

# THE NATIVE SON

VOLUME 60

FEBRUARY-MARCH 2021

NO. 5

## 144th Grand Parlor to Convene in Oroville May 16



The 144th Grand Parlor will be held at the Feather Falls Casino & Hotel in Oroville May 16 through May 19, 2021. Registration fee will be \$100. All delegates and guests are welcome.

Currently room rates have been set at \$109 for a single king bed or \$119 for two queen beds per night, for reservations made before May 3, 2021. Additionally the on-site KOA campground is available for those members who wish to bring their recreational vehicles for \$55 per night. There will be a full Grand Parlor schedule, without Play Day.

Grand Parlor will start with a Grand President's reception on Sunday evening and continue with meetings Monday and Tuesday, with voting for Grand Officers. There will be a modified Cleft Palate March and installation of Grand Officers, followed by an incoming Grand President's BBQ at Riverbend Park Pavilion hosted by the BBQ Gurus from Piedmont 120 on Wednesday.

The committee looks forward to seeing you soon in Oroville and are looking forward to Friendship, Loyalty and Charity in abundance. (COVID-19 Protocols will be in place and adherence will be mandatory).

### Lodging

Feather Falls Casino in Oroville is approximately 70 miles north of Sacramento and is 5 minutes from downtown Oroville and 10 minutes from Lake Oroville, located at 3 Alverda Drive. Telephone (530) 533-3885, 1-877-652-4646, FAX (530) 533-8944. Ask for the Lodge and the Native Son hotel rate.

From Oroville, Take Hwy. 70 to Ophir Rd., then go east 3 miles.

From Sacramento: Take I-5 / Hwy. 99 north towards Redding. Take the Hwy. 70 turn off towards Marysville. Stay on Hwy. 70 towards Oroville, turn right on Ophir Rd (first Oroville exit). Feather Falls Casino is 3 miles straight ahead.

Campers can use the Feather Falls KOA at 1 Feather Falls Blvd. adjacent to the Casino. Reservations: (800) 562-5079; Information: (530) 533-9020. Shuttle to casino is available.

Alternate lodging is available at the Holiday Inn Express 550 Oro-Dam Blvd East, Oroville, 95965 (855) 516-1090; and the Gold Country Casino 4020 Olive Highway Oroville 95966, (844) 200-8878.

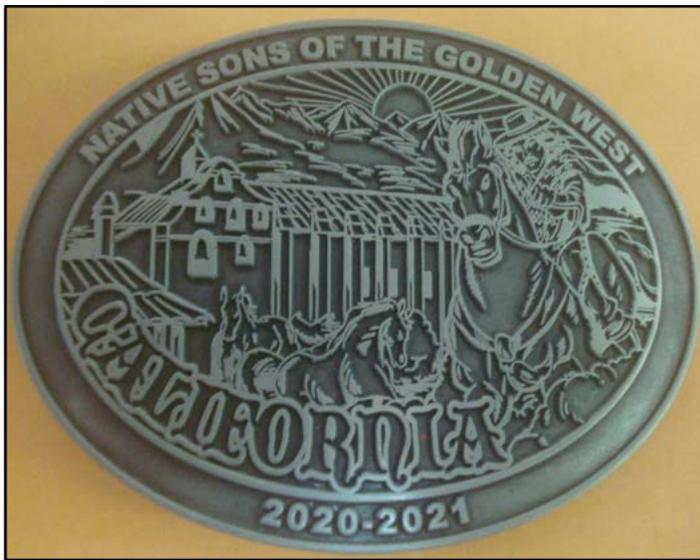
## GRAND PRESIDENT'S ITEMS

### FREE NSGW MASKS

The Grand Parlor is offering FREE COVID masks to all members of the Order. The masks are blue, include NSGW lettering or the NSGW logo, and are made from cloth. For your free mask, please send an email to [GrandPresident@nsgw.org](mailto:GrandPresident@nsgw.org). In the body of your email, please include your name, mailing address, and email address. Only one mask per member, only one member per request. Your mask will be mailed within 10 days. Offer is valid based on availability.

### RECEIVE 2020-2021 NSGW BELT BUCKLE

The Membership Committee has approved the awarding of the Grand Parlor 2020-2021 NSGW Belt Buckle as part of this year's Membership Program. At Grand Parlor, all members who bring in two new members will receive a buckle. In addition, all new members who join the Order this year, will also receive a Belt Buckle. The Belt Buckle was designed by NSGW member Josh Clements, Ramona #109, and depicts California's most renowned folklore legend, the famous Joaquin Murrieta. This offer is good through May, 1, 2021.



### HISTORICAL COLLECTION PROJECT

The NSGW Historical Collection Committee has been established to find a "home" for the Native Sons of the Golden West collection of historical artifacts. The new "home" will hopefully serve as a museum for the entire Order, with sections dedicated to our historical collection of artifacts, our organizational history, and our two charitable organizations, the Historical Preservation Foundation and the Charitable Foundation. The vision for the "NSGW Home" will be to open a facility which Californians and visitors will be able to see and learn about the Native Sons of the Golden West. A secondary consideration will be to locate a site which will house our corporate administrative offices, provide conference room and meeting space and include adequate room for archival and operational supplies. Grand 2nd Vice President Jeff Schmidt is chairman of the NSGW Historical Collection Committee and has enthusiastically accepted the challenge to fulfill the goal of preserving the history of the Native Sons of the Golden West.

