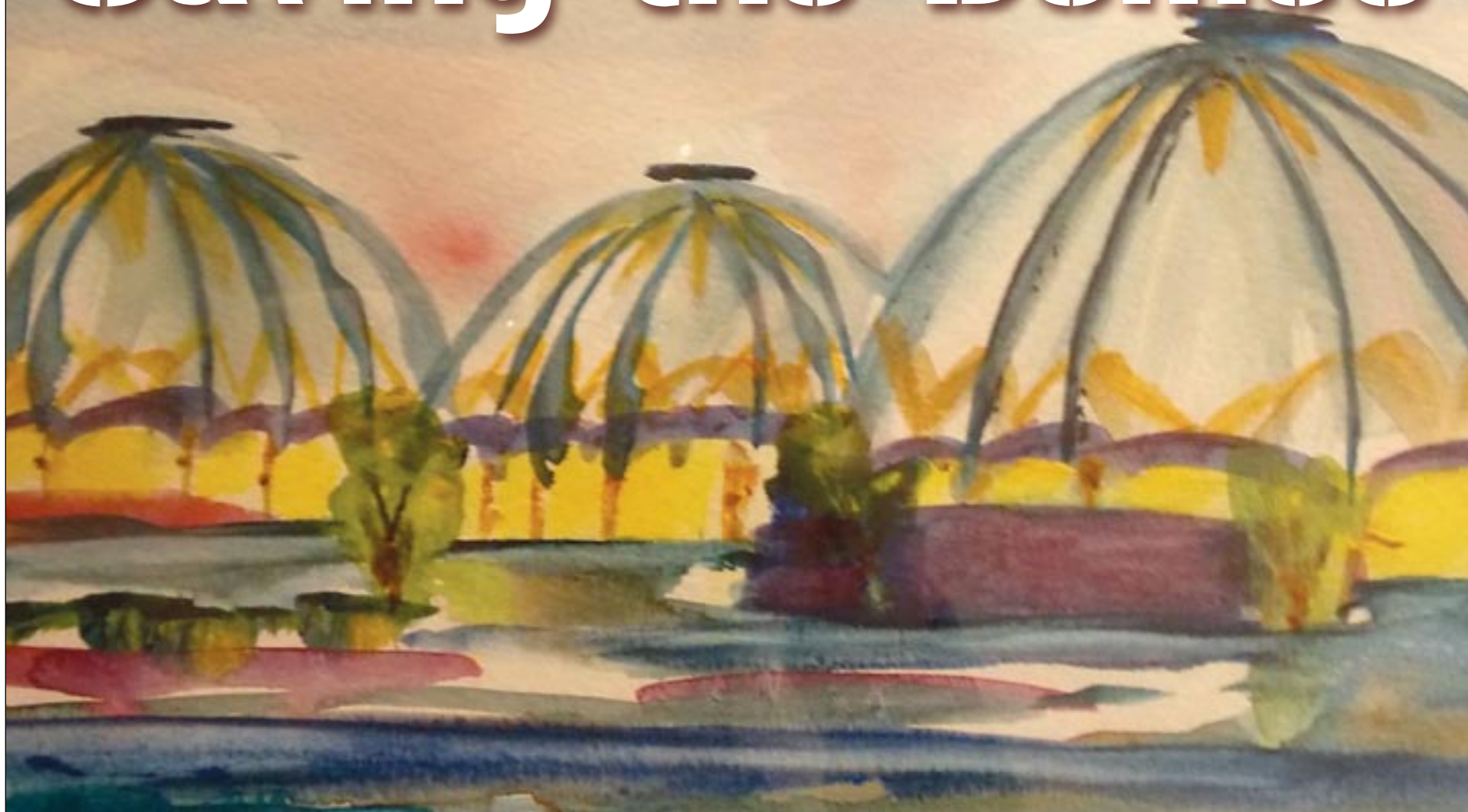


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Saving the Domes



Locals form grassroots movement to save the Ethan Way theaters

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Arden area, other places share unique shopping center connections

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The Sacramento Taco Festival celebrated Mexican culture and paid tribute to the delicious taco

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Saving the domes

Sacramentans band together in a grassroots effort to save the iconic mid-century modern Ethan Way theaters

By MONICA STARK
editor@valcomnews.com

Outraged and saddened that one of the dome theaters at Sacramento's Century Stadium 14 got the wrecking ball, Sacramentans are flocking to the Internet to share memories of the beloved dome theaters in effort to preserve the remaining domes. Gabby Magana from Elk Grove writes: "I agree that we need to preserve these theaters. The idea of creating a venue with less seating and smaller screens is not what the community deserves. We deserve more than that!" Suzanne Tyler of Sacramento writes: "Too many cool buildings have been torn down in Sacramento. Let's not have more to regret."

Rather than being discouraged by the demolition of the one dome, Sacramentans Richard Herrera and Jesse Skeen have put together a petition to save the rest. "We don't want to be saddened with doom and gloom. We are going to save the domes. Only a handful of these type of theaters exist in the country," Herrera said in a phone interview with the Arden-Carmichael News.

Having started the petition the day after the first dome was knocked down, petition organizers are waiting to see what happens. "Right now as far as I am concerned, anything is possible. Anything can change. The permits are there. The whole development is a concept. With that, it's possible anything can change," Herrera said. (Skywest) just has the permits to demolish. They want to build a new theater and keep the old one operating until the new one is complete. It will be a hard battle, but these are the only mid-century theaters in the region, these and the drive-ins, and those are being threatened by the same company."

Richard recalls seeing movies there in the 1970s and '80s including Mel Brooks' "Blazing Saddles" in 1974 as well as "ET" and "Zoor" Suit in the early '80s. "Over the years, I've gone to many movies just like everybody."

