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Vol. XXIV • No. 20

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.

Publisher George Macko
General Manager Kathleen Macko
Editor Monica Stark
Art Director John Ochoa
Graphic Designer Annin Greenhalgh
Advertising Executives Linda Pohl, Melissa Andrews
Distribution/Subscriptions George Macko

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Cover photo:
Courtesy

Other photos:
Courtesy
Lance Armstrong

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Janey Way Memories:

The Old Armory



By **MARTY RELLES**
marty@valcomnews.com

Last Thursday, as I returned home from my weekly visit to Fancy Feet Dance Academy with granddaughter Gabrielle, I drove by the old National Guard Armory on Elvas Avenue and J Street. Something seemed different about the old facility, and then I noticed a mural on its northern wall depicting high school girls decked out in red and gray uniforms. I thought out loud that St. Francis High School must now occupy the old armory. Apparently, the Guard has left that building and turned it over to the school.

I remember when they built the armory in the early 1960s. It was quite a big deal on Janey Way because the main entrance to the facility was located at the north end of our neighborhood. Consequently, vehicles driven by Guard troops rolled regularly down Janey Way. Since this particular unit was a logistics battalion, that amounted to a lot of 5-ton trucks, jeeps and other military hardware.

The kids on our street thought this was great. What could be cooler than having all that mili-

tary hardware right in our neighborhood? Our parents didn't like it at all. Soon, Dante Viani came walking up and down the street collecting signatures on a petition opposing the location of the main entrance to the armory.

When he had gathered sufficient signatures, Dante took the petition down to the mayor's office and requested that the Guard change the location of the entrance to the facility. His effort proved successful. The Guard unit built a new entrance where J Street meets Elvas Avenue and locked up the gate on Janey Way. Mission accomplished.

After that, the National Guard developed a good relationship with the people of Janey Way. I remember they held an annual open house where the public came in to tour the facility.

It proved a great experience for all of us. We got talk to the guard members all decked out in full military regalia. We also were able to climb all over the military vehicles that lined the facility. I guess they were hoping to recruit us sometime later in life.

After touring the facility, we gathered at a table in the main building to eat cookies and drink punch. To a 12-year-old boy, that sounds like the perfect day.

So, here I was last week, driving by the old armory and thinking how those soldiers served to protect us in the event of an emergency like the fires we have recently experienced here in Northern California.. They did their job well. Now the old armory is just another military Janey Way memory.

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of engaging art experiences and performances. Bands performing include Silver Spoons, DoofyDoo, Dad?, Parted Bangs, and Gasps. A large handful of local artists will be leading and partici-

pating in a number of improvisational, engaging, potentially messy experiments. Each day the schedule is, as follows: reception at 7 p.m., performances at 8 p.m. and art party at 9 p.m.

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	Room to Roam! This sprawling 4 bedroom, 2 bath home boasts a formal living & dining rooms, an open kitchen with a large breakfast room, and family room. Even more, the private backyard offers a glistening swimming pool, adjacent to the two-car garage, with alley access, has been converted into a game room and boasts a functional attic. \$659,950		Spacious Spanish Contemporary! This 3 bedroom, 3 bathroom Spanish contemporary presents a formal Living & Dining room, a remodeled Kitchen with stainless steel appliances, granite countertops, a spacious eat-in area, and that looks onto the inviting Family room. The well-manicured backyard looks onto the separate Media room/ Game room. Other amenities include a spacious Master suite, hardwood floors and surround sound. \$919,950
	Darling East Sac Cottage! This inviting 3 bedroom, 1 bath home boasts a formal Living room with a cozy fireplace, a formal Dining area, and an updated Galley Kitchen with a gas range and marble countertops. Inviting opportunities to entertain, the lush backyard offers an uncovered patio and mature foliage. Other amenities include hardwood floors, dual pane windows. \$489,950		Exquisite Land Park Spanish Colonial! This elegant Spanish Colonial home has been impressively renovated while preserving the original character. This 4 bedroom, 3 bath property boasts formal Living and Dining rooms with hand-carved beams, and a Gourmet Kitchen that opens to a Great Room. The home has been thoroughly remodeled to include new plumbing, electrical, HVAC, and windows. \$1,499,950

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Lady of the Lake speaks about finding a dead body

By MONICA STARK
editor@valcomnews.com

For what began as a typical morning on McKinley Pond, Monday, Oct. 5 for the Lady of the Lake turned out to be anything but that. As news reports indicated, neighbor Judy McClaver was cleaning out the pond when from a distance she saw something black floating. At first she thought it was a plastic bag, and then as she rowed closer to the floating object, she noticed black clothing. A bit worried at that point, she held her breath wondering if there was going to be fecal matter wrapped up inside, as that's been something she's come across in the past, but as police officials and news reports have stated she found a dead body.

