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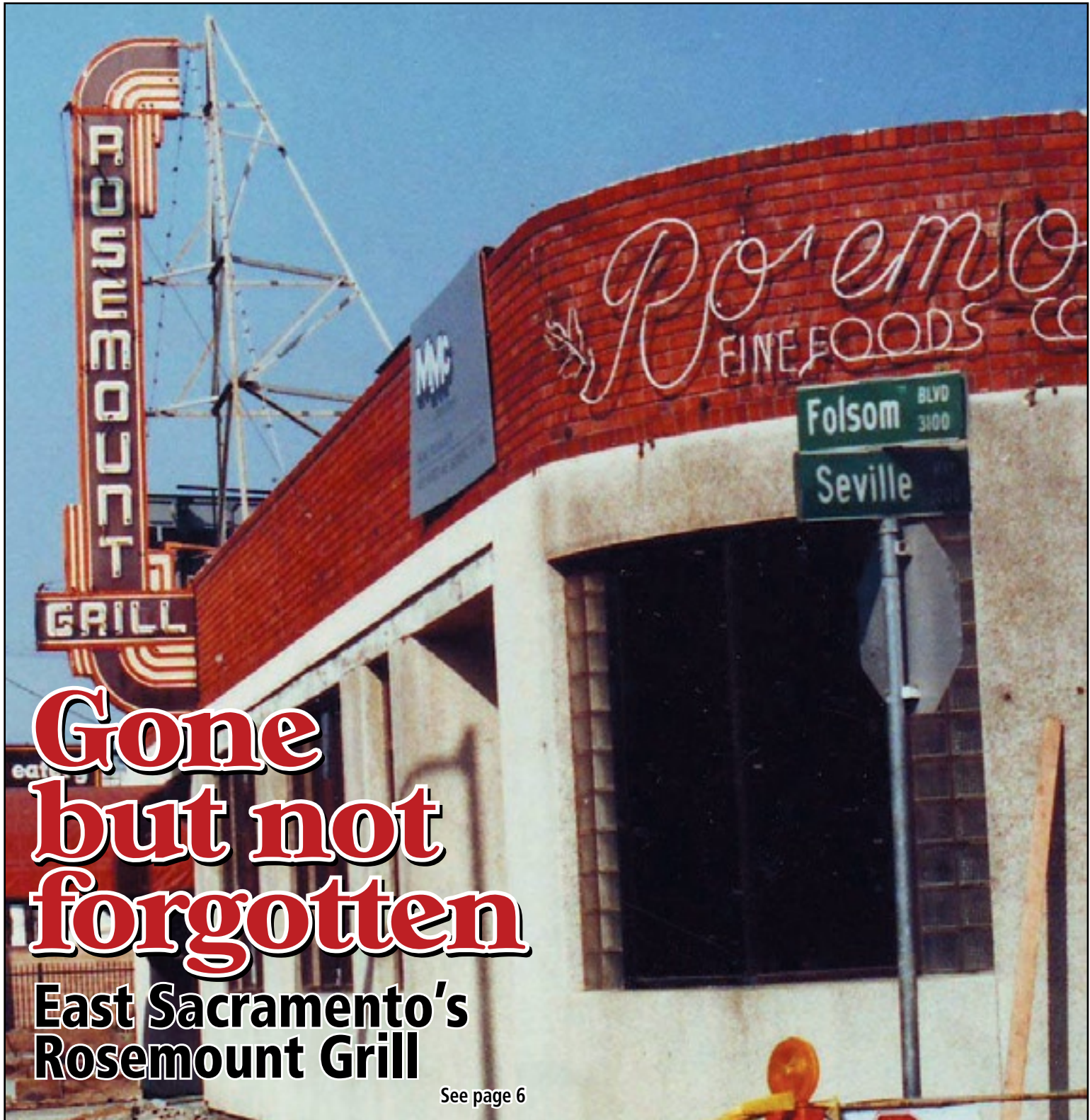
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East Sacramento News photo, Sally King

DI GREGORIO is accomplished in many art media and forms. It is the "sublime" quality of art that most affects his work today.

Know your neighbor

Artist Jose Di Gregorio at Verge

By SALLY KING
East Sacramento News writer

The artwork of East Sacramento resident Jose Di Gregorio is being displayed at the annual Jumble Sale preview for the Verge Center for the Arts on Aug. 4.

Di Gregorio said his first foray into art was photography. He said he remembers being in his early twenties and living in Santa Cruz when he started taking photographs.

"I wanted to encapsulate what I was seeing with what was so aesthetically beautiful and sublime," Di Gregorio said. "It's the sublime that continues to reflect in my work today."

Di Gregorio was born in Puerto Rico. Soon after, his family moved back to his father's homeland of Argentina. When Di Gregorio was four-years old, the family moved to Woodland because his father had a close friend there. His parents, who were not well educated, felt their children would receive a better education in the United States.

Di Gregorio said he moved to Puerto Rico in 2000, to live with his godfather, who had a mountain estate, and to be the groundskeeper. He said his purpose was to meet his mother's side of the family.

Seven months later, Di Gregorio was accepted to the Herron School of Art and Design in Indianapolis.

"I shifted from photography to painting," Di Gregorio said. "I was influenced by plein aire artists."

In 2004, Di Gregorio received a full scholarship to attend the Pont-Aven School of Contemporary Art in France. This was his first experience being in Europe. He said this changed his art style altogether.

"I went from a deeply figurative technical style of work to non-representational abstract

work," Di Gregorio said. "I made lots of drip paintings and gave them to people passing by on the streets."

Di Gregorio said he studied under abstract painter Robert Reed. Di Gregorio said he realized over time he did not like holding a paintbrush. He said he is more comfortable as a tactile artist. He said he prefers drawing more than painting.

Di Gregorio said he believes art is innate in every society; some societies are just more cognizant of it. He said he sees everyone as an artist in his or her own way.

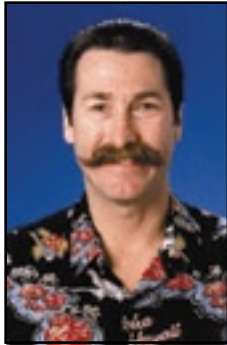
Di Gregorio finished his undergraduate studies in 2006 and moved to East Sacramento with his wife, Megan and two daughters. He said he loves East Sacramento because his neighbors have such an eclectic range of careers and they appreciate him as an artist.

