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A look back

ARDEN-CARMICHAEL NEWS
SHARES ITS BEST STORIES OF 2015

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Best movies of 2015
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Best photos of 2015
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Photo courtesy of Youzhi Ma, The Epoch Times

Hometown heroes Alex Skarlatos, Spencer Stone and Anthony Sadler wave to their fellow Sacramentans at the parade on Friday, Sept. 11.

The best of Arden-Carmichael News 2015

Dear readers,

The Arden-Carmichael News has enjoyed bringing you stories about your neighbors and about the history that has made up the community you call home. What follows are summaries and excerpts from some of our favorite stories from the past year. Also, see some of the best photos of the year on page 14, were taken by our star photographer, Stephen Crowley, who has had six photos nominated for awards by the California Newspaper Publishers Association. Additionally, movie reviewer Matias Bombal shares with readers the top five movies he has reviewed for Valley Community Newspapers since he started writing for us in 2014. Without further ado, here are the top stories and columns selected by staff this year.

Sincerely, Monica Stark

Sacramento celebrates its hometown heroes, Del Campo alumni by Alicia Dienst: More than 10,000 people from all over the state crowded the streets near the State Capitol downtown to celebrate the heroic acts of Anthony Sadler, Alex Skarlatos, and Spencer Stone despite a hot and smoky Friday, Sept. 11, 2015. The young men, on vacation in Europe to celebrate National Guardsman Skarlatos's return from his duty in Afghanistan, stopped a potentially lethal attack on a train in France.

Intense community pride permeated the day and all of the events' attendees. A parade of the men's family members, representatives from Del Campo and Rosemont high schools, Sacramento State University, Mayor Kevin John-

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Heroes:

Continued from page 2

son, City Council members and legislators marched down Capitol Mall and gathered at the Capitol. The excitement of the rally was punctuated with bursts of confetti and a large American flag hanging over the Mall.

"It was not a surprise, nor was it an accident that of the hundreds of international passengers on that train that it was three Americans who acted with such courage," Johnson said in a speech in a rally on the steps of the state Capitol building. "And it was not a surprise nor was it an accident that these Americans were Sacramentans."

Johnson awarded the men keys to the city and legislators broke from intense last-minute legislative negotiations to give them a state resolution. The men had been awarded France's highest honor, the Legion of Honor, a medal by President François Hollande in France and the San Francisco French Consulate attended the Sacramento rally, saying "We will never forget what you have done." Local celebrity Jackie Greene played "the oldest song he (knows)," "The Star-Spangled Banner," for the crowd.

Many friends and family members came to show their respect and support. Three

years long friend of Sadler, Alex Vieira, a Sacramento State student, said: "When I saw the news, I thought, 'Oh my God; that's Anthony.'" Vieira said regarding the incident, "He was just really humble about it," and emphasized Sadler's focus on the others' actions.

Les Simmons, Sadler's "adopted uncle" who's known Sadler for most of the young man's life, said he expected Anthony to do something heroic.

Simmons' wife Angela said, "We're so grateful because heroes don't always survive and because when something like this happens, there is always an overall overflow impact."

Stone's cousin, Paige Esku, said the festivities and the response to the heroes' feat felt "overwhelming. I didn't know how big a deal it was going to be. At first when I heard what happened, I was relieved to hear that he was OK and then after it sunk in, I felt proud."

All three heroes went to Del Campo High School and the school and its students had a strong presence at the parade and rally. Del Campo High junior Maria Oderton said about the event, "It's really cool. I love everything about the day. It's great to have some-

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Gatsby:

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thing like this to unite the nation.”

Sacramento State alum and City Council member Eric Guerra said, “Having a (Sacramento State) Hornet honored like this shows what Sacramento has to offer and inspires us to want to be thinking about the greater good.”

As the festivities wound down, Sadler said, “I feel overwhelmed by all the support. I love being from Sacramento.”

Former students raise money to purchase ‘Gatsby’ suit for Del Campo teacher:

I hadn't gone twenty yards when I heard my name and Gatsby stepped from between two bushes into the path. [...] I could think of nothing except the luminosity of his pink suit under the moon.

F. Scott Fitzgerald’s “The Great Gatsby”

It started as a joke that Jim Jordan repeated year after year in his English class at Del Campo High School.

“When you get rich, I want you to buy me a (Gatsby) suit so I can teach the book wearing it.”

Jordan has worked in the San Juan Unified School District since 1978, and estimates that he has taught “The Great Gatsby” “no fewer than 50 times.”

“It’s the book that I’ve taught over and over again in my career,” he said. “It’s so deep; it’s so rich. I learn something new every time I open those pages.”

In 2013, when Baz Luhrmann’s “Gatsby” film starring Leonardo DiCaprio was released, Brooks Brothers launched a Gatsby-themed clothing line. Months later, while visiting Los Angeles, Jordan ran across the suit at a Brooks Brothers store. The jacket alone was over \$700; the pants and shirt were hundreds more.

Even so, he was charmed, and posted the photo on Facebook. Initially, he didn’t get much of a response. But when he reposted it a few months later, a handful of former students took notice.

Amy Diemer and James Chou, both 1992 Del Campo graduates who had been in Jordan’s English class and on his yearbook staff, messaged one another and decided to launch a crowd-funding campaign.

“Unfortunately a teacher’s salary is not enough to afford him the same duds as a bootlegging millionaire, so he needs our help,” read the “Jim ‘Gatsby’ Jordan Endeavor” page. “The more we fund, the pinker Mr. Jordan gets.”

Diemer, now a social worker who owns a geriatric care management business, said she’s never forgotten Jordan’s class, or his love for F. Scott Fitzgerald, and wanted to give back.

“It was not lost on any of us what a favorite of his it was –

his own passion for the book,” she said. “All the books we read in his classes, we got so immersed.”

Chou, now a doctor of internal medicine, agreed.

“This was a teacher that’s done so much for so many students,” he said.

In a few weeks, the campaign raised \$1389 from more than 40 donors – former students, friends and colleagues.

“To have 40 people in your life talking about what you’re doing in the classroom and celebrating it – it doesn’t get any better than that,” Jordan said.

He debuted the suit at a luncheon last spring, and wore it during AP testing. He took professional portraits, accessorizing with a bowtie, straw hat and cane. And now, Jordan will wear the suit each year while teaching “The Great Gatsby.”

Diemer said she’ll never forget seeing the first photo of him wearing the suit.

“He was so giddy. It was very sweet,” she said. “What I loved about it most – there are so many people in your life that have such a profound impact that you never really thank. This was a concrete way to thank him.”

And while Jay Gatsby’s clothing in the novel betrays his decadence and showiness, Jordan’s suit has a different meaning.

“He can physically wear our gratitude,” Diemer said.

Editors note: A photo of Jordan is on the cover of this paper shown on the bottom right.