Having spent many of his formative years living in South Land Park, he recalls cruising up to the Arden Fair Mall area a few times a month and hanging out with his friends. Speaking on his nostalgia over the area, he said he re-

members the iconic space age sign at the theaters that was replaced by the gas station. He remembers the Food Circus at Arden Fair. "They have demolished too much in that area and there is nothing left from our memories to pass on. That's one reason we want to save the domes."

To further draw attention to the domes and their unique architecture, Richard said he has had discussions with the general manager of the theaters to put a name of the movie atop the dome. Other ideas have been to put Christmas lights on the domes and even laser lights.

One of the ideas organizers are trying to have the owners of the domes to focus on is to have them feature special effect movies. "It is an economic gamble when you do box cutter (-types of theaters). Some of them do struggle, but when you have an IMAX-type of theater, then you have a better chance of having profits. So, we will see where it goes. That's the idea (in effort) to save the iconic theaters," Richard said.

A professional artist, in 2002, Richard began painting a series of the dome theaters, one of which is currently shown on the cover of this issue of the newspaper. One of the paintings from the series was donated to KVIE for one of their annual art auctions. "Usually people paint The Tower (Theatre) and (The) Crest (Theatre). No one touched the domes until I did it. This year, I submitted one of the Grant Theatre in Del Paso. That one is being saved. It's the only one on that strip, but it's boarded up."

Asked why he is drawn to painting theaters, and the preservation of them, Richard said "it's in my DNA."

"My uncle, Jaime Santillan, is my mom's brother. I don't have much contact with him. I used to work in his theater (The Colonial Theatre, located at 3522 Stockton Blvd.)

Save the Domes:

Continued from page 2

That was one summer. It basically was my first summer job. I worked in the projector room, but I didn't do too well. I got fired from that. (Santillan) used to do TV shows for Spanish TV, mostly commercials and advertisements for products in Spanish. He was a pitch man. He would sell products. I guess he had money. He bought that theater. He was more like the TV personalities that sell cars, furniture, and that's what my uncle did for years. Then, he started the first Spanish program in history. He's 85 years old now. He went on air in Sacramento on Univision. He was doing commercials. Then I remember I took a trip with him to Hollywood or Burbank. We'd go to a warehouse and drop off and pick up films. Maybe (Richard's love for theater) is in the DNA. I don't know."

Readers are invited to email editor@valcomnews.com to share stories of watching movies at the Ethan Way dome theaters.

The aforementioned petition, which can be found at change.org (http://tinyurl.com/pxxe66b), reads as follows:

We invite you to join the many residents of the Sacramento region in favor of preserving these historically significant venues. We believe the 3 remaining domes

should be saved and incorporated into this new development proposal at this Arden-Arcade section.

HISTORY:

The Century 21, with a huge 70-foot curved screen and over 900 seats under a unique dome-shaped ceiling, equipped with 70mm film projection and the latest sound technology, opened in November 1967. Its sister theater Century 22 opened soon afterward in June 1968. Both showcased Hollywood's biggest movies and were the area's premiere movie venues. They were designed with a space-age theme by architect Vincent Raney, who had already designed several similar theaters in San Jose (originally designed for 3-projector Cinerama), Pleasant Hill, Reno, and Salt Lake City among others. It eventually had two smaller 500-seat dome theaters attached to it, but by 1978 both large domes were split with walls down the middle into awkward half-dome theaters.

RECENT DEMOLITION AND CURRENT PLANS:

Movie fans in Sacramento have hoped for years that the Centurys would someday be restored back to their original glory. Part of that hope was killed on June 2nd, 2015 when Century 21 was demolished. The landowners plan on demolishing the rest of the Century Theatre

See Call to action, page 16

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See Save the Domes, page 3

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Arden area, other places share unique shopping center connections

By LANCE ARMSTRONG
Lance@valcomnews.com

Editor's Note: This is part two of a two-part series about various Town & Country shopping center locations.

Residents of the Sacramento region and beyond are familiar with the Arden area's Town & Country Village at Fulton and Marconi avenues. But a much lesser known trivia is that many other cities have been home to Town & Country shopping centers.

Some of those centers have a direct link to Sacramento's Town & Country Village, while others simply share the name, partial name or concept.

Although research for this article revealed the establishment of Town & Country Village locations in additional cities, John Strizek, the son of Jeré Strizek, who founded the Arden ar-

ea's Town & Country Village, said, "My dad was really only associated with the three (Village locations) that he built (in Sacramento, Los Angeles and Phoenix) and the one he consulted on (in San José). Later on, he did some shopping center consulting up in Portland, but that was a completely different deal. That was with the Jansen family, and a project of theirs."

Palo Alto

The reverse side of an old postcard for another Town & Country Village reads: "Town and Country Village, Palo Alto, California, on the east side of El Camino Real, features dozens of specialty shops for elegant shopping."

The front of that 1950s card shows a long stretch of buildings with overhangs and red tile roofs.

Through research for this article, it was discovered that this Town & Country Village continues to operate in mostly original structures, about a half-mile south of the main campus of Stanford University and directly across the street from Stanford Stadium.

In regard to this Village location, Oxana Morozov, property assistant for the management of Palo Alto's Town & Country Village, said, "Town and Country Village was built in the 1950s. The buildings are all original. We have about 90 retail stores and 20 offices. We have a lot of boutique-like stores and a lot of retail restaurants. (There are) some national businesses, and small mom and pop (type businesses). More than 50 (percent of the businesses are of) the mom and pop (type variety)."



Photo courtesy of the Heritage Park Museum
A Town & Country Village shopping center was located in Sunnyvale, Calif. from about 1963 to about 2013.

