

Sons In Retirement Gold Country Branch 95 Twentieth Anniversary 2001

Officers

Big SIR: Al Knight
Little SIR: Harry Shirley
Secretary: Stewart Messenger
Assistant Secretary: Al Lohrman
Treasurer: Gerald Nester
Assistant Treasurer: Jim January

Directors

Hal Anderson
Ray Cormier
Jack Reynolds
Steve Thompson
Bob Carlquist
Tom Trafzer



PAST BIG SIRs:

1981 George Corneveaux
1982 Al Kaiser
1983 Bob Livesay
1984 Bob Silva
1985 Pierce Powers
1986 Earl Sanders*
1987 Al Waterman*
1988 C.E. Macbeth
1989 Bob Moen
1990 Scott Templeton

1991 Ernie Thomas**
1992 Glen Ansted
1993 Bill Peterson
1994 Bill Lamayeau
1995 Pat Restaino
1996 Howard Kastan
1997 Al Knight
1998 Hal Anderson
1999 Jack Reynolds
2000 Jim January
2001 George Calvert & Al Knight

*Awarded a SIR Branch 95 Medal of Honor

**Awarded a SIR State Honorary Life Membership

FORWARD

I wish to write a few of my personal reflections on the years I have spent with the SIR organization. I have known many of the people that formed our club and I have the greatest respect for their efforts. I have known them as friends along with all the other guys that I've been involved with over the past ten years. Of all the groups I've been associated with, none could ever match the friendships that I now have and with those who are no longer with us. For me, it has been a wonderful ten years, and I am looking forward to another ten!

— *Harry Shirley*
Little SIR

OUR BRANCH HISTORY

SIR Gold Country Branch No. 95 was formed in March, 1981. The branch was sponsored by Branch 70 in Placerville and the first luncheon meeting was held at Blackwell's Restaurant in Cameron Park. George Corneveaux was chosen Big SIR at that meeting. The first luncheon was attended by 53 seniors and with help from the Branch 70 Big SIR, the branch was officially formed. The same month, the executive committee selected "Gold Country" as the official branch name. Gold Country Branch No. 95 grew rapidly to 100 members, and on the second Monday of December, Branch 95 was officially chartered by the state officials. Because of its growth, the club was forced to move to a new location for meetings. The Depot in Shingle Springs was selected and meetings were held there until December 1982, when the restaurant was destroyed by fire. The club moved to the Rescue Community Center, meeting there until February 1988 when we moved to the Elks Club in Folsom, our current meeting site. Betty of Rescue Catering served our lunches at the community center for 16 years, until our move to Folsom. We have thanked her many times for her help.

During the first five years, the second Monday of each month was set as the regular meeting day, and a number of special events were established, including an annual Ladies Day Picnic and a Christmas celebration. During those years, club members who contributed greatly to our success were George Corneveaux, Les Fimrite, Al Kaiser (club historian for many years), Bob Livesay, Earl Sanders and Al Waterman, all past Big SIRs.

During the next ten years, from 1985 to 1995, we followed all of the meeting dates and special events established in the first five years. At our regular meeting, social hour was set at 11 a.m. and the bar opened at that time. Drinks were very inexpensive and by meeting time, 12 noon, most jokes had been told or retold. Great times!

Earl Sanders, Scott Templeton, Bob Moen and Al Waterman served as Big SIRs and in various other capacities during the period 1985 to 1990. Golf, bowling and travel programs continued to flourish and grow during those years. In 1990, we honored first Big SIR George Corneveaux by a resolution of the board of directors, and presented him a copy of the resolution along with a wall plaque reflecting badge No. 1, which was retired. George moved to Arizona during that year. Because of the increasing size of the club, Hal Rasmussen was asked to check into the feasibility of splitting off part of our membership to a new branch at El Dorado Hills. The split off was accomplished in 1992 and Hal was chosen as it's first Big SIR. Membership in the club has varied over the years, with its all-time high 145 in 1991. Because of the split off to El Dorado Hills, the limit was reduced to 130 and it remains so today.

The annual Ladies Day Picnic has been held at the High Hills Ranch since inception, and for a number of years cooking was done by our members. We now use the Back Forty Restaurant to provide our meals for us. They do an excellent job! Our Christmas celebration

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has been held at various locations, including the Placerville Elks, Cold Springs Country Club, Mather Officers Club, Cameron Park Country Club, and now at the Folsom Elks. All of these events were well attended and are the highlights of the year.