Retired U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. named Carmichael 4th of July parade grand marshal by Barry Wisdom: As Jim Grey’s ride – a vintage blue Cadillac convertible – carefully made its way along the Car-

michael Fourth of July parade route, the then-90-year-old retired U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. might well have flash-backed on less-friendly missions as a World War II and Cold War-era bomber navigator. But on Saturday, July 4, 2015 he was greeted by waving and smiling children and adults, and not Nazi flak and ominous squadrons of Soviet MiGs. Grey, an Elks Lodge life member who moved to Carmichael in 1964, seemed like a natural choice to serve as the Carmichael Elks Lodge’s grand marshal. “We look for someone who personifies why we’re a country,” said Jim Warrick, secretary of the Carmichael Elks Lodge. “Not just the military, but the spirit of our country – a patriot who believes in the good of America. Besides his work in military, he went on to be an outstanding member of the community.” When invited to lead the two-mile procession, Grey – in typical “Greatest Generation” fashion – was taken aback at the honor. “It’s hard to believe something like this would happen to me,” he said in a post-parade chat alongside wife Charlene at the Cypress Avenue lodge. A longtime banker, Grey was enamored by flying since he was a boy growing up in Wisconsin. He recalls sweeping up the local airport for an occasional free ride in an open biplane. With his eye on a pair of wings, Grey participated in the “Aviation Cadet” program in his teens, joining the Army when he turned 18, taking his basic training in San Antonio. “I wanted to be a pilot,” said Grey, whose

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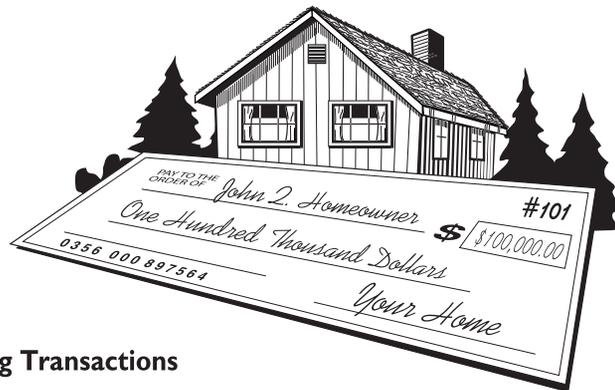
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Grand Marshal:

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memoir – “Vanishing Contrails” – was published in 2011. After initial testing, Grey was called into his commanding officer’s office where he recalls being told he passed “with flying colors,” but that the Army Air Corps needed navigators. “So, guess what – you’re going to be a navigator.” Grey admits being disappointed, but the good soldier honored his commitment and performed above and beyond the call of duty. Stationed in England during World War II, he and his fellow bomber crewmates made countless successful bombing raids in the skies above Germany in such aircraft as his beloved B17. After the war ended, Grey stayed in the Army Air Corps and he attended pilot school in 1952. As a pilot, in the post-War, Cold

War era, Grey was charged with missions designed to keep the fragile peace threatened by the increasingly hostile Soviet Union. “It was a very tense situation,” he said. It was during this time that Grey experienced his “closest call” as an aviator. Headed to an Alaskan USAF base to deliver an atomic bomb, he and his crew encountered a mechanical problem that necessitated an immediate landing and a dump of fuel. But the nuke they carried was strapped near the adjacent forward tank and they couldn’t bleed off that tank’s fuel. The aircraft landed safely, but Grey said it was an extremely anxious mission. Grey retired in 1964, but continued to fly recreationally as recently as 2009. But the cost and upkeep of flying made it prohibitive and he was forced to give it up. A far-from-easy decision, learning to live without the opportunity to soar through the sky con-

trols in hand has been challenging. “I love to fly,” he said. “I love to fly.”

Teen golfer enjoys special experience at Del Paso Country Club by Lance Armstrong: Teenager Katelyn Harris loves the game of golf. And because of her passion for the sport, she experienced one of the greatest moments of her life as a volunteer at the recent U.S. Senior Open at Del Paso Country Club.

During Katelyn’s time at the event, which was held June 22-28, 2015, she contributed nearly 40 hours of volunteer work. That work included assisting the open as a standard bearer for players, selling programs and helping in the back room.

Katelyn, who spent more than an hour with this paper last summer speaking about her volunteer work at the event, her love of the game and her own success as a golfer, was quick to recognize her appreciation for the area’s top golf

youth development program, The First Tee of Greater Sacramento.

“First Tee is the best thing that ever happened to me,” said Katelyn, who has played the majority of her golf at the Haggin Oaks Golf Complex. “It has impacted me so much learning to be a better person. They’re teaching kids how to be successful in golf and successful in life. I think it’s the best thing ever.”

A special opportunity

Katelyn, who is presently excelling in First Tee’s year-round competitive junior tour, explained how she became a volunteer for the recent senior tour.

“I’m pretty close to the (First Tee) head director and he told me there’s this huge opportunity and he wants the First Tee Sacramento kids to go out there and pretty much be a standard bearer, which is the people holding the signs. (There would

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Katelyn:

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also be) great opportunities to meet all these amazing people. And I was like, 'Okay, I want to be out there every day, because some of my favorite players (would be) out there.' I really wanted to be involved, because I could get autographs and all that. And so, I found out that I was going to be working almost every day, and I was just so thrilled that I was able to have this kind of opportunity."

Although Katelyn's original schedule had her working on Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Sunday, she took a job as a "floater" or replacement person, and she ended up acquiring work on the remaining days of the event.

Katelyn said that as a standard bearer, she averaged walking about nine miles per day while carrying a 10-pound bag.

The following are highlights of Katelyn's seven days at the open, in her own words:

Day 1 - Monday

"On day one, I was in all the First Tee booths, and I was selling championship programs. I worked there from 12 to 4 (p.m.). I worked in the First Tee information booth before and after that."

Additionally, Katelyn had the opportunity to speak about First Tee at a special event held at the club on that day.

Day 2 - Tuesday

"Tuesday, I was out at 1:35 (p.m.). I got there a little bit early. That's the day I had Tom Watson, Mike Finster, Bryan Norton, Roger Hoit and John McClure.

"It was pretty much the best day ever. At first I was told I was going to be with the local (golfer) Kevin Sutherland and one of my favorite players, Duffy Waldorf. But I found out that I was going to be with Tom Watson, and I said, 'That's good, too. I'll take that.' I was just jumping up and down. I was so excited.

"Tom Watson has always been one of my role models when I first started the game.

"Pretty much, (Watson) just turned around and started talking to me, and I think Tom Watson was the easiest golfer ever that I met to talk to. He was so nice and he was making jokes with everyone, and I think that's just an experience that I'm never going to forget."

Day 3 - Wednesday

"Wednesday, I was also standard bearing and I had the group of Patrick Tallent, Loren Roberts, David Frost and Dave Bunker, and those guys were honestly amazing. They were so funny, they were so nice. I mean, you could talk

to them and they asked me to call them by their first names.

"They asked me about everything that I've done. They wanted to know more about the program, since they weren't really from around Sacramento. So, for me to give them more information on The First Tee, they really got to know more about me and the program.

"It's nice just knowing that the players aren't so focused. When you're actually inside the ropes and you have a chance to talk to them, they're really fun (and) personable."

Day 4 - Thursday

"I was a floater on Thursday. I was there for like four hours just waiting. Instead of just going out and watching golf, I wanted to go help the people that were in charge of the standard bearers and help with their signs.

Kelli Corlett, one of the First Tee directors came out and said, 'The 2:30 (p.m.) person isn't showing up. We need you to go.' It was like 2:25 (p.m.).

"I grabbed my board and I literally just booked it."

Day 5 - Friday

"(As a standard bearer), I had Vincent Buzzini, Gerard Courville and (Don) Bell on Friday.

"It was kind of nice to talk to (Buzzini) and see how he got all the qualifiers he had to go to. Talking to him was kind of a big motivator for me."

