



THE MAIL POUCH

Concept and Creation by Frank Franzago



The Pony Express Branch #69
January — 2020 Edition



Alan Weinel, Editor



JIMMY'S GEMS

Hello Fellow SIRS

Many thanks for all your support during 2019.

This year has been filled with lots of changes including the change to a new luncheon facility, luncheon service and state-imposed changes. Your support made my task much easier. This past year we have tried to bring in luncheon speakers that were educational as well as entertaining. November's speaker was Kevin Knauss, author of "History Beneath Folsom Lake". He presented interesting historical facts about Folsom Lake during the 1840's. The drought of 2014-2015 resulted in the draining of Folsom Lake and revealed these historical sites. He chronicled the important water works projects of the North Fork Ditch, Natomas Ditch, and the Negro Hill Ditch that were instrumental in delivering water to the miners. Included in the book are pictures of the vestiges of the first dams on the American River that diverted water into the ditches and rock retaining walls, built by hand, to support the canals along steep river canyons.

Our speaker for January is Colonel James Crump Jr., Retired USAF representing the Tuskegee Airmen. Colonel Crump served on active duty in the United States Air Force with honor for 31 years. His last active duty assignment from 1986-1988 was as the inspector General for the Sacramento Air Logistics Center at McClellan Air Base, California. His numerous achievements include military Legion of Merit, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with 2 Oak leaf clusters. He is a life member Tuskegee Airmen Inc., Western Region President from September 2009 to August 2012 and President of George S. "Spanky" Roberts Chapter Sacramento, Ca from 2001 to 2009.

In the next few months we will negotiate a new contract with Elks Lodge with possible new prices. We are being promised better service and food.

I Hope that I will enjoy all of your support in 2020. I look forward to serving as your Big Sir 2020.

Thanks

Jimmy Buckley, Little Sir



SICKERT SAYS

Happy New Year. As the new Little Sir I promise to do my best to fulfill the duties of my position. I have already been reaching out to potential speakers and presenters to provide you with what I think will be interesting and relevant programs during the year. Several Branch 69 members have already made speaker recommendations and I welcome your comments and suggestions for anyone you would like to see at our luncheons during the year.

The Ladies Day luncheon was well attended in December. The decorations were very festive, and it was a good kick off to the holidays season. The Sly Fox band entertained again this year; a lot of folks were dancing and enjoying the music.

Branch 69 has, for the last several years, had a SIRs Branch 69 Night Out to the River Cats. Frank Levings is again leading the effort this year. At this point we are planning on going June 7, 2020. Frank will have signup sheets with more details at the January luncheon so check your calendars and plan on attending for a fun day of baseball at the park. Evan Groban with the River Cats organization will be our speaker at the March luncheon.

Our first luncheon speaker in January will be Colonel Crump of the Tuskegee Airmen, the first African American military aviators in the United States Armed Forces. This will be a memorable experience.

Lots to look forward to in the New Year.

Paul Sickert, Little Sir

January 2020 LUNCHEON:

Thursday January 9, 2020

Meatloaf; Au Gratin Potatoes; Chef's Choice Vegetables; Green, Pasta and 3-Bean Salads; Rolls, Butter and Desert



BOWLING NEWS



The first half of our 2019-2020 bowling season went down to the wire and then some. The position round (last day of the first half) found three teams within a few points of each other for first place. After bowling that day, two of the teams were still locked in a tie for first place.

Before the regular bowling the next week, the Four Amigos (Adrian Garcia, Tony Robinson, Jack Webb and Connor Chin) held a one-game roll-off against No Guarantee (Vic Scott, Dave Yorston, Tony Vigil and Pat Barrett). Even the roll-off game was close with the lead changing hands several times during the game. In the 10th frame, the Four Amigos bowled a little better and pulled out the win. Congratulations, Four Amigos!

We are now off for two weeks—our bowling will return on January 8.

Tom Page, League Secretary 488-6465

January Birthdays

Ernie Shell	01/06	
Amnon Igra	01/06	
Ron Peters	01/09	
Tad Simms	01/09	
Bernie Moreno	01/11	
Phil Anglesey	01/13	
Roger Brunssen	01/14	81 Years
Dave Yorston	01/15	81 Years
Tom Knoble	01/16	
Don Baldwin	01/18	91 Years
Jim Vener	01/20	
Bob Clanton	01/21	
Tod Davis	01/26	
Don Agostinelli	01/29	
Jerry Schroeder	01/29	
Dan Turner	01/31	

January Anniversaries

Glen and Jayne Halvorsen	01/01	
Hefren and Kathy Curiel	01/02	
Ted and Jane Canty	01/02	
Horace and Beather Holmes	01/02	67 Years
Bob and Debbie Baker	01/05	
Rick and Gloria Lee	01/14	
Roger and Fran Brunssen	01/18	57 Years
George and Joyce White	01/20	58 Years
Bill and Janette Nichols	01/23	
David and Om Fitzsimons	01/25	
Thomas and Bernece Walton	01/26	
Jerry and Linda Schroeder	01/27	
Pat and Teri Barrett	01/28	



