



# *The Pathfinder*

*Branch Number 59*

Twenty-Eighth Year

August 2003

Bulletin No. 7

If you are **not** coming or  
If you are bringing a guest or visitor

***Please Call*** before ***Monday August 18th***

Fred Gotthardt - 797-4592

Manuel Silva - 793-2705

Arnold Mozzetti - 797-2127



## NEXT MEETING - AUGUST 21, 2003

### Words to Live By

By Big Sir Don Henry

More Branch 59 history — continued from last month...

The first Branch 59 luncheon meeting was on March 31, 1976 at Villa Del Greco Restaurant in Fremont. (Anyone remember it on Mission Blvd?) The Membership Application Form 33 was completed and filed with the state. The name "Pathfinder" was selected for the Fremont branch, and membership was recorded at 35.



On April 6th we received notice that our application was received and unanimously approved by the State Board.

Our second luncheon was held on April 28th with a membership of 51 (no mention of speakers at this point).

At the May 25th meeting Committee chairmen were announced for Attendance, Membership, Golf, Fishing, Greeters, Tours, and We Care (Must be our current Sunshine Committee)

Probationary status was declared over at the meeting held on September 22nd and the official State Charter was presented to the branch. Membership maximum was set at 175 (Didn't find what it actually was). This was at Union Station Restaurant in Union City.)

To be continued next month.

*Don*

PS **SIR Branch 59 luncheon price is now at \$12.** As you know inflation is working overtime and everyone needs more money.



### OUR SPEAKER

by Little Sir Tom Sherba

Captain Leon "Woodie" Spears flew 51 combat missions over Europe during World War II before he was hit by ground fire on March 24, 1945. He crash-landed in enemy territory in Poland. Nazi soldiers captured him, but five days later Russian troops captured the area and he remained with them for several months. After a 2500-mile trip through Russia to the Black Sea port of Odessa he boarded a French liner with 2000 other allied airmen and was transported back to Italy where he rejoined his Group and Squadron before being returned to the states where he was discharged into the reserve forces.

One of the few surviving original Tuskegee airmen, Woodie Spears, 79, will speak to us about his experiences in two wars.

He was born in Pueblo, Colorado in 1924 the second child of parents who had originally come from Louisiana.

Growing up in Pueblo he didn't experience any racial bias. He had always dreamed of being a flyer, but his parents knew that the likelihood of a young colored lad becoming a flyer was not likely. With war looming, however, he went to the army recruiter and asked for an application to become an aviation cadet in the Army Air Corps along with his high school buddies who were all white. After certain amount of cajoling the recruiter gave him an application and he and his schoolmates filled them out. After a substantial waiting period he learned that he would be trained at the Tuskegee

**Continued on page 3 - Spears**

### Menu - South Of The Border

Taco and burrito bar

Beef and chicken

Spanish rice

Mixed vegetables

Chips and salsa - Assorted condiments

Flan



**Get your SIR Badges & Emblems - baseball caps with SIR logos are available for \$8.50-\$11.50**

# Edited Excerpts from the Minutes of Sir Al Wydler

Big Sir Don Henry called the meeting to order at 10:15am. Roll Call following the Pledge of Allegiance indicated all officers and four directors were present. No significant Correspondence was received.

Secretary's minutes of June were approved.

Treasurer Sir Lou Bufkin made his report for June and it was approved.

Attendance Chairman Sir Fred Gotthardt reported that 210 are expected today and the Cybergeezers will meet Monday July 21 at 2pm at the Fremont Main Library.

Membership Chairman Sir Ed Bingle reported that three guests are expected. There will be no new members this month.

Baseball Chairman Sir Nat Lord requests all those attending the Giants Game to meet at BART station at 10:00am.

Bowling Chairman Sir Dave Dunlap reported that our team is doing well.

Birthday Chairman Sir Art Winkley reported that only 12 members with birthdays in July are expected today, including committee member Sir Roger Aubin, they range from 70 to 80 in age, congratulations.

Our Historian, Sir Drag Dutina is pleased to have received several requests for information.

Emblems Chairman Sir Bob Edwards submitted a written report indicating some sales activity.

Golf Chairman Sir Guy Whitener reports that Chuck Lindsey and Dave Priego won at the "Old Mans Tournament" which qualifies them to participate in the championship to be held at Stockton. He has handouts available for September 9 at Tilden.