Morozov added that this Town & Country Village, which has the address of 855 El Camino Real, has been owned by Ellis Partners since 2008.

Also commenting about the Village in Palo Alto was Steve Steiger, historian of the Palo Alto Historical Association. "There is one new building (housing a Trader Joe's) on the site," Steiger said. "Most of the buildings date from the 1950s and they've been remodeled and altered over time."

Sunnyvale

Through a discussion with Laura Babcock, director of the Heritage Park Museum in Sunnyvale, Calif., it was confirmed that a Town & Country Village, with the familiar overhangs, ivy covered wooden posts and red tile roofs, was once located in that city at the northwest corner of Francis Street and Washington Avenue.

A 1988 newspaper clipping on file with the museum re-

fers to the shopping center as a 25-year-old landmark, or in other words, it was built and/or opened in 1963.

Babcock said that Sunnyvale's Town & Country Village experienced economic difficulties and was eventually demolished (in about 2013).

Mill Valley

Jocelyn Moss, librarian at the Marin History Museum, verified the one-time existence of a Town & Country Village in Mill Valley in Marin County.

"Yeah, there was (a Town & Country Village) in Mill Valley," Moss said. "(The shopping center is) out in the country, but the mailing address is Mill Valley. It's (in) a development area. I don't know much about when it started, but it was around 1965, because I didn't see it in the 1964 phone book."

"(The center's buildings) have a mission-style [appearance], with the red tile

roofs, [overhangs and palms]. It's right [off] the freeway – Highway 101."

Through further research for this article, it was discovered that the shopping center is now called Strawberry Village.

Steve Steiger, the aforementioned historian of the Palo Alto Historical Association, recalled visiting this shopping center during his youth.

"I was a kid growing up in Mill Valley when it appeared there in the 1960s," Steiger said. "If I was a betting man, I would say it [began in] 1962. I grew up across the freeway. I remember going to a record store that was in the shopping center and buying (some of the) latest rock 'n' roll records."

El Cajon

San Diego County has been home to various Town & Country shopping centers,

See Shopping center, page 7

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by Margie E. Burke

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- 20 Miner's quest
- 21 Skip a syllable
- 23 Album insert
- 25 Muse's strings
- 27 With regard to
- 29 At any time
- 30 Prayer ender
- 31 Stocking stuffer, maybe
- 32 Second to none
- 33 Sampling specialist

- 35 Swinlike animal
- 37 Get on board
- 39 Medical setback
- 43 Strong suit?
- 45 Acts the coquette
- 46 Foot ailment
- 49 Tiny organism
- 51 Move like molasses
- 52 Larger-than-life
- 53 Fragrant bloom
- 54 Romanov ruler
- 55 Attack in print
- 57 Without a stitch
- 59 Pub pints

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- 8 Bank freebie
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- 10 Quick look
- 11 Get rid of
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See Solution, page 12

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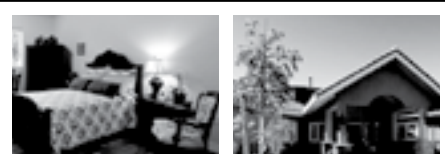


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Shopping center:

Continued from page 4

including three such centers in El Cajon.

Marie Scott, assistant to Chuck Moore, property manager for El Cajon Town & Country since 2008, said that the management company's records show that El Cajon Town & Country dates back to 1965.

Adjacent to that center is a smaller center known as Town & Country Village.

In speaking about that Town & Country Village, Jane Kenealy, archivist at the San Diego History Center, said, "This is just a very small shopping center. It may have been updated and lost its western theme, which is highly possible. But that is the only one (in El Cajon) that is called Town & Country Village."

Further research about El Cajon shopping centers led to the discovery of a shopping center known as Rancho San Diego Town & Country, at 2514-2522 Jamacha Road.

Brian Quinn, senior vice president of Flocke & Avoyer Real Estate, a third party agent for Kimco Realty, which owns a portion of Rancho San Diego Town & Country, men-

tioned that this shopping center has the familiar overhangs, red tile roofs and palm trees.

Quinn added that the same center was built in three phases from about 1988 to about 1994.

Houston

A Town & Country Village debuted in Houston in the late 1960s, and had its north end recreated into the Town & Country Mall two decades later.

The mall was demolished in 2005, and was replaced by another high density shopping center known as CityCentre, at 800 Town and Country Blvd.

Town & Country Village, which was redeveloped in 1996, exists in its redeveloped form today.

An early advertisement for the Town & Country Village in Houston includes the following words: "Town & Country Village, Memorial Drive and Interstate 10 freeway at West Belt Freeway. Town and Country in Houston usually means Town and Country Village - America's most picturesque and charming center of department stores, boutiques, shops, stores, restaurants, theatres and fun! The large and

magnificent, as well as the small and quaint."

Houston native Elizabeth Martin, who serves as the education coordinator for The Heritage Society in Houston, which focuses on the history of Houston and the surrounding region, also spoke about Houston's Town & Country Village, which has the address of 12850 Memorial Drive.

"Town & Country (Village) was more picturesque, because it wasn't all under one roof," Martin said. "They've totally redone that particular center. Now they've gone to kind of a town concept, (with) more the town than the country. It's more high end now, with a lot more restaurants."

Whitehall and Kettering, Ohio

During research for this article, it was discovered that two cities in the state of Ohio are home to Town & Country Shopping Centers. Those cities are Whitehall and Kettering.

An article in the February 24, 2013 edition of The Columbus Dispatch notes that on July 5, 1947, real estate developer Don M. Casto, Sr. had announced

his plan to have "a million-dollar shopping center" constructed "just outside the city (of Columbus)" on East Broad Street, between Maplewood and Collingwood avenues (in the then new suburb of Whitehall). The article mentions the official opening of Whitehall's Town & Country Shopping Center as March 1, 1949.