Day 6 - Saturday

"Saturday was more of a relaxation day. I was still working my butt off, but I still went out and got the opportunity to watch some of the players that I didn't standard bear for. I watched them for about two or three hours and then I went straight back to work. I went back to Angie Dixon, (execu-



Photo courtesy of Harris family

Katelyn Harris enjoys a moment at the U.S. Senior Open. She referred to her time as a volunteer at the event as "the best week of my life."

tive director of The First Tee of Greater Sacramento), in the standard bearer checking room, and I'm just like, 'Put me to work. This is going to be my only day without work.' She found me a job to do to help set up all the signs for Sunday. I worked there for about two to three hours."

Day 7 - Sunday

"I found out Saturday night my mom got an email. The next thing I know my mom texted me (to) come downstairs. She said, 'I know (what golfers) you're going to be with tomorrow.' And it turned out I was going to be with Jay Haas and Rocco Mediate. I was just so excited the whole day getting to watch them play. They were some of the best players on the green. I was so thrilled and I learned so much from them. Those two were amazing to be with.

"They wouldn't stress how they were playing, so it was really nice to see how if they had a couple of bad holes, they were still nice enough to be hanging out with the fans and making everyone laugh."

Props to Del Paso's maintenance team

Like so many people who had a close-up view of the Del Paso course, Katelyn was impressed by its condition.

After being asked about the course, Katelyn said, "I give huge props to the maintenance team. This course is in such great shape. It is amazing how well they did it. And they had some amazing volunteer lunches. I mean to the very last detail, (Del Paso Country Club) nailed it."

Katelyn as a golfer

As for her own experiences as a golfer, Katelyn said that she first played the game when she was 9 years old and began golfing competitively when she was 11.

Despite becoming a golfer at such a young age, Katelyn said that she is participating in the sport on her own terms.

"My parents (Pat and Lazette Harris) were never been really forced parents," Katelyn said. "Some of the other parents have been. My parents don't want to push me into something that I don't want to do."

Katelyn, who has three older brothers, Matt, Patrick and Anthony, added that her parents are very supportive of her golfing endeavors, and that they also attended every day of the senior open.

With enthusiasm, Katelyn explained that her abilities as a golfer have increased to a

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Sacramentoland:

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level that she has made it her goal to become a professional golfer on the Ladies Professional Golf Association tour.

"When I started (playing in golf tournaments), I would always be the one to come in almost last, and I think that was one of the things that motivated me," Katelyn said. "I used to think, 'Oh, they're in the tournament, I'm not going to win now.' Now it's like, if you want to win, you have to beat me. I'm up there now."

Angie Dickson commented about Katelyn, saying, "First of all, she is just a wonderful girl, very special," Dixon said. "She is hard working and definitely sets goals. She has learned goal setting through the First Tee program. She has a real good outlook and a good disposition. I think she's going to go far."

Katelyn won her division and was awarded a sponsorship from various Sacramento Optimist clubs to cover her \$700 entry fee to participate in The Optimist International Junior Golf Championships in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida, which was held on July 21 through 26, 2015.

Katelyn's future plans

In an attempt to enhance her opportunities to become a professional golfer, Katelyn plans to eventually attend the University of Southern California, which has one of the nation's elite collegiate golf teams.

And in regard to her future university studies, Katelyn said that she plans to obtain a major in business and a minor in journalism at USC.

Although joining the LPGA tour is her ultimate dream, Katelyn said that she also has interest in one day operating her own business.

"Best week of my life"

While still riding on the high of her recent experience at the Senior U.S. Open, Katelyn, with an exuberant tone to her voice, said, "This was literally, hands down, the best week of my life. I don't know how else I could top it."

Charles Phoenix brought his retro slideshow featuring Arden area landmarks to Sacramento by Greg Brown: Charles Phoenix has been called the Ambassador of Americana, The King Of Kitsch, The Ringmaster of

Retro. Who is Charles Phoenix? He's all that and more.

Phoenix is best known for his comedic retro slide shows which showcase his collection of vintage film slides capturing mid-century Americana and culture. He does it all with enthusiasm, humor and style.

Charles had been thrift shopping since he was 14. Growing up in Ontario, California, he loved vintage stuff. "I kinda got started with a vintage eye because I grew up on a used car lot."

That's when he started buying vintage clothes, "It was much more interesting to dress in things you got at a thrift store than at the department store."

In 1992, Charles was thrift store shopping in Pasadena when he found a box of old slides on the shelf marked "Trip Across the U.S. 1957." It was filled with Kodachrome color slides of a family's vacation at numerous roadside landmarks. He held a few up and each one was "like looking through a window in time," he said.

He's been collecting slides ever since.

Charles brought his colorful comedy slideshow to the California Auto Museum for a special night of neon, retro, and all things mid-century modern. The event was hosted and sponsored by SacMod (Sacramento Modern). Welcome to Sacramentoland!

Charles told me over the phone from Los Angeles, "I'm going to be celebrating our capital city like it's a Big Theme Park!"

Phoenix added, "Everywhere I go I'm looking for the vintage, the retro, the old-school, the throwback, the classic, the kitschy, call it what you will. I'm looking for the places in every town that are unique to that town."

And Charles has a long list of classic Sacramento spots visited and highlighted them in his Sacramentoland slideshow on Friday, Oct. 16, 2015. He arrived four days before the show to explore some of Sacramento's landmark gems.

A real "one of a kind unique in the whole wide world gem is Pancake Circus," Phoenix said.

Charles told me, "I love time-warps because in this corporate world that we live in time-warps are unique, and they're special, and I love them. I look for them." Pancake Circus is a prime example of a time-warp with the classic Google archi-

ecture, neon sign, and circus clown themed interior.

Phoenix put some of our local landmarks up on a pedestal and had a "kooky good time fun along the way."

Then, he asked me, "Have you ever been to Sam's HofBrau?"

I said, "Of course, Charles. C'mon now." (I'm a freak for Sam's.) The neon sign. The dancing Germans on the wall, the meat carvers with the big white chef hats. That's Sacramento!

Charles excitedly said, "That place rocks my world! It's so honest to goodness and it's fresh. They roast the meat right there; it's not some frozen freezer bag treat or whatever."

Plus, the ambiance of it. Charles loves the big murals and the paintings, and of course, the outside neon sparkly signage.

"I mean. Where. Do. We. Begin?" Charles asked.

The last time Charles was there at 3 in the afternoon. "The place was jammed," he said.

And it always is. Because Sam's Hof Brau is a Sacramento institution, it should be treasured. And it was treasured and enamored at the Sacramentoland slideshow.

Another local legendary landmark Charles touted and treasured was Iceland Skating Rink in North Sacramento.

Iceland is "homespun and family run." That's what Charles Phoenix loves about it,

as well as the iconic neon sign along Del Paso Boulevard.

Against all odds Iceland has come back after a devastating fire. Phoenix said, "That is community spirit. It's the same family since the beginning, so I wish I had the opportunity to actually have crowns from the Party Store, place them on their heads and tell them, 'You're Americana royalty.'"

No word on if Iceland owner Terrie Kerth and her family took Charles up on the crown wearing, but they definitely should be commended for keeping Iceland alive.

Charles Phoenix ran loose all over Sacramento going from local treasure to local treasure including Fairytale Town in Land Park. Phoenix excitedly said, "That place is SO unique, SO one of a kind, SO special, SO charming, SO whimsical, SO playful, SO colorful."

He also visited Sacramento Sweets in Old Sacramento. They have been making hand-

made peanut brittle since 1964. Charles told me, "It's rare to find a peanut brittle kitchen. I've been all over the United States and I've never been to a peanut brittle kitchen." And of course, it's homespun and family run.

