



S.I.R.

**EL DORADO
Branch 23**

ANNUAL HISTORY

2006

**Prepared by
Bill Sutherland, Assistant Secretary**

GENERAL INFORMATION

Branch meetings are held at Carmichael Elks Lodge, 5631 Cypress Avenue in Carmichael, California. Branch 23 meets on the second Wednesday of each month. The executive board meets at 10:30AM and the general meeting begins at noon. At the monthly meetings, members sign up for golf tournaments to be held in the following weeks and for travel to sporting events, stage presentations and other recreational destinations. Most meetings also include a guest speaker, with their presentations covering a variety of subjects of interest to the members.

THE EXECUTIVE BOARD FOR 2004

OFFICERS:

At the start of the year:

| | | | |
|------------|--------------|-------------|-----------------|
| BIG SIR: | Paul Joyce | LITTLE SIR: | Dick Fuller |
| SECRETARY: | Bill Beeman | ASSISTANT: | Bill Sutherland |
| TREASURER: | Bob Mellberg | ASSISTANT: | Joe Sandhu |

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN:

| | | | |
|----------------|--------------------|-------------|--|
| ATTENDANCE: | John Pedlar | ASSISTANT | Bruce Manby |
| MEMBERSHIP: | Jim Reifschneider | ASSISTANT | John Schupe |
| TRAVEL | Dale Martin (Br33) | | |
| SUNSHINE | Lee Lenneville | | |
| BOWLING | Donn Stafford | | |
| EDITOR | Ray Zelinski | ASSISTANT | Lee Everett |
| GOLF (18 HOLE) | Howard Frank | ASSISTANTS: | Nick DiMuccio, Tam LeFebure, Harry Scott, Dan Terry, Gus Shlick, Don Naylor, Bill Sutherland |
| GOLF (9 HOLE) | Ed Campini | ASSISTANTS: | Jim Otto, Dick Oxford, Ed Radsliff, Gus Johnson |

DIRECTORS:

| | | |
|---------------|-------------|----------------|
| Dick LeBeau | Don Kehoe | Bill Pratt |
| Joe Rodriquez | Birge Clark | Lee Lenneville |

MONTHLY PUBLICATION: Our monthly publication, edited by SIR Ray Zelinski and assisted by SIR Lee Everett, is called "The Nugget". It informs the members of Branch of news concerning: officers, meeting information, Big SIR report, Little SIR scheduled speakers or program notes, membership status, bowling and golf information, sunshine report, and financial figures.

MEMBERSHIP: Chairman Sir Jim Reifschneider reported that the 2006 membership started with 198 active members, 1 inactive member, and 4 honorary lifetime members. At the end of the year, we remained at 198 active members, 2 inactive members, and 4 honorary lifetime members. We had no members on a waiting list during the year. Major changes to the membership roles for 2006 included 22 new members and seven members passed away during the year. In addition, one past member was reported to have passed away during the year. The deceased members were:

| | |
|---------------------------|----------------|
| Henry Ryan | Jim Davis |
| Jim Toner | Virgil LaCornu |
| Jim Larson | David Duncan |
| Robert Lenz (Past Member) | John Schodde |

ATTENDANCE: Chairman Sir John Pedlar reported that the monthly meeting attendance averaged approximately 76% during 2006.

SUNSHINE: The Sunshine chairman, Sir Lee Lenneville, reported receiving numerous contacts regarding illnesses, hospitalizations, and the death of seven members. Monthly reports were made in the "Nugget" and announced at monthly meetings. "GET WELL" cards were mailed to those that were ill and sympathy cards were mailed to the families of deceased members.

TRAVEL: The following trips were made available to Branch 23 members by Sir Dale Martin, Travel Chairman for Branch 33.

| | |
|-----------|---|
| January | Amtrak snow train to Reno Hilton |
| February | William Florian Songfest & Luncheon, Deer Park Villa, Marin County |
| February | Silver Legacy, Reno |
| April | Silver Legacy, Reno |
| May | 12 Day Hawaiian Cruise |
| May | Silver Legacy, Reno |
| May | Oakland A's Baseball |
| June | Silver Legacy, Reno |
| June | Casinos & Canyons Trip, Utah, Arizona, and Nevada |
| June | SF Giants Baseball |
| June | River Cats Baseball |
| July | San Francisco & Asian Art Mus., Cal Culinary Acad., Treasure Island |
| July | Silver Legacy, Reno |
| August | Yellowstone and Teton National Parks |
| August | Silver Legacy, Reno |
| September | Colusa Casino |
| September | Silver Legacy, Reno |
| September | 50 th Anniversary Cruise to Hawaii |
| October | Tahoe Cruise |
| October | Silver Legacy, Reno |
| November | Jimmy Osmond Spirit of Christmas Show, Reno |

