

EAST SACRAMENTO NEWS

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Remembering the 'MAYOR OF 37TH STREET'

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David Lubin
Elementary Garden
Tour and Tea set
for Mother's Day
weekend

■ See page 2



Recognized
Elmhurst elm
spared the ax...
for now

■ See page 4



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Vol. XXIII • No. 9

East Sacramento News is published on the first and third Thursday of the month in the area bounded by Business 80 on the west, the American River on the north and east and Highway 50 on the south.

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CA 95818
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Distribution/Subscriptions George Macko

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Poppies are blooming all over East Sac

By JUDY CARLISLE
Special to the East Sacramento News

Each spring colorful wooden poppies throughout East Sacramento announce the East Sac Garden Tour, a benefit for David Lubin Elementary School. The self-guided walking tour—held each Mother's Day weekend, make it a perfect outing for moms and families—offering locals and visitors alike the chance to peek into a neighbor's garden.

This year's seven gardens, concentrated in East Sacramento's beautiful Fab Forties neighborhood, range from a stately, blooming entertainer's delight (complete with swimming pool and hidden secret garden areas) designed by renowned landscape architect Michael Glassman to a sunny urban farm with clucking chickens, enclosed raised beds, and a peaceful pond designed by the owner, as well as shady retreats, leafy glades, edible gardens, and more. All the gardens are beautifully embellished by local designers and florists, such as Haus, Geographica, and Kerrie Kelly Design Lab.

The tour, which marks its sixteenth year this spring, benefits the students of David Lubin Elementary, providing funding for enrichment programs such as art and school gardens, as well as teacher aides. In addition to the gardens, the school grounds are free and open to the public, who can visit an artisan boutique (perfect for Mother's Day shopping), appreciate a student chalk art show and the school gardens, and grab refreshments at the Sweet Stop or the food trucks on campus, which are new this year. A Tea Garden luncheon held at historic Sutter Lawn Tennis Club (tickets \$15) offers relaxed refreshment.



Whether you're a dedicated gardener seeking ideas, a novice seeking inspiration, or simply a visitor hoping to enjoy the special atmosphere of this historic neighborhood's most beautiful yards, this year's tour has much to offer.

Tour tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 (at the school) on the tour dates of May 10 and 11. Luncheon tickets are \$15. Tickets are available at David Lubin Elementary, 3535 M St.; online at eastsacgardentour.com; and at several local businesses, such as East Sacramento Hardware, Talini's Nursery, and more (check the website for a full list).

Janey Way Memories:

Traveling to Spain



By MARTY RELLES
marty@valcomnews.com

In September of 1969, I completed my military training at Fort Lewis, Washington, and received orders to serve in West Germany. A few weeks later I boarded a charter plane headed for Rhine-Main Air Base in Frankfurt, Germany. A few days later, after processing through the 21st Replacement Battalion, I was on a bus headed for Gunzburg in southern Germany.

By this time, fall was settling in and the weather was changing. In November, the first snow began falling. It remained on the ground until April of 1970. By that time, I had settled in, made friends, and planned a trip for my summer leave. Along with my best friends, Jack and Charlie, I would travel to Spain.

And so it was that one Saturday in June we donned our back packs, got in cab and headed for the train station. There we booked first class tickets to Barcelona. Within an hour, we headed on our way. The train took us to Munich first, where we changed trains. When we stepped onto our assigned car we took note of a placard on the door: Orient Express. Yes, indeed, we were boarding the train made famous by Agatha Christy. Off we went.

The first thing we learned about European train travel is that a ticket does not guarantee you a seat. For the first three hours we stood in the space by the restroom at the end of our car. Eventually, three passengers exited and we claimed their seats.

After a dozen hours or so (no bullet-train here) we landed in Paris and changed trains. Jack had a

sandwich at the train station. That proved to be a mistake. With an hour he had full-on food poisoning. In the end though, it worked out for him. While he hung his head over the rail of the train being sick, he met a girl name Pat. She ended up spending the next three days with us.

When we landed in Barcelona, the four of us booked rooms in a Pension, and headed out to explore the city. We had a ball. We visited a modernistic park designed by the famous Spanish architect Gaudi, the Barcelona Zoo, and a famous walkway called Las Ramblas. Later, we shared a wonderful Spanish dinner.

After three days, we traveled to Madrid, the beautiful capital of Spain. There, we toured the famous Prado museum, viewing incredible paintings by the likes of Goya and El Greco. Over the next few days, we explored much of the central city, seeing beautiful buildings, cathedrals, and upscale stores.

However, all good things come to an end. By Friday, we were on our way back to Germany. Thirty hours later we arrived back in Gunzburg completely exhausted, but already planning our next adventure.