2019 ATTENDANCE REPORT

Gentlemen: For November, 2019 our luncheon attendance was 67%, and YTD was 66%. The SIR minimum goal is 70%

Ernie Berryman, Attendance Chair



Your 2019 Golf Directors



Lennie Silva—Regular Course

JANUARY GOLF:

01-23 Thurs Alister Mac 4 Man Scramble

FEBRUARY GOLF:

06-06 Thurs Cavanaugh Low Net

02-20 Thurs Ancil Hoffman Low Net



Land Park Seniors composed of members of 69 and 93 and others invite you to join us every Tuesday at Land Park 9 AM for 9 holes of golf. Currently running 20-24 players each week room for more. \$3 buy in playing for lowest number of putts for 9 holes, gross score on three selected holes plus closest to the pin for sleeve of golf balls. Group divided into two groups based on index 0-24 and 24 plus no index.

Email sent out every Sunday morning asking who is playing.

To join email list contact mratz246@sbcglobal.net. Questions text Mike Ratzlaff 916-768-6348. No prepayment just need to know by Monday night that you are coming and we will have a space for you.

Thanks,

Mike Ratzlaff



EDITOR'S NOTE

This is my last month as your Branch 69 Newsletter Editor... **Thank you** to everyone who contributed articles over the past 3 years and for all for the support and encouragement I have received. . Prior to this gig, I had NEVER done anything like this, so it was a wonderful learning opportunity. Truthfully, it has been a blast. I am sorry to have to give it up, but at this point I am a bit “burned out” and could use a rest. ☺ I know that for the *interim*, PBS Pat Quinn will take over—BUT it would be nice to have somebody step forward and take the reins ... I am MORE THAN willing to help you “learn the ropes.” Once you get the hang of it, the job is about 8-10 hours a month. Not a biggie—I mean, COME ON, we are retired! Please consider it...

Thanks,

Alan Weinel



Greg Schweitzer—Progressive Golf Club

JANUARY GOLF:

01-13 Mon Davis Stroke Play

FEBRUARY GOLF:

02-03 Mon Cavanaugh Stroke Play, Black Tees

RECRUITING AND PUBLICITY

Happy New Year! Let's hope 2020 is the year of Perfect Vision for us—20/20. Starting out, I believe that we have one and perhaps two new members joining us in January, plus I have it on good authority that a former member will be rejoining our branch in January. Not bad, not bad.



I mentioned in my December article the following piece of news about Golf Expo next April: **It looks like our booth will be moving to a location much closer to the Golf Expo entrance.** The new location is in an area with much high traffic. We may have to share the booth, we may not—that will be determined later—but the new location should really boost our efforts to attract interested golfers to our branch.

Here is an important point to consider: I'm very aware that our efforts at Golf Expo have not gained us very many new members in the past couple years. I know we have the best representatives possible talking to the golfers, so I'm sure that isn't the issue. I think the new location will help a lot, but if anyone has any other ideas about how we can strengthen our efforts there, please send me an email and share your ideas. Our presence at Golf Expo is kind of my baby and I want it to continue as a big part of our recruiting program, so share your ideas and let's have great success in 2020.

As always, I want to stress the importance of keeping up with our recruiting efforts. Year after year, Branch 69 has been successful in maintaining and even increasing our membership numbers. I was sorry to note the recent passing of several members and the loss of a couple others. It shows the need to continue our good recruiting work!

If you attended the Ladies Day Holiday luncheon in December, you saw some new ideas added to the event by our incoming Big Sir, Jimmy Buckley. My wife and I thought these new activities—the gift raffle and super prize raffle—added a lot to the event. The decorations and band were top notch, too. I know Jimmy and his wife Velma put in a huge amount of work to make the luncheon a great success. This kind of innovation is just what the branch needs to continue its long history of success.

Tom Page Recruiting & Publicity Director

HOW ARE WE DOING?

10/26/2019

INCOME	ACTUAL	BUDGET	DIFF
Contributions	\$3,629	\$3,700	\$ 71
Other	\$ 20	\$ 0	\$ 20
TOTAL INCOME	\$3,649	\$3,700	\$ 51

EXPENSES			
Printing & Postage	\$ 0	\$ 550	\$ 550
Officers' Expenses	\$ 112	\$ 300	\$ 188
Guest Expenses	\$ 0	\$ 100	\$ 100
State Assessment	\$ 1,221	\$1,000	\$ 221
Other, Golf Expo	\$ 199	\$ 300	\$ 101
Other, Misc.	\$ 2,153	\$1,800	\$ 353
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 3,685	\$4,050	\$ 365

CASH BALANCE AT END OF 2018	\$3,509
CURRENT CASH BALANCE	\$3,489
PROJECTED BALANCE 12/31/2019	\$3,159

PROJECTED 2019 YEAR END MEMBERSHIP	155
PROJECTED CASH BALANCE PER MEMBER	\$ 20

ACTUAL 2019 YEAR END MEMBERSHIP	\$ 151
ACTUAL CASH BALANCE PER MEMBER	\$ 23

Jerry Buhlert, Treasurer



SUNSHINE



Gentlemen: Please keep all of our members who are struggling with health problems in your prayers and if there is anyone you are aware of that might benefit from a card or a call from us, please let me know.