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|----------|---|
| November | Silver Legacy, Reno |
| December | Danube River Cruise |
| December | Apple Hill and Jackson Rancheria Casino |

TREASURER REPORT: Treasurer Sir Bill Beeman reported the following:

| | |
|--|-----------|
| TOTAL Funds Available ó December 1, 2005 | \$9104.47 |
| TOTAL Funds Available ó December 1, 2006 | \$8448.59 |

BOWLING: Chairman Sir Donn Stafford reported 11 bowlers participated in the SIRs bowling league at Country Club Lanes, located at Watt and El Camino Avenues. At the present time there are 28 teams with 4 men on each team. Three of our teams are loaded with Branch 23 Sirs. The league bowls for 33 weeks beginning in the fall and continuing into the next year. Our members have a great time bowling and enjoying the fellowship that goes along with it.

GOLF:

General: Our branch participates with two separate groups; an 18-hole and a 9-hole group. All members are allowed to play in either or both groups. Tournaments are scheduled so there is no conflict of tournament dates.

9 Hole League: The chairman is Ed Campini, and the tournament director is Jim Otto. There were 22 scheduled tournaments. The 9 holers awards banquet was held at the Buggy Whip Restaurant, November 10, 2006. The top ten point winners and the flight winners for each tournament are shown in the following tables.

9 HOLE GOLF LEAGUE - 2006

TOP TEN POINT WINNERS

| POSITION | NAME | POINTS |
|----------|----------------------|--------|
| 1 | Russ Korhonen | 35 |
| 2 | Frank Abel | 32 |
| T3 | John Zian | 31 |
| T3 | Dick Oxford | 31 |
| 5 | Howard Frank | 30 |
| 6 | Bob Stakolich | 29 |
| 7 | Sam Osver | 28 |
| T8 | Chris Christopherson | 25 |
| T8 | Cass Mastalski | 25 |
| T8 | George Hood | 25 |

**9 HOLE GOLF LEAGUE - 2006
TOURNAMENT FLIGHT WINNERS**

| Tournament Number | Course | 1st Flight | 2nd Flight | 3rd Flight |
|--------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1 | Arcade Creek - Front | Stan Holmes | Frank Heggli | Birge Clark |
| 2 | Arcade Creek - Back | Cancelled | | |
| 3 | Davis | John Zian | Bob Stakolich | Ed Radsliff |
| 4 | Antelope Greens | Frank Abel | Bob Chiles | |
| 5 | Wild Wings | Steve Schmidt | Howard Frank | |
| 6 | Forest Lake | Ed Hodan | Dick Oxford | |
| 7 | Black Oak | Bob Mellberg | Bob Stakolich | Birge Clark |
| 8 | Arcade Creek - Front | Bill Sutherland | Gordon DeCorsey | |
| 9 | Bing Maloney | Sam Osver | Donn Stafford | |
| 10 | Davis | Bob Chiles | Vince Toolan | |
| 11 | Wild Wings | Sam Osver | Russ Korhonen | |
| 12 | Cordova | Tom Logan | Howard Frank | |
| 13 | Forest Lake | Cancelled | | |
| 14 | Antelope Greens | Cass Mastalski | Dick Oxford | Donn Stafford |
| 15 | Arcade Creek - Back | Bill Sutherland | Sam Osver | |
| 16 | Indian Creek | Cass Mastalski | George Hood | |
| 17 | Arcade Creek - Front | Bill Sutherland | Jim Smith | Russ Korhonen |
| 18 | Bing Maloney | Bob Stakolich | Dick Oxford | |
| 19 | Antelope Greens | Stan Holmes | George Hood | |
| 20 | Davis | Bob Mellberg | Horace Conrad | |
| 21 | Arcade Creek - Back | Tam Lefebure | Ray Zelinski | |
| 22 | Cordova | Fairhurst / Rodriquez | DiMuccio / Pratt | (2-man Scotch) |

18 Hole League: The chairman is Howard Franks and the tournament director is Tam LeFebure. There were 22 scheduled tournaments. The 18-holers awards banquet was held at the Lionsgate Hotel at McClellan Park on December 1, 2006. The special championship winners, the top ten point winners, and the flight winners for each tournament are shown in the following tables:

Big Sir Champion: Hal Mattson, with a net score of 132 in the first 2 events.