### HONORING OUR VETERANS

The Grand President has initiated a program to recognize the many military veterans in our Order. For Veteran's Day in November, we recognized 80-plus members with a proclamation recognizing each of them for their service to our country. In addition, we received a U.S. Congressional proclamation distinguishing our Order and our Veterans for their military service. Preliminary planning for the 144th Grand Parlor will hopefully include an introduction of our numerous veterans. The Membership Committee also approved the 2020-2021 Membership Program which will include asking each parlor to honor all deceased veterans at their local cemeteries by placing a small U.S. flag at their gravesite. Veteran grave markers are easily identifiable by their modest design and the deceased veterans' name, military rank and branch of service. Each is usually an upright grave marker in granite or marble, or a flat grave marker in granite, marble or bronze. The Membership Committee also approved purchase of 1,000 4"X 6" stick flags to be ordered by the Grand Secretary's office and made available for purchase by each parlor. Parlors may order flags from the Grand Secretary's office or purchase their own flags. The Grand President is asking each parlor to consider placing U.S. flags on the grave sites of as many deceased military veterans as they can on Veteran's Day and Memorial Day. This is a great way to get each parlor involved with their local community and honoring our deceased military veterans. It also provides a parlor with a project on which members can all work together with a common purpose while getting great exercise walking and placing our country's flag on the final resting place of our military veterans. Contact the Grand Secretary to order your flags for the upcoming Memorial Day on May 31, 2021.

### HONORING OUR DECEASED MEMBERS

The Membership Committee is finalizing details of recognizing deceased members of the Order with a framed California flag which will be presented to the family of the member. In addition, the frame will include a metal inscription with the name of the member, years in the Order and names of the Grand President and parlor. Details are still being worked out; however, we are discussing the cost to be paid by the Grand Parlor with possible parlor involvement. The idea was implemented this year by SDDGP Gilbert Rodriguez, Los Banos #206, who arranged the purchase for member James Areias who served in the Order for 73 years and passed away in October. More information will be announced when final approval is decided.

### COVID-19 REMINDER

There have been 3.2 million cases of the COVID-19 with over 40,000 deaths reported in the State of California. The pandemic has continuously climbed since December 1 and has only recently started to decline. Two new vaccines have been released and are being distributed and will help slow the spread of this deadly virus. However, a stronger and more deadly strain of the virus is expected to increase the number of deaths over the next 6-8 weeks. We must all remain vigilant in combating this deadly virus and follow good COVID-19 practices like wearing a mask, maintaining social distances and washing our hands. As one Center for

*Continued on page 3*

Disease Control physician stated “expect the unexpected” for the next surge. Even though things are opening up again, we need to remember that the virus continues to be with us.

## RELIEF ON THE WAY

The Grand Parlor Board of Grand Officers is discussing possible per capita relief for all parlors from their 4th quarter per capita tax. This is not yet finalized but is only in discussion stages. The criteria for relief will be based on available surplus monies from expenses which were unable to be expended due to COVID-19 restrictions, and protections for our board and our members. The details have yet to be worked out but hopefully will be finalized by the April Board of Grand Officer meeting to be held April 10, 2021. One key note: in order to be eligible a parlor will need to be in “good standing,” meaning being current on per capita fees and semi-annual reports. In addition, the Board of Grand Officers recently voted to “forgive” the 5% late fees assessed to parlors which were delinquent in the per capita fees. Under the present pandemic conditions, the Board of Grand Officers felt it was the brotherly thing to do. The Grand President urges all members and all parlors to continue with their parlor per capita dues payments while a relief package is being discussed.

## OFFICIAL VISIT DEADLINE

All Official Visits are expected to be finalized by February 25, and all reports are expected to be filed with the Grand Secretary by March 1. This request was provided to all members of the Visiting Board at the Board of Grand Officer meeting held on January 16. The Grand President is requiring all Visiting Board members to submit their reports by the identified deadlines. In addition, the Grand President is asking all parlors to provide their parlor information to their Visiting Officer; however, the Grand President understands that your health and safety is very important and any information that you can provide regarding your parlor’s activities, financial records and parlor records will help us tremendously to perform the job we were elected to do. Please utilize our remote and virtual capabilities in exchanging information in order to keep everyone safe and protected. Your assistance is extremely appreciated.

## NSGW GRAVE MARKER DESIGNATION

The Membership Committee is discussing the inclusion on the Native Sons of the Golden West logo or name on a deceased member of the Order’s grave marker. We are looking at medallions which can be added to grave marker, NSGW logos etched into the grave marker and identifiable NSGW metallic ground inserts. Once details are finalized, details will be released.

## HONOR PARLOR AWARD

The Membership Committee has proposed to establish an “Honor Parlor Award” for the 144th Grand Parlor year. Honor Parlors are parlors that have a net positive number of members. We have experienced over 700 member losses this year, so we need everyone to stay with and help us get this Order through this time which has been difficult of the entire world for all Americans and Californians, the economy and all of our members. This Order was organized for the mutual benefit of our members and we hold this ideal strong. We will all get through this time by working together, focusing on doing the best we can for the entire Order of the Native Sons of the Golden West.

## DEVELOPING A RELATIONSHIP

The Grand President is working to establish a relationship with Wells Fargo, the 4th largest bank in the world. Both the Native Sons of the Golden West and Wells Fargo share a common interest in the preservation of history, especially in preserving the history of California and the history of Wells Fargo in California. Both organizations have played significant parts in California’s history, and that common interest is the key in building a relationship between both groups. Presently, we have applied for the donation of artifacts previously housed at their museums and are seeking the possible use of their former museum sites in Sacramento, Los Angeles or San Diego as a satellite museum venue. We have confirmed the establishment of the Historical Preservation Foundation and Charitable Foundation as qualified 501(c)(3) organizations eligible for matching donations from any of the 250,000 employees of Wells Fargo, and have identified opportunities to communicate the story of the Native Sons of Golden West through various corporate channels. This is only the beginning of our involvement with Wells Fargo, but it’s a relationship worth trying to develop and may be very beneficial to our Order. Hopefully more information will be available in the next newsletter.