If you know of any of our members or immediate family with health problems give me a call @ (916) 844-9832 (Text is also OK.)

*kindest Regards,
Bill Nichols, Sunshine Chairman*

2020 Officers		
BIG SIR:	JIM BUCKLEY	(916) 284-2364
LITTLE SIR:	PAUL SICKERT	(916) 396-6230
SEC:	JIM HUFFMAN	(916) 468-8197
ASST SEC:	TOM KNOBLE	(913) 627-9922
TREAS:	HAL COPPERBERG	(916) 722-2606
ASST TREAS	ALAN WEINEL	(209) 843-1804
Directors		
PBS PAT QUINN	(916) 201-5262	STEVE BRANDENBURGER (916) 765-0585
STEVE GOODMAN	(916) 521-6546	JOHN POPADAK (916) 662-0695
ERNIE BERRYMAN	(916) 723-2148	BUD ROGERS (916) 991-2611
State Officers		
STATE PRES:		ED BENSON
REG. 1 DIRECTOR:		MARK STUART
AREA 4 GOV:		DAVE GONZALES
Recruitment, Activities, Member Relations & Publicity (RAMP)		
RECRUITING/PUBLICITY/BIO	PBS TOM PAGE	(916) 488-6465
ACTIVITIES	PBS JERRY SCHROEDER	(916) 801-2530
MEMBERSHIP	JOHN POPADAK	(916) 662-0695
Committee Chairs		Honored Members
Programs	Paul Sickert (916) 396-6230	HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS PBS RON HUTCHESON PBS TOM PAGE PBS JIM PORTERFIELD PRD WARREN SENEGAL PBS LENNIE SILVA
Newsletter	TBD	
Chaplain	Bill Nichols (916) 844-9382	
Roster	Alan Weinel (209) 843-1804	
Golf (BR69/RC)	PBS Lennie Silva (916) 487-9812	
Golf (PGC)	Greg Schweitzer (916) 687-8629	
Bowling	PBS Tom Page (916) 488-6465	
Audit	Don Neufeld (916) 863-5228	
Nominating	PBS Pat Quinn (916) 201-5262	
Attendance	Ernie Berryman (916) 723-2148	
Orientation	Steve Goodman (916) 521-6546	
Branch Apparel	Mike Ratzlaff (916) 768-6348	
Meeting Review	John Popadak (916) 662-0695	
Sunshine	Bill Nichols (916) 844-9382	
Lunch Reception	Ron Bacher (916) 422-5583	
Web Site	Ross Martin (916) 427-0559	
Book Club	Bernie Moreno (209) 245-6313	
RV	Bob Houghton (916) 487-1190	
NCGA Ambassador	Jim Huffman (916) 468-8197	
RAMP	PBS Jerry Schroeder (916) 801-2530	
		SENIOR CERTIFICATES SIR JIM PAGE



TREASURER'S REPORT – DECEMBER 2019

Cash Balance 1/1/2019= \$3,509

	DECEMBER	YTD
Beginning Cash Balance	\$6,410	N/A
Contributions	\$ -0-	\$3,649
Expenses	\$ 834	\$3,685
Ending Cash Balance	\$3,489	N/A

MEMBERSHIP

Membership, Gain/Loss	+0/-0	151
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NON-RESPONSIBILITY DECLARATION: All activities arranged for or by, or sponsored by, Sons In Retirement, Incorporated, and its Branches, are for the convenience and pleasure of the members and their guests who desire to participate. Sons In Retirement, Incorporated, and its Branches do not assume any responsibility for the well-being or safety of the participants or their property, in any matters pertaining to said activities (Rule 345).

Checks, money orders or credit cards for Travel for one day or less (no overnight), where a bus/busses is/are used as the primary means of transportation, may be made payable to the Branch sponsoring the event. All other checks, money orders or credit cards for travel must be made payable to the travel agency. (Rule 420 & 421).

Members are obligated to attend all regular luncheon meetings unless prevented by illness or absence from the Branch locale. (Rule 60). **REQUIRED ATTENDANCE** – A member who misses three (3) consecutive luncheon meetings without having been excused by contacting the designated Branch Attendance person prior to the meeting date, and giving a valid reason, or did not attend one half of the regular luncheon meetings within the previous