During my tour in Germany, I traveled extensively. In fact, I took a European discharge there in 1971. After that, I continued to travel for six additional months. By then, I had visited Austria, Yugoslavia, Italy, Switzerland, France, Belgium, and Spain. The travel bug had definitely bit me.

Since that trip, I have traveled all over the world, setting foot on six continents. Only Antarctica has eluded me. But, my first trip in Europe, back in 1970, is still an unforgettable Janey Way memory.

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Looking Back To Move Forward

Homes Sold
 1st quarter: 68 2nd Quarter: 90
 3rd Quarter: 111 4th Quarter: 103
 Total Homes Sold: 372

Median Home Price
 1st quarter: \$382,500
 2nd Quarter: \$416,450 9.18% increase
 3rd Quarter: \$412,500 1% decrease
 4th Quarter: \$450,000 9.16% increase
 Total increase of values approximately 8.5% in 2013

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Recognized Elmhurst elm spared the ax...for now

By ISAAC GONZALEZ

A giant Siberian Elm on T Street which appeared slated for imminent removal has received a temporary reprieve while arborists determine if the sprawling tree is at all salvageable.

The tree, estimated to be between 70 to 100 years of age, is notable to surrounding residents for its extraordinary horizontal limb, which appears to defy gravity as it extends over the grassy median known officially as Sunset Park. The City of Sacramento's Urban Forestry Division recently placed a notice of removal on the behemoth's trunk, which caught the attention of many citizens.

Pamela Graudushus lives in Elmhurst and enjoys walking under the shade of the tree canopy on T Street. She can't understand why the tree, with its green leaves and unique appearance, would have to be removed.

"I walk my granddaughter down here and she loves this tree," says Graudushus. "They can't replace this tree, it would take 100 years. This really needs to be looked at before anything is done."

That reaction and outreach from other people who are concerned about losing the tree seems to have had an effect. Tim Dailey works for the city and is in charge of overseeing this elm's future.

"We started receiving calls about the tree after the notice went up, and with all the interest in doing whatever we can to save the tree,



Photos by Isaac Gonzalez
 This 70- to 100-year-old elm in Elmhurst has spared the ax for now. The City of Sacramento's Urban Forestry Division recently placed a notice of removal on its trunk.

we've decided to conduct more testing before any decision to remove the tree is made," says Dailey.

Branches on the top of the tree have shown signs that Dutch Elm Disease is present. Over the past three years, crews have removed several large east-facing branches that have died. While the city has attempted to mitigate the risk up till now, the tree may be reaching the end of manageable lifespan.

"Normally, we test for disease at the trunk, but that process effectively kills the tree," Dailey explains. "What we're going to do instead is remove more dead limbs from the top and conduct thorough testing to see if Dutch Elm is the issue here."

The tree's trademark horizontal branch has never been a concern to the city up to this point. All observations to date indicate that the limb is healthy and solid.

"Everybody loves that (branch)," says Pat Leonard, who lives directly across the street from the tree. "People get out of their cars and take their picture under it."

Another Elmhurst resident is planning to hold his daughter's wedding ceremony under the elm in June. For now, it appears that the tree will likely still be standing for special event. What happens after that will depend on the test results.

Interested parties are encouraged to contact Tim Dailey at 808-6336.

Please send your updated Calendar announcements

...especially if you host monthly events!
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NEWS BRIEFS

City Launches Food to Fuel Pilot – Collects Food Waste from Elmhurst Neighborhood: Under the leadership of Councilmember Kevin McCarty, the City of Sacramento has begun a one-year pilot project to collect food scraps from residents in the Elmhurst neighborhood, and turn the food into fuel. The Recycling and Solid Waste division will collect food waste in the same container as yard waste and deliver it to Republic Services. Republic will separate the food from the yard waste, weigh all materials and transport the food scraps to Clean World Partners. Clean World Partners will use a digester to process the food into fuel, which the City uses to power several of its garbage trucks. The pilot will be conducted for one year. You can follow the project at www.facebook.com/elmhurstfoodtofuel.



Caleb Greenwood's new digital marquee sign

Photo courtesy

Public House Theater on its way to open June 1: Jackie Nadile, owner of the soon-to-be open first pub theater in Sacramento reported "things are coming along" at the old Tahoe Food Market, 5440 14th Ave., which will hopefully be open by the goal date of June 1. The theater chairs have been painted and refurbished. The console is done for the electronics, but the license from the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control is still another four months off, she said. "We'll have a soft opening first. It's not a bad thing. We'll get our feet wet since this is first time we ever done this. It will probably work out. I mean, it will work out, however it will take time. The lesson in this endeavor is patience. I am excited and I am starting to see things put together. Once we get the permit, it will get crazier; we will do the bath-

rooms and finish the electrical then we will be good."