54 Hole Club Championship: Results for the end of season championship over 3 tournaments are as follows:

| Position | 1st Flight | 2nd Flight | 3rd Flight |
|-----------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| First | Tam Lefebure (205) | Chris Christopherson (216) | Fritz Walgenbach (217) |
| Second | Bill Sutherland (209) | Billy Barnes (217) | Bob McDonell (218) |
| Third | Jim DeLong (210) | Jim Smith (220) | Andy Riczo (226) |

18 HOLE GOLF LEAGUE - 2006

TOP TEN POINT WINNERS

| POSITION | NAME | POINTS |
|----------|-------------------|--------|
| 1 | Darrell Schneider | 57 |
| T2 | David Cattanach | 52 |
| T2 | Dave Nemzek | 52 |
| T4 | Tam Lefebure | 51 |
| T4 | Bill Sutherland | 51 |
| 5 | Sam Scarlett | 47 |
| 6 | Joe Rodriguez | 43 |
| 7 | Billy Barnes | 42 |
| 9 | Howard Frank | 41 |
| 10 | Bill LeDoux | 40 |

18 HOLE GOLF LEAGUE - 2006 TOURNAMENT FLIGHT WINNERS

| Tournament Number | Course | 1st Flight | 2nd Flight | 3rd Flight |
|-------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1 | Bartley Cavanaugh | Arlis Coy | Bob Nielson | Wilbur Holtzclaw |
| 2 | Alistair MacKenzie | Sam Scarlett | David Nemzek | Darrell Schneider |
| 3 | Mather | Bob Mellberg | Joe Ryan | Jerry Martin |
| 4 | Bing Maloney | Bill Sutherland | Bob Stakolich | Russ Korhonen |
| 5 | Teal Bend | Frank Semans | Bill Barnes | |
| 6 | Micke Grove | Frank Buttler | Joe Ryan | Frank Heggli |
| 7 | Wildhawk | Paul Joyce | Sam Osver | Andy Riczo |
| 8 | Reserve at Spanos Pk | Bill Lindsey | Darrell Schneider | |
| 9 | Bing Maloney | Bill Lindsey | Tom Logan | Paul Askelson |
| 10 | Ancil Hoffman | Bill Lindsey | David Cattanach | Fritz Walgenbach |
| 11 | Plumas Lake | David Nemzek | George Hood | |
| 12 | Dry Creek | Gil Sanguinetti | Sam Scarlett | Darrell Schneider |
| 13 | Davis | Paul Joyce | George Hood | Lee Lenneville |
| 14 | Mather | Scarlett, Sommariva, Zian, Jespersion | (4 man scramble) | |
| 15 | Lockeford Springs | Joe Rodriguez | George Hood | |
| 16 | Wildhawk | Abel / Walgenbach | Korhonen / Naylor | (2 man best ball) |
| 17 | Rio La Paz | Cass Mastalski | Tony Ragusa | Lee Lenneville |
| 18 | Diamond Oaks | Frank Semans | Ralph Sommariva | Andy Riczo |
| 19 | Teal Bend | Bill Sutherland | Dick LeBeau | |
| 20 | Alistair MacKenzie | Tam Lefebure | Bill Barnes | Orville Oie |
| 21 | Ancil Hoffman | Joe Rodriguez | Bob Chiles | Dick Oxford |
| 22 | Bartley Cavanaugh | Jim Monteverde | Jim Smith | Vince Toolan |

SPEAKERS: Little Sir Dick Fuller invited a variety of speakers and performers for the monthly meetings. The speakers and others are as follows:

| | | |
|-----------|---|--|
| January | Jody Hornor | Author of book on the pioneers of 1849 in California. |
| February | Dan Daugherty | One of the first soldiers to arrive at the Dachau prison camp at the end of World War II. |
| March | Brad Romero | CHP officer describing and demonstrating the CHP canine program |
| April | Stein Buer | Executive Officer of Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency (SAFCA) |
| May | Ben Waldron | Soldier who survived the fall of Corregidor and the Bataan Death March in the Philippines in WWII. |
| June | Dick and Dorrie Crooks | AARP Mature Driver Improvement Course |
| July | Carol Trabert | Elderhostel Program |
| August | Bruce McPherson | California Secretary of State |
| September | Harry Dunlap | Professional baseball player, coach and manager for over 50 years. |
| October | Roger Niello | California State Assemblyman from Sacramento |
| November | Dr Alice Jacobs EdD, Director of Brain Gain | How to Enhance your Memory |
| December | | Honorary Christmas Luncheon with our ladies |

