# THE KNOCKOUT II

The Pacific Grove High School Alumni Association Newsletter "It's the \*\* glue \*\* that keeps us together"

# March, 2017 ● Page One

# President's Message

Those of you distant from the Central Coast are probably hearing news about the record rains we have been experiencing in California. Pacific Grove hasn't floated away yet, but we have seen some high seas, downed trees, and some very soggy ground.



A five-foot piece of retaining wall broke away at the foot of Naiad Street (off Mermaid) in a recent storm. Even the yellow caution tape has since blown down. Photo by Beth Penney.

Phil Bowhay's funny column about telephones on P. 19 got me thinking about our dependence on modern conveniences, and it's nice to know we can still get by while Mother Nature is doing her thing. When the electricity goes out, many folks bemoan the loss of phone, heat, entertainment, and even hot food (no chargers, no wi-fi, no microwave), but not so in my house at 514 Park Street, where, when I bought it 30 years ago, I insisted on gas heat (with a mechanical thermostat not dependent on electricity), a gas stove (a lovely white 1950 Wedgewood that

still works perfectly), a gas water heater, and a fireplace. I haven't owned a television for 12 years, so I don't miss that, and I'm probably the last person in the Class of '73 who doesn't have a cell phone. My landline phone works just fine in a power outage, thank you, although the answering machine won't pick up. Of course I can't do any Internet research for the newsletter, but I keep the MacBook Pro charged up and can type and format for several hours. Otherwise, I sit in front of the fire and read or crochet.

The Pacific Grove Public Library has two museum cases in the lobby that they keep filled with various residents' collections, and I am a frequent contributor. In April, in honor of Administrative Assistants, I will bring my "Vintage Office" collection, including my darling old black Smith Corona typewriter, with the "Floating" shift keys at the right and left of the keyboard. I can't type the newsletter on it, but I have been known, in a pinch, to type a handout on Sunday night for an 8:00 class on Monday when the power's out at home. Then I just hope the power is on at MPC, and I'll be able to photocopy.

Another wonderful Bowhay column on P. 14 recalls the old-fashioned "coolers" that used to jut out from kitchens in Pacific Grove. I remember such a small cooler in the house down the street at 306 Park, where I lived for six years (my family still owns that house and 302, next door).

Memories often lead from one thing to the next; we hope your memories will do the same, and that you will send them to us to share with other Pacific Grove High School alumni. This issue contains some wonderful memories within a number of long letters from alumni, a reminiscence of the Centrella Hotel originally published in the Feast of Lanterns Tabloid in the 1990s, and some other goodies. Enjoy, and stay dry!

Beth Genney '73



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#### The Knockout II Staff

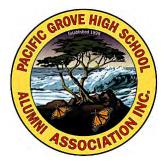
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The Knockout II, the Pacific Grove High School Alumni Association Newsletter, is published quarterly: Spring (March), Summer (June), Reunion Issue (September), and Winter (December).

Volume 31, Spring Issue

# The Pacific Grove High School Alumni Association, Inc.

A Not-for-Profit Public Benefit Corporation Founded June 2, 1899 Reactivated April 1, 1962 Incorporated September 27, 1995



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E-mail: info@pghsaa.org
Web site: http://www.pgusd.org/alumni
Membership dues (January 1-December 31):
\$20 per year, single or couple

For digital delivery (.PDF file via e-mail), e-mail joanie@pghsaa.org

#### **PGHSAA Officers**

Beth *Penney* '73, President Edie *Adams* McDonald '56, Vice-President Patty *Fifer* Kieffer '60, Recording Secretary Donna *Murphy* '79, Corresponding Secretary Erin *Langton* Field '71, Treasurer

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Serving through December 2017

Sherry Welsh Gruwell '56 Lillian Griffiths '70 Sheri Stillwell Hauswirth '71 Pete Hartstra '72 Cate Goblirsch Lee '94 Phil Nash '88 Ike Smith '61

#### Serving through December 2018

Les Field '72 Dolores *Soares* Silveira '59 Lupe *Villalpando* Dosda '68

#### Serving through December 2019

Faith Van Woerkom Beety '73 Marabee Rush Boone '60 Joanie Hyler '68 Bebo Parker Logan '63 Michele Sherwin Thomas '63

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Historian: Sydney Berg Tabler '64 Knockout II Editor: Beth Penney '73

Mail: Erin Langton Field '71 and Joanie Hyler '68

*Membership*: Wynette *Walker* Cowen '41 & Joanie *Hyler* '68

Nominations: Cate Goblirsch Lee '94

Parliamentarian: Faith Van Woerkom Beety '73

Publicity: Beth Penney '73

Reservations: Bebo Parker Logan '63 &

Michele Sherwin Thomas '63 Scholarships: Lillian Griffiths '70 Senior Class Liaison: Lillian Griffiths '70 Sunshine: Sherry Welsh Gruwell '56

Website: Wynette Walker Cowen '41, Joanie Hyler '68, Pete

Hartstra '72

#### **Important 2017 Dates**

The PGHSAA Board of Directors meets on the following dates in 2017: Mar. 9, Apr. 13, May 11, Jul. 13, Sept. 16, and Oct. 12. The September meeting is the General Membership Meeting and is at noon. All other meetings are at 6:30 p.m. Meetings are at the Pacific Grove Community Center unless announced otherwise. Our annual reunion is October 7.

A Friendly Welcome t	:0	3	Weaverville
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		IMO: Jack Ernst Camp	
Our New Member(s)		IMO: Richard "Dick"	
1960 Edward Spencer	Washington, IN	1953 Ben Mosley IMO: Daniel Edmond	Chauvet '53
Returning Member(s)		1954 Barbara <i>Tibbetts</i> Rus	
Glad to have you back!		IMO: Beverly Mae <i>Joh</i>	
1967 Wendy <i>Shudoma</i> Just	Grants Pass, OR	1956 Charles Houseman &	
1907 Welldy Shudoma Just	Orants Fass, OK	1960 Evelyn <i>Tracey</i> House	
"In Memory Of" Contribution	anc	IMO: Marian Carol <i>Ho</i>	
		1958 Bill Dorman	
Richard C. Baron & Family	_	IMO: John Carroll Dor	
IMO: Howard Messinger Ho Richmond & Cynthia <i>Casmero A</i>	_	1959 Alvina <i>Cipriano</i> Curi	
IMO: Donald James Casmero	•	IMO: David Lee Gaspe	
	Spokane, WA	1959 Betty <i>Bowman</i> Jackson David Lan Grand	
Gayle Crocker IMO: Raymond Frederick Cr		IMO: David Lee Gaspe	
David & Patricia Dormedy			
IMO: Howard Messinger Ho		1963 Lynn <i>Edwards</i> Hands IMO: John Carroll Dor	
Michael & Marianne Lubic	_	1960 Melanie <i>Davis</i>	Woodland Hills
IMO: Robert "Bob" Edward		IMO: Colleen Marie K	
	Pacific Grove	1961 Tom Scardina	•
IMO: Howard Messinger Ho		IMO: Robert "Bob" Ed	
Gerald & Glenna Wilfrey		1962 Margaret <i>Tuchsen</i> Sh	
IMO: Howard Messinger Ho		IMO: Ralph Miller Ma	
Judith Yessier	Santa Cruz	IMO: Janice Frances L	
IMO: Howard Messinger Ho		1965 Suzanne <i>Alvin</i>	Seaside
Marina & John Yurkovic	Monterey	IMO: John Henry Alvi	
IMO: Howard Messinger Ho	2	1965 Charlene <i>Howell</i> Lov	
1943 Maxine <i>Wilson</i> Hoag		IMO: Robert "Bob" Ed	2
IMO: Lloyd Albert Day '		IMO: Charles Howell 1	
1943 Dennis Lynn		1966 Patricia Oberst Ward	_
IMO: Howard Messinger Ho		IMO: William "Bill" F	<del>_</del>
1943 Jack Reynolds	Monterey	1967 Bill Lind	Monterey
IMO: Miriam "Jill" Harrima	n Reynolds '43	IMO: Robert "Bob" Ed	<u> </u>
1944 Richard Mills	Accokeek, MD	1967 Robert Scardina	Monterey
IMO: Donald C. Mills '39		IMO: Robert "Bob" Ed	lward Booker '67
1947 Art King	Palm Springs	1968 Joanie Hyler	Pacific Grove
IMO: Betty Jean Harrington	Downing '49	IMO: Howard Messing	ger Hodges '44
1947 Faye <i>Longley</i> Messinger	Carmel	IMO: Lillian "Sis" Kno	owles Nelson '42
IMO: Howard Messinger Ho	dges '44	1971 Karen Samora Mahar	ney-Low Atascadero
1948 Susan Moss McCall	Rockville, MD	IMO: Robert Patrick "I	Pat" Mahaney '71
IMO: John Meldon Moss '44		IMO: Linda <i>Smith</i> Mal	naney '75
1949 Joy <i>Riley</i> Fugitt	Pacific Grove	1970 Nicole <i>Mulé</i>	Hidden Valley Lake
IMO: David Arthur Fugitt '4		IMO: Elizabeth "Liz" J	_
IMO: Warren Henry Fugitt 'S		1971 Greg Mensik	Willows
1949 Ellen <i>Duarts</i> Kimbell	Austin, TX	IMO: Richard Chambe	-
IMO: Kathleen "Kathy" Alic	-	IMO: Betty Jean Harri	•
IMO: David Alden Concepci	on `54	3 1972 Miyo <i>Tanaka</i> Reff	San Diego