## MEMBERSHIP NOTES

The Membership Committee, chaired by Fran Carothers, has been meeting every other week to try to improve our membership numbers and opportunities. The Committee is asking members for their help and assistance in trying to gather some information and give us some ideas on what’s happening in our Order. Please try and help with the following topics. **Topic 1:** We are seeking someone to try and research what the Native Sons did during the Spanish Flu pandemic in 1919. Some of the information may be found in the older issues of the *Grizzly Bear* publication, which is available online. **Topic 2:** We want to know what you and your parlor are doing to keep safe during the COVID-19 pandemic. What protections are you following? What changes have occurred in your daily lives which have been altered during this pandemic period? Any information you can provide on how COVID has affected your life and the operations of your parlor are sincerely appreciated. **Topic 3:** Please identify what your parlor is doing within your community to provide goodwill and open our hearts to the community. This could be volunteering in a food bank, raising funds for a project like homelessness or hunger, or helping children in need. For all these topics please send a concise statement of one of the above topics to the Membership Chairperson Fran Carothers at [franrdh@yahoo.com](mailto:franrdh@yahoo.com). The Grand President appreciates your assistance on this matter.

## Candidate Ads Due

If you’re running for Grand Parlor office, please send your ad to Fred Codoni for publication in the April-May issue of *The Native Son*. Especially this year, when there are no candidates’ nights at the subordinate parlors and almost no in-person meetings, it’s especially important to let the delegates know about your candidacy through these pages.

Contact the Grand Parlor office for rates. Deadline for ads for the April-May issue is March 15, 2021.

**GRAND PRESIDENT****Joseph Castillo**

It has been a very difficult year for our Order with the pandemic, economic downturn, unemployment and the inability to meet and spend time with our brothers in the Order. Many businesses have closed as many customers are staying away. Many hospitals lack room availability for patients, many healthcare workers are overworked. The world has slowed down and we have slowed down as well. We have already lost over 700 members since June 2020 and even though we have brought in just over 200 new members, we are experiencing a significant trend in membership declines. The writing is on the wall. We are losing more members than we are gaining. Eventually, this trend will cause the Order to cease to be operational and being unable to complete its mission.

So what can we do about it? The obvious answer is to recruit more members but under the present pandemic situation and being unable to meet in person has seriously hampered our ability to bring in more members. What else can we do? I have been trying to strengthen our internal benefits for our members with new programs described in this newsletter. If we can build up our existing membership program, then maybe other members will see what we are doing for our membership and will then reach out to their friends, neighbors and relatives to recruit them into our Order.

Even more important than building more existing membership benefits is to keep our existing members in the Order. All members of our Order are important and all are worth keeping in our membership. In order to sustain our membership for the long term, we need to build our group of younger members aged 18-40. Members brought in as part of this age group bring a much-needed and valued skillset that includes technology skills, an energetic disposition, innovative ideas, and the ability to bring in other members in their same age bracket.

But these are not the only types of members we need; we need to retain our members who have been in the Order for years, members over 65 years old. These are the members who are retired and financially secure, members who bring their own unique skillsets including experience, knowledge, history, reliability and most importantly loyalty to the Order. Our young members are the future of our Order but our older members are our past history. We need all our members, but the older members are our connection to the Native Sons of the past and it is this past and knowledge that we will learn from and share it for years to come.

Older members are a valued resource; it is this resource that we need to keep us focused and on track so that we can become the best Order we can be. As President Theodore Roosevelt said, "The more you know about the past, the better prepared you are for the future."

In closing, both younger and older members are needed in this Order and will allow us to learn the successes and failures of our past so that we can prepare for a bright future.

**THE NATIVE SON****Fred Codoni, Managing Editor**

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**OPINION****Fred Codoni, Managing Editor****A Small History Book**

The headlong rush into supposed political correctness in the San Francisco Bay Area resulted in a long list of what some consider to no longer be appropriate names for schools, streets and monuments.

Gone are the Columbus statue and the Pioneer Monument in San Francisco and San Rafael's statue of St. Junipero Serra, the latter pulled from its pedestal and damaged on Catholic Church property in San Rafael.

Missing will soon be the names of 44 San Francisco schools, San Anselmo's Drake High School and possibly Sir Francis Drake Boulevard, the main east-west thoroughfare in Marin County. Long gone is Marin's Dixie School District, renamed after 150 years. Your editor's aunt was the last teacher in the one-room Dixie School when only a few dairy farms were in the area. There's a Grand Parlor plaque on the original school and we hope no one will damage it.

An article in the February 6 San Francisco *Chronicle* listed 40-odd San Francisco streets that could be subject to name change.

Those of us who love the history of the Golden State shudder to think "what's next?" Will there no longer be references to the pioneers who made our state and country great? Will schools no longer teach about anyone with a scintilla of "badness" in their past? Good-bye Abraham Lincoln, rated the greatest president in our history, along with several other presidents and countless famous people.

How about just publishing a book detailing the lives of those men and women who had nothing in their pasts that was part of history that is now considered un-offensive to anyone?

The book wouldn't need many pages. We suppose that would please those who oppose cutting trees to make paper.

