



# Native Sons News

Fairfax Parlor #307

March 2024



## Fairfax Parlor Crab Feed

Thanks to the herculean efforts of our stalwart Fred Schwab and his cracking crew of crab crackers our Feb 3<sup>rd</sup> Crab Feed was a smashing success.



(L-R: AJ Aguilar, Sean 'The Savant' Aguilar, Dominic Trimble, Fred 'Iron Chef' Schwab, Connor Trimble.)

It was cold and wet outside, but inside it was almost tropical, warm and steamy, with a salty tang hanging in the air. With a hint of butter. And booze.



It was a noisy evening, beginning with the low roar of camaraderie and friendly banter, switching to the business-like cracking of claws, slurping of butter and rustling of lobster bibs.



(Bartenders Joel Bantly and Tom Teixeira give it a big thumbs up.)



## Parlor Chats with Matt

*Parlor President Matt Marcucci*

For those who may not know, Brother Russ Knudson has created an outreach program for our older brothers who aren't able to attend Native Son events due to age, illness or mobility. I would like to personally thank Brother Russ for his outstanding work and commitment to this mission to helping a brother in need.

This outreach program is designed to get our members to visit these brothers and let them know they are not forgotten. Last month Russ organized a visit to Past Parlor President Joe Daly which was featured in last month's newsletter.

Russ understands the true meaning of being a Native Son.

The Native Sons of the Golden West will not leave any brother behind and we will proudly carry them on our backs. Thank you, Russ Knudson .

In friendship, loyalty and charity,

## FAIRFAX PARLOR CALENDAR 2024

- Wed Mar 6 – Formal Initiation + Bus, Election of GP Delegates
- Tue Mar 12 – Lunch, 12:30 p.m. Bar opens at 11:30.
- Wed Mar 13 – Special Business Meeting 7pm. Bar at 6
- Wed Mar 20 – St. Patrick's Day Dinner, St. Rita's Hall RSVP
- Tue Mar 26 – Lunch, 12:30 p.m. Bar opens at 11:30.
- Wed Apr 3 – Business Meeting, 7pm Bar opens at 6.
- Tue Apr 9 – Lunch, 12:30 p.m. Bar opens at 11:30.
- Wed Apr 17 – Lamb Feed 7pm RSVP.
- Tue Apr 23 – Lunch, 12:30 p.m. Bar opens at 11:30.
- Wed May 1 – Visiting Brothers Night, Dinner 7:30pm Bar at 6.
- May 19 – 23 – **Grand Parlor:** (no luncheon this week)

**And Let's Give a Giant Thank You to Russ Knudson for securing our cooks!**

### FAIRFAX PARLOR OFFICERS, 2024

- President – Matt Marcucci    1<sup>st</sup> VP – Bill Madsen
- 2<sup>nd</sup> VP – Eric Bowen        3<sup>rd</sup> VP – Chris Wand Sr.
- Jr. Past President – Burton Winn
- Financial Sec – Bill Addy    Treasurer – Stan Rowan
- Recording Sec – Kevin Courtz
- Newsletter Editor – Bill Madsen [ubmadsen@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ubmadsen@sbcglobal.net)
- Website Manager – Mark Fogg [FairfaxNativeSons@gmail.com](mailto:FairfaxNativeSons@gmail.com)

## Feb. 13<sup>th</sup> Luncheon

They make cooking look so easy – lounging by the pool while lunch cooks itself. These guys are real pros – they’re not even breaking a sweat! Pork loin, stewed cabbage and spinach salad; who could ask for more?



### *The O.G.'s*

(L to R) Rick 'The Brick' Seramin, John 'Beachboy' Beckerly, and John 'Easy Peazy' Payne