2006 Member Profiles:

The following members of Branch 23 had biographical profiles published in the monthly Nuggets. These profiles were prepared by Ray Zelinski, Nugget Editor. This was the first year the profiles were prepared, and they are included below for historical reference.

| | | |
|-----------|---------------|-------------|
| Jim Otto | Harry Scott | Arlie Vies |
| Don Alden | Harry Coldani | Dick Fuller |

JIM OTTO (July 2006)

Branch 23 golfers are familiar with Jim's tireless contributions to the golf programs, specifically his dedication to the 9-Hole golf program. He has been the 9-Hole tournament director for 10 years. Those who participate in the 9-Hole golf program sincerely appreciate Jim's efforts. However, there are other interesting facets of Jim's life of which the Branch 23 members should be aware.

Jim was a longtime employee of the Aerojet Corporation. He was manager of Test Operations, Solid Plant, from 1959 to 1979. Following that tenure, he was Director of Quality, ASPC, from 1980 to his retirement in 1989. During his Aerojet employment, he was Test Director for the test firing of the largest solid rocket motor ever tested. That impressive and memorable event occurred at the Aerojet Plant in Dade County, Florida.

Jim was born and raised in Minnesota. His birthplace was Herman; he also lived in Hancock and St. Paul. He graduated from St. Paul Central High School in 1947, and earned a BS in Civil Engineering from the University of Minnesota in 1952. Following his college graduation, and before beginning his Aerojet career, Jim served his country as a draftee in the U. S. Army from February 1954 to February 1956. During his stint in the military, he served as a photo interpreter with the Seventy Army Air Reconnaissance Support Company.

Jim has lived in the Sacramento/Carmichael area since 1957. He and his wife Marge have raised 3 children, daughter Diane, and sons David and Douglas. Jim enjoys traveling and gardening when he is not golfing. He also has been busy in community and church activities. He was active in the United Way Campaign from 1985 to 1992. He has held numerous leadership positions with Town & Country Lutheran Church, and is currently leading three adult bible study groups at that Church.

Branch 23 is proud to introduce Jim as the first presentee in its Member Profile series.

DON ALDEN (August 2006)

Don is a native Californian, born in Hollywood, but raised in Puente after age 7. He continued living there until graduating from U. C. Berkeley in 1947 with a B. S. degree in Civil Engineering.

Don had a memorable engineering career with the Bridge Department, State Division of Highways, now known as Caltrans. During his 54 year engineering career, he spent a significant portion of that time managing construction of highway bridges all over California. Late in his career, he transferred to the State Bridge Design office in Sacramento and was assigned to the construction specification section. Eventually, he was promoted to manage that section and the bridge planning section until his retirement from Caltrans in 1984. He had a secondary responsibility as State Bridge Historian during his office tenure, and remains active in bridge history with the local section of the American Society of Civil Engineers. He continued applying his specification expertise part time for 17 years with Imbsen and Associates following his Caltrans retirement.

Don took time out from late 1942 to 1946, to serve his country in the U. S. Army Air Corps as an aerial meteorologist during WW II. He was elevated to First Lieutenant by the end of his service obligation. In a career related summer employment during his college era, Don worked on the Alaskan Highway. He was a member of a locating and surveying team during the summer and autumn of 1942. According to Don, there were more bears and wolves than people in the remote area assigned to his team.

Don's life, of course, was not all work. He met a girl named Dorothy in 1949, to whom he was married in 1951. Together they raised two children, David and Nancy. Now, Dorothy, being an avid River Cats fan, keeps him entertained at Raley Field when the Cats are in town. Also, for several years and continuing, Don is chief assistant to Dorothy as she performs the Executive Secretary duties for the Sacramento Community concerts Association.

