

Rooster's Tale



Sons in Retirement – Branch 110 **No October Meeting!!**
1705 Manzanita Avenue, Chico, CA—**No Luncheon –No Executive Committee Meeting**

SIR Luncheon and Program Update

There has been some limited discussion for attempting to have a ZOOM program presentation in the absence of luncheon opportunities in an endeavor to try to keep our members somewhat engaged. A survey was distributed to evaluate interest in that possibility. Initial attempts to obtain a speaker have not been successful.



Big Sir Message: Good Day to all our Bidwell 110 SIR Members! I first want to wish a Happy Birthday to all our October Birthday Boys! Happy Birthday.

This past few months certainly have been something that we have never experienced in the past--with the Covid-19 contamination and all the fires throughout California. The smoke has caused many to remain indoors and I certainly want you all to remain safe and sheltered in place until the smoke is gone away.

We would like to thank all our 18,700 firefighters that continue to battle our 27 major wildfires. Since the beginning of the year, there have been over 8,100 wildfires that have burned over 3.8 million acres in California. California remains dry and ripe for wildfires. With no significant SIR activities in sight, you might be sure to sign up for the alerts in Butte County and surrounding areas and to learn more about other ways to be ready for any emergency. Please visit www.ReadyForWildfire.org.

I certainly want you all to be safe and healthy and I am certainly looking forward to resuming our SIR luncheons. Thank you all for your continued SIR membership.

2020 Officers & Directors

| | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Big Sir – Steve Laird | Little Sir – Norm, Stump |
| Secretary – Bob Dinger | Asst. Sec. – Richard Matt |
| DB Mgr. – Rocky Rockwell | Treasurer – Ed Matzdorff |
| Asst.Treas.– Ted Raleigh | Asst.Treas – Norm Stump |
| Attendance Sec. – Don Curtis | |
| Director – Jim Amis | Director – Dave Jones |
| Director – Ken Tietz | Director – Mike Nicholas |
| Director –Jose Lopez | Director – Ken Edson |

Lunch Menu

No Meeting
No Lunch
No Menu

Attendance

No Meeting
No Lunch
No Survey
No need to contact Don Curtis

Branch 110 Website: <http://www.branch110.sirinc2.org>

Webmaster: Ron Brazier

Check out our Webmaster's humor on the Branch 110 website.



Chaplain's Corner: Health, Wisdom and Memorials

It has been decided to endeavor to include more information about Branch 110 members who have health issues or have passed away. It is often found that information of this sort is not known to those who would be responsible for informing the membership at large. Therefore, **everyone's assistance is requested**. If you know of a member who has or has had health issues or has recently died, please inform either Tom Shifflet or Don Alger. It is important to not miss acknowledging any fellow members, and it is not possible for a few people to recognize news about all members.

On Saturday, September 26, 2020, Dr. **Robert M. Stoufer**, or as many knew him as Dr. Bob, passed away at the age of 92 at his family home in Red Bluff. He practiced veterinary medicine in Red Bluff. He was a former President of the California Veterinary Medical Association. He retired in 1996. He was a former member of SIR Branch 110.

Chaplain's Message:

In the midst of these troublesome days, brought on by the coronavirus and subsequent social distancing, you may be a SIR (Bidwell Branch 110) with an unmet need. If so, feel free to email **TomShifflet@aol.com**. Likewise, if you are a SIR 110 member that is willing to volunteer some time and energy towards helping a fellow SIR with a specific need, please contact me, **TomShifflet@aol.com**. I will try to match SIRs with needs and SIRs who are willing to help. We can get through this pandemic together.



October 21, 1970:

John T. Scopes died of cancer at age 70.

John T Scopes was the young school teacher caught up in the infamous 1925 "Monkey Trial" over the teaching of evolution in Tennessee.

In 1925 Tennessee had passed the Butler Act, prohibiting any teaching that denied the divine right of God. However, the state required teachers to use the assigned textbook, *Hunter's Civic Biology* (1914), which included a chapter on evolution. The American Civil Liberties Union ask Scopes to be the test case in court. William Jennings Bryan was the lead prosecutor and Clarence Darrow led the defense. Scopes was eventually found guilty and fined \$100 (Roughly \$1,460 in 2020). On appeal the State Supreme Court acquitted Scopes on a technicality.

The trial did much to publicize the theory of evolution in America. The Butler Act itself wasn't appealed until 1967. Scopes disliked the publicity and eventually left teaching to work in the oil industry.

October 30, 1970:

Amtrak, the National Railroad Passenger Corporation, was created as an independent, government-subsidized corporation to revitalize public train travel.

SIR 110 Activities

There were of course no official SIR activities due to the COVID-19 Pandemic restrictions. However, some members pursued related activities on an individual basis.