Di Gregorio said he loves working at Verge. "Verge won first place for the Arts Innovation Grant from Sacramento Metropolitan Arts Commission," Di Gregorio said. "Our plan is to have art classrooms, an installation studio, art studios, a print making lab, an art gallery and a retail area where art can be purchased by the public. This is unprecedented in Sacramento."

Di Gregorio said the hope is for Verge to open by next spring. Di Gregorio said Liv Mo, executive director for Verge, asked him to work on this project.

"Jose is a fantastic addition to Verge," Mo said. "He understands the big picture of what we are trying to do and he has experience working at other art centers."

Di Gregorio said he sees Verge being a place where artists can network with other artists and be an inspiration to all. The art center is located at 625 S St. in Sacramento.



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Singing sensation Manuel Romero to perform free concert at Central Library

Special to East Sacramento News

Manuel Romero, former contestant on "America's Got Talent," will be performing with his band at a free concert on Saturday, Aug. 6 at 2 p.m.

The concert will be at the Central Library's Tsakopoulos Library Galleria. It will be the final program of the "American Sabor: Latinos in U.S. Popular Music" exhibit currently on display at the Central Library through Aug. 7.

Romero will be singing current top-40 hits, melodic Mariachi music and ballads in English and Spanish.

Doors will open at 1:30 p.m. and seating is limited.

The Tsakopoulos Library Galleria is located within the Central Library, at 828 I Street in Sacramento. For more information, call (916) 264-2920 or visit www.saclibrary.org.



Photo courtesy, Manuel Romero

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Third annual California Auto Museum Car Cruise is Aug. 6

By MARK GLOVER
Special to East Sacramento News

Ralph Waldo Emerson said: "Nothing was ever achieved without enthusiasm."

And if that's the standard, the California Automobile Museum's Third annual Car Cruise should be a smashing success. Everyone at the museum, from the occasional volunteer to top management staff, has played an enthusiastic role pitting together this year's event.

The event will be held on Aug. 6. This year's plans were being formulated within hours after the last cruise trophy was handed out last year.

"We're determined to make the cruise better every year, and yes we've learned along the way," said Karen McClaffin, executive director of the museum.

This year the CAM Cruise starts from the Sacramento State campus, travels along a beautiful five-mile route to the storied Fulton Avenue corridor, the focal point of bands, food, awards, fun and head-turning cars. Five hundred participants are expected this year,



Photo courtesy

The Third annual CAM Car Cruise will be held Saturday, Aug. 6. Come join the fun along the Fulton Avenue Corridor. There will be hundreds of classic cars to see, plus entertainment and foods of all kinds.

with all cars, trucks, motorcycles and vintage travel trailers welcome, regardless of age.

Visit www.calautomuseum.org for more information and vehicle admission fees. General admission is free for spectators.



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Terry nearly burns down Janey Way



By **MARTYRELLES**
East Sacramento News columnist
marty@valcomnews.com

One day in August in the early 1960s, my brother Terry sat on our front porch, thinking,

Summer was coming to an end.

The State Fair opened in just a few weeks. After that, school started.

He needed money for the fair and to buy some cool clothes for school. Mom always took care of the basics, but she never bought the latest fashions. Terry decided he needed to earn some money.

But how could he do it?

Suddenly, a light turned on in his head.

"I can do yard work in the neighborhood and earn all the money I need," he thought.

Immediately, Terry jumped up and went around to the back yard. He grabbed the old red wagon, put some lawn tools in it, went across the street and began going house to house.

At his first stop, they said, "Can't help you Terry, our kids do the work care here."

And so it went as he walked slowly up the block. Everyone said that they didn't need any help.

Finally, Terry arrived at the last house on the west side of the block: the home of Herb Mather. Herb had retired from the State Printing Plant sometime back. Since then, he spent a lot of his time at the tavern in the Square Deal Restaurant on 58th and Folsom Blvd. Herb came to the door, looked at Terry, then back toward his yard and said, "Yeah, I could use some help."

He then walked Terry down his driveway and into his back yard.

Terry looked at the yard. Oh my, what a mess. Bermuda grass had overgrown the lawn and reached ankle length. Weeds had overgrown the plants in the flower beds.

To Terry, this looked like a gold mine. Herb then sidled off in the direction of the Square Deal and left Terry to his job.

What should he do first?

Terry decided to tackle the lawn. He pulled an old push lawn mower out of the garage and tried to mow the law. That did not work. The lawn had grown too high and the mover just pushed the grass down without cutting it. He tried a hand weed-whacking tool; that didn't work either. Nothing seemed to work.

He gave the problem some thought and decided to do what the firemen did in the empty lots in our neighborhood. They started a fire on one side of the lot and slowly drug it to the other side. That worked quickly and efficiently to get the grasses down to a manageable level.

He went in Herb's house, grabbed some matches, then into the garage to get an old can of gasoline. Then he started a fire on the southeast corner of the yard.

At first, all went well. The fire moved slowly from the front toward the back of the property.

Then a breeze gusted up. The fire moved more quickly.

Embers jumped up to the fence. It caught fire, then jumped to roof of the house.

Terry ran around the side of the house to get a hose, but it did not reach the fence. In a panic, he ran in the house and called the

See Janey Way, page 16

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Rosemount Grill was a longtime downtown, East Sac institution

By LANCE ARMSTRONG
East Sacramento News writer
lance@valcomnews.com

Near the northeast corner of Folsom and Alhambra boulevards sits a large, brick building that houses Good Eats market, café and wine lounge. Although the business will celebrate its one year anniversary on Aug. 29, the structure has much deeper roots.

Sixty-six years ago, the building became home to the Rosemount Grill, which was once one of the city's most popular restaurants.

But the story actually does not begin there, as this East Sacramento landmark was not Rosemount Grill's first location.

Prior to its relocation to East Sacramento, Rosemount Grill had already acquired much local recognition during its longtime operation at 1011 9th St., near the historic city plaza – now Cesar Chavez Plaza.

When the Rosemount Grill finally closed its doors for the last time at 10 p.m. on January 31, 1989, the community was left with a void, as it had lost one of its oldest and most cherished eateries.

On the front cover of a Rosemount Grill menu, dated Friday, March 6, 1987, are the words: "Serving fine food to fine people for over 65 years."

With a search into old city directories, Peter "Pete" Valerio and George Lucich appear as the earliest proprietors of the restaurant.