Sutter MESA students take top honors at regional tournament: Sutter Middle School students captured top awards at the MESA (Mathematics Engineering Science Achievement) Regional Competition held April 19 at the University of the Pacific. Qi Liu and Hana Ye earned first place in Egg Xpress (packaged egg drop) and Albert Zhang and Phillip Kim took first and third place, respectively, in the Algebra Math Competition. Keir Keenan took second place in the Speak Up! Public Speaking Competition that focused on environmental topics. Middle and high school students from all over Northern California participated in the competition. Districts represented included San Francisco, San Joaquin, Ukiah,

Sonoma and San Jose. Regionally, MESA is sponsored by Sacramento State and UC Davis.

Caleb Greenwood's new digital marquee sign has arrived! Caleb is now officially a high tech school, with a new way of communicating important information on our new digital media signage. The school's spring Daughters' Dance will be on Friday, May 2 from 630-830 p.m. in the cafeteria. This year's theme is a Tropical Luau! Hawaiian attire is suggested for all those going. The night will have a DJ, a photo booth, a limbo dance and other fun activities. We will have fresh Hawaiian fruit and everyone is encouraged to dust off their grass skirts. Tickets will be \$5 a person and are on sale now before and after school on campus!

See News Briefs, page 8

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East Sacramento Farmers' Market to debut on May 17

The East Sacramento Farmers' Market, a year-round certified farmers' market on Saturday mornings in McKinley Park, is set to debut on May 17. According to the Facebook page for the market, a partial list of vendor categories includes: organic fruits and vegetables, cold-pressed organic juices, locally-grown all-natural meats (beef, pork, chicken and lamb), honey and bee pollen, gourmet mushrooms, and fruit preserves. Devine Gelateria will be at the ESFM with their gelato sandwiches and push-up pops; and, Simply Manna Gourmet Mushrooms and Hearty Fork Farm are confirmed vendors at the ESFM.

Faces and Places:
Art show at Shepard Garden Art Center

Photos by JEN HENRY



Twenty-seven local artists participated in the annual Coldwell Banker Metro-Office art show held at Shepard Garden Art Center on the evening of Friday, April 25. Hand-picked by that office, fine art – mostly oil-based and watercolor paintings – filled the historic venue, as did wine, food, and music by guitarist Jon Merriman. As Sue Olson of Coldwell Banker told the East Sacramento News: "We have a lot of talent in our immediate neighborhood and this event is definitely a happening."



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News Briefs:

Continued from page 6

Entertainment and Sports Center poised to become a reality

The new Entertainment and Sports Center (ESC) is poised to become a reality. By stimulating growth in downtown Sacramento and the surrounding areas, the planned LEED Gold Certified arena, to be located in the Downtown Plaza site between 5th and 7th Streets and J and L Streets, will create new revenue streams for the City of Sacramento.

The project has the potential to create an additional 1.5 million square feet of developed retail and commercial space near-

by. With the development of the arena and surrounding real estate comes the creation of thousands of jobs—both permanent and construction—and millions of dollars in economic activity during the next several decades.

The ESC will bring life to the downtown core on evenings and weekends, times that the area is currently underutilized. New businesses and an increase in visitors will in turn increase the sales and property tax revenues that support the city.

The City will own the ESC and lease it to the Sacramento Kings ownership group, Sacramento Basketball Holdings (SBH). The estimated cost of the project is

\$477 million, with the City's cash contribution being \$223 million plus in-kind contributions. The City will not increase taxes to pay for the ESC. The City will instead pay its share by using bond proceeds from downtown parking revenues, hotel taxes, and proceeds from the sale of the Sheraton Grand Hotel, and the parking infrastructure fund. In-kind contributions include the transfer of city-owned land valued at \$32 million. The City will not sell any of its parking garages to fund this project. SBH will pay for the \$254 million balance as well as any cost overruns.

"We set out to deliver arena according to the preliminary term

sheet and goals for the project," said Assistant City Manager and Project Director John Dangberg. "What we have ended up with is a spectacular, trendsetting entertainment venue and grand public plaza on terms that are better than the original terms."

Looking ahead to construction and development, job placement programs will provide opportunities for local job seekers. An apprenticeship program has been established to offer jobs to at least 70 local disadvantaged workers. In addition to the apprenticeship opportunity, a local and small

See ESC, page 11

ESC:

Continued from page 10

business program will incorporate downtown businesses into the ESC project to foster further economic growth.

"The project architect has designed an arena that will set a new standard for arena design," said Chris Granger, president for the Sacramento Kings. "The building will not only be energy efficient, but it will be one of the most technologically advanced buildings in the world, capitalizing on Sacramento's great weather to create a unique indoor/outdoor experience."

The ESC design and planned construction reflect significant input from the community. "We are excited over the ESC design and adjacent development plans," Project Manager Desmond Parrington said. "New retail, entertainment and hospitality offerings will attract both visitors and locals, even if they aren't attending an event at the ESC."

