towe Auto Museum*, Sacramento
- ◆ *"Nunsense"* – Vallejo Music Theater
- ◆ *Snow Train to Reno*
- ◆ *North Bay Opera Opening Night Opera Dinner and Show "Die Fledermaus"*, Fairfield
- ◆ *Sara Brightman in concert* at Arco Arena, Sacramento
- ◆ *"Great Composers"* – *Solano Symphony*
- ◆ *Solano Wine & Food Jubilee*
- ◆ *Napa Valley Symphony with cellist Zuill Bailey*
- ◆ *"The Time of You Life"* – *A.C.T.*, San Francisco
- ◆ *"Richard III"* at the Mondavi Center, Davis
- ◆ *Air Force Band* at Vacaville Performing Arts Theater
- ◆ *Solano Symphony Annual Pops Concert*
- ◆ *Michael Tilson Thomas and the San Francisco Symphony* at the Mondavi Center, Davis

The Day the U.S. Mail was Mixed

Steinie jumped out of bed, quietly turning an ankle, and ran for the mailboxes that day. His hair went straight up when he read that his prosthetic leg would be delivered that afternoon. "Oh, m'gosh, I only turned an ankle!" He said. Then, too, he was being asked to speak at several congregations and meetings. He only calmed down when he read Bill Coghill's name on some of the envelopes.

Penny Herington had the fright of her life to learn that five square yards of cement were on their way to her flower garden, at no extra expense. She had to be put to bed with an electric fan by her side. She hadn't stopped to read whose mail she had received.

Jeanne Obley really got a shock when she got an advertisement for rat traps and mouse bait in her mail box, having received Bogart's bunch of U.S. correspondence.

Molly Archdeacon read with a shudder that she had been put on ten committees downtown in Fairfield and in neighboring villages. But after further inspection, she gladly handed over her mail to its proper recipient, John Clemson.

Catalogues for seeds, plants, and small trees ended up in Phil Yaggy's mail box, and he was frantic to know what it was all about until he discovered that he had Clair Bogart's share of the mail distribution.

It is still not known if all the mail got to its rightful owners. It is known that many have had trouble getting back to normal from this terrible mix-up in the postal service. Every day you see the neighbors going to the postal kiosk with trepidation and placing their keys in the doors with wary eyes. It is a very distressing thing to behold.

—by Bev Clemson

-
- ◆ *"Thoroughly Modern Millie" – Best of Broadway Series*, Sacramento
 - ◆ *The Producers" – Best of Broadway Series*, Sacramento

Wall of Remembrance

Whether you're a regular in The Club (aka The Bar, aka The Lounge), or a casual passer-by, you might want to drop in and focus your attention on the large pre-World War II map at the extreme left end of the room. The map is part of "The Wall," a title lovingly bestowed by its benefactors on this memento lined room in honor of all who served.

The map had languished in Bud DeLong's attic for years. It was ultimately rescued, restored, and framed in 1999 by Bud and Ray Tylutki. It was subsequently mounted in its present location by Pat Orme (Child) and Ray Stewart.

Representatives of each service worked on "The Wall," and became a committee: Bud Holderness, Air Force; Jim Wirrick, Army; Bud DeLong, Navy; Ray Stewart Marine Corps; and Hilda Helmer, Coast Guard. That committee still meets periodically as noted below. It occurred to me that the map might become more meaningful if our residents' service stations outside the continental United States were indicated on it. Letters were mailed to every resident of PVE. Using the results of the survey we placed red flags for more than 20 veterans in any single area, yellow flags for more than 10, blue pins for five, and green pins for one to five.

Because many new residents have moved to PVE since the original survey was conducted, we on the committee thought it would be proper to ask all residents who did not participate in the original survey, to let us know where they had been stationed overseas. Widows and widowers of deceased veterans are also urged to respond for their spouses. We could then update the world map and add pins for all. If you did not participate in the original survey and wish to participate now, simply place a note in my "in house mail box": Bill Johnson #4032, with your name and location (s) you wish represented on our map.