As she comes rowing toward shore after I call out her name around 11:30 a.m., Judy responds, "Do you think this is enough to put up a fence?"

While she found the body around 9 a.m., Judy was found still on the island, cleaning the pond more than two hours later. "What am I going to do? Go home and cry? I've cried on enough shoulders today."

In the face of death, she didn't really want to look, but noticed the victim was wearing basketball clothing. "He was wearing pants, underwear, a top. I couldn't tell the skin color right away because of the murky green color of the pond." Pointing toward the southwest area of the pond, Judy noted, "It's the same place where that Range Rover drove into the pond (back in February 2014). You'd think that's the Bermuda Triangle over there. I told (the city parks and recreation department) this was going to happen weeks ago and here it happened. I just did not think I would be the one to find a body. I am thankful it was not a child! It's not pleasant. Kids fall in all the time."

She said she has witnessed numerous children fall into the pond either chasing toys or waterfowl or because parents were not close enough and they tripped on the uneven edge.

"I have seen people swim in the pond. Dogs go in chasing a ball. People use the pond water for water balloons and to wash their hands off. I have a picture of a couple drunk young maybe 20-somethings with their surfboards. One mother with her child reported to me seeing a teen kill a duck throwing sticks at it. The number of people inebriated around the pond is unbelievable. Some are there drinking at family gatherings but the majority are there to sleep.

"People sleep on the benches, on edges of pond, and in the park and bushes. This at times is combined with other mental issues too. Then there are those using drugs and breathing in gas from spray cans at night. Add those who think using the pond for a toilet in broad daylight in front of others is a badge of honor, or use it because they are too inebriated to know where they are. They get up from lying down and can easily fall into the pond. Then there are those pouring bottles of soda and alcohol into the pond. I am not making any of this up as I don't have that kind of an imagination."

Judy pushed the city to test the pond water considering the number of waterfowl and turtles, people using it as a toilet, dog feces tossed in, trash, strollers, bikes, tires, and drug paraphernalia found in the pond. This testing was done in May 2013 and the pond was deemed a "Human Health Hazard" for fecal bacteria, including Salmonella, a test backed up by testing at California State University, Sacramento. "The city agreed to put up signs, but the signs are small and easily missed. They also say the water in the pond is non potable. Lots of people tell me they do not know what non potable means," she said.

Through Judy's dedication keeping the pond as clean as she can, removing abandoned pet ducks from the pond, removing bamboo from the island so as to prevent the strangulation of animals that reside there, she has also found inebriated people wandering

the park at various hours of the day. She's found human fecal matter in the pond, drugs in the park, and she has scooped up paraphernalia from the pond.

For more than three years, she's been on a mission to get the city to help her clean out the pond and put a fence around along the whole walkway, but her goal hasn't been a popular one at least with those on the citizen advisory committee, which was formed to assist city staff to address water quality and aesthetics of the McKinley Pond and the three William Land Park ponds. "The idea of constructing a fence around the entire McKinley Park pond was proposed by two members out of a concern to primarily prevent people from feeding the wildlife and tossing trash into the pond. The fence around a decorative pond was overwhelmingly rejected by the committee," Maria C. "Marycon" Razo, media and communications specialist for the Office of the City Manager, told the East Sacramento News.

Razo said the city hired a consultant to develop long term pond improvements and maintenance procedures that will "ensure water quality enhancement for the wildlife and pond aesthetics. The committee reviewed the consultant's recommendations and voted unanimously on a set of solutions to forward to city council." She said, for McKinley Park, the improvements related to safety included the construction of a decorative fence between the McKinley Park playground entrance and the pond. The committee's recommendations will be brought to city council for approval before the end of the year. The improvements will be implemented early next year, she said. The committee is made up of two citizens from Council District 3 (McKinley Pond), two citizens from Council District 4 (Land Park Ponds), and three city parks staff.

Judy currently sits on the Pond Advisory Committee for the pond's ren-

ovation and is one of the members Razo speaks of in regard to those who have been pushing for a fence around the pond.

"Do we need a fence around the pond for public protection? I say 'yes.' This is supported by many visitors to the pond that have seen many of the same things I have. The playground that attracts many is right next to the pond. Kids come to the pond from all directions. This pond is a public safety issue. Pond renovation will not make the water clean for very long. The waterfowl and people will continue to do what they already do. Renovation does not change behaviors. It will take the muck (about 2 feet of it) out of the pond. A fence can be done so that it is aesthetically appealing.

"There are lots of pictures of this pond over the decades back to 1913 showing fences around this pond serving a safety purpose without appearing as barriers. Planting tall plants between the fence and pond would decrease trash and leaves from blowing in and add filtration of the runoff water from the park and the street. This would help keep the water in the pond cleaner. The plants could also add color (flowers) that attract hummingbirds and photographers. Low water use plants exist. There is aeration proposed that would come from the bottom of the pond as opposed to the fountains. This is a good idea as it adds oxygenation to the bottom of the pond to help the bacteria with breaking up the debris (leaves etc). It also helps with the ecosystem of a body of water that has no flowing water and provides oxygen to fish."