Don's primary devotion, aside from Dorothy, is the sport of rowing. Since retirement, he has returned to his collegiate sport of competitive crew racing in fast, lightweight, olympic type

shells, and on indoor rowing simulator machines (Ergs) when the weather is bad. At age 84, he continues to race all over the world and has won over 70 medals through the years in his age bracket. Dorothy not only accompanies him to many competitions, but she regularly exercises on the Erg and occasionally competes. She was the Senior Games champion in her age class for several years. Don highly recommends this activity for seniors and will be glad to discuss it with interested SIR members.

Don also keeps busy with gardening, maintaining their 40-year old Carmichael home, reading, participating in some SIR travels and getting involved in civic activities. Examples of those activities are member of the Carmichael Community Planning Committee and helping the CSUS Aquatic Center sponsor rowing competitions.

Branch 23 salutes Don for his accomplishments.

HARRY SCOTT (September, 2006)

Harry is one of Branch 23's four Honorary Lifetime Members. This honor is bestowed on individuals who have devoted a significant amount of volunteer time to serve fellow members and to support Branch activities. He has demonstrated that devotion not only to promoting the SIR agenda, but also to the outstanding Shriner program. In his official SIR duties, Harry served as Membership Chairman for eight plus years. In that capacity, he upgraded the membership file system from a laborious manual one to an automated one. Many of his other significant contributions in support of the Branch include unofficial duties such as assistance for the 18-Hole golf program, for the monthly luncheons and for attracting new members.

For many years Harry was an active golfer, held various positions and trained incoming Directors in the golf program. Also, until choosing a less active role last year, he was in charge of the major and unheralded task of organizing the annual golf awards luncheon for many years. Also for years, he has supplied the tent cards identifying officers and speakers at the head table for the monthly Branch luncheons. One last example of Harry's contributions to the Branch is his computer generated invitation card used to hand out to prospective new members. See him for your supply to hand out to friends.

Harry was born in Page, West Virginia. He left Page at the age of 13. Another memorable place Harry lived was Newark, Delaware from 1943 to 1946. Harry met his wife, Vivian in 1948 in Sacramento. They were married in 1949. Together they raised four children, Reverend Susan Scott, Judith Zeka, David Scott and Tim Scott. Harry served in the U. S. Army from 1946 to 1966, twice being awarded the Commendation Medal with oak leaf cluster. He retired as a Specialist 7 with skills in Computer Programming and Operations.

Harry completed various college and private vendor courses in computer data processing or related topics to obtain and advance his computer skills. Continuing his application of computer competency following retirement from the military, he hired on with the Franchise Tax Board as a programmer in 1966. At the end of his 22-year career at the FTB, Harry had worked his way up the ladder to bow out as an EDP Manager IV. Earlier in his work life, Harry gained experience as a super market cashier, stock clerk and truck driver.

Harry has spent some retirement time playing golf, fishing and traveling. However, his most rewarding retirement activity has been his commitment to the Shriner program. He and Vivian transported patients to the Shriner Hospital for five years. Once the Sacramento Hospital was placed in operation, he managed the eight vans and 150 volunteers who transport Northern California patients to and from this facility. He still drives up to four days per month and chairs the transportation at age 78. He has earned an award for dedicating 5000 hours (and counting) since 1997. He has served as secretary for three years, and is now serving as treasurer of the Go Cart Unit. He has received Man of the Year award 3 times and has earned a 50-year pin as a Shriner. Somewhere along the line he found time for two years to transport visitors to the Towe Museum to/from Old Sacramento. Keep up the good deeds, Harry. Branch 23 is impressed with your accomplishments, and are proud that you are one of our members.

HENRY COLDANI (October 2006)

Henry is best known by current Branch 23 members as the travel guy. He was the Branch Travel Chairman for 20 years until resigning in October 2004. Although he resigned nearly two years ago, he continues to assist, and pinch hit for Dale Martin, our current Branch Travel Chairman. Henry, and his wife Kathy, enjoy traveling, and join Dale on many of the travel opportunities. Henry's most memorable trip was to Copper Canyon, commonly known as Mexico's "Grand Canyon".

Prior to retirement and joining the SIR organization, Henry ventured into a variety of unrelated work experiences to earn a living. Primarily he was owner and manager of both a cocktail lounge and apartment houses in Stockton for 25 years. In addition to this enterprise, Henry operated the Walnut Grove Hotel, soon after graduating from high school, from 1937 to 39; was a Sacramento City policeman from 1941 to 43, receiving on the job training (there were no police academies in those days); a chiropractor for a short time; operated a small bar and casino in Hawthorne, Nevada for less than one year; was a partner in an off-sale liquor store in Sacramento for approximately 7 years; and practiced as a real estate broker for a short time.