Other Sacramento landmarks Charles toured were the iconic Tower Theatre, Crest Theatre, as well as the Tower Records jitterbug neon sign above the Tower Café. "A national treasure," Charles added.

Gunther's Ice Cream shop, with its Juggling Joe neon sign, as well as Vic's, too.

There was an ice cream social party after the show at Vic's in Land Park where folks met Charles, while enjoying an ice cream cone or cup, courtesy of Sacramento Modern.

Local cameraman recalls filming President Ford assassination attempt 40 years ago by Lance Armstrong: Forty years have passed since an at-

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11 Critical Home Inspection Traps to be Aware of Weeks Before Listing Your Arden - Carmichael Home for Sale

Arden-Carmichael - According to industry experts, there are over 33 physical problems that will come under scrutiny during a home inspection when your home is for sale. A new report has been prepared which identifies the eleven most common of these problems, and what you should know about them before you list your home for sale. Whether you own an old home or a brand new one, there are a number of things that can fall short of requirements during a home inspection. If not identified and dealt with, any

of these 11 items could cost you dearly in terms of repair. That's why it's critical that you read this report before you list your home. If you wait until the building inspector flags these issues for you, you will almost certainly experience costly delays in the close of your home sale or, worse, turn prospective buyers away altogether. In most cases, you can make a reasonable pre-inspection yourself if you know what you're looking for, and knowing what you're looking for can help you prevent little problems from

growing into costly and unmanageable ones. To help homesellers deal with this issue before their homes are listed, a free report entitled "11 Things You Need to Know to Pass Your Home Inspection" has been compiled which explains the issues involved. To order a FREE Special Report, call toll-free 1-800-399-4007 and enter 1003. You can call any time, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Get your free special report NOW to learn how to ensure a home inspection doesn't cost you the sale of your home.

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Cameraman:

Continued from page 7

tempt was made to assassinate President Gerald R. Ford in Sacramento. And one person who knows plenty about that infamous day is north area native George Nyberg.

Nyberg, whose former career in film and video production spanned 41 years, was working as a KOVR-TV Channel 13 cameraman when he was assigned to cover a portion of Ford's local visit on Friday, Sept. 5, 1975. The president's 16-hour stay was especially celebrated, since it marked the first presidential visit to Sacramento since President Lyndon B. Johnson visited the capital city in 1964.

The Air Force One presidential jet landed at McClellan Air Force Base on Sept. 4, 1975 at 10:42 p.m., and Ford was greeted by about 1,000 people, including Gov. Jerry Brown, who was then serving in the first of his four terms as California's chief executive.

Ford and Brown were soon escorted to the Senator Hotel at 1131 L St., across the street from the state Capitol.

Gathered outside the hotel were about 300 people who were waiting to welcome the president to the capital city.

After their arrival at the Senator, Ford and Brown parted ways and Ford entered the hotel, where he was welcomed by another crowd of people and a mariachi band, which filled the air with its music.

After spending the night inside a then-recently painted room at the Senator, Ford left the hotel en route for the Sacramento Host Committee-sponsored breakfast at the Sacramento-Earl Warren Community Center, as the Sacramento Community Center was then known.

Ford later returned to the Senator Hotel before departing for a walk to the Capitol, where he was scheduled to participate in three meetings, including a joint legislative session in the Assembly chamber.

In recalling his assignment to cover Ford's walk from the hotel to the Capitol, Nyberg said, "(Ford) was going to walk from the Senator Hotel to the east steps of the Capitol and he was going to address a joint session of the Legislature. So, that morning, the news department had caught wind that there could possibly be some sort of a demonstration. And so, they brought everybody together, you know, the news staff. By that time, we had like eight or 10 cameramen. But on any given day, there (were) probably eight (cameramen) there. Anyway, this had never happened before, but they decided to assign four teams to cover President Ford.

"My job was to cover him from the time he left the Senator Hotel to go to the east steps. Arsen Matlejan, who was (KOV's) photo supervisor, he was inside to record (Ford's) address on film. We had a third cameraman by the name of Jeff Shaff, who was up in Sen. (James R.) Mills' office, which actually looked down onto the east side of the Capitol. He was up there and he was going to get like just an overhead shot. And then we had a fourth cameraman named Richard Viegas, and Richard was like a floater. He was just supposed to capture anything. You know, if something broke or something happened, he was there. He was supposed to kind of, in essence, back me up."

Although many people are well aware today what transpired after Ford crossed L Street and walked about 150 feet up a sidewalk in Capitol Park on Sept. 5, 1975, Nyberg had no idea that he was just moments away from standing about 10 feet away from the scene of the 13th presidential assassination attempt in U.S. history.

During his interview for this article, Nyberg, who grew up just a short distance from Town & Country Village, provided a detailed description of that walk, including the incident that led Ford to being rushed away by the Secret Service.

"I remember covering (Ford) crossing the street, and he gets into the park and stops and he starts shaking hands," Nyberg said. "So, I ran ahead of him, because you always want somebody coming to you. You don't want somebody's back

of their head. So, it was when I had just ran around and got into position that (the then-26-year-old, red-haired, attempted assassin) Lynette (Alice 'Squeaky' Fromme) pulled out the gun and pulled the trigger. But there was no round in the chamber. If you can imagine, she was about (2 feet) from him. (It was) a big (.45-caliber Colt automatic pistol), and you hear click. He would have been dead (had a bullet been fired). Oh no, there's no question about it. He would have been dead. They could tell from the bullets in the gun, she had practiced chambering around, because then you reload your magazine again, if you haven't fired them.

"So, I just happened to be at the right place at the right time and then did the right thing by filming, you know, rolling my camera. And as soon as that (incident with Fromme) happened, the Secret Service was going to whisk him into the Capitol. And what happened was they started to form a wedge and I slipped inside the wedge. But there were people all around him. We were all moving as a group, but I was moving backwards (sic). You know, I've got him here and I knew Arsen was inside, so when I got up to the steps, I stopped and let the president go by.

"And (a notable Associate Press photograph) was taken by somebody who was up on the steps looking at the president face on, and of course, I'm over his shoulder. Immediately, once I was done filming him being whisked inside, then I ran back to where they had Lynette and they had her pinned up by a tree. And the weirdest thing is she kept yelling, 'He's not your president, he's not your president.' I didn't know what the hell she was talking about. But anyway, so, I got the film of that (moment), as well."

Although Nyberg had about as good of a view as one could have of this incident at Capitol Park, he left that scene in wonderment of what had actually occurred.

Nyberg said that with the fast pace of the event and the fact that he was filming, he never saw the gun, nor was he aware of the identity of Fromme.

"I had just got ahead of (Ford), and (Fromme) had pulled out the gun," Nyberg said. "I didn't see the gun. You

know, I'm looking through a camera, but I'm keeping this eye open too, because I'm looking for whatever is going on. Well, that took place, but it didn't really register. But when they started pulling him to get him inside and I slipped into that little wedge that the Secret Service had formed, I got (very) close to him. And I knew that something traumatic had happened to him, because he was pale and he looked like he was in shock. And I (recognized it was a serious situation), but at that particular moment, I wasn't sure exactly what it was."

Little time passed after the incident in Capitol Park before the identity of the woman with the loaded gun was discovered.

The Sacramento Bee, in its same day coverage of the event, reported the following: "The young woman, identified as Lynette Fromme, a longtime follower of cult leader (Charles) Manson, was charged with the 'crime of attempting to murder the president of the United States,' according to Donald H. Heller, the assistant U.S. attorney general in Sacramento."