Judy said she has received more than 270 thank yous and "only one or two is against the fence." East Sacramento Preservation, which she is a member of, is working on a Go Fund Me account to raise money for the fence.

There will be a meeting on the matter with Councilmember Jeff Harris at the Clunie Clubhouse on Monday, Oct. 19 at 6 p.m.



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The Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS

- Soothing stuff
- Monastery head
- After the hour
- "O" in old radio lingo
- Blush
- "___ bitten, twice shy"
- Urban blight
- Close-knit group
- Bank transaction
- Place to find thyme
- Like some hands
- Rosy-cheeked
- Just say yes
- ___ oil
- Hardly handsome
- Stomping ground
- Mall binge
- Farm sound
- Basket material
- Deck (out)
- ___ squash
- Soaked
- Circumvent
- Area of South Africa
- Bad look
- How some things are chopped
- Emphasize and ___
- Time on the job
- Bone-dry
- Like some assets
- Drawn-out
- Two-door

DOWN

- Shrek, e.g.
- Part of TMNT
- Aetna offering
- Positive terminal
- Secure, as a contract
- Article of faith
- Eucalyptuses
- Making a big profit, with "up"
- Third place
- "___ on Down the Road"
- Exec
- Advocate
- Antares, for one
- Detachable container
- Bit of dust
- Grad student's grilling
- The "O" in S.R.O.
- Hymn of praise
- Blister
- Accountant's book
- Fancy duds
- Rabbit food
- Figure of speech
- Dentist's direction
- Dwarf
- Spy, at times
- "High" time
- Actor Pitt
- Air bag?
- Christian Science founder

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See Solution, page 12

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Matías Bombal's Hollywood

"99 Homes"

The MPAA has rated this R

Broad Green Pictures brings us "99 Homes", the latest offering from director Ramin Bahrani. A very real horror story of big banks and a Florida middleman realtor that seizes homes from defaulting homeowners to evict them. The movie begins with no apology by showing an unexpected and unpleasant moment, setting the tone for the unease that will prevail for the movie's entire running time. The scene is an eviction of a home. The next home in the path of bank repossession offers a tense moment for the Nash family: Dennis, a hardworking construction worker, played by Andrew Garfield, is trying his best to catch up with mounting

debt. He lives with his mother, Lynn (Laura Dern) and his son, Connor (Noah Lomax). His wife has left him.

There is a knock on the door of the Nash home. Dennis answers to find the sheriff serving the eviction along with a realtor with the bad news that they must leave at once. Michael Shannon, playing Rick Carver, is literally the realtor from hell.

This psychological assault will trigger Dennis to action beyond his normal experience. As horrible as this may seem, things go from bad to worse. The humiliation of clearing out their house in two to three minutes of valuables, then standing by as workmen rapidly empty the house forcefully, is an impressive and brutal process. Actor Michel Shannon

is a relentless, remarkable talent and here he certainly may be considered "the man you love to hate," a term first used for silent screen actor and director Erich von Stroheim. Shannon is intense and fantastic in playing complex characters like this one or his role in TV's "Boardwalk Empire".

Dennis is compelled to action to save his family. First, his mom and son are placed in a low-rent motel. Then, he finds out where the eviction team meets, intending to get back some of his tools so he may work. Whilst arguing to get back his tools, a strange turn of events takes place; he's offered money by Carver to work on his next eviction. Cash money.

Desperation leads Dennis to start with odd jobs for the realtor that evicted him



and his family. The money is good and under the table, and begins to increase with more and more work as Dennis hopes to eventually make enough to buy his own home back. In this "If you can't beat 'em, join 'em" attitude, Dennis begins to change and becomes emotionally lost, never telling his mother or son what he is doing that brings them much needed revenue not only to survive, but eventually leave their stranded motel life. Andrew Garfield is like you've never seen him before in this picture and his scenes with Shannon are intense and well performed.

The plot offers Faustian undercurrents, the course for the two to damnation seems set. Director Ramin Bahrani, who I had a chance to chat with after the press screening in San Francisco, shared with me his horror at discovering the housing eviction situation in Florida during the period the picture depicts, where banks have two departments, each giving the lender different

advice. One department says to default on the loan, the other to keep paying, all calculated to confuse the home owner so that the bank may evict the owner for non-payment. I asked Bahrani why he chose to make this a dramatic feature and not a documentary with all the true facts he uncovered in preparing this idea for the screen. He felt it would artistically best be expressed as a dramatic narrative.