For contact information for leaders of any of the activities, please refer to a Rooster's Tale edition prior to May.



Piscatology

The fishing group continues to fish separately with very little communication. I did hear from Vern and he reported that fishing at Fort Bragg has been spectacular. Four people in a boat all limited out each day. We are looking forward to November 1st, the opening of Crab Season on the coast. Bill and Ron fished the North side of the afterbay and landed three respectable rainbow trout. Greg Robertson, his son and grandson fished Silver Lake and almost limited out. We are trying to get one more trip to Lake Almanor before we put away the boat for the winter. For more information call Bob Weckerle at 894-6698 or Bill Colvin at 521-7269.

Travel

Most tours have been canceled but there are a few available.

- **Feb 8-23, 2021 Panama Canal aboard Emerald Princess**
- **April 22-May 9, 2021 Adriatic and Aegean Princes Cruise**
- **May 2-10, 2021 Columbia River Cruise: Aboard the American Empress.**
- **July 11-19, 2021 Canadian Rockies by Train**

For information on tours, contact Jose Lopez at 891-6715 or 864-5978.

TWO STORIES

October 2020

By Dave Rush and Greg Sanger

Sometimes a story or two comes along that is just too good not to share with everybody. These two stories, which were forwarded by Dave's neighbor, are very powerful and worth the time you will spend reading them. As both are true in essential details, they lead the reader to some enlightenment and alternative perspective on subjects that we think we know about. I hope you enjoy them as much as we did.

STORY ONE

Many years ago, Al Capone virtually owned Chicago. Capone wasn't famous for anything heroic. He was notorious for enmeshing the windy city in everything from bootlegged booze and prostitution to murder. Capone had a lawyer nicknamed "Easy Eddie." He was Capone's lawyer for a good reason. Eddie was very good! In fact, Eddie's skill at legal maneuvering kept Big Al out of jail for a long time. To show his appreciation, Capone paid him very well. Not only was the money big, but Eddie got special dividends, as well. For instance, he and his family occupied a fenced-in mansion with live-in help and all the conveniences of the day. The estate was so large that it filled an entire Chicago City block. Eddie lived the high life of the Chicago mob and gave little consideration to the atrocity that went on around him.

Eddie did have one soft spot, however. He had a son that he loved dearly. Eddie saw to it that his young son had clothes, cars, and a good education. Nothing was withheld. Price was no object. Despite his involvement with organized crime, Eddie even tried to teach him right from wrong.

Eddie wanted his son to be a better man than he was. Yet, with all his wealth and influence, there were two things he couldn't give his son; he couldn't pass on a good name or a good example.

One day, Easy Eddie reached a difficult decision. Easy Eddie wanted to rectify wrongs he had done, so he decided he would go to the authorities and tell the truth about Al "Scarface" Capone, clean up his tarnished name, and offer his son some resemblance of integrity. To do this, he would have to testify against The Mob, and he knew that the cost would be great. So, he testified. Within the year, Easy Eddie's life ended in a blaze of gunfire on a lonely Chicago Street. But in his eyes, he had given his son the greatest gift he had to offer, at the greatest price he could ever pay. Police removed from his pockets a rosary, a crucifix, a religious medallion, and a poem clipped from a magazine.

The poem read:

"The clock of life is wound but once, and no man has the power to tell just when the hands will stop, at late or early hour. Now is the only time you own. Live, love, toil with a will. Place no faith in time. For the clock may soon be still."

STORY TWO

World War II produced many heroes. One such man was Lieutenant Commander Butch O'Hare. He was a fighter pilot assigned to the aircraft carrier Lexington in the South Pacific. One day his entire squadron was sent on a mission. After he was airborne, he looked at his fuel gauge and realized that someone had forgotten to top off his fuel tanks. He would not have enough fuel to complete his mission and get back to his ship. His flight leader told him to return to the carrier. Reluctantly, he dropped out of formation and headed back to the fleet. As he was returning to the mother ship, he saw something that turned his blood cold; a squadron of Japanese aircraft was speeding its way toward the American fleet. The American fighters were gone on a sortie, and the fleet was all but defenseless. He couldn't reach his squadron and bring them back in time to save the fleet. Nor could he warn the fleet of the approaching danger. There was only one thing to do. He must somehow divert them from the fleet.

Laying aside all thoughts of personal safety, he dove into the formation of Japanese planes. Wing-mounted 50 caliber's blazed as he charged in, attacking one surprised enemy plane and then another. Butch wove in and out of the now broken formation and fired at as many planes as possible until all his ammunition was finally spent. Undaunted, he continued the assault. He dove at the planes, trying to clip a wing or tail in hopes of damaging as many enemy planes as possible, rendering them unfit to fly. Finally, the exasperated Japanese squadron took off in another direction. Deeply relieved, Butch O'Hare and his tattered fighter limped back to the carrier.