In speaking about Fromme and other "Manson girls," Nyberg said, "Of course, (Fromme) was a Manson follower. They were all here (in Sacramento), you know, Sandra ("Blue") Good and Susan Murphy and (Fromme). They were Manson girls and they were here (living at 1725 P St.) to be close to Charlie, because they would go visit him up at the prison. And at that time, our maximum security prison was Folsom (Prison)."

Nyberg said that it was only by chance that when he filmed the Ford assassination attempt, he was testing out new, Kodak high-speed film stock that "had less wet time than the previous film stock by (about) six or eight minutes."

"Anyway, it was the first time we ever beat (KCRA-TV) Channel 3 on the air with a story, only because we could get our film out a little sooner," Nyberg said. "And then, of course, we broke into the news with a breaking news story. We would have broken in the early afternoon, I'm sure. It would have been before 5 o'clock (that evening), because we did a breaking news

See more Best of, page 9

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Best of:

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story. We interrupted local programming, and, of course, we did probably a longer version at 5 (p.m.). And in those days, network news came on at 5:30 (p.m.) and we would do another show at 6 (p.m.). And then everybody had a show at 11 (p.m.)."

Nyberg said that both the color film from the KOVR news camera and the color film from his personal, still-shot camera that he had lent to a KOVR reporter at Capitol Park were quickly made unavailable to him.

"I think it was the Secret Service (or) the FBI, but somebody came and rounded up all of our footage," Nyberg said. "I was probably out on another story out in the field the day they came in with a subpoena and said, 'We're taking the film.' I think (that happened) within a week."

Nyberg added that the aforementioned KOVR reporter, who was using his Minolta 101 camera, captured a close-up shot of Fromme, and without his knowledge, quickly sold the photograph for \$2,000 to Newsweek magazine.

"I heard that she had sold the photo, or she had sent them actually the film," Nyberg said. "And she never discussed it with me. She just did it. And then, she wanted to reimburse me only for the film, and I said no, the film is not for sale."

Eventually, the matter was settled, with Nyberg acquiring about 60 percent of the profit from Newsweek.

The photograph was featured on the cover of the Sept. 15, 1975 issue of that magazine. And also included on the cover were Fromme's reactionary words to the botched shooting: "It didn't go off!"

Fromme, whose bail was set at \$1 million, became the first woman to be indicted under a 1965 statute that made it a federal crime to "assassinate, kidnap or assault a president of the United States."

Despite facing the possibility of a maximum penalty of life imprisonment, Fromme opted to act as her own lawyer.

Fromme was eventually sentenced to life in prison, and escaped from a West Virginia prison on Dec. 23, 1987, only to be found two days later. She was released from a Texas prison on parole on Aug. 14, 2009.

After being asked to express his afterthoughts about the incident at Capitol Park that nearly became one of the darkest days in Sacramento history, Nyberg said, "Well, just the image of (Ford) being in shock before I knew what had really happened. I mean, that just like burned something right into my mind, because I still see that today."

J.J. Jacobs planted roots for north area's Hubacher Cadillac by Lance

Armstrong: Last year marked five years since Hubacher Cadillac ceased operations at the northwest corner of Howe Avenue and Fair Oaks Boulevard. The property was sold in December 2014 and the building was demolished last year.

The business's roots were planted by another automobile dealer, Joseph John "J.J." Jacobs, who was born into a Pennsylvania Dutch family on a farm in Darby, Delaware County, Pa. on Christmas Day in 1885.

J.J. became orphaned during his youth, as his father died before his 10th birthday, and his mother died about five years later. Both of his parents were born in 1854.

After his parents' deaths, J.J. spent time living with his older brother in New Jersey and attending school. But J.J. would eventually drop out of school to begin making a living in what would be various lines of work prior to establishing a career in the automobile industry.

In explaining to The Sacramento Bee, in 1966, how he became involved in selling cars, J.J. said, "I got into the automobile business in New York City in 1910 after answering an ad for a Ford salesman (job) while I was selling typewriters in Montana. I got the job, but I didn't like selling in New York, so I came west to sell Fords in Los Angeles in 1911."

After two years of working in that position, J.J. left that employment and began working in the motion picture industry as an extra in comedy films with such notable actors as Charlie Chaplin, Chester Conklin and Mabel Normand.

After his work in about 10 films, J.J. found employment as a salesman of Studebakers in Los Angeles, and then Bakersfield, before heading to Sacramento to establish his own Studebaker agency.

During the summer of 1916, J.J., who was then residing in the Hotel Sacramento at 10th and K streets, partnered with Rodney C. Bridge, who also lived in that hotel, to establish the Bridge and Jacobs Motor Co. Studebaker dealership at 1806 M St. (now Capitol Avenue).

During the following year, J.J. was operating his own Studebaker agency, the J.J. Jacobs Motor Co., on leased property at 1500 K St.

At that time, he was residing at 3100 21st St., in the former home of Roger L. Scott, who was the secretary of the John Breuner Co., at 600-608 K St., and the president of Economy Department Store at 802 L St.

From about 1919 to about 1921, J.J. resided at 630 22nd St., and then from about 1921 to 1927, he lived at 2110 21st St.

It was also in 1927 when construction began on the original, portion of the Jacobs' home in the Sacramento neighborhood that would eventually become known as the Fabulous Forties. The final stage of that original



Photo by Lance Armstrong

The original portion of this unique house at 1225 45th St. was built by the Campbell Construction Co. for the J.J. Jacobs family from June 1927 to March 1928.

portion of the house was completed in March 1928.

In that two-story home at 1225 45th St., J.J. and his wife, Marjorie, who he married in October 1922, would raise their daughters, Marilyn, Marjorie "Marge", Jacqueline "Jackie", Mildred and Elinor.

Mildred and Elinor were daughters from J.J.'s previous marriage to Marjorie's older sister, Dorothy "Dora" (Morissey) Jacobs. Dora, who married J.J. in about 1916, died on Dec. 22, 1920.

Mildred was born as Mildred Miner during Dora's previous marriage to a Dr. Miner.

During the mid-1920s, the J.J. Jacobs Motor Co. operated a branch at 3152-60 Folsom Blvd.

In about 1929, the company, while still selling Studebakers, became a Pierce-Arrow dealer.

The 1933 city directory recognizes J.J.'s agency as then offering Rockne automobiles, which were built and marketed by the Studebaker Corporation in 1932 and 1933 as a tribute to the legendary University of Notre Dame football coach Knute Rockne (1888-1931).

J.J. became strictly a Buick, Cadillac and LaSalle distributor in 1934.

Six years later, General Motors discontinued its manufacturing of LaSalles, which were a brand of GM's Cadillac division.

The 1950 Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Co. telephone directory mentions the J.J. Jacobs Motor Co.'s dealership and towing, paint and metal shop at 1500 K St., the used car department at 1401 L St., and another towing, paint and metal shop at 18th and S streets.

The old J.J. Jacobs Motor Co. began its longtime existence as solely a Cadillac dealership in 1950, when J.J.'s son-in-law, Newton Cope, took over the Buick dealership.

Cope, who was married to the former Marilyn Jacobs from 1945 to 1966, sold the Buick dealership in

1959 and opened The Firehouse Restaurant in Old Sacramento about a year later.

Among those who worked for Cope at his Buick dealership at 1500 K St. was Kenneth V. Riggs, a former long-time sales manager for the J.J. Jacobs Motor Co.