Although 1914 has often been repeated in local newspaper articles as the initial year of the Rosemount Grill, Pete Valerio is not listed in a city directory until 1917, when he resided at 810 P Street. And the same directory refers to him as co-owner of the Rosemount Grill with George Lucich.



The Rosemount Grill, which operated in East Sacramento from 1945 to 1989, is shown in this early 1989 photograph. Photo courtesy, the Mikacich family

The 1914 directory does list a restaurant being under the proprietorship of Lucich and Valerio, but this restaurant was located in a separate loca-

tion and was owned by Marco Lucich and Jerry Valerio.

The city directory of 1916 notes that George Lucich was joined with Jerry Valerio in the ownership of a restaurant at the initial site of the Rosemount Grill. However, no reference to the name Rosemount Grill was mentioned.

The earliest reference to the name Rosemount Grill that was discovered during research for this article appears in the Sept. 25, 1916 edition of *The Sacramento Bee*, which reported about the restaurant's application for a Class A liquor license.

Barbara (Cordano) Mikacich, who co-owns the old Rosemount Grill building and its property with her husband, Pete Mikacich, and the Sacramento-based, commercial real estate business, Cordano Company, said that the notion that the Rosemount

Grill opened in 1916 "seems about right."

"To me, 1914 seems a bit too early," said Barbara Mikacich, who graduated from C.K. McClatchy High School in 1951.

If pinpointing an exact year as to when the Rosemount Grill was established was not complicated enough, a 1961 advertisement for the restaurant boasts that the business had been "Serving Sacramento since 1915."

But whatever the precise year may be for the founding of the Rosemount Grill, one thing is for certain: Pete Valerio was in many ways synonymous with this restaurant.

Prior to moving to Sacramento, Pete Valerio, who emigrated from Croatia at the age of 10 in 1898, was a resident of Leadville, Colo.

According to a Dec. 25, 1987 article in *The Bee*, it

See Rosemount, page 7

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Rosemount: Grill served 'fine food to fine people' for over seven decades

Continued from page 6

was Leadville's Rosemount Grill restaurant that inspired Pete Valerio to give his Sacramento restaurant the same name.

In a similar manner to which he became a dedicated member of civic groups such as Elks Lodge No. 6, the Knights of Columbus, the Eagles, Optimists, Footprinters and the California Restaurant Association, Pete Valerio was dedicated to maintaining the success of the Rosemount Grill.

Pete Valerio, who had a wife named Dorothy and four daughters, continued to co-own the Rosemount Grill throughout his life and he worked a daily shift at the restaurant, working in the kitchen cutting meats and performing other food preparations, until he was 95.

The restaurant's original ownership never changed at the first location, except for the addition of Joseph Ostoja from 1921 to 1925. And at the East Sacramento site, Pete Valerio owned the restaurant with several different partners at different times.

Pete Mikacich, who graduated from Christian Brothers High School in 1952, said that he remembers hearing Pete Valerio speak about the relocation of the Rosemount Grill to 3145 Folsom Blvd.

"People told (Pete Valerio) that he was nuts to move out there, because that was pretty much vacant territory out there, it was too far out there, there was no people out there, blah, blah, blah," Pete Mikacich said. "He said, 'Well, when I build it, I'm going to put big doors in the back, so in case I don't make it, I can turn it into an automotive repair shop.' I remember him telling people that. But anyway, he went out there and he was quite successful. It was 'the spot.' Everybody went there, it was packed and it had very good food."

In observing the aforementioned 1987 Rosemount Grill menu, one can find that the restaurant presented plenty of edible options.

Included on the menu were the following items: Grilled Pacific red snapper with lem-

on butter sauce, steamed clams or mussels with bordelaise sauce, boiled beef tongue with fresh spinach, beef pot roast with rigatoni, a half portion of slipper lobster and breaded veal cutlets with cream sauce.

Pete Mikacich, who co-owns The Limelight bar, café and card room at 1014 Alhambra Blvd. with Barbara, said that he worked with Pete Valerio's son-in-law Ralph Ryan, a longtime partner in the Rosemount Grill, to fill the void created by the loss of the historic eatery, which was the city's longest operating, single-family-owned restaurant.

As a result, Andiamo! restaurant opened in the Rosemount Grill's former East Sacramento location.

Barbara, who named the restaurant after the Italian command for "Let's Go!," which her father often said to

hurry along his family members, said that it was important for her to both create a new restaurant and continue various Rosemount Grill traditions.

Adiamo! retained the old booths, the half-circle bar and perhaps most importantly, some of the original Rosemount Grill food offerings.

Like its predecessor, Andiamo!, which was mainly Barbara's project, built a strong reputation for its quality food and service, as it successfully operated at the former, East Sacramento Rosemount Grill site for two decades.

Barbara, who said that The Limelight later acquired former Andiamo! cooks and continues to offer some menu items from the Rosemount Grill, mentioned that many people still speak to her about the Rosemount Grill, as well as Andiamo!

"There's hardly a day that goes by that somebody doesn't tell me that they miss either Andiamo! or the Rosemount," Barbara said.

Roy Glidewell, 67, said that he fondly remembers dining at the Rosemount Grill, as well as at Andiamo!, where he worked as a catering delivery driver and a landscaper.

"(The Rosemount Grill) was definitely a good place to go to back at that time," said Glidewell, a June 1962 graduate of McClatchy High. "I liked going to the Rosemount and when it was Andiamo!, too. (The Rosemount Grill) made a hot turkey sandwich that I really enjoyed. I like older things and that's why I liked going over there (to the Rosemount Grill). I wish (the Rosemount Grill) was back. There are a lot of things that I wish were back, but that's definitely one of them."

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Clarks

Not your 'typical' swim team:

The Stingrays Synchronized Swim Team is more than meets the eye

By **BENN HODAPP**
East Sacramento News writer
benn@valcomnews.com

Of the many summertime activities for youths in Sacramento, swim team is one of the ones you hear about the most. But the Fulton-El Camino Stingrays swim team has a counterpart that no other recreational team in Sacramento has – a synchronized swim team.

With 42 girls from ages five to 18-years old, the Stingrays synchronized swim team (synchro for short) is one of five synchro teams in the Valley Foothill Competitive Aquatic League along with ones from Auburn, Davis, Rancho Cordova and Citrus Heights.

