



THE NATIVE SON

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NO. 4

Natives Dedicate Mini Railroad Park in Calistoga

From 1912 to 1937, the San Francisco & Napa Valley Railroad provided passenger and freight service between Vallejo Wharf and Calistoga using electric equipment powered by 600-volt overhead wire. As was the case with many short line railroads, the Great Depression and the growth of good roads and dependable motor vehicles doomed the SF&NV and passenger service was discontinued in 1937.

The railroad began in 1905, running between Vallejo and Napa. It opened service to Calistoga in 1912.

Until recently, a fragment of SF&NV's rails remained in Washington Street in Calistoga. Calistoga Parlor dedicated the trackage in 1999 but, despite the efforts of Calistoga Parlor and other groups, the city removed the rails during repaving of the street.

Some original rails remained and Calistoga Parlor teamed with Calistoga Native Daughters and Grand Parlor to create a "mini" railroad park adjacent to Washington Street, featuring a segment of the rail, the original 1999 plaque, a new plaque and photos of the railroad.

Grand President Joe Castillo and a team of grand officers dedicated the park on November 14. The dedication, originally scheduled for May 2, 2020, was postponed because of the Corona virus.



Dedication of Calistoga Mini Railroad Park began with prayer. The monument with the plaques is at center left, with pieces of the original rails embedded in the pavement. More photos on page 2.

Annual Weekend in the Redwoods is February 12-13.

The Annual Joe Oescheger Memorial Weekend in the Redwoods will be held in Fortuna and Eureka February 12 and 13, 2021.

Activities will kick-off Friday night at 6 p.m. with a hosted reception of food and drinks at Redwood Riverwalk Hotel Conference Room. On Saturday, a dedication is being planned and details will be available soon. Also, on Saturday, Humboldt Parlor #14 will provide refreshments and a light lunch at their hall at 623 3rd Street (between G and H Streets) in Old Town Eureka.

On Saturday night, Ferndale Parlor will host an initiation and dinner. The initiation will be at 4 p.m. at the Redwood Riverwalk Hotel Conference Room or the Veterans Building—more to come on that later. Dinner is at the Fortuna Volunteer Fire Department, 320 South Fortuna Boulevard in Fortuna. Cocktails and appetizers are at 6 p.m. and choice of prime rib or ½ chicken dinner at 7 p.m. Dinner is \$30 for a single person or \$50 for a couple. There will also be a silent auction and raffle.

Please contact Richard Berti at (707) 834-2318 or email Alan Baird at ambairdngw@suddenlinkmail.com for dinner reservations.

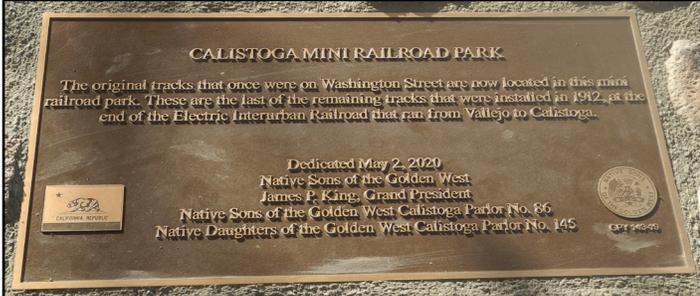
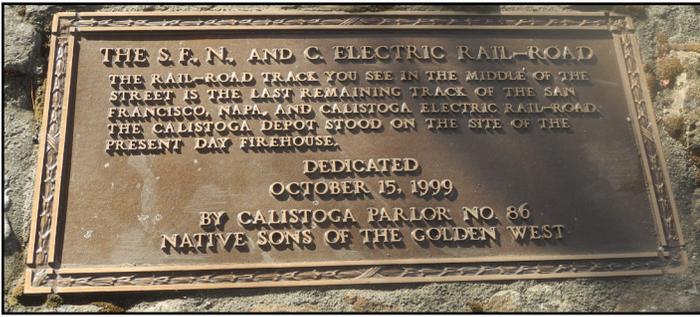
Rooms for the event are \$89 per night at the Redwood Riverwalk Hotel. This price is guaranteed through January 20. For room reservations, please contact the Redwood Riverwalk Hotel (707) 725-5500 and ask for the Native Sons room rate.

The Joe Oescheger Memorial Weekend in the Redwoods was named in honor of Past Grand President Joe Oescheger who started the event to get members from around the state to travel to the "Redwoods" to enjoy the beauty of Humboldt County. PGP Oescheger was raised in Ferndale but moved to the Bay Area and was a member of Redwood Parlor #66 when he was elected Grand President in 1963. He held his Grand Parlor in 1964 in Eureka at the historic Eureka Inn. That was the last time a Grand Parlor was held in the area.

**THIS EVENT IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE BECAUSE
OF THE COVID VIRUS PANDEMIC.**

From The Editor

In the three decades I've been editing *The Native Son*, we've never missed a deadline. Unfortunately, this issue is several weeks late and some of the articles—especially the President's Message with his holiday greetings, will reach you after the holiday season. Part of the problem is, of course, the pandemic. The other is GP Joe Castillo's battle with pneumonia. Even though the holidays will be over (or almost over if you receive this issue on line) the message remains the same: help one another in this shutdown year, practice our cardinal virtues of Friendship, Loyalty and Charity. That practice is timeless.



As part of the dedicatory ritual which reaches back many decades, the three grand vice presidents mix a small amount of mortar to symbolically secure the plaques.

Two plaques tell the history of the Calistoga Mini Railroad Park. TOP: the original plaque placed by Calistoga Parlor in 1999 when the rails were still in the street. ABOVE: the plaque placed November 14. Date on the plaque reflects the proposed May ceremony which could not be held because of the pandemic.



Calistoga Mayor Chris Canning (suitably masked) thanks the Native Sons for making the mini park possible and for performing the dedicatory work.



Grand President Joe Castillo led the dedication ceremony in Calistoga.

Where's the Parlor News?

In my years as editor of *The Native Son*, I have always tried to get as much news of subordinate parlors into the publication. Sadly, because of the Corona virus, there is almost no parlor news. Parlors have cancelled business meetings and social events and there's no indication when these activities will be able to resume.

It isn't all bad—we have room to print a number of historical articles which are in line with one of the original purposes of the Native Sons—to preserve the history of California. Also, we can give room for detailed accounts of Grand Parlor activities, such as the expanding work of our Historica Preservation Foundation under the leadership of Carl von Bargaen.