Casto, a now third generation, full-service real estate company, owns both the Town and Country center in Whitehall and the Town & Country center in Kettering.

The Kettering center, which recently added a Trader Joe's, is described by Casto as having been a joint venture project of that company and Skilken real estate development company for many years.

Instrumental in obtaining information for this segment of this article were Lois Helton and Teresa Huntley of the Kettering-Moraine Branch of the Dayton Metro Library in Kettering.

While searching for materials regarding the Town & Country topic, Helton discovered author Harold E. Aml's 1997 book, "A History of Van Buren Township and Kettering, Ohio," on a shelf at the Kettering-Moraine Branch library.

In that book, Aml mentions that Kettering's Town & Country center was built in 1950 and 1951 and opened in the fall of 1951.

As for drawing a connection between the western-themed Town & Country Villages with their overhangs and red tile roofs and the Town and Country Shopping Centers of Whitehall and Kettering, historic photographs of these Ohio shopping centers reveal that these centers did not have those features.

An important finding during research for this article was the existence of a smaller section of the Kettering center known as the T&C Village Shops.

In commenting about the Village Shops, Huntley said, "They're a part of Town & Country [Shopping Center], but they're a separate building."

Historical details about Kettering's Village Shops were not discovered during interviews and research for this chapter. However, it may be more than a coincidence that this Ohio city is home to T&C Village Shops and Jere' Strizek established shopping centers that utilized the name Town & Country Village Shops.

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Top rated radio personality, reminisces on his lengthy career and his famous Café Rock

By GREG BROWN
greg@valcomnews.com

"I told the guy in Wisconsin I gotta get out of here. Help me. How about anything on the West Coast. Anything."

Nineteen-eighty was the year and that's when radio personality Bob Keller packed his bags and landed a gig on-air at the legendary free-form Sacramento radio station, KZAP.

From Key West, to Madison, to Sacramento — most of Bob's radio success has been here in Sacramento. First in the 1980s at KZAP, then a morning stint at KQPT The Point, and now at The Eagle where he's done middays for over 20 years.

Bob resides in Land Park with his wife Shelly and his faithful dog Maggie.

He's lived in the Land Park neighborhood for more than 30 years. You may see Bob swimming laps at the YMCA, jamming on his fiddle at Old Ironsides with his jam band, or playing golf in William Land Park.

"I'm all about three things," Bob said. "Doing the best radio I can at this price range. I'm about golfing. And I'm about fiddling. Those are the three things that interest me."

Bob also loves his home and neighborhood.

"It's a great neighborhood it's a real neighborhood. People walk around it. You see the eyes of pedestrians walking by my house on the sidewalk and they say 'hello.' There's a lot of people walking their dogs, that's cool."

"Plus you live in Land Park, I mean, three blocks

away is the best park in town," he said.

Bob might just be the best radio deejay in town. You can hear Bob Keller Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on 96.9, The Eagle. He hosts the Café Rock at noon. Before there was a Hard Rock Café, there was Bob Keller's Café Rock.

The Café Rock is theater-of-the-mind radio with kooky characters like Chef Ptomaine, waitress Betty Varicose, busboy Sal Monella, as well as wacky sound effects with Bob Keller smack dab in the middle of it all, like an orchestra conductor. It's like Bob is broadcasting live from a local Sacramento greasy spoon, but he's really just in the Eagle studio on Madison Avenue.

I met with Bob at New Helvetia on Broadway. He came wheeling up on an old vintage bicycle wearing a WIND youth services sweat-shirt and beige cords. Bob is definitely not pretentious. If he showed up in bike regalia from REI, I would have been disappointed.

We ordered a couple of pints and sat down at a table next to the big window that looks out onto Broadway. I asked the very stereotypical question: "What's the typical workday for you?"

"The workday for me, Greg, and this is one of the reasons I'm still doing it, is because I've streamlined my job to absolutely only what I need to do and what I need to do is on the air. That's all I need to do."

He went on to say, err tout, "I'm a specialist. I get ratings. That's what I do."



Photo by Greg Brown

Shown here is legendary deejay Bob Keller at New Helvetia Brewery on Broadway.

This is classic Bob Keller. It's why he has lasted so long on the air.

Also, Bob has good reason to be confidant. He recently snagged a 16 share! That's Nielsen ratings gold.

It's easy to see why Bob gets the good ratings.

Coming out of Kiss' "Rock and Roll All Nite," Bob opens the mic and wisecracks, "As long as I get a nap in, I'm good to go."

Bob's witty, off-the-cuff remarks about the music is what makes him and the Café Rock unique.

Bob told me his best two years in radio broadcasting were at The Point with Ken Shuper. Bob was the Morning Host and Ken Shuper was the newsman/sidekick. KQPT The Point was a little upstart station back in the early 90s in Sacramento.

"It was completely new, Ken was a great sidekick, and I could play a vast variety of music. Bands you couldn't hear anywhere else. That was fun, I could do anything and say anything and I had a great following of people. The people who followed the program were hip."

"We would do this thing where every Friday morning 'The Fish Patrol' would go out to a local coffee shop

I spoke to his old radio sidekick and Land Park golf buddy Ken Shuper and he told me "those were the days" at The Point.

Ken had been doing news in the morning for two or three years and the station had gone through a couple morning guys" and they told him "We're bringing in Keller."

They hit it off right away.

The first day he was on the air at The Point, Bob did a live remote broadcast from Tower Café with special guest comedian, Jack Gallagher. "Another Land Park denizen," Ken said. Ken was back at the studio doing the news and he could tell right away, even on that first day, that he and Bob had chemistry. Ken said, "Even without seeing each other or having met we just hit it off."

And I thought, "This is gonna work."