While the synchro enrollment is but a fraction of "traditional" swim teams, the Stingrays have found

ways to keep the young ladies coming back year after year.

"We get most of our kids from word of mouth or they saw our ad in the summer brochure," said Stingrays Head Coach Laura Faulkinbury.

Along with that, many of the current Stingrays have siblings who were on the team before them, including Faulkinbury herself. Laura swam with the Stingrays from 1993 to 2005 from ages six to 18. She was never on any other swim team and she learned how to swim as a Stingray.

"My first year I was terrible," she recalls. "I was scared of the water."

Suffice to say that she didn't stay scared for long. Faulkinbury, now 25, swims for the



Photo courtesy, Jim Faulkinbury

SYNCHRONIZED SWIMMING requires a unique combination of overall body strength and agility, grace and beauty, split-second timing, musical interpretation, stamina and dramatic flair.

See Synchro, page 9

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Photo courtesy, Jim Faulkinbury

THE STINGRAYS share a common bond. Friendships developed on the team can last a lifetime.

Synchro: Much like gymnastics, there are both individual and team goals

Continued from page 8

Masters team with the Sacramento Synchronized Swim Team, a member of USA Swimming. Her coaching career started as a student coach with the Stingrays in 2004.

The Stingrays, who practice at Cottage Pool at 3097 Cottage Way in Sacramento, is a recreational team built on learning and having fun, but competition is an important part of the team as well.

"It's definitely a mix," said Faulkinbury. "We try to keep in mind that it's recreational, but at the same time it is a competitive league."

The term "synchronized swimming" probably brings visions of many swimmers doing a vast array of simultaneous and visually outstanding maneuvers. And while that is part of the sport, there are also solo events called "figures" as well as duo and trio performances. Much like gymnastics, there are both individual and team goals.

Lisa Crayne, 18, is a student coach for the Stingrays who just finished her last year of eligibility as a swimmer for the team as well as her senior year at Victory Christian High School.

"I tried (synchro) when I was nine and didn't like it," Crayne said. "But I tried again at 15 and loved it."

While the goal is to make the moves look perfect and smooth, Crayne is quick to point out that synchro is anything but easy.

"It's such a difficult sport," she said. "People don't realize how hard it is to make it look effortless."

One of the things she loves about her job is imparting her knowledge to the younger girls on the team.

"I love seeing the girls improve and learn new things," she said.

Shelby Carney, 19, is an assistant coach for the Stingrays. She is in her third year

See *Synchro*, page 14

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Synchro: Recreational synchronized swim team competitive, fun

Continued from page 9

as a coach and swam with the team for 12 years beginning when she was seven. She shares Crayn's love of watching the little ones learn.

"I like seeing kids light up when they understand what they're doing," Carney said. "I love that instant spark they get. It warms your heart."

Carney, whose career plan is to become a teacher, found her passion for teaching as a coach for the past three years.

"I learned my love of teaching as a coach here," she said. "I felt like I was supposed to be doing what I was doing. My parents told me when I was younger that I was a role model for younger kids. The (swimmers) cling to me. I love to nurture."

She credits her time with the Stingrays for picking her major of liberal studies with a

minor in special education at Sac State.

Carney isn't just a great coach, she was a dynamic figures swimmer as a Stingray and competes with Faulkinbury on the Masters team. Also like Faulkinbury, Carney had an older sister who swam for the Stingrays.

The Stingrays finished their season on July 17 with the league championship. The season runs from May to July with two weeks of preseason training before the first meet. The season consists of four duel meets where every team faces each other once, followed by a season-ending championship meet where all five teams compete together. Those interested in becoming a member of the Stingrays can visit the team website at www.fecstingrays.org for more information.

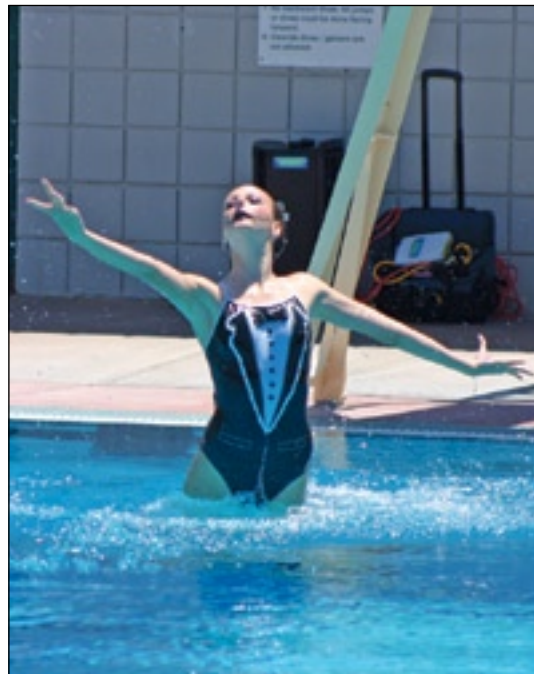


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Janey Way: Lesson learned - earning money requires good planning, hard work

Continued from page 5

fire department. Within minutes they arrived from their H Street station, dragged their hoses around to the back and put out the fire.

Then after admonishing Terry for starting the fire, they left.

Terry sat down and wondered how he could get out of this mess.

As he thought, he looked up and noticed a new fire had started on the neighbor's roof. Again, he ran into the house and hailed the

fire department. Within a few minutes, they returned, pulled their hoses out and extinguished the new fire. After putting the fire out, shaking their heads in disgust, they returned again to the station.

Now Terry contemplated the worst. "What will Dad say when he finds out about this," he wondered. "I'm in big trouble."

However, soon Herb returned from his afternoon at the tavern. When Terry explained what happened, Herb said, "I can't pay you

anything for this kid." Then, he called his insurance company.

In the mean time, Terry snuck out the back and returned home. His scheme to earn some summer money had backfired.

He laid low for the next couple of days. Fortunately, nothing happened. The insurance company covered the damage to both houses, and Herb never broached the issue with my father. Summer returned to normal and life went on.

Terry learned a valuable lesson that summer: Earning money requires good planning and hard work. That lesson served him well.

Terry eventually went on to graduate from the Culinary Institute in New York City. He became a chef and subsequently a regional manager for Sysco Food Services Corporation. Now, through good planning and hard work, he makes a very good living, and the day Terry nearly burned down Janey Way is just another fiery Janey Way memory.