Henry was born and raised in Sacramento. He attended San Juan High School. While in high school, he worked for his parents at their night club, the Florida Inn at the corner of Auburn and Greenback, and at their motel. He credits this experience for his future interest in the food, beverage and lodging businesses. Following high school, he continued his education by attending Sacramento City College and Columbia Chiropractic College. He attended Columbia while he was employed as a policeman. He also kept himself current in the business world by enrolling in numerous college level courses to aid himself in his various business enterprises.

Henry spent most of his first 30 years of life in the Sacramento area. He moved to Stockton in 1948, and remained there until 1973 when he moved to Pleasant Hill for 9 years until 1982. He then retired back to Sacramento at age 65. Henry met Kathy in 1972, and they were married in 1973. He has a son, Henry III, and Kathy has four children, Sharon, John, Dianna and Lisa. When he was working, Henry was a 20-year participant in the Stockton Bar and Restaurant Association with meetings held at his place of business.

Since retirement, in addition to travel, Henry enjoys vegetable gardening. Of all his business experiences, bar tending was the most interesting and entertaining to him. The majority of the customers were single and lonely. To keep them coming back, he decided he needed to be a listener, advisor and actor, in other words, a "jack of all trades". Corner him at a future Branch 23 luncheon for some good stories.

Judging from Henry's experiences, he can be labeled as an ambitious participator. It was no different when he joined SIR. He accepted the Assistant Attendance Chairmanship in his very first year in the organization, and then promptly launched into the Travel Chair role. His efforts have not gone unrecognized. Henry is one of only four Branch 23 members to be granted the Honorary Lifetime Member status. Kudos to you, Henry.

ARLIE VEIS (November 2006)

Arlie was the Chairman of the 9 Holders for nine years and, as Branch 23 members know, he was the unofficial joke teller at the monthly luncheons. He also handled the Ladies Day Picnic and Golf Tournament for four years.

Eighty two years ago Arlie was born on a homestead in northeastern Montana on the Ft. Peck Indian Reservation. The nearest help available, six miles away, was a farmer's wife, who was a practical nurse, who his 11 year old brother fetched by horseback. Another brother and a sister before him arrived the same way. Arlie was the last of seven children. His parents emigrated from Denmark in April 1912 with their first 3 children. They had tried to book passage on the Titanic but fortunately, as you know the fate of the Titanic on that voyage, they were shifted to the Lusitania. They joined some relatives in South Dakota before moving to Montana in 1916.

His first three years in school were spent in a one room country school, one teacher with 8 students, and grades 1st through 8th. They had to travel 5 miles to school, through deep snow and in below zero temperatures. Sometimes they walked, but when horses were available they rode. On bad winter days one of his older brothers took them in the one horse sleigh. Those were the 20 degree or more below days. The family survived the Great Depression of '29, but the years of '33 to '37 were the Dust Bowl which did them in. They abandoned the homestead and moved into Scobey where he continued his education through high school, graduating in 1942.

At 18, Arlie was called in January 1943 to boot camp in the Combat Engineers at Camp Cooke, CA. From boot camp he was sent to the Army Civil Engineering Training program at Stanford University, but it was abandoned after 5 months. Arlie was next sent to the New Guinea Theater, and then moved to Manila, Philippines. On the way there, the fleet of 50 flat bottomed LSTs was caught in a big typhoon off Okinawa. They had to bunk on the top deck on army cots lashed to whatever was available. Some duffle bags were lost overboard but no GIs. There were some smelly undies for awhile until new ones were issued in Manila. Several months later, while sitting in Manila Bay on a transport ship waiting assignment, there were rampant rumors about invading Japan. Then news came that the first of the atomic bombs struck Hiroshima and their lives were instantly changed. They sailed into Yokohama the latter part of August 1945. They were met with silent stoicism but no violence as they rode to an old warehouse that became their last home overseas. They found many Japanese to be friendly, and did a big trade in cigarettes for pearls. Arlie's 21st birthday was spent celebrating with his first issue of sake instead of beer. He was finally rotated home in January 1946.

