



THE PACRA PACER

San Marcos, CA

Volume 6 - Number 2

April 1998

7TH ANNUAL MEETING

The 7th Annual Meeting of the PALOMAR COLLEGE RETIREES' ASSOCIATION will be held on Saturday, May 9, 1998, at the Palomar College Arboretum on the San Marcos Campus from 11:30 AM to 2 PM. Lunch will be provided for \$7.00, but reservations are required.

This is the annual meeting at which officers will be selected for the 1998-2000 years. At this time, one member-at-large, the secretary, and the treasurer will be selected. Election materials will be mailed to each member shortly.

The location will be delightful at this time of the year. The College crew and the Friends of the Palomar College Arboretum have spent much time recently in clearing the areas, repairing the paths, and providing identification for the many species. If it should rain, a nearby room has been reserved to handle the crowd.

The annual dues to PACRA are due by July 1. This meeting time would be a good time to pay them if you have not already done so.

PACRA

PACRA held its organization meeting in October, 1991, after several informal meetings of retirees under Howard Brubeck's leadership had laid the framework for a formal organization.

The first annual meeting was in May 1992, so the meeting this year makes the seventh. While death has claimed a few members, the organization continues to grow and serve the retirees and employees of Palomar College.

The most important benefit to retirees and employees has been the constant attention to the insurance program for retirees. For most members, the college-provided insurance is secondary coverage, usually secondary to Medicare. It has proved to be a sound program with only a few changes in the seven-year period.

But PACRA's scholarship program has attracted the attention of eligible students. So far, two scholarships of \$1,000 each have been awarded, one in the spring of 1995 and one in the spring of 1996.

The organization issues an annual directory to its members, usually in September, maintains correspondence files, archive files, policies on the insurance program, and a semi-annual newsletter (which is always in need of news items from you members!) And if you have given us your date of birth you may receive an official birthday card (unless the correspondence/membership chairman slips and forgets his duties.

PACRA MEETING of MARCH 7

PACRA'S Spring Meeting was held on Saturday afternoon, March 7, 1998, at the Palomar College Escondido Center. Jim Clayton told the guests the story of the Center, how it was selected, and how it was modified for the College programs. It opened with eight classrooms served by hourly instructors. Now over 5,000 students attend here, with classes going all day, on Saturdays, and during intersessions. The building was originally leased, but the College now owns all if it and will soon develop the east wing with possible physical education classes, dental assisting laboratory, and additional classrooms.

Members attending included Dr. Fred Huber, Ms. Virginia Bezoenik, Mr. Dan Arnsan, Mrs. June Brubeck, Mrs. Ruth Serr, Dr. and Mrs. George Boggs, Mrs. and Mrs. Bill Eddy, Mr. Carl Iserman, Ms. LaVere Campbell, Capt. and Mrs. John Hudgens, Mrs. June Huston, Ms. Burtine Morse, Mr. Jim Clayton, Ms. Jane Murray, Mrs. Shirley Morgan, Dr. Pat Archer, Dr. and Mrs. Omar Scheidt, Mrs. Gretchen Milham, Mr. Jim Felton, and Dr. John Schettler.

Dr. Boggs gave an enlightening report on Palomar's recent growth and its potential in the next few years. The quality of Palomar students transferring to the four-year colleges and universities remains as high as it has always been. This is one of the most important criteria in evaluating the success of instruction at the community college level. Continued emphasis on learning as the primary goal has attracted the attention of college educators from all parts of the United States and from many foreign countries. Last year 300 educators attended a local conference on learning; in June 1998 a similar conference attracted 400. Palomar had an enrollment of 27,000 in the fall of 1997, making it the second largest institution of higher education in San Diego County, second only to San Diego State University. The first new building planned in the upgraded plan for education and for facilities is a multi-story science building for physical and biological sciences. But its construction will depend on state funding which itself requires public approval of a state bond issue. At the present time the State Legislature and the Governor have not agreed upon a ballot proposal.

The work on the infrastructure of the campus, the below-the-surface replacement of water, electrical, telephone and sewer connections will probably start in June 1998, continuing for about two years. This work has been approved by the State and funding is available.

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Following light refreshments provided through Palomar College Food Services and served by Ruth Serr and June Brubeck, the group moved to the Ernest J. Allen Library for a revealing talk by Mr. Dan Arnson using some of the library's newest computer-assisted equipment. At the present time the Library occupies 2 1/4% of the floor space at the Center, with growing pains. It is open to public subscribers over the age of 18.

The Library is named for Ernest J. Allen, a dairyman of San Diego, whose generous bequest made the Escondido Education Center Library a reality. The Library features the collection of books, videotapes, music compact discs, access to inter-library loans throughout the United States, computer internet work stations with seven work stations available, tapes of all current TV (Palomar) College classes, searchbank giving periodicals index with thousands of full-text articles as well as computer access to the Phil H. Putnam Library on the San Marcos campus of Palomar College.