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Sacramento Kings' minority owner discusses his history with the team

By LANCE ARMSTRONG
East Sacramento News writer
lance@valcomnews.com

Editor's Note: This is the first article in a two-part series regarding Sacramento Kings owners who reside within the coverage area of Valley Community Newspapers.

There are undoubtedly many extreme fans of the Sacramento Kings throughout the region, but when it comes to details regarding the history of the city's popular professional basketball team, few people know more than Carmichael resident Bob Cook.

Bob, however, is no ordinary hardcore fan of the team, but instead his connection to the team is much greater.

A lifelong sports fan, Bob was instrumental in the efforts to acquire the team and relocate it to the capital city in the 1980s.

In telling the story of Bob's history with the Kings, it is helpful to understand both his longtime love for sports and his upbringing as part of a family with a rich background in Sacramento real estate.

"My family has been steeped in real estate since 1924," Bob said. "My grandfather (Carroll Cook) was collecting rents in East Sacramento in a horse and buggy and he was doing that at the tender age of 19. Before that, he was a farmer and rancher. He bought several large parcels of land in the Sacramento area and at about 20, he realized there was another way to make a profit off the land and that was real estate."

Through this realization, Bob's grandfather founded the real estate brokerage company, Artz, Cook and Drew with two other Sacramentans, George W. Artz and Napoleon B. Drew. The company, which became known as Artz and Cook in 1934, merged into Prudential California Realty in 1998.

Upon Carroll's death in the 1950s, Bob's father, Carroll, Jr., became the president of Artz and Cook.

Bob, who lived the first years of his life at 2970 Yellowstone Lane in the Town and Country Village area and spent his teenage years living at 2850 Ashbourne Drive, near Watt and Marconi avenues, a short distance from Del Paso Country Club, said that he developed a love for golf during his youth.

"Every day during the summers, when I was a teenager, I used to walk a whole block and a

half to the golf course and play 36 holes," said Bob, who attended St. Philomenes's School at 2320 El Camino Ave. prior to advancing to Christian Brothers High School, where he graduated in 1960.

In growing up in a city known for its love of baseball, it should come as no surprise that Bob's favorite sport has always been baseball.

But with a general love for sports, Bob grew up playing many sports, including baseball, basketball, football, golf and handball.

Although he began to fulfill his mother Cookie's wish that he become employed in something other than real estate by studying to become a doctor, Bob said that his love for sports got in the way of this endeavor.

"I went to the University of San Francisco, because they had an outstanding pre-med department," Bob said. "I decided within six weeks of being there that I didn't want to be a doctor. I was only 17 when I was a freshman in college and all my buddies were out playing intermural football in the afternoons and I was in the biology lab and the German lab and it was just driving me nuts."

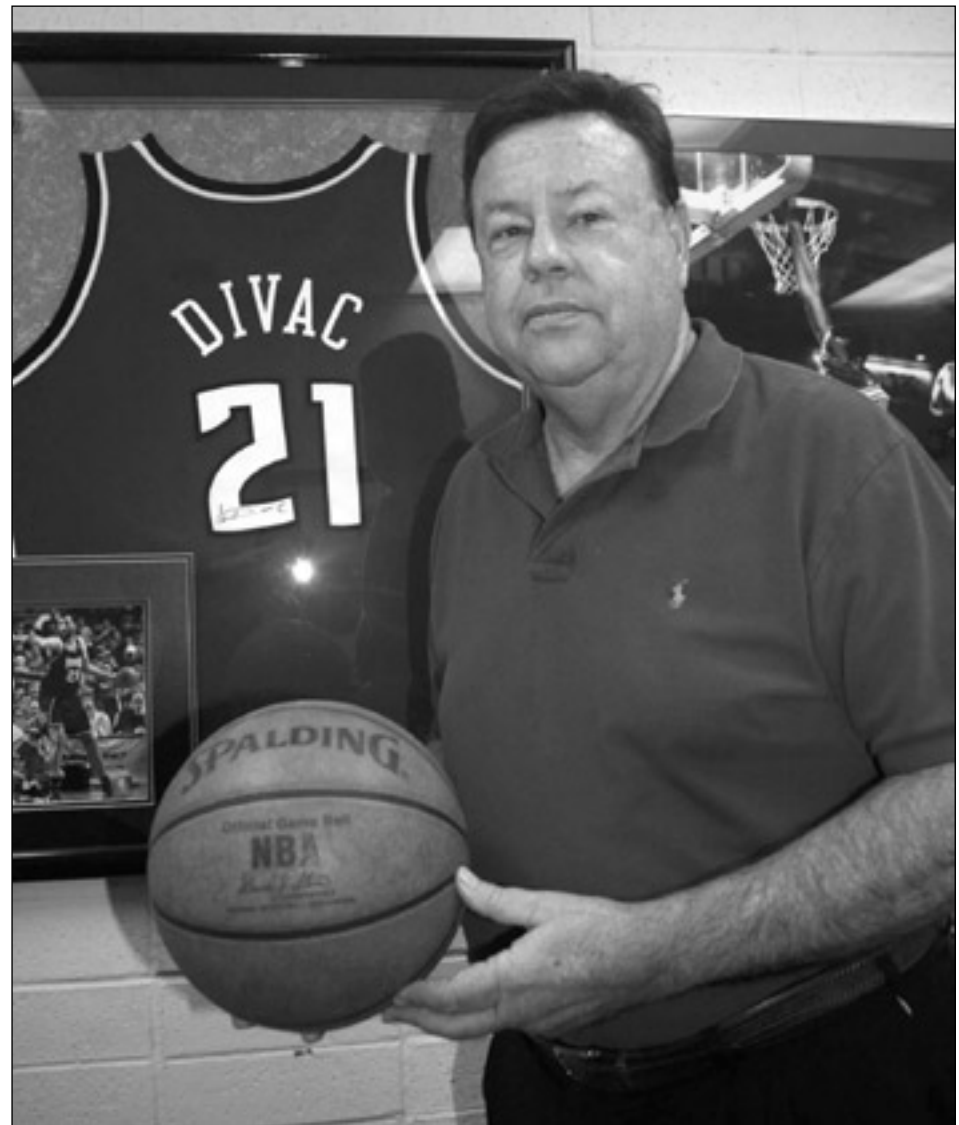
Like his grandfather, his father and his uncles, George and Bill Cook, Bob, after earning a bachelor's degree in economics at San Jose State University, eventually spent many years in real estate.

