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Marty becomes an altar boy



By **MARTY RELLES**
 Arden-Carmichael News columnist
marty@valcomnews.com

During my first week of school in sixth grade at St. Mary's School, the pastor of the church came to speak to the boys in our class. He told us that the church desperately needed new altar boys to assist in the service of daily Mass. Because I was a very devout Catholic at that time, I gladly volunteered to take on this responsibility. Several of my classmates also volunteered.

Within weeks, we all began attending altar boy training sessions. One of the parish priests conducted the lessons which basically delineated the responsibilities of being an altar boy:

1. Setting up the church for Mass;
2. Assisting the priest in putting on the holy garments;
3. Serving the Mass with the priest; and
4. Tidying up the altar after the mass.

Training lasted several weeks, then the priest in charge of scheduling gradually included the new altar boys into the weekly schedule of Mass services.

St. Mary's Parish had three priests, so the Mass schedule was busy. Church policy required that each priest serve at least one Mass daily. Consequently, St. Mary's schedule included Masses at 6 a.m., 7 a.m. and 8 a.m. daily and six Masses on Sunday. That meant that each altar boy served about three Masses per week, plus extra duty serving at funerals and weddings. The boys quickly adjusted to the routine of weekly services.

As an altar boy, I learned a lot about the Catholic Church and the responsibilities of service to it. I recall two important experiences during my tenure as an altar boy which I

have not easily forgotten and which to some extent have shaped my view of life.

First, about the time I entered seventh grade, the church took on a new employee, a sacristan named Bernard. He was a very devout and serious man who took on the responsibility of maintaining the church and managing the altar boys.

Bernard had high expectations for our group of servers. He expected the boys to approach life and service to the church with the same degree of piety he nurtured.

This did not work out that well with us.

We were adolescent boys with lots of other things on our minds like school, sports and – oh, yes – girls. This led to some tense moments for all of us.

I recall one incident in particular.

I was serving early Mass with my friend Lou Viani. For some reason, we ran late and thus hurried to complete the service on time. At some point in the Mass, Bernard, who was assisting us, stumbled and dropped one of the cruets (containers for the wine and water).

When I saw that, I giggled, causing Bernard to shoot a dirty look back at me. Then, after the Mass, he stormed in to the dressing room and berated me for giggling during the service. At one point, he raised his hand, as if to hit me.

Lou stepped forward, pointed his finger at the sacristan and said, "If you do that, I will tell the priest, then you'll be in big trouble."

This caused Bernard to do an immediate about face, and storm out of the room.

The experience brought tears to my eyes, but otherwise caused no lasting damage. Soon after, Bernard parted ways with St. Mary's church. I think that both he and the church realized he was not the right man for that job.

Another experience took place during the summer between seventh and eighth grades.

See Janey Way, page 3

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Janey Way: We learned a lot about the priesthood

Continued from page 2

At that time, the priests decided to take all the altar boys on a recruiting trip to their seminary in Santa Cruz.

It proved to be a great trip.

We all gathered on a Friday afternoon and loaded on to the school bus to take a leisurely drive over to the coast. There we spent two days, living with the priest candidates at the seminary. We ate with them and attended Masses and lectures.

We learned a lot about the lives of candidates for the priesthood.

On Sunday morning, our priest took us down to a private beach below the seminary. There, we frolicked in the ocean waters and had a great time.

At one point during the morning, a group of teenage girls came to swim on the public beach across the way from ours. I remember looking over at the girls, then up at the seminary, then over at the girls again.

I decided then and there that the priesthood was not the life for me.

The summer after completing eighth grade at St. Mary's School, I dropped out of the altar boys. I was preparing to attend Christian Brothers High School at the time and I knew that I would not have the time to be an altar boy any more. Being an altar boy had been a good experience, but now it was time to move on.

Now my time as an altar boy at St. Mary's Church is just another thought-provoking Janey Way memory.



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an adult from a particular illness, such as the vaccination for pneumonia.

"Vaccinations are critically important for adults, especially in helping to prevent diseases that can be severe in older patients, such as pneumococcal pneumonia, and influenza," said Gary W. Procop, M.D., FCAP, board-certified pathologist from the Cleveland Clinic. A pathologist is a physician

who examines cells, bodily fluids, and tissues to diagnose disease.

Vaccinations and good health
Adult vaccination needs are determined by age and underlying conditions. Patients with certain chronic illnesses may require adult vaccinations earlier than patients without such conditions. Maintaining an up-to-date status is vital for optimal adult health. The College

of American Pathologists recommends patients discuss their vaccination status with their primary care physician.

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) reviews the recommended Adult Immunization Schedule each year to ensure that it reflects the current recommendations for the licensed vaccines and when healthy adults should receive them.



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Aviation legend Charles A. Lindbergh visited Land Park area more than 80 years ago

By LANCE ARMSTRONG
Arden-Carmichael News writer
lance@valcomnews.com

Many famous people have visited our capital city, from Queen Elizabeth II and several U.S. presidents to Martin Luther King, Jr. and cyclist Lance Armstrong. But few have drawn the type of attention as did the famous aviator Charles A. Lindbergh during his visit to the Land Park area and other parts of the Sacramento area 83 years ago.

After gaining fame by becoming the first person to fly nonstop from New York to Paris, Lindbergh worked with American multimillionaire Harry Guggenheim to arrange for a three-month tour in which Lindbergh would promote aviation by flying to every state in the Union.

Lindbergh began the tour, which was funded by Harry and his father Daniel Guggenheim, at Mitchel Field in Long Island, N.Y. on July 20, 1927.

Flying his Spirit of St. Louis, the same custom-built, single-engine, single-seat monoplane that he had piloted to Paris, Lindbergh flew to 92 cities.

And being that Mather Field had been constructed 12 miles southeast of

downtown Sacramento nearly a decade earlier, a suitable, local landing area was available, so that Lindbergh could schedule one of his stops in Sacramento.