The "Wall" committee continues to receive compliments for its work, also for the "Picture of the Month", displayed just inside the main door to the club. If any of you have a photograph you feel relevant for inclusion to the "Wall," simply contact any member of the current committee: Russ Bowen, chairman, representing the Marine Corps; John Barber, Army; Bud DeLong, Navy; Bill Johnson, Air Force, and Hilda Helmer, Coast Guard; or Delfina

Computer User Groups

The Microsoft Office 2003 program on December 5, 2003 for all residents was a great success despite the inclement weather and the PVE Chorus having program at our Health Center. There were 62 residents in attendance. Mr. Eric Main, the Microsoft representative from San Francisco gave a great presentation on their new products. Nice door prizes were given to all attendees. Drawings were held for ten computer prizes, five of which were Microsoft Office 2003, Professional which retail at \$449 each.



The ten winners were: Howard and Mary Peterson, Marty Wildberger, Linda Faraday, Joe Robinson, Carol Block, Jack Biederman, Joe Peterson, George Wagner, Bill Stoneberg, and Chris Changaris. Prizes are being mailed.

Due to the general meeting held on December 5, regular meetings for December were cancelled. Starting in January 2004, there will be new signup sheets in the green book for the new year with a choice of available meeting times.

We recently subscribed to a new publication called "Your PC Made easy" which, along with our "Computer Friendly" publication, can help us all learn just how exciting, helpful, and fun our computers can be, so sign-up and come to our meetings!

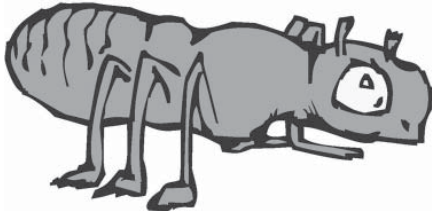
Our annual social and CUG meeting for all paid-up members was held on December 19 in the MPR. Because most of us will need a rest after the holidays, the beginner and internet user group meetings scheduled for the first Friday, January 2, are rescheduled to the second week on January 9, 2004. Please mark your calendars. The Macintosh CUG meeting remains on the third Tuesday.

— by Dominic Battistella

Kruger, who is the technical advisor for the committee. We hope to hear from you so we may maintain the high level of interest the projects have elicited in the past.

— by Bill Johnson

Termites? Don't Panic!



These termites create great piles of sawdust, but if you were here at PVE on December 6, you were

among the benefactors of a crew of woodworkers who call themselves "Termites". These industrious residents have been turning out an incredible assortment of wood products since January, 1998. The group, which started with 20 members, now number over 30 participants, all amateurs, all men so far, though women are welcome. The only prerequisite for becoming a full-fledged Termite is proof by performance that you are proficient in the use of the machines.

George Yeoman, scion of a family owned business that sold unfinished furniture all over the United States, was instrumental in getting the group started. John McBeath has been the safety officer from the beginning. Cole Sellers is the current president. Frank Williams supervises shop maintenance. The shop is supported by contributions, by jobs commissioned by residents, and by sales. Residents occasionally donate useable lumber to the Termites, who then salvage what they need and donate the leftovers to an Indian reservation.

The Termites add one new item every year for their annual give-away. In preparation for last December's bounty, they hand made 50 each of 18 select products! Residents were invited to choose as many as they could use. Especially popular were under-counter jar openers, trivets, toaster tongs, and back scratchers.

Last year the Termites turned out an impressive 40 bird houses, which were subsequently painted by the talented china painters in the Arts and Crafts room, then put on the Christmas tree. The same group of artists was rewarded when the Termites built special 'spinnable' plate holders that facilitated plate handling during the decorating process. A current project is a custom table being built by Frank Williams for resident artist Eric Daniel.