The golf program took a big leap during the early 1990s. Harry Shirley had just taken over the branch golf program when Virgil Prine became ill. Virgil was area 19 golf chairman and Harry took over in his stead. Kip Klopp replaced Harry as golf chairman, and during the next two years the number of golfers increased from 12 to 60. Golf play was increased from once a month to at least once a week. In addition, Ray Cormier has set up play weekly at Diamond Oaks for a number of years. Area tournaments were held three times each year, including the state qualifying tournament. Our branch, along with the Lake Tahoe SIRs, are the largest golfing branches in Area No. 19. State tournaments have been held in Las Vegas and Reno for a number of years and many of our golfers have participated, some with great success! Each year, a group of our golfers participates in a golf outing at Fall River Mills. We talk about the good times when they all sober up! We have had a number of people serve as golf chairman over the years. It is a very difficult job and we need to thank them all. They are: Kip Klopp, Harry Shirley, Tom Trafzer (current chairman), Al Weinstock, Dick Lewellyn and Lon Titsworth.

During the period from 1991 to 1995, Ernie Thomas, Glen Ansted, Bill Peterson, Bill Lamayeau and Pat Restaino served as Big SIRs, and in other capacities as well. In 1991, we celebrated our tenth anniversary at the El Dorado Hills Community Center. Al Kaiser, who had been club historian for several years, presented the history beautifully!

Our history books, which are maintained monthly and bound annually, have been maintained by the club historians. For those who have never seen them, they are often presented at our meetings and special functions. Read them! Bob Butts, who has been our historian for several years, has really worked hard and they are beautifully done. In 1993, Al Waterman was awarded the initial Branch No. 95 Medal of Honor for his outstanding services over a long period of time. In subsequent years, the award was presented for outstanding services to Angelo Varriale, Al Kaiser, and Earl Sanders. Ernie Thomas was presented with an Honorary Life Membership by SIR Regional Director Bob Rath. The SIR organization has no higher award!

The current five years, from 1996 to 2001, have been great years for our organization. We have continued with all of the great programs started by the chartered group and have added a computer club and an R.V. program. Our ladies have participated with us in our special events and, along with providing deserts at our picnic, have helped with table prizes at other events. We have been fortunate to have Earl and Lee Smith providing music at our picnic and Christmas parties. They are great friends to all of us and their dance band era music, featuring golden oldies, is special.

Recognition should be given to all the members who have given their time to the various other jobs necessary for our club. Attendance Chairman (currently held by Ron Waisner) requires a great deal of time determining attendance at our regular meetings and special events. He is helped by a number of callers. The Membership Chairman (currently held by Roger Benemellis) maintains our current roster, and he, along with Cecil Shelley, initiates new members into the club. He also keeps a record of the total membership, which he reports to the board on a monthly basis. Wayne Meyers has been our Chaplain since Rik Mydland retired. Rik was the Chaplain for 17 years. The club Historian and Photographer (currently manned by Bob Butts) maintains and binds into book form all monthly and annual events. At the end of each year he compiles a history for the state archives. Travel Chairman Ross Walters keeps us informed of future SIR travel events and also available tickets to special events in our area. Big SIRs who served during the five years were Al Knight, Hal Anderson, Jack Reynolds, Jim January, George Calvert/Al Knight.

We wish to thank all of those currently holding these positions as well as those who have served in the past. Many of our current Executive Committee and Board of Directors have served the club in different capacities over the years.

Again, we thank them all.

Finally, we wish to pay our respects to all Branch 95 SIR members who have passed away.

IN REMEMBRANCE

1981	Charles (Chuck) Shelton		Reggie Look
1982	Thomas P. White	1992	Florindo (Joe) Del Gizzi
	Al Howdyshell		Sarkis (Sarky) Katzakian
1983	Leo Audette	1993	Fred Bandy
	Stanley Headley		George Hoey
	Bill McCurry		Stephen LeGault
	Elmer Adams		Fred Vandegrift
1984	Chester Fischer		Al Waterman
	Russell Lauhead	1994	Victor (Vic) Johnson
	Edward Yonts	1995	Martin (Marty) Luther
1985	Jeter Petrotts	1996	Robert (Bob) Carlson
	Willie Sander		William R. Peterson
	James Smith		Ernest (Robi) Robinette
1986	John V. Abel	1997	Bruce Carpenter
	Halley H. Wing		Dale Church
1987	Robert DeVries		Vincent Norris
	James D. Trumbo		Cyrus Quinn
	Stephen J. Varriale	1999	Al Bower
1988	Victor Gray		Jim Gallier
	Grant M. McMicken		Pete Garren
	Rudi H. Willers		Rich McNeil
1989	John Bressen		Pat Restaino
	Jonnie E. Ertle	2000	Ken Fox
	Les Fimrite		Joe Morin
	Murrel Hartwig		Bob Murphy
	Mike Moreno		Virgil Prine
1990	Bob Karn	2001	Merlin Chardi
	Wayne Phelps		Ron Dallas
1991	Joe Barbeau		Glen Ansted
	Lou Hageman		

Anniversary Committee

Harry Shirley
 Bob Butt
 Al Knight
 Al Kaiser
 Jim January

Charter Year, 1981

First meeting: March 19, 1981
 First Big SIR: George Corneveaux
 First Bulletin: 3rd Quarter, 1981
 Charter Date: December 13, 1981