



Native Sons News

Fairfax Parlor #307

December 2023



The Year in Review

A Retrospective by Outgoing President Burton Winn

It interests me that life contains so many unpredictable twists, turns and crossroads. Occasionally, if you have an adventurous spirit, this long and winding road can lead you to surprising discoveries, like crossing an unfamiliar mountain pass to find a beautiful vista in the distance.

So it is this year with me. I'd known about my great-great grandfather, Albert Maver Winn; founder of the Native Sons, since childhood, but it wasn't until this year that destiny honored me with the opportunity to commemorate him at his Sacramento gravesite in my capacity as President of Fairfax Parlor.



It was a seminal moment for me, a moment I tried to capture as I spoke on the past, present and future of our great organization, intertwined as it is with not only our lives, but the lives of many previous generations.

It's been an amazing year - you cross paths with so many interesting people when you volunteer for the Parlor. Like my 1st Vice President Matt Marcucci, who spear-headed our Family BBQ at the clubhouse this September.



His hard-working team brought together over a hundred people! It was a perfect day.

I was also fortunate to have hard-working 2nd and 3rd Vice-Presidents in Bill Madsen and Eric Bowen. Together, we've taken on the herculean task of relieving Fred Codoni of the countless jobs he's been performing for our Parlor every month for the past 51 years. We've made a good start but there's still a long way to go.

We've accomplished a lot this year as a parlor:

We have a new Editor of the Fairfax Parlor Newsletter, 2nd VP Bill Madsen, which has allowed the past editor, Fred Codoni, to step back and concentrate on writing his Parlor memoir.

The Parlor's website has been brought up to date by Brother Mark Fogg, with links to Grand Parlor and other parlors, news and events, and a host of things to come ...

We kicked off the year when we performed a dedication at the old A St. Train Station in San Rafael in January.



It was featured with this picture on the front page of the Marin Independent Journal.

Mt. Tam parlor merged with Fairfax Parlor a few months later, thanks to the efforts of Past Grand Presidents Bob Rogers and Fred Codoni.

Continued on Page 4

FAIRFAX PARLOR CALENDAR

Saturday, Dec 2 – Xmas Dinner – St. Rita’s Hall Bar opens at 6.
Wednesday, Dec 6 – Officer Installation + Business, 7pm Bar: 6.
Tuesday, Dec 12 – Clam Chowder Lunch, 12:30 p.m. Bar: 11:30.
Wednesday, Dec 20 – Christmas Potluck, 6 pm.
Wednesday, Jan 3 – Formal Initiation + Business, 7pm Bar at 6.
Tuesday, Jan 9 – Lunch, 12:30 p.m. Bar opens at 11:30.
Wednesday, Jan 17 – Dinner Meeting, 7:30 p.m. Bar opens at 6.
Tuesday, Jan 23 – Lunch, 12:30 p.m. Bar opens at 11:30.

Nov. 14th Luncheon

Carnitas were on the menu. Sure, the meat was a little dry, but what do you want for ten bucks? The black beans were pretty good, though, and thankfully anybody can cook rice. Served with cole slaw, avocado, cilantro, and three tons of chips. Not a bad start for our three Vice- Presidents.



The Vice Squad:

Your cookin’ VP’s (L to R) – Matt ‘Marinate this!’ Marcucci, Bill ‘Flavor Butcher’ Madsen and Eric ‘Bouillon Boy’ Bowen.

5 Year Plan and Survey Updates

At the October Parlor Business meeting the Parlor endorsed the idea of creating a 5 Year Plan for the Parlor and the Cañon Club and established a 5 Year Plan Subcommittee, composed of Bill Madsen, Eric Bowen and Sean Murphy. The committee has been meeting frequently and interviewing stakeholders. Drafts of the 5 Year Plan have been presented to the Parlor and the Club Management Committee. A 5 Year Plan working draft presentation has been posted to the members only section of the Parlor website for anyone interested.

To help inform the process, at the November meeting a Survey Subcommittee was created composed of Bill, Eric, Sean, Chris Wand Jr., and Richard Holland, to create surveys for both Parlor and Canon Club members. We anticipate sending the Parlor survey to members in December. Please keep an eye out for the survey email. The survey committee appreciates your time and help in completing the survey.