Ken added, "Bob came in the next week and we just rolled...it was a lot of fun."

"We would do this thing where every Friday morning 'The Fish Patrol' would go out to a local coffee shop

See Café Rock, page 9

Café Rock:

Continued from page 8

and broadcast live. They'd set up and people would come up and sit, talk and just hang out."

If you wonder why Bob Keller gets the ratings and why people love his show, the suits don't mess with him.

"Here's the strange thing about radio to me," Bob said. "I have pretty much done the same thing all the time I've been in radio. There's not much that's different about my show and my approach. I've never been told what to say or what I can't say in terms of content."

Bob also has insight about radio. "Radio is now a sonic service that you have on in the room. My show is for people at work each day. They're working, the songs are on, and then I come on with my little screwball stuff. It's really not about me, it's really about a music service."

"The difference between me and Jack FM, which doesn't have any real people there, or Pandora, which doesn't have anybody there, is that it's got a live human being at the other end of the line. So, I love having contact with people's voices on the air. There's a connection to the city, you know?"

Just then a young woman named Mallory strolled across the brewery, came up to Bob, and said, "Hey man. Hi. I heard you say Fishhead Friday after I recognized your voice."

"Oh my God, there's no hiding," he said. Bob was being his sarcastic self because he enjoyed the attention from the young redhead. I asked Mallory what she liked about Bob's radio show and she told me, "He makes the music personal and that's why I listen to him everyday."

Bob, who grew up in San Francisco, is a big San Francisco Giants fan. They used to have "Sacramento Day" at Candlestick Park once a year against the Los Angeles Dodgers. The reps from the Giants came to the Eagle radio station and wanted to advertise Sacramento Day. They also asked Bob to throw out the first pitch at the ballgame. What a thrill!

Bob came up with the idea of having Sacramento folks sing the National Anthem. The radio station decided to have auditions. People were sending and calling in their renditions.

Bob only wanted them to sing the really hard part of the national anthem. You know, "ANNND the rockets red glare..."

"Just send that part in. That's all I wanna hear," Bob told his listeners.

He found a state worker with an operatic voice to sing the National Anthem at the game. They were in the Giant's dugout with Will Clark, Kevin Mitchell, Robbie Thompson — all waiting to line up for the National Anthem.

"We all line up for the National Anthem on the field and this woman goes to the mound, 'And from Sacramento please welcome so and so who won a radio station contest to sing the National Anthem.'

"She nails it. The crowd freaked. They were waving out of the upper level; they were so happy. It was a cool experience."

Bob also threw out the first pitch to Gary Carter. "I threw a strike," he said. Bob asked Gary if it was a strike and he said, "Yeah. It was a 26 mph strike."

It was Bob's change-up. Bob also told me a story about golfing with Alice

Cooper in Granite Bay. Once they finished golfing, Bob drove him back to the Clarion from the golf course. Alice had a gig that night at the Memorial Auditorium. On the drive home, they played trivia, "Alice, remember the name of the band that 'blah blah blah' ... Oh yeah. I met those guys. Remember this, remember that?"

They got along famously. "Alice is a great conversationalist," Bob said.

Bob told me he has three or four moments that will absolutely be with him for the rest of his life. One was throwing out the opening pitch of the Giant's game. Another was hosting the Jerry Garcia memorial at Capitol Park on the day of his death. Also, when he broadcasted live from San Francisco for the Bill Graham Memorial in Golden Gate Park.

Another big moment for Bob was broadcasting live from the Grammy's in New York City all week long. Five days of broadcasting. "I interviewed so many people that week. It was amazing."

Bob thinks the time that may have capped it all was in Copenhagen at an outdoor barbecue that Budweiser had sponsored. The Rolling Stones showed up in two beat up white Volkswagon vans.

Bob said, "A guy announced the Stones are here and would like to meet you guys. No pictures. They'll be here for 10 minutes then they have to get ready for the show."

Barbecue, beer and the Rolling Stones under a tent with Bob. Bob told me Keith Richards comes up to him and asks, "So when did you guys get in town or something to that effect."

Bob, who's interviewed plenty of famous musicians, was star struck. "My tongue got caught in my throat. I couldn't talk. And after I choked for about two minutes, Keith finally just said, 'What the F is wrong with you, mate?' And walked away. That wasn't right. He didn't have to hurt me like that."

Bob was almost physically hurt when Jimmy Buffet came to town. Bob knew Jimmy from his Key West, Florida radio days back when Jimmy was just starting out. But once Jimmy Buffet became

big, he had bodyguards. Backstage at the Jimmy Buffet concert at the old Cal Expo Amphitheater Bob was walking up to Jimmy to say "hello," and as soon as he got about 10 feet away, one of Buffet's body guards puts Bob in a choke-hold and dragged him off before Jimmy could even see him.

Bob's got a lot of good stories. Some can't be printed, though.

If you'd like to hear more of Bob's stories they can be found from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on 96.9, The Eagle.



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Heating up the Boulevard

The Sacramento Taco Festival celebrated Mexican culture and paid tribute to the delicious taco

Story by **MONICA STARK**
 editor@valcomnews.com
 Photos by **STEPHEN CROWLEY**
 stephen@valcomnews.com

The Sacramento Taco Festival brought added heat to Del Paso Boulevard on the 99-degree Saturday, June 20. Featuring Lucha Libre wrestlers, Chihuahuas and tacos, the event was expected to draw between 2,000 to 3,000 people to the daylong festival.