With Cope's operation of the Buick dealership, the address of J.J.'s business began to be regularly recognized as 1501 L St.

At that time and until 1966, the vice president of the J.J. Jacobs Cadillac Co. was J.J.'s son-in-law, Don E. Reid.

After being asked to describe her father, J.J., Jackie Devine said, "He was highly unusual in that he had really unusually strong family values. We always sat down and had dinner. He respected the family so much. He raised his children strictly, but (kindly). He read everything. He didn't have an education, so he read so much, because he really respected education. But he was very close to his children and he always put a tie and jacket on to eat. We always sat down at 6:30 (p.m.), and he always worked six days a week. He always went to work in the morning and came home for dinner. He was very disciplined. He was a very good father."

Marge Reid also described her father, who passed away on Dec. 17, 1971.

"(J.J.) was a self-made man, who was very bright," Marge said. "He could have sold anybody anything. He worked very hard, I remember. He was a very devoted person, so his family and his business was it. He was very loyal and trustworthy. His handshake would go a long way with him. His honor was his word. He really cared about his clients."

In January 1966, the San Francisco-born Elmer Hubacher (1919-2009) purchased J.J.'s interest in the dealership, and began operating the busi-

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Hubacher:

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ness in the same midtown Sacramento location as Hubacher Cadillac.

Hubacher had been a partner and general manager in the firm since 1964.

The agency officially became known as Hubacher Cadillac, Inc. in December 1966.

A 1967 advertisement for the company recognizes the business as then operating at 1501 L St. and 1501 K St. at that time.

Due to insufficient space, Hubacher Cadillac relocated to 1 Cadillac Drive at the aforementioned northwest corner of Howe Avenue and Fair Oaks Boulevard in 1972.

Among the people associated with Hubacher at that time were Elmer, who served as the company's president; Stanley Hindsley, secretary-treasurer; Hilary T. Martin, new car manager; and Jack Wendell, used car manager.

Hubacher Cadillac had long history as a north area business by Lance Armstrong: A large piece of property at the northwest corner of Howe Avenue and Fair Oaks Boulevard was once the site of a very active place.

The property was for many years associated with the name Hubacher.

Elmer Hubacher took over the entire operations of the old J.J. Jacobs Cadillac dealership, about two blocks south of the Sacramento Memorial Auditorium, in January 1966.

Hubacher, who served as a naval aviator in World War II and the Korean War, had already been a partner with Jacobs for two years when he purchased Jacobs portion of the company.

Prior to working with Jacobs, Hubacher had become a veteran Cadillac employee, as he had been associated with Cadillac since 1947. He worked as a salesman before becoming a zone manager.

The Sacramento Bee, in an article in its Jan. 8, 1967 edition, recognizes the then-recent official establishment of Hubacher Cadillac, Inc. through the signing of an agreement between the Cadillac Motor Car Division and Elmer Hubacher.

During the previous month, Hubacher had begun to unofficially refer to his business as Hubacher Cadillac.

An early 1967 advertisement for the company refers to the "credo of Hubacher Cadillac," as follows: "A progressive sales philosophy, personal and satisfying service policies, a sincere interest in serving you and a deep concern for your satisfaction in America's finest motor car."

Hubacher would eventually move his business to the aforementioned corner of Howe Avenue and Fair Oaks Boulevard.

On Dec. 15, 1970, The Sacramento Union reported that Hubacher Cadillac would be relocating to that site.

The article mentions that a 45,000-square-foot building would be constructed on the property, which had been acquired from the Commons Development Co.

It was also recognized in the article that Hubacher also purchased additional land on the south side of that property.

The same article notes: "Sacramento architect Harry Devine, (who was related to the Jacobs family through marriage), said the building will feature colored concrete, expansive use of glass and will house showrooms, offices, parts and service facilities with parking service spaces for 63 spaces."

As mentioned in the previous article of this series, the reason for Hubacher's relocation to this north area site was due to the company's insufficient space at its previous referred to downtown site.

At that time in the company's history, that site, which was the location of the company's main sales center, was one of six Hubacher locations.

Another reason for the company's plan to move to the Howe Avenue and Fair Oaks Boulevard site was based on a survey that showed that 70 percent of the company's customers were residents of the Fair Oaks area.

Another statistic revealed that this north area intersection received more traffic than anywhere else in the county, besides freeways.

In addition to the main structure, other Hubacher buildings would be built at this north area site.

The 1970 article mentions that one building on the site would house an automotive museum that would feature agency-owned cars, including a 1904 Cadillac and a 1959 Eldorado Brougham custom.

A reference to Hubacher Cadillac in the March 12, 1972 edition of The Union notes that the completion of that dealership was scheduled for August 1972.

Among those who were then associated with the dealership at its 1501 L St. location were Elmer Hubacher, president; Stanley Hindsley, secretary-treasurer; Hilary T. Martin, general sales manager; Alfred E. Marwick, used car manager; and Jesse B. Vinson, service and parts manager.

Hubacher Cadillac, which eventually became known as Hubacher Cadillac & Land Rover, Inc., remained in business at 1 Cadillac Drive, at the aforementioned northwest corner of Howe Avenue and Fair Oaks Boulevard, until 2010.

Elmer Hubacher, who was a member of Del Paso Country Club, the Sutter Club and the Rotary Club of Sacramento, died during the previous year.

The old Hubacher north area property was sold for about \$7.1 million to CVS pharmacy.

James Teare, of Terranomics, was the broker who represented CVS.

In a very brief interview for this article, Teare said that although a CVS store will be a part of a future shopping center at that site, he could not make a comment regarding what other stores might be located in that center.

"There are other stores going in. That is public knowledge," Teare said.

Mike Luca, vice president of the CBRE, Inc. brokerage firm in Sacramento and one of the brokers who was involved in the sale, also spoke about the property for this article.

"We sold the property," Luca said. "We had the property on the market for over three years. It sold to CVS. We did not represent the buyer. We only represented the seller."

"The city sold them a 1-acre piece of property that's actually the true hard corner of Fair Oaks (Boulevard) and Howe (Avenue). And then the rest of (the property) was the Cadillac dealership. They bought that also. The buyer didn't close until they knew they would be approved (for the site)."

"There will likely be additional occupants on that corner, but I do not know who those are. There have been rumors of a (grocery) market, but I can't confirm any of them."

"Obviously, they tore the whole (Cadillac) building down, and the Cadillac dealership is no longer there. It will be all new construction, new buildings. Before that, the dealership was closed for three or four years before the property actually sold. So, it's going to turn a dead corner into something a lot more vibrant, and it will be a nice development."

Wildlife biologist studies rattlesnakes at Effie Yeaw Nature Center by Lance Armstrong: Wildlife biologist Mike Cardwell has had a lifelong interest in venomous animals and has become an expert in the study of rattlesnakes. And his latest work has led him to spend much time at Carmichael's Effie Yeaw Nature Center along the American River.

In an interview with this paper last year, Cardwell, who has resided in Sacramento for the past 11 or so years, spoke about developing an interest in becoming a wildlife biologist.