Leading up to the time of Lindbergh's visit to Sacramento, the pages of the local daily newspapers made it no secret that Lindbergh would be visiting the capital city.

One of the earliest of these articles appeared in the July 9, 1927 edition of *The Sacramento Bee*.

The article noted that although no specific date had been set for Lindbergh's visit to Sacramento, Arthur S. Dudley, secretary-manager of the Sacramento Chamber of Commerce, had requested that the famous aviator arrive during the California State Fair, which would be held on Sept. 3-10, 1927.

Dudley stressed that with such timing, thousands of Californians who would otherwise not have the opportunity to see Lindbergh would be present in the city to do so.

By July 15, 1927, *The Bee* announced that Harry Guggenheim had set the date of Sept. 17, 1927 for Lindbergh's visit to Sacramento.

Less than a month prior to Lindbergh's arrival, it was decided that the famous aviator would make a visit to the Land Park area.

This decision occurred due to a motion to relocate a reception in honor of Lindbergh from the state fairgrounds on Stockton Boulevard to Moreing Field at the southeast corner of Riverside Boulevard and Y Street (present day Broadway).

The change was made in order to provide a superior facility and a venue that was closer to the main business district.

Many more articles previewed Lindbergh's Sacramento arrival, which would draw the largest crowd in the history of the city.

Advertisers also partook in opportunities to welcome Lindbergh to the capital city, while also promoting their merchandise.

Breuner's furniture store at 6th and K streets, for instance, not only advertised that one could purchase a five-piece dining room set for \$59.50, but also expressed "a mighty welcome to 'WE' (a reference to Lindbergh and

his famous plane, the 'Spirit of St. Louis')."

The Hub department store at 8th and J streets ran an advertisement titled, "Lindbergh Day." And on this special day, Sept. 17, 1927, a free toy airplane that would "really fly" was given away with each boys' suit purchased at the store, which sold such suits for as low as \$9.85.

When the day finally arrived when Lindbergh would make his appearance in the capital city, *The Sacramento Union* exclaimed, "Welcome Lindbergh!" in bold letters across its front page, and noted that "all of Sacramento has declared a virtual holiday and thousands of people are flocking here from central and northern California counties."

At noon, just two hours prior to the arrival of "Lindy" – or "Lucky Lindy," as he was endearingly nicknamed – Moreing Field was opened to the public and a caravan of automobiles carrying state, county and city officials and oth-



Photo courtesy, Library of Congress
Colonel Charles A. Lindbergh promoted the new field of aviation by making a three-month tour of the nation in 1927. He entertained Sacramentans with aerial acrobatics upon his arrival.

ers left City Hall to witness Lindbergh's landing.

At 1:30 p.m., a plane carrying Donald Keyhoe, business manager of the Guggenheim tour, and pilot Philip R. Love landed at Mather Field.

At this point, the anxious crowd became much more

See Legend, page 9

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Carmichael couple is longtime Camellia Show participant, supporter

By LANCE ARMSTRONG
Arden-Carmichael News writer
lance@valcomnews.com

Recognized as a camellia capital by camellia enthusiasts throughout the globe, Sacramento has been home to the Camellia Show for 87 years. And for about 40 of these years, Carmichael residents Don and Joan Lesmeister have been participating in this event.

As the last remnant of the defunct Camellia Festival, which was held every March from 1955 to 1993, the Camellia Show – which is the largest camellia show in the world – continues to build upon its tradition of showcasing the city's official flower.

But contrary to what many locals believe, the Camellia Show, as is indicative by the aforementioned fact that it is in its 87th year, actually predates the Camellia Festival.

The Camellia Show, which features judged ca-

mellia competitions, camellia displays, a camellia plant sale, a camellia photography contest and other camellia-related attractions, was first held at David Lubin School at 3700 K Street in 1924.

The Tuesday Club, a local women's organization, sponsored the first three years of the show, followed by the Sacramento Garden Club and then the Camellia Society of Sacramento, which was formed through the efforts of the garden club's Planting Committee in 1943.

Dedicated to keeping the tradition of Sacramento's Camellia Show alive, Don and Joan participate in this local show and seven other Northern California camellias shows every year, attend society meetings and encourage others to participate in the capital city's camellia show.

As a man who cares for about 225 camellia plants in the backyard of his Carmichael home, Don chuck-



Arden-Carmichael News photo, Lance Armstrong

Don and Joan Lesmeister have been participating in Sacramento's Camellia Show for about the past 40 years.

les when thinking back on his days when he first fell in love with camellias.

Don, who has resided in Carmichael with Joan since 1965, explained that prior to becoming one of the Sacramento area's premier residential camellia growers, he never looked at himself as the type of man who would ever develop any kind of deep interest in flowers.

"I worked in an office with a guy – his name was Neely Downing – and he had been growing camellias for years and he would show camellias at the Sacramento show," Don said. "He would talk about it and I would think, 'What the heck kind of hobby is this?' I played baseball and deer hunted and I did the macho things. I thought,

'Flowers? That's not my style.'

But little did Don know that he would eventually become one the area's most enthusiastic local camellia growers.

This change in direction in Don's feelings about camellias was developed through an unusual experience.

Don explained that this experience occurred due to his previous lack of knowledge about camellias.

"We had some (camellias) in the backyard and they had these knobs on them and I thought they were sick or something," Don said. "They had been like that for months, so I dug them up, threw them out on the lawn and a neighbor (Lou Chaney) came and asked, 'What are

you doing?' I said, 'I'm getting rid of these plants, because they're sick or something. They've got these knobs on them.' He said, 'Can I have them?' I said, 'Yeah,' and a few months later, he had them on his front porch and they were in bloom. I said, 'Oh, those are nice. Where did you get those?' He said, 'Well, those are the ones you threw away.' I didn't know that camellias have buds in the summer and it takes them until this time of year to start blooming."

Intrigued by the experience, Don purchased a few camellia plants from local nurseries.