Bob, who continues to work in real estate today, said that there was a very distinct difference between himself and the boys he played baseball with during his youth.

"When I played baseball, my buddies' big goal was to be Major League Baseball players," Bob said. "My big goal was to own a piece of the team."

In 1977, around the same time Bob started the Bob Cook Co., a development company that builds restaurants, shopping centers and office buildings, Bob's childhood vision appeared a lot more realistic, as he encountered a small article while reading one of the city's daily newspapers.

"Right around 1977, there was this little article in *The Bee* that said that there was this young guy who had a goal of bringing major league sports to Sacramento," Bob said. "He happened to be a good friend of one of the agents who worked for my dad and myself (at Artz and Cook), and his name was Steve Cippa. And I said to Steve when that article was in



East Sacramento News photo, Lance Armstrong
Sacramento Kings minority owner Bob Cook holds the first basketball used in a regular season NBA game played at Arco Arena – today's Power Balance Pavilion.

the paper, if your friend (Gregg) Lukenbill wants to partner, we have the same goals. And the next day, he was in my office and we had a meeting the first time we met. Then we did a three-hour brain storm meeting at his house that night. And that night we formed the Sacramento Sports Association, and the goal was to bring major league sports to Sacramento."

Although the formation of this association led to the 1978 purchase of the property where Power Balance Pavilion – formerly Arco Arena – is located today, it would be another five years until Bob, Lukenbill and others would purchase the National Basketball Association's Kansas City Kings.

While attempting to bring a Major League Baseball team to Sacramento, the association decided to instead place its attention on the struggling NBA.

After experiencing many challenges and facing much opposition even in their own city, the Kings' first owners, Bob, Gregg Lukenbill, Gregg's father, Frank Lukenbill, Cippa, Joe Benvenu-

ti and Frank McCormack, had a temporary arena built east of the present arena.

The larger, current arena, which opened in 1988, began a new era in the history of the Kings, which has been under the majority ownership of the Maloof family since 1999.

Despite many changes during the Kings' nearly 26 years in Sacramento, the presence of Bob Cook as one of the team's owners has remained.

Bob, who is also passionate about tennis and has owned a half interest in the Sacramento Capitals of the World TeamTennis Pro League since 2007, said that his love for sports and Sacramento has maintained his interest in being a part of the Kings' ownership.

"I'm a third generation Sacramentan," Bob said. "My grandchildren are fifth generation. Sacramento has been really great to our family. It's a great community and it's a great place to raise a family. I love Sacramento and there's an excitement (about sports) and it's in my veins."

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CALENDAR

For more Calendar entries visit
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Send your event announcement for consideration to: susan@valcomnews.com at least two weeks prior to publication.

REUNIONS

JFK High Class of 1981

Aug. 6: The John F. Kennedy High School Class of 1981 will celebrate its 30th Reunion. \$75/person. 6 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. Valley High Country Club, 9595 Franklin Blvd., Elk Grove. Visit www.johnfkennedyclassof81.com for more information.

C.K. McClatchy High School 1971

Sept. 17: C.K. McClatchy High School, Sacramento, Class of 1971, is holding their 40th high school reunion at the Frasinetti Winery. Contact McClatchy71@gmail.com or Cyndy Wright at (916) 704-4952, or Steve Chan at (916) 421-7777.

ONGOING

Tai Chi

Daily, except Sundays: Meditation, breathing, forms and various styles of Tai Chi are

taught. No experience necessary. Everyone welcome. Free. 8 a.m.-9 a.m. Reichmuth Park, 6135 Gloria Dr., Sac. (601) 559-5481

'Quilters Pride'

Through Aug. 6: "Quilters Pride" is an exhibition of works by the Monday Morning Quilters of the Northminster Presbyterian Church. Gallery hours: 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Tuesday, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday. Sacramento Fine Arts Center, 5330B Gibbons Dr., Carmichael. (916) 971-3713

'Camelot'

Through Aug. 7: Arthur, Guenevere, Lancelot and Merlin come alive in Lerner and Loewe's inspiring musical of love, intrigue, idealism and magic in ancient England. Call for times, prices. Music Circus. (916) 557-1999 www.SacramentoMusicCircus.com

Defending the Caveman'

Through Sept. 11: Broadway's smash comedy about the sexes, written by Rob Becker. Call for times, prices. The Cosmopolitan Cabaret, 10th and K streets., Sac. (916) 557-1999 www.CosmopolitanCabaret.com

Landscapes from the Age of Impressionism

Through Sept. 18: This exhibition of approximately 40 paintings includes many of the finest examples of mid-19th through early 20th-century French and American landscapes from the collection of the Brooklyn Museum. These works form a broad survey of landscape painting as practiced by leading French artists such as Gustave Courbet and Claude Monet, as well as their most significant American followers, including Childe Hassam and John Singer Sargent. Crocker Art Museum, 216 O St., Sac. (916) 808-7000, www.crockerartmuseum.org.

Transcending Vision: American Impressionism, 1870-1940

Through Sept. 25: "Transcending Vision" traces the development of Impressionism in the United States and the growth of a truly American style of painting. The exhibition includes works by more than 75 prominent American artists including George Bellows, George Inness, Childe Hassam, Ernest Lawson, Lilla Cabot Perry and Julian Alden Weir. Crocker Art Museum, 216 O St., Sac. (916) 808-7000, www.crockerartmuseum.org.

Gardens and Grandeur: Porcelains and Paintings by Franz A. Bischoff

Through Oct. 23: After beginning his career as a china painter in Bavaria, Franz A. Bischoff immigrated to the United States in 1885 to become one of the foremost porcelain painters of his day. He won nu-

merous awards and earned the title "King of the Rose Painters." "Gardens and Grandeur" features approximately 40 examples of Bischoff's work, including porcelains, still lifes, and landscapes. Crocker Art Museum, 216 O St., Sac. (916) 808-7000, www.crockerartmuseum.org.