Napa Parlor Visit

By Lou Langlemet

As Native Sons of the Golden West we have the privilege to visit other parlors and enjoy their events.

On Oct. 30th, Tom Teixeira and I went to Napa Parlor for an initiation ceremony. We began on the 3rd floor with some well-mixed libations (even Tom, our own master sommelier, nodded in approval as he sampled his pinot noir, ‘This sure didn’t come out of a box!’) catching up with old friends and making some new ones.

From there we descended to their spectacular meeting room on the second floor.



16 brothers from Sonoma, Napa, Vallejo and Calistoga were initiated along with a sister-brother from Fort Bragg. We were even treated to a generous shrimp dinner. I’d heard that Napa had an impressive building, they weren’t kidding!!

Their hall, built in 1914, gave me a little parlor-envy. Maybe it’s time we made some upgrades to our own...

Petaluma-Nicasio’s Turkey Feed

1st VP Matt Marcucci wants to thank our brothers in Parlor #183 for inviting us to their annual Turkey Feed. The best turkey feed he’s ever been to!

Brothers (and others) from at least 4 parlors enjoyed the spread, and with a dozen of our heavy-hitters representing Fairfax Parlor we made sure we got our fair share.



#307 boys mixing it up with the P-N #183 crowd. Kevin ‘Clobberin’ Time’ Courtz, ‘Dust-up’ Dave Franzoia. And Joel ‘Jamaica Train’ Bantly. Photo courtesy of Matt ‘Meathook’ Marcucci.



Codoni's Corner

Pull up a chair, sit down, stop flapping your gums and maybe you'll learn something...

75th Anniversary Coming!

The First Year

Fairfax Parlor members wasted no time in getting involved in community affairs. Under the leadership of William Bemiss, assisted by Lou Dallara, the friendly Natives started the First Annual Fairfax Native Sons Festival in Fairfax Park June 2 through 4, 1950, instituting a tradition that was to endure more than a decade. On the first day, over two thousand people wandered among the booths and enjoyed the free entertainment. On June 4, 70 units participated in the largest parade in Fairfax history.

Another tradition began in 1950 when the Fairfax Native Sons joined with the Fairfax Native Daughters for installation of officers. Two hundred members and guests watched as D. Frank Monte began his second term as president. William "Herb" Lane was installed as recording secretary, a post he held until his death in 1972.

The 1950 Admission Day Parade in San Francisco, celebrating one hundred years of statehood, saw members of Fairfax Parlor marching in diapers as the "baby parlor" of the Order.

Third president was Raymond H. Shone, then Fairfax City judge. Under Ray's leadership, members participated in the dedication of Deer Park School, the first of many such dedications of public buildings.

As a reward for his good work as chairman of the first festival, William Bemiss was elected second president of Fairfax Parlor.

NEXT: Fourth of July Festival, 1953 and After...

December Birthdays

- Dec 1st: Marciel Rivera (13), Chris Wadleigh (26)
- Dec 3rd: Tom Yasuda (22)
- Dec 7th: Arthur Haake (26)
- Dec 9th: Steven Jones (6)
- Dec 10th: Michael Welcome (2)
- Dec 11th: Ross Parmenter (2), Mike Shea (31)
- Dec 12th: Geoff Johnson (30)
- Dec 16th: Gregory Rehs (18), Jason Sanders (21)
- Dec 17th: Thomas Seitz (16)
- Dec 18th: Jim Brainard (19), Frank Dittle (37)
- Dec 19th: Kenneth Giacomini (13)
- Dec 20th: Larry Galetti (21)
- Dec 21st: Daniel Baker (16), Chris Vaccaro (37)
- Dec 22nd: Fred Codoni (51)!!! Joe 'Oilcan' Allen (40)!!
- Dec 23rd: Kathy Flores (1) Matthew Towers (2)
- Dec 25th: Daniel Potter (5)
- Dec 27th: Doug MacLean (41)!!
- Dec 29th: Kevin Kramer (3), Derrick Fong (30)
- Dec 30th: Michael Forbes (2), Dick Thompson (24)
- Dec 31st: Glen Cook (28)

Anyone's Opinion

This One Happens to be Mine...