And at Neely's insistence, Don brought several of his camellia blooms to Sac-

See Camelia, page 7

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Camelia: 87th annual camellia show to be held at Memorial Auditorium March 5-6

Continued from page 6

ramento's Camellia Show and had one of them reach the head judging table.

As a man who enjoys fishing, Don said that having his flower reach the head table and eventually winning a blue ribbon at the same show was like having himself reeled in – not to a boat or shore, but to the Camellia Show.

Don began purchasing more camellia plants, attending various camellia shows in other cities and becoming a student of the flower.

One of his earliest endeavors was to study a nomenclature book with information regarding about 3,000 camellias.

As Don became a regular at Sacramento's Camellia Show and other Northern California camellia shows, Joan was continuously by his side assisting him at each show.

Don and Joan are far from strangers at camellia shows today, as the Lesmeister's flowers win Best of Show prizes on a regular basis.

In addition to winning his first Best of Show trophy at the Sacramento show 39 years ago, Don, who is a former Camellia Society of Sacramento president, has carried home about 50 Best of Show trophies.

While winning at least one Best of Show trophy per year, Don has also won more than 1,000 trophies.



Arden-Carmichael News photo, Lance Armstrong
The Something Beautiful japonica camellia will be among the blooms shown at the 87th Camellia Show in Sacramento.

Despite generally shying away from speaking about his accomplishments, Don admits that he and Joan have become the "best 'show-ers' around."

In 2009, the Lesmeisters' camellias won Best of Show in seven of the eight shows they competed in and last year, the couple's flowers won 76 trophies.

Joan said that Don's accomplishments with camellias are a testament to his dedication to growing and maintaining high quality camellias.

"Don is out there (in his backyard) working on his camellias almost every sin-

gle day, year-in and year-out," Joan said. "If he's not outside, he's thinking about it or working on the computer or looking stuff up or he's got all these notes. When he first started, he read every single journal I think there was, everything on camellias that he could get his hands on. So, he's bound to learn something."

In agreeing with his wife, Don added, "You get out, what you put into it."

Don added, however, that although he still wants to have the best flowers, he feels somewhat guilty about winning so many trophies,



Arden-Carmichael News photo, Lance Armstrong
Don Lesmeister prepares blooms for a recent camellia show.

noting that he would like to see many other locals win in order to help increase the membership of the Camellia Society of Sacramento, which is the state's largest camellia society.

With his love for Sacramento's Camellia Show, Don said that he hopes to see many familiar and new faces at this year's Camellia Show.

The Camellia Show will be open to the public at the Memorial Auditorium on

March 5 from 3 to 6 p.m. and on March 6 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is free.

For additional information about this event, call (916) 967-8420 or visit the Web site www.camelliasocietyofsacramento.org.

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Legend: Lindy's memorable visit to capital city was a much anticipated event

Continued from page 5

anxious, as it awaited the arrival of the famous pilot.

The Bee described the excitement of the event, as the paper reported that thousands of spectators began shouting for "Lindy" after his plane became visible and was approaching the field.

According to *The Union*, three women were knocked down in a "break of the crowd."

Prior to landing, Lindbergh surprised the crowd by flying over it at about 100 miles per hour.

Lindbergh then put on a brief air show as he circled the field and performed various turns and swoops.

After landing at 2:10 p.m., Lindbergh stepped out of his plane four minutes later, greeted the roaring crowd, shook the hands of several people, including Governor Clement C. Young and Sacramento Mayor Alfred E. Goddard, and soon headed to Sacramento in the lead car of a parade.

The parade made its way to 23rd and J streets and then continued through the business district to Moreing Field, where Lindbergh spoke to about 10,000 people.

The Union reported that few people heard Lindbergh's speech, because he was so tall that his voice barely reached the microphone.

But *The Union* added that it was evident that the crowd was nonetheless excited by its opportunity to see their "hero of the age."

During the reception, which began at about 3:30 p.m., Young and Goddard gave short addresses and Lindbergh was presented with a gold trowel on behalf of organized labor and a watch fob having a white gold airplane and a locket of Sacramento County gold from the city.

During the afternoon and throughout the following day, Lindbergh's plane, the Spirit of St. Louis, was on display to the public at Mather Field.

On the evening of Lindbergh's arrival, a banquet was held in his honor in the Florentine Room at the Hotel Senator on L Street, between 11th and 12th streets, just north of the state Capitol.

Despite a previous announcement to the public that Lindbergh would spend his second day in Sacramento resting within the walls of his room at the Hotel Senator, many people in Sacramento were reported to have been disappointed that they could not see Lindbergh during this time.

But nonetheless, Lindbergh's Sacramento visit, which was witnessed by about 200,000 people, was one for the record books.

After creating much excitement in the capital city, Lind-



Arden-Carmichael News photo, Lance Armstrong
Although it was already far from a secret that Charles A. Lindbergh would be arriving in Sacramento on Sept. 17, 1927, *The Sacramento Union* printed a strong reminder on its front page, as it welcomed the famous aviator to the capital city

bergh was met by a crowd of about 2,500 people at Mather Field on the morning of Sept. 19, 1927.

Taking off from the field in his famous plane, Lindbergh was later seen

flying over the dome of the Capitol en route to Reno.

Lindbergh successfully completed the Guggenheim tour at Mitchel Field on Oct. 23, 1927.

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1935's House of Hope: Sacramento built 'Lucky Manor' to save the local economy

By SUSAN LAIRD
Arden-Carmichael News editor
susan@valcomnews.com

Sacramento is known for its beautiful, tree-lined neighborhoods, filled with homes featuring the unique architecture of the eras in which they were built – as well as the personalities of the owners who built them.

One home, however, represented the hopes of the entire community for an economic resurgence. It was built for one purpose, and one purpose only: to save the economy of Sacramento during the bottom of the Great Depression.