Bahrani additionally shared that he chose the wide-screen anamorphic aspect ratio to give a sense of the vast emptiness of these re-possessed houses, barren of life, for Shannon and Garfield to unravel their performances in real spaces. Most of the homes seen in the picture were actual repossessed empty houses in Florida. This movie is clearly not a subject for everyone, a true horror story of big banking, opportunists and graft. There are great moments from both Shannon and Garfield that make this a must see for fans of the process of acting.

What would you like to see happen with the old Marshall School?

By ELLEN COCHRANE

Maybe you're old enough to remember the porcelain water fountains and wooden banister staircases; maybe you're just charmed by the past. But when you pass inside the wooden double doors of Old Marshall School on 27th and G Streets you enter days gone by. Beware though, classroom chalkboard scribbles warn of ghosts and you'll have to pick your way through forgotten furniture and abandoned remodel efforts.

If the building could speak it would tell you that there are not many renovation opportunities left in Midtown like Marshall School. Find the deal, the money and the time to bring me back. I am ready to serve.

The school was built in 1903 and has 16 classrooms. There is an additional annex building that was built by the Boy Scouts a couple of decades ago. Old Marshall sits on 1.18 acres and is surrounded by a large parking lot. In its past lives the school has been a public school, center for the California Montessori Project, The MET and an Adult Education/Child Development Program. It's been vacant now for many years.

The school site is still owned by Sacramento City Schools and School Board Trustees Ellen Cochrane and Jay Hansen, and district staff, see the promise in this building and they see the challenges. They would like to know what you think about Old Marshall School's future. Please submit any reuse ideas, or tell us about a successful repurposing of a similar building. It's highly unlikely that the building will reopen as a public school, but all else is being considered.

You can submit ideas for the Old Marshall off the website, <<http://www.scusd.edu/oldmarshall>>.

SCUSD is not in the real estate business, so the firm Overland Pacific and Cutler (real estate re-use expert) was hired to help the district find the best solutions for Old Marshall and other surplus properties that have no further use as school sites. In October OPC and the district will begin collecting formal propos-



Front entrance

Photo by Ellen Cochrane

als and the public will have full opportunity to be engaged.

In the meantime, take a walk down G Street. You'll find a faded lady surrounded by a chain link fence. Listen closely and you might hear

muted laughter of school-children and the whisper of bells. In her next life neighborhood-treasure Old Marshall will carry history forward and who knows, maybe a few ghosts.

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Meet your local embalmer: Cody Barrett

By MONICA STARK
editor@valcomnews.com



There used to be a time when those who worked at East Lawn's mortuaries acted as both embalmers and funeral directors, but times have changed and more recently the business has switched to centralized embalming out of the Greenback Lane location. Serving three East Lawn mortuaries, two local embalmers manage to do all the embalming for the company. Valley Community Newspapers spoke with one of them, embalmer Cody Barrett, and about his work experience and his caring for bodies as a purpose in life that he feels so strongly about.

"I know that to someone who doesn't do it, it might seem odd or overwhelming or even unimaginable," he says about his work as an embalmer. "To me, it's not that way at all. To me, I love what I do. I feel like I am giving back to my community. It's where I fit. I am an embalmer. It's not just what I do, it's who I am."

That self identification wasn't realized until he actually started getting to know his co-workers at East Lawn and a humanizing thing happened, fulfilling his curiosity about those who work in a funeral home. "People always think we walk around in this dark building and we always resemble Riff Raff from the 'Rocky Horror Picture Show', but it's not that way at all," he said. "I found we are people just like anyone else. We just happen to work in an industry that's a little mysterious because we live in a death-denying society."

Asked by friends and family the same questions - Have you seen any ghosts? And, do the bodies ever sit up? - Cody is sorry to say "no" on both accounts. "I guess my day-to-day is so normal to me."

The moments that are most unforgettable, to Cody, are those that show his expertise in embalming. "When a family is concerned about seeing an open casket and then once a family member sees the body and says it looks so good that they definitely want to see open casket" - those are the times, he said, that are the most memorable.

Our culture's veiled taboo around death and also the fact that most people haven't had to arrange a funeral, surely is going to evoke a certain emotion when visiting a funeral home, but to Cody and others in the field, they try to make that experience as positive as possible.

To ensure that high level expectation, Cody said professionalism, being an ethical person

See Embalmer, page 8

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Fundraiser concert for Sacramento Steps Forward set for Oct. 30 at Starlight

By DEAN HAAKENSON

I've been a Downtown Sacramento Flâneur for a long time. I bought a cheap house in Broderick some six years ago, and thankfully, I still find myself able to walk the three miles into downtown to my workplace. I've seen many of the same characters on these sweet sidewalks, some of which are obviously homeless; pulling carts, holding signs... and some who just seem different from the average people in your neighborhood; yelling at the heavens, body cloths and skin a bit more grimy than is fashionable... Do they have a home? Are they hungry? Are they lone-

ly? Is it my responsibility to help them if they need help? I've reconciled my politics to believe that YES, the responsibility of a successful society to care for its most unemployed, weak, displaced, and mentally ill, or potentially violent, is a matter more important than however we may feel personally about said vulnerable fellow citizens.