AUGUST

Bilingual Toastmasters

Aug. 4, 11, 18, 25: Una oportunidad unica para mejorar sus habilidades bilingues y superar el temor de hablar delante de gente con nuestro club Los Oradores Toastmasters. Improve your language skills and lose fear of speaking in front of people in Spanish and English with Los Oradores. Every Thursday/Cada Jueves 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm Sutter Cancer Center 2800 L Street, Sac. Teri Bullington (916) 723-6232 teri.bullington@gmail.com, www.sacramentotoastmasters.com

Capitol Mall Farmer's Market

Aug. 4, 11, 18, 25: Capitol Mall Farmer's Market. Every Thursday, May-Sept. 10 a.m.-1:30 p.m. 6th St. & Capitol Mall, Sac. www.california-grown.com

East End State Capitol Park Farmer's Market

Aug. 4, 11, 18, 25: East End State Capitol Park Farmer's Market. Every Thursday, June-Sept. 10 a.m.-1:30 p.m. 15th & L streets, Sac. www.california-grown.com

Florin Sears Store Farmer's Market

Aug. 4, 11, 18, 25: Florin Sears Store Farmer's Market. Every Thursday, year round. 8 a.m.-noon. Florin Rd. & 65th St., Sac. www.california-grown.com

Food Addicts Anonymous

Aug. 4, 11, 18, 25: 12-Step group for those who struggle with obesity, food obsession or eating disorders. Meets Thursdays. 9 a.m. St. Andrews United Methodist Church, 6201 Spruce Ave., Sac. (800) 600-6028.

Living Positive with Chronic Disease group

Aug. 4, 11, 18, 25: Meet-up group for people living with chronic disease who honor how important a positive mindset is. If you want to complain - this isn't the group for you. The group will discuss and support:

best practices for managing your condition, communication strategies, ways to laugh, have fun, engage with life and more. Free. Meets Thursdays. 5:30 p.m. - 7 p.m. Starbucks, 1401 Alhambra Blvd., Sac. Danae Horn (503) 319-4247

Rotary Club of Pocket/Greenhaven

Aug. 4, 11, 18, 25: Hear guest speakers address local, regional and international topics. Visitors welcome. 7:30 a.m., every Thurs. Aviators Restaurant, 6151 Freeport Blvd., Sac. Kelly Byam (916) 684-6854.

Sacramento Downtown Plaza Farmer's Market

Aug. 4, 11, 18, 25: Sacramento Downtown Plaza Farmer's Market. Every Thursday, May-Sept. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. 4th & K streets, Sac. www.california-grown.com

Sutterville Heights Optimist Club

Aug. 4, 11, 18, 25: Come enjoy community speakers and community projects for youth. 12 noon., every Thurs. Aviators Restaurant, 6151 Freeport Blvd., Sac. Cliff (916) 427-2698 or Mary-Jo at (916) 691-3059

Sacramento Kaiser Farmer's Market

Aug. 5, 12, 19, 26: Sacramento Kaiser Farmer's Market. Every Friday, June-Nov. 9:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. 2025 Morse Ave., Sac. www.sierrafresh.com

Saint Rose of Lima Park Farmer's Market

Aug. 5, 12, 19, 26: St. Rose of Lima Park Farmer's Market. Every Friday, June-Sept. 10 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. 7th & K streets, Sac. www.MarketLocations.com

Kiwanis Club of East Sacramento-Midtown

Aug. 5, 12, 19, 26: Come listen to an interesting guest speaker weekly; community service, serving the children of the world. Visitors welcome, first breakfast "on us." 7 a.m. - 8 a.m. Fridays. 2875 50th St., UC Davis Med. Ctr., Sac. (916) 761-2124 www.eastsacmidtownkiwanis.com

Rotary Club of Point West

Aug. 5, 12, 19, 26: Hear guest speakers address local, regional and international topics. Visitors welcome. 7 a.m., every Fri. DoubleTree Hotel, 2001 Point West Way., Sac. www.pointwestrotary.com



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Funderland celebrates 65th anniversary

By LANCE ARMSTRONG
East Sacramento News writer
lance@valcomnews.com

Thousands upon thousands of children have passed through the gates of Funderland, Land Park's small-scale, old-fashioned amusement park for young children.

And despite its longtime identity issue, as it is often overshadowed by or confused with its neighboring Fairytale Town, Funderland actually predates Fairytale Town by more than a decade.

Another aspect regarding Funderland, which is located at 1350 17th Ave. in William Land

Park, is that despite the fact that there are many people who are aware of Fairytale Town, but not Funderland, the ownership of Funderland actually contributes a portion of its annual gross revenue to the city of Sacramento for the support of Fairytale Town, the Sacramento Zoo and William Land Park. In 2010, for instance, Funderland contributed \$178,606 to the city.

But certainly, there are plenty of people who are very aware of Funderland, which was originally known as Kiddie Land.

This is an obvious point, when considering that Kid-



East Sacramento News photo, Lance Armstrong

Funderland in William Land Park is currently celebrating its 65th anniversary.

See Funderland, page 23

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Photo courtesy

Funderland guests enjoy a moment aboard the amusement park's airplane ride.



East Sacramento News photo, Lance Armstrong

The Flying Dragon roller coaster is among Funderland's nine children's rides.

Funderland: A portion of revenues support Fairytale Town, Sacramento Zoo, William Land Park

Continued from page 22

die Land/Funderland's history dates back to 1946.

For more than 30 years, Kiddie Land was owned and operated by its founder Ray Silva (1910-1996).

A Sacramento native, Ray was the son of the Portuguese immigrant Charles Silva (1867-1944), who founded Charles Station, the area that later became known as South Land Park Hills.

In having such a self-motivated, hardworking and business-minded father (read the Charles Silva story at www.valcomnews.com/?s=charles+silva), Ray was led by example, as he developed his own successful life.

In addition to operating Kiddie Land, Ray, who was one of 11 children, also refereed collegiate and American Basketball League (a forerunner to the NBA) games, and later, from 1944 to 1955, he was a referee for the Harlem Globetrotters.

During his last year with the world-famous "Trotters," Ray did his own globe trotting with the team, as he refereed games in Australia, New Zealand, the Philippines and many parts of Asia.

Two years following his decade with the Globetrotters, Ray, along with local businessmen, John Silva (not related to Ray) and Edwin A. Beers, founded the Miller Park boat harbor on the Sacramento River.

Ray was also on the planning committee for Fairytale Town, which opened in 1959,

and he donated the complex's pirate ship "in memory of the Charles F. Silva family."

In his earlier years of life, Ray worked for the city's recreation department as a supervisor of playgrounds, and in 1928, he founded the Southside Athletic Club, which was an organization dedicated to promoting sports for youth.

Ray, who was a member of the Dante Club soccer team that won the Northern California championship in the 1930s, also played an important role at the California State Fair, as an assistant manager in charge of racing, tickets and rentals from 1931 to 1942.