Editor Sir John Skarpelos reports that the last Friday of July is the deadline for material to be submitted for publishing in the Pathfinder.

Sunshine, Dave Marymee reports that Tony Alexander, 91 Years, who underwent by-pass surgery is still at Washington Hospital. (Editors note: Tony died one day before his birthday in July) He suggests we drop Ed Campbell from membership as he is in assisted living with no hope to return. Motion made and approved.

For your information, expect your meeting cost to rise. Our Insurance has increased, the ELKS would like to raise our hall rental and we have a new Caterer who cannot maintain the current price. The Board has appointed a bargaining Committee to negotiate for a \$10.00 Lunch and a meeting fee of \$100.00 as this was considered to be reasonable.

Adjourned 11:07am.

Respectfully Submitted, Al Wydler, Secretary

## Br 59 Officers

### Big Sir

Don Henry  
(510) 656-5659

### Little Sir

Tom Sherba  
(510) 793-3217

### Secretary

Al Wydler  
(510) 278-4380

### Asst. Secretary

Drag Dutina  
(510) 657-1037

### Treasurer

Louis Bufkin  
(510) 651-8664

### Asst. Treasurer

Fred Stabell  
(510) 657-7392

### Directors

Rollin Cunningham  
Herb Epstein  
George Hubach  
Chris Lemler  
Frank Thomas  
Guy Whitener

## Flying High

While taxiing at London Gatwick, the crew of a US Air flight departing for Ft. Lauderdale made a wrong turn and came nose to nose with a United 767. An irate female ground controller lashed out at the US Air crew, screaming: "US Air 2771, where the hell are you going? I told you to turn right onto Charlie taxiway! You turned right on Delta! Stop right there. I know it's difficult for you to tell the difference between Cs and Ds, but get it right!" Continuing her tirade to the embarrassed crew, she was now shouting hysterically:

"God, you've screwed everything up! It'll take forever to sort this out! You stay right there and don't move till I tell you to! You can expect progressive taxi instructions in about half an hour and I want you to go exactly where I tell you, when I tell you, and how I tell you! You got that, US Air 2771?"

"Yes ma'am," the humbled crew responded.

Naturally the ground control frequency went terribly silent after the verbal bashing of US Air 2771. Nobody wanted to engage the irate ground controller in her current state. Tension in every cockpit at LGW was running high.

Then an unknown pilot broke the silence and asked meekly: "Wasn't I married to you once?"

## Financial Report by Lou Bufkin

The month of June started with a checkbook balance of \$3651.95. General fund receipts totaled \$245.83. General fund disbursements totaled \$207.89 they included printing, postage, and rent. Custodial fund disbursements included \$75.78 for Sweetheart Luncheon table centerpieces. Ending checkbook balance was \$3614.11.



## Branch Officers and Directors August Luncheon meeting Election

### Officer Candidates Nominated for 2004

Big Sir – Tom Sherba  
Little Sir – Howard Thompson  
Secretary – Al Wydler  
Assistant Secretary – Drag Dutina  
Treasurer – Lou Bufkin  
Assistant Treasurer – Fred Stabell

### Nominated for Directors

Herb Epstein  
Don Gillis  
Don Henry  
Chris Lemler  
Frank Thomas  
Guy Whitener



You will have the opportunity to submit nominations from the floor for any position. However, your nominee must be present at the meeting, and must agree to serve if elected.

Thanks are due to Nominating Committee Chairman Sir Art Lampert and members Sir Fred Gotthardt and Sir Les Addison for their efforts in providing this slate of nominees.

**A Nonprofit  
public benefit  
corporation for  
retired men**

# MEMBERSHIP, ATTENDANCE and BIRTHDAY NEWS

by Sir Ed Bingle, Sir Fred Gotthardt, and Sir Art Winkley



**WANTED**  
New SIR Members



Let's Have Fun..Bring in one!  
State President's MOTTO



Posters Available on SIR website  
<http://sirinc.org/SIRFORMS/Membershipposters.htm>

## Membership Report

### Guests:

Paul Bleignier  
Jim Fenlon  
Robert McGrath  
William Miles  
Sam Olson

### Guest of:

Robert Leinkram  
Robert Ralston  
Guy Whitener  
Tom Sullivan  
Ken Reiley

### Visitors:

Thomas K Ahern

### Guest of:

Thomas C. Ahern

## Membership Total

(as of 7/17/2003)