Nationally, the real estate market had collapsed. The banking crisis of the early 1930s had forced all banks to retrieve due mortgages – forcing home foreclosures. Refinancing was not available. Real estate values tanked as people lost their homes. Few home loans were issued during this time, and few new homes were purchased.

The National Housing Act of 1934 sought to reverse all this. Uncle Sam was going to sweep away “that old barrier of money worry” by offering Americans the first Federal Housing Administration (FHA) home loans. These loans could be used to build or purchase a new home, or to make improvements to an existing home.

Sacramento immediately organized the Modernize Sacramento Com-

mittee, chaired by Allyn L. Burr. The board of directors included community leaders of the day, including Clarence H. Breuner. The committee had representatives of the city, county and state governments, as well as leaders in the retail and building fields.

Together, they built four demonstration houses to educate Sacramento area residents about the programs available through the FHA. The most famous of these was “Lucky Manor,” located at 1701 11th Avenue in the College Tract of Land Park, in 1935.

First home of kind

Lucky Manor was significant because it was the first home in the United States to be completed to stimulate interest in the federal government's long-term home financing program. Built by the leading builders of the day, the retail value of the home was \$12,000 – a value of \$177,000 in today's dollars. Leading local retailers, including Breuner's, Weinstock-Lubin & Co., Vogt Electric and others, furnished the home with examples of how “home happiness” could be achieved with modern furnishings and appliances.

It was the first “model house” ever. *The Sacramento Bee* devoted virtually the entire front section of the May



Photo courtesy, Janet Gatejen

Lucky Manor, seen here in 1935, made national history as the first demonstration home built under the National Housing Act of 1934. Built by the Modernize Sacramento Committee, the home was viewed as an important catalyst to re-boot the flailing Sacramento economy at the bottom of the Great Depression.

23, 1935 edition to the opening of the home to the public the next day.

Tickets to view the home were sold six weeks in advance, for 35 cents a ticket or 12 tickets for \$3.50.

Home of hope

And the most amazing thing of all was that this home would be raffled off to one lucky winner. The public went wild to see the home and have a chance at winning large.

“Once upon a time, you would visit a home like ‘Lucky Manor’ and leave with a sigh of regret...because such comfort seemed so far beyond your reach. You'd wonder: Will we ever be able to enjoy anything half as nice?” stated the 16-page pamphlet each visitor to the home received. “But now! You can drink in every detail of ‘Lucky Manor’ and leave with your HEAD

See *Lucky Manor*, page 11

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Man with dog—Clipart © Microsoft Media

Lucky Manor: Housing Act history was made by campaign in Sacramento

Continued from page 10

IN THE AIR...because that old barrier of money worry has been swept away by Uncle Sam."

English rustic design

Lucky Manor was designed "along the lines of an English country home, with all the rustic beauty of its gabled roof and dormer windows," the Bee said. "Its classic simplicity immediately calls to mind the English manor immortalized in the romances of John Galsworthy and the poet, Shelley."

Visitors to the home could see idealized settings in each room and quality craftsmanship in the architectural details throughout the interior and exterior of the home. The 2,209 square-foot home featured three bedrooms, 1.5 baths, an entrance hall, living room, living room "terrace," dining room, breakfast nook, kitchen, service porch, service basement and a detached two-car garage – a novelty for the day, and considered very modern. The 8,712 square-foot corner lot featured professional landscaping.

A Dutch Colonial double door welcomed visitors to the home. To their left was the living room "the heart of the home," furnished through the courtesy of Weinstock-Lubin & Co. – complete with a grand piano from

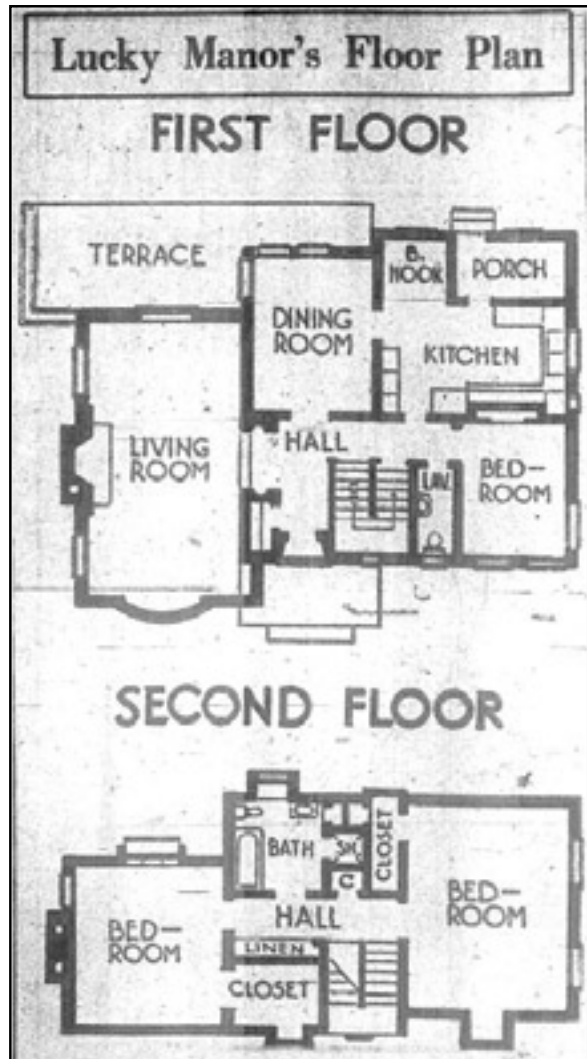


Photo courtesy, California State University Library archives
The layout of Lucky Manor was designed to have a floor plan with good traffic flow, modern conveniences and "home happiness."



Arden-Carmichael News photo, Susan Laird
The original sign welcoming visitors to Lucky Manor in 1935 was recently re-discovered, hidden away in the home's two-car garage.

