



THE TOWN CROWER

SONS IN RETIREMENT

North Peninsula Branch # 91

A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION FOR RETIRED MEN DEVOTED TO THE PROMOTION OF THE INDEPENDENCE AND DIGNITY OF RETIREMENT

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LUNCHEON 12 NOON 2ND Monday, VOL. 28, NO. 7

July 14, 2008

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PHONE NOS. LISTED IN THE BULLETIN ARE AREA CODE 650, UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.

BIG SIR Gus Lopez: INDEPENDENCE DAY

One of my favorite holidays is just around the corner. The Fourth of July is a great opportunity to celebrate what is good and honest about this country. When I was a kid growing up in San Bruno, there was the town parade and special baseball games being played at the City Park. So this year I promised myself to attend one of these special local events. I hope you will join me in spirit and do the same thing.

Two hundred and thirty-two years ago this July 4th, a committee of five patriots, headed by a young farmer from Virginia, presented the final draft of the Declaration of Independence to his colleagues in the Second Continental Congress. After making relatively few changes to Thomas Jefferson's work and then, pledging "to each other our lives, our fortunes and our sacred honor," all members signed their names to this Declaration of Independence. In so doing, they created something that was then unique on the planet earth: a country based on the concepts of individual liberty, religious freedom, private property and democratic government. Since then, the people of this nation have taken great risks to offer others the hope of that same freedom.

America's strength and prosperity are testaments to the enduring power of our founding ideals, among them, that all men are created equal, and that liberty is God's gift to humanity, the birthright of every individual. The American creed remains powerful today because it represents the universal hope of all mankind.

On the Fourth of July, we are grateful for the blessings that freedom represents and for the opportunities it affords. We are thankful for the love of our family and friends and for our rights to think, speak, and worship freely. We are also humbled in remembering the many courageous men and women who have served and sacrificed throughout our history to preserve, protect, and expand these liberties. In liberating oppressed peoples and demonstrating honor and bravery in battle, the members of our Armed Forces reflect the best of our Nation.

America is a force for good in the world, and the compassionate spirit of America remains a living faith. Drawing on the courage of our Founding Fathers and the resolve of our citizens, we willingly embrace the challenges before us.

As Americans celebrate our 232nd Independence Day, we do so with more than 100,000 soldiers, sailors, airmen, guardsmen and Marines in Iraq and over 25,000 in Afghanistan. Those who celebrate this Independence Day on lonely outposts in Afghanistan and Iraq are a magnificent reflection of who we are as a people.

As you and your family celebrate this July 4th, please take a moment to show your support for our troops. On Independence Day, we might do well to remember that we have enjoyed "the blessings of Liberty" since the signing of our Declaration of Independence, because true heroes – our soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines and Guardsmen sacrifice their tomorrows for us.

God Bless you and God Bless America.

PS: Please purchase your Picnic Tickets today! A good time for all.

From LITTLE SIR PHIL CHAN:

The media keeps us quaking in fear with their dire prediction of the "next one" here in the Bay Area. In view of the recent tremendous upheavals all over the world, it would behoove us to know as much as we can about earthquakes.

Our July speaker is Mr. **Kent A. Fogleman** who works for the U. S. Geological Survey in Menlo Park. He tells us, "I began working at the USGS in 1977 as a geophysicist. For the first 20 years, I studied the seismology and tectonics of southern Alaska. Since 1997, I have worked for the National Engineering Strong-Motion Project which has the primary Federal responsibility for recording each damaging earthquake.

Come prepared to ask questions.

A SIR PROFILE:

Spotlight on: Mike Mewkalo

It was a tough job for a kid, it still makes me squirm a bit just thinking about it today but you did a lot of things in the depression to feed your family.

Customers came into the store, pointed out healthy, clucking chickens, touched around their flapping wings and above their legs and then watched me go to work. After about 15 minutes, I handed over a fresh, plucked and cleaned chicken ready for the dinner table. Here I was at the age of 12 behind the counter butchering chickens for 25 cents daily wage. Now that was chicken feed!

Even my Dad's salary of \$15 a week wasn't enough to feed our family of twelve. He worked in the Carnegie-Illinois steel mill outside Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Only now, when I look back, do I consider my early life to have been difficult. Back then, it was just something that was needed to be done and you did it.

It actually shaped my whole life; it was not the hard work particularly, but the example of people helping each other.

I gladly ran errands as a kid for our older neighbors because I wanted to do my part, just as I saw my mom and dad working so hard.

In those days, when most of us were having a tough time, people seemed to look out for each other. Salvation Army volunteers seemed like 'miracle workers' to me, giving us warm clothes and thick blankets for cold Pennsylvania winters and food for 10 hungry mouths.