**LETTERS**

Fred, I like your article [December-January *Native Son*] and agree with you 100%. While there might have been some good intentions when political correctness was first introduced (and even that is debatable), the whole concept has gone far too extreme and too ridiculous.

Do we have to rename our capital and one state because George Washington was a slave owner? How about the author of the Declaration of Independence, Thomas Jefferson? He too was a slave owner. Should we reverse that Declaration and go back to being ruled by England as a result?

You cannot fairly judge people of past centuries by today's standards. I can just imagine the future if, for example, the country went all vegetarian. Those future citizens would have a field day as most people today eat cows, pigs chickens, etc. Could they justifiably condemn us for what we do today, using their future standards?

I know there are those who would say that is not a fair comparison, but I wonder. We did not kill and eat the slaves as we do many animals today. I just wish people would stop and think before trying to be politically correct.

Ken King

Former member of Elk Grove Parlor and a seventh-generation native Californian.

## Tales of Gold

For the January 16 Board of Grand Officers meeting, Grand President Joe Castillo asked each member to provide a story of gold in California in honor of the 172nd anniversary of the discovery of gold on January 24, 1848. Here are some of the stories. There will be more in the next issue.

**By Ron Brocco from a newspaper of the times  
GOLD FOUND IN SONOMA COUNTY  
Yellow Flakes Brought to Santa Rosa By Women  
Mrs. Leggit's Luck  
IT'S LOCATION KEPT SECRET**

SANTA ROSA, Aug. 13, 1896 – A Sonoma County Women has discovered a gold mine. Armed only with a milk pan and a fire shovel Mrs. Leggit has prospected the creek near her home in Redwood Township for several months. Laughed at by her husband and joked at by her neighbors, the lucky woman went mining every day that her household duties would permit, declaring all the time that there was a ledge somewhere near and that she would find it; and she kept her word. One little patch of black sand on her claim yielded \$3 in flake gold, and on many occasions, she has washed out more than \$2 worth with a few minutes work.

Today Mrs. Leggit visited this city to sell some of the gold and had an assay made of several pieces of rich-looking quartz. The gold was contained in a small tin box and was in flakes ranging in size from a grain of wheat to tiny particles. It was sold to Heath & Ekstroin and when melted was made a solid button of pure yellow metal nearly as large as a Robin's egg. The quartz will be assayed at once for Mr. Health and the result of the assay is likely to create a boom in Redwood Township.

Of course, the exact location of the new find is as of yet a secret, but it is said to be on one of Thomas Hopper's Ranchs, near Occidental. Mrs. Legget and Hopper have reached an agreement as to ownership of the mine, in case the ledge proves to be on Hopper's land, and there are many who believe that the proverbial "Hopper Luck" has something to do with the discovery.

Mrs. Legget is the mother of five children and is a robust, matronly looking woman on the sunny side of 40. Her pleasant features are browned by the sun and her dark eyes show determination and courage.

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### Grand Trustee Ethan Phillips Environmental Laws

One of the first environmental laws in the United States was passed in 1884 after California gold seekers water-blasted entire mountains searching for the prized metal.

During the Gold Rush era, the first Forty-Niners looked for surface gold in riverbeds, using pans and improvised wooden devices called sluices or rocker boxes. This method, called placer mining, circulated water through dirt, rock and spent ore while the heavier gold dropped to the bottom. Once the easily-accessible gold had run out, miners tried other methods to find and separate gold from underground quartz veins, including building ditches and wooden flumes to run water through ore.

Not long after a rich gold deposit was found in a creek bed northeast of Nevada City, French miner Anthony Chabot pumped water aimed through a canvas hose at the ore supply to speed up the search through dirt and rock. Hydraulic mining was born in 1853 when a man named Edward Mattison increased the water pressure by add-

ing a nozzle to the hose. Waste ore and gravel tailings were piled on creek banks or dumped into streams leading to the Yuba River.

The area came to be known as North Bloomfield. French immigrant Julius Poquillion bought and combined several abandoned local claims in 1866; soon he had accrued more than 1,500 acres. Poquillion then sought wealthy San Francisco investors William Ralston and Lester Robinson for his large-scale, hydraulic-powered North Bloomfield Gravel Mining Company.

The group built dams and more than 100 miles of canals, flumes and ditches to carry water from a reservoir to the claim. The resulting water power could fragment 100,000 tons of earth per day at the "Diggins" pit. For more than 20 years, the North Bloomfield Gravel Mining Company expanded. More hydraulic mining camps were set up in the hills above the American, Feather and Bear Rivers, but the most successful mine site was the Malakoff mine on San Juan Ridge—named for Fort Malakoff in Russia. The amount of earth hydraulically pulverized and washed downstream was estimated at 12 billion tons.

By 1876, seven full-scale Craig water cannons were washing earth from the mountainsides to uncover the gold-laden quartz beneath. The spent tailings were mounted in the Malakoff pit; workers then dug a tunnel nearly a mile and a half through the bedrock to wash tailings directly into Humbug Creek, flowing to the South Yuba River.

Downstream, concerns arose about the tailings from hydraulic mines as soon as they were operational. The more that water blasted the hillsides, the greater the debris problem. Riverside farms were flooded and destroyed. Silt was estimated to fill San Francisco Bay at the rate of a foot each year, while the Yuba, Feather—and thirty miles downstream—the Sacramento river channels had to close to steamboat traffic. Because many valley towns depended on the miners for income, valley residents simply built tall levees for flood control.