The arena design will stand eight stories with windows of patterned glass. The ESC's design includes approximately 17,500 seats with the potential for outdoor seating in the public plaza. This is made possible by the first-of-its-kind expansive wall of openable glass hanger doors.

The City Council will review the finances, final arena design, term sheets and other project details at an upcoming meeting on May 13.

Demolition is set to begin in summer 2014, pending the City Council's final approval. Construction of the arena is slated to begin in the fall of 2014. Construction will be completed in September 2016, allowing the ESC to be ready for a grand opening in October 2016 – when the 2016 NBA season begins.

For more information about the ESC is located on the City of Sacramento website, visit www.cityofsacramento.org/arena.



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From Slovenia to Banjo-Rama, meet girl-band Navihanke

It took some complex negotiations, but Navihanke, the award-winning Slovenian women's folk music group, has just been cleared for a national U.S. tour during which they will perform several times at the annual Sacramento Banjo-Rama on May 1-4 at the Clarion Inn, 1401 Arden Way.

Slovenia is a tiny nation of slightly more than 2 million people that borders Italy, Austria, Hungary and Croatia. Slovenia once was the northwestern corner of Yugoslavia, a former Soviet satellite country, and the girls from Navihanke are excited to visit the United States, as they consider it important to build relations and cultural exchanges with the West.

The resulting mix of Slovenian folk music and America's top jazz banjo players' sounds is hoped to produce a musical experience that has never been heard before. Interestingly, the banjo player of Navihanke isn't in the band anymore due to personal reasons.

If you want to be part of this experiment, you are welcome to bring a banjo, guitar, ukulele, balalaika, or other fretted instrument and join in the unstructured jam sessions. There also will be workshops and formal concerts at various times during this year's Banjo-Rama. While a mainstay of American music, Sacramento Banjo Band's Jim Matthews traces the banjo's pre-African roots along the Silk Road through China, Mongolia, and central Asia. Matthews, who is writing a book on the history of the banjo, will be presenting his findings at the first workshop of the four-day event on Friday, May 2, starting at 9:30 a.m.

The Arden-Carmichael News got the pleasure of speaking with Sacramento Banjo Band's Bonnie Harris, Rex Inglis, and Jim Matthews about their involvement with the organization of this year's Banjo-Rama.

Asked about how Navihanke was recruited to play at this year's Banjo-Rama, Inglis first described how he came across their music to begin with.

"I was listening to my iPod. I had some old rock and roll and stuff I like. I downloaded videos. Jamaican steel band. Mariachi music. Then up pops two little girls in Germany 20s. They were maybe 12 or 13 at the time. They had on inline skates. One played a Steirische Harmonika, another a diatonic accordion. Then I searched. Then the song played Banjotastic. These girls - they were making fun of the banjo player. We had more YouTube videos. I liked them. I figured they were from Slovenia. I went on the website. I tried to buy their CDs. That was a week or two before Christmas in 2001 and there was nothing but crickets.

"Then I got a message from them. I talked to the manager. They said it would be 89 euros. And I said it would be nice if they autographed them. Six days later, here comes the CDs, signed by Sonja. She put a heart instead of a dot over the 'j'. I asked her if there was any chance they might be in the U.S. She said, 'sorry.' In the meantime, I wrote a formal proposal and sent it off to the manager (performer Marjan Hercog's father). Days later, I received a thank you. They said, 'give us more information.' And I asked them, 'If we could raise the money, could you come?' I went to Slovenia in 2012. I got lost and I went to the police department where I met all the girls. Then they asked to see if (we) could put a tour together. Maybe there are people across the country like us that have shows that could do it."

The girls were able to fundraise their way to a full-blown U.S. tour, which began in Cleveland on Wednesday, April 23. Other stops include: Pittsburgh, Lemont, Milwaukee, Duluth, Twin Cities, Sacramento for Banjo-Rama, and Palo Alto.

While none of the band mates play the banjo, Navihanke is sure to add a bit of je ne sais quoi to Banjo-Rama. As Bonnie, said, "I love banjo players and they are so good. But I get bored of them. This will be a refresher to spice up the banjo again."

What follows are biographies of the members of Navihanke. To see a complete schedule for Banjo-Rama, visit banjo-rama.com.

Sonja Hercog

Her role with Navihanke is to blow into the saxophone, she is also learning to play drums, and she is the one to connect the program and animate the audience. She adores dancing and



whenever possible goes on the dance floor instead to the stage. She spends her free time on nature walks and studying and gathering medicinal and wild plants. She doesn't use her fingers only for playing saxophone, but also loves gardening, storing old seeds, making natural cleaners, creams, and cooking syrups. She is eager to learn and loves reading books about farming, spirituality, etcetera. She never runs out of questions and that is why her profession, which is ethnology and cultural anthropology, is a perfect fit for her. The majority of her work in the field includes interviewing people about various topics and learning about different ways of life currently and in the past. She is currently finishing her studies of nature conservancy and is advocating for a balanced relationship between nature, clean environment, and humans. She likes to be surrounded by funny people and loves to make people laugh by being cynical about herself, since, there comes a day when the motto holds: Why not make things more complicated, if there is a possibility for this? She is very responsible, detailed and flexible. She likes to sleep in, and before going to bed, she is happy to join a good debate with a glass of wine, and discovering the culinary specialties.