I was born in 1926 outside Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Growing up in the 1930's, I worked as a newspaper carrier, milkman helper and at the grocery store on Saturdays.

I dropped out of school in February 1943, at age 16, so I could work in a steel mill to help the World War II effort. At age 18, I was drafted into the Army. After basic training, I was shipped to Manila, Philippines, and worked as a cook in a hospital, then transferred to the Army Air Corps as an ambulance driver on the flight line outside Manila. I returned stateside in October 1946, and was discharged in December. I went back to the steel mills where my father had worked, in Pennsylvania.

In 1948, I signed up for another tour with the Army. During the Korean War, I was stationed in Japan. There, I met and married my first wife. We had two children, a son and a daughter, who are now 54 and 47 years old, and who live in Riverside. There is also a 17-year-old grandson, child of my daughter. We are in touch with all of them.

In 1957, after I was discharged from the Army, I re-enlisted in the U. S. Air Force as a jet engine mechanic. During this tour of duty, I completed the requirements for my GED and received my High School Equivalency Diploma.

In 1969, I then moved to California and worked at United Airlines for 20 years. I retired in 1988. In 1977, I met my second wife, **Rose**, and we have no children, only two cats. We are married over 31 years.

I am now 81 years old. Through these many long years, I never forgot the spirit of my youth; in fact, it seemed to follow me.

In my 20 years of retirement from UAL, I keep busy at SFO's USO by serving coffee and donuts for traveling GIs and their families; giving a hand to the Local Lodge 1781 retiree club and running errands for older friends Shirley, Verna, Alice and Mickie who cannot drive.

It doesn't make me anything special; it's just what needs to be done when people need help.

(Ed.: And you, **Mike**, surely know how to do that; you've had a lifetime of practice. Thank you for sharing it with us.)

A TIMELY REMINDER

By: **Elaine and Jim Murphy**

Extracts from **Doug Copp's** article on

THE TRIANGLE OF LIFE

"I am the Rescue Chief and Disaster Manager of the American Rescue Team International (ARTI). I have crawled inside 875 collapsed buildings all over the world, and have worked in every major disaster since 1985.

Simply stated, when buildings collapse, the weight of the ceilings falling on objects below crushes them, leaving a space or void next to them, or, what I call, the “triangle of life”. The larger the object, the less it will compact. The less an object compacts, the larger the void next to it.”

Tips for Earthquake Safety!

- 1) People who get under objects are crushed by the weight of the object.
- 2) Find a large object such as a sofa or a large chair and get into the fetal position next to it.
- 3) If you are in bed during the night an earthquake strikes, simply roll off the bed. A safe void will exist around the bed.
- 4) Get out of the building, if possible. If not, get next to the outer walls of the building. Stay away from stairs.
- 5) Get out of cars when trapped on a freeway and the top collapses on them. In the Loma Prieta earthquake, all the crushed cars had 3-foot-high voids next to them.

2008 GOLF SCHEDULES

Date	July 15	July 22	July 29	Aug. 5	Aug. 12	Aug. 19
Course	Moffett Field	Palo Alto	Sharp Park	Willow Park	Santa Clara	Poplar Creek
Time	9:00	9:00	9:30	9:30	10:00	10:30

Membership Chairman

ACTIVITIES:

Ray Calonge, Chairman – 589-3959

GOLF: Dale McAfee, 583-2332

Scores: May 20th, Poplar Creek,

Par 70: No headliners from Branch 91. May 27th,

Shoreline, Par 72: McAfee 90/70, Silva 96/71. **CTP: Silva, Turner.**

June 3rd, WillowPark, Par 71, Cannuli 79/68, Larwood 90/68, Silva 93/69. **CTP: Mintz.. June 10th, Skywest,**

Par 72: Brachna 108/68, Esser 111/71. **CTP: McAfee.**

BASEBALL: Warren Moresco, 697-7747

BOCCE BALL: Alvaro Bettucchi, 871-9278

BOWLING: George Zorb, 345-1264.

Scores: Martz 215-523, J. Mosunic 197-570 & 203-555, Zorb 209-578.

Every Thursday morning at Bel Mateo Bowl.

Practice starts at 9:50 with games starting at 10:00 AM.

TENNIS: Branch 91 SIRs play at Highland Park, Melendy Dr., San Carlos, on Wed. & Fri. 7:00 AM to 10:00 AM.

COMPUTERS: George Trombulak, 344-0301

Meets @ 8:30 AM every 3rd Friday of the month at the San Bruno Senior Center, 1555 Crystal Springs Rd., San Bruno

SUNSHINE CHAIRMAN: John Costa, 873-1705

*New Branch # 91 web address:
91.sirbranch.com*

MEMBERSHIP REPORT:

By: Dale McAfee, 583-2332

ACTIVE MEMBERS 175

INACTIVE : 13

JULY BIRTHDAYS:

We have a total of 17 SIRs who will be celebrating this month

Have a happy one!