Fred Codoni, Managing Editor

Get Your Native Son On-Line

We continue to add to our list of Native Sons who receive this newspaper via e-mail.

The e-mail edition is put on line as soon as the paper is sent to the printer. Mail copies reach our members up to a month later! Also, the on-line issue features color photos.

Our goal is to eliminate snail mail copies to those who wish to receive their paper by e-mail. That will result in a savings to our per capita tax of about \$3 for each person who switches to e-mail.

If you're not already on the e-mail list, please consider joining almost two thousand of your brothers who are already on that list.

Send your e-mail to Fred Codoni at nsgwfpc@comcast.net.

Be assured that our e-mail lists will be kept confidential and never used for other purposes.

Fran Carothers Appointed Membership Committee Chair

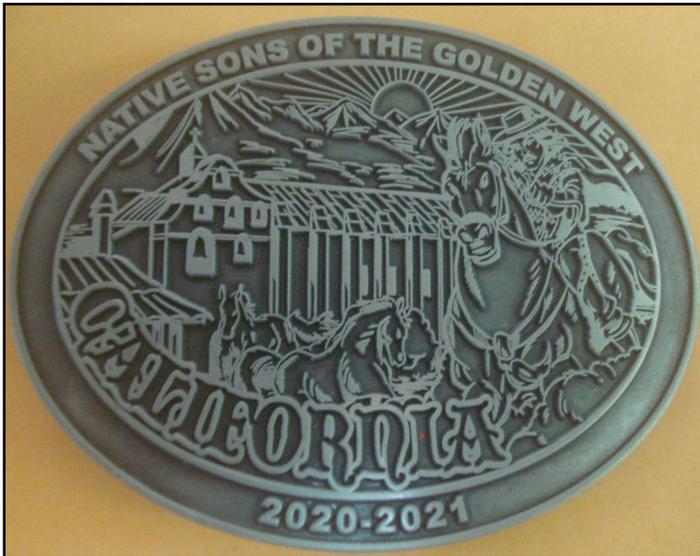
Grand President Joe Castillo has appointed Brother Fran Carothers as chair of the Membership Committee and charged her with creating “a new set of innovative ideas...ideas which will focus on enhancing our current membership experience during this pandemic crisis year.”

The new enhanced program will potentially include Veteran’s Recognition, Member Funeral Service Honors, Belt Buckle Service Award, Membership Drive, Personal History Program and additional programs which will benefit our membership and Order.

Brother Fran will also be coordinating efforts with Lapsation Chairman Ted Moes, Halcyon-Alameda #47, in trying to actively encourage members who want to discontinue their membership with the NSGW, to reconsider staying as a valued member of the Order.

Fran served last year as the Chairman of the Discovery of Gold Committee and was also a member of the Goals and Objectives Committee. She is a current member of Rio Hondo Parlor and #294 and previously served as President of Ramona Parlor #109.

Belt Buckle Features Murietta



Grand President Joe Castillo has selected Joaquin Murrieta as the subject of his 2020-2021 belt buckle. Wording on reverse of buckle is:
Joaquin Murrieta (1829-1853)

Known as “The Robin Hood of El Dorado,” Murrieta is the most famous folklore legend of California and is the center of two folklore stories. To some, Murrieta was a criminal who attacked, robbed and killed miners in the goldfields of California. He was the first wanted criminal in the young State of California who was eventually caught and beheaded. To others, Murrieta was a freedom fighter trying to protect Californios and immigrants seeking a better life in California. Whereas the legend of Joaquin Murrieta has continued for over a hundred and sixty-five years, its sustainability is reflective of the history, tradition, culture and people of California.

Native Sons of the Golden West Grand President Joe Castillo
2020-2021

Designed by Josh Clements, Ramona Parlor #109

SF School Board Seeks Changing 44 School Names

The San Francisco School Board has selected 44 schools which they believe have “offensive names.” Their School Names Advisory Committee listed seven criteria for changing:

- Anyone directly involved in the colonization of people
- Slave owners or participants in enslavement
- Perpetrators of genocide or slavery
- Those who exploit works and/or people
- Those who directly oppressed or abused women, children, queer or transgender people.
- Those connected to any human rights or environmental abuses
- Those who are known racists and/or white supremacists and/or espoused racist beliefs

The list of “undesirable school names” includes “El Dorado,” which translates to “City of Gold”; Diane Feinstein, U. S. Senator and San Francisco Mayor; Mayor Adolph Sutro; and nine U. S. presidents, including Abraham Lincoln and FDR. Even John Muir is on the list, as are St. Junipero Serra, Commodore Robert F. Stockton, Paul Revere, Francis Scott Key, Robert Louis Stevenson and the name “Presidio.”

Quoted in the San Francisco *Chronicle*, Jeremiah Jeffries, chairman of the renaming committee and a teacher in San Francisco, said “Uprooting the problematic names and symbols that currently clutter buildings, streets, through the city is a worthy endeavor. Only good can come from the public being reflective and intentional about the power of our words, names and rhetoric within our public institutions.”

Without doubt, this rush to “political correctness” will be the subject of much debate before any changes are made.

Steve Faessel Re-Elected

Brother Steve Faessel of Santa Ana #74 has been elected to another term for District 5 on the Anaheim City Council, defeating two other candidates with 53% of the votes.

Brother Steve was born in Anaheim in 1950 to parents active in the Orange County citrus industry. He attended Anaheim’s St. Boniface Elementary School, Mater Dei High School in Santa Ana and graduated from California State University, Fullerton, with a degree in marketing. Brother Steve is retired from a 50-year career in the retail hardware industry as merchandise manager for the 16-store Crown ACE Hardware chain.

Along with civic involvement, Faessel has contributed his interest in preserving local history by serving on the board of trustees of the Anaheim Museum Inc. since 1990 and as president of the Anaheim Historical Society Inc. from 1999 to 2004. Faessel continues to serve the Anaheim Historical Society as corresponding secretary.



GRAND PRESIDENT

Joseph Castillo

Happy Holidays!, Merry Christmas! Happy New Year! Yes, it's the holiday season, it's the same time of year as in years past, it's the same holidays and it's the same reasons we celebrate. But this year we are experiencing more challenges and difficult times than we've had in recent memory. This is the era of the COVID-19 pandemic, along with the impact this deadly virus has had on our economy, our employment and our way of life.