Tamara Gobec

I play guitar and sing for Navihanke. I've completed my Slovenian and English language studies and am soon to graduate. I plan to be a teacher and am therefore learning to be patient within a group with four other girls. Based on my "professional deformation" I like to annoy the other girls from time to time and correct their grammar, and they are of course happy to return the favor. As I'm in

the process of taking my last few exams, I have very little free time. But when I do, I like to have a cup of coffee with my friends, see a movie, or go for a walk. I love animals and because I currently don't have much space, I envy other Navihanke girls who already have almost real "farms" full of kittens, dogs, and horses. But I'm even happier when I visit them. My weakest point is definitely chocolate; this is something that anyone can bribe me with. But otherwise I adore sweets of all shapes and tastes. Luckily all the jumping on the stage during our performances is helping me out so that I can have some sweets every now and then. I'm good-hearted and kind, although very stubborn and sometimes moody. It's likely that many would also say that my words precede my thoughts and that I can unintentionally offend them, but in my four years with Navihanke I learned to control this and be disciplined.

Maša Uranjek

I'm Maša Uranjek and I've been with Navihanke from the very beginning. Our 12 years have been truly magical as we went through many things together and experienced a lot. We had many beautiful and happy moments together on the stage and there is no end in sight, which pleases me tremendously, as music means almost everything to me. I'm the lead singer with Navihanke and also a flutist. I also play a guitar and a piano. On the stage we are bouncy and full of energy. People attending our performances are often wondering if the stage will be able to hold us or break down. I love nature, trees, sun, birds, streams,

See Banjo-Rama, page 14

www.valcomnews.com • May 1, 2014 • East Sacramento News

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Banjo-Rama

Continued from page 13

and farm animals. I also handle horses and have two beautiful horses at home. Jasmina and I often ride horses together around the countryside. I like to read spiritual books and evolve my thinking. I really like the books by Dobra vila Maja, Doreen Virtue, Louise L. Hay, Savine Atai, and others. My motto is: Spread love and peace around the world and be good to each other.

Tanja Čretnik

Tanja is at the best age for a woman and this is also how she feels. She has everything she needs to be happy and is only troubled by free time, which she never has enough. If she had more time available, she could probably do some things better, and she could take more time for other things out of pure pleasure. Cars are her weak point – and she al-

ways likes to turn around to check them out. If pop-folk music in Slovenia were more respected and better rewarded, she would have bought a brand new car and that would be a BMW 1-Series convertible in gold-sand color, 135i. But since there would not be enough space in the car for all the RUTAR accordions and all the keyboards, she would probably right now choose a bigger car. She goes to work, but she enjoys music much more. In Navihanke, she plays everything that has white buttons and white and black keys. She is the only one in the group that does not sing, as she is loud enough with everything else.

She adores her cat and the summer. No matter how hot it is, she would never trade the summer for the winter. In her life she regrets only the things that she hasn't done yet and wishes that she grew four inches taller. Since this wish will be hard to fulfill, she is a big fan of high

heels in all color combinations. She wishes that Navihanke would visit the United States and present their music and Slovenia in the best possible way – with positive energy and lots of cheerfulness!

Jasmina Šmarčan

I'm Jasmina Šmarčan. In the group I play bass guitar, guitar, and sing. When we are performing with Navihanke I usually spend more time in the air than on the ground. The rhythms of our music simply take over and release a burst of energy in me, which results in jumping and all the action on the stage.

In my free time, I enjoy being with the horses. Whenever I find time I love going on long rides with my young mare. This is a real therapy for me and it recharges my energy so that I'm ready for new performances and gatherings. I also spend a lot of time educating myself about healthy living, which includes everything from spir-

itality to healthy eating. My motto and a verse that I follow in life is "You are in this world to see the sun. You are in this world to follow the sun. You are in this world to be the sun and to drive away – the shadows."

SOURCES:

www.navihankeusa2014.com
and www.banjo-rama.com

IF YOU GO:

What: The Sacramento Banjo Band Banjo-Rama 2014
When: May 1-4
Where: The Clarion Inn, 1401 Arden Way, Sacramento, 922-8041 (Formerly Red Lion)
Contact: Bonnie Harris 412-3020 or Rex Inglis at 209-955-2452
On the web: www.banjo-rama.com; sacramentobanjoband.com

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Remembering the 'MAYOR OF 37TH STREET'

By LANCE ARMSTRONG
Lance@valcomnews.com

There are many memorials that can be found in various places throughout the capital city. But one of the most hidden and less known memorials is that of former East Sacramento resident Ray Bertolucci (1911-2011).