However, at the confluence of the Yuba and Feather rivers, the town of Marysville flooded in 1875. Its high levees created a huge bowl for the floodwaters—killing some residents and destroying their property. Surviving Marysville residents formed the Anti-Debris Association and beseeched the State Legislature to regulate mining operations, but several years of legal battles and vandalism followed. Marysville property owner Edward Woodruff filed suit in 1882 against the mining company. In 1883, the Yuba River's 130-foot English Dam burst; sabotage was suspected.

On January 7, 1884, after protracted testimony and argument, Judge Lorenzo Sawyer handed down his decision in the case of Woodruff vs. the North Bloomfield Gravel Mining Company. Sawyer's 225-page decision described the damage caused by hydraulic mining rubble and permanently enjoined the mining company against dumping into watercourses. The injunction meant no profit for the company, which had not yet broken even. They had invested more than \$3 million on equipment and labor but unearthed less than \$2.8 million in gold by that time.

The ruling that ended the Golden State's devastating hydraulic-mining era by forbidding waterway pollution—one of our nation's first environmental laws—predated by fifteen years a similar national law, the Federal Rivers Act.

The ruling that ended the Golden State's devastating hydraulic-mining era by forbidding waterway pollution—one of our nation's first environmental laws—predated by fifteen years a similar national law, the federal Rivers and Harbors Act, passed in 1899. The Malakoff pit mine is now preserved at Malakoff Diggins State Historic Park.

# RETRO RAMBLINGS

By: Douglas Love, Grand Trustee

On the east bank of Mare Island Strait sits an abandoned mill. Once it produced flour which was shipped throughout the world. Now it sits vacant and forlorn. At one time it employed hundreds, including an aspiring actor named Boris Karloff, and was a hive of activity. Now it is the home of seagulls and other birds. It is the General Mills Corporation complex in Vallejo and its story goes back to the earliest days of the Golden State.

Grinding nuts and seeds into flour is an ancient human activity. Throughout the state, there is evidence of the Native tribes gathering acorns and other wild seeds and grains and grinding them into flour using “grinding rocks”. These exposed rocks, with the holes worn into them over the centuries, serve as evidence of the extent of the pre-contact native population. With the coming of the Spanish and the establishment of the missions came the first attempts at large scale grist milling.

The first Americans to visit California realized that the soil and climate were perfect for growing wheat and other food crops. Much of the grain grown was shipped out un-milled to eastern markets, but as the population continued to grow, the need for commercial grist mills became obvious. One of the first commercial mills in California was the Bale Grist Mill, built in the Napa Valley by Dr. Edward Turner Bale in 1846. In 1852, Austin Sperry began operation of his steam powered mill near Stockton. Soon there were grist mills all over the state, grinding grain and producing flour.

But what of the mill in Vallejo? In 1860, the founder of Valle-

jo, John B. Frisbie, began shipping grain from his wharf located south of the town to Liverpool, England. In 1869, Captain A. D. Starr built the first grist mill in Vallejo. The mill operated as the Starr Flour Mill until 1910, when it was purchased by the Sperry Flour Company. During the 1900s the mill produced flour which was not only sold locally, but was shipped to Europe, Asia and South America. During World War I, the mill expanded as more and more flour was produced to feed American troops in Europe and was produced to help with the post-war relief efforts. It was during this time that a young, obscure English actor, named William Henry Pratt, better known by his stage name, Boris Karloff, worked as a truck driver for Sperry Mills.

In 1929, Sperry Flour Corporation was acquired by General Mills. On August 30, 1934, the mill caught fire. The fire resulted in a dust explosion which destroyed most of the mill. General Mills rebuilt and modernized the mill at this time. The mill produced flour under the “Gold Medal” brand until 2004, when it closed and the machinery fell silent. General Mills decided that the costs of modernization of the mill to current health and

safety standards were too high and all of the salvageable equipment was removed. The 135-year history of grist milling in Vallejo came to an end.

Getting There: The site of the former General Mills plant in Vallejo is currently closed to the public. It is located at 790 Derr St. Vallejo

Note: Your editor called on the Vallejo mill many times in the 1960s and 1970s as a representative of Southern Pacific Railroad.



## Hats to Spats

By DAVE ALLEN, PGP

Many years ago in a decade far, far away, members of Auburn Parlor #59 would dress in period attire for parades and events; for example: New Years in Virginia City or just because. As time went by we lost some members and even though we are still involved, the group is not as involved as before. We don't need closets full of attire. I mean do you really need 15 vests when you only wear about 3 of them?



Now you have the opportunity to rekindle those bygone days of men's and women's period attire by purchasing these items and making a contribution to one of your favorite charities, the Historical Preservation Foundation of the Native Sons of the Golden West.

A few items may go online, but the bulk will be sold at the parlor on Saturday, April 17 from 10:00 to 4:00.

Now here comes more participatory fun. As of today, all of these items are from Auburn Parlor members and include hats, vests, pants, shirts, frocks, dusters, long johns, cravats, ties, spurs, dresses, skirts, blouses, capes, coats, and undergarments, etc. The list is at about 150 articles of clothing and growing.

Any of you members who have joined us or have done this on your own now have the opportunity to donate some of your excess items to the cause. Just drop me a line at [dsallen59@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dsallen59@sbcglobal.net) and we can arrange for pick up.

There will be follow up details as we go forward.

Happy Trails!



A few samples of Auburn Parlor's items for sale.

The two Native Sons 501(c)(3) foundations, the Charitable Foundation and the Historic Preservation Foundation need your financial support now more than every in these dismal times of the corona virus. Please contribute what you can to support the outstanding work of these two organizations.

## Covid Suggestions

By GRAND OUTSIDE SENTINEL MITCH LAING

During these unique and extraordinary times we need to strive to find ways to keep in contact with our members.