With these thoughts in mind, I've organized a fundraiser for the regional homeless services provider Sacramento Steps Forward (sacramentostepsforward.org). Because, on top of having a jovial conversation (more important than money to some of our lonelier fellow sidewalkers, I'd like

to think), or giving a few bucks to your neighborhood homeless guy, services to the needy are arguably best provided in an organized setting, such that SSF offers.

Among their services are advocacy, assistance and resource information to all who need it, and their Winter Sanctuary program facilitates our most vulnerable getting to shelters in our coldest months. Jay Eisenberg's SoHo Entertainment kindly booked this at the historic Starlite Lounge (formerly Townhouse, now renovated, serving food, at 1517 21st st). A fitting venue, we'll play in the sizable upstairs. I'm grateful that some of Northern California's best songwriters and bands agreed to do-

nate their time: Joe Kye voted "Artist Of The Year" at 2014 Sammies), Guerrero, Felsen and John Elliott (both traveling from San Francisco), Pomegranate, Nice Monster, Justin Farren (and his band), and your own Be Brave Bold Robot closing out the night.

This collection of lyrical-driven music will display elements of Rock, Pop, and Americana in satisfying balance. And to boot, on a recent walk, I ran into Mark Bell aka Mark The Hobo, a kind homeless man who is known for his poetry about homelessness, and who is writing some poems for the event, which either he or I will read MC style. See you at the Starlight Lounge Oct. 30.

Embalmer:

Continued from page 8

and most importantly being empathetic are required characteristics for an embalmer. "If you don't, you probably won't be very good in this industry and if you're not (good), you won't last. You have to put yourself into this breathing person's shoes and understand what they must be going through and help them through the process. It's not a self-serve place. We have to guide them through that process."

Cody grew up in Nevada City and after he graduated Nevada Union High School in 1997, he moved to Kauai where he obtained his associates of arts degree from a community college. "I wasn't entirely focused at that time. I was 18. I got an AA in liberal arts. It was broad spectrum. Then, I moved back here in 2000-2001. That's when I started as a carpenter."

While at Nevada Union High School, Cody decided to apply to a mortuary just due to his curiosity, but without accomplishment. "I was curious about who or what kind of people worked there, but I didn't get the job, then I kind of forgot about it."

So, he was a carpenter for a bit until his daughter was born, and then was a stay-at-home dad, while his wife worked to support the family. But, when it came time for his little girl to go to preschool, he realized he needed to get back to work. It was then his interest in the mortuary industry came back around, even though he did not realize at the time necessarily how for-

fortunate he was to land a steady position. "I applied here at East Lawn and got the job." He started with "transfers" and cleaning the funeral home. "I just worked my way up and went to mortuary college (at American River College) and finished that. I got my national and state license in embalming and have enjoyed it ever since."

Curious thing about his classmates at ARC was that unfortunately for many of them they weren't able to land jobs as easily as Cody. "Not too many got jobs unless they had a job before they started (the mortuary program). It can be difficult to find work in Sacramento because of the mortuary school. I was pretty fortunate to randomly toddle into a mortuary just because I was curious. I didn't realize what a competitive industry it is (in Sacramento)," he said.

While the competitive nature of the industry may seem ironic, the truth is there are only two mortuary schools in all of California, the one at ARC and one in Cypress, which is located near Anaheim.

When he first told his family of his plans to go into the mortuary business, he said his parents thought it was an elaborate joke, but after they saw how passionate he was about this kind of work, their minds changed. "Now they think it's great and they understand my point of view of doing this work and where I fit in serving this community."

While he has spent most of his career thus far at East Lawn, for fewer than two years between 2013 and 2014, Cody had the opportunity to work for the body donation program

at UC Davis, which had him embalm cadavers for the medical school and apply tissues for researchers.

At UCD, they had the standard operating procedure of how to embalm. No cosmetics were done. As Cody puts it, "It's much more utilitarian. Here, at the funeral home, I'm able to use all of my embalming knowledge."

The lack of creativity that went into the work as an embalmer at UCD was the very reason he returned to East Lawn. "Work (at UCD) was very monotonous. I like the challenges and flow of work at the funeral home because I am able to use my knowledge better and serve my community more than at the university."

His dedication does not go unnoticed. Evidently, those in his field respect him tremendously. As Lisa West, marketing director for East Lawn said, "Cody is a gem. Everyone at East Lawn loves to work with Cody because he is so knowledgeable and willing to share his knowledge with others. He is very generous with his time and an extremely empathetic and compassionate person. He treats the deceased with enormous respect and dignity."