No matter what you may personally think about this health crisis, all you need to do is look at the numbers. On December 16, California set a single day record of 53,711 COVID cases in one day, putting the Golden State over 1.6 million COVID cases reported for the year. This holiday season has seen a sharp increase in reported cases, and this is expected to continue on an elevated level throughout the winter season, especially when cold, rainy and snowy weather take a greater toll on all of us.

Unless you were around for the Spanish Flu in 1919, you probably haven't experienced anything like this. Hospitals filled with COVID-19 patients, businesses shut down and unable to provide customers with goods and services, churches closed to indoor services, schools shuttered to teachers and students for onsite teaching and even families being asked not to gather.

These are unprecedented times but even with a vaccine being approved and distributed, we still have many challenges and unknown hurdles ahead of us. So, my Christmas Message to you is let's all do our part to be responsible during this pandemic crisis. Please be aware of the Federal, State, County and City COVID-19 guidance which impacts you during this time. Do the simple things like wearing a mask, frequently washing your hands, staying six-feet away from others, and refraining from gatherings. These are just a few of the simple things we can do, but by working together we can defeat this virus.

One day we'll win the battle and will return to our previous ways of life but for now we need to act responsibly and do our part in bringing this virus under control. This isn't about politics, it's not about being fearless, it's not about being indifferent—it's about your being able to make a difference in protecting yourself and those you come in contact with.

Throughout this whole ordeal we've been told what we can't do...we can't gather, we can't eat indoors, we can't go into a market without a mask, etc. But during this Christmas Season, we need to ask what *can* we do. In this time of joy, hope, giving, cheer, family and love, we need to remember that we are all a member of the family of mankind.

I ask that you or even your parlor find some way to give back to your community and those in need. Donate items to a food bank, volunteer to serve meals, help the homeless, donate to a Veteran's home or just be kind to a lonely senior or someone who's going through a rough period. Trust me, not only will you feel good about helping someone in need but the persons you help will appreciate it more than you could ever know.

I recently went into a market and a lady was ringing the bell for the Salvation Army kettle. I put a couple of dollars into the small slot, and then the lady turned to me asked "Do you think you can get me some...?" I thought for sure she was going to ask for some money for herself as I had just made a monetary donation to the Salvation Army. But instead, she asked for a bunch of bananas, that she was unable to afford to buy them herself. When I returned with some bananas, she was overly grateful and emotion-

OPINION

Fred Codoni, Managing Editor

Political Correctness Gone Mad

The County of Marin is moving toward changing the name of its principal east-west artery, Sir Francis Drake Blvd., because in his early days Drake was marginally involved in the slave trade. He eventually repudiated that error and even had a black man as a sailor on his voyages.

On behalf of the Native Sons, I was going to speak against the renaming at a Fairfax Town Council meeting. When my turn came I decided to speak on the much greater problem, which is an attempt to eliminate reference to any person who had anything in his or her past which might offend someone.

Sir Francis Drake was the earliest explorer to visit what became Marin County. Suppose we eliminate his name on the road—what about Drake's Bay, Drake's Estuary, Drake Beach, the handful of other roads in Marin with his name? Do we rid ourselves of those names, too? What for decades was Sir Francis Drake High School is now called "High School 1437." Vandals have invaded the consecrated grounds of St. Raphael's Church in San Rafael, throwing red paint on the statue of St. Junipero Serra, tearing it off its base and damaging it.

The so-called "political correctness" is spreading throughout the Golden State and we seem powerless to stop it.

Recently, the San Francisco School Board published a list of 44 (yes, 44!) schools which have "undesirable names." These include "El Dorado," which translates to "City of Gold"; Diane Feinstein, U. S. Senator and San Francisco Mayor; Adolph Sutro; nine U. S. presidents, including FDR—the list is too long to print here.

What do we gain by eliminating the names of people who have a perceived "sin" but whose good works far outpace their "errors"?

Perhaps we should just change every name to a number. Even then, some combination of digits may offend someone. We wish we knew the author of the following:

History is not there for you to like or dislike. It is there for you to learn from it. And if it offends you, even better. Because then you are less likely to repeat it. It's not yours to erase. It belongs to all of us.

ally thanked me for the gift. It was just a simple act on my part, but it meant the world to her.

In this Christmas Season, no matter what you've been through, no matter what the challenges are all around us in this pandemic year, you can still make a difference in this world by bringing joy, cheer, hope and love to those around us. Our spirits may be dampened but our hearts are still strong.

During this Christmas Season, let's remember our oath, including Friendship, Loyalty and Charity.

I sincerely wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

THE NATIVE SON

Fred Codoni, Managing Editor

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Oldest Native Son Dead at 103

Fred Bollinger, without a doubt the oldest Native Son in the Order, died in September, less than a month before his 104th birthday. Originally a member of Sebastopol Parlor, he transferred to Santa Rosa Parlor when Sebastopol Parlor closed.

Brother Fred was probably the last person alive who met the renowned horticulturist Luther Burbank. Fred

was seven when Burbank came to Fred's Pleasant Hill School to plant a tree. For many years, Fred volunteered at Burbank's Experiment Farm in Sebastopol. His main claim to fame there: he trapped too many gophers to count,



then froze and donated them to local wildlife rescue centers as food for the resident and recovering animals. Fred enjoyed a good laugh when, at his 100th birthday party at the Experiment Farm in 2016, his fellow volunteers presented him a gold-plated, plaque-mounted gopher trap.

Plans for a COVID-compliant October birthday salute were coming along nicely for Fred, a favorite son of Sebastopol and one of the region's oldest World War II veterans but had to be cancelled when news of his death reached the planners.

Brother Fred was born Oct. 12, 1916, in his parents' home on Pleasant Hill Road. The youngest of David and Ruth Ann "Annie" Bollinger's four children, he was still a tot when the family moved onto a ranch off Elphick Road, south of town.

During World War II, Fred remembered he "served for four years, seven months, two days and five hours," he said in a 2016 interview with *The Press Democrat*. One of his two older brothers, Clarence, was inducted, too. Their brother, John, was exempted because he was married and had children. Fred trained as a radio operator and was sent to Europe aboard the transport ship *USS Santa Rosa*. He arrived at Normandy on Bastille Day in 1944, five weeks after the launch of the D-Day invasion.