At the end of a cul-de-sac on 37th Street, just south of P Street, is an area, which is rich with trees, ivy and other plants.

Although it is necessary to do some investigating on the southeast side of that area to locate Ray's memorial, with relatively little effort, one can find that memorial, as well as memorials to his wife, Dorothy M. (Herbert) Bertolucci (1915-1997), and Jamil D. Nammour, a professor at Sacramento State University from 1969 to 1986.

Nammour, who taught philosophy for many years and was honored through the naming of Sacramento State's annual Nammour (philosophy) Symposium, resided at 1633 37th Street from about 1978 to about 1985.

The plaque for Nammour, who was born in Backline, Lebanon on Sept. 3, 1937 and died in Carmichael on Jan. 13, 1986, reads: "This tree is dedicated to the memory of Jamil Nammour by his friends on 37th St. May 1986."

The plaque honoring Dorothy, who graduated from Sacramento High School in 1933 and married Ray seven years later, reads: "In loving memory of our dear friend and neighbor Dorothy Bertolucci."

Ray's plaque has a shorter inscription, as it reads: "Raymond Bertolucci, 'The Mayor,' 1911-2011."

With a glance at a listing of mayors who have served Sacramento, one would not find the name, Raymond Bertolucci.

So, with that in mind, the obvious question would be: Why was this man, Ray Bertolucci, recognized as a mayor on a memorial at the end of a portion of 37th Street in East Sacramento?

Although Ray passed away three years ago in his 37th Street home, and thus would not be available for

comment, the answer to that question can be easily answered by many people who remember him as having acquired that title.

In an interview with this publication last week, Larry Bertolucci, who was Ray and Dorothy's only child, said that his father began to be referred to as "the mayor" by his neighborhood friends in the 1980s.

"(Ray) was just very active in terms of when they closed 37th Street off (south of P Street, near the old freight train tracks/light rail tracks) and made it a cul-de-sac (in the mid-1980s), and he was just a real advocate for that general location," said Larry, who graduated from Sacramento High School in 1962, and later graduated from Stanford University. "When people would move in, he would welcome them. If anybody was doing any nonsense, he was not afraid to confront them and say, 'That's kind of unacceptable for this area.' And everybody just kind of rallied around him. I think it was partly because of age, partly because of his personality and partly because of his tenure of living there. So, you know, it just kind of came into fruition if anybody needed any answers about the area, (they would ask for his assistance). The guy had phenomenal recall. It was amazing that he could put the dates and names to places. He could tell you in Old (Sacramento) what store was there on what corner, what they did, who owned it. He would meet a guy in a store, at Corti Bros. or maybe at Safeway, and he would say, 'Larry, I know that guy.' He wasn't afraid to go up and (talk to) the person and say, 'I know you, tell me your name,' or 'I think your name is this. You were related to this guy.' And the next thing you know, they were carrying on a conversation. He was absolutely uncanny."

In speaking about his father's approach to helping his friends, Larry, 69, said, "His friends that were close to him, whatever help (they needed), he gave it to them. Whether it was financial - he didn't have much, but he would give it to them. And he never expected anything in return. My dad said, 'If you loan money to that person,

