



WELCOME SIR
MEMBERS of BRANCH 163

OCTOBER NEWS/NOTES

SEPTEMBER HIGHLITES



Attendance was a bit light but we made up for it with a lively spirit! We could have used 7 more to meet our quota with Hodels but a number of members were vacationing at the coast or wherever they could find cooler



temps, moist clean air, and atrocious bods!

WELCOME NEW MEMBER: GALEN DUKES and a “Thanks for Doing your part” pin to Marvin Neabeack for bringing Galen to us. Thanks to both of you.



+++++



SPEAKER:: ROBERT PETERSEN

- Publisher and host of his Pod-Cast on “NOTORIOUS BAKERSFIELD”.
- Robert has 2 books out by the same name delving into some 50+ infamous happenings in and around Bakersfield and during the last 100 years. Some cases were never solved and some murderers were released for unknown reasons! Buy and read them!

YOUR BRANCH 163 LEADERS

Big Sir Jim Shapazian

Little Sir Larry Sitzman

Al Prinster – Secretary

Ron Schilling – Treasurer

Membership-Jim Smith

Barry Young-Attendee Registration

Sunshine/Nominating Committee: Richard Weigelt/ Keith Montgomery

All leaders should rotate out in 2026 so be thinking about which service you could fill.

Please Volunteer anytime. Call Larry: 703-9450. Thanks.

SPECIAL GUEST: TOM MUZINICH



- Welcome Tom to SIR's Branch 163
- We hope you got to know us better and that you enjoyed your time.
- Please come back and consider joining our membership. As you know there is no charge
- The only requirement is you must engage with others and make the best of your time here.
- Special Thanks to Robert Manuel for encouraging Tom to visit!



Make every day a Blessing to a Friend!

OCTOBER AT A GLANCE

There are many events scheduled this month in and around Bakersfield which are good for seniors so go on-line to 'Bakersfield Events in October' and find something for you and your family to do. Weather is nice so no excuses for not getting out!

2nd Honor Flight Breakfast, Elks Lodge, 8 A.M.

9th SIR Lunch-Out at Si Senor, Airport Dr/China Grade, 11 AM

13th Columbus Day all day. See write-up.

16th SIR Luncheon, Hodels, 11 A.M., Kern Room (bring a friend)

27th Pool-Buddies, Firehouse, Calloway, 11 A.M.

31st Halloween. Get your candy sacks ready!

****Pulford Apple Farm is open so you can buy fresh apples in Tehachapi. Stop at the Kohnen Bakery for great sandwiches. Nice day trip**

COLUMBUS DAY OCTOBER 13TH 2025



COLUMBUS really started our quest for Liberty and true Civil Justice in this great country. Because of his sheer courage and determination the opportunity for freedom from oppression beckoned many peoples from Europe. As such the Italian American immigrants pushed for a day to be set aside as a tribute to Columbus Day as a symbol of courage, exploration, and heritage. In 1937 Congress created the 2nd Monday of October as Columbus Day. I don't know how many actually take time to read and ponder what he did for our country; do our schools teach about Columbus; do we teach our children if they don't; how many know his full name? I sometimes wonder if this day is fallen under the domain of apathy!



The greatest birthdays of all time are celebrated at SIR's and October is no exception. Here we share the names of these favored colleagues and their youth. **HAPPY BIRTHDAY MEN!**

Sir Dennis Beitzell	10/25/1953	72	Sir Larry Sitzman 10/14/1946	79
Sir Joseph Bradford	10/14/1949	76		
Sir Matthew Chernek	10/24/1958	67		
Sir Ron Huntington	10/20/1935	90		
Sir Mike Ward	10/01/1947	78		
Sir Bill Vigil	10/11/1948	78		

SIR JIM SHAPAZIAN



HELLO SIR MEMBERS. HERE WE ARE IN OCTOBER WITH THE WEATHER COOLING AND ACTIVITIES INCREASING.

YOU MAY BE ASKING WHAT BESIDES HALLOWEEN GOES ON IN OCTOBER? WELL COLUMBUS DAY FOR ONE. YOU DON'T HEAR MUCH ABOUT COLUMBUS ANYMORE BUT YOU WILL FROM ME.

CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS WAS AN ITALIAN EXPLORER THAT FOUNDED THE AMERICAS FOR EUROPE AND THE CATHOLIC MONARCHS. HE WAS SELF-EDUCATED IN GEOGRAPHY, ASTRONOMY AND HISTORY AND BECAME SEA-WORTHY AT A YOUNG AGE.

I WILL TRY TO FIND A SUMMARY OF HIS MOST FAMOUS VOYAGES IN A VIDEO TO SHOW YOU AT OUR MEETING.

ANOTHER SPECIAL DAY IN OCTOBER IS HALLOWEEN. IT HAS ANCIENT CELTIC ORIGINS BUT EVENTUALLY BECAME A CULTURAL HOLIDAY CELEBRATED WITH TRICK OR TREATING, COSTUMES AND PARTIES. MANY CHURCHES CELEBRATE THE DAY, NOT WITH A FOCUS ON EVIL SPIRITS BUT WITH HARVEST DAY CELEBRATIONS USING FUN GAMES AND SPECIAL TREATS INSTEAD ESPECIALLY FOR THE KIDS.

HAVE A GREAT OCTOBER AND CELEBRATE THE MANY FOOD HARVESTS IN THE MONTH BY BUYING THE FRESH GRAPES AND MANY OTHER PRODUCTS PRODUCED RIGHT HERE IN THE VALLEY.

SEE YOU ALL AT OUR OCTOBER 16TH MEETING.

Oscar Chavez

Sorry to see you leave us Oscar.

You were a 25 year member and brother to many in Branch 163.

You were an acknowledged businessman.

You were a great Patriot who served in Korean War.

You were a friend to many.

You will be missed by all of us.

Oscar passed on September 22, 2025 at the age of 100.



Next Speaker

- At our October 16th Luncheon:
- Cameron Guinn
- Ed. D. Chief Systems Officer-Kern Schools
-



I have been searching for the key individual in the Kern public school system who is in charge of campus security, student protection, school vulnerability, and the inner workings of our school grounds security. What are we doing now? What should we be doing? What changes need to be made and do we need more budget money for better monitoring both camera and human? 'Cameron Guinn' is the cornerstone for the Kern Schools and he is motivated and dedicated. He has agreed to come and speak to us who are concerned for our grand-children in school environment. He will share lots of information with us and his only request: Bring questions and be ready to engage!

So, that said, we want all of you to be prepared to be here, listen and ask questions. This is far too serious to take lightly. See ALL OF YOU at Hodels on the 16th. Thanks.

Sir Larry Sitzman

+++++

MEET SIR KEITH MONTGOMERY



Keith Montgomery has been a distinguished member of SIR since January 2011, over 14 years of dedicated service to Branch 163. During this period he has held both Little Sir and Big Sir positions and is currently Nominating chairman along with Richard Weigelt. Keith reminded me the Nominating committee is made up of one or more past Big Sir's serving three- year rotations and he has been at it since 2013! Keith enjoys his service but says, "it's time for others to step up and take the reins". Actually, he put it this way regarding the leaders of Branch 163, "After a long and meritorious service the directors want to step down so others can step up to serve"! NOW THAT'S A CALL TO ARMS!!!

In this photo you will see a portion of family photos from Keith and Lynn that date back to early 1800's and back to many locations in this country some I never heard of. I call this their 'Wall of Honor' remembering the many who went before them. They have included many of these distant family members into their many travels throughout this country making cemetery visits to each one. Keith shows a lot of pride in his family genealogy remembering what they must have gone through as they traveled from back east to the west coast experiencing one hardship after another. This is something I can't really imagine nor explain to my family but it was the courage that defined them. What amazed me was Keith's memory of most of the people in the photos, as though it was just yesterday! I know much of this would bore some of you but I find it extremely captivating.

Keith was born in Bakersfield July 23, 1941 and has logged in some 84 years now even though he looks maybe 70ish! His dad was in the oil industry during the war years after which he spent 44 years working for J.C. Wattenbarger Supply.