One of my groups has been doing monthly to-go dinners, individually calling members and widows to promote a monthly dinner. We have served up to 160 meals at that monthly promotion. All to-go. When people pick up their meals we include promotions and order forms for future months. We have even had an outside sponsor for one meal. Orders include pick-up time spaced out every 15 minutes and a mandatory pre-paid option.

This all started with a "Free Meal" to let our members and others know we were still alive and available. We took donations for that simple pasta to-go dinner and expenses were mostly covered.

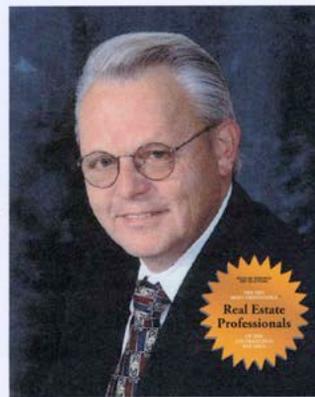
While your parlor may not be able to handle dinners, you can find another avenue of opportunity to let everyone know your parlor is alive and our NSGW Order is here!

We will get thru this pandemic and extraordinary time. We will be able to meet and socialize again.

Native Sons will continue to be the Hallmark of California History. See you on the #CalifTrail again soon!

### Hand Salute, Please

Recent action by Congress urges people who have served in America's armed services to use the hand salute when reciting the Pledge of Allegiance instead of placing their right hand over the heart. That's a fitting privilege for we who have been in the service. Let's use it at Native Son meetings.



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# HPF REPORT

By **CARL VON BARGEN**

The Historical Preservation Foundation is very excited to announce several new grant approvals and our continued plan to attract donors from outside the Native Sons of the Golden West. We are also launching a bold new opportunity to provide California history education and publicize the Native Sons of the Golden West to not only California but to the world.

First up are the grant approvals. Covid has made the need for funds to continue California historical education and preservation ever scarcer. The Historical Preservation Foundation has stepped up to fill that void and provide excellent opportunities to promote the Native Sons of the Golden West. There were so many grants approved, I will just list the grants and the sponsor Subordinate Parlor.

- San Gabriel Mission grant approved with sponsorship by Ramona 109, Rio Hondo 294, and the Grand Parlor of the Native Daughters of the Golden West.

- St. Helena Parlor Hall grant approved with sponsorship by St. Helena Parlor 53.

- Casa Romantica grant approved with sponsorship by Rio Hondo 294.

- Fiddletown grant approved with sponsorship by Amador 17.

- San Diego Electric Railway Association grant approved with sponsorship by Rio Hondo 294.

- Pomona Historical Society grant approved with sponsorship by Ramona 109 and Rio Hondo 294.

In addition, Auburn 59 sponsored the HPF/NSGW's first foray into broadcast network advertising to enhance the image and membership opportunities for the Native Sons of the Golden West. The PBS program *Sierra Gold* will be shown featuring a sponsorship spot with the Native Sons of the Golden West logo, various photos, information about the Native Sons of the Golden West, the Historical Preservation Foundation and the Charitable Foundation. If you are interested in checking out the current progress to this endeavor please visit [SierraGold.tv](http://SierraGold.tv). We will be seeking support from subordinate parlors to continue the sponsorship of this program that focuses on California history and Californians. If you or your parlor are interested in learning more, contact any of the directors of the HPF.

The Historical Preservation Foundation is always appreciative of the Native Sons of the Golden West's parlors that 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.

## Historical Preservation Foundation Board of Directors

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Doug Love - [Doug1066@gmail.com](mailto:Doug1066@gmail.com) - 707-328-6177

Brice Walker - [Valk\\_man@yahoo.com](mailto:Valk_man@yahoo.com) - 408-623-1014

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Joe Castillo - [joecastillo@aol.com](mailto:joecastillo@aol.com) - 626-205-0017

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Lee Adams - [Hangman@jps.net](mailto:Hangman@jps.net) - 530-289-3506

Jerry Stinson - [nsgwstinson@gmail.com](mailto:nsgwstinson@gmail.com) - 530-333-3170

Jedidiah Watson - [I.Haas.food@gmail.com](mailto:I.Haas.food@gmail.com) - 816-352-5410

Jeff Schmidt - [J.Schmidt.p91@gmail.com](mailto:J.Schmidt.p91@gmail.com) - 530-333-3210

### Greater Northern California Area Directors and Liaison to Grand Parlor

Carl von Barga - [Orovillegolf@gmail.com](mailto:Orovillegolf@gmail.com) - 530-828-2039

Richard Cortez - [Richardcortez57@gmail.com](mailto:Richardcortez57@gmail.com) - 707-499-7843

## WE LOOK BACK



REMEMBER the 1948 Tournament of Roses Float of the Native Sons and Daughters of the Golden West? When this beautiful entry rolled down Colorado Street, Pasadena, on that New Year's morning the heart of every Native Son and Daughter along the parade route swelled with pride and joy. It was estimated that nearly a million people viewed the Tournament of Roses Parade that year. One of the major radio networks outbid its rival, paying \$250,000 for the privilege of broadcasting the coming 1950 parade. The Native Sons and Daughters will again have a float in the parade this New Year's Day and local contests are being conducted all over the State in the preliminaries to select the "Girl of the Golden West," who with her court, add grace and charm to the event. Address of the Native Sons and Native Daughters General Float Committee is P. O. Box 922, Pasadena 20.  
—Photo by J. Allen Hawkins.