After the service, Arlie continued his education on the GI Bill at the Strutz School of Watch Making, graduating in 1947. Subsequent technical schools were: Omega; Accutron - Bulova; Seiko; and at the Hamilton Watch Factory in Lancaster PA. Arlie was with DeVon's Jewelers for 35 years and was the Service Manager/ Watchmaker/Jeweler until his retirement in 1986.

Ever since his discharge from the service, Arlie has lived in Sacramento. Arlie is married to Gwen who is retired from State service as legislative secretary. Arlie's first wife Ruth, who was the mother of their two children, Karin and Jon, passed away in 1990. Arlie has traveled extensively and has visited 21 world national capitols. Arlie has been a member of St. John's Lutheran Church for 60 years and sang in its choir for 57 of those. He served on the Church council for 6 years and was President for 1 year. He was also active in the Swedish organization Wasa for 44 years, serving variously as President, Treasurer and in other capacities. He was District Master of the Northern California District consisting of 21 local lodges He has been active in Scouting, attaining Eagle Scout in 1940. For interesting stories or a good joke, Arlie is the one to see.

Branch 23 salutes him in this fifth member profile.

RICHARD DICK+FULLER (December 2006)

Our own Little SIR, Richard T. Fuller, is this month's Member Profile honoree. Dick has also served Branch 23 as Assistant Secretary and Secretary. He was born in Akron, Ohio in 1924 and lived there until 1930. The family moved to Osborn, Ohio, where his father took a job with what was then Patterson Field. While in Osborn, Dick saw the Boeing 299 (later known as the B-17) as it flew into Wright Field. It crashed while being tested for acceptance by the Army Air Corps. The son of the pilot, Maj. Hills, was in Dick's class the day it crashed. Hills Field, Utah was named after Maj. Hills who was killed in the crash. Dick never dreamed that 10 years later he would be flying combat in a B-17.

The family lived in Osborn until 1936 when they moved to San Diego, CA. Dick's father worked at what was then Rockwell Field in Coronado until January 1939 when it was turned over to the U. S. Navy, and is now known as North Island Naval Air Station. The family then moved to Sacramento and Dick's father was one of the original workers at what was known as the Sacramento Air Depot, and subsequently known as McClellan Field. His father was the first foreman of the Bomb Sight Shop and at the start of World War II he was called into the U.S. Army Air Force as the Assistant Engineering Officer at McClellan.

Dick graduated from Grant Union High School in June 1942 and was drafted into the USAAF in January 1943. After several months in the service he was sent to the University of Oklahoma to be an Engineer. In several months that program was closed and he returned to the USAAF. He was then sent to Armament School in Denver and then to Aerial Gunnery School in Las Vegas. After Gunnery School Dick was assigned to a B-17 crew and eventually ended up in the 379th Bombardment Group of the 8th Air Force. Dick flew 17 missions as a nose-gunner/toggler.

He was discharged from the service in November 1945 and returned home to continue with his engineering studies at Sacramento Junior College. Eventually he graduated with a B.S. Degree in Mechanical Engineering from Cal Poly in San Luis Obispo. It was while attending Sac Junior College that he met Mardel. They were married in June 1947. As a result of that marriage they now have three children, six grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

After graduation Dick returned to Sacramento and took a temporary job with the Bridge Department (now the Division of Structures), Division of Highways (now Caltrans) as a Junior Mechanical Engineer. The temporary job became permanent, and was the beginning of an outstanding engineering career. Dick became the Supervisor of the Electrical, Mechanical and Sanitary Branch, Division of Structures, Caltrans. Dick was involved in a large variety of projects on the state highway system. Projects included design, construction and maintenance of pumping plants, maintenance stations, and movable bridges. He retired from Caltrans after 37 years, but continues to work as a consultant on many movable bridges for various private engineering firms.

Dick also has interests other than work. In 1987 Dick became a member of the 379th BOMB GROUP WW II ASSOCIATION, and eventually became President of that organization for two years. He is still on the Board of Directors. Dick also has been a member of the Masonic Lodge since 1954 and has been active, along with his wife, in both the DeMolay and the Jobs Daughters. Dick's son is a Past Master Councilor of DeMolay and his two daughters and wife are Past Honored Queens of the Jobs Daughters. He was on the Advisory Board for 10 years and was Dad Advisor and Chairman of the Advisory Board of the DeMolay for two of those years.

Keep up the good work, Dick. Branch 23 looks forward to your service as Big SIR in 2007.

Respectfully Prepared; _____
Bill Sutherland, Assistant Secretary, 2006