Held on Del Paso Boulevard between El Camino Avenue and Arden Way, The Sacramento Taco Festival was cohosted by Sacramento Vice Mayor Allen Warren and SaLatino Magazine. Two years ago when the festival was first held, organizers primarily attracted the crowd of about 1,000 taco lovers through social media marketing. Then, the winning taco was from El Michoacano (Franklin Boulevard) and the winner of the taco eating contest was a 5-foot, 20-year-old woman from Sacramento, who beat out a couple of very large guys. "She won \$75! She was very happy and made the event that much more fun. If we work things out as planned, we will be making this into an annual event," says Adrian Perez, event coordinator.

The tacos are made by the different taco makers at the event. Since the average person eats three tacos, several thousand tacos are made and consumed.



From vegetarian, chicken, carnitas, adobada, and asada tacos to the more exotic tacos, for those with iron stomachs, the taco festival also included tacos made from stomach, intestines and head.

The wrestlers are professional and can be seen on a variety of levels from World Wrestling Entertainment, Inc. to local wrestling events. From Los Angeles, the wrestlers specialize in Mexican wrestling, which includes masks and a lot of high flying maneuvers.

The idea of doing a taco festival came from the owner of a local taqueria, Taqueria Jalisco, on 16th Street.

Providing further background organizer Adrian Perez explained that Daniel, the owner of Taqueria Jalisco told him about National Taco Day. "So I looked it up and found that it's unofficial, but October 4th is known as National Taco Day. Knowing the fresh tacos a very nutritional, we talked about doing a festival. I discovered that several cities celebrate the taco, but at different times during the year...Chicago, Dallas, Phoenix, and now, San Jose. Knowing Sacramento is different than those cities, we decided to make ours into a street festival featuring a mascot that is native

to Mexico, the chihuahua. We also wanted a fun look, so we opted to do a 60s throwback. As a result, we have a real 'hippie' poster with promotions using tie-dyed shirts."

Perez said he was originally going to hold this event in a park, but after a good discussion with Vice Mayor Warren, he agreed that Del Paso Boulevard has the look of a community lost in the '60s and some great businesses, existing and coming in. "Moreover, the layout makes it ideal for a real street festival. So, here we are. And, the surrounding community loves it," he adds.

Because there was so much excitement leading up to this event, Perez didn't do any press releases until the day before because the media was already contacting the organizers even two weeks before that. "We also had two other large events contact us to see if we could cross promote. We tied in with the Hello Kitty Festival at Sleep Train Arena, and a scholarship beauty contest being sponsored by D'Primera Mano Magazine. But, overall, Sacramento has never seen anything like this and we are the first to hold an event celebrating tacos in Northern California," Perez said.

Matías Bombal's Hollywood

ALOFT

The MPAA has rated this R Sony Pictures Classics brings us some very talented actors in an allegorically told existential tale "Aloft". In it, we delve into the emotional separation of a mother and son played by Jennifer Connelly and Cillian Murphy. The story is told in two storylines, past and present, and centers around a central childhood tragedy. Set in a frigid, grey and bleak iced over world in the great north, Cillian Murphy's mother has followed a healer known as "the architect" played by William Shimell who indicates to her that she too has a gift as a healer. Her son has just lost a Falcon that he was nurturing, in later life, and as we see in the modern section of the movie, he will become devoted to falconry. Yet as an

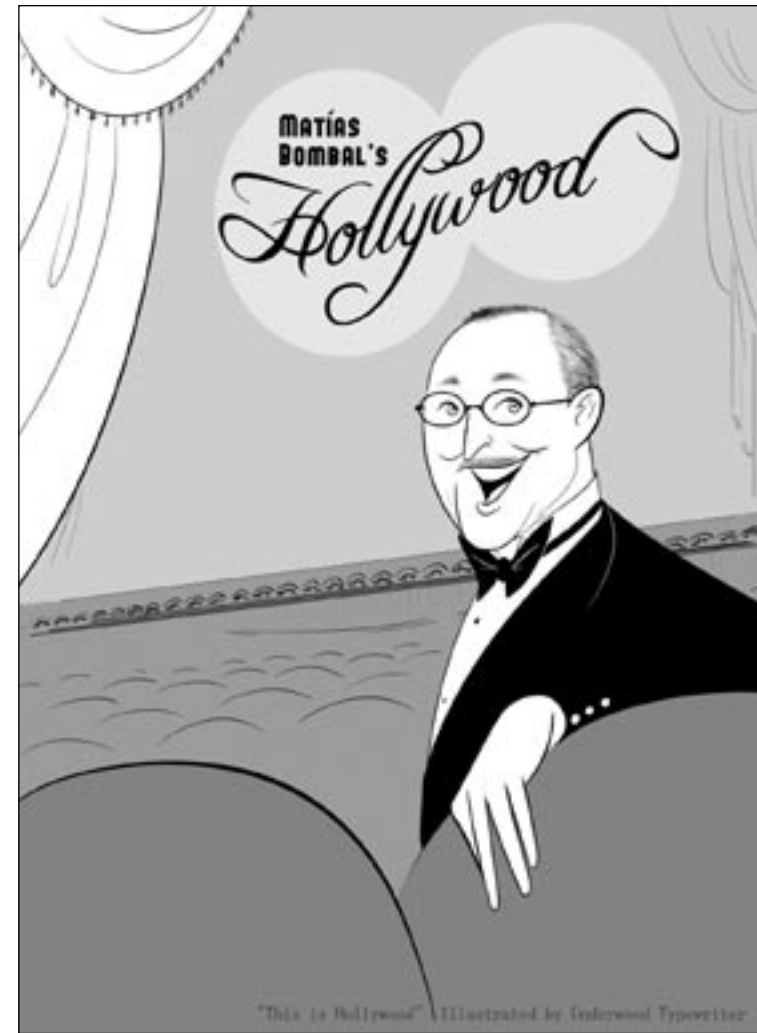


Shown here, is Cillian Murphy in ALOFT, which is playing now at Tower Theatre. Photo by Allen Fraser/Sony Pictures Classics

adult, he is betrayed by her mother's abandonment of he and his brother in favor of the "Architect". He is bitter and resentful. The movie also features the pretty blond actress Mélanie Laurent, as well as Oona Chaplin, who recently did

a nice turn in the romantic "The Longest Ride" the latest screen adaptation of a Nicholas Sparks book.

