

SIR BRANCH 163

NEWS / NOTES MARCH 2024



A STRONG GROUP OF FIFTY-TWO ATTENDED OUR FEBRUARY LUNCHEON AND THE HODEL'S MENU WAS JUST EXCELLENT.

We had several members who had varied medical issues come up like Covid, RSV, flu, and yes the common cold.

SPRING IS IN THE AIR.



THE ALMOND BLOOM WAS LATER THIS YEAR BUT WAS BEAUTIFUL AT ITS' FINEST. THERE ARE STILL SOME LATER VARIETIES BLOOMING AT THIS PRINTING BUT MOST ARE NOW ENDED. FARMERS ARE WORRIED IT WAS TOO COLD AND THE BEES WERE NOT AGGRESSIVE ENOUGH FOR A PROPER POLLINATION.

PISTACHIO ORCHARDS WILL BLOOM LATER USUALLY MARCH-APRIL BUT ARE NOT AS 'SHOWY' AS THEIR FLOWERS ARE MUCH SMALLER AND ARE USUALLY JUST A COLORATION OF THE FORTH COMING NUT CLUSTERS.

I WILL SHOW SOME PICTURES WHEN THEY BLOOM THIS SPRING.

WELCOME NEWEST MEMBER: BILL VIGIL

WE ARE HAPPY TO APPROVE BILL'S APPLICATION TO SIR AND GIVE HIM THE HEARTY 'COCK-A-DOODLE-DO'! WHEN YOU SEE HIM NEXT GIVE HIM A HEARTY HAND-SHAKE AS WELL.



SIR JIM SMITH PRESIDING OVER THE NEW MEMBER PROCEEDINGS. IT'S ALWAYS FUN AND BRIGHTENS OUR DAY WHEN WE INDUCT NEW APPLICANTS. THANKYOU FOR JOINING OUR TEAM, SIR VIGIL!

WELCOME OUR 2024 BIG SIR

SIR JIM SHAPAZIAN



JIM HAS ACCEPTED THE CHALLENGE OF SIR LEADERSHIP AND HIT THE GROUND RUNNING. HE IS DOING A SUPER JOB IN PLANNING, ORGANIZING, DIRECTING, AND MOTIVATING ALL OF US TO BE MORE PROACTIVE IN OUR SIR ORGANIZATION. THANKYOU SIR JIM!

JIM HAS AN INTERESTING STORY TO TELL AND I WILL BE SHARING SOME OF HIS COMMENTS IN A FUTURE NEWSLETTER.

DON'T FORGET

LUNCH-OUT



SIR MEMBERS CAN ALSO MEET AT OUR:

'LUNCH-OUT' BREAKFAST/LUNCH

WHEN? 2ND THURSDAY EACH MONTH

WHERE? AROUND TOWN AT DIFFERENT CAFES

LEADER? GARY CORBELL

CALL? 331-9756

**NEXT LUNCH AT SPENSER'S ON ROSEDALE HWY
AT 11 AM, THURSDAY, 14 MARCH.**

***RUMOR HAS IT THAT THE NEX MEAL ON MARCH 14TH IS FREE
TO THE FIRST 25. ONLY FIVE (5) CHAIRS LEFT AT THIS WRITING!
DON'T WAIT--THIS IS TOOODOO GOOD TO BE TRUE!!!***



SHOOTING POOL AT BANK-SHOTS, Olive Drive Town Center.

We meet the last Monday of the month at 11 AM. We usually have 5-7 members and have a lot of fun. Come join us.

AN INTERVIEW WITH SIR MARVIN NEABECK



MARVIN THE LAPIDARIST



- More than just a 'Rockhound'
- Gem stones abound in his shop
- Beautiful colors, shapes, sizes
- Stones when backlit take on a beauty indescribable
- Easy to understand how addictive lapidary truly is

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SIR MARVIN SHARED HIS LONG AND VARIED LIFE HISTORY WITH ME TODAY AND I THOUGHT MANY OF YOU WOULD FIND IT INTERESTING TO READ.

BORN 29 FEBRUARY 1928, MARVIN IS A LEAP YEAR PERSON. How do you celebrate your birthday? He said, ‘On the 3rd of March, that’s when my younger sister was born. So we celebrate two on the 3rd’. Marvin would not really celebrate his birthday until sometime after he moved out of the family household!

Marvin grew up near Corvallis, Oregon spending 45 years working and exploring the Oregon territory. His Dad worked for the WPA out of the depression making \$44/hour plus \$5 as a foreman. He developed and helped build parks.

Marvin went to OTI, Oregon Technical Institute, in Klamath Falls and had a football scholarship to help with expenses. However, he hurt his leg, lost the scholarship, and was drafted! The army shipped him to Fort Hood, Washington where they sent him to Cook & Baker Training.

One day he received orders for transfer but it didn’t say where. Several weeks later he was on a ship going to who-knows-where. He wound up in France in a Tent-City. While on the ship he mastered food preparation and had the best of the best for ship duty. He achieved Corporal rank and had privileges few others had. For instance, he could check out a jeep and tour the country side and small towns in the area where he witnessed a lot of good and some bad as well.

After two years, Marvin returned to Corvallis and spend years working in a Bakery. He developed something like Black lung disease from breathing flour dust and had to ‘quit or die’. He went to work as a maintenance man for a machinery factory which ultimately moved to China and he would not go with them.

Marvin worked for a Saw Mill; trained as a physical therapist, and a travel agent. He felt the most interesting work was with the travel agency as he got to go with groups to many countries.

They moved to Bakersfield 15 years ago and he worked at the Guild House for 6 years before semi-retiring. He has been a SIR member for 10 years now. What does Marvin like about SIR? Meet different people and making companions with other men.

Recently he went on the Honor Flight which was a great experience and a wonderful memory. Since then he has been invited to speak to students at 4 local schools. What subject? They all wanted to know about the great depression because that is not included in their studies! Most recently Marvin has been asked to give an interview to Kevin McCarthy. He is quite popular.

Finally, Marvin's hobby; Rock Collecting; Lapidarist; Rock Hound.

Does he ever have rocks! He has enough rock projects to last him 20 years. He cuts, polishes, shapes gemstones, fits them into jewelry or as a decorative item. He sells what he makes and he has a great art form. If you get a chance ask Marvin to show you his collection.

Saving the best for last, Mrs. Neabeack-a most righteous woman, has been Marvin's best supporter for 12 plus years even putting up with all his collections, rock hunting, polishing and displays. However, she also has a very extensive collection of Elephants which Marvin likes to show visitors as well.

Mr. and Mrs. Neabeack are both wonderful people and if you have not met them you must. Call Marvin at 587-2496 and identify yourself as SIR members.

Sir Larry Sitzman