See Lucky Manor, page 13



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Lola #139377

Breed: Jack Russell Terrier Color: White & Black
Gender: Female Hair: Short
Age: 6 years

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Bella #140154

Breed: DMH Color: White
Gender: Female Hair: Medium
Age: 6 years, 11 months

Bella has lovely white fur and clear green eyes. She is a gentle cat who can be a little shy. It's hard to describe. Come on down and visit with her and see, or more properly hear, for yourself.

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Ralphie #141140

Breed: Chihuahua Color: Black & White
Gender: Male Hair: Short
Age: 1 year, 6 months

Ralphie is a bit timid at first, but he warms up quickly. He is an affectionate little guy who likes to hang out in your lap to be pet. He loves to be carried, but he also likes to go for walks, and he walks well on a leash.

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Sheila #143085

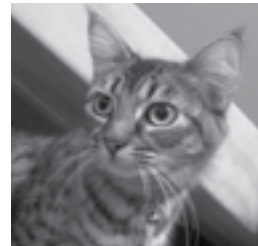
Breed: DSH Color: Grey
Gender: Female Hair: Short
Age: 1 year, 6 months

Sheila is a beautiful girl who enjoy sbeing petted and hanging out with people. She is also quite the explorer and will check out every cubby and corner when she is in a new place. Sheila enjoys playing with string toys and can be a feisty girl on occasion.

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Beauty #138316

Breed: DMH Color: Brown Tabby
Gender: Female Hair: Medium
Age: 1 year

Beauty is a well named cat. She is a little shy, more so in new situations and places and not so much around people. Once she has explored her surroundings and feels comfortable, she turns on the charm. She even rolls on her back and begs for cuddles!

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Ziggy #140706

Breed: Dachshund Color: Yellow
Gender: Male Hair: Medium
Age: 8 years

Ziggy Stardust is affectionate and attentive with people. He is outgoing and fun. He is a mellow walking partner, and he walks well on a leash. Ziggy Stardust is best suited for a somewhat active home.

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Ian #142749

Breed: Labrador Retriever Color: Yellow
Gender: Male Hair: Medium
Age: 8 years

Ian loves to be outdoors. He is outgoing, energetic, and confident. He is affectionate and attentive towards people. He enjoys going for walks, and he has a great wiggle as he wags his tail while he walks.

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Aslan #140181

Breed: Maine Coon Cat Color: Brown Tabby
Gender: Male Hair: Long
Age: 3 years, 6 months

Aslan is a lovely cat. He is curious about his surroundings but is also calm and laid back. He loves to be petted and scratched. Aslan is not a small cat but he is on the small side for a Maine Coon.

* For additional information on adoptions, call the SPCA at 383-7387. Adoptions occur daily and it is not guaranteed the above featured animals are still available. If they are not, the SPCA has many other loving pets available to suit you and your family. The SPCA is located at 6201 Florin-Perkins Road.

Lucky Manor: Home won by widow who had seen much misfortune

Continued from page 11

Breuner's. Visitors learned that – with a housing act loan – they could add to their own homes: a fireplace and chimney for \$4/month, a built-in mantle for \$3/month and hardwood floors for \$3/month. All these loans would be paid off in just three years.

The kitchen featured a brand-new 1935 Super-seven Frigidaire electric refrigerator and a Spark cabinet gas range, a double basket-drainer Crane Co. sink, and hand-crafted cabinetry.

The upstairs bathroom was decked out in red, white, black and chrome. The built-in recessed shower was considered a novel note, with its glass door with chrome details.

The bedrooms were large, and closet space was ample.

“One of the most desirable features of any home is incorporated in this master bedroom of Lucky Manor,” the Bee said. “There is an abundance of space in the wardrobe closet with recessed shoe racks and hanging rods and shelves, making it easy to keep everything in order.”

The landscaping of Lucky Manor was designed to last by East Lawn Nursery. In fact, many of the seasonal shrubs and evergreens continue to grow, bloom and thrive at the home.

Lucky winner

Thousands of tickets to view Lucky Manor were sold – some 25,000 by opening day, in fact. On June 29, 1935, one very lucky ticket was drawn – to the astonishment of the winner, Mrs. Lucy D. Griffey, 64. Mrs. Griffey was a widow of some 43 years, whose husband was killed in a Southern Pacific Railroad accident in 1892, leaving her to raise an infant son (who died in 1923) and later a nephew and two nieces, on her own. She made her living as a dressmaker until her eyesight failed, and lived in the home she built at 2920 ½ G Street with her nieces, Mrs. Allemand and Mrs. Reilly.

Winning the Lucky Manor meant new opportunities for the widow who had experienced such misfortune in her life.

“I was so excited when they told me I had been awarded the house I couldn't dress myself,” she told the Bee with a laugh. “They sent a taxi for me as soon as they told me about

it, so I could go out to Lucky Manor. But the taxi finally had to go on – it was an hour before I could get myself ready.”

Mrs. Griffey planned to remain in her home, and contemplated selling Lucky Manor so she could retire.

“I guess I'll stay right here,” she said. “I might travel just a little and not far from home.

My life is here. But I'm not going to work.”

Lucky Manor has stood the test of time well. “Quality will show out,” as the old saying goes. The original architectural features of the home are still there, and the home continues to have a cheerful, “new” feeling to it – this after over 75 years and

thousands of visitors, quite literally.

On the March market

Those interested in viewing this historic home will have a unique opportunity, when Lucky Manor goes on the market in early March. Yes, it is offered for sale to that special individual or family that will

appreciate it for its quality construction, good schools and convenient nearby parks (it is just a few blocks from Sacramento's historic William Land Park). The asking price is \$649,000.

Interested parties may contact Janet Gatejen at (916) 420-8418, janet@urbanhoundproperties.com or visit www.luckymanor.com.



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Area schools hold open forums to explain budget cuts

By ELIZABETH VALENTE
Arden-Carmichael News writer
elizabeth@valcomnews.com

With the state facing a \$25.4 billion deficit over the next 17 months, schools across the State are looking at ways to cut back. Everyone is scrambling to make staffing decisions by the March 15 deadline for preliminary layoff notices. Final layoff notices will come out two months later on May 15.