# **Donations (continued)**

IMO: Joanne Light Faculty

1975 Julie Hodges Dufault Houston, TX

IMO: Howard Messinger Hodges '44

1975 Mary Gaudoin Grove Fresno

IMO: Michael David Gaudoin '62

IMO: Mark Noel Gaudoin '75

1978 Donna Murphy Seaside

IMO: Howard Messinger Hodges '44

IMO: Lorraine Hodges

1982 DeDe Duncan Valenzuela Hollister

IMO: James "Pappy" Theodore Duncan '57

1982 Georgianne Sloan Checchi Pacific Grove

IMO: Billy Ray Sloan Faculty

IMO: Madelyn Ann Petrovich Sloan Faculty

#### Thanks To Our Recent Contributors

1942 Sheila Cochran McGuire	Monterey
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1942 Mary Len Cerney Wartenberg Pacific Grove

1947 Richard Baxter Redding

1948 Deede *Thompson* Landers Scotts Valley

1948 Sally *LaVine* Service Union City

1949 Joanne Christensen Peterson Pacific Grove

1951 Robert Schmeltz Green Valley, AZ

1953 Eileen Kidwell Bullen Tacoma, WA

Pleasanton

1953 Arthur Busby

1953 Charlie Higuera Pacific Grove 1953 Darold Sunkler Del Rey Oaks

1954 Richard Greilich Pleasanton

1956 Morris Fisher Pacific Grove

1957 Fred Lockhart Edmonds, WA

1958 Norman Kamp Meridian, ID

1959 Linda *Jarman* Pippin Bunn, NC 1959 Dottie Weston Roberson Monterey

1959 Stan Silva Union, ME

1961 Bruce Cardoza

Pacific Grove

1961 Tawana Rich Davis Salinas

Pacific Grove 1962 Roger Magyar

1963 Paula Fontana Buckman Del Rev Oaks

1963 Eric Johnson Santa Cruz

1965 Mary Shymanski Stornetta Arroyo Grande

1965 John Timar Salinas

1966 Larry Cram Bluffton, SC

Marina

1966 Judy Ravanelli Johnson Santa Cruz

1967 Linda Eads Briw Lincoln

1968 Larry Calhoun Salinas

1968 Linda *Heldt* Paganetti

1968 Bob Winter Gardnerville, NV **Knights Ferry** 1968 Tom Wright 1969 Stephen Paul Castroville

1970 Nicole Mulé Hidden Valley Lake

1971 Dennis Deis Pebble Beach

1971 Mary Ichiuji Santa Monica 1971 Leelyn Patton Paul Castroville

1972 Teri Fancher Calhoun Salinas 1972 Carol Henness Yates Marina

1973 Sheila Waldron Deis Pebble Beach 1974 Sandi Dix Eason Pebble Beach

#### Senior Support Fund (formerly the vearbook fund)

1946 Jim deLorimier	Pebble Beach
1947 Faye <i>Longley</i> Messinger	Carmel
1948 Rita <i>Hazeltine</i> deLorimier	Pebble Beach
1953 Rev. Don Flickinger	Los Banos
1959 Danny Aiello	Manteca
1959 Duane Ricks	Salinas
1960 Lorelei <i>Layne</i> Aiello	Manteca
1970 Susan Stillwell Derowski	Marina
1975 Bill Derowski	Marina
1976 Mike Kennada	Santa Clarita

#### DCUSAA Scholarchin Eund

Santa Monica
Pacific Grove
Lake Oswego, OR
gs Los Gatos
Poulsbo, WA
Santa Cruz
Santa Rosa
Monterey
Parker, CO
Tehachapi
Ballwin, MO
Pacific Grove
Pacific Grove
z Ventura
Wishon
Ventura
Oakton, VA
64
Columbia, MO
Pacific Grove

Mosier, OR

1968 Kim Kovalik

# **Donations (continued)**

Sierra Vista, AZ 1968 Danny Layne 1970 Kathy Shirley Hunter Pacific Grove 1970 Maryann Ragland Schrum Cisne, IL 1974 Cheri Fisher Schmidt Hollister 1989 Ed DaSilva San Jose

#### Nelson William "Bill" Hyler '39 **Scholarship Fund**

1964 Gail Hyler Redding 1968 Joanie Hyler Pacific Grove

#### Olive *Dean* Hyler '40 Scholarship Fund

1964 Gail Hyler Redding 1968 Joanie Hyler Pacific Grove

## Cynthia Alma Peña '75 Scholarship Fund

1973 Velma *Peña* Cummins San Carlos

# Thanks to Our Many **Contributors**

Contribution amounts are always kept confidential from the general membership, and contribution amounts made In Memory Of (IMO) are not disclosed to the deceased member's family, although names and addresses of donors can be furnished to family members on request. Keeping your contribution amount confidential does not preclude us from honoring your gift. We enjoy recognizing each member whose giving enables our mission to remain a viable funding source for future generations. Also, although we may publish only a single contributor's name, we understand there is often an entire family represented in the contribution. We are incredibly grateful for your generosity to the Alumni Association, and by extension to Pacific Grove High School and its students. Please accept our deepest thanks!

And, see the announcement on P. 8 of the renaming of the Yearbook Fund to the Senior Support Fund!



#### Letters

Dear Joanie:

I'm a bit dismayed by the lack of response and knowledge about PG High's Premiere Barbershop Quartet ("Who Is It?", September 2016)! Yes, Bill Gammons was one of the members, but the foursome was anchored by the lead singer, yours truly, Jim Huffman '67, first tenor Frank Troia '67, and our bass singer, whose name escapes me. Frank and I sang in the group all four years after it was formed by choir teacher Morris Dill. We toured around the Peninsula singing two or three gigs per month! We soon traded in our "bus driver" hats and vests for a more snazzy outfit of red-and-white striped jackets and dashing straw hats. It was fun to see the picture in the *Knockout II*. Thanks for the memories!

> Jim Huffman '67 Seal Beach, CA

Dear Joanie and Beth,

Hi all—happy 2017! All is well in Scotts Valley—hope you are too. Thanks for your work! Deede Thompson Landers '48 Scotts Valley, CA

Hi Beth,

Wishing you and yours a happy holiday. Small scholarship donation (my favorite for PGHS). All is fine here in Ballwin, MO. Snow on the ground. Wish I were walking along P.G. beach.

> Take care, Jon K. Olivetti '56 Ballwin, MO

Joanie and Beth:

Thank you all for all the work you do on our Knockout II newsletter. It's always a joy to read articles and keep up with our fellow classmates. Wishing all a very blessed Merry Christmas.