About a month prior to his 26th birthday on Aug. 16, 1936, Ray married Rosalind Fraser, who had been crowned the first Miss Sacramento a year earlier.

Ray and Rosalind's only child, Raelyn (Silva) Paige, who was born in 1941 and owned Kiddie Land from 1978 to 1983, said that her father opened Kiddie Land with only a merry-go-round.

Ray later added about eight other rides that furthered the amusement park's reputation as a favorite destination for many Sacramento children.

Sacramento native Don Conner said that he may have visited Kiddie Land as early as 1949, considering that he was born in 1947 and that some of his earliest memories in life are of visiting Kiddie Land.

"I remember going (to Kiddie Land) with my father (El-

mer) and on some occasions my mother (Jessie) and my sister (Marcia) would also go," Conner said. "They had a set of railroad tracks with a miniature train and a conductor with one of those striped, railroad hats and it just went around and around a loop. I also went on the merry-go-round, which was right near the front entrance. It was always delightful with lots of things to distract one's attention."

Conner also recalls the other attractions in the area, which included Eddie Fernandes' pony rides, fishing in the park's lake and the William Land Park Zoo, as the Sacramento Zoo was then known.

Stan Bento, a 1970 graduate of Christian Brothers High School, worked at Kiddie Land during summers while he was still in high school.

Bento, who noted that Ray emphasized safety and cleanliness at his amusement park, said that rides during this era included the merry-go-round, the railroad, the fish ride, a boat ride and the Tubs of Fun.

The Tubs of Fun were manufactured by Hampton Rides of Portage Des Sioux, Mo. and the carousel was built in 1948 in Buffalo, N.Y. by Allan Hershell.

Remembering these rides is no problem for Bento since he spent time working at each ride.

"We (the workers) would have rotations and we would stand by each ride and I think



East Sacramento News photo, Lance Armstrong

Funderland features nine children's rides, including the ride shown above.

every hour or every 45 minutes we would rotate to different rides," Bento recalled.

Among the other Kiddie Land workers during this time were Christian Brothers High School students Kevin Fleming, Mike Fleming and Dennis Bertacchi.

In 1984, carnival operator Sam Johnston purchased Kiddie Land through an auction and after operating the park in its original state, he replaced most of the old rides with completely new rides, which led to a re-grand opening of the amusement park in 1990.

Newer rides at the park include the Flying Dragon roller coaster, the Log Run water log ride and the Crazy Cups ride.

Funderland also includes miniature buildings, which Johnston added throughout the amusement park's grounds.

Johnston's history with Ray dates back to 1958, when he helped his father – also Sam Johnston – and Ray put in an amusement facility in Mickle Grove Park in Lodi.

In recent years, Johnston's son-in-law John Dedds has managed Funderland with his wife, Ashley.

Prior to this time and for about three years, Johnston's other daughter, Spring, managed the amusement park with her husband.

Johnston, who is known for his easy going demeanor and infectious smile, which are both good qualities for a man who operates a place called Funderland, said that he has enjoyed his years at Funderland.

"I've got a lot of enjoyment out of providing a safe recreational amusement facility for the children of Sacramento and I want to continue carrying on the tradition that Ray Silva started," Johnston said. "I don't feel like I've ever worked a day in my life. I love it here."

Funderland's summer hours are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekdays and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on weekends.

For additional information regarding Funderland, call (916) 456-0131 or visit the Web site, www.funderlandpark.com.

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COLLEEN WIFVAT 719-2324



CUTE EAST SAC COTTAGE

Spacious 2 bedroom home in mint condition close to neighborhood park. Steppedown living room with recessed lighting and unique molding; kitchen and bath have been updated and remodeled in rich designer colors. Lush landscaping, a gardener's dream! See www.visualtour.com/shownp.asp?t=2547078 \$349,900

DAVID KIRRENE 531-7495



WASHINGTON SQUARE

Better than new 3 year old 2 bedroom 2½ bath condo is centrally located to all Midtown has to offer... downtown, restaurants, galleries, parks, light rail and shopping! Energy efficient condo with cherry cabinets, granite countertops, wooden blinds. 2-car garage. See <http://41317thst7.canbyours.com> \$315,000

NANCY WEGGE 600-5458

LISA MARTIS 612-7548



GREAT NEIGHBORHOOD

This 2 story doll house has storybook charm. Cozy living room with hardwood floors, fireplace flanked by built in shelves & recessed lights. The galley style kitchen is updated with granite counters & newer cabinets, adjoining nook overlooking the front garden. Bonus/sun room. See www.1704-50thSt.com \$379,900

DAVID KIRRENE 531-7495



RED BRICK TUDOR

Remodeled red brick Tudor. 2nd story added in 2000. New kitchen in 2006 granite, stainless appliances & hardwood floor. Large master with sitting room, bath with marble, dual sinks & jetted tub. Family room with French doors leading to gorgeous yard featuring pool. See www.354-34thStreet.com \$799,900

COLLEEN WIFVAT 719-2324



RIVER PARK

River Park at its best! Recently remodeled three bedroom home includes newer roof, newer central heat and air, pristine hardwood floors, and completely remodeled kitchen/bathroom w/ stainless steel appliances, granite counters and travertine floors. See www.5301monaleeave.epropertiesites.com \$359,000

TIM COLLOM 247-8048



REDWOOD TREE SURROUND

Amazing property, very private two story, 4 bedroom East Sac home tucked away from the street on a large lot. Updated kitchen that opens to big family room, living room fireplace.. See www.142557thstreet.epropertiesites.com \$459,000

TIM COLLOM 247-8048

LIBBY NEIL 539-5881



DUTCH COLONIAL TUDOR

Fab 40's wonderful Dutch Colonial Tudor home. Architectural charm throughout. Rich hardwood floors, spacious bedrooms, formal living room and dining room, newly remodeled bath, charming kitchen with white cabinetry. See www.106243rdstreet.eproperties.com \$899,000

CHRIS BALESTRERI 996-2244



LOADS OF CHARACTER

Loads of character in this East Sac 2 bedroom 1 bath home. Vintage hardwood floors, spacious floor plan with dual pane windows. Just minutes from McKinley Park & coffee shops. See www.80141ststreet.eproperties.com \$350,000

TIM COLLOM 247-8048

LIBBY NEIL 539-5881

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