MEMORIES

It isn't often that books will stir ones memories far back to the mid-1800's. An old school friend of John's recently sent him a handwritten journal of the principal events of the small German Evangelical Church in his Indiana hometown. Entries ran from 1860 to 1886, showing the births, marriages, baptisms and deaths of members of the church, each written by the pastor in very neat German script. The period covered the birth of John's grandmother Schettler and his father.

About one-half of the family names are still used in this farming community, but the others have all moved away or have become extinct. When church membership became quite low, after a disastrous fire about one hundred years ago, the members abandoned that church and joined the local Methodist Church which still functions.

IT PAYS TO READ THE FINE PRINT

Dale Wallenius, PACRA member and the Chief Advancement Officer and executive vice-president of the Palomar College Foundation, recently watched "Titanic" and caught the name of Jon Landau (producer) among the credits. He immediately remarked to his wife that he wondered if this could be the star high school quarterback whom he coached several years ago. That quarterback's father was also a producer in Hollywood.

In the 1970's Wallenius was the head football coach and athletic director for Brentwood High School in Beverly Hills. As Wallenius states, "Jon was my best football player. He was my halfback on offense and my linebacker on defense."

After some telephone calls to Paramount Studios and to 20th Century Fox he finally obtained the private phone number of the "Titanic" Production Office and left his number on the answering machine. The next day at nine in the morning he got a call from Landau, "Hi, Coach, how ya doing?"

Landau, after graduating from college, returned to Brentwood High School and filled Wallenius' place as coach. They talked of their football days and the production efforts of making "Titanic."

"Jon was a leader even back then," Wallenius said. "When he told me how he held the hands of those who thought the production was doomed to fail, I recognized the leadership he demonstrated on the field. I knew he'd be successful at whatever he did." (Courtesy of John DeCoursey, co-editor-in-chief of "The Telescope," March 13, 1998).

A BIRTHDAY GIFT OF LONG AGO

Sometimes it takes a bit of time to get the small items of an estate sorted out and properly sent on their way. John's brother, Bill, now living in Maryland, recently made John an enthusiast again when he mailed two books to California. It's a long story, but full of meaning and worthy of repeating.

In May 1927, the world was thrilled when Charles A. Lindbergh flew from New York to Paris in a single-engine monoplane in 33 1/3 hours. This first successful flight was by no means the first attempt by pilots, for in the mid-1920's several planes and pilots tried the long flight, none successfully. John, as a young kid just becoming interested in airplanes, kept newspaper clippings of these attempts and of all later flights.

One evening in late May, his father returned from the gossip center at the grocery store in the nearby village and told the family that the radio reported that "the fellow Lindbergh" had made it to Paris. The world was never the same again.

One of the results was a fine book by James E. West, Chief Scout Executive, published by the Boy Scouts of America, giving the full story of Lindbergh from his youth in Minnesota, through his air mail flight period, and the oversight of construction of his special plane, "The Spirit of St. Louis," on the San Diego location of Lindbergh Field. The book was published in 1928 and was a popular gift to young fellows for Christmas 1928. John's copy is endorsed, "John Dean Schettler, Christmas from Aunt Mary (Dean) 1928." Mary Dean was actually the foster mother of John's mother, a retired teacher from the one-room schools of rural Indiana. Not only that, but she was the pioneer teacher of four generations of public school teachers, soon to be five.

So this delightful and important book came back to its owner in March of this year, along with a child's book of Robinson Crusoe, also a Christmas present.

The Lindbergh book started and promoted John's interest in flying which in time led to his decision in 1941 to join the U. S. Army Air Corps Aviation Cadet program. This was followed by 4 1/2 years of pilot service in the Air corps (later Air Force). Under the GI Bill approved by President's Roosevelt and Truman and passed by Congress, he became entitled to an equivalent number of weeks of college or university. Under these terms, he completed his master's and doctor's degrees, which led to employment at Palomar College until his retirement in 1983.

So this old book, out of circulation for nearly 70 years, has become a special possession.

(The editor would enjoy printing your stories of books and how they have shaped your lives. Just send us the words.)

MEMBER NEWS

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome Ms. Gay Y. Gilchrist from Information Services, 418 Carlo Street, San Marcos, CA 92060 and Mr. Dan Arnsan, Library Services at the Escondido Center, 1060 Valle View Drive, Vista, CA 92083.

CHANGES IN ADDRESSES

Phyllis Cummings, 3449 Sarah Ann, Fallbrook Oaks, Fallbrook, CA 92028 (760) 731-9117.

Virgil and Natalie Bergman, 710 W. 13th Avenue, Apt G225, Escondido, CA 92027, (760) 745-2977.

Burl and Roberta Monk, La Rocca Nursing Home, 413 34th Ave. East, Tuscaloosa, AL 35404

Virginia Rickabaugh Ramsey (alternative address), 6518 Brachy Str., Wichita, Kansas 67206-1336, (316) 686-8734.