This picture is directed by a talented and intellectual movie maker from Peru, Claudia Llosa. This is her third feature, and first in English. I found this to be a movie that would appeal to other actors, for it offers a great study in the craft of acting. However, with all of its sophistication and mood, it will fail to please the moviegoer out to be entertained for a night at the movies. This is because the past and present are not clearly defined, and you are not sure of what you are looking at or when it occurs in the narrative.



It is a very difficult movie to watch. The narrative itself is not linear, so only at the end of 112 minutes of running time do you find out how things tie together, but before then you are left wondering what is going on. So you are left with a desire to leave, but intrigued by fine performances by capable actors. This movie was a frustrating experience for me at best. I may only view movies with the collective amalgam of my own experience- just as each of us. I try to open my mind for other possibilities and viewpoints, yet watching this to the very end was unsatisfactory for me; I longed for some element in the story to grab on to, rather than the

feeling of wandering around in a dream. In a recent interview, the director was quoted as saying she did not want it to be so clear. She is successful in her goal. It is as if you walked into a room where you knew no one and tried to figure out what they were all talking about. You long for a familiar face... anything, and no luck. So this picture is for the intrepid moviegoer only, where a non-traditional way of seeing a story told for the screen might be an attractive aspect. For me it was not. This is by no means a bad move, nor is it poorly made. It is non-traditional, a case of art cinema, which like performance art without a narrative, may seem a jumble to many.

Solution to Crossword:

I	D	I	O	M	R	E	C	A	P	R	O	D	
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Call to action:

Continued from page 3

complex soon, and replacing it with a newly-built theater and other retail buildings. It has been said that efforts were made to restore the old theatres, but were in such poor condition that it was impractical to do so. However, the new theatre planned for the site appears to be nothing special at all and hardly a suitable replacement for the Century domes. Plans from The Edwards Company show it as having a total of 14 screens, but the entire building will occupy LESS space than the current 12-screen Century 22 complex and have only 1650 seats altogether which is an average of less than 120 seats per auditorium! The magnificent Century 21 and 22 domes originally had more than 900 seats each, with the two smaller domes having about 500 each.

Based on other recently-built theaters such as the Century Greenback 16 (which replaced the 1980s Cinemas), these will likely be small, cramped theaters with screens hardly much larger than what many people have at home! It is also very likely that they will not endure for more than 20 years, nor be the source of fond memories for anyone.

The original large Century Theatres introduced many people to the magic of moviegoing- for me personally, they have always been the standard by which I have judged other theaters although very few have lived up to that standard. With home theatre equipment constantly improving and becoming more affordable, consumers expect and deserve something SPECIAL when going out to see a movie. Unfortunately the majority of newer theatres are an embarrassment. Many

are designed with common-width screens, meaning Cinemascope movies appear letterboxed as they do at home, rather than on screens made for their full width. (A common criticism has been that "Die Hard" should never be smaller than "Driving Miss Daisy"! While ideally the Century 22 could be restored to its original glory with any needed additional theatres attached to it, if that is not possible any new theater that replaces it should go all-out to meet or exceed the original theatres' grandeur. Small cracker-box theatres would be an absolute insult to the Century domes' legacy as well as the experiences of future generations. Let's honor and remember what these theatres were and either restore what remains or build a new one that will also be something truly special, and more than just a place to "watch" a movie!

CALL TO ACTION:

Ideally, the remaining Century 22 complex should be restored back to its former glory, including the removal of the wall that divided it in half. It has been an iconic building to the area since 1968; the loss of the Century 21 dome has already drastically altered the appearance of the Arden and Ethan Way intersection. Century 22 should remain the focal point of this area and incorporated into the new development as Hollywood's famed Cinerama Dome was. If the Century 22 building really is beyond repair however, any new theater built in its place should be comparable to it in design and size- not the same sort of embarrassment the Century Greenback 16 was. Sacramento currently does not have any theater worthy of being its "premiere movie venue", but this location should become exactly that!

CALENDAR

Send your event announcement for consideration to: editor@valcomnews.com at least two weeks prior to publication.

ONGOING

Los Ninos Service League volunteer opportunities

Combine community service with fun as a volunteer with the Los Ninos Service League by working in the dining room, kitchen or garden at the Casa Garden Restaurant. Since 1974 the Casa, located in the Curtis Park neighborhood, has been raising funds to help support the Sacramento Children's Home. For more information on becoming a volunteer, please join us for an information and recruitment coffee on Tuesday, May 12 at 9:30 a.m. at the Casa, 2760 Sutterville Road, Sacramento. RSVP at 452-2809.

Low Impact Fitness at Tahoe Park:

Enjoy a low impact workout outdoors at Tahoe Park. Neighbors come together for fun and exercise every Monday and Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. Examples include: Jogging-in-place, jumping jacks, Fingertip-to-toe jacks. Donations of \$1-\$2 are requested to pay for the online service, Meetup.org, which this group is a part of. This is a meet-up for neighbors to provide guidance and encouragement for each other. There is no professional trainers and all injury is at your own risk. Meet by the pool house, 3501 59th St., 95820.

public; they are held from 9:30 to 11 a.m. on the last Tuesday of each month (except December) at the Sacramento Sheriff's South Area Office Community Room at 7000 65th Street, Sacramento (the Sacramento County Voters Registrar Building). At each meeting a guest speaker is invited to attend and give a 30-minute presentation with 10 minutes for Q&A. Speakers are selected for their expertise and knowledge in their respective fields, and agencies/organizations. The speakers are encouraged to provide handouts, fliers, and other informational materials to the 15 to 30 attendees. If you have any questions, please contact either: Alex Eng at 424-1374; email xeng916@sbglobal.net; or Cindy Gabriel at 916/732-6189; email cynthia.gabriel@smud.org.