> Mary Ellen Styhl Mathias '56 Hot Springs Village, AR

Hello Joanie,

I am enclosing my membership check of \$20 with this note. As far as I can tell, it should cover January 1 to December 31 of 2017. After addressing

## Letters (continued)

this to you, I thought perhaps it should have been sent to the treasurer. Even with my strongest magnifier, I wasn't able to find specific information regarding to whom payment should be sent. Joanie, I do hope you can read this. My brain tells me what I'm writing but my eyes can't see what I've written. Thank you for getting the dues to the right place.

Thanks again, Darlene Head Boardman '52 Charleston, SC

Editor's note: We're a small operation! Joanie Hyler '68 and Erin Langton Field '72 are our official Mail Coordinators, which means one of them picks up the mail at the P.G Post Office. Checks go to Erin, our Treasurer; membership paperwork goes to Joanie, our Membership Chair; and letters to the editor come to me. Our "in boxes" generally take the shape of envelopes stuck under doormats, which, I'm happy to say, is still perfectly safe to do in Pacific Grove. So, as long as you are addressing it to the P.O. Box on the masthead (and it doesn't go astray in the P.O.), it will get to the right person!

Dear Joanie,

Hi—hope you are well since last we talked. Missed reunion—Lee has some memory loss. Have caregiver four days and I do three days. Have friend who is updating yard/patio/fence so Lee can enjoy the outside—a 20' flagpole in front yard and patio with bench there. Plants are drought-tolerant, hydrangeas, ferns, and succulents, sand from Russian River and new redwood fence. Lee is soon to be 95 years, a veteran of WWII and Korea. Wishing you good health.

Sincerely, Marilynn Smith Crawford '50 Santa Rosa, CA

Hi, Joanie!

Enclosed you will find my Alumni dues for two years. I really enjoy the *Knockout II* and share it also.

Thanks, Alma Page Sullivan '52 Houma, LA Dear Joanie Hyler,

I received a copy of the *Knockout II* from the president of the Class of '60 along with a plea to bring my dues up to date. Since I have never been a member, and didn't even know the Alumni Assn. existed, I assumed this was just sent out to all the people who belonged to the class of '60. Anyway, I read the *Knockout II a*nd enjoyed a number of articles in it, and decided I needed to join. Enclosed find a check for \$20. I went to Pacific Grove schools from kindergarten. I especially enjoyed the history articles and the downtown stores nostalgia article. I did, however, have to disagree with the young lady who said, "We didn't think about rich or poor." Baloney! My father was a carpenter, and that meant (to the rich kids driving daddy's car) that I was beneath them, and not someone they wished to associate with. Then there were the football players and the cheerleaders. Most of them felt the same way. There were some notable exceptions, but they were rare. It didn't make any difference that dad taught the apprenticeship carpenter course, or that almost all of his graduates went on to be contractors; or that when he quit teaching (at night) that the Monterey school district wanted to hire him to teach math during the day. Enough of that. One never forgets the place where he or she spent his youth and grew to man/womanhood.

> Edward S. Spencer '60 Washington, IN

P.S. I'm putting a rare imperforate stamp on the envelope if you know any stamp collectors. Why rare? Because you have to cut them up yourself and they are almost impossible to get the back off of them.



P.P.S. Tell me about other contributions to the alum.

Editor's note: We all have good—and bad—youthful memories! One of the wonderful things I have found about the Alumni Association and its ability to put people in touch and keep people in touch in later years is that people I may have perceived to be haughty, distant, and, yes, even 6 unpleasant, when I was younger have turned out to

## **Letters** (continued)

be nothing of the sort, and what we share now are both high school and positive adult memories. They say there are no "do-overs" in life, but I'm not so sure. Does anyone want the stamp, a Western Tanager, pictured above? It arrived uncancelled, as many do these computerized days. First come, first served. Otherwise, I have a stamp collection that I hope to return to when I retire, so it will go there if no one claims it. Thanks, Edward, for your membership, and the stamp!

#### Dear Beth,

In regards to the December "Who Is It?", sorry I'm not computer literate. If the year was fall of 1944, the young man in the picture could have been Paul Berwick (his stepfather was our milkman). After 1944 graduation, he went into either the V5 or V12 (the one for submarine officers) at USC. At that time he took his real last name, Trejo. After service in the Navy, he taught electronics at Foothill College with someone I knew until he retired. I always enjoy my classmate Phil Bowhay's articles. Although our memories sometimes differ. Phil, I don't think, attended the last class reunion, just after Don Gasperson died. I keep busy as the volunteer boss of Saratoga's Book-Go-Round sorting room.

Happy New Year, Cathy de la Rosa Foscato '47 Monte Sereno, CA

Beth Penney,

Hi, I noticed in the December *Knockout II* that you would like the names of the people on the back page. My opinion is Gene Johnson, Paul Berwick, and Alice McCloud. I hope I'm right.

Happy New Year, Don Ruble '44 Pacific Grove

Editor's note: Cathy and Don are both correct! See Paul Berwick Trejo's letter on P. 20.

Dear Joanie.

I know you mainly print only stories relating to P.G. or the high school, but perhaps you'll consider this true story that happened to my wife and her sister. Ann and I live in the small town of Union,

Maine, her sister Sue out in the Finger Lake area of upstate New York. Their mother passed away a few years ago, and the girls decided to meet in their old hometown of Wenham, Mass. A remembrance on their mother's birthday. They called and made reservations at a small B&B, and each drove and met there. There were only two other ladies there—a mother and daughter from Ohio. They met at breakfast and talked. The two ladies from Ohio were there to locate a pond that was named after a great great uncle who had lived there, and one of them said he had come from England in 1630 aboard a certain ship. Ann is into her families' heritage, and the ship sounded familiar, and they laughed about it. When the trip was over. Ann looked in her records, and she found the name of the same ship—not only that, but she had a copy of the passenger list. It listed the name of her great grandfather and these ladies' relatives! What are the odds of Ann and her sister meeting these ladies from Ohio as the only other guests at a small B&B in Massachusetts, and both of them having relatives who had been on the same boat in 1630? (I apologize—I don't know if it was a great great or a great great grandfather.) Since becoming a Christian 20+ years ago, I have had so many strange and unusual things happen—this time it was my wife Ann.

Thank you, Stan Silva '59 Union, ME

Hi Beth,

A small correction on the date of opening of the Grove Theater. I was a frequent visitor all through the thirties and some forties. I have a post card photo of it dated 1936. Lived here since 1925 but don't know when it opened. Just for the record.

Best wishes, Dick Gamble '39 Pacific Grove, CA

Hi Beth,

They say, that in a small group, there is always a critic among them. Here he is—on P. 8 of the December issue of the *Knockout II*, there is a picture of the Grove Theater with a caption stating, "The opening of the Grove Theater, 1953." Having attended the theater during my high school days of 1942-1946, it was there much earlier, so I have a

# **Letters (continued)**

bone to pick with that date. I won a Keno-type game there and was refused the prize because I was underage! I would also like to register a position on the possible cancellation of the yearly Brunch. I especially like that get—together, which facilitates visits with other graduates near my age. As I have gotten older, I do not like the music and "noise" of the dinner, which eclipses any possibility of visiting, and would like the brunch to continue for those of us with "senior attitudes." I appreciate greatly your efforts and valuable time spent in keeping us informed through the *Knockout II*.

Sincerely, Stan Harlan '46 Monterey, CA

Editor's note: Thanks, Dick and Stan! The critics are always welcome here. The photo that came into our hands had an accompanying annotation saying that it was of the "opening of the Grove Theater, 1953." Maybe the grand opening of the film on the marquee? Maybe a re-opening after a remodel or update of the theater? Anyone remember?

Editor, Knockout II:

Surprise! Surprise! Tom Hoy and Nancy *Williams*, both class of '55, are a couple again. Having gone to Pacific Grove schools together since the first grade, graduated from Pacific Grove High School and then gone their separate ways, married others, raised families, and experienced the death of spouses, they re-met in a series of providential events in November 2016, finding the flame still bright. By the time you read this, they will have been married and are now living in Tom's home in Turlock. So please change the names and address on the mailing list! Truth really is better than fiction, and lots more fun. Thanks for your great work on the *Knockout II*.