"I have always been interested in venomous animals – animals that people in my view unreasonably fear," said Cardwell, who was born and raised in Los Angeles and handled his first snake when he was about 8 years old. "I started off wanting to be a biologist. I realized in the late 1960s, there were a lot of unemployed biologists. So, I wanted to do it professionally, but I had some friends that were ahead of me in college that ended up

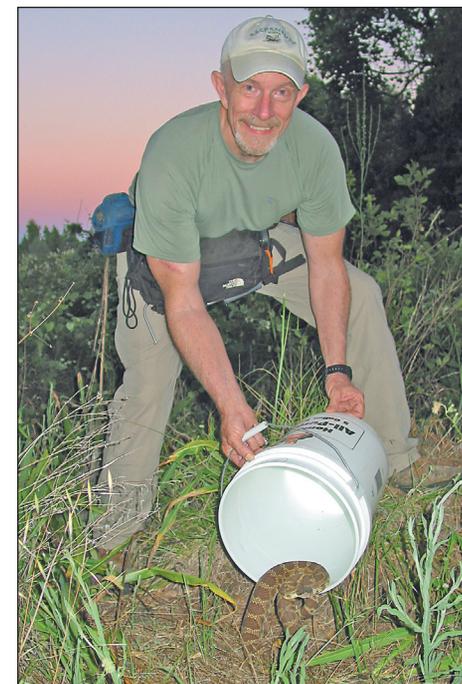


Photo courtesy of Mike Cardwell
Wildlife biologist Mike Cardwell is presently studying rattlesnakes at the Effie Yeaw Nature Center in Carmichael.

with biology degrees and couldn't find work. And at that time, the local cops were recruiting me and that sounded like fun, so I did that (with the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department) for 32 years."

While working for that sheriff's department, first as a deputy sheriff and eventually as the chief of the Specialized Operations Bureau, Cardwell never lost his interest in venomous creatures, and he even took various related classes during that portion of his life.

After retiring from his work in law enforcement, Cardwell pursued his goal of becoming a wildlife biologist, and in 2013, he earned a master's degree in biological sciences from Sacramento State University.

He spent four years studying Mojave rattlesnakes in San Bernardino County and five years conducting another rattlesnake study in El Dorado County.

Because of the terrain and vegetation in his study area in the latter county, Cardwell said that he especially welcomed his study at the Effie Yeaw Nature Center.

"Effie Yeaw is much more fitted to be able to find the snakes and collect data from them," Cardwell said. "I'm almost up to 1,000 snake relocations this season at Effie Yeaw. Just to be able to go out and find a snake and document where it is and what the body temperature is and what it's doing and what kind of vegetation is it. Is it hunting or is it courting or is it basking in the sun? We're slowly figuring out where they mate, where they give birth to their babies, where they spend the winter, how big of an area do the males occupy and what kind of home range females have."

"The interesting thing at Effie Yeaw is one whole side of the (100-acre) preserve is right up against the densely pop-

See Snakes, page 11

Snakes:

Continued from page 10

ulated residential area. So, one of my real interests was how often do those rattlesnakes wander into the yards in (that) area. This season, so far we've only had one (snake) that we know of get into somebody's yard for four days last year, then (it) wandered back into the park."

Cardwell, who is known by the nicknames of the "Snake Guy" and the "Rattlesnake Guy," said that his then rattlesnake tracking project at Effie Yeaw partially began due to the executive director and staff's curiosity about how many rattlesnakes were located in that area.

The first rattlesnakes to be studied by Cardwell at Effie Yeaw were those that were caught by the center's staff.

Instead of relocating the snakes further away from the center's buildings, each snake would be placed in a barrel and Cardwell would receive a phone call.

Cardwell would then pick up the snake, anesthetize it, measure it and determine its sex. And if it was large enough for a 9-gram transmitter, he would surgically insert a transmitter to be used as a tracking device.

Because of its small battery, each inserted transmitter becomes unresponsive after about a year, and thus requires those snakes to be recaptured and undergo an additional transmitter insertion surgery.

The surgical technique to implant the transmitters is widely used by rattlesnake researchers. Studies involving such surgeries must be approved by an institutional animal care committee in order to apply for permits and to submit results to scientific journals. Cardwell's research has been approved by Loma Linda University and, more recently, by San Diego State University.

To conduct his study, Cardwell obtained a permit from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and because Effie Yeaw is in Ancil Hoffman Park, he also acquired a permit from Sacramento County Regional Parks.

Cardwell explained that the colored markings are helpful in understanding the population of rattlesnakes in an area. "If you have so many marked ones and you're seeing two-

thirds as many unmarked ones as you're seeing marked ones, there's a fair chance that there's about two-thirds as many unmarked ones out there."

Local rattlesnakes are born about the size of a pencil and generally grow as large as 3 feet long.

Historically, the larger local rattlesnakes often grew to 4 or 5 feet in length.

In regard to the smallest rattlesnakes, Cardwell said, "The most common rattlesnake myth is that the babies are more dangerous than the adults. If you think about it, baby rattlesnakes, because they're just so small, they just don't have much venom. The stats from the laboratories of pharmaceutical companies tell us that 3-foot snakes on average produce 100 times more venom per bite than little 1-footers. (The notion) that the small guys are more dangerous is pretty crazy."

Cardwell described rattlesnakes and other venomous animals as being misunderstood.

"It's a fascination for me that we have these animals, whether it's rattlesnakes or spiders or scorpions or whatever, that a lot of people are awfully afraid of. (It is) all out of proportion to the danger that they actually pose.

"Really, (rattlesnakes are) pretty timid. Everybody thinks they're aggressive. People talk about them being angry. I like to ask people (to) imagine living your life an inch off the ground and having something 50 or 60 or 70 inches tall come along and bother you. They're not angry. They're frightened.

"There's a famous herpetologist 50 years ago that wrote that rattlesnakes are first cowards, then bluffers and then, as a last resort, warriors. In other words, the first thing they try (to) do is hide. Normally, they sit still and hope they're not discovered. And then if they are discovered and they can't get away, they try their best to look menacing and dangerous. And if that doesn't work, and whatever is bothering them gets too close and there is no other alternative, then they strike and bite."

For additional information about Cardwell and the Effie Yeaw Nature Center, call 916-489-4918 or visit the website www.sacnaturecenter.net.



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Matías Bombal's Hollywood

"The Revenant"

The MPAA has rated this R

Twentieth Century Fox Film Corporation releases the latest movie from director Alejandro González Iñárritu, three-time Oscar winner and the man behind the popular "Birdman" from last year. In this movie, Iñárritu has adapted a 2002 novel by Michael Punke, "The Revenant: A Novel of Revenge" with fellow screenwriter Mark L. Smith set in the dramatic United States wilderness of the 1820s.

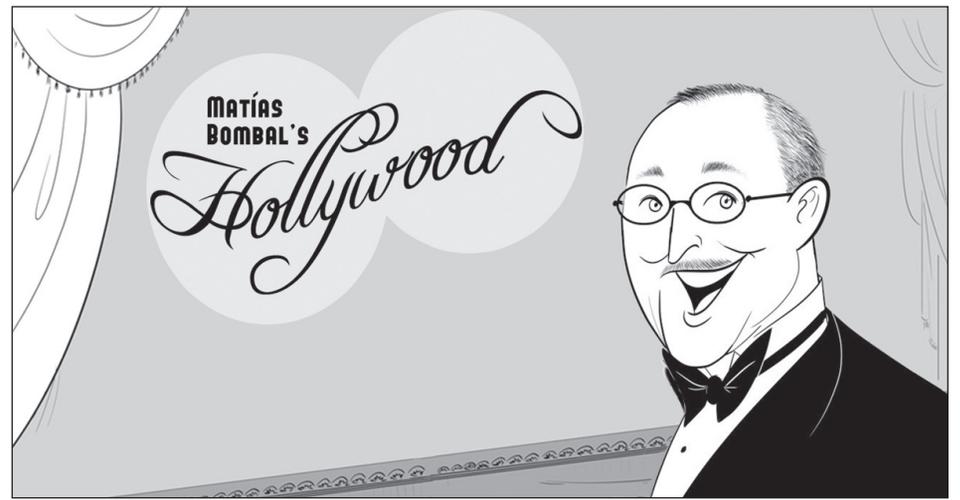
As the young nation's new economy grew, much income came from the fur trade. The demand for felt and beaver hats in Europe was so great, it was one of the first lucrative and profitable trade businesses. With it came, the folklore of the mountain men and trappers that risked it all for pelts -- risks from competitors, Indians, and the harshness of life in that time, especially in the remoteness of nature's wild winter wilderness. This story focuses on three mountain men of that time that really did exist in history and one man's remarkable journey to redemption.