Outside of work and time spent with his family, Cody enjoys gardening and practicing Brazilian jiu jitsu. Having participated in martial arts since he was 8 years old, he started jiu jitsu in 2001, when he moved back from Hawaii. Currently, he assists in teaching the art at Carnegie Mixed Martial Arts in Orangevale. Cody also enjoys gardening and has an impressive year round vegetable garden.

Robinhoods benefit set for Oct. 29

A lost election bet over the presidential race in 1964 provided the stakes that gave rise to the creation of the "4 Robinhoods." It brought four Sacramento pals together to create a charitable organization. Back in the day, this merry quartet of buddies - Kenny Cayocca, Mark Cohn, Cecil Finegold and Lou Morris - became famous as community fixers. They gave away medicine, clothing, food and threw big parties for needy youngsters and their families. They staged major events, bringing celebrities to town to raise major money to fund their unceasing efforts.

So, with a sincere appreciation for their deeds past, a revitalized group of Sacramento citizens has formed to continue the legacy of the "4 Robinhoods." In fact, they have already completed an urgently needed community project and more away.

All are projects which require community support and funding. As in all past endeavors, there is an intent to be project specific, a quick response team, receiving and considering requests for help, then moving swiftly toward responding to the need.

On Thursday, Oct. 29 at 7:30 p.m., the two surviving Robinhoods (Mark Cohn and Kenny Cayocca) and the new board of directors will gather to introduce themselves, as well as their current projects, to friends and supporters. It will be an evening of wonderful desserts, some fine wines, and music provided by Sacramento's own Roger Smith, the famed keyboardist with the acclaimed band, Tower of Power. He will be joined by the band's bassist, Raymond McKinley and drummer Brian Collier from Santana.

Event-goers will mingle at one of Sacramento's best kept secrets, the Museum of Rock and Radio, located at 911 20th St. Being there is a wildly visual step back in time, back to the rock eras of the 1960s, '70s and '80s, the museum's walls are adorned with more than 600 concert posters, as well as many other exhibits of the celebrated instruments and paraphernalia of the time.

To help the organization with more projects and to grow financial resources so that community service can continue, donations of \$50 per person at the door (no credit cards, checks OK) is requested.

For more information, contact Michael Ubaldi at 265-4555.

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St. Francis Catholic High School sent student delegation to Washington D.C. for Pope Francis' visit

On this historic first trip of Pope Francis to the United States, Sacramento's St. Francis Catholic High School was invited to send a delegation to the Mass of Canonization in Washington, D.C.

The Mass took place on the campus of The Catholic University on Wednesday, Sept. 23. SFHS President Margo Reid Brown and SFHS Director of Campus Ministry, Stephen Tholcke led the group of eight students (Emily Bartylla, Clare Brennan, Victoria Castillon, Sidney Clymer-Engelhart, Maya Solis, Julianna Tanjuakio, Brooke Uhlenhop, Emma Vance) chosen from the more than 1,000 students given the opportunity to apply for the trip. The students were selected based on the answers to their questions about why they should be chosen to represent the school, and how

they would bring the experience back to share with the SFHS community. Those questions were: Why should you be selected to attend? How will you bring the experience back and share it with the SFHS community?

"This (is a) once in a lifetime experience. My faith will grow in that I will continue to work at being a child of God and following Jesus' footsteps, just as Blessed Junipero Serra did. I hope to bring the experience back to the community by modeling what I have experienced on the trip," said student, Juliana Tanjuakio, class of 2016.

In reflecting on a quote of Pope Francis speaking of Father Junipero Serra, student Victoria Castillon, class of 2018, said before the trip, "He was filled with joy and the Holy Spirit in spreading the word of the Lord...; I too



will be filled with joy to share my experience with my peers through the stories I share at school, in clubs, a feature in the school yearbook and in our school newspaper."

In recognition of the SFHS school patron, St. Francis of Assisi being the Pope's chosen name, the all-girl Catholic high school received seats just behind the clergy gathered from across the United

States. The student delegation was comprised of three seniors, one junior, and four sophomore students. The coveted seats put them within steps of the Pope. They also participated in a celebratory Mass at the Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land and spent the day with the Friars on a small group tour and discussion about Franciscan social justice works and teachings.

With the many St. Francis alumnae working or attending college in the Washington area, there was a reception at Clyde's Restaurant

in Georgetown to meet and network.

Chaperone Margo Reid Brown, class of '81 and president of St. Francis Catholic High School, returned to Sacramento and shared the following statement about the trip: "It was indeed a magnificent experience for the young ladies who were chosen to attend the Mass of Canonization in Washington, D.C. While there, we also had the great fortune to be invited to attend the Franciscan Monastery for their Mass of Celebration of Saint Junipero Serra on the following day."

To the members of the 1966 class of C. K. McClatchy High School



50 year reunion is in October 2016

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McClatchy High school class of 1966

Locally famous mansion was home to successful laundry owner, photographer, others

By LANCE ARMSTRONG
Lance@valcomnews.com

Many historic homes can be found in Sacramento, and one of the grandest of these homes is a palatial, 11-room structure at the northeast corner of 21st and T streets.