Nancy Williams Burton Hoy '55 Hugh Thomas Hoy '55 Turlock, CA

Hi Joanie,

Thanks for your quick reply to my uncertain understanding of how the PGHSAA membership roster works. I will make a note to make another

five-year membership payment toward the end of 2017. You might be interested to know that Erik Johnson '63, who was selected for the PGHS Hall of Fame in 2016, recently completed a 100-km trek in the Himalayas. Erik did a 12-day trek that took him to Gokyo Lakes and then up Gokyo Ri to an altitude of 5,380 meters (around 17,500 ft.). Erik is also raising funds for the re-building of a Himalayan village school in the Gorkha region of Nepal. The village of Chisapani lost its eight-classroom school in the April 25, 2015, earthquake that killed over 13,000 Nepalis. So far only four classrooms have been re-built in Chisapani due to funding shortfalls. Erik and others are looking to raise enough funds to re-build a safer, stronger, school, i.e., another four classrooms.

> Cheers from Down Under, Michael Davis '63

# **Senior Support Fund Created**

At its January meeting, the PGHSAA Board of Directors voted to establish the Senior Support Fund, a fund that will assist students who cannot afford incidental expenses related to graduation. PGHSAA has in the past paid for yearbooks for students who could not afford them; the Senior Support Fund will extend this assistance to other senior year costs, such as participation in the Senior Breakfast and the Senior Banquet. Recipients of the fund's support will be determined by PGHSAA's liaison to the high school, in consultation with high school staff. Donations previously made to the Yearbook Fund will be rolled into the new fund, which will still pay for yearbooks for students who cannot afford them. However, in recent years, there have been fewer and fewer of those students, and more students who need financial assistance with other graduation costs. Our sincere thanks to all past, current, and future donors to this worthy cause!

## Save the Date

Our annual PGHSAA all-school reunion is set for the weekend of October 7, 2017, at the Elks Club in Monterey. Save the date, and watch for a 8 registration form in the next issue.

#### **Obituaries**

November					
Lloyd Day '43	Carmel Valley				
Dick Mattos '50	Ashland, OR				
John Dorman '60	Atascadero				
December					
Bob Booker '67	Pacific Grove				
Howard Hodges '44	Pebble Beach				
Cynthia Marion Saxon Lee '58	Pacific Grove				
Sis Knowles Nelson '42	Murphys				
Reg Murphy '46	Capistrano				
January					
Martha Ellis Berube '53	Castro Valley				
Keith Graham '66	Tacoma, WA				

#### November

Lloyd Albert Day died at the age of 91 at his home



Richard Attebury '73

in Carmel Valley on Nov. 17, 2016. Lloyd was born in Minnesota on Oct. 8, 1925, and came as a child to Pacific Grove, where he attended high school at PGHS with the class of 1943. He later graduated from PGHS after World War II, in 1949. He was a radio

Seaside

specialist during the war and served in the Philippines. Lloyd owned and operated Lloyd Day Television and Radio in Monterey for many years. He enjoyed cooking, entertaining, traveling, and bird watching. He was a 43-year member of PGHSAA. Survivors include his second wife, Betty P. Ray Day; his daughters Charlotte and Victoria; stepsons William Rodriguez '71 and Alex Rodriguez '73; and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his first wife, Betty Lou *Guild* Day '48.

*Richard Allen Mattos*, 84, died from complications of Parkinson's disease on Nov. 17, 2016, in Ashland, OR. He was 84. Born June 10, 1932 in San Jose, Dick grew up in Pacific Grove and graduated from PGHS in 1950. After two years in the Army serving during the Korean War, he



obtained his bachelor's and master's degrees from Fresno State College. He taught in Bakersfield for five years, then in 1963 moved to Ashland where he taught at Southern Oregon College (now SOU), retiring in 1987. Dick loved the outdoors and enjoyed many

camping, hiking, backpacking and motor home trips. He was an avid skier, dancer, tennis player, and birder. He loved to travel and worked as a cruise host for eight years. After his retirement, Dick was active with the Ashland Kiwanis club, the SOU Raiders booster club, Mt. Ashland Association, Britt Festival, PTA, YMCA, Sierra Club, Audubon Society, Elks, Moose, Eagles, American Legion, and many more organizations. He was a 37-year PGHSAA member, having paid his dues until 2036! Survivors include two sons, Gregory and Steven; two stepdaughters; and nine grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his brother George '47, and one granddaughter.

John Carroll Dorman III, 74, died of heart



disease at his long-time home in Atascadero on Nov. 19, 2016. Born May 5, 1942, in Altadena, John grew up in Pacific Grove, graduating from PGHS in 1960. After graduation, he worked as a firefighter for the California Department of Forestry, stationed in San Luis Obispo County, and

later, for the City of Monterey. John built and ran his own commercial fishing boat for over two decades. He delighted in camping, hiking, or riding his motorcycle. A consummate craftsman, John was meticulous in his work in wood and metal, dabbled in photography, and restored cars. One of the most remarkable of John's many accomplishments was his admission to college at the age of 54. In 1998, John graduated with an A.S. degree, becoming a registered nurse. After graduation, he enjoyed working with the mentally ill patients of Atascadero State Hospital. Survivors include his wife Olive; his children Christine Hansen and Matthew Dorman; four grandchildren; and siblings Teresa *Dorman* Kuhn '57, William Dorman '58, and Irene Dorman.

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# **Obituaries (continued)**

**December** 

Robert "Bob" Edward Booker, 67, died Dec. 1,



2016 of cancer, in Pacific Grove. Born April 20, 1948, a native of Pacific Grove, Bob is survived by his wife Tammy Ng, son Emmett Booker, and two brothers, Bill Booker '58 and Elliot Booker '60.

#### Howard Messinger Hodges,

90, died at his home in Pebble Beach on Dec. 16,



2016. He was born April 9, 1926 in Beaver, UT, and his family moved to the Peninsula the following year. He graduated from PGHS in 1944. In 1945, he was drafted in the Army and served at Camp Beale, returning to the Peninsula in 1947. After graduating from Heald Business

College, he built his rental business by adding equipment after purchasing his father's gas station. In 1957 he purchased property on Foam St., New Monterey, where the equipment rental business continues to this day, operated by his sons. Howard enjoyed traveling, photography, attending PGHS Breaker football games, and playing poker with family and friends. He was active in the PGHS Alumni Association until his death. He was a 46-year member of PGHSAA. Survivors include his children Julie *Hodges* Dufault '75, Hal Hodges '76 and Steven Hodges; two grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife Lorraine and sister Betty *Hodges* Kristinich '39.

#### Cynthia Marion Saxon Fraser Yoshinobu Lee,



76, peacefully passed away in Pacific Grove on Dec. 23, 2016. She was born in Topeka, KS, on Aug. 29, 1940, and her family moved to Pacific Grove in 1957, where she graduated from PGHS in 1958. After graduating from MPC and Cal Poly SLO, she worked for the

PGUSD for many years, retiring in 2005. Cynthia was a member of the Gentrain Society and active with the Monterey Bay Aquarium, Monterey Symphony, and Youth Music Monterey County. She loved cats, music, baseball, and traveling. Survivors include her husband, Charles Lee; daughter Lauren *Yoshinobu* Buskirk '80 of Lawrence, KS; son Aaron Yoshinobu '87 of Lubbock, TX; brother Keene Saxon; and six grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her first husband, Gordon Fraser, and son, Klay Fraser '77.