Sac City Unified and San Juan Unified school districts

have launched weeks of budget discussions focused on options familiar to public agencies around the county. The goal is to increase community awareness of 2011-12 budget issues and engage the public in this difficult process. The two unified school districts are contemplating two different budget scenarios for the 2011-12 school year; one if voters agree to extend temporary state tax increases and the other if they don't.

The difference is dramatic.

Sacramento City Unified School District:

If the tax increase is pushed through, Sac. City Unified School District (SCUSD) is looking to cut only \$9.05 million from its budget gap. If the proposed tax increase extensions does not pass, the school district is looking to cut \$22.3 million.

"In these uncertain times, it becomes critically important that we work hard to educate our community about budget challenges and listen to their suggestions and concerns," explained SCUSD Superintendent Jonathan Raymond. "The better informed our community is, the better they can work with us to find innovative and resourceful ways we can do more to accelerate student learning with less state funding."

According to the SCUSD website, the proposed cuts are:

- Reduce adult education
- Reduce staff pay
- Eliminate busing
- Reduce counselors
- Increase seventh- and eighth-grade class sizes from 31 to 35, increase class sizes to 40 in ninth grade, 36 in seventh and eighth grades, and 34 in fourth through sixth grade

Given that reality, school officials are hoping their worst-case scenario doesn't get even worse. "These are horrible, horrible decisions we are proposing and the only thing worse than to make these decisions at

all is trying to make them in a vacuum," said Gabe Ross, Chief Communications Officer Sacramento City Unified School District. "If it plans on being better than we thought then we can scale back."

According to Ross, in the last nine years, the district has cut \$177 million in expenditures – a 35 percent reduction. Even if voters pass tax extensions in a special election, it is projected that more cuts will be needed to balance SCUSD's budget for next year, due to the lingering recession and enrollment declines in some areas.

San Juan Unified School District:

San Juan Unified School District (SJUSD) is working to reduce expenditures by at least \$36.7 million. If the Governor's budget fails or voters do not approve the extension of temporary taxes, the total amount of needed reductions grows to \$49.6 million. On Feb 8, the Board discussed reductions for schools through staffing allocations as well as reductions at the central office. The staffing allocations return to the Board on March 8 for action.

There are more than 40,000 SJUSD students that will be affected by the cuts. "Our number one position is to teach kids and therefore the core work should be protected in the classrooms," said Tom Alves, Executive Director of the San Juan Teachers Association. "They keep cutting much more deeply in the classrooms than the administration

and central office. We've always said it needs to start there."

Despite an early rejection from the SJUSD, Alves is still pushing for a retirement incentive that addresses managing the exodus of teachers in a financial and fiscal way. "If we let go of the bottom 200 teachers that make an average \$40,000 a year instead of the top 200 teachers that average \$75,000, that's a big difference."

According to the SJUSD website, if there are no tax extensions some of the possible impacts would be:

- Reduce staff allocations as well as reductions at the central office
- Eliminate adult education
- Offer bus transportation only to special education students
- Increase K-3 class sizes
- Eliminate 357 teacher, vice principal, counselor and district-level administrator positions

More than 49 of those positions are central office staff, including media techs, Regional Occupation Program (RoP) coordinators, and even high school counselors.

"There's between two and four fulltime positions allocated for counselors in high school," explains Trent Allen, San Juan Unified School District spokesman. "For the next academic year the Board is considering one full time counselor for schools with one-thousand or fewer students. For the schools between one to two thousand students we'd have three full time counselors."

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Mysteries revealed at 'Secrets of Sutter Street'

By **SUSAN LAIRD**
Arden-Carmichael News editor
susan@valcomnews.com

California's gold country has an attraction that is all its own. Part fact, part fiction, part "je ne sais quoi," Folsom's Historic District has a history that dates back to the Gold Rush era and even further back into antiquity when one considers the Maidu people who lived there first, thousands of years ago.

As a writer and news editor for "Folsom Life" newspaper many years ago, I had the unique privilege of learning many of Folsom's secrets. Literally, where some of the bodies are – or were – buried. Years before the restoration on Sutter Street, I got to visit the tunnels and other secret places of Folsom.

Most are off limits to the public – and with good reason. These places are seriously dangerous. And if you are fearful of spiders, snakes, close places, subterranean water, ghosts or simply bumping your head...well, you get the picture.

Recent restoration work on Sutter Street revealed the existence of one of Folsom's subterranean tunnels to the public, as well as other artifacts of

the city's pioneering inhabitants.

On Feb. 19, the Folsom History Museum will share much of this history, when it unveils "Sutter Street Secrets."

"What did they find under Folsom's Sutter Street? What secrets were revealed? Come to this wonderful new exhibit at the Folsom History Museum and find out," said Melissa Pedroza, spokeswoman for the Folsom History Museum. "Last year, the City of Folsom began the Sutter Street Revitalization Project. The project had two purposes: the practical – to replace the crumbling 100 year old water/sewer infrastructure; and the cosmetic – to pretty up the street and make it more appealing."

According to Pedroza, the exhibit will display many of the artifacts uncovered during the restoration, including bottles, coins, horse shoes and tools found during the digging.

"The Museum will also play a video of the tunnel discovered under Sutter Street," Pedroza said. "This will be the closest most of us will ever get to seeing the tunnel. It's not something to be missed."

Also included in the exhibit is a description

of the whole restoration process (sans the many, many Historic District Restoration committee meetings that were held at Landmark Baptist Church). From the removal of the dying magnolia trees (plopped right on top of the pavement of old Highway 50) to the planting of over 100 trees along new sidewalks that incorporate Folsom's history, visitors will have an opportunity to see how much work went into this project.

"The exhibit features hundreds of photos taken during the actual process of the day and night construction," Pedroza said. "Big trucks, backhoes, and cranes and building facades tumbling down and being built back up."