## March Birthdays

- Mar. 1<sup>st</sup>: Robin Hadley – 1st (3)
- Mar 2<sup>nd</sup>: Matthew Marron (28)
- Mar 3<sup>rd</sup>: Walt Crowe- 3rd (4)
- Mar 4<sup>th</sup>: David Corwell –
- Mar 9<sup>th</sup>: Guido Costella - (46), John Sergeant (15)
- Mar 10<sup>th</sup>: Father Ken Weare (18)
- Mar 12<sup>th</sup>: Russ Damos (27)
- Mar 13<sup>th</sup>: Michael Monestier (15)
- Mar 14<sup>th</sup>: Ronald Nuno (24)
- Mar 16<sup>th</sup>: Russell Boehm (15), Chris Reilly (11)
- Mar 18<sup>th</sup>: William Perez (19)
- Mar 20<sup>th</sup>: John Malone (11), Gyani Richards (7)
- Mar 21<sup>st</sup>: Fernando Callejas (32), Patrick Connelly (29), Joseph Tassone (18)
- Mar 23<sup>rd</sup>: Ed Bacci (29)
- Mar 24<sup>th</sup>: David Gartin (3)
- Mar 25<sup>th</sup>: Doug Hailer (19)
- Mar 26<sup>th</sup>: Mike Abballo (28)
- Mar 27<sup>th</sup>: Mike Bauman (44), Dave Cala (35), James McElroy (19)
- Mar 28<sup>th</sup>: Ed DeMaestri (48), Ron McCamish (54)
- Mar 30<sup>th</sup>: Sean Aguilar (12)
- Mar 31<sup>st</sup>: Steven Horgan (14)

## Grand Parlor Delegates to be Elected At Special March 13<sup>th</sup> Business Meeting

We'll be voting on our nominated delegates for Grand Parlor at our March Business Meeting.

Grand Parlor is May 19-23 in Rohnert Park this year. Fairfax Parlor is entitled to 8 delegates.

Don't miss this meeting if you can help it – there's a whole lot of Parlor business to discuss.

## Fred's Farewell Feast Fiesta



On Wed. 2/21/24 Fairfax Parlor icon and legend Fred Codoni offered Fairfax Parlor members a warm and wonderful opportunity to celebrate his service to us all and enjoy his renowned cooking with a hearty and homey pasta dinner.

During dinner Fred was toasted by several Parlor and Grand Parlor dignitaries, our own Burt Winn among them. When the crowd called on Fred to say a few words himself, Fred only offered in his unassuming way that the dinner wasn't a celebration of him, but a celebration of all of us. Bravo Fred! Well done! Well spoken! Well cooked! Well eaten!



*The kitchen help didn't take too kindly to cameras in the kitchen. You can see it in their faces. Fred's very protective of his secret recipe – the message was clear – Get the hell out. L-R Fred Schwab, Ray Potter, John Beckerly, Fred 'The Man Himself' Codoni, and Lou Langlamet. Thanks guys!*

## Feb 27<sup>th</sup> Lunch

I'm not sure who had more fun; the cooks making the meal or the folks eating it. Was it louder in the kitchen or the dining room? A classic firehouse pasta cooked to perfection with plenty of Caesar salad and garlic bread. These guys don't throw a party – they are the party.



### **The Wild Bunch**

L-R Rex Hale, Kevin Kramer, Mark Hayes and Pat Martinez

## Discovery of Gold Weekend

*A Travelogue by Burt Winn*

There was a break in the rainy weather this January for my first visit to the Discovery of Gold Weekend hosted by Excelsior Parlor #31.

Held in the Gold Rush town of Jackson, County Seat of Amador County and nestled in the rolling foothills of the central Sierra Nevada, the town is located on CA Highway 49, in the middle of the Mother Lode, the central vein for California gold.

Travel was easy and the skies were clear. I missed the famous California traffic by taking Highway 4 to Highway 99, then north to the town of Jackson, an easy trip from Marin County.



Arriving at the hotel, my wife and I soon left for our first event, a meet and greet at Excelsior Parlor's NSGW clubhouse on Court Street, a beautiful older building on a hill one block above Jackson's downtown. The sun was setting, but we were just in time as I opened the front door to be greeted by a crowd of Brothers and Sisters hanging out in the clubhouse Bar.



I socialized with many of the members and enjoyed the old time vibe of the Bar, visiting with many of the attendees discussing local events and catching up with other Native Sons from around the state. A lot of history was represented in that room and I listened to many stories of the old days of California. Saturday morning was up and at 'em for the Grand Parlor meetings at 8am in a room below the Bar at the NSGW Hall. Afterwards we were off to a Dedication of the Central Eureka Mine to the north in Sutter Creek.

The mine was in production from 1852 to 1953 with a main shaft reportedly 4,855 ft deep. This was one deep mine, producing some 1,800,000 ounces of gold - one of the most productive mines in the Mother Lode.

The mine is currently owned by Jeff Campbell, the current President of Amador Parlor #17, with his wife Jessie. You can see both of them in the dedication picture.