He was assigned as a radio technician with the 974th Field Artillery Battalion, 12th Corps of Gen. George Patton's 3rd Army. That work put Sgt. Bollinger in a command car generally located behind the tanks and troops at the spear point of the push toward Germany.

Upon his honorable discharge at the war's end, Bollinger returned to his family ranch in Sebastopol. He resumed working the land and continued long after his parents' deaths. He and brother Clarence sold the land in 1981 and moved together into a house in town. Neither Fred nor his brother ever married.

A small, private graveside service was planned.

Who Was Mason?

By Jim Kelly

[Jim Kelly of Presidio #194 died several years ago, but we are fortunate to have some of his fine columns to share with you. -Ed.]

Mason Street, A Great Old Name—It's where the Native Sons are headquartered. We tread it monthly to and from our meetings, probably without giving it a second thought. A couple of miles north, one of the City's historic forts has shared the name since 1882. You're in special company if you claim kinship with any of thousands of GIs who crossed its docks from the Spanish American War to WWII.

So who was he that so many street signs, from gritty Tenderloin to the Bay's edge (almost), testify to his fame? Plus the former Army Port of Embarkation, now home base for the national park spanning the Golden Gate. Richard Barnes Mason, that's who (1797-1850)—Virginia-born, a military man to the core from age 20, with no-nonsense visage to match. Combat veteran of the Indian and Mexican-American Wars, promoted to colonel for the astute way he led troops and gained the trust of Native Americans. Mason finally won a general's stars. They honored a fine record as California's fifth military governor, 1847-49. He helped organize a state government and spent a month in the Sierra, checking out firsthand stories of streams glittering with gold. His report led President James K. Polk to confirm for Americans the tall tales trickling east. That's said to be how the Gold Rush of 1849 really got started, changing the course of history.

Led Troops in the Blackhawk War

Mason knew what it meant to be targeted by warriors of his own skill and courage. He led troops in the Blackhawk War of 1832, when settlers from Illinois to Wisconsin found themselves candidates for extinction by Native Americans who, with good cause, felt their rights were being trampled by a Washington government whose treaties didn't deliver on promises. The young major soon found his skills needed in dealing with aggrieved tribesmen and settlers alike in Oklahoma and Texas. Come the Mexican-American War, and Mason found himself in frontier New Mexico. The record proves him no slouch in two roles: concern for discipline and morale among his troopers; respect for ethnic sensitivity with Hispanics and Native Americans resisting the westward course of empire.

Mason's next stop: A California torn between ebbing and surging cultures but ripe to trade Mexican for American rule. Family was a worry as well. Of three daughters, he and his wife had lost one to illness at age 4. He was a man of eloquence when occasion required. In his 1848 report on the goldfields, he wrote of placer mining in minute detail, from pan-swirling to wooden cradles. Of native Indians "heretofore poor and degraded," he says those who became miners benefited from the influx of goods from Sacramento and San Francisco, becoming "consumers of the luxuries of life."

Mason had company for his sojourn among miners, a young lieutenant, William Tecumseh Sherman, later of Civil War fame. Sherman's memoirs hail Mason's grasp of his mission. It was to create a framework and laws for civilian rule on a transitioning frontier. Richard Barnes Mason proved up to the task. Before departing Monterey to rejoin family at Jefferson Barracks Missouri, he even drew up rules for harbor security at California ports.

RETRO RAMBLINGS

By DOUG LOVE

Nestled in the hills above Oakland, there stands an unassuming cottage. It sits in a 500-acre city park and is preserved as a memorial to someone who is largely forgotten today. It is "The Abbey," and it was the home of Joaquin Miller, the "Poet of The Sierras". Miller purchased 75 acres of land, now part of the park which bears his name in 1886, built the cottage, planted the surrounding trees and lived there until his death in 1913.

Joaquin Miller was born in Indiana, in 1839, to Hulings and Margret Miller. He was their second son and was given the name Cincinnatus Hiner Miller. His parents, like many of that time, were bitten by "Oregon Fever" and moved to the Willamette Valley in 1852. There, he helped build the family home near present-day Coburg. In 1854, "Nat", as he was then called, ran off to California and was a miner and a cook near Yreka. It was at this time that Miller took part in the Battle of Castle Crags and was wounded in the face. He recovered in the mining camp of Portuguese Flat, about thirty-five miles north of Redding.

Miller considered joining William Walker's "filibustering" expedition to Nicaragua and then spent the rest of 1855 and 1856 working and mining in the Yreka area. He spent the winter of 1856-1857 with the Wintu people on the McCloud River.

In the summer of 1857 he, according to his autobiographical novel, "Life Among the Modocs", married the daughter of a Wintu chieftain, who would later bear him a child. Later in the year, Miller took part in the Pit River Massacre, siding with the Natives. By 1858, he was attending Columbia College in Eugene, Oregon, leaving after two months and teaching school in Vancouver, Washington. He would attend Columbia College again for a brief time in 1859.

During the period between 1859 and the start of the Civil War, Miller moved between northern California and southern Oregon working various odd jobs, teaching school, becoming a partner in a pony express company. He was also arrested for stealing a mule and a bench warrant was issued in Siskiyou County for "assault with the intent to commit murder."

Miller was in Oregon by this time and by 1862, he purchased a house in Eugene, Oregon and married his first, allegedly second, wife Minnie. He and a partner founded the *Democratic Register* in Eugene, which took a pro-southern stance and was banned from the mails by 1862. He and his partner then founded the *Eugene City Review*, which was less pro-southern than the *Democratic Register*. In 1863, some of Miller's poetry was published in the *Golden Era Review*, a literary magazine founded and edited by Bret Harte. His poetry received some warm reviews.

In 1863, Miller and his wife moved to San Francisco, where Miller

wrote for the *Golden Era Review*. When the magazine was unable to pay him, Miller moved to Canyon City, Oregon, where he practiced law and his wife and newborn daughter joined him. In 1866, Miller was elected a judge for Grant County and he treated the citizens to poetry readings. He served as a judge for three years. During his tenure on the bench, he is described as "a little cracked."

In 1868, he moved to Port Orford where he self-published his first collection of poetry entitled *Specimens*. In 1869, he moved to Portland where his first well-known book, *Joaquin et. al.* was published. His son was born then and soon after he was divorced from his first wife on the grounds of mutual infidelity.