By Bill Madsen

At a recent meeting, while discussing the label of racism levelled against the Native Sons, someone made the argument that, "It was just the way things were back then – everybody was doing it."

I don't think this is a helpful argument for us. As an organization that prides itself on preserving and understanding history, it's important that we acknowledge our own. Not 'everybody' was doing it. Yes, racism was pervasive, but not everyone was a racist, and not everyone was standing idly by allowing it to happen.

There were organizations fighting for racial equity operating nationally and in California as early as 1907. The National Urban League, the NAACP and CORE (the Congress of Racial Equality) were supported and assisted by many white men and women, but unfortunately, the Native Sons were not among them.

Before every meeting we pledge allegiance to our flag, country and the principles of 'liberty and justice for all.' For many years we failed to honor that pledge, and it left us on the wrong side of history.

I know that we're not a racist organization. I know this. But there persists this perception. We need to act now to remedy our lack of action in the past. Simply saying that 'everybody was doing it' is factually inaccurate and does nothing to change this lingering perception.

Perhaps we could expand our charities – putting our money where our mouth is – to demonstrate our support for under-privileged groups and groups that are still struggling in California to find justice and equality. That would be one way of showing who we are and what we believe in.

I hope this can be a discussion we have going forward. A conversation on how to change these persisting misconceptions about our organization and ourselves.

There's a great article exploring the NSGW, its history, and one of the protests against it. It's a thoughtful, balanced and well-researched article written by Fremont high-school senior Srihitha Pallapothula. You should check it out.

<https://thewhshatchet.org/huskies-argue-over-the-removal-of-controversial-plaque/>

Have an opinion of your own you'd like to share?

Send it to: ubmadsen@sbcglobal.net

FAIRFAX PARLOR OFFICERS, 2023

President – Burt Winn	1st VP – Matt Marcucci
2nd VP – Bill Madsen	3rd VP – Eric Bowen
Financial Sec – Bill Addy	Treasurer – Stan Rowan
Recording Sec – Kevin Courtz	
Newsletter Editor – Bill Madsen ubmadsen@sbcglobal.net	
Website Manager – Mark Fogg FairfaxNativeSons@gmail.com	

The Year in Review *cont'd from page 1*

We marched in the Fairfax festival Parade in June.



And we served beer as we listened to live music out on the green, raising over \$2,000 for our charities.



In October, we donated our pickle-ball courts and our time to Play Marin – a local non-profit, so they could host a Pickle Ball Tournament/Benefit that raised \$4500 for underprivileged children. The Parlor received warm thanks for our team of Kevin Courtz, Joel Bantly, Marcus Guy and especially Sean Aguilar for their help and assistance with all aspects of the event.



We also enjoyed our traditional events; the Crab Feed, the Scholarship Dinner, St. Patrick's Day Corned Beef, the Lamb Feed, the President's Dinner (I wanted ribs!), and Grand 3rd VP Kris Nelson's Gumbo Dinner – no one left that with an empty stomach!

And then there was the Grand Parlor Dinner.



Pretty swanky! I hardly recognized these guys! They sure clean up nice...

And let's not forget Brother Russ Knudsen's entertaining Spoken Word events in our meeting hall. A great mixture of Brothers and Canon Club members. Keep 'em coming Russ.

Finally, to put the finishing touch on this year of meandering paths and intersections, we're having our Christmas Dinner at St Rita's Hall on Dec. 2nd, where we'll raise our glasses and our spirits and celebrate the season.

In case that isn't enough, we'll do it all over again with our Christmas Potluck on December 20 – just because you can never have too much of a good thing.

So, I'd like to thank the Parlor for the opportunity to serve as your President. I truly have enjoyed the ride! Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, and Happy Holidays!



And Brothers, remember your obligations...

Burton Winn for Grand Trustee!
Parlor President Burt Winn has decided to run for Grand Trustee at the Grand Parlor meeting in May. The first step is to be endorsed by Fairfax Parlor, which he will request at the December 6 meeting.
Thank you, Burt, for your service to your brothers and your Parlor!

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