

**SIR**  
**– IT'S WHO**  
**WE ARE**



## **SIR BRANCH 163 JULY NEWS & NOTES**



## **JUNE LUNCHEON WAS A LITTLE LIGHT AS WE DROPPED BELOW 50 ATTENDING**

**Though there were fewer of us we must have been hungry as we did a job on the meat. Let's give Big Sir James Shapazian a Hearty THANKYOU for getting Hodel's to make 'MEAT LOAF' for us!!! I tried to do that two years ago and got turned down! He has the magic touch! I must admit, it was delicious**

and judging from the comments around the room everyone was happy with the flavor and consistency.



So let's give a big **'Shout Out'** to Hodel's for their excellence in SIR's support. Nobody does it better month after month.

## VOLUNTEERS APPRECIATED



**Sir James Shapazian**



**Sir Tom Good Chaplain**

## SIR DON WALN

- 
- Branch 163 Secretary
  - Table Caller
  - Controller of lighting
  - Helps with setup and teardown
  - All around Utility Man
  - Don loves to serve and we appreciate all he does



*(More to be recognized next issue as photos come available)*

## SPEAKER FOR JUNE LUNCHEON



- For those of you who missed last luncheon
- Gary Corbell gave a compelling argument for us to update our passwords and even user names because of the on-line piracy that is a constant threat to all of us.
- Gary created 'SAFE PASS' a password protection program that makes it almost impossible for a hacker to find you.
- Gary encouraged us to use longer passwords of 25 characters or more and with his program encrypted 3X. We are responsible for our own safety.
- Gary offered his help to anyone wanting to do this. This is a great offer. Don't pass it up!

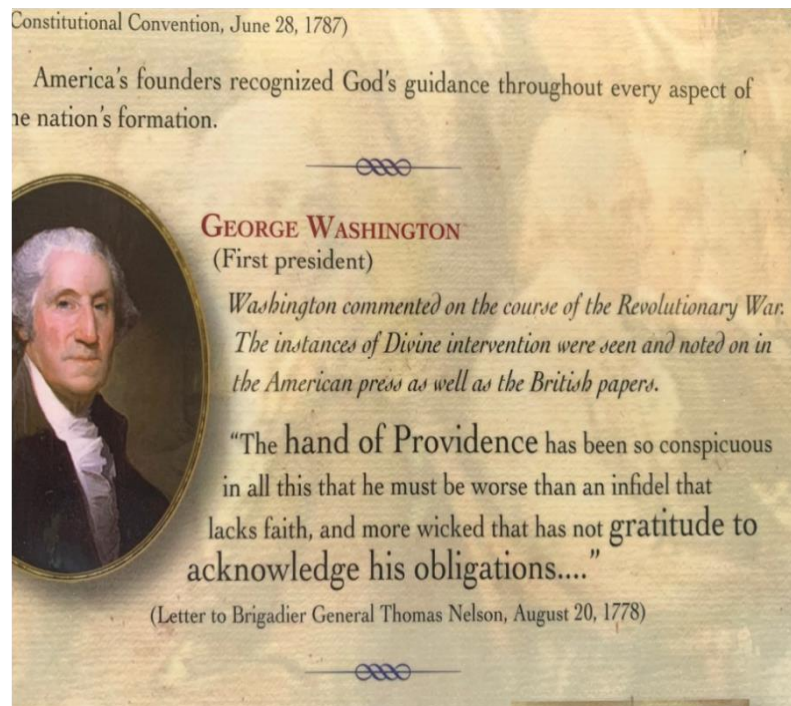
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### Next Speaker

- At our July 18<sup>th</sup> Luncheon
- **JOSE LOPEZ**
- VETERANS BENEFITS



# QUOTATIONS FROM FAMOUS LEADERS OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE



**On friendship:** "Be courteous to all, but intimate with few, and let those few be well tried before you give them your confidence — true friendship is a plant of slow growth, and must undergo and withstand the shocks of adversity before it is entitled to the appellation."

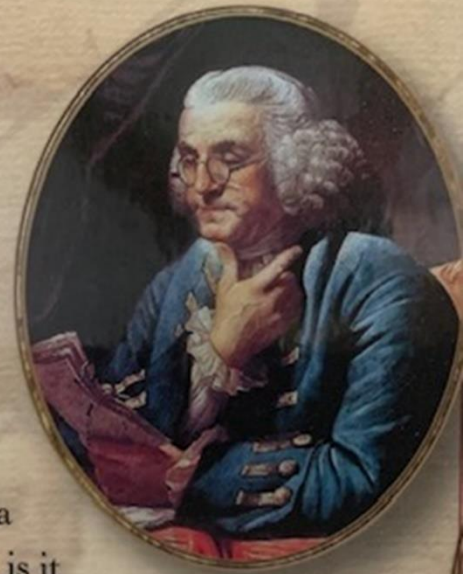
**On being American:** "Citizens by birth or choice, of a common country, that country has a right to concentrate your affections. The name of 'American' which belongs to you, in your national capacity, must always exalt the just pride of Patriotism, more than any appellation derived from local discriminations."