In 1870, Miller traveled to San Francisco on his way to London and met, among others, Ina Coolbrith, later Poet Laureate of California, groundbreaking librarian and mentor to a young Jack London. She tells him to change his name from Cincinnatus to Joaquin, after Joaquin Murrieta, whom he wrote about. He then left for London and arrived in October. While in Europe, he visited the battlefields of the Franco-Prussian War and in 1871, his books *Pacific Poems* and *Songs of the Sierras* are published and Miller becomes the toast of the London literary scene. In 1872, he was invited to the court of Emperor Dom Pedro.

During the rest of the 1870s and '80s, Miller continues to travel, write, and publish poetry and plays which earn him fame and a modest fortune. In 1879, Miller married hotel heiress Abigail Leland and they had a daughter, Juanita, in 1880.

In 1883, Joaquin moved the family to Washington DC and built a log cabin in which to live. Abigail left him soon after.

In 1886, Miller invested \$90,000 in Jay Gould's Vandalia Railroad and lost all of his investment. He returned to California and in 1887 purchased 75 acres in the hills near Oakland which he named "The Hights" and built his final home there. In the 1880s through the early 1900s, Miller wrote for the San Francisco *Examiner* and was sent by William Randolph Hearst to cover the Klondike Gold Rush and the Boxer Rebellion. His home becomes a stop for the likes of Mark Twain and Lilly Langtry. In 1905 he was honored at the Pan Pacific Exposition with a "Joaquin Miller Day" and in 1913, he passed away peacefully at his home near Oakland.

In 1915, his daughter sold the house and surrounding land to the city of Oakland and it became the nucleus of the park which now bears his name. In the aftermath of the First World War, the heroic style of his poetry fell out of favor and Joaquin Miller, once a famous poet celebrated in London, Paris, Brazil, and the United States is now largely forgotten.

GETTING THERE: From 414 Mason Street take Interstate 80 East to Interstate 580 East. Take exit 19B onto CA-24 East. From Ca-24 East, take exit 5 onto CA 13 East; then take exit 2 toward Joaquin Miller Drive. Turn left onto Joaquin Miller Drive. The house at 3801 Joaquin Miller Drive, will be on your left.



Joaquin Miller's modest home.

GRAND PARLOR HAPPENINGS

By JOE CASTILLO

Even though we've been pretty much stymied by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Grand Parlor is still working to do the best we can during this challenging and difficult time. Here are just some of the highlights from what the Grand Parlor and Board of Grand Officers are doing:

- For Veteran's Day, we honored nearly 100 NSGW brothers who served in our military with a Proclamation and we will present a proclamation from a United States House of Representative Congressman at Grand Parlor. Regularly honoring our NSGW Veterans will become part of our enhanced Membership Program.

- We held a Grand Parlor dedication at the Calistoga Mini-Railroad Park in Calistoga and Foulk's Ranch in Elk Grove. Both dedications were well attended and a special thank you goes to the members of Calistoga Parlor #86 and Elk Grove #41 for putting on wonderful dedications and bringing their parlors and communities together for the event.

- The NSGW Collection Project has kicked off with Grand 2nd Vice President Jeff Schmidt leading a steering committee with the goal of finding a home for our NSGW historical artifacts and possibly our administrative offices. This project represents the future of the Native Sons and will enable our Order to preserve and bring visibility to our own history while also establishing our own "home" for our current members, future members and the public as a whole.

- We have partnered with the Native Daughters of the Golden West in a fundraising event for Mission San Gabriel which was severely damaged by a catastrophic fire this past July. All proceeds will be donated to the Mission for repair and damage caused by the fire. More information may be found at <https://www.customink.com/fundraising/race-to-rebuild>;

- Our official visits are being performed remotely and virtually by our Grand Officers. This is not as easy as it seems as parlor officers still have to fill out the necessary forms and present the information to our Grand Officers all while we all trying to stay safe from COVID-19. I kindly ask parlor officers to help us get your official visits completed. These are extraordinary times and we will all need extraordinary efforts to complete the business of the Order.

- We have established the foundation of our enhanced Membership Program which will focus on recognizing and awarding our CURRENT members. Fran Carothers, Rio Hondo Parlor #294, has been named chairperson of the Membership Committee and will direct activities to bring more beneficial programs to our current members, which will hopefully bring in more new members as we will show we are an Order which makes our members it's top priority

Our next Board of Director meeting will be January 16, 2021. This will be a virtual, online meeting as we will be unable to meet in person due to COVID-19, but we still plan on commemorating the 173rd anniversary of the Discovery of Gold. I hope you can join us as our Grand Officers will put on a presentation which may have never been done before at a Board of Grand Officer meeting.

This issue has some pictures of our recent dedications. We are working on many more activities than presented here. For all parlors interested in saving some money on the cost of an NSGW historical landmark plaque, we have plenty of opportunities for you. Please contact me for more information.

Fairfax Boy is Eagle Scout

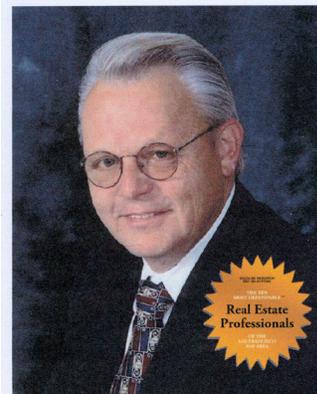
Aidan Aguilar, son of Brother Sean Aguilar of Fairfax #307, has been awarded the rank of Eagle Scout, Boy Scouting's highest honor.

In order to achieve the rank of Eagle, Aidan had to earn 21 merit badges and show leadership by planning, organizing, managing and completing an extensive community service project.

For his community service project, Aidan led and organized volunteers to write letters to the elderly and at-risk parishioners of St. Rita Church. Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, church services have been unavailable and the parishioners have not been able to interact. Aidan and his group of volunteers were able to provide a social connection by sending out 30 letters with self-addressed stamped envelopes for correspondence to the elderly and at-risk individuals.

Aidan attends Sir Francis Drake High School where he is in the school's Business and Investment Club, Thinkers Club, Varsity Cross Country Team, and Varsity Lacrosse Team. Aidan plans to attend college in fall of 2021. In addition to Scouting, Aidan is also involved in the Order of the Arrow. Since its inception in 1911, less than four percent of all Scouts attain the rank of Eagle, and those who do are expected to set an example for other Scouts.