Charging only for special hardware or special wood, the Termites have crafted items for almost every facility at PVE. Following is a small sampling of

items generously dispensed : four lazy susans for the main dining room, book-shelves for the library paperback collection, six specially designed table tops for wheel chairs, planter tables for the dementia center, the sturdy ten-foot picnic table in front of the recreation building, a specially fabricated tennis ball machine cover for the tennis court, three owl boxes requested by the Nature Preserve Committee, 48 door stops for the Health Center, bar stool repair for the Club, a specially designed and fabricated plate rail for the Arts and Crafts room, and crafting of the portable cart and cabinet container for the public address system in the multi-purpose room.

Anyone with special needs or questions is welcome to call Cole Sellers, Frank Williams, or George Yeoman. They and their colleagues in the shop welcome your inquiries and the challenges woodworking offers. Do you need a custom bookcase, risers for your sofa, an extra display shelf for your doll collection? Just call your local Termite and let the chips fly.

—by Linda Faraday



Holiday Season Past

Paradise Valley Estates was decked out in grand style for the holiday season. There were so many positive comments shared among residents and staff regarding the lovely holiday decorations. Such comments as "lovely, classy, elegant, and beautiful" were heard echoing through the halls of the Community Center. We wish to thank the residents on the Holiday Gala committee, especially Peg Cutshall and Bette Peterson, for the theme and idea of our Holiday Gala party. A crew of residents spent many hours creating over 1,500 beautiful decorations that adorned the 14-foot tree in the main lobby, each of them being very unique. Thank you all for the ideas and many hours that you contributed to make this a spectacular holiday season that will be talked about for years to come.

— The Staff

Hit and Run Driver

Ever since Betty and I moved into PVE six years ago, we have been bothered by an influx of mice in our garage. After all, they were here before we were, and their natural habitat is in the hill in back of Constitution Ave. Pest control comes out promptly when called, and they effectively put out their bait traps. Meanwhile, it's a favorite topic for grousing at the dinner table on many evenings.

This brings me to the story of a queer and humorous incident. I refer to an episode of a hit and run mouse accident, which happened many years ago while I was an intern at Chicago's Cook County Hospital in 1947. While on duty, I slept in an old style narrow, movable hospital bed on wheels with white bars at either end, much like the ward patients had. While on duty, an intern slept in his room on that kind of bed, so as to be quickly available if called for an emergency. When not on duty call, he could go home.

This particular day, I was on duty on the surgical ward. The day started at 7 a.m. — surgeries, surgical ward rounds, clinic office hours, ward consultations, handling emergency walk-ins, etc. Meals were squeezed in whenever possible, except for the midnight snack, which everyone tried to attend to discuss the day's events with one's fellow interns. This particular day had been a rough one and I didn't tumble into bed until I had finished handling two bad burn cases. I flopped face down on the bed, still in my uniform. After a few minutes, my right arm felt cramped against the wall — not enough arm room, so I reached over to the wall and gave the bed a hard shove to make adequate room for my arm between wall and bed. Now more comfortable, I exhaustedly fell into a deep sleep. I woke up early the next morning, jumped out of bed, still unchanged, and headed down to the dining room and back to my still heavy workload. When I finished up about 3 p.m., I went back to my bedroom and tumbled into bed.

This time something was different. There was a queer and repugnant odor in the air. I looked around and could spot nothing. Oh, well, maybe it was my imagination. I left the room on an emergency call and thought nothing more of it until I returned that night. The odor was unmistakably more gross and repulsive — and I couldn't go to sleep.

I turned on all the lights, took a flashlight and began a meticulous search. To my amazement, next to the right front wheel on the bed was a squashed dead mouse. The wheel track had crushed right through the middle of his body like a wheel on a car, with innards squeezed out. It must have happened when I gave the bed a hard shove away from the wall to make room for my arm to dangle, and the mouse couldn't get out of the way and got run over and crushed to death. He lay there decomposing under the bed wheel. I picked him up by the tail with a hemostat and gave him a proper watery funeral down the toilet. And thereby hangs a tale in which I was literally a hit-and-run driver with an unlucky mouse as victim.