Keith attended Standard School and North High where he played the Baritone and participated in sports, although games prevented him from marching. His real love was sports where he excelled in football, swimming, and wrestling during his 1955-1959 seasons. As a senior Keith earned the Wrestling Champion 165 Pound class and the Sam Lynn Trophy for the outstanding senior athlete.

After graduation Keith went to Bakersfield College where he majored in business and worked part-time for Standard Stations Inc. He transferred to Fresno State majoring in business marketing. He and Lynn were married in November 1967 with their 58th coming up this fall. CONGRATULATIONS!

Keith went to work full time after graduating driving a 'package truck' for Standard Oil. He delivered oil products to anybody who would sell them: new and used car dealers, service stations, repair shops, etc. Keith said he enjoyed this job except for when an

order was called into the office after he left on his route. Of course, he wouldn't find out about this until he got back to the office and he would have to make a separate run, all because there were no cell phones available!

Keith was transferred to the Stockton Standard Oil office and worked there 1968-1969 and then resigned because of their policy of obligatory transfers which are always hard on the family. He had in the back of his mind that he would like to be an educator. Now back-track a few years to 1963-64 where he had joined and served in the Coast Guard on a Cutter ship out of Long Beach. Because of that duty Keith was eligible to enroll for 'Earn while you Learn' program offered by California Lutheran College.

Now we are back in Bakersfield where Keith taught at Standard School District from 1969 to 2002. He retired with 33 years of investment in children's futures. He still gets a 'thank-you' when he sees a former student; a tribute to 'making a difference' in a child's life.

Just because you are retired does not end one's learning. Keith and Lynn have been traveling this country and Europe for 23 years after retirement and have loved every one of them. If you want to know more about any country ask Keith, he probably can give you the details.

High lite of his life? Raising two beautiful daughters and two grand daughters, plus 58 years of marriage to Lynn.

Thankyou Keith for setting the example of kindness and goodness in your work, dedication to your family, as well as supporting SIR Branch 163.

As a side, Keith distinctly remembers signs "Wait Station" but did not know what they referred to. An historical marker referred to the town as 'Waits' which later became known as Oildale. This was new news for me; how about you?

200 CHINA GRADE LOOP



IN MARCH 1893 THOMAS A. MEANS OWNED THE LAND WHERE JAMES AND JONATHAN ZIMMER DISCOVERED OIL ON THE NORTH BANK OF THE KERN RIVER. THEY DUG A HOLE NINETEEN FEET DEEP TO THE EDGE OF A CLIFF CRASHING FOR OIL AND LATER DUGGED TO THE TOP TO DRILL OIL SEPARATION FROM ONE FEET. ON JULY 10, 1893.

YOU CAN SEE THE DISCOVERY WELL CAPPED IN RED BEHIND THE INFORMATION PLAZA. THE KERN RIVER FIELD HAS BEEN THE LONGEST PRODUCING IN THE NATION - OVER 100 YEARS.

AS THE STANDARD OIL COMPANY GROWTH IN KERN COUNTY, A PIPELINE WAS CONSTRUCTED BETWEEN BISHOP AND THE PT. HORNIGROS BOTTOMY ACROSS FROM SAN FRANCISCO.

STANDARD OIL COMPANY OF CALIFORNIA LATER CHANGED ITS NAME TO CHEVRON USA, INC. THE EXPLORATION DEPARTMENT WAS LOCATED AT 2400 N. CHESTER AVENUE (SEEN BELOW) AND CAN STILL BE VISITED AT 2301 MAMMOTH STREET, BISHOP.



THIS MURAL DEPICTS OILDALE AROUND 1899, FROM THE BRIDGE, TO THE SURROUNDING OIL DERRICKS ON THE HILLS.

OILDALE WAS CALLED "WAITS" DURING THE OIL BOOM.

TO YOUR RIGHT IS WAITS TRAIN STATION, ON NORRIS ROAD.

SEVERAL BUSINESSES SPRANG UP, AND EVENTUALLY A CHURCH AND SUBDIVISIONS FILLED THIS ACTIVE OIL AREA.

JZ 2011