Hilda Wenrick, same address but corrected telephone number, (250) 598-3972.

John George, 1362 Teelin Avenue, Vista, CA 92083.

Frank and Jane Hankin, 16523 Green Valley Truck Trail, Ramona, CA 92065-5619.

Mrs. Janice I. Kuretich, 5211 W. 11th Street Road, Greeley, CO 80634, (960) 353-7544.

Ms. Wynona M. Knopf, 1033 Ficus Lane, San Marcos, CA 92069.

Aileen and John Hudgens, 18755 West Bernardo Drive #1226, San Diego, CA 92127.

Pat Macdonald and Leo Kramer, 13655 Rancho Bernardo Drive Apt. #215, San Diego, CA 92127. Recently they have been writing plays (by seniors), acted by and read by seniors, especially for a senior audience.

DEATHS

Dr. Harry Barnet, employed as associate professor chemistry in September 1975, retired in 1990, passed away on December 26, 1997. He had served as chair of the Chemistry Department and as President of the Faculty Senate. Earlier he had taught at Cal Western University and U.S. International University.

Mr. Justus Ahrend, the first instructor in photography, employed in 1964 when the F Building was completed, retired in 1982, died in December 1997. A scholarship has been established in his memory through the Palomar college Foundation.

Mrs. Ethel Toll, widow of Dr. George Toll, former associate professor of business, passed away on January 1, 1998 at the age of 92. She had served as president of The Patrons of Palomar College and was an enthusiastic worker on support projects from the very first year of the College. She had been educated as a statistician and served as such at Scripps Institute for a long period of time.

Mrs. Rosalind Sarver, a staunch supporter of Palomar from 1952, the owner and operator of the Sarver Nursery on Twin Oaks Valley Road, died in February 1998. She was always a generous donor to Palomar, usually trees, shrubs, and other plants, and was a very important link in the earliest years of the development of the San Marcos campus at a time when

money was an unknown entity.

Mrs. Linda Jenkins, a long time employee of the Palomar College cafeteria under Gertie Coulter, passed away on March 5, 1998, at the age of 85.

Mr. John Steffens, Vista, husband of PACRA member, Ann Steffens, passed away on December 23, 1997. He was a retired gunnery sergeant, having served with the U. S. Marine Corps for 22 years.

CONGRATULATIONS. To the Dallases, James and Evelyn, for their 55th wedding anniversary on March 6, which they celebrated with a cruise from Puerto Rico to San Diego.

STOP PRESS NEWS

Jim Bowen, director of student activities for the past 10 years, was named the 1997-98 Outstanding Advisor by the American Student Association of Community Colleges, representing 1,200 colleges and 11 million students.

The announcement was made March 9 at the national conference held in Washington, D.C. The award, the first ever by the association, was based on the many reports concerning his help to encourage students to make their own decisions and to promote their learning skills.

What is his motivation -- he said, "Watching students grow and learn to be successful".

THE BIG LETTER ON THE MOUNTAIN SIDE

The letter "P" on the mountain just north of the San Marcos campus of Palomar College has served since March 1952 to remind people for miles around that the College is nearby. This spring members of the Latter Day Saints Student Association were in charge of refurbishing the letter, applying lime, and removing weeds.

El Niño caused some delay in starting the work this year, but it was completed by March 1. Carrying 50 pounds sacks of lime up the mountain side as well as some landscaping equipment caused floods of sweat from many a brow.

HOW TO TELL IF YOUR DICTIONARY IS A GOOD ONE

Look for the word "oneirography." If you find it you will recognize that Daniel of the Old Testament practiced it.

WHAT TO DO WHEN A LATE MARCH SNOW COMES

If you are like Donna Casey of Cedar Falls, Iowa, you will take advantage of the glorious snow for some cross-country skiing.

IS IT TRUE?

The word "either" in England was pronounced with a long "e" sound until George I (also Elector of the German State of Hannover) became the ruler. As a German, he felt the sound "ei" should have the long "i" sound, so to George the word became "ither." As the king used the word in this fashion, so did the courtiers, until it became widely practiced. Does any reader know if this story is factual?

PERFORMING ARTS DEPARTMENT

A Midsummer Night's Dream, by William Shakespeare.

April 24, 25, 30, May 1 and 2 at 8 PM; May 3 at 2 PM. Howard Brubeck Theatre.

Songs My Mother Taught Me. Palomar Youth Chorale.

May 10, 2 PM. California Center for the Arts, Escondido (Theatre).

President's Concert. All American program.

May 8 and 9 at 8 PM. Howard Brubeck Theatre.

Springscapes. Dance in All Styles.

May 15 and 16 at 8 PM, May 17 at 2 PM and 7 PM, Howard Brubeck Theatre.

Jazz Ensemble Concert, Palomar Jazz Ensemble.

May 21 at 8 PM, Howard Brubeck Theatre.

Palomar College Retirees' Association - PACRA

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