Lillian "Sis" Knowles Nelson, 92, died at her



home in Murphys on Dec. 28, 2016. Born in Madera on July 31, 1924, she and her family came to Pacific Grove in 1940, where Sis joined the class of 1942 in PGHS for a short time. She attended Central California Commercial College and

worked at Verdorlator Manufacturing during WWII. After her marriage in 1944, she lived in Minnesota, then in Santa Rosa for 17 years, where she worked for the Emporium. Upon retirement in 1984, she settled in Murphys. Sis was a certified Graphoanalyst, member of the Eastern Star, avid golfer, tennis player, and duplicate bridge player. She enjoyed numerology, genealogy, gardening, entertaining, making Christmas cookies, sewing, knitting, scrapbooking, doting on her cats, and playing cards and games (especially Scrabble). She was a 23-year member of PGHSAA. She is survived by her three children: Mark Nelson, Denise Guyton and Timothy Nelson; three grandchildren; and one great-granddaughter. She was preceded in death by her husband, James "Jimmy" Nelson, and sister, Mildred Wilson.

Reginald Thomas Murphy, 88, died Dec. 29,



2016 in Capistrano. Born in Cork, Ireland, on May 24, 1928, his family immigrated to the US in 1930. At PGHS, Reg was a standout athlete in football and track, junior class president, and senior commencement speaker. After

10 graduating from UCLA, he joined the Marines and

# **Obituaries (continued)**

retired a colonel. Most of his career was spent with the Los Angeles Unified School District, as a teacher and principal. He also served as assistant area superintendent with LAUSD, and he used his expertise in labor-management relations as a consultant for major law firms. Reg faithfully served for 50+ years as a board member of the California Credit Union. He was a 20-year member of PGHSAA. Reg is survived by three children, Kathy, Paul and Tim; seven grandchildren; and two greatgrandchildren.

#### January

*Martha Joanne* Ellis *Berube*, 81, died in Castro Valley on Jan. 11, 2017. Born on June 21, 1935, she graduated from PGHS in 1953. She was a loving, kind and caring mother and wife. Survivors include her husband George Berube; five children, Liane, Denise, Paula, Linda, Deborah, and Steven; eight grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild. She was preceded in death by two siblings, Faith *Ellis* Giglio '49 and Norman W. Ellis '52.

Keith Carroll Graham died in Tacoma, WA, on



Jan. 18, 2017. On October 13, 2016, he was taken to the hospital with a kidney stone. While being treated, he had a massive stroke. He succumbed three months later at the age of 68. He was born June 9, 1948, in San Jose, and his family moved to Pacific Grove in time

for him to attend first grade at Robert H. Down School. He graduated from PGHS in 1966. His father purchased the Pacific Grove Press, where Keith learned the printing trade, which earned him a full scholarship in printing at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo. He loved sailing, so he and his father built a small sailboat in their basement when he was a boy. He sailed most of his life. He learned to play the tuba in school. He suited up for PGHS's football squad, only to change into the marching band uniform at halftime. He put away his tuba and changed back into football gear for the second half. He quit the tuba when it was discovered that he

couldn't read music and had been faking it all along. He was injured in a printing press accident in college and was forced to guit. He and his father started a typesetting business that flourished for a time. Keith then discovered photography and was quite talented. He moved to the Seattle area to begin a photography school, and stints at the Sundance catalog and packaging design at Microsoft used his printing and photographic skills. In 2000, he made a complete career change and began selling life insurance for Aflac, retiring as district manager. He came from a musical family but displayed no interest in singing until he moved to Washington and joined his first choir. It turned out that he had a beautiful tenor voice. This became his true calling, giving him joy and pride. He had learned to read music after all. Survivors include his sisters, Gail Graham Jacobson '64, Laurie *Graham* '68; and his great nephews Graham and Joshua Jacobson and their families.

Richard Warren Attebury died on Jan. 28, 2017



in Pacific Grove, four days after having a major heart attack. He was 61. Born in Fort Ord on Feb. 3, 1955, Rick attended PGHS with the class of 1973 and graduated from Hartnell College. After completing his sheet metal workers apprenticeship, he joined his father in the trade. He was a

member of Sheet Metal Workers' Local Union No. 104 for many years prior to starting Attebury Heating & Sheet Metal. An avid technology and tool enthusiast, Rick used every new job as a new "tool opportunity". Survivors include his mother, Marilyn *Ricks* Attebury '56; brother Timothy '87; children Jonathan, Kristin and Selena; and five grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his father, Warren Attebury '53, and brother Ted '75.

## "In Memory Of" donations

are a wonderful way to commemorate the lives of friends, relatives, and faculty members, and to help us help PGHS students. Send your donation to the address on P. 2. Thanks to those who have made these donations over the years.

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# Unable to Escape Memories By Phil Bowhay '47

How, you may ask—as many do—do I come up with such wonderful material week after week and year after year? Such clarity, insight, pathos, humor...and memories! First, I explain that talent is a gift, passed on in the gene pool! But, seriously, friends, I am none of the above...except week after week, etc.

The one thing—or things—that I can't escape are memories! How can I possibly forget the ups and downs of the good old days! Honey's smile, Betty Hogan's legs, Jayne's laugh? Among other things, how Jerry and I marveled at Mary Lou's development, sweet Marie playing Elmer's Tune, Fisherman's Wharf, the sand dunes, Lovers Point, the Breakers, and the breakers! Baxter, Enos, Chamberlain, Nidever, Ellis, the deLorimiers, Larkin, Gasperson, and Reg Murphy. What a fine bunch we were!

Miss Swift, Miss Gardner, Coach Baskin, and A. B. Ingham. Those fistfights for honor, the plane crash, the fires, and our first trip away...I mean away! When we grew up it was OK, even good, go be a Christian, even a Catholic, and everybody worked! Forest Hill or Holman's, Hayward Lumber or Cannery Row. Well, enough about you for the moment.

Remember now, with me, the beautiful girls from Carmel! No more beautiful than our sweeties in Pacific Grove or Monterey! But they were the other side of the hill. A little aloof? Maybe. Slightly richer? No. Untouchable? Well, that's another story. And the Carmel guys played tennis. So did we, but mostly golf and basketball. (Bob Berry was a better runner.) The "Shoe" thing is over for another year, but the Class of '47 didn't have a "Shoe," and didn't need one.

I'll tell you again, some day, about George Mattos. He could play the clarinet like Benny Goodman. And, oh yeah: No. 1 pole vaulter in the country! Olympics, etc.

I know. I missed your name again, but sooner or later...in the meantime, the Heritage Barn has the old Sea Urchins. Don Beals can find your year. And, speaking of the sand dunes, every time I write about them, they get bigger, whiter, and more romantic, the scene of occasional indiscretions. (I'm told that indiscretions still abound, even at Spanish Bay. Or not.) But then, Forest Pool at Boulder Creek! Central California teenagers' mecca! A pool and a dance floor and a lot of conversation. Seventy years ago, but I'll bet those gals still look good in their bathing suits.

And you, too, Sugar!

Originally published in the Monterey Herald, November 14, 2016. Reprinted with permission.

# P.G. High Stadium Paid For

(From the Monterey Peninsula Herald, February 28, 1967; submitted by Wynette Walker Cowen '48)

Pacific Grove High School can officially call its stadium its own today—thanks to a dedicated committee of citizens. Organized in 1963, the committee took personal responsibility for establishing a lighting system and 1,200-seat bleachers for the athletic field. Under direction of chairman Howard L. Cowen, the committee last week paid off the final installment of the \$11,571 bill for materials.

Labor for the two projects was donated by members of the committee, plus many other volunteers interested in helping the high school, Cowen said. Clarence L. Hall, superintendent of Pacific Grove Schools, thanked the committee on behalf of the school district, parents, and students—present and future.

"I don't know how long it would have been before the district could afford to install lights and bleachers at the field," he said, "but it would have been a long time, I'm sure of that." The cost for the lights was \$4,739, and donated labor would have amounted to approximately \$30,000. Cost for the bleachers was \$6,832, and the donated labor would have cost approximately \$13,000.

Fund-raising projects were sponsored by the committee over a three-year period. Final payment was made possible through a donation from the Breakers Club, an organization of parents and other citizens interested in athletics at the high school. Other members of the committee were William E. Evans, Eddie Falke, Earl Arnett, John Reynolds, Jack Stutzman, and Clifford W. Melton.