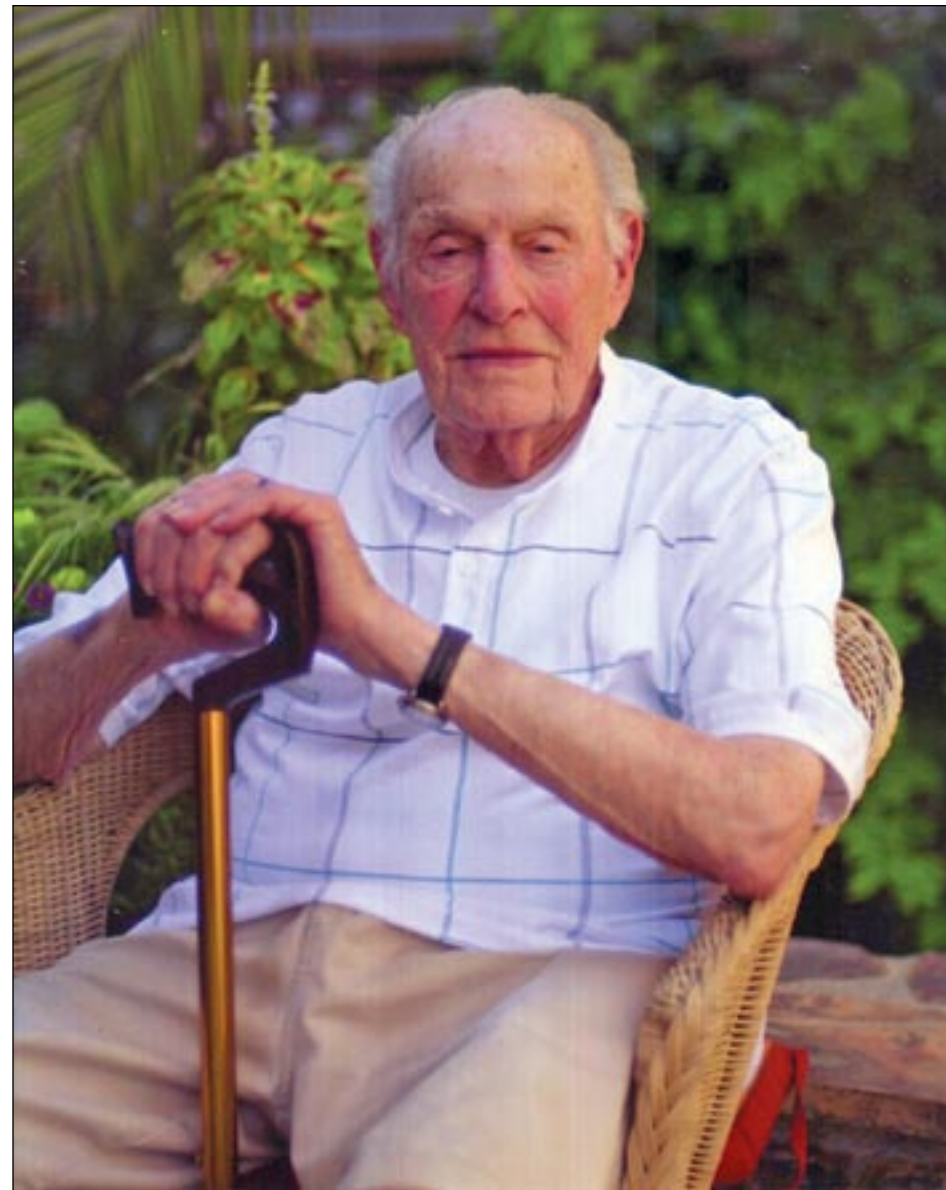


Photo courtesy of Lois Lindstrom

Ray Bertolucci (1911-2011) was known as the "mayor of 37th Street."

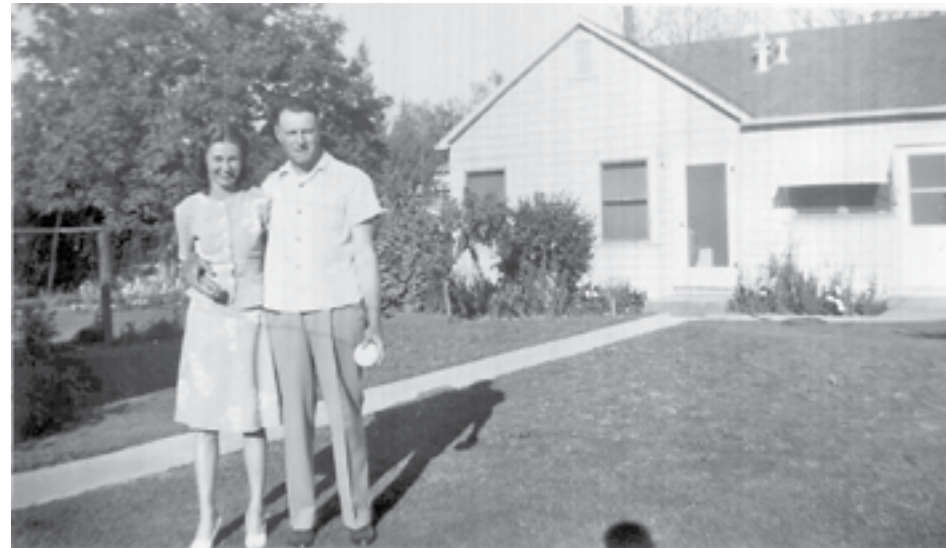


Photo courtesy of Lois Lindstrom

Ray and Dorothy Bertolucci are shown in front of their 37th Street guest house in this c. 1949 photograph.

just pretend you're not going to get it back. You give it to them, because you know they need it for a reason."

Larry added that his father, along with Ray's close friend Jack Peterson and others, played an active role in establishing the East Sacramento Little League in 1951.

"He was just an advocate for the kids," Larry said. "Every kid in the neighborhood loved him. He tolerated absolutely no nonsense. He was old school. He would give them hell, then he would put his arm around them and love them. All practices in Little

League ran an hour and a half. They were run like a major league practice. Everything was done drills, drills, no nonsense. We got our work done and then we went home."