**281 - Active Members**

16 - Inactive Members

## Change of Status:

Edgar Campbell – Resigned from  
Inactive Status

Al Fernandes – Address Change  
1834 Treeline Way  
Manteca, CA 95336-8663  
(209) 825-8073

## Attendance Report

(For 7/17/2003)

Members	212
Guests	5
Visitors	1
Speaker	1
<b>Total =</b>	<b>219</b>

46 excused 20 unexcused



## August Birthdays

Clarence Dutra	August 31, 1912	91
Louis Mercurio	August 1, 1916	87
Harry Cesari	August 26, 1916	87
William Wilson	August 13, 1919	84
Eugene Ivaldi	August 19, 1922	81
Frank Smith	August 16, 1923	80
Raymond Jarvis	August 12, 1924	79
David Dunlap	August 18, 1926	77
Tom Sherba	August 9, 1927	76
Arthur Winkley	August 25, 1927	76
Richard Howe	August 8, 1928	75
Dean Olsen	August 6, 1929	74
Donald Blood	August 9, 1929	74
John Gecox	August 2, 1930	73
Conrad Walla	August 1, 1931	72
John Vance	August 20, 1931	72
Daniel Kimberly	August 25, 1931	72
Herbert Muellereile	August 4, 1932	71
James Sissle	August 8, 1932	71
Robert Springer	August 15, 1932	71
Edward Baldini	August 17, 1932	71
Louis Smith	August 23, 1932	71
Douglas Taylor	August 30, 1932	71
Robert Debelak	August 3, 1935	68
Robert Compton	August 22, 1937	66
Arnold George	August 20, 1939	64
Robert Armstrong	August 9, 1942	61



## Spears - Continued from page 1

Institute in Alabama.

Most of the instructors at Tuskegee were southern white officers. They let you know that you were not white and not to expect much respect from them.

After about two years of training he was placed into the 301st fighter squadron in the 332nd Fighter group escorting bombers into Germany. Woodie along with about 996 others were trained at Tuskegee, but he was one of only 450 who went into combat.

Woodie Spears flew again as a reservist in the Korean War where he flew 17 missions and then was sent home after his brother, also a pilot, was killed in action.





# SIR BRANCH 59 ACTIVITIES

## Strikes and Spares

by Dave Dunlap

NAME	HIGH GAME	HIGH SERIES
Wayne Adams	177	396
Gary Bennett	178	500
Frank Cordova	226	574
Al Costa	181	416
Rollin Cunningham	180	500
Dave Dunlap	171	496
Ray Erickson	194	550
Ray Faria	172	432
Don Henry	226	538
Roy Johnson	179	472
Nat Lord	225	538
Frank Thomas	164	399
Carl Tolle	194	494
Art Winkley	176	480

Scoring in the singles at the Pinole tournament Sir Nat Lord received \$25 and Sir Carl Tolle received \$20.

You are always welcome to join our group on Mondays at 1 PM at Mowry Lanes.

For more information call **Dave Dunlap** at 657-2603.



A girl was visiting her blonde friend and noticed she had acquired two new dogs, and asked her what their names were.

The blonde responded by saying that one was named Rolex and one was named Timex.

Her friend said, "Whoever heard of someone naming dogs like that?"

Whereupon the blonde responded, "What else you gonna name watch dogs?"



## READERS AND BROWSERS

Bring your magazines and books to share. Mysteries and westerns are popular books; please don't bring *Time*, *National Geographic* or *Modern Maturity*.

**Bob Matthies** 797-5638



## BRIDGE GROUPS

We have four bridge groups: Three of them are evening two table groups and each meets monthly. The fourth group is for any member who wants to show up after lunch here at the Elks' Club.

**Drag Dutina** - 657-1037.



## GOLF NOTES

by Guy Whitener

### WINNERS

Two branch 59 golfers played in the SIRS scramble at Reno during the second week. John Austin won \$180 and Ben Fernandez won \$120. Well done.

### TOURNAMENTS

TILDEN PARK on Sept. 9th hosted by Branch 72. Cost is \$45 for fees, cart, and prizes. Make checks payable to **SIRS 72 GOLF**; Mail to:

LLOYD KEPLINGER,  
1921 SHERMAN DRIVE,  
UNION CITY, CA. 94587

with a cutoff of August 29. Form your own teams and advise Lloyd who your partners are.