**BENJAMIN FRANKLIN**

(Statesman, author, scientist, and printer)

*When the Constitutional Convention was deadlocked and it looked like it might be dissolved by disagreements, Franklin called the delegates to prayer with these words:*

"I have lived, Sir, a long time, and the longer I live, the more convincing proofs I see of this truth—that God governs in the affairs of men, and if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without His notice, is it probable that an empire can rise without His aid?"



**"Whenever the people are well informed, they can be trusted with their own government; that whenever things get so far wrong as to attract their notice, they may be relied on to set them to rights."**

**Thomas Jefferson to Richard Price, January 8, 1789**

**"..yet the hour of emancipation is advancing . . . this enterprise is for the young; for those who can follow it up, and bear it through to it's consummation. it shall have all my prayers, and these are the only weapons of an old man."**

**Thomas Jefferson to Edward Coles, August 25, 1814**

**"..nothing can now be believed which is seen in a newspaper; truth itself becomes suspicious by being put into that polluted vehicle."**

**Thomas Jefferson to John Norvell, June 11, 1807**

# QUOTES FROM ABRAHAM LINCOLN

**I go for all sharing the privileges of the government who assist in bearing its burdens. It would pass at any time, were it not that every fellow must say something, and offer an amendment; and so time is wasted, it is shoved by, and is a long while coming up again.**

**Mr. Chairman, this movement is exclusively the work of politicians; a set of men who have interests aside from the interests of the people, and who, to say the most of them, are, taken as a mass, at least one long step removed from honest men. I say this with the greater freedom because, being a politician myself, none can regard it as personal.:**

**In all that the people can individually do as well for themselves, government ought not to interfere.**

**According to our ancient faith, the just powers of government are derived from the consent of the governed.**

**When the Know-Nothings get control, it will read ``all men are created equal, except negroes, and foreigners, and catholics. When it comes to this I should prefer emigrating to some country where they make no pretence of loving liberty – to Russia, for instance, where despotism can be taken pure, and without the base alloy of hypocrisy.!!**



## **ANOTHER CALENDAR REMINDER!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**



- **POOL BUDDIES**
- **LAST MONDAY IN JULY**
- **JULY 29<sup>TH</sup> AT 11 AM.**
- **BANK SHOT—Olive Dr and Roberts Lane**
- **Come play or stay for lunch. They have pretty good food.**

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**THANK YOU TO ALL MEMBERS WHO SERVED IN OUR MILITARY EFFORTS AND/OR SUPPORTED THOSE WHO WERE ENGAGED IN SERVICE, WORKING TO PRESERVE AND DEFEND OUR FREEDOMS AND LIBERTIES WHICH WE HAVE BEEN SO GRACIOUSLY ENDOWED WITH.**





## **SIR RON HUNTINGTON**

- Proudly showing several
- Types of Bridal Bits
- Dad made for certain horses
- You can't buy these
- They are one of a kind

### **RON HUNTINGTON – JULY 2024 INTERVIEW**

**Born October 20, 1935**

**Member of SIR Total of 21 years: Branch 178 for 10 years and 11 years with Branch 163.**

**Ron has an interesting life story which reveals what Bakersfield and Kern County were like throughout his early years not just in operation but in locations. He was born in Friese Maternity Home which actually was a 'birthing' home for pregnant women. He and his mother stayed there for about a week. His parents lived on the Kern County Land Co. Poso Ranch north of town.**

**Ron was an only child and so he grew up around adults. He said the cowboys took him under their wing and taught him many things which included cussing! Most of the time there were no other children on the ranch except an occasional cook might have one or two. On special occasions Ron would be around cousins and friends' kids so when Ron**

started Kindergarten it was a shock to see so many in one place. He said as he grew up when he got into trouble his cowboy cussin language would come out and that got him into even more trouble!!!.

The KC Land Co.(KCL) had 8 ranches, 1 mountain ranch, and a large feedlot in south Bakersfield. The most northern Poso Ranch was off Hwy 46 between Wasco and Famosa; Rosedale ranch off of Snow Road; Stockdale ranch off Stockdale Hwy behind the country club; Bellvue Ranch south of Stockdale between Buena Vista and Old Farm road; Buena Vista Ranch west of Enos lane; Canfield ranch south of Panama lane; Lakeside ranch south of Old River; Tulefield ranch just off Hwy 99; and San Emidio Mountain ranch west and south of Hwy 166.

San Emidio was the cow – calf operation and all the others on the valley floor were called ‘Stocker’ ranch operations where the young cattle, steers and heifers, were moved from field to field for grazing grass to grow them, and then herded to the very large feedlot at Gosford at the railroad tracks where they would be fattened.