In regard to Ray's aforementioned longevity as a resident of the neighborhood, he moved into his home at 1641 37th St. with Dorothy in 1941 and continued to live there for 70 years.

Ray, who was born in McCloud, Calif., was raised with his brother, Lorenzo (1904-1979), by his parents,

See Mayor, page 19

Valley Community Newspapers, Inc.

Mayor:

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Luigi and Matilda (Dini) Bertolucci, who were natives of Lucca, Italy.

In about 1920, Luigi acquired work as a laborer for the Southern Pacific Co. in Sacramento, and the Bertolucci family moved to 916 33rd St. in about 1920.

During his youth, Ray enjoyed playing baseball and later in his life, he played fast pitch softball.

When he was 16 years old, Ray abandoned his studies at Sacramento High School and began working for the Southern Pacific as a sheet metal worker, a position he would hold, except for brief periods of time, until his retirement 41 years later.

On one occasion when he was not employed by the Southern Pacific, Ray, who served for many years as the vice president of the Sheet Metal Workers Union No. 162, drove a hearse for the local funeral director George L. Klumpp.

Ray also spent some time working on a surveying crew in the Mojave Desert.

Certainly, one person who knew Ray and Dorothy very well was Dorothy's sister, Lois (Herbert) Lindstrom.

In speaking about Ray, who married Dorothy in 1940, she said, "He did so much for his neighbors. On street pickup days, if there were tree branches laying in the street that they had put out to be picked up and they weren't cut up in little pieces, Ray would take his chainsaw and go down and cut them up and pile them up for them."

Additionally, both Ray and Dorothy would often take many of their neighbors' garbage cans back to their neighbors' properties after they had been emptied.

Lois described Ray and Dorothy as "the most hospital people you would ever want to meet."

And after being asked to speak about Ray's recognition as the "mayor of 37th Street," Lois said, "They just sort of tagged that (title) on him, because if there was a problem of any kind in the neighborhood - sidewalks, trees or whatever - he was the one that went to the county. He knew all the county supervisors, he knew the assemblymen, he knew everybody that was connected to East Sacramento, and they were all on a first name basis. He would call their offices and they would say, 'Oh, hi, Ray.' And he was the one that got action, so they sort of tied that mayor name onto him."

Lois named several people who recognized Ray as the "mayor of 37th Street." Those people included his good friends, Dr. Tim Tautz and fireman Mike Taylor.

Larry added that he believes that Nammour was among the people who



Photo by Lance Armstrong

Ray and Dorothy Bertolucci moved into this house at 1641 37th St. in 1941.



Photo courtesy of Lois Lindstrom

Ray Bertolucci, shown when he was about 18 years old, was one of the two children of Luigi and Matilda (Dini) Bertolucci, who were natives of Lucca, Italy.



Photo by Lance Armstrong

This memorial plaque, which is located at the end of the cul-de-sac, just south of P Street on 37th Street, pays tribute to Ray Bertolucci, the "mayor of 37th Street."

referred to his father as the "mayor of 37th Street."

Both Lois and Larry mentioned that Ray had a sort of "open door policy," which attracted many people to his house.

In speaking about some of those people, Larry said, "Everyone would come to his house and have cocktails at 5 o'clock, especially (during) the last 10, 15 years (of his life). They would always come over to his place. But one little nuance that he had was he hated people to come when he was getting ready to eat dinner. That always bugged him. You didn't want to interrupt his dinner time."

Ray, who drove his car until he was about 98 years old, passed away less than seven months shy of his 100th birthday.

Kathryn (Casey) Peterson, 91, who formerly resided at 1311 38th St. with her husband, Jack Peterson, fondly spoke about Ray and Dorothy.

"(Ray) was a terrific guy," Kathryn said. "Even into old age, he was just somebody you could always count on. He was very clever. There wasn't anything he couldn't fix or do. And he was just a wonderful husband, and his wife was just charming."

Everybody knew him. He would be sorry if you were in the neighborhood and you didn't stop to visit him. He was just that way, and his wife was, too."

Julie Peterson, who is not related to Jack and Kathryn Peterson, presently resides in Ray's old, white, brick house, which was built in about 1928 for John B. Mat-

thews, a teacher at Sacramento Junior College - today's Sacramento City College.

After being asked what she knew about Ray, Julie said, "I know that shortly after we moved here, a young man in his 30s or 40s came by to see him and didn't know he had passed (away). It was just really heartwarming. He said that he lived in this house (next door) many, many years ago and that Ray helped raise him and was like a father to him. I know that we're new to Sacramento, but we've met tons of people that knew (Ray) and knew our house, because they knew him. It really affected me, because I heard so much about Ray, and then for the guy to come by, I thought, 'Wow, (Ray) really did affect a lot of people.'"



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