DIVISION 4 Chairman DICK RICHMOND will host at THE RESERVE at Spanos Park, Stockton, on OCTOBER 7, a shotgun at 7:30 AM. Cost is \$49 for fees, cart, prizes, and a Hamburger Buffet Lunch. Applications are available at the August meeting.

Remember POPPY HILLS on October 28 and/or 29. Applications were at the July meeting. More will be at the August meeting. Do not wait too long to submit your money.

Any other questions call **Guy Whitener** 793-5468.

## Giants Baseball

The 26th Annual All-SIR Day with the San Francisco Giants playing the Arizona Diamondbacks was enjoyed by many on Thursday, July 24, 2003 at Pac Bell Park

**Nat Lord** 797-1704

## PATHFINDERS WALKING AND HIKING GROUP

Meet Wednesday mornings at 8 AM at the Park at Paseo Padre and Isherwood. Everyone welcome and bring a friend.

**Don Henry** at 656-5659.

## THE CYBERGEEZERS

Will meet Monday, August 25th at 2 PM. at Fremont Main Library.

Beginners and seasoned addicts are welcome to share Internet experiences, misinformation, frustrations, and gossip.

Call Chief CybergEEzer: **Fred Gotthardt** at 797-4592



# SUNSHINE CHAIRMAN SIR DAVE MARYMEE REPORTS

## CALLING OR SENDING A CARD COULD BE THIS DAY'S BEST DEED

**ED CAMPBELL's** son, Robert, reports Ed continues in assisted care in Sacramento. Since Ed's return to live in Fremont is uncertain, Robert agreed that Ed should resign from Branch 59. We hope you make a full recovery from the stroke Ed.

**BOB DEBALEK** (unable to contact Bob.)

**JOSEPH FARIA's** wife, Clara, reports Joseph is doing very well recovering from a damaged right leg. Clara indicates Joseph is anxious to start attending Sir's luncheons soon.

**DON HENRY**, Big Sir, says he is doing well recovering from angioplasty and stint placement. Don says he is free from anginal pain. Glad to hear you are ok Don.

**RAY JARVIS** is mostly bedfast at Helios Care Center (formerly Sun Bridge) on Country Drive. Ray suffers from arthritis and fungus, requiring him to wear treatment pads on the soles of his feet. Otherwise, Ray is in good spirits. Stop in and see Ray. Bring a book — Ray likes to read.

**WILLIAM JOHNSON**, who suffered a stroke recently, is at home and says he is doing ok in recovery. Bill hopes to attend luncheons soon.

**DARRELL LAFOND** and his wife Shirley were saddened by the sudden death of their 46-year-old daughter, Michelle, on July 8. Shirley, herself, has been in Kaiser Rehab for some time. We at Sir extend our sympathy to Darrell and Shirley and their family.

**GEORGE RODRIGUES'** wife, Florence, reports her 90-year-old husband is at home doing well recovering from pneumonia. Glad to hear the good news.

**WES SCHILLING** and his wife, Marilyn, were saddened by the death of Marilyn's mother, Evelyn Anderson, July 7. Wes and family flew to Omaha, Nebraska for the funeral service. Wes' mother, Katie, is recovering very well from a broken hip and hip replacement. We extend our sympathy to Wes and Marilyn and their family.

**GEORGE URQUART's** wife, Linda, reports George returned home from Fremont Health Care Center July 1, after medical treatment for heart problems. Linda says George is feeling stronger. Glad to hear, of your recovery George.

**PHIL UTIC's** wife Janet, age 71, passed away July 27th. We at SIR express our sympathy to Phil and his family.

### *In Memoriam*

#### **Tony Alexander**

Tony Alexander, a resident of Union City for 73 years, died Monday, July 28, 2003, in Fremont. He was 90. He was a member of SIR Pathfinder Branch 59 for 26 years joining in November 1977.

Born July 29, 1912, in Oakland, Mr. Alexander was a janitor at Alvarado Elementary School for 23 years.

He was preceded in death by his first wife, Mayme Alexander, who died in 1989.

He is survived by his second wife, Emily Noia Alexander of Union City; daughter, Sharon Pedranti of Fremont; stepdaughters, Pat White of Los Gatos and Carol Costa of Arizona; brother, Johnny Braga of Concord; one grandchild and six step grandchildren.