"Sutter Street Secrets" opens Feb. 19 and runs through March 20. The Folsom History Museum is located at 828 Sutter Street in Old Town Folsom. Museum hours are Tuesday through Sunday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is \$4 for adults, \$2 for youth and free for kids under the age of 12. Folsom Historical Society Members receive free admission. Call (916) 985-2707 or visit www.folsomhistorymuseum.org for more information.



Photo courtesy

This tunnel beneath Folsom's famous Sutter Street is the source of many tales of yore, including stories of smuggled alcohol during the Prohibition Era of the early 20th century. Video footage of the tunnel will be on display at the Folsom History Museum's "Secrets of Sutter Street," Feb. 19 to March 20.

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FEBRUARY

Tai Chi

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'The Vase and Beyond'

Daily, through April 10: "The Vase and Beyond: The Sidney Swidler Collection of the Contemporary Vessel." Comprised of some 800 vessels by 300 artists, this collection showcases the wide-ranging, innovative practice of contemporary ceramic artists with a gorgeous array of forms, techniques and glazes. Crocker Art Museum, 216 O St., Sac. (916) 808-7000, www.crockerartmuseum.org

'Inferno of the Innocents'

Daily, through April 24: Like a modern-day Goya, Gottfried Helnwein's monumental paintings and photographs address

themes of inhumanity, violence, and the virtue of personal expression. With stark and probing psychological intensity, he critiques not only the past, but present-day veneers, jolting us from the comfort of complacency.

Big Band Dance

Feb. 24, March 1, 4, 8, 11, 15, 18, 22, 25, 29: Dance to the rhythms of the Big Band era. Every Tues. & Fri. \$5 admission. 1:15 p.m.-3:45 p.m. Mission Oaks Community Center, 4701 Gibbons Dr., Carmichael. (916) 972-0336

Food Addicts Anonymous

Feb. 24, March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31: 12-Step group for those who struggle with obesity, food obsession or eating disorders. Meets Thursdays. 9 a.m. St. Andrews United Methodist Church, 6201 Spruce Ave., Sac. (800) 600-6028.

Lecture: The Africanist Aesthetic in Performing & Visual Arts

Feb. 24: From the aesthetics of African textiles to the styles of U.S. hip-hop, UC Davis assoc. prof. Osumare will demonstrate a connection between traditional and con-

temporary cultures as explored in her book "The Africanist Aesthetic in Global Hip-Hop: Power Moves." 6 p.m. Free with Museum admission. Crocker Art Museum, 216 O St., Sac. (916) 808-7000, www.crockerartmuseum.org

Living Positive with Chronic

Disease group

Feb. 24, March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31: Meet-up group for people living with chronic disease who honor how important a positive mindset is. If you want to complain - this isn't the group for you. The group will discuss and support: best practices for managing your condition, communication strategies, ways to laugh, have fun, engage with life and more. Free. Meets Thursdays. 5:30 p.m. - 7 p.m. Starbucks, 1401 Alhambra Blvd., Sac. Danae Horn (503) 319-4247

Rotary Club of East Sacramento

Feb. 24, March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31: Hear guest speakers address local, regional and international topics. Visitors welcome. 12:15 p.m.-1:15 p.m., every Thurs. Salvation Army Dining Hall, 2550 Alhambra Blvd., Sac. www.rotary.org

Rotary Club of Pocket/Greenhaven

Feb. 24, March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31: Hear guest speakers address local, regional and international topics. Visitors welcome. 7:30 a.m., every Thurs. Aviators Restaurant, 6151 Freepoint Blvd., Sac. Kelly Byam (916) 684-6854.

Sutterville Heights Optimist Club

Feb. 24, March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31: Come enjoy community speakers and community projects for youth. 12 noon., every Thurs. Aviators Restaurant, 6151 Freepoint Blvd., Sac. Cliff (916) 427-2698 or Mary-Jo at (916) 691-3059

Toastmasters

Feb. 24, March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31: Improve your language skills and lose fear of speaking in front of people with Toastmaster club Los Oradores. Una oportunidad unica para mejorar sus habilidades bilingues y superar el temor de hablar delante de gente con nuestro club Los Oradores de la organizacion de Toastmasters. Thursdays/Jueves, 6:45 p.m. 2118 K St., Sac. Teri Bullington (916) 723-6232, teri.bullington@gmail.com, www.sacramentotoastmasters.com

Kiwanis Club of East Sacramento-Midtown

Feb. 25, March 4, 11, 18, 25: Come listen to an interesting guest speaker weekly; community service, serving the children of the world. Visitors welcome, first breakfast "on us." 7 a.m. - 8 a.m. Fridays. 2875 50th St., UC Davis Med. Ctr., Sac. (916) 761-2124 www.eastsacmidtownkiwanis.com

Rotary Club of Point West

Feb. 25, March 4, 11, 18, 25: Hear guest speakers address local, regional and international topics. Visitors welcome. 7 a.m., every Fri. Red Lion Inn, 1401 Arden Wy., Sac. www.pointwestrotary.com

Soroptimists of Sacramento

Feb. 25, March 4, 11, 18, 25: Soroptimist International of Sacramento South, a service club for business and professional women, meets Fridays. 11:15 a.m.-12:45 p.m. Casa Garden Restaurant, 2760 Sutterville Rd., Sac. Barbara McDonald, (916) 363-6927

African American authors discussion

Feb. 26, March 5, 12, 19, 26: Spirited and thought-provoking book discussions with an emphasis on African American authors. 10 a.m., Saturdays through May 14. Robbie Waters Pocket-Greenhaven Library, 7335 Gloria Dr., Sac. (916) 264-2920 www.saclibrary.org

Art and War: Exquisite Corpse

Feb. 26: Adults are invited to a free art workshop series. Participants are encouraged to experiment with different media and learn a few things about art history at the same time. 2 p.m., Saturdays, through March 5 at Arden-Dimick Library, 891 Watt Ave., Sac. (916) 264-2920 www.saclibrary.org