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Aptos	CA	Dally City	CA	Lake Oswego	OR	Oak Harbor	WA	San Jose	CA
Arcadia	CA	Davis	CA	Lake Stevens	WA	Oakhurst	CA	San Leandro	CA
Arroyo Grande	CA	Del Rey Oaks	CA	Lakeland	FL	Oakton	VA	San Luis Obispo	CA
Atascadero	CA	Denver	CO	Lakewood	CO	Oceanside	CA	San Marcos	CA
Atwater	CA	Discovery Bay	CA	Lansing	KS	Odgen	UT	San Mateo	CA
Auburn	CA	Dolores	CO	LaQuinta	CA	Orangevale	CA	San Rafael	CA
Augusta	KS	Eden Prairie	MN	Las Vegas	NV	Orinda	CA	San Ramon	CA
Aurora	CO	Edmond	OK	Lehi	UT	Pacific Grove	CA	Santa Clarita	CA
Austin	TX	Edmonds	WA	Lincoln	CA	Pacifica	CA	Santa Cruz	CA
Bakersfield	CA	El Dorado	CA	Lincoln City	OR	Paducah	KY	Santa Maria	NM
Ballwin	MO OR	El Sobrante	CA CA	Livermore	CA CA	Pahrump	NV FL	Santa Maria	CA CA
Bandon Basking Ridge	NJ	Elk Grove Etna	CA	Lodi Lompoc	CA	Palatka Palm Bay	FL	Santa Monica Santa Rosa	CA
Battle Ground	WA	Eugene	OR	Los Altos	CA	Palm Desert	CA	Sarasota	FL
Bedford	TX	Everett	WA	Los Angeles	CA	Palm Springs	CA	Saratoga	CA
Bel Air	MD	Fair Oaks	CA	Los Banos	CA	Paradise	CA	Savannah	GA
Bella Vista	CA	Fairfield	CA	Los Gatos	CA	Parker	СО	Scotts Valley	CA
Belvidere	IL	Fall River Mills	CA	Los Molinos	CA	Paso Robles	CA	Seaside	CA
Ben Lomond	CA	Fallbrook	CA	Loveland	ОН	Pebble Beach	CA	Seattle	WA
Benicia	CA	Fayetteville	NC	Lugoff	SC	Pensacola	FL	Sebastopol	CA
Berkeley	CA	Florence	OR	Lukeville	AZ	Petaluma	CA	Selma	CA
Berry Creek	CA	Forestville	CA	Madera	CA	Phoenix	AZ	Seymour	IN
Big River	CA	Fort Mill	SC	Manchester	IL CA	Placerville	CA	Shell Beach	CA
Bluffton Bradley	SC CA	Fresno Frisco	CA TX	Manteca	CA FL	Pleasant Hill Pleasant Valley	CA CT	Shepherdstown	W۷
Buckeye	AZ	Gardnerville	NV	Marianna Marina	CA	Pleasanton	CA	Shingle Springs Shingletown	CA CA
Bunn	NC	Gardnerville	NV	Martinez	CA	Pocatello	ID	Sierra Vista	AZ
Callahan	CA	Glen Allen	VA	McKinleyville	CA	Point Arena	CA	Skagway	AK
Campo	CA	Glendale	CA	Meadville	PA	Port Ludlow	WA	Slidell	LA
Canyon Country	CA	Gold Canyon	AZ	Medford	OR	Port Orchard	WA	Snohomish	WA
Capitola	CA	Gold River	CA	Merced	CA	Portland	OR	Sonora	CA
Carmel	CA	Goleta	CA	Meridian	ID	Poulsbo	WA	Soquel	CA
Carmel Valley	CA	<b>Grants Pass</b>	OR	Merrillan	WI	Prosser	WA	Spokane	WA
Carmichael	CA	Grass Valley	CA	Mesa	AZ	Prunedale	CA	Spring	TX
Castle Rock	СО	Greeley	CO	Mi Wuk Village	CA		CA	Springdale	AR
Castroville	CA	Green Valley	AZ	Minden	NV	Rathdrum	ID	St Helens	OR
Cave Junction	OR	Greenwood	CA	Modesto	CA	Raton	NM	St. Louis	MO
Central Point	OR TN	Grover Beach	CA	Moncks Corner	SC OP	Red Bluff	CA	Statesville	NC CA
Chapel Hill Charleston	TN SC	Half Moon Bay Hampton	CA VA	Monmouth Monrovia	OR CA	Redding Redmond	CA WA	Stockton Sturgis	CA SD
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Continued...

# Where Are We? (continued)

Suisun City CA Sun Valley ID Surprise ΑZ Susanville CA Sussex WI Sweet Home OR Tacoma WA Taft CA Tehachapi CA Templeton CA Terrebonne OR Thermal CA **Thousand Oaks** Tranmere, Tasmania Australia **Tualatin** OR Tucson ΑZ Turlock CA Twain Harte CA Union ME CA **Union City** University Place WA Uruapan Michoacan MX Vacaville CA Valencia CA Vallejo CA WA Vancouver Ventura CA Verdi NV Victorville CA Vincennes IN Virginia Beach VA Visalia CA Walnut Creek CA Warrenton VA Washington IN Watsonville CA Weaverville West Sacramento CA Westlake Village CA Westminster CA White Rock NM Wickenburg ΑZ Wilder ID Willows CA Winchester CA Wishon CA Woodacre CA Woodbridge VA Woodland Hills CA Woodstock GΑ Wyoming ОН

Phil's column, right, originally appeared in the Monterey *Herald*, Jan. 16, 2017. Reprinted with permission.

# **An Homage to Coolers**

#### By Phil Bowhay '47

When you next visit a vintage home in Pacific Grove—or other places, too, for that matter—take a look in the kitchen and notice the "cooler," or where it used to be. A cooler is a cabinet in the kitchen, open to the elements with a protective screen. This comes to mind in these dates of climate control, solar this and that, and maybe just conservation in general. Maybe none of the above, but a preserved cooler right now can be as important as an archaeological dig. I haven't looked, but I'll bet the old cooler at 234 18th St. in P.G. still holds a couple of jars of peaches "put up" 60 years ago. Things tended to get lost in coolers.

Back in the good old days in P.G. we still had iceboxes, and the Union Ice man showed up every week or so. Seemed to work pretty well, depending on how cold you wanted something. Taking out the melted water was somewhat of a trick. Years later in the Navy I learned about the "free surface effect." You could look it up.

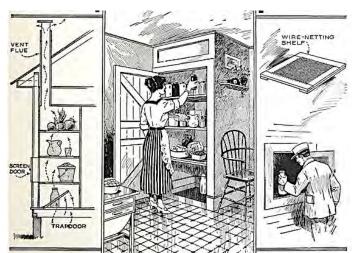
As I remember, the cooler was best used to cool pies. Then, of course, various cheeses, which let you know if left too long.

The theory, and practice, in case you've forgotten or never knew, involved the cool and sometimes foggy breezes that drifted through the screen into the cooler. Simple enough, and in your remodeled kitchen you will note the cooler corner,

now home for the toaster, blender, and microwave.

Visiting the old homestead not too many years ago, I took a nostalgic peek in the cooler, and back in the nether reaches I found not only the put-up string beans, but also a couple of empty vodka bottles, known to us as "dead soldiers."

Once upon a time I had a fleeting interest in taxidermy. Stuffing things. Another story there, but in the meantime...having carefully removed the vitals from a



A much more sophisticated cooler than the little one your editor remembers in the kitchen at 306 Park Street. This image was found on etsy.com by searching for Google images of a "California Cooler."

blackbird, I wrapped the skin (feathers, head, etc...hey, I was just learning) in a cloth with some sort of preservative which I can't remember, and it went into the cooler for later consideration. Home from college several years later, looking for a jar of pickles...well, you know the rest.

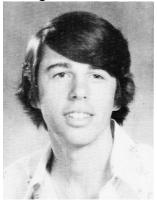
I briefly considered a donation to the museum, thought better of it, and...no, no! I did not put it back in the cooler.

But all this does remind me of the corner cupboard in the kitchen, the medicine cabinet. But that's another story.