Frank Beltran, Don Bisagno, Bob Bruno, James Cronin, Midge Damonte, Detes DeTomasi, Gerry Engeli, Jack

Fabfri, Tom Galli, Ted Loftus, Angie Lucchesi, Lou Murgo, Wes Perasso, Bob Piper, George Pozzi, Clarence Press, and Lou Sozzi.

WANTED:

One of our members to step forward and offer to be the Membership Chairman. The job requires the ability to use a P.C. (for which training is available). Must attend monthly Executive Committee meetings (1 hour). Job requires approximately 2 hours during the month to do related duties. The benefits are a chance to get to know many more of the members and get another hour of comradery with fellow SIRs during Executive meetings. Come on, guys, the Branch really needs your help!

LUNCHEON MENUS

July 14, 2008 – Teriyaki Chicken
Leg, Tossed Green Salad,
Mango Sorbet with Cranberry
Biscotti.

Alternate: Fruit Salad.

August 11, 2008 – Calamari Steak with
Lemon Butter Sauce, Caesar Salad,
Chocolate Éclair

Alternate: Chicken Salad.

August 20, 2008 – **Branch 91 PICNIC**

September 8, 2008 – BBQ Chicken, Spinach Salad,
Blueberry Strudel

Alternate: Salad Bar

✂-----CUT HERE-----**COUPON**-----✂-----CUT HERE-----

**IF YOU CAN'T MAKE IT TO
AN UPCOMING MEETING:**

PHONE: **Keith Barnes @ 588-8666** **AND** your table
captain, by the Thursday before the lunch date, but in any
event, report a “no show” in advance. Circle the date(s) you
can't come, insert your name and badge number, cut off this
coupon and mail it to **Keith Barnes**, at 1 Greenwood Dr., SSF
94080. Underline reason: **FAMILY EMERGENCY –
MEDICAL – TRAVEL – PERSONAL DUTY**

Next meeting: **July 14, 2008**

Meeting after: **August 11, 2008 (Picnic Aug. 20,
2008)**

After that: **September 8, 2008**

Name: _____ Badge No. _____

Contribution: _____

NON-RESPONSIBILITY CLAUSE: All activities arranged
for or by, or sponsored by SONS IN RETIREMENT, INC., or its Branches
are for the convenience and pleasure of the members and their guests who
desire to participate. SONS IN RETIREMENT, INC., and its Branches do not
assume any responsibility for the well being or safety of the participants, or
their property, in any manner pertaining to said activity.

MEANDERING WITH MIDGE

By: **Midge Damonte**

October 1 – **THE SAN FRANCISCO PRESIDIO and a
CABARET REVUE** – Within the Presidio's 1480 acres there
are more than 500 historic buildings, coastal defense
fortifications, a notional cemetery and much, much more.
Enjoy a delightful lunch at Sinbad's restaurant near the Ferry
Building and a Cabaret revue, “Musical Stroll Along B'way”..
All this for \$87. Call **Midge** at 588-6645.

December 1st & 2nd – **RENO** overnight Holiday with
show and more.

December 17 – **SACRED PLACES of SAN FRANCISCO**
– We will visit landmark churches and view the impressive
Victorian homes of San Francisco. After visiting Grace
Cathedral, St. Mary's Cathedral, Temple Emanu El, and St.
John's Presbyterian Church, we will enjoy a hosted lunch at
the Blue Muse. Great trip just before Christmas! \$70 pp.
Call **Midge**.

April – 2009 – 15 days, **ITALIAN MOSAIC**– Italy

June 5-14, 2009 – **ATLANTIC MARITIMES**. Tour of
New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island.

BOOK CORNER

By: **The Editors**

THREE CUPS of TEA

By: **Greg Mortenson & David Oliver Relin**

How often have we heard, “One person can't make a
difference – why even try?” After reading the above book, we
will never say that again!

A mountain climber goes to Nepal to climb U-2, the second
highest peak in the world. On his descent, he gets lost in a
blizzard and is rescued by a Sherpa. In gratitude, **Mortenson**
builds a school in the Sherpa's village. To date, he has built
58 schools, educating countless students who would never
have had the opportunity to learn.

If you read only one book this year, let this one be it. It is
spiritually uplifting, builds a bridge to one's fellow human
beings, and is good for the soul.

NOTICE TO ALL BULLETIN CONTRIBUTORS:

The deadline for copy intended for the coming month's bulletin is the
18th of the month. The editor cannot guarantee that material received
after the 18th will be included.

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