Book discussion: Dashiell Hammett

Feb. 26: Join this second of a two-part discussion of the works of mystery writer Dashiell Hammett. 1 p.m. Robbie Waters Pocket-Greenhaven Library, 7335 Gloria Dr., Sac. (916) 264-2920 www.saclibrary.org

Buddy Harpham's Band

Feb. 26: Enjoy the sounds of the Big Band Era every fourth Sunday of the month. 2 p.m. - 5 p.m. Sacramento Elks Lodge No. 6, 6446 Riverside Blvd., Sac. (916) 444-6138

The Discovery of DNA

Feb. 26, 27: Celebrate the 1953 discovery of DNA at the Discovery Museum. There will be demonstrations, displays, and activities. Kids can make a DNA molecule to take home. On Saturday, the Museum is hosting a Junior FFL Expo of LEGO Robotics from 12:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m. Watch these young competitors demonstrate their robotic creations. Chat with Cosmos, our resident spokeseobot. Planetarium shows at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. are included with admission (ages 4 and above only); live animal shows at Noon and 2:00pm are for all ages. In addition: morning and afternoon 12:30 p.m.-4 p.m. \$6 adults, \$5 seniors & teens, \$4 children ages 12-4, free for kids under 4. Discovery Museum Science & Space Center, 3615 Auburn Blvd. Sac. (916) 808-3942

Food Addicts Anonymous

Feb. 26, March 5, 12, 19, 26: 12-Step group for those who struggle with obesity, food obsession or eating disorders. Meets Saturdays. 8 a.m. Mercy General Hospital North Auditorium, 4001 J St., Sac. (800) 600-6028.

Shakesperiment 2011: Fairies & Fools

Feb. 26, 27: The Fairytale Town Troupers present "Shakesperiment 2011: A Midsummer Night's Dream - Fairies & Fools." Tickets \$1/person in addition to park admission. Showtimes noon and 3 p.m. Note: due to city ordinance, adults cannot be admitted to Fairytale Town unless accompanied by a child. Fairytale Town Children's Theater, 3901 Land Park Dr., Sac. (916) 808-8884 www.fairytaletown.org

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CELEBRATING THE CHINESE YEAR OF THE RABBIT

Arden-Carmichael News photos
by DANNY KAM

The Chinese New Year Culture Association (CNYCA) welcomed in the Chinese New Year of the Rabbit on the Sacramento State campus, Feb. 12.

The festivities included the traditional Chinese Lion Dance, cultural dance performances, martial arts, kung fu, Tai Chi, music, Chinese painting and arts, a singing contest, children's games, activities and exhibits.

The Wong Center Resident Council performed Xinjian dancing from the northwestern part of China. The Red Maple Cultural Connection performed a brilliant parasol dance. Performers from NewStar Chinese School dazzled the crowd with a singing and stomping dance. The China Moon Dance Troupe performed "The Charm of Vinegar" dance with vivid colors.

Local dignitaries were on hand, including Assemblyman Dr. Richard Pan from California's 5th District, Roger Dickerson and Vicki Beaton. Insurance Commissioner Dave Jones presented a letter of commendation to Beaton and Mayue Carlson, presidents of the Chinese New Year Culture Association. On behalf of the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors, Supervisor Jimmy Yee presented a resolution recognizing the 14th annual Chinese New Year celebration in Sacramento.

Sacramento Postmaster Al Santos and Rungfong Hsu unveiled a stamp celebrating the Chinese New Year.

According to the Chinese Zodiac, the Year of 2011 is the Year of the Golden Rabbit, which began on Feb. 3 and continues through Jan. 22, 2012. The Rabbit is considered a lucky sign, one which brings a year in which one can catch one's breath and calm one's nerves.



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Rare single family home in Riverwood w/the most private, secluded setting you can imagine! Home has never been on the market & has been loved & cared for by the original owner for 31 years. Hardwood floors, vaulted ceilings, great floor plan & river views from almost every room. See www.88coveredbridgerd.com \$1,195,000
CARMAH HATCH 765-6210



GATED COMMUNITY
Wonderful gated community. Gorgeous large open remodeled kitchen. Private location with views to greenbelt from the living room and den. Two story model with large master suite that features sitting room and marble fireplace. Beautiful private entry that is formally landscaped. Tiled patio and waterfall. See www.324WyndgateRd.com \$650,000
PATTY BAETA 806-7761

WYNDGATE HOME
Beautifully appointed & updated home in gated community. Kitchen redone in 2009. Teak wood & stone flooring. New H/A unit in 2008. Custom closets. Redone stone patios. Pool & Spa resurfaced. 3 Bedrooms and 2 1/2 baths. Many amenities. See www.432WyndgateRd.com \$650,000
PATTY BAETA 806-7761

GARDEN OF THE GODS
Adorable and lovingly maintained Garden of the Gods home! You will love the wood flooring, dual pane windows, updated bathroom, spacious kitchen, ample storage space, and 2-car attached garage. Central heating & air unit new in 2008. Don't miss this one! Short sale was previously approved! 4320 Morpheus Lane \$229,000
ERIN ATTARI 342-1372

GLENBROOK/COLLEGE GREENS
Spacious & open floor plan. Kitchen **PENDING** cabinets & large pantry, updated appliances include Jenn-Air cooktop, microwave, dishwasher & oven. Remodelled bath. Dual pane windows, Trane HVAC & roof new in 2003. New hardwood in entry & hallway. Pool. See www.2801MarmorCt.com \$249,900
LINDA WOOD 802-8042

CAMPUS COMMONS
Popular 4400 model in Campus Commons **PENDING** rooms, 2 and a half baths with fresh paint and brand new carpet. Hardwood floors in kitchen and downstairs den. Fireplaces in both living room and master suite. See www.1105dunbartoncir.isnowforsale.com \$275,000
LEIGH RUTLEDGE 612-6911
BILL HAMBRICK 600-6528

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