— by Irwin Rosen

Taking Care of Our Own

NCROC created the Paradise Valley Estates Benevolent Fund to assure that the comfort, dignity, and security of the PVE continuing care program remains available to all eligible residents, including those who are unable to meet their financial obligations to the community due to circumstances beyond their control. The Benevolent Fund is possible because of your contributions. Your generosity will help ensure residents of Paradise Valley Estates a life of dignity and comfort.

In the past month, we have received \$7,100.00 from generous donors.

Contributions of any amount are tax deductible. Please consider making your contributions today, payable to Paradise Valley Estates Benevolent Fund and send to:

Paradise Valley Estates
Attn: Benevolent Fund
2600 Estates Drive
Fairfield, CA 94533

News from your Library

Have you noticed? People keep moving here to PVE. People who live here seem to be busy cleaning out their storage or their bookcases. These are not bad things. We welcome them heartily, but it means books keep coming into the library. We accept every book, and most of them we can use. However, some are duplicates or are in other ways not useful to us. There is also the subject of our limited capacity, so we have found other libraries that can use these items. We try to find places in our locale and especially military places. Here is our list. We hope you agree with our choices.

Correctional Medical Facility at Vacaville
David Grant Hospital at Travis Air Force Base
Fairfield Public Library
Laurel Creek Health Facility
Mitchell Memorial Library at Travis Air Force Base
Vacaville Public Library
Yountville Military Retirement Facility

New books are being sent in

One of Ellie Vasak's friends wrote a book about the Vietnam War women veterans, and one of these women nurses has kindly inscribed a copy for our library, at Ellie's suggestion. The book, *A Piece of My Heart*, by Keith Walker will be found in the section after World War II on the north wall in a place for Vietnam War books.

Some books get misplaced

Another author, Lt. Col. Robert (Buzz) Patterson), some time ago inscribed a book to PVE entitled *Dereliction of Duty*, through the good auspices of Joe Sanner. Many people want to read it, and one practically leaped up to get it out of my hands when it came in. Now we don't know who has it, and maybe that person doesn't know it is our PVE library's book. It didn't get stamped. Please let us know if you have it.

Yountville wants our magazines

Will the lady who spoke to Bev Clemson about taking magazines and paper backs to Yountville please call Bev and make some arrangement for this. We do want to help.

— by Bev Clemson

Poem for Dora Conrath On her 95th Birthday December 15, 2003

Today is Dora's birthday.
My goodness, what a shock!
We didn't hear the ticking
Of her anniversary clock!

She doesn't look much more
Than maybe sixty-five,
But how long does she tell us
That she has been alive?

Dora, Dora, man alive,
You hear she claims
That she is ninety-five!

Records must be lost.
I can't believe it's true!
Whatever age Miss Dora is,
You know we all love you!!
— by Winkie Wirrick

* * * * *

❄ January, 2004 ❄

❄ Open wide your double door ❄
❄ And welcome in two-oh-oh-four. ❄
❄ Another year of days for us ❄
❄ To put to good use, trying thus ❄
❄ To make the world a better place, ❄
❄ To put a smile on someone's face. ❄
❄ To clean our houses room by room, ❄
❄ To pray for terrorism's doom. ❄
❄ To work toward peace, howe'er we can. ❄
❄ Aim for the brotherhood of man. ❄
❄ And smiling through that double door ❄
❄ Say, "Hey" to year two-oh-oh-four. ❄

— by Elly Vasak

* * * * *

Wellness/Fitness Update

The wellness department is please to have this opportunity to update you, our residents, on upcoming events and specialty class offerings. We would like to extend a wellness challenge to each resident in 2004.

Wellness goes beyond a conventional approach to health. Wellness is optimal physical and mental well being, a preventive way of living that embraces physical activity to help prevent illness and provide a positive day-to-day approach to a more healthful way of life.

Our wellness challenge to our residents would be to attend a new fitness class or wellness-sponsored event in the new year.

According to the World Health Organization, “older people spend more of their income on health than any other need or activity”. Here’s the bottom line: the healthier people are, the more likely they are to retain their wealth. Think about it. Sedentary adults can save an average of \$2,200 per year in healthcare costs simply by starting to exercise moderately for just 90 minutes per week. This was a conclusion of a recent study by Health Partner’s Research Foundation, a nonprofit group of health-care providers.