Upon arrival, he reported in and related the event surrounding his return. The film from the gun-camera mounted on his plane told the tale. It showed the extent of Butch's daring attempt to protect his fleet. He had, in fact, destroyed five enemy aircraft. This took place on February 20, 1942, and for that action Butch became the Navy's first Ace of WW II, and the first Naval Aviator to win the Medal of Honor. A year later Butch was killed in aerial combat at the age of 29. His hometown would not allow the memory of this WW II hero to fade, and today, O'Hare airport in Chicago is named in tribute to the courage of this great man. So, the next time you find yourself at O'Hare International, give some thought to visiting Butch's memorial displaying his statue and his Medal of Honor. It's located between Terminals 1 and 2.

SO, WHAT DO THESE TWO STORIES HAVE TO DO WITH EACH OTHER?

Butch O'Hare was "Easy Eddie's" son.

MEMBERSHIP

There are currently 173 active members.

Membership brochures and applications are normally available at the membership table or you can call Don Levensaler at 891-1045 to get one via the postal service.

Even though we are not meeting face-to-face, SIR membership is still open to accepting new applications. Anyone wishing an application can e-mail me at dlev29@comcast.net. The completed application can be returned by USPS or E-MAIL.

If your name is on this list below, please send the \$24 ABC fee to Don Levensaler, 1492 Keri Ln, Chico, 95926. Payable to Sir Branch 110.

If you have already paid, please excuse the inclusion of your name again.

| | | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 064 Barger Jim | 187 Emmons Steve | 090 Marple Larry | 059 Shippen William |
| 025 Bingaman William | 004 Fromer Michael | 255 Matthews Paul | 168 Shook Doug |
| 221 Bollinger John | 029 Giberson Richard | 012 McNamara Dennis | 047 Sorger Neil |
| 083 Carlson Ernie | 026 Hagen Lyman | 205 Merrill Fred | 118 Spooner Daryl |
| 092 Ciapponi Fred | 019 Hansen Raymond | 206 Musgrave Mike | 282 Van Houtte Edward |
| 231 Cohea William | 034 Herman Craig | 169 Prewitt William | 263 Wilbur Richard |
| 234 Costa Peter | 036 Kandler Art | 037 Scott Troy | 125 Wilson Terrance |
| 074 Day Jeff | 174 Kreider Larry | | |

Please bring a friend to the next SIR meeting!

Announcements

- **Editor's Note:** Deadline for the **November** Rooster's Tale is **Thursday, October 29**. Send your articles by email: dalger@csuchico.edu or phone him at: (530) 894-2452.
- **State SIR Bulletin: ("Sir Happenings")** The latest edition is available for review at <https://sirinc.org/newsletters/>
- **Future Programs:** Whenever we can have another normal luncheon meeting, we will have another interesting program. As always, your ideas are welcome.
- **Annual Basket Collection (ABC):** Just another reminder that our annual **ABC fee** was due. Please see the information above.

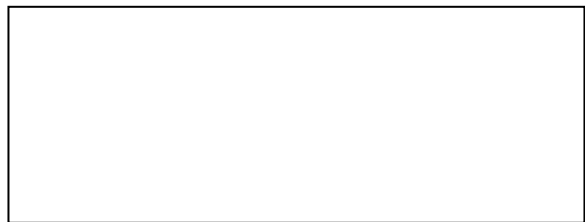




Don Alger, Editor
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 Chico, CA 95973
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If you have a **October Birthday**, we are sorry we will not be able to celebrate with you. Here's hoping you had or will have a great day.

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|--------|---------|-----|----|-------|----------|-----|----|-------|----------|-----|----|
| Robert | Huss | Oct | 2 | Troy | Scott | Oct | 13 | James | Robinson | Oct | 20 |
| Fred | Merrill | Oct | 3 | Cliff | Gates | Oct | 14 | Jim | Barger | Oct | 22 |
| Chuck | Price | Oct | 6 | Bill | Bebensee | Oct | 14 | Jeff | Hartmann | Oct | 23 |
| Karl | Kumli | Oct | 9 | Jose | Lopez | Oct | 14 | Bill | Colvin | Oct | 26 |
| Bill | Prewitt | Oct | 10 | Ray | Schimmel | Oct | 18 | Ron | Gray | Oct | ?? |
| Roger | Merlo | Oct | 11 | | | | | | | | |

It is possible to get a free lunch card without being a Birthday Boy. There is a free lunch winner at every meeting from a name badge drawing. Also both the sponsor and his guest receive a free lunch when the guest joins and is inducted.

Please bring a friend to the next SIR meeting!