



The Pathfinder

Branch Number 59

Twenty-Ninth Year

January 2004

Bulletin No. 1

NEXT MEETING at Swiss Park - January 15, 2004

Ramblings of Big Sir Tom Sherba

I am honored and humbly accept the position of Big Sir for the year 2004.

Sometimes, being at the top of a Pyramid can be a lonely place. You have an unobstructed view in all directions, even straight up, but you never need to look straight down because you can feel the strength and support of all those wonderful committee members and their assistants who work tirelessly and willingly to make this the great organization that it is. The base of this pyramid is that solid feeling of confidence that comes from all members who want to spend one day a month with their fellow members to enjoy lunch and camaraderie.



The job of Big Sir is a rather big one; and I will hopefully try to reach the excellence of your Last Big Sir, Don Henry and all the other Big Sirs before him. These are really big shoes to fill, and with the help and cooperation of all members, we will continue to be all that everyone wants to make this a great organization. I hope that our luncheons are so enjoyable that you will invite other retired men to come and join us, and to increase our membership, as about 12% of our membership will normally decrease yearly by members moving away and by attrition. We want to maintain being a strong and vibrant Branch 59.

Our December Swiss Holiday Party, with our beautiful ladies, was an outstanding success thanks to Sir Bob Benya, and his committee, Sir Bob Edwards, Sir Herb Epstein, Sir Les Addison, and many others.

I'm sure that everyone had a great time as our song master Frank Campos entertained us in song and spirit. Thanks to all!

Presently, I wish to request that any Sir wishing to serve on any committee for this year please phone me or drop me a note. Try it and I'm sure you will like it!! I did and really enjoyed it!

Tom

Speaker for January Little Sir Howard Thompson

Tom Murray, our speaker for January has been living as a member of the California Veterans Home in Yountville for four years. He works in the Public Information Office as the Outreach Coordinator, informing groups about the life styles and amenities that the Home offers to veterans.

Before retirement, Tom trained pilots for 37 years. He started flying at the age of 14 and was instructing at the age of 17 from two-seaters through B-727, helicopters and gliders. He served in the U.S. Army from 1966-1968 on the White House Detail.

Tom and his wife, Gail, have two sons. One is a senior in high school and the other is a sophomore in College. His wife is a Graduate Student Advisor at the University of California Santa Barbara. She will be retiring in about four years and is looking forward to joining her husband at the Veterans Home.

The California Department of Veterans Affairs operates the Veterans Home of California with campuses at Yountville, in Napa County; Barstow, in San Bernardino County; and Chula Vista in San Diego County. The CDVA is in the process of building five new Veterans Homes in West Los Angeles, Lancaster, Saticoy, Fresno and Redding.



January Menu

Swiss Steak

Mashed Potatoes and Gravy
Old Fashioned String Beans
Salad

Bread and Butter
Coffee and Dessert

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

Don't forget to Call before Monday January 12th

Fred Gotthardt - 797-4592 or Manual Silva - 793-2705 or Arnold Mozzetti - 797-2127



Branch 59

Officers

Big Sir

Tom Sherba
(510) 793-3217

Little Sir

Howard Thompson
(510) 656-6132

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

Herb Epstein
Don Henry
George Hubach
Bill Leake
Chris Lemler
Frank Thomas

Branch 59

Meets at Swiss Park
5911 Mowry Avenue
Newark

on the 3rd Thursday of
each month

10:15AM

Executive Board Meeting

11AM Social Hour

12 Noon Lunch

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



Edited Excerpts from the November Minutes of Sir Al Wydler

The Meeting was called to order at 10:20 am. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Roll Call showed 5 Officers and 4 Directors to be present. The minutes of the October meeting were approved.

Big Sir Don Henry indicated that we have several surplus items available at low cost to any interested club or group. Two Polaroid cameras will be given as prizes at the Christmas Party. He also announced that former Director, Guy Whitener, is moving to Lincoln, CA. Dave Marymee and his associates were praised for their tireless effort visiting the sick or disabled members. Don also commented that special interest groups, who reserve a block of seats, create gaps in the seating. Several good suggestions were made such as selling lunch tickets earlier and using them as place markers, to have these groups not leave spaces, or for late arrivers to simply be seated and introduce themselves - no action was taken.