Marin Council was formed in 1910 and currently serves more than 2,000 youth and their communities. Troop 15 is Marin Council's oldest continually-chartered troop offering "amazing youth led outdoor adventures, philanthropic activities for its community and leadership opportunities."



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HPF REPORT

Historical Preservation Foundation Update

By CARL VON BARGEN

The Historical Preservation Foundation is pressing forward with a new logo, a plan to attract donors from outside the Native Sons of the Golden West's protective umbrella, and investigating a bold new opportunity to provide California History education and publicize the Native Sons of the Golden West.

First up is the new logo. The Historical Preservation Foundation has two designs that have been provided by HPF Director Jedidiah Watson. Both have the essence of respectability and neither showcases any one region. Rather, the logos depict the essence of the State of California as a whole. Please take a look at the two logo designs and let us know which you think is better.

Attracting Outside Donations

Next, the Board of Directors of the Historical Preservation Foundation has been diligently working towards the goal of attracting donations from outside the Native Sons of the Golden West and that goal is almost a reality. With a little hard work, a dash of luck, and good leads from our Native Sons on prospective donors, the HPF will be ready to present a complete package demonstrating the benefits of participating in California History preservation and education to prospective donors. This could not have been possible without the hard work of HPF Directors Jerry Stinson, Jedidiah Watson, Doug Love, Dave Allen, and the rest of the Board of Directors giving critical direction and insights.

Showcasing Our Mission

Finally we can discuss a project that PGP Carey Pearce has been working on for almost half a decade. The idea is to promote Native Sons of the Golden West by fulfilling our mission of the preservation and the dissemination of the treasures of The Golden West. To that end, PGP Carey Pearce has come up with a concept similar to the TV show *California's Gold* but with a NSGW twist. Instead of one primary host we showcase the wealth of talent that the Native Sons of the Golden West has and have multiple co-hosts with varying perspectives and personalities. Additionally, the show's episodes will be investigated and researched by a team of Native Sons to maximize the impact and attractiveness of each episode. The intent is to provide historical references and put perspective in topics that are of interest to California citizens today. The opportunities to promote the Native Sons of the Golden West could be almost limitless. If you have any ideas or information that could be of assistance, please reach out to one of the HPF directors in your area and share your thoughts and knowledge.

Please Continue Your Support

The Historical Preservation Foundation is extremely appreciative that the Native Sons of the Golden West's parlors continue to be supportive and charitable, and, as a result, the Historical Preservation Foundation will continue to fulfill its mission. The Board of Directors of the HPF continues to look forward to assisting several parlors in the coming year, as they fundraise for worthy projects.

Please reach out to your local Director of the HPF if you have

new ideas for fundraisers, a recommendation of a corporate donor that you feel we should approach, or information about a project that you feel should be investigated and supported.

The Historical Preservation Foundation of The Native Sons of the Golden West is ready to work with you and your parlor to enhance the historical preservation of California.



EMBLEM NO. ONE



EMBLEM NO. TWO

Each of those fine new emblems for the Native Sons of the Golden West Historical Preservation Foundation would be a worthy addition to the HPF. These emblems can be viewed in full color in the Web edition of *The Native Son*. Please send your choice to HPF Chairman Carl VonBargen at orovillegolf@gmail.com.

LETTERS

Worthy Brothers:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Historical Preservation Foundation, I want to thank all of you for our support and wish you all a very Merry Christmas, a festive and joyous Holiday Season, and a very Happy and Prosperous New Year!

Also, during this season of charity and goodwill, please consider donating to the HPF so that we may continue our mission to preserve California history for future generations. To paraphrase Charles Dickens, "It is at this time of year when want is most keenly felt."

Just of few of the over 70 projects which the foundation has funded are:

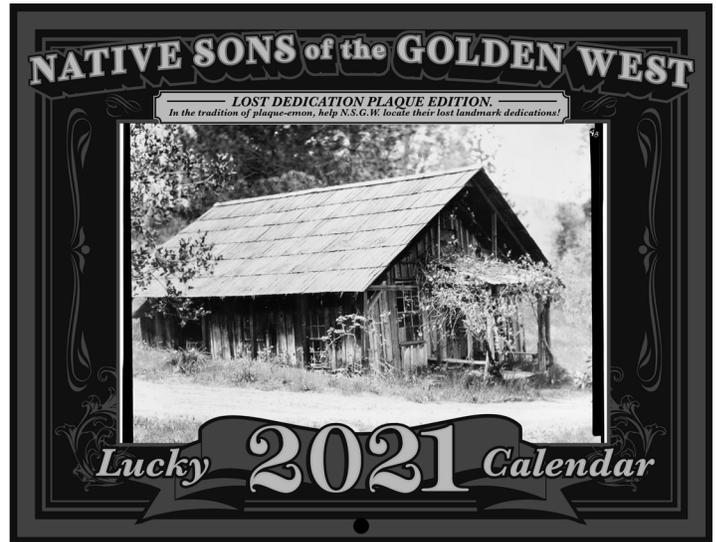
- Eleven California Registered Landmarks through State Office of Historical Preservation
- Five Cooperating Associations for California State Parks
- Indian Basket Collection – University of La Verne
- Miners Bend Park – Sutter Creek
- Castle Air Force Museum – Atwater
- 442 Lost Battalion Statue – Roseville
- Cabrillo College Archeology Program – Aptos
- Placerita Canyon Nature Center – Newhall
- Josephine Mine Cemetery – Volcanoville
- Buffalo Paddock Signage – Golden Gate Park

We are also planning an HPF video series on California history, projected to stream in the summer of 2021.

You may donate by visiting the HPF website at <https://hpfnsqw.org> and clicking on the donate button.

Once again, by Brothers, we on the HPF Board most humbly and deeply thank you for your continued support.

In Friendship, Loyalty and Charity,
Carl von Bargen



At Grand Parlor Aug 19, Brother Mitch Laing of Santa Rosa Parlor handed the NSGW Lucky Calendar over to new Chairman Aaron Brown of Ramona Parlor #109.