### Grand President Regarding Membership

During this COVID pandemic, our Order has seen an accelerated number of membership drops in the form of resignations and suspensions. I am asking each parlor to reach out to members who are considering resignation or are being considered for suspension to try and persuade them to continue their membership in our Order. These are difficult times for our economy, our employment, our health facilities and our Order but we must all work together to do what we can to support our Order and keep our membership intact.

In addition, for any membership drop, I'm asking all parlor recording secretaries to complete the Membership Activity Record with as much contact information as possible. This information is necessary for the Lapsation Committee to try, one last time, to reach out to departing members in an effort to try and retain them in the order.

I am establishing a policy that the Grand Secretary's office may return a Membership Activity Record back to the parlor if it does not contain appropriate contact information along with the effort a parlor took to try and retain their member. It is up to each parlor to take the primary role of trying to retain each of their members with the Grand Parlor taking a secondary role through the Lapsation Committee. Our members are our lifeline, without them we have no future.

Lastly, I will be working with our Board of Grand Officers and our various committees in trying to identify a refund of per capita payments to parlors in good standing. There are considerations we will need to review including constitutional requirements, budgetary approvals and constraints, and existing Grand Parlor account payments which still need to be satisfied. I encourage all parlors to continue with their per capita payments and stay in good standing so that if a refund is accepted and approved, parlors will be eligible to immediately receive the payment.

Please stay safe and healthy, in Friendship, Loyalty and Charity,  
Joe Castillo

### Bud Utter Celebrates 100 Years

Leonard Ransom ("Bud") Utter, a member of University #272, celebrated his 100th birthday February 18.

Bud was born February 18, 1921 in Big Pine California. As he grew up, he spent much of his time along Big Pine Creek fishing and hiking and hunting in that beautiful High Sierra country. He spent a lot of time with his two brothers, Roy and Richard, exploring the hills and countrysides.

His parents moved to Hawthorne, California in 1935. Leonard attended Leuzinger High School and graduated in 1939.

Bud entered our Order on July 8, 1969. He attended 21 Grand Parlors, and served as supervising district deputy grand president for 10 years and as a Grand Parlor committeeman for two years. He was elected grand trustee at the 104th Grand Parlor in 1981, serving three terms.

In 1940 Bud met his future bride, Billie Armstrong. They were married and soon had a son named William. They bought a house and settled down to family life. But because of World War II, Bud was inducted into the Army on October 31, 1944 at Fort MacArthur in San Pedro. From there he was sent by train to Camp Joseph T. Robinson, Arkansas, for boot camp.



At the end of his training, he went by train to New York where he boarded the *USS Wakefield* that was headed to North Africa to join the 5th Army. They soon moved into Italy where his unit came under German fire. As they advanced, they discovered that the Germans had also moved on leaving equipment behind. He had a chance to move into the 3195th Signal Service Company where he became a staff sergeant and ran the motor pool.

By now the war was winding down and it was soon time to come home. His ship came into New York Harbor in 1946, where he was put on a train headed for Camp Beale, California. It was here he received his Honorable Discharge papers and was awarded European African Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, World War II Victory Medal, Army of the Occupation Medal and the Good Conduct Medal. He headed home to rejoin his family living in Hawthorne. Bud and Billie were blessed with a baby daughter, Julie Ann.

Bud continued to work as a master machinist and eventually ended up working for Howard Hughes. He said Howard would come through the plant, sit down on a bench and talk things over with Bud. They had a good friendship.

In 1984 Bud retired from his life's work and settled down enjoying his family. Bud has 11 grandchildren and more than 30 great grandchildren. He spends time with his church and enjoys his many good friends. He loves to travel and gets around quite well.

Bud is 100 years young and still eager to go.



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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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# United States Under Attack

By Grand President Joe Castillo

Ellwood Oil Fields...Nearly 80 years ago, the mainland of the United States was attacked by a foreign entity for only the second time in its history. Not since the War of 1812 had the United States been attacked on its own homeland. The attack occurred only 69 days after Pearl Harbor was bombed by forces from Imperial Japan.

On February 23, 1942, at 7 p.m., a Japanese I-17 submarine fired 25 5-inch rounds at the Ellwood Oil Fields located in Goleta, just north of Santa Barbara. Even though the oil facility was hit, the shelling actually caused very little damage and no one was hurt.

However, the threat to Americans living on the mainland of the United States became very real, raising the level of fear. The Japanese overshot its initial rounds, recalculated its range and finally hit their intended target with eleven rounds. Prior to the attack, several U.S. merchant ships were sunk just outside the 3-mile restriction zone along the Pacific Coast, with at least nine different Japanese submarines roaming offshore.

After the attack on Ellwood, the Japanese submarines attacked a number of other coastal sites located in Washington and Oregon. Several Americans were killed in these attacks and shortly afterward the Japanese submarines retreated from the Pacific Coast for the rest of the war.

The Ellwood Oil Fields were a large oil production site consisting of a number of oil derricks and a high-production refinery. Prior to the bombing of Pearl Harbor, foreign tankers would anchor off the shore of Goleta and receive huge supplies of crude oil. The foreign tankers included those from Japan and many times crews were allowed to come onshore and obtain a meal at one of the restaurants located in the area. These off-shore visits allowed the Japanese to obtain information regarding the oil facilities around the Ellwood Oil Field sites.

The attack caused widespread hysteria along the Pacific Coast which peaked when two days after the attack on Ellwood, the dark skies over Los Angeles were lit up with searchlights and 1,400 anti-aircraft rounds when a mysterious aircraft was spotted in the night sky. But the mysterious airplane was never seen and miraculously just disappeared.