Sir Fred Gotthardt expects attendance today to be 220 plus 3 guests. He also reminds us of the Cybergeezers meeting Monday 24th of November.

Sir Ed Bingle reports 2 new members, 4 inactive and presented a list of 8 who failed to meet our requirements and recommended their termination. Motion was made seconded and approved.

Sir Nat Lord posted a notice of a Game Between the A's and Pacific Coast League, also advised he has tickets for a SIR sponsored Warrior game April 18.

Sir Art Winkley has 17 Birthday Celebrations today ranging from 85 to 57 years, including our Assistant Treasurer Fred Stabell.

Sir Dave Dunlap recognized 2 bowling winners at Brentwood, a tournament December 7 at San Mateo and on behalf of Bob Leake, that Golf dues of \$26 are due now.

Sir Drag Dutina requests that copies of documents of all important events be submitted to him as Historian.

Sir John Skarpelos announced that December 26 is the deadline for January Pathfinder.

Sir Bob Edwards has thirty table centerpieces and has a "Mystery" door prize for the Christmas Party.

Sir Frank Thomas has new baskets for the Badge collections and requests help for today.

Sir Bob Benya expressed thanks to those helping with the Holiday Luncheon party.

Sir Frank Campos announced that he plans to sing God Bless America and Old Man River today.

Governor Bob Beam spoke of his visit to Italy. He would like someone from our branch to replace him as governor. Having a computer is desirable. He expects a merger between Branch 126 and Branch 72 due to their small size.

Adjourned at 11:07 am. Respectfully
Submitted, Alfred Wydler, Secretary

Don Henry's Last Hurrah

Dear Fellow Sirs, (one last message)

Seems like when someone does a good job it is seldom noticed. I just want to assure the membership that my fellow elective officers and directors for 2003 did an outstanding job. You can be as proud of them as they were proud to serve you. The secretary and treasurer are skill positions that take time and effort to learn; and the fact that they stay on the job for multiple years adds a great deal of efficiency to the job and made my job a lot easier. Lou Bufkin and Drag Dutina have been on the job for as long as I can remember and I appreciate their polish. My thanks to all 11 of you gentlemen and best wishes to Tom and Howard and the staff of "04".

Lastly, a big thank you to Bob Benya and his social committee and the Swiss Park staff for a really great Holiday Party. Members and wives are telling me it is the best we've had in a very long time. I concur.

Past Big Sir, Don Henry

October Financial Report by Lou Bufkin



The month of October started with a checkbook balance of \$3764.20. General fund receipts totaled \$372.82. General fund disbursements totaled \$512.95. They included printing, postage, rent and payment of State Board Assessment. Ending checkbook balance was \$3524.07.

MEMBERSHIP, ATTENDANCE and BIRTHDAY NEWS

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

New Members

No new members in
November 2003

WANTED
New SIR Members



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

New Area 8 Governor

Anonymous sources have indicated that Bob Beam was successful in resigning as Area 8 Governor. We are probably going to start out the New Year with a new Governor, alleged to be Bob Lippincott who is coming out of retirement.

Members of Seven Hills Branch 126 will combine with Castro Valley Branch 72. Both branches are in Castro Valley.

Apparently Area 28 will cease to exist since Area Governor Ken Grace has also resigned.

Area 8 will now consist of Chabot Branch 6, Hesperian Branch 26, Pathfinder Branch 59, Isle City Branch 60, and Castro Valley Branch 72.

This change will require the formal approval of the State Board at their meeting on Tuesday, January 13, 2004.

Attendance Report

(For 11/20/2003)

Members	194
Guests	5
Visitors	0
Speakers	1
Total =	200

40 excused 43 unexcused

Membership Report

Guests:	Guest of:
Dave Allen	Jack Lindley
John O'Conner	Herb Epstein
John Randall	Charles Wilkins
Roger Ripp	Les Addison
Paul Tong	Ralph Knight

Visitors:	Guest of:
None	

Membership Total

(as of 11/20/2003)

272 - Active Members
17 - Inactive Members

Change of Status:

Joseph Faria	Resigned from Inactive
William Lee	Resigned from Inactive
Carl Swanson	Resigned from Inactive
Harry Citron	Transfer to Inactive
Rudy Girardelli	Transfer to Inactive
Herb Risser	Transfer to Inactive
Robert Compton	Transfer to Inactive
Alfred Grasseschi	Resigned
Raymond Baker	Dropped for Cause
Darrell Lafond	Dropped for Cause
Duane Moran	Dropped for Cause
Joseph Videtich	Dropped for Cause



December Birthdays

Elwood Weitmann	12/10/1916	87
Glenn Hursey	12/08/1917	86
Ed Myslewski	12/24/1917	86
Glenn Jacob	12/06/1919	84
Louis Capito	12/17/1921	82
Robert Ralston	12/10/1922	81
William Johnson	12/25/1923	80
Gordon Thatcher	12/18/1924	79
William Miles	12/14/1927	76
Harry Meyer	12/21/1927	76
Robert Walter	12/31/1929	74
Edison Schrader	12/01/1930	73
Donald Tinsley	12/27/1930	73
Richard Paynter	12/03/1931	72
Frank Birge	12/11/1931	72
Les Addison	12/17/1931	72
Tom Sullivan	12/16/1932	71
Milton Rose	12/03/1933	70
Charles Swanson	12/21/1933	70
Wayne Adams	12/21/1933	70
Lee Hylton	12/25/1933	70
John Shaffer	12/21/1934	69
Jim Bridges	12/09/1936	67
Melvin Reiley	12/10/1938	65
Darryl Moore	12/31/1938	65
Dennis Rudy	12/07/1939	64
Bob Delp	12/07/1940	63
Frank Cordova	12/18/1940	63
Richard Anderson	12/16/1944	59



January Birthdays

George Rodrigues	01/07/1913	91
Stanley James	01/13/1922	82
Raymond Carlson	01/19/1922	82
Edward Pierick	01/19/1922	82
John Ford	01/23/1924	80
Melvin Nunes	01/13/1925	79
Ernest Burkholder	01/27/1926	78
Walt Oden	01/13/1927	77
John Kennedy	01/18/1927	77
John Sommer	01/23/1927	77
Richard Holmes	01/22/1929	75
Leland Mosley	01/08/1930	74
John Cordeniz	01/26/1930	74
Albert Costa	01/13/1933	71
Martin Spellman	01/17/1933	71
Tony Martinez	01/26/1935	69
Kenneth Rasler	01/21/1937	67

SIR BRANCH 59 ACTIVITIES



Strikes and Spares

by Dave Dunlap

November

	High Game	High Series
Wayne Adams	170	391
Frank Cordova	230	618
Al Costa	164	449
Rollin Cunningham	194	512
Dave Dunlap	174	446
Ray Erickson	188	517
Ray Faria	203	507
Don Henry	236	552
Roy Johnson	170	467
Nat Lord	201	559
Carl Tolle	167	460
Art Winkley	203	498

December

	High Game	High Series
Wayne Adams	188	505
Gary Bennett	194	461
Frank Cordova	244	621
Al Costa	199	461
Rollin Cunningham	173	489
Dave Dunlap	151	425
Ray Erickson	219	605
Don Henry	212	532
Roy Johnson	174	436
Nat Lord	210	570
Carl Tolle	187	492
Art Winkley	204	516

We attended a Tournament in Brentwood, and Gary Bennett finished sixth place in the singles and received about \$32 for his effort.

Ray Erickson, received \$15 for his eighth place finish in the singles at the Tournament in San Rafael.

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

BRIDGE GROUPS

We have four bridge groups: Three of them are evening two table groups and each meets monthly. The 4th bridge group welcomes all members and meets after the monthly meeting.

Drag Dutina - 657-1037.



Sports by Nat Lord

The San Francisco Giants play the San Diego Padres. Thursday July 22nd 12:35 pm. Tickets available \$34 Lower Box, \$19 View Reserve Seat, or \$16 Bleacher Left Field.

See **Nat Lord** at the January luncheon meeting or call him at **(510) 797-1704**.

Golf Notes

by Bill Leake

RESULTS

Poppy Hills – Championship Round – Dave Tanner (first in flight) and Tom Sherba (second in flight)

Poppy Hills – Day 2 – Darryl Moore (4th place in flight), Dave Priego (4th place in flight) and Gerry Desmond (5th place in flight).