Three days prior to Grand Parlor Napa Hall #62 provided hospitality and To-Go Rib Plates while brothers from Sonoma, Bidwell, and Napa parlors assembled 2,500 2021 calendars. Boxed, these calendars were ready for statewide distribution via Grand Officers, Supervising District Deputies and others who attended our delayed and shortened Grand Parlor at Sears Point Racetrack in Sonoma.

New GT Cortez and GT Phillips took boxes north. GT McLean and PGP Allen took boxes east. GT Skelton, Ramona President Mary Garcia, Santa Lucia brother and others took boxes south, as well as brothers from Fairfax, Calistoga and other parlors which have new calendars available as well. As Chairman Brown travels back and forth between Ramona and Sonoma, respectively, he will make Lucky Calendars available during his adventures up and down the state.

In past Chairman Laing's words were "with limited opportunity to buy, we will have a good supply available through the Grand Office, but be sure to check with your local sales people when you have an opportunity to ask them about new 2021 Lucky Calendars and maybe even remaining 2020s."

In the spirit of past chairman Laing, Aaron Brown would like to remind brothers that the NSGW Lucky Calendar is an opportunity to lower per capita tax, plus the chance for you to have your Lucky Calendar ticket drawn again and again!

Please support Chairman Brown and our NSGW Lucky Calendar! Contact Chairman Aaron Brown at aaronlewisbrown@gmail.com or call the Grand Parlor office at 1-800-337-1875.



COMPASS

My business specializes in buying and selling a mix of residential, commercial and multifamily properties. As a landlord and developer, I am actively involved in my community. A proud member of the Native Sons Twin Peaks Parlor 214, The Olympic Club, Apartment Owners Association, SPUR, and The Residential Builders Association.

Please contact me today for all your real estate needs or questions.



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St. Helena Parlor Facing Crisis

[Native Son parlors throughout the state are feeling the pinch of the COVID virus. Parlors haven't been able to have their usual fund raising dinners and other events and parlor treasuries are running low. An example is St. Helena #53, as described in this article from the St. Helena *Star*. -Ed.]

Generations of St. Helenans associate the Native Sons Hall with crab feeds, roller skating, wedding receptions, and all-around good times. But with the pandemic putting a stop to indoor gatherings, those good times have given way to emptiness, silence, and serious questions about the financial future of St. Helena's largest and most popular community hall.

"We have some money, but I don't want to deplete the bank account completely in hopes that we'll get back to normal by next year," said Phil Murphy, president of the St. Helena Parlor No. 53 Native Sons of the Golden West.

He's hoping donations will enable the hall to scrape by until gatherings resume—whenever that may be.

Built in 1915, the hall's capacity of 450 people dwarfs that of the American Legion Hall, one of its only rivals in town. When it comes to roomy and affordable meeting spaces, Yountville has a community center, Rutherford has the Grange Hall, Calistoga has the Napa County Fairgrounds, and St. Helena has the Native Sons Hall.

Barring a city-owned community center on Adams Street, the hall will continue to be the town's go-to spot for large meetings—assuming the hall and its parent organization remain fiscally solvent, which is no longer guaranteed.

"All of our revenue comes from rentals and our annual crab feed," Murphy said. "We've been dark since March, and we know we won't be able to have our crab feed in January."

Without any money coming in, the Native Sons won't be able to award scholarships to graduating St. Helena High School seniors, sponsor youth athletics and arts programs, or donate to their favorite charities, like Give Big St. Helena, the St. Helena Fire Department, Wounded Warriors, and the Native Sons' Cleft Palate Fund.

Depending on when gatherings can resume, the loss of income might jeopardize the future of the hall itself.

A St. Helena Institution

Everyone who lives in St. Helena has been in the Native Sons Hall at least once, Murphy said, whether it be for a wedding, funeral, birthday party, Christmas party, fundraiser, rummage sale, harvest market, ballet or tap lessons, or a Napa Valley Film Festival screening.

"Everybody and their brother has a function here," Murphy said. "You can't go anywhere else for the amount of money we charge, which is like a thousand bucks. You go to Sutter Home, the CIA or someplace else and you're paying ten grand." Then there are the service clubs and fraternal organizations that rent the hall for regular meetings: Rotary, Sons of Italy, Red Men, Pocahontas, and of course the Native Sons.

The pandemic has eliminated all of those revenue opportunities, except for socially distanced dance lessons offered by Legacy Dance Collective (formerly Little Feet).

Yet on the other side of the ledger, the Native Sons face fixed costs of taxes, annual dues to the larger Native Sons organization, insurance, maintenance, landscaping and utilities. Even