It certainly is not easy to miss seeing this well-preserved Queen Anne shingle-style, brick and wood Victorian residence, as it towers above this section of the historic Poverty Ridge/Sutter Terrace area.

But this four-level building's height, which is accentuated by its setting on elevated property, is only one element that draws the attention of those traveling by this structure.

The mansion's distinctive turret, oval windows, stained glass windows, balconies, columns and semicircular porch are also among the home's attractive exterior features.

Additionally, tall palms and a rich, green lawn add to the allure of the structure.

Inside the house, one can view hardwood floors, hand-painted ceiling designs, detailed architectural moldings, historic carpets and wallpaper, three fireplaces, chandeliers, marble wash basins, ornate corner posts on a decorative staircase, a small musicians' loft and many other features.

This grand house, which was recently placed on the market for the first time since 2007, when it failed to sell for \$1.8 million, has been a part of this community for well more than a century.

Research for this article resulted in the discovery of a reference to the construction of the building.

That reference, which was found in the Sept. 7, 1899 edition of The Sacramento Union, reads: "A new dwelling: Fred Mason has commenced the erection of a fine dwelling-house on Sutter Terrace, corner Twenty-first and T streets."

A 1907 advertisement for the local general contractors and builders, Dailey & Rogerson, includes a photograph of the 21st Street mansion, with a caption, which reads: "Mason home, built by us."

Prior to 1907, the existence of Dailey & Rogerson, which was located at 1822 M St. (now Capitol Avenue), had not been recognized in a city directory. The owners of that firm were William H. Dailey and Robert Rogerson.

Although Dailey had worked as a local carpenter for at least 11 years by 1906, that year's directory is the first such directory to recognize Rogerson as a resident and carpenter in Sacramento.

Based on that research and other research regarding Dailey & Rogerson, it seems likely that the 1907 advertisement refers to the roots of the company before Rogerson became Dailey's business partner.

At the time when Fred made arrangements to have his 21st Street home built, he was an established local businessman.

As early as 1878, Fred, a German immigrant who was then residing at 118 3rd St., was operating a custom shirt-making business.

By 1882, Fred was running the business — then known as the Sacramento Shirt Factory — at 528 J St. His residence at that time was located at 721 N St.

About two years later, Fred, married Caroline Nichols, who was born in Moline, Illinois to German immigrant parents in 1858.

As early as 1887, Fred was operating Mason's Steam Laundry at 528 J St.

By the following year, Fred was living at 1801 J St. and operating his laundry, shirt manufacturing and a men's furnishing goods business at 12th and D streets.

Among the employees of Mason's Steam Laundry at various times were Conrad Mason and Lillie Marvin.

The laundry business was located at its final site of 2030 O St. by 1897.

It was also during the 1890s when Fred was running a towel service.

Fred and Caroline were recognized in the 1900 U.S. Census — documented in June 1900 — as then residing at 1715 N St.

During research for this article, the earliest discovered reference to the Masons living in their 21st Street residence was found in the 1900 city directory.

Unfortunately for Fred, he was unable to enjoy that home for long, as he died on Dec. 17, 1901, after having surgery for stomach cancer.

The 1903 city directory recognizes Caroline as a resident of the same house at 1931 21st St.

That directory also lists her as the proprietor of Mason's Steam Laundry at 2030 O St. and a co-owner (with her brother-in-law, Henry E. Dorman) of Mason's Haberdashery at 622 K St. She would not retire until 1938.

Caroline, who was an equestrienne, a cocker spaniel breeder, the owner of one of the city's first electric cars and an active member of the Sacramento Chamber of Commerce, died in her 21st Street home on Saturday night, Nov. 7, 1942. She was 84.



Photo by Lance Armstrong
This Queen Anne shingle-style Victorian home at the northeast corner of 21st and T streets was constructed in 1899 for Fred and Caroline Mason.

Following Caroline's death, an appraisal of her estate's real and personal property was valued at \$16,118.74.

The 1943 city directory recognizes Nebraska native Seymour S. White (1875-1956) and his wife, Nellie L. White (1877-1954), as then residing in the 21st Street home.

By 1945, the Whites had moved to 2414 27th St., and Edwin P. Fraser, who was employed as a poster hanger by the Foster and Kleiser Co. at 1330 U St., and his wife, Murle H. Fraser, were living in the 21st Street mansion.

The Frasers were mentioned in the Aug. 5, 1946 edition of The Bee in its "divorce actions" section under the heading, "interlocutory (sic) decrees," as follows: "Murle H. from Edwin P. Fraser, cruelty."

In the 1947 city directory, the 21st Street mansion is listed as "vacant."