Leonardo DiCaprio plays the most fabled of these mountain men, Hugh

Glass, whose knowledge of the wild terrain, according to the movie's story, was an asset to Captain Andrew Henry (Domhnall Gleeson) of the Rocky Mountain Fur Company which sent these men out in an expedition for pelts. The picture opens in 1823 with a scene of the trappers beset by Arikara Indians, bloodthirsty and savage in their attack on the mountain men, nearly killing all of the expedition.

Amid the horror of this violent attack, Glass mentally flashes back to a scene of destruction of a Pawnee Indian home and the murder of a native child's mother. The now lonely boy, Hawk, was no less than the offspring of the Pawnee mother and Hugh Glass. Traumatized by the occasion and his inability to belong fully to white or Indian culture makes the adult Hawk (Forrest Goodluck) quiet and timid, and the movie flashes forward to 1823 and the trapping expedition where he accompanies his father in their rush to escape death by the river.

Frustrated and scared by his misfortune, trapper John Fitzgerald (Tom Hardy), is among the survivors, along with Captain Henry and only a few



others, some already dead from arrow wounds on the raft. They have lost their haul of pelts, and now have nothing to show for days upon days hunting in the wild. Fitzgerald turns heartless and selfish, interested in his own personal gain. He is argumentative with everyone, and would become the most destructive force in the life of Hugh Glass. He ridicules Hawk and Glass and their father-son relationship, despising Hawk and all "Savages".

Whilst continually on the move and looking for food, the survivors send one man out at a time to look for food and scout for possible Arikara attacks. On Glass's turn, he finds some bear

cubs feeding. Before he could see her, the mother Grizzly Bear charges from behind him, sets upon him with three inch claws tearing into his back, biting him, shaking his body forcibly with its mouth and tearing Glass's neck. On the big screen, this moment is nothing less than spectacular in every sense, as your jaw drops at the horror of the attack. How could someone survive such an attack? This is only the first of many tribulations for Glass, whose will to live against impossible odds of nature and avarice and violence from Fitzgerald is a remarkable display of human surviv-

See Top ten, page 15

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BEST PHOTOS OF 2015



Photo by Stephen Crowley



Photo by Stephen Crowley

(above) The River City Concert Band performed at the annual tree lighting event at Carmichael Park, which was held on Thursday, Dec. 3, 2015. Sponsored by the Carmichael Recreation and Park District, the event also featured pictures with Santa, arts and crafts for the kids and even a visit from the Grinch. SactoMoFo food trucks were on hand for dinner and desserts and folks were encouraged to bring in a canned good to donate to Sacramento Food Bank & Family Services.

(left) The Sacramento Steampunk Society held an emporium and swap meet on Saturday, Feb. 21, 2015 at Great Escape Games on Howe Avenue. People got a chance to see what steampunk is all about and visit with dozens of vendors. The emporium was an artists' bazaar with a steampunk flair, featuring artisans selling items they have made, including costumes, jewelry, leatherwork, books and hats.

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Top ten:

Continued from page 13

al. To reveal the several misfortunes that will incrementally plague Glass here would destroy the impact of this saga. His maimed body, carried for a while by the few remaining mountain men on an improvised sled, is barely living.

The youngest and most sympathetic to Glass's fate is Jim Bridger (Will Poulter) but is goaded constantly by Fitzgerald to let him die, as carrying him around is dead weight and could seal their fate. Poulter, who may remember from 2014's "The Maze Runner", does a fine job here, especially in the shadow of two such towering performers as Tom Hardy and Leonardo DiCaprio. The real star here is the bleak natural winter wonder of the uncharted and settled USA of the 1820s. Harsh and gigantic, the monumental tribulations of men against this setting seem and are insignificant. Doubling for the USA in this movie were parts of Canada and Argentina, where there still remains large expanses of unspoiled land.

Íñárritu demanded this picture be shot in natural light, which contributes to its grey bleakness. The camera is almost always moving, showing the majesty and sweep of nature as well as the intimate close-up view of pain and suffering. With a long running time of 156 min., you too feel lost in this wilderness. This is not the first time a movie has told the story of Hugh Glass. In 1971 with different names, Richard Harris was "Bass" in "Man in the Wilderness" for Warner Bros. As great as Tom Hardy is, and he really is the

most exciting actor in movies these days, this movie seems too long and has odd little errors here and there, such as when a musket fired by DiCaprio is able to shoot twice in a few moments without reloading. This happens more than once in the movie. However, DiCaprio's Glass will crawl his way more than 200 miles to get revenge for Fitzgerald's betrayal.

The violence and hatred are much too real to be comfortable. Yes, great job by actors to achieve that, but discomfort for the audience. A better balance could have been employed. We get that life was harsh in this setting, but for such a long time it feels abusive. That said it is the perfect movie for people to see whose worse life tragedy is not getting the right case for their iPhone. This will show them what real hardship is, a bit rough for me.

If you are going to see this, take warm clothing. Watch-

ing this movie will lower your body temperature. This is bleak hardship at basic survival level, powerful, but not for everyone. Odd choice for a winter release, I prefer to get that much snow on the Sierra Nevada.

So, what is a revenant?

A person who has returned, supposedly from the dead.

Matias Bombal's top 10 movies of 2015

As often happens near the end of the year we start to examine what transpired in this now elapsed year that remain present in the mind. Might some of these moments have offered something of merit that would make them memorable still? In a society so geared to "what's next?" I offer some movie titles that made an impression that may stand the test of time, at least for me.

The first movie I reviewed in 2015 was a sci-fi musical

called "The Ghastly Love of Johnny X", the last, "The Hateful Eight". A remarkable connection between the two: in this now all digital age, both films were actually released on motion picture film prints for theatrical distribution. A photographic process, not an electronic one. In between those two cinematic bookends of 2015 here's what I liked the most. There were other excellent films with fine acting, to be sure, but these are the ones that I remember with fondness; beginning with special categories first, before giving away the top ten over all.

Honorable mentions for films that did not make the top 10, but were considered: "The 100 Year Old Man that

Climbed Out the Window and Disappeared" and "Black Sea".

Best foreign language movie: "Labyrinth of Lies"; best documentary: "Meru"; best use of 3-D: "The Walk". In numeric order from the very best on down, here are the top ten.

Ladies and Gentlemen: The Best Picture of 2015:

1. Youth
2. Ex Machina
3. Danny Collins
4. Pawn Sacrifice
5. Love and Mercy
6. Mr. Holmes
7. The Water Diviner
8. Inherent Vice
9. Kingsman: The Secret Service
10. The Intern



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