Mexico – Scramble format — Week 1 – Gary Callahan (first place in flight and closest to pin, day 3); Bill Leake (6th place in flight, day 2)

Congratulations to all the winners.

Membership – Dues period over. Dues will be paid to NCGA in 1-2 weeks.

Thank you very Much! Thanks to those who called in tee times. Gerry Desmond (every Monday, as always), Bill Pereira (November) and Richard Holley (December). Thank you Ben Fernandez for calling in for January. Like to play golf?? Call in tee times – 793-6561 for details.

Upcoming events – 2nd week in January = Happy New Year kickoff; Mid-March or Mid-April = Manteca; March 22 & 29 = Las Vegas; April 18-23 = San Diego; June 7 & 21 = Reno (2 sessions); September = Solvang; November = golf cruise (11 days) x 2 sessions. Entry Sheets? Call Bill Leake or go to web www.sirinc.org / activities / golf / golf forms. Events listed there.

Happy New Year **Bill Leake**

THE CYBERGEEZERS

Will meet Monday, January 26th, at 2PM 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

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.

READERS AND BROWERS

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



SUNSHINE CHAIRMAN SIR DAVE MARYMEE REPORTS

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

RAYMOND ANDRADE seems to have recovered from double-bypass surgery performed in September. Ray says he is over the hump. We are glad you are doing well, Ray.

DAN ARCHER came home December 15th, after a stay in Kaiser Hospital. Dan says he had a seizure due to poor circulation to the brain. Glad you are home Dan; enjoy the holidays.

BOB DEBELAK says he has an ailing right leg. Chiropractic treatment helped, but he is now undergoing water therapy treatment. Bob also contends with dialysis three times weekly. You do have a busy treatment schedule, Bob. Good luck.

RAY FARIA is recovering from a bout with Pneumonia. Ray entered the hospital for a week early in December. Ray is now on oxygen and contends with diabetes. We wish the best for you, Ray.

JOSEPH FARIA's wife, Clara, says Joe is recovering slowly but surely from previous accidents. Joe's latest accident is a fall that injured his left arm and shoulder. After medical treatment Joe is undertaking therapy to determine if there are broken bones involved. We presume Joe, who is 90 years old, is too young to use a walker. Joke aside, we hope you get well and have no more accidents, Joe.

EDWARD FRASIER and his wife Laura were saddened by the death of their 52-year old son, Steven from Lou Gehrig's disease. We at SIR extend our sympathy to Edward and Laura and their family.

RAY JARVIS continues to reside at Fremont Care Center on Country Drive. Ray is bedfast but likes visitors. Bring him a book, Ray likes to read.

SAL MARKS left Fremont Health Care Center to reside in an assisted care facility. We have been unable to determine the location of the new facility. If anyone has knowledge of where Sal is located, please call Dave Marymee at 793-1354.

HERBERT MULLEREILE says he was hospitalized the latter

part of October for heart problems. This resulted in the placement of two stents. Herb says he will miss the Christmas luncheon as he is traveling to Clear Lake to help his daughter and her husband celebrate their 25th anniversary. Herb is traveling on as he plans to make his three-month annual stay in Baja California, Mexico. Lucky traveler!

GEORGE PAGAN is being treated for prostate cancer by cobalt therapy. Previous chemotherapy treatment brought on a heart attack and a stay in the hospital. Hope you continue to improve George.

BEN SMITH's wife, Norma, reports Ben is doing ok. They did not attend the SIR Christmas luncheon because Ben's handicap prevents him from sitting long periods of time. See you at the January luncheon, Ben.

FRANK SMITH says he is doing ok. Frank is being treated for stomach cancer. His latest medication is a drug that limits secretion of stomach acid. Frank was scheduled for a biopsy of the stomach in mid December. Good luck, Frank, we hope the treatment is successful.

CHARLIE SWANSON, Assistant Sunshine Chairman, says he feels he must resign from the Sunshine Committee due to cardiac health problems. We will miss Charlie and wish to thank him for service on the Sunshine Committee. Charlie plans to attend SIR luncheons as he is able.

BOB WALTER and **DARELD YOUNCKER** have agreed to serve as assistants on the Sunshine Committee. We welcome them.

JACK WEBB and his wife, Lisa, missed the Christmas luncheon as Lisa is not well. Jack plans to attend the SIR January luncheon if we shut off the rain. We hope to see you in January, Jack.