After the Japanese I-17 submarine attacked the Ellwood Oil Fields, it wasn't seen again until it was spotted off the coast of New Caledonia in 1943. In August of the same year it was sunk by U.S. dive bombers, ending the journey of the Ellwood attacker.

In 1968, the City of Goleta and the Native Sons of the Golden West dedicated the events of the attack with a historical marker placed at the Timbers Restaurant which foreign sailors often visited and was located nearby. The dedication marked the 25th anniversary of the bombing and was noted by one of the speakers that the marker was being placed so that the event would forever be remembered.

When the Timbers Restaurant was closed and eventually sold, the historical plaque was moved to Sandpiper Golf Course and rededicated on the 50th anniversary of the Ellwood attack. Past Grand President Jesse Garcia presided over the event in front of 70 attendees.

Today the bronze plaque still remains in a very recognizable location at the entry of one of California's most beautiful and scenic golf courses, the Sandpiper Golf Course, and less than a quarter of a mile from the site of the Richfield-owned Ellwood Oil Fields which were attacked on February 24, 1942.



Ellwood Plaque in its current location at the Sandpiper Golf course.

Plaque reads: NEAR THIS SITE AT 7:07 P.M FEBRUARY 23, 1942, THE CALIFORNIA COAST AT ELLWOOD RECEIVED THE FIRST NAVAL BOMBARDMENT OF THE UNITED STATES MAINLAND SINCE THE WAR OF 1812. PLAQUE COMMEMORATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THIS EVENT PLACED BY THE NATIVE SONS OF THE GOLDEN WEST.

GRAND PRESIDENT – I THOMAS ZARAGOZA  
FEBRUARY 23, 1968



## Ellwood Oil Field

The field is named for Ellwood Cooper (1829-1918), who owned the large Ellwood Ranch in what is now Goleta and the adjacent hills. His first name lingers in several local place names including the oil fields, Ellwood Canyon, Ellwood School, Ellwood Station Road and the Goleta neighborhood "Ellwood".

The first oil discovery in the area was in July 1928, by Barnsdall Oil Co. of California and the Rio Grande Company, who drilled their Luton-Bell Well No. 1 to a depth of 3,208 feet into the Vaqueros Sandstone. After almost giving up they not only struck oil, but had a significant gusher, initially producing 1,316 barrels per day. This discovery touched off a period of oil leasing and wildcat well drilling on the Santa Barbara south coast, from Carpinteria to Gaviota. During this period, the Mesa Oil Field was discovered, within the Santa Barbara city limits, about 12 miles (19 km) east of the Ellwood field.

# CF DONATIONS

By **BOB SANTOS**

Here is a list of recent donations to our CF in Honor of or 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. our donation form is on our website, [nsgw.org](http://nsgw.org).

**In Memory of Paul Silva**

- Judy & Bill Segale
- Marilou & Joe Ursino
- Norene & Al Saroff
- Robert & Kathy Santos
- Joe & Joann Sangiacomo
- Pat Riley
- Janet Fauss
- Robert & Martha French
- Suzi Riley PGP NDGW

**In Memory of Glen Behm**

- Marilou & Joe Ursino
- Robert & Kathy Santos
- Norene & Al Saroff

**In Memory of Joyce Pierce**

- Joe & Linda Neitzel

**In Memory of Larry Powers**

- Joe Neitzel

**In Memory of Betty Paterson**

- Joe & Linda Neitzel

**In Memory of Chad Glashoff**

- Joe & Linda Neitzel

**In Memory of Guido Colla**

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**In Memory of Steve Pucci**

- Joe Neitzel

**In Memory of William "Bill" Hargis PGP**

- Paul & Jaye Lapachet
- Bob & Dorothy Streich
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**In Memory of Michael Paul Starr**

- Laura Mattos

**In Memory of Mary Robertson**

- David & Ginger Gibson

**In Memory of Jim Wyllie**

- Robert & Kathy Santos

**In Memory of Melvin Robert Espinosa**

- Quartz Parlor # 58

**In Memory of Morton Levin**

- Marilou & Joe Ursino

**To Cleft Palate Fund**

- Network for Good (Facebook) 2 donations
- Your Cause Applied Materials 3 donations

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

**How to Give.** Giving to Cleft Palate can be done either directly or through a gift model that can provide tax benefits. Also through your employer matching funds. Check with your tax consultant on different programs.

**Hospital Donations.** November 8 Director Steve Faessel and Grand President Joe Castillo met with St. John's Cleft Palate Clinic staff and presented St. John's with a check for \$60,000 and a plaque honoring their medical first responders. Because of COVID-19 precautions only medical staff and Steve and Castillo attended. December 30 Director Jim Wilmark and Grand Trustee Steve McLean met with Sutter Health Cleft Palate Clinic staff and presented them with a check for \$60,000 dollars and a plaque honoring medical first responders. Also because of COVID-19 precautions only medical staff and Jim and Steve attended.



*Edward Rance, president of Santa Monica Bay Parlor No. 267, Native Sons of the Golden West, is here shown as he presents Miss Barbara Feliz with a certificate stating that she had won the recent Santa Monica contest for a young lady to be a candidate in the coming state-wide Native Sons of the Golden West "Girl of the Golden West" contest. Miss Feliz is a descendant of the family for whom Los Feliz Blvd., in Los Angeles is named. She is 18 years of age and lives at 653 Raymond Ave., Ocean Park. She was born in Simi. —Photo by Harry Baldwin.*

*From the September 1949 issue of the Grizzly Bear. Photo of NSGW-NDGW float in the 1948 Pasadena Tournament of Roses Parade is on page 8.*

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