At its’ height of glory the KCL had literally thousands of acres under ownership including the ZX Ranch in Paisley, Oregon; Victorio Ranch in Animas NM; Boquillas ranch in southern AZ; Seligman ranch in Nevada. These ranches also shipped cattle into the Gosford Feedlot for finishing (fattening to meet the meat packers’ requirements).

Each ranch had their own ranch hands and cowboys but when necessary combined efforts would be made to complete a job, ex., branding and de-horning. The ranch hands had equally ‘tough duty’: building/repairing fences, irrigating, cutting, baling, stacking hay.

As a side-note, there were three large cook houses ( Poso, Stockdale, and San Emidio) where everyone ate their meals 7 days a week at 6 AM, 12 noon, and 6 PM. Bacon or beef and beans bread and black coffee kept the workers energized. The smaller ranches provided food also but not as much was required.

Ron grew up around cattle all his young years so he learned ranching as well as the practical side of a cowboy’s life: tending to cattle needs,

**culling, vaccinating, de-horning, branding, doctoring, and herding from field to field and ranch to ranch.**

**Ron fondly remembers his Dad as “Quite a Cowboy”, great at roping and training young horses. He was great with his hands making Riatas, braiding reins, making spurs, bits, and knives: all necessary for daily horse-work. His Dad was the Cattle Superintendent. He basically was in charge of the ranch hands, cattle, horses, and mules for the Poso Ranch which was quite large encompassing several thousand acres of grazing land and a ginormous amount of Alfalfa which in those days was the primary crop grown in Kern County.**

**His education started at Wasco School, BC courses, and per Ron’s mother a Commercial (business practices) class which was foundational for a future in accounting, and finally 1.5 years at Cal-Poly. But Ron was not drawn to the office environment at that time so he came back to Bakersfield and went to work again for KCL at the Stockdale Bellvue ranch which essentially was the area now known as Amberton and Cal-State. He was a cowboy and as a single man enjoyed working with animals, so much so that he tested his skills at riding Bucking Bronco’s. Now the ranch did not have any untamed horses for bronc riding so Ron had to learn by On the Job Training, that is, at the Rodeo. He said young and tough guys would mount in the chute, ride, get bucked off, and then go sit down and figure out what they did wrong! Ron said he enjoyed this from age 16 to 24 until he got thrown down by a horse at the Paso Robles Rodeo and suffered a concussion, skull and collar bone fractures, and pain. He was laid up for over a week and almost lost his job because he couldn’t work. In those early days there were few acceptable excuses for not coming to work and you certainly did not draw a pay-check if you didn’t put in the hours!**

**Ron worked at the KCL until 1957 when he was laid off during their ‘down sizing of operations’. But he was able to work at their Canal Co. working as a Sanjero (ditch rider) responsible for the Lerdo, Calloway, and East Side canals. He was responsible for water deliveries to the users who had gates or weirs but not to over fill any canal. This job was common in Ag**

areas but a thankless one that required 24 – 7 monitoring at all times. But like herding cows, this job had no future retirement.

In 1965 Ron started a career with Carnation Milk Company as the Branch Office Manager of Accounting (think of that; from Cowboy to Accountant!). He was responsible for the accounting at Carnation in their processing, handling, manufacturing operations which primarily involved making cottage cheese and sour cream. He worked for Carnation for 30 years and when he left they were manufacturing One million pounds each of cottage cheese and sour cream per month!

When asked what was most important in his life Ron will quickly tell you Family and Faith. He will tell of his wonderful wife Martha who passed in 2022 after 64 years of marriage, his son and daughter, and ten (soon to be 11) great grandchildren! He will also confidently tell you that the Lord guided his life first to Martha, then his children, and finally job changes. “But it wasn’t until his daughter Judy fell ill with a collapsed lung and Pastor Norb Oesch from St. John’s Church brought us all together to pray, that Ron felt God’s power for healing”. It was this power that also got him through that dark day of Martha’s passing.

Today he stays close to all his children who assemble for dinner every Tuesday evening. What a Blessing that must be.

Thanks Ron for sharing some of your stories. You have many more; you should publish a book!

*Sir Larry Sitzman*

## SIR RON – Riding a Bronc in Visalia Rodeo



**Even in 1957 Bronc riding appears to be a great physical Challenge but when you talk to Ron he says he really enjoyed Riding and “ Ain’t no hill for a climber”!**

## 'Mexican Joe' ended Ron's Bronc Riding Fun



***But Ron, you still have the great memories of the challenge and the adrenaline flowing Through Your Veins Ron. Few people will ever experience this nor understand it!***

***Any time you get a chance to visit Ron at his home ask for a cup of Java. He has got the best Coffee! Yahoo!***