Our “Fitness in Paradise” classes offer a broad range and variety of action. If you are just beginning, remember to start small. Review your current health situation and begin with 10-15 minutes per day. See your fitness coordinator for specific guidance on class selection. Your staff is here to meet your health and fitness needs.

Watch our newsletter for these exciting upcoming events:

- Grand Slam Tennis Clinics, offered monthly, starting in January 2004.
- Nu-Step, our newest class, to begin in January, using the Nu-Step seated stepping machines.
- Healthy Choices, An ongoing supervised exercise and diet program, to begin first Quarter2004.
- Annual Heart Walk, held in February.
- When the winter rains stop, we hope to offer a walkers group, the Paradise Valley Pacers.
- Our best to you in the new year. Remember, take the wellness challenge. You can do it!

— by Jan Olson,

REMEMBERING . . .

Hazel Hoffman
Loving Wife and Mother
Arrived PVE: January 6, 1998
Departed: November 21, 2003

Harry Diamond
Loving Husband and Father
Arrived PVE: November 5, 1997
Departed: December 16, 2003



Precipitation

Following is the rainfall recorded at PVE for the season beginning July 1, 2003. We have three residents who are measuring the rainfall in the community who have agreed to provide me with information for the Elysian Fields. There are variations in the measurements, so I have averaged out the amounts recorded by the residents. Amounts are reported in inches.

	PVE	Travis AFB
Through November	1.85	1.61
December (thru 12/16)	3.30	1.65
Total for year	5.15	3.26

— by Peter Palmos

ELYSIAN FIELDS STAFF ORGANIZATION

Editor	Hal Carter
Associate Editor	Liz Wildberger
Copy Editor(s)	Madelynne Wolfe and Miz Lively
Make-up, Layout, Publishing	Marj Parker and Jackie Peterson and Joe and Angie Sanner
Photography	Jack Biederman and Marty Wildberger

Editorial Assistants/Writers

- (1) **Biographies of PVE residents**
Joan Teague and Betty St George
- (2) **Life at PVE (human interest stories about travels, hobbies, and incidents)**
Linda Faraday and Liz Wildberger
- (3) **Memories (of past events and significant happenings)**
Liz Wildberger and Miz Lively
- (4) **Organized activities and events at PVE**
Bev Clemson and Ceil Bellinger
- (5) **Fitness feature writer** Jan Olson



Community Gardeners

We will not meet until the weather improves. But please continue with weeding, raking, and general clean-up, which discourages garden pests.

Spray roses with a dormant spray to kill insect eggs and mites.

Thanks to you all.

— Jan Holderness

Instructions for Submitting Articles to Elysian Fields

The **Elysian Fields** staff invites contributions from all PVE residents. Articles should be legible, typed if possible, original, signed, and not exceed 500 words. Submissions by e-mail, on floppy disks, or CDs are welcome but not required. Submissions should be directed to one to the four subject matter editors or the editor.

Dining Services Committee

As recently reported, the dining committee members were afforded an opportunity to visit the kitchen during a busy evening meal. It was a most interesting experience that we hope will be available to all residents via a video on channel 78. The idea is to have a tape produced in the near future. There will be more about that later.

One item which was most impressive was the orderly, efficient, and professional manner in which the kitchen staff, in cooperation with the wait staff, went about their business. The salad chef was particularly interesting as he literally flew about his station creating each salad to specification. Another skilled position is the grill cook, who prepares each item to the diner's instructions.

Speaking of efficiency, the kitchen is most efficient when preparing standard items. Each revision of the standard menu, whether it be half portions, dressing on the side, revised starch, or hold-the-beans is individually handled and results is a slight loss of efficiency. The effect is multiplied by the number of diners at a table, as well as the entire dining room, to an extent. The message is not to refrain from ordering your meal as you desire, but to understand when the service is slower than you would like.

Bon Appetit

— by Jack Lindeman