After driving back, I dropped my wife off at The Estate Planning Law Center in downtown Jackson. It's owned by the Mayor of Jackson and current Grand First Vice President, Steve McLean, and his wife Gwen Christeson. It looks like a law office, but it has a secret basement room turned into a "speakeasy," inaccessible from the street. There, a Ladies Social was being held with wine tasting and Hors d'oeuvres.

Back at the NSGW Hall, in the upstairs Great Hall, a formal Initiation of new members was chaired by Senior Past President Dave Allen. A large group from Chispa Parlor #139 were the initiates. I have to mention how stunning this hall is: It is made of dark hardwood, festooned with banners and paintings from the 19th Century with a raised Dais at the far end and large windows allowing natural light to enter. And even with my hearing difficulties, the sound in the room was excellent and clear, lively even. Amplification was unnecessary.



Following that, a very fine lamb shank/tri-tip dinner was served in the downstairs meeting room. A highlight was a talk by Cedric Clute, a local KVGK radio personality who hosts "Tales of the Motherlode," a popular local history show. While we were being served he told the "real" history of Jackson, pointing out that mining was not the basis of the local economy in historical times. In fact, it was...wait for it...prostitution! The speakeasies underneath the downtown buildings were saloons during Prohibition and houses of prostitution up until the Governorship of Pat Brown in the 1950s, who shut the establishments down, thus cleaning up the town and allowing Jackson to become the tourist and visitor magnet it is today.

Sunday morning was the last event, a Breakfast held at Excelsior Parlor #32's NSGW Hall in the downstairs room. The weekend was a fun and educational tour of Jackson, the surrounding area's local mine and a great socializing event for the Brothers and Sisters of the NSGW.

Brothers, I urge you to visit and participate in functions like these, a great perk of being a member of the Native Sons.

# Weekend in the Redwoods

Wandering Marshal Lou Langlamet

My wife Irene and I have been going to **Weekend in the Redwoods** for quite a few years and enjoy the camaraderie of seeing friends from all over the state and the informative dedications at historical sites.

On Saturday morning we traveled to McKinleyville for the NSGW dedication for Howard 'Pete' Snell, whose tragic death spurred greater safety standards in the racing industry. The Snell foundation still tests helmets and safety equipment to this day.



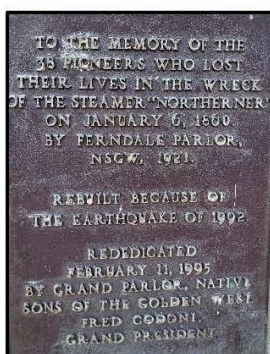
Afterwards we had a nice lite lunch at the Eureka Parlor, a beautiful old building with retail on the ground floor and the Parlor above.



Then on to Ferndale. The cross at Ferndale Cemetery was dedicated in memory of 38 pioneers that lost their lives in 1860 when the Steamship Northerner hit the shoals off shore.



An earthquake wrecked the original cross, which was rebuilt and dedicated by Grand President Fred Codoni in 1995.



Unfortunately, the cliff continued to erode and brother Allen Beard had to lower the cross down to the beach, its present site.

Because of the crumbling cliffs a second cross was dedicated high above the town of Ferndale with exceptional views of the surrounding countryside.



At the end of the day in Fortuna we had a formal initiation of 9 new brothers, very impressive! Now for dinner lots of Hors d'oeuvres, open bar, then Salad, prim rib, chicken and all the trimming with wine on the table and dessert. As with all the festivities a majority of Grand Officers were in attendance, as well as Past Officers and 14 Parlors being represented. The picture shows just a few of the silent auction items available to bid on. I think it was the biggest Silent Auction I have ever seen – good times!



Sunday everyone went home but Irene and I extended our stay to visit the site of the original cross and see some more of the beautiful countryside.

Irene navigated our way there, and though the roads were a bit dodgy and I found myself pressing my right foot into the floor like it was the brake, we made it in one piece.

It's always a pleasure to travel around the state meeting our brothers and celebrating our history. If you get the chance you should try it!

**49er's Days Auburn Parlor #59**

March 8<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup>

Call Dave Allen for info: (530) 401-1000

**Piedmont Parlor #120**

**130<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner**

March 28<sup>th</sup> 5 pm

RSVP Paul Berlin: pb7120@yahoo.com

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