# **News of Our Active Alumni**

# Lovers Point Beach Café is Latest Addition to Portfolio of Kevin Phillips '77 By Mike Hale

Either Kevin Phillips has a twin brother or he's invented teleportation. There's no way he can be in four restaurants at the same time. But he seemingly manages that feat with a smile, an easy manner, and



Kevin's senior photo from the 1977 Sea Urchin

with every hair intact (annoyingly so). Each day Phillips beats the sea lions to Fisherman's Wharf. He watches the fish come in, wipes down tables, handles deliveries, and addresses dozens of hair-pulling details at both Abalonetti and the Big Fish Grill. When all the salty stories have been shared with

When all the salty stories have been shared with fishermen and store owners, he heads across the

Peninsula to handle similar details at his restaurant group's crown jewel, The Beach House in Pacific Grove, at Lovers Point where Slats Rooftop Restaurant and then The Old Bath House formerly reigned.

At 4:00 p.m., the Pacific Grove native welcomes loyal locals lined up for his own creation, the wildly successful daily "Sunset Menu" that, three years after its inception, is still priced at \$9.95. The it's on to The Whaling Station above Cannery Row to high-five locals gathering around the horseshoe bar, drink cocktails, and chow on complimentary fat Sicilian olives before the compulsory prime rib reuben or open-face steak sandwiches.

Then the hardest-working man in the restaurant business repeats the process. "It's back around the horn twice more (at least) during the dinner service," said Phillips, who is the managing general partner for long-time restaurateur Jim Gilbert. "But I never get up any day feeling like I'm going to work."

Since he and Gilbert took over Abalonetti from local legend John Pisto in 2009, they haven't left the 15

restaurant fast lane. They added modern touches and the words "Bar and Grill" to Abalonetti and completely transformed The Beach House from its three-fork, white-tablecloth, special-occasion days as The Old Bath House. They bought Rappa's at the end of Fisherman's Wharf, rebranding it Big Fish Grill before adding Pisto's iconic ode to red meat and red wine, The Whaling Station, to their list, turning it into a less fancy, less pricey, slightly less carnivorous experience.

And now, instead of taking a breath and resting on all his laurels, Phillips has opened Lovers Point Beach Café in the space below The Beach House (where dressing rooms for the Municipal Plunge used to be). At the same time, construction began on solar panels for the popular Beach House patio eating area, which will mean a translucent patio roof, drier dining for customers, and a greener restaurant. Phillips plans to add a hanging garden as well.

The café started with pastries, scones, coffee, and tea, but look for it to grow slowly behind the creative energy of Beach House executive chef Matt Farmer. "The goal has always been to be the stewards of Lovers Point," said Phillips, who hopes in time to manage and cater park weddings and special events. That's why you see him in the park picking up cigarette butts, or sweeping public walkways.

"To me, love is action," he said. "As a P.G. High grad, I spent a lot of time down here, and now my son Jeremy is the GM." To have everything come together, and now, with the coffee shop," it's gratifying. I just always try to be better than yesterday."

This article originally appeared in the Monterey Herald, October 5, 2016. Reprinted with permission.



Linen postcard image of P.G.'s Municipal Plunge, circa 1930s. From the collection of Beth Penney.

# The History of the Centrella Hotel

Editor's Note: This story originally appeared in the Feast of Lanterns Tabloid in the summer of 1994. We have since lost touch with the volunteer who wrote it, Neysa Hebbard, but since Carol Bradley Lauderdale '66 and I were the Tabloid editors at the time, we gave ourselves permission to reprint an updated version of it here.

In tracing the history of today's Centrella Hotel, as that historic resting place turns 128 years old, it is amazing how closely the establishment's history has paralleled that of Pacific Grove itself.

In 1886, when Eliza Beighle broke ground for her Centrella Cottage on 17th Street, she was right on the cusp of the budding village of Pacific Grove. As late as 1880, only about 50 families were actually listed as living permanently in P.G. (It wasn't until 1883 that Sinclair Harper became the first Pacific Grove-born resident.) The completed "Cottage," which was "fitted with all the conveniences of a first-class boarding and lodging house," according to the *Del Monte Wave*, continued to serve many of the same Methodist ministers who were long-time visitors to the Grove to participate in the annual retreat.

Breaking ground only a little ahead of the town's first true hotel, the El Carmelo on Lighthouse, the Centrella was in full operation in 1891 when President Benjamin Harrison and his entourage of dignitaries came to the Peninsula to dedicate the first horse-car line to run between Pacific Grove and Monterey. What a day that must have been for the Centrella's boarders, and for all Pacific Grove residents! Until then, the only transport to the Centrella, or elsewhere in the growing town, was by stage or by private carriage over a single-lane dirt road, and a bit later, by Del Monte four-in-hand "buses" carrying 15 to 20 passengers and charging 35 cents for a round trip.

Over the years, as the horse-car was replaced by the trolley in 1903, the trolley was replaced by the bus in 1930, and Pacific Grove was on its way to becoming "America's Home Town," the Centrella, now more often labeled a "hotel" rather than a "cottage," grew like Topsy, with new rooms, new towers and porches, and finally adjacent cottages, all added pretty much helter skelter. And, with time, as

the "Cottage" and its boarders changed, so did the ownership. Marie Johansen owned it from 1938 through the war years, until 1949, when Rose Stevens and her husband took over.

Then, in 1953, the Centrella changed hands again, and from Easter of that year on, when Vera and Forrest Franklin and their two younger daughters moved in, the Centrella became, for a while, a lively family headquarters. Jan Franklin Butrica Penney Ziegler of Seaside (your editor's stepmother) remembers her days, and her attic room there, well. The room, with its private fire escape (since detached), was the perfect hideaway for a Monterey high schooler hoping to sneak off to the beach of an evening now and then. This was especially easy with her younger sister, Kay, tucked away "below stairs," under more watchful parental eyes. The girls did do things together, though; on Mother's Day of that year, they planted a monkey puzzle tree for Vera in what is now the hotel's side garden.

Jan remembers with great affection not only her days at the Centrella but the boarders there—mostly young construction workers and single older women ("no children, no pets"). She remembers Jerry and Tom, who liked their coffee black; Cornell, who wanted cream and sugar; and Norman, who drank milk instead. She remembers Dixon, who often did the dishes, and of course, her mother, who did all the cooking, and her father, who mashed the potatoes and made the coffee—in addition to everything else that went along with running a boarding house.

With breakfast to serve from 6:30 to 8:00, lunches to make for the construction workers, supper at 6:00, and school—to say nothing of helping with cleaning and laundry in between—Jan remembers that it was a busy time. And with between 15 and 20 boarders always at hand, there could be tense times, too, the worst when a disconsolate boarder killed himself in one of the rooms.

But there were fun and funny times, too. There was Tex, who snuck into the refrigerator from time to time. He once mistook dog-food scraps for hash, but doggedly proclaimed them "good," nonetheless. And there was "Peachy," who came into town to demonstrate cosmetics at Holman's and got into the habit of hanging her panties in a front window to dry, much to the consternation of a much-more-prim 16 fellow lodger.

# The Centrella (continued)

Jan remembers hanging the multicolored Feast lanterns high on the front porch rafters, playing rawegg catch with some of the younger boarders, and the night a visiting cat scared the family crow right into a new boarder's strawberry shortcake. Mrs. Franklin, obviously a woman of great aplomb, swooped the offended dessert from under the

boarder's nose and into the kitchen for a fresh dollop of cream, then rushed it quickly back to the table, the boarder's fork still in the air.

As time went on, the Franklins converted some of the guest rooms to efficiency apartments. Jan left to be married—to one of the boarders—and, finally, the family moved out, leaving the Centrella to various managers and less tidy times. Forrest Franklin died in 1962.

In 1981, Vera Franklin sold the Centrella, a year before her death, to Dr. Joe Megna, a local dentist, and Gary Jones, who, together with their wives and a multitude of professional helpers,

transformed the Centrella of old into a tastefully gracious and pleasantly bustling hostelry. The hotel has since sold again, to the Patel family, and is now the Centrella Inn.