About a year later, Pembroke S. Dyer, a realtor who then had his office at 1506 Broadway, and his wife, Agnes K. Dyer, moved into the former Mason house.

Pembroke died at the age of 80 on May 7, 1963, and his widow, who was a local real estate broker, lived alone in her 21st Street home for several more years.

William A. "Bill" Smith (1921-2008), who came to Sacramento with his wife, Alice, in 1942, and founded the locally renowned Bill Smith Photography, moved into the 21st Street mansion in about 1969.

During the 1970s, Bill and Alice began having their 21st Street mansion renovated.

The first phase of that restoration involved giving the structure a new foundation, steel beam supports, new plumbing and wiring.

The house was also repainted and reroofed.

A building inspector's card, dated April 9, 1974, notes that the house was reroofed by Superior Roofing, of 7500 San Joaquin St., near Hiram W. Johnson High School, at a cost of \$2,500.

Altogether, the Smiths spent 14 years having their home restored and refurbished.

Alice died in 2007, a year prior to the death of Bill, and the mansion, as previously mentioned, was placed for sale at a cost of \$1.8 million.

The house, as also noted earlier in this article, was never sold, and the Smith family continues to own the structure.

And once again, the Smith family has opted to attempt to sell this classic Victorian mansion, which sits on a 9,147-square-foot lot.

This time around, the house is being offered for a bit under \$1 million, at \$999,000. And the neighboring structure and property at 1921-1923 21st St. is also for sale.

As one of the all-time most photographed residential buildings in the history of the city, the old Mason/Smith mansion continues to stand as one of the city's grandest classic homes.



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CLASSIC BUNGALOW

Sweet 2 bedroom in the heart of East Sacramento! Completely remodeled kitchen and bath that blends well with the timeless style of this home. Vintage molding, hardwood floors, an elegant fireplace, and a large dining room perfect for entertaining. Spacious floor plan completely landscaped backyard.
\$399,000

TIM COLLOM 247-8048



PENDING

WONDERFUL RIVER PARK

Desirable 3 bedrooms, remodeled bath, hardwood floors and more. The updated kitchen is complete with granite counters, gas cooktop, stainless steel appliances and soft closure cabinets. The large backyard has great shade trees and is very private. The beautiful swimming pool Too!
\$419,900

CHRISTINE BALESTERI 966-2244



PENDING

PHENOMENAL TUDOR

Phenomenal 3 bedroom Tudor on a very popular tree-lined street! Updated kitchen, living room with cozy fireplace, arch doorway to the formal dining room. Convenient layout and plenty of space for entertaining. Fully landscaped backyard with gorgeous tree. Quarter basement.
\$595,000

TIM COLLOM 247-8048



PENDING

RIVER PARK 4 BEDROOM

A rare, original 4 bedroom 2 bath home with 2,064 square feet. Good bones, large rooms and minimal updating create an opportunity for the right buyer. Bring some creativity, vision and elbow grease to make this one shine. Two spacious living areas, both with fireplaces, and loads of storage!
\$479,000

STEPHANIE GALLAGHER 342-2288



SOLD

FABULOUS MCKINLEY PARK

4 bedrooms 2½ baths; spacious floor plan for entertaining. Beautiful hardwood floors with walnut inlay, updated kitchen, and partial basement with wine storage. Master suite sitting area with a very large master bath and walk-in closet. Private backyard with custom lighting. \$835,000

**TIM COLLOM 247-8048
PAM VANDERFORD 799-7234**



PENDING

OUTSTANDING CRAFTSMAN

Outstanding Craftsman style home in a terrific location. 2 or 3 bedroom home with gleaming hardwood floors, spacious living and dining rooms, lots of natural light throughout and a two car garage. Back yard stone pathway through lush low maintenance landscaping.

\$429,500

RICHARD KITOWSKI 261-0811



BRIDGEWAY TOWER PENTHOUSE

Enjoy the best of downtown living! Completely remodeled with stunning kitchen and baths. 3rd bedroom now a formal dining room. Living, dining and bedrooms access the full length balcony, walls of glass for amazing southern views off the 15th floor. Walk to Kings Arena, restaurants, Capitol.
\$719,000

NATHAN SHERMAN 969-7379



SOLD

REMODELED MEDITERRANEAN

3 bedrooms 2 baths with Old World charm. Spacious living room with beamed ceilings and surround sound. Hardwood floors. Updated kitchen with stainless appliances and Aga stove. High quality bathrooms remodeled down to studs. Jetted tub. Outdoor kitchen, 2 fountains.

\$799,000

COLLEEN WIFVAT 719-2324



SOLD

SARATOGA TOWNHOME

Completely updated 2 bedroom 1½ bath with a spacious kitchen, high end appliances, dual pane windows, hickory wood floors and travertine in the bathrooms. Expanded with a bonus office arena, loft & walk-in-master closet! Attached garage and your own patio oasis.

\$369,000

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