The Sacramento Capitolaire meeting

A men's Barbershop Harmony group, meets every Tuesday night at Christ Community Church, 5025 Manzanita Ave., Carmichael. Rehearsals are Tuesdays at 7 p.m. For more information, visit www.capitolaire.org or call (888) 877-9806. Men who love to sing are welcome! Men come from Elk Grove, Davis, El Dorado Hills, Roseville or the greater Sacramento area. The group is 40 men who love to sing and wants to encourage more men to join along.

JUNE

Learn tips for telephone use in an emergency

June 26: Your telephone can be a life saver. You can use it to call for help, to receive emergency announcements and check on loved ones. When there is an emergency, do you have a backup plan if cell towers or telephone lines are disabled? In this FREE workshop, we will provide some things for you to think about in the event of an emergency. In addition, we will review basic safety tips for Natural Gas and Electricity. Free of charge. Pre-registration is required. Class will be held from 2:30 - 3:30 p.m. at ACC Senior Services, 7334 Park City Dr. For details, call 393-9026 ext 330, www.accsv.org.

Free Young Adult Bereavement Counseling:

The UC Davis Hospice Program and UC Davis Children's Hospital Bereavement Program will offer an eight-week Young Adult Bereavement Art Group for individuals 17 to 24 who are coping with the recent loss of a loved one. The sessions will be held on eight consecutive Monday evenings from Sept. 29 through Nov. 17. Each session will be held from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the UC Davis Home Care Services Building, 3630 Business Dr., Suite F.

Support group for alienated grandparents

Meeting is the last Friday of each month at 2717 Cottage Way, suite 4. Meeting is at noon. 761-9121.

The Community Housing and Services Coalition monthly meetings

Originally created by the Sacramento Community Services Planning Council, the Community Housing Coalition (CHC) was created as a vehicle to provide information and educate community leaders and decision makers regarding housing for low income, disabled and older adults. CHSC monthly meetings are free and open to the

Fire Station 10 Open House

June 27: Fire Station 10, located at 5642 66th St., will have an open house from 2 to 4 p.m. Meet firefighters and possibly mascot Sparky.

Sex trafficking resource fair called: "Break the Chains: Stand with Us in the Fight to End Sex Trafficking"

June 27: The resource fair will include information about sex trafficking locally. There will be speakers and a showing of the documentary "In Plain Sight" at 6 p.m. at Riverside Wesleyan Church, 6449 Riverside Blvd.

A Midsummer Night's Dream & Crystal Ice Cream Fantasy at Fairytale Town

June 27: From 5 to 9 p.m., celebrate William Shakespeare's popular fairy-themed play while enjoying all-you-can-eat Crystal ice cream! This magical midsummer's evening features multiple ice cream tasting stations, live entertainment, hands-on activities, an old world marketplace and more. Celtic rock band Tempest will perform throughout the evening. Costumes for the whole family are encouraged. No host food and bar. Mix 96's Dan & Michelle will emcee the evening as this year's Honorary King and Queen. Tickets go on sale May 1 at fairytaletown.org. Advance tickets are \$15 for adults and \$7 for children ages 2-12. Members receive \$2 off per ticket on advance tickets. Day-of tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for children ages 2-12. No member discount on day-of tickets. For more information, visit fairytaletown.org or call 808-7462. Sponsored by Crystal Creamery. Fairytale Town is located at 3901 Land Park Dr.

July

Free! Riverside Concert Series at Camp Pollock

July 2: Come Relax at Camp Pollock! Concert will feature a relaxing musical experience on Sacramento's American River Parkway. Concerts start at 6 and continue until 8 p.m. Bring your own picnic basket and blanket. Bring your leashed dog. Enjoy 5 more compliments of Sierra Service Project! The events are hosted by the Sacramento Valley Conservancy. For more information, contact sacramentovalleyconservancy.org or call 731-8798. Camp Pollock is located at 1501 Northgate Blvd.

Fire Station 11 Open House

July 11: Fire Station 11, located 785 Florin Road, will have an open house from 2 to 4 p.m. Meet firefighters and possibly mascot Sparky.

American-Portuguese Veteran's Memorial Poker Tournament

July 11: There will be a poker tournament on July 11 at SPHSS Portuguese Hall, 6676 Pocket Road. Doors open at 5:30 p.m.; the tournament starts at 6:30 p.m. While this tournament will help fund the placement of a monument at the State Capitol to honor American-Portuguese that served the United States, it is also a template for other ethnic groups to have a similar monument. If the time comes for Chinese-American, Greek-American, Irish-American, Italian-American, Mexican-American or any other ethnic group to place a monument, they will al-

ready have a blueprint for placement, which is required. For those who wish to buy tickets or sponsor the event can contact Eddia Maria at 314-757-0474. In regard to sponsorship, for \$250 you will receive two entries into the tournament (\$100 value) along with your business name and logo shown on a big screen in front of the room on a continuous loop for the duration of the event.

Fire Station 13 Open House

July 18: Fire Station 13, located at 1100 43rd Ave., will have an open house from 2 to 4 p.m. Meet firefighters and possibly mascot Sparky.

Fire Station 15 Open House

July 25: Fire Station 15, located at 1591 Newborough Dr., will have an open house from 2 to 4 p.m. Meet firefighters and possibly mascot Sparky.

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