LUCKY CALENDAR WINNERS

Thu Oct 1	\$20	Jason Schaefer	Grass Valley
Fri Oct 2	\$20	Patrick Hoffman	Sonoma
Sat Oct 3	\$75	Kevin McCarthy	Gustine
Sun Oct 4	\$20	Aaron Brown	Sonoma
Mon Oct 5	\$20	Cody Bright	Daly City
Tue Oct 6		Bill Heaton	San Jose
Wed Oct 7	\$20	Sean Hupke	San Ramon
Thu Oct 8	\$20	Mary Smith	Sonoma
Fri Oct 9	\$20	Barbara Banks	Paso Robles
Sat Oct 10	\$75	Josh King	Redlands
Sun Oct 11	\$20	South SF #157	Forestville
Mon Oct 12	\$20	Ron Brocco	Sonoma
Tue Oct 13	\$20	Kat Hupke	San Ramon
Wed Oct 14	\$20	Jason Perazzo	Sacramento
Thu Oct 15	\$20	John Morovich	Sonoma
Fri Oct 16	\$20	Daniel Potter	Novato
Sat Oct 17	\$75	Olivia Hoffmann	Stevenson Ranch
Sun Oct 18	\$20	Andrew Tommasi	Sonoma
Mon Oct 19	\$20	Foster Zellers	Sonoma
Tue Oct 20	\$20	J.W. Madden III	Petaluma
Wed Oct 21	\$20	Dennis Davison	San Francisco
Thu Oct 22	\$20	Jill Molson	San Bernadino
Fri Oct 23	\$20	So SF #157	Forestville
Sat Oct 24	\$75	Taylor Morton	Burbank
Sun Oct 25	\$20	Nancy White	Foresthill
Mon Oct 26	\$20	Kevin M Bruce	Atascadero
Tue Oct 27	\$20	Bill Heaton	San Jose
Wed Oct 28	\$20	Joseph Claro	Rosemead
Thu Oct 29	\$20	Kim Khuu	Anaheim
Fri Oct 30	\$20	Emiliano Amador	Hayward
Sat Oct 31	\$150	Jose Garcia	Napa
Sun Nov 1	\$20	South SF #157	Forestville
Mon Nov 2	\$20	P.T. O'Neil	Rough and Ready
Tue Nov 3	\$20	Dennis & Karen Bonelli	Gustine
Wed Nov 4	\$20	Sue Vasicek	Tulsa
Thu Nov 5	\$20	Redwood #66	Redwood City
Fri Nov 6	\$20	Barbara Banks	Paso Robles
Sat Nov 7	\$75	Allan Baird	Fortuna
Sun Nov 8	\$20	Jim & Sue Codoni	Fairfax
Mon Nov 9	\$20	Gary Arosio	Jackson
Tue Nov 10	\$20	Margaret Ryan Berry	San Lorenzo
Wed Nov 11	\$20	Frank & Bree Aichele	Oroville
Thu Nov 12	\$20	Jesse Davis	Tracy
Fri, Nov 13	\$20	Dick Hoffmann	San Miguel
Sat Nov 14	\$75	Dale Ingraham	Sonoma
Sun Nov 15	\$20	Cindy Mills	Livermore
Mon Nov 16	\$20	Gregory Smith	Angels Camp
Tue Nov 17	\$20	Dave Xiaslund	Salinas
Wed Nov 18	\$20	Diana Wilberg	Angels Camp
Thu Nov 19	\$20	Dave & Sharon Castley	Simi
Fri, Nov 20	\$20	Steve A. Simmons	Weaverville
Sat Nov 21	\$75	Pete Vander Poel	Modesto
Sun Nov 22	\$20	Jill Biallas	West Linn
Mon Nov 23	\$20	Mark Mills	Livermore
Tue Nov 24	\$20	Dennis Devlin	Menone
Wed Nov 25	\$20	Gus Amador	Fiddletown
Thu Nov 26	\$20	Cody Sanders	Halset
Fri Nov 27	\$20	Stacy Blalock	Stockton
Sat Nov 28	\$75	Alex Freeman	San Anselmo
Sun Nov 29	\$20	Redwood #66	Redwood City
Mon Nov 30	\$150	Richard Braden	Pleasanton

CF DONATIONS

By **BOB SANTOS**

Here is a list of recent donations to our CF in Honor of or in Memory of. Such donations are a fine way to honor deceased members, friends or relatives. The Charitable Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization and all contributions are tax deductible. Total donations and our donation form on our website, nsgw.org.

In Memory of William "Bill" Hargis PGP

Bob & Martha French
Robert & Kathy Santos
Joe & Marilou Ursino
Gene & Debbie Perry
Eden Parlor # 113
Steve & Patricia Day
Ron & Rita Holliday
Pat & Suzi Riley
Joe & Linda Neitzel
Robert Loeffler
Eshcol Parlor # 16 NDGW
Robert & Donna Fletcher
Cathy & Charlie Kingsland

In Memory of Harly Harty PGP

Eden Parlor # 113

In Memory of Richard Bailey

Steve & Patricia Day

Parlors: Many parlors did not attend the 143 Grand Parlor or have held meetings because of the COVID- 19 virus. You can still send a check to CF and note Cleft Palate March. Make check out "NSGW Charitable Foundation" and send to Grand Parlor @ 414 Mason Street, San Francisco, CA 94102. Thank you!

143 Grand Parlor Mail March Total

General- \$75,204.53, Memorial- \$16,672.00, Special Fundraiser- \$4,138.02 for a Total- \$96,014.55. Thank you all very much

Welcome to Amazon Smile: The NSGWCF has joined with Amazon Smile. Amazon will donate .5% of the price of your eligible purchase to our Charitable Foundation. Use our charity link <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/94-6094641>. Remember to start with smile.amazon.com.

Meet new Charitable Foundation Director Mike Linn from Elk Grove Parlor #41. Mike's Great-grandfather is George Foulks who is one of the original signers of the Articles of Incorporation of the Charitable Foundation. Mike has unique experience in children with craniofacial birth defects and will be a great addition to the Charitable Foundation.

In Memory of Ed Ekberg

Eshcol Parlor # 16 NDGW

In Memory of Mike "Scoop" Watson

Robert & Kathy Santos

In Memory of Judy Ricketts

Joe & Marilou Ursino

In Memory of John Blasquez

Robert & Kathy Santos

Eden Parlor # 113

In Memory of Donald Binney

Robert & Kathy Santos

In Memory of Eileen Marcucci

Robert & Kathy Santos

Eden Parlor # 113

Ron & Rita Holliday

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Diana Boegel

In Memory of Doug Clouse

Ron & Rita Holliday

In Memory of Cindy Briggs

David & Ginger Gibson

In Memory of Liz Tilloson

David & Ginger Gibson

ST. HELENA

from page 10

with the building being closed the PG&E bill has been coming in at \$280 a month.

A few of the club's 163 members shared their favorite memories of the hall last week.

Mike Griffin remembers coming to the hall as a child with his parents for the annual Firemen's Ball, where St. Helenans would pay \$1 to dance to live big band music.

The Firemen's Ball held a prominent place on St. Helena's social calendar in the '50s, '60s and into the '70s when, as Murphy recalls, "it got so crowded people couldn't move, so they had to come up with a different idea."

Ted Laurent remembers roller-skating in the hall as a boy, renting a pair of skates for 25 cents.

"I thought this was the biggest building in the world," Laurent said.

"We want to keep it open for the people of St. Helena who want to use it," Murphy said. "That's what it's here for. If it closes down, where are people going to go?"

Murphy said tax-deductible donations of any amount would be greatly appreciated. Checks made out to the Native Sons may be sent to Native Sons, P.O. Box 414, St. Helena, CA 94574.

Mother Lode Natives Active in Communities

Native Sons in Mother Lode parlors serve their communities as well as our Order.

In Excelsior #31, we find two county supervisors, **Pat Crew** and **Brian Oneto**. **Bob Stimpson** is mayor of Jackson and **Grand Trustee Steve McLean** recently won decisively a race for City Council. **Brother Joe Lowe** is now retired after serving as county auditor

In Ione #33, **Richard Forster** is county supervisor and **Jim Rooney** is county assessor.

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