From the beginning, Megna and Jones strove to retain as much of the original beauty and "feel" as possible. They were obviously successful, for the Centrella was honored shortly after its remodel by the Pacific Grove Heritage Society for its careful restoration, and has won a listing on the U.S. Department of the Interior's National Register of Historic Places.

The Centrella Inn offers its guests a choice of 21 rooms (including three suites) plus five private dog-friendly garden cottages. As it always has, the Centrella caters to a wide variety of guests. In addition to honeymooners, there are businesspeople,

retirees, actors, sports enthusiasts (including a backroads bicycling tour that often "rests over" several times during the summer), and vacationers of all sorts, many simply yearning for a few days, or hours, during which they can step back into a more leisurely past.

Among the guests touching base with the past at the Centrella in 1994 were Luby and Vivian Stats, who came back to celebrate the 66th anniversary of their honeymoon at the Centrella in 1919. And a



The Centrella today. Photo by Beth Penney.

great-grandson of Eliza Beighle, the original owner, also visited, as well as two daughters of the "Cottage" builder, who delighted all with their tales of summers in the area before refrigeration, and how the "Cottage's" mayonnaise had to be made daily so that it would not spoil, and much more.

These days, it's hard to imagine any mayonnaise spoiling or crows flying into the strawberry shortcake. But it's not hard to imagine the fascination of the guests with their Victorian surroundings and their proximity to Pacific Grove's downtown. Though the Centrella has preserved its link to the past, it also participates in the present by opening its doors during the Pacific Grove Chamber of Commerce's annual Christmas at the Inns and other events, and by displaying lanterns and flags in the summer and lights at the holidays.

# **Recalling Victims of Technology** By Phil Bowhay '47

It has been a long time since Alexander Graham Bell asked Mr. Watson to come see him—you could look it up—and even longer, I guess, since two cans and a string. I'd like to say that some of the magic is gone with the introduction of the iPhone, but magic it is. Just imagine! Taking a picture of your ear, transmitting an image of your nose—all while talking to Aunt Sally in Duluth!

As magic as it may be, some adjustment is necessary to punch in a number on a cell, having grown up with a rotary—remember the dial?—and

Bell forbid if you try wearing mittens, or even gloves! You may have also noticed that you can't make an anonymous call anymore. Just as well.

I look back with nostalgic reverie to those days of triple digit phone numbers—"Hello, Central! Give me 632!"—or, "Just connect me with

Roy Wright. I need a pound of nails." In the '40s we expanded to four digits. All this on party lines, the greatest gossip facilitators, yet to be improved on.

Depending on where you lived, the caller cranked the handle on the wall phone, alerting all on the line that somebody wanted to talk. All subscribers had an assigned number of rings. In Kernville, at the Ranger Station, ours was shortlong-short, Andrew Brown General Store was three longs, and if you forgot the number, just crank one long and ask Gertrude to help you out. "Hang up, Sara. My barn's on fire!" If you asked Gertrude to connect you to long distance, you could hear the "click, click, click," as the neighbors picked up.

Well, time marched on, and we moved into the romantic world of exchanges. The phone company

felt that it was easier for us to remember a title. followed with five numbers, than all seven at once. And then, too, there were more choices with the alphabet. The most famous was the Penn Exchange, in Pennsylvania, as in "Pennsylvania 6-5000." (Must be said in a loud voice, "PENNSYLVANIA SIX FIVE-THOUSAND!") Try shouting that into your cell.

San Francisco Chinatown had its own exchange. the operators knowing five dialects and English. Almost sounds familiar, doesn't it?—although after a while you do get used to that colorful Mumbai accent when you call for technical assistance.

The San Francisco Financial District was EXbrook and TUxedo. ("EXbrook 3-7211, Dean

> Witter!") In the East Bay, I think it was THornhill. The last phone books with the exchanges listed are now collector's items.

In good old Pacific Grove it was

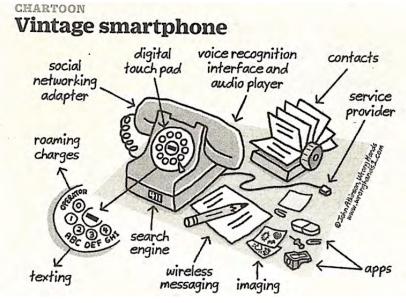
FRontier. "FRontier 5-3319, Bowhay residence!" (I know. You don't give a damn.) Most of us in Pacific Grove had some experience with a

switchboard (PBX), memorialized by Lily Tomlin. The operators looked like they had a buffalo horn impaled in their chests.

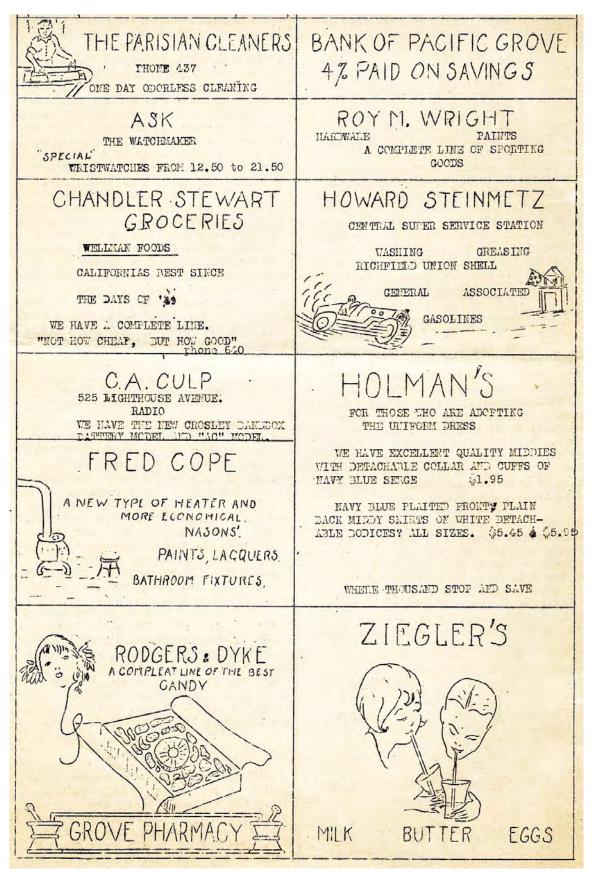
Well, what's next after Apple's iPhone? I read some early news about a technology where you might be able to simply think of the number (or the soul) with whom you would like to communicate, but what indeed would that do to Ma Bell or the other pretenders?

And then there is the rumor that continued cellphone use might cause brain damage. Might? Just look at them!

This column originally appeared in the Monterey Herald, January 30, 2017. Reprinted with permission. Artwork by John Atkinson of "Wrong Hands," originally published in Time magazine.



Lillian *Griffiths* '70 recently came into possession of a number of *Knockout* issues from the '20s. Here is a partial back page of the mimeographed legal-size paper of January 6, 1928. (4% interest?!?)



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# The Knockout II: The PGHSAA Newsletter

#### Who Is It?

We had two correct answers to last issue's "Who Is It?" photo (see Letters, P. 7). Here's what the contributor, Paul Berwick Trejo, Captain, USNR (Ret.) had to say: Hi, Beth. Enclosed is a photo taken in the courtyard between the main building and gymnasium at the old high school on Forest (before it burned). Three of us dressed for "Hobo Day" at Nine Ponds, Friday, 26 May, 1944. L-R: Jean Johnson (Suter), Paul Berwick (Trejo), Alice McCloud (Sullivan). Uniforms were Sea Scout



uniforms. On 1 July of that year, I reported with classmate John Hamilton for active duty to the University of Redlands, as a Seamen Aviation Cadet. We were then issued authentic sailor uniforms!!!!

Now, see if you can identify these five girls. (Hint: note the distinctive windows at the right.) Send answers to *Knockout II* editor Beth Penney, bpenney@sonic.net. Be sure to put the last "e" in Penney. A very nice man named Bob Pennypacker in Healdsburg is at bpenny, but he's not a PGHS alum!