Travel for Area 8

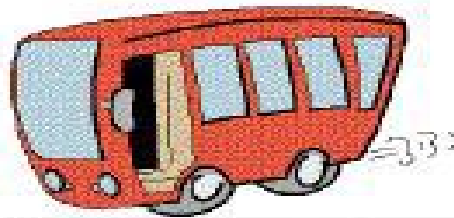
by Emile Lassalle

To our fellow Sirs of Branch 59 - 2004 is going to be a very exciting year for travel as many fine trips have been arranged for our branch and we invite you to join us in the fun.

On January 23rd we head to Jackson Rancheria for a day of gaming. We have arranged for 2 buses and have 92 people and both buses are sold out. (If interested, call the escort, Sir Frank Cerruti at **510-568-8361** to see if there are any cancellations.)

Do you like mysteries? We have a MYSTERY BUS TRIP on February 18th and only the bus driver and I know where we are going. These trips are always loads of fun and sell out fast, so if you would like to join the fun, call Sir Robbie Robinson at **925-447-5653**.

March 29-30th at the Reno Hilton you will be able to see the DEBBIE REYNOLDS SHOW, do your gambling and get a bonus package of \$29.00, all for \$102.00 per person (double occupancy). A few seats still available, call escort Emile Lassalle at **510-538-7463**.



April 20-25th is our first big trip for the New Year. THE RAMONA PAGENT AND PALM SPRINGS FOLLIES. At Palm Springs you will travel by tram to the top of the mountain for a hosted dinner and a spectacular view. You will visit Descanso Gardens to see all the beautiful flowers and plants that are in bloom at this time of the year. Then on to your elegant evening at Ben Bollinger's Candlelight Dinner Theatre. The following day you will see the Ramona Pageant and later that evening you will go to a hosted chuck wagon BBQ. There is much more but please read the flyer for more information, and call Escort Sir Robbie Robinson at **925-447-5653**.

Emile Lassalle, Travel Chairman, Branch 26

PATHFINDER BRANCH NO. 59

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

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Committee Chairmen and Assistants

ATTENDANCE

Fred Gotthardt - **Chairman**
Manuel Silva - Assistant
Arnold Mozzetti - Assistant
Alan Douglass - Assistant
Hugh Twomey - Assistant

BIRTHDAYS

Art Winkley - **Chairman**
Roger Aubin - Assistant

BOWLING

Dave Dunlap - **Chairman**
Rollin Cunningham - Assistant

BRIDGE

Drag Dutina - **Chairman**
Lee Hylton - Assistant

CAPS & EMBLEMS

Bob Edwards

CIRCULATION

Bill Briscoe - **Chairman**
Art Shiffrar - Assistant

CYBERGEEZERS

Fred Gotthardt

EDITOR PATHFINDER

John Skarpelos
Fred Gotthardt - Assistant

GOLF

Bill Leake - **Chairman**
Gerry Desmond - Assistant
Darryl Moore - Assistant

HISTORIAN

Drag Dutina

GREETERS

Bruno Orsetti - **Chairman**
Joe Faria - Assistant

LIBRARIAN

Bob Matthies - **Chairman**
Wayne Adams - Assistant

MEMBERSHIP

Ed Bingle - **Chairman**
Bob Ralston - Assistant

ROSTER

John Skarpelos - **Chairman**
Fred Gotthardt - Assistant

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS

Frank Thomas

SOCIAL

Dave Tanner - **Chairman**
Lee Hylton - Assistant
Nat Lord - Assistant

Tony Martinez - Assistant

Tony Zeuli - Assistant

SONG LEADER

Frank Campos

SPORTS

Nat Lord

SUNSHINE

Dave Marymee - **Chairman**
Bob Walter - Assistant
Dareld Younker - Assistant

WALKING GROUP

Don Henry

STATE OFFICERS

State President

Donald O. Schumacher

State Vice-President

James V. Musci

State Secretary

Langley Erickson

State Treasurer

James D. Long

Director, Region 6

Daniel B. Gilmore

Governor, Area 8

Robert Lippincott

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
2003 Don Henry
*(deceased)

PATHFINDER DEADLINE

The next issue of the
Pathfinder will be in
February and the copy
deadline will be Friday,
January 23, 2004.