#### **Charles Pinto**

Charles Rodrigues Pinto died in Fremont on Wednesday, July 30, 2003 at the age of 87. He was a member of SIR Pathfinder Branch 59 for 13 years joining in August 1980.

Born in Massachusetts on August 5, 1915, Mr. Pinto lived in Fremont for 40 years. He was a long-time employee of Pacific Bell and member of the Telephone Pioneers and SIRS of Fremont.

He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Margaret.



### **Last Chance - Space Limited** **SIR 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Alaska** **Cruise**

**September 17 - 29, 2003**

Cabins are still available for the 13-day cruise to Alaska. There is no airport hassle. Board the luxury cruise and return to San Francisco on the Holland America's **ms Volendam**.

On board activities, food, entertainment, anniversary party in Vancouver. Carefree boarding, baggage handling, orientation.

See Alaska from the Inside Passage. Sitka, Glacier Bay, Skagway, Juneau, Ketchikan, Vancouver, Victoria and back to San Francisco. No airplanes! SIR and Golden Gate Tours have established a cabin-sharing program that will match singles who want to share a cabin. Members, affiliates and widows may participate. Cost: \$2495 to \$5495 per person. Call Golden Gate Tours, **1-800-874-4345**, for more details.

## PATHFINDER BRANCH NO. 59

John Skarpelos, Editor  
1636 Vernal Avenue  
Fremont, CA 94539-4736



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### 2003 COMMITTEES

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Fred Gotthardt  
Manuel Silva, Asst.  
Arnold Mozzetti, Asst.

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Ed Bingle  
Bob Ralston, Asst.

#### LIBRARIAN

Bob Matthies

#### SUNSHINE CHAIRMAN

Dave Marymee  
Charlie Swanson, Asst.

#### CAPS & EMBLEMS

Robert Edwards

#### SERGEANT-AT-ARMS

Frank Thomas

#### BOWLING CHAIRMAN

Dave Dunlap  
Rollin Cunningham, Asst.

#### BIRTHDAYS

Art Winkley,  
Roger Aubin, Asst.

#### GOLF CHAIRMAN

Guy Whitener  
Gerry Desmond, Asst.  
Darryl Moore, Asst.

#### WALKING GROUP

Don Henry

#### EDITOR PATHFINDER

John Skarpelos  
Fred Gotthardt, Asst.

#### CIRCULATION

Bill Briscoe  
Art Shiffrar, Asst.

#### ROSTER

John Skarpelos  
Fred Gotthardt, Asst.

#### GREETERS

Bruno Orsetti  
Joe Faria, Asst.

#### BASEBALL CHAIRMAN

Nat Lord

#### HISTORIAN

Drag Dutina

#### SONG LEADER

Frank Campos

#### BRIDGE

Drag Dutina  
Lee Hylton, Asst.

#### CYBERGEEZERS

Fred Gotthardt

#### SOCIAL CHAIRMAN

Bob Benya  
Bob Edwards, Asst.  
Herb Epstein, Asst.  
Nat Lord, Asst.

### STATE OFFICERS

#### State President

James G. Faverman

#### State Vice-President

Donald O. Schumacher

#### State Secretary

Langley Erickson

#### State Treasurer

James D. Long

#### Director, Region 6

Daniel B. Gilmore

#### Governor, Area 8

Robert L. Beam

### PATHFINDER DEADLINE

The next issue of the  
*Pathfinder* will be in  
September and the copy  
deadline will be Friday,  
August 29, 2003.

### PAST BIG SIRS

1976 Peter Clark\*  
1977 Karl Heine\*  
1978 Harry Cooper  
1979 Kanneth Foster\*  
1980 Larry Varblow\*  
1981 Guido Milano\*  
1982 Alex Fulton\*  
1983 Stephen Epler\*  
1984 George Herman\*  
1985 Ray Crosby\*  
1986 Loran Coburn  
1987 Robert Davis\*  
1988 Robert Klindt  
1989 Martin Annen\*  
1990 Lee Updegraff  
1991 Fred W. Fretter\*  
1992 Lyle Kingery  
1993 LeRoy J. King\*  
1994 George Hubach  
1995 Clyde Killion\*  
1996 Bill Schwan\*  
1997 Nat Lord  
1998 John Buchanan\*  
1999 Art Lampert  
2000 Harry Heyen\*  
2001 Bob Beam  
2002 Rollin Cunningham

\*(deceased)