



# Native Sons News

Fairfax Parlor #307

August 2024



## Tales of a Wandering Marshal

By Marshal Lou Langlamet

The week of the 4th of July was hot. Overall it wasn't too bad, if you don't mind sweating through your skivvies. If you're ever curious how a Kahlua pig feels when it's getting roasted, just spend some time in Sonoma County when the thermometer's in triple digits.

On Sunday I took my two deputies (Irene and Anna) up to the Sebastopol Fire Department Pancake Breakfast to investigate whether or not those boys knew their way around a griddle (they do) before moving on to Penngrove for its annual 4th of July Parade.



The Petaluma-Nicasio Parlor was doing what they do – helping to set things up, so we did what we do – we jumped in and helped them. Napa Parlor joined in, well-represented with Past President George Adams and Past Historian Lisa, so that everything came together smooth and easy. It's amazing what you can do when everyone works together.

We marched proudly with the Big Flag in the parade, folded it respectfully and then hustled back to the park in time to hop in the Jeeps and do the parade again. Just like kids in an amusement park. And then, parade over, it was time for a nice cold beer and plenty of camaraderie! Funny how a cold beer mellows out a hot day. What a great time!

## July 9<sup>th</sup> Luncheon

Joe Artigiani worked his magic yet again on Tuesday with his barbeque chicken halves – one moment they were there, the next moment they had disappeared.



## New Members Obligated July 10<sup>th</sup>

### Tennis Anyone?

Of our five new brothers, three are heavily involved in Canon Club's tennis program. Jeff Price coaches at Archie Williams and works with Erik Johansson - our Club Tennis Pro of 25+ years on the youth tennis programs while Chris Strempeck is a long-time player, organizer and current co-chair of the Tennis Committee.



L-R: Jeff Price, John Bidwell, Pres. Matt Marcucci, Chris Strempeck, Erik Johansson, Ralph Daigle.

## FAIRFAX PARLOR CALENDAR 2024

- Wed., Aug 7 – Business Meeting, 7pm Bar opens at 6.
- Tue., Aug 13 – Lunch, 12:30 p.m. Bar opens at 11:30.
- Wed., Aug 21 – Steak Dinner, 7:30 p.m. Bar opens at 6. RSVP**
- Tue., Aug 27 – Lunch, 12:30 p.m. Bar opens at 11:30.
- Wed., Sep 4 – Business Meeting, 7pm Bar opens at 6.
- Tue., Sep 10 – Lunch, 12:30 p.m. Bar opens at 11:30.
- Sat., Sep 21 – 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Fairfax Parlor #307 with: Family Appreciation Day BBQ, 3 - 7pm
- Tue., Sep 24 – Lunch, 12:30 p.m. Bar opens at 11:30.
- Wed., Oct 2 – Business Meeting, 7pm. Nomination of Parlor Officers

### Other Parlors Events

**Aug 5-10 Lotts Lake Work Weekend, Lotts Lake - Dates subject to change due to wildfires**

**Santa Rosa Parlor #28 – Steak Night – Wed. Aug 14<sup>th</sup>**  
6:30 Social, 7pm Eats **RSVP:** Mark (707) 350-1116

**Napa #62 Social/Dinner, Stew & Polenta – Mon. Aug 19<sup>th</sup>**  
6:00/7:00pm **RSVP:** 707-224-3213, NS Hall, Napa

### 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 – Our Trustees 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)

## Fairfax Parlor Celebrates New Cooks

At our July 17<sup>th</sup> Parlor Dinner we were favored with two new volunteer chefs – both of whom are regular staff at Canon Club.

Mandee Lopez and Catherine Hall have been asking to demonstrate their cooking acumen for months and they finally got the opportunity.

The appetizers of crostini with mortadella and pistachio, and cannellini beans and tomato were a huge hit, followed by the main course of grilled sausage, sauteed peppers and onions, and polenta. The great food and a great crowd made for a loud and festive evening.

Mandee and her husband Fabricius know their way around a kitchen – they own and operate two restaurants in the city – Suppenkuche and Biergarten – you should check them out when you have a chance.



*Found Treasures  
L-R Fabricius Wiest, Mandee Lopez and Catherine Hall.*

### August Birthdays

Aug 1<sup>st</sup>: Dibley Michael  
 Aug 2<sup>nd</sup>: Daniel Freeman, Tom Kyne, Dan Murphy, Richard Saber,  
 Aug 3<sup>rd</sup>: Ray Potter  
 Aug 4<sup>th</sup>: Scott Rohrs, David Zischke  
 Aug 5<sup>th</sup>: Korri Grigsby, Michael Kluse  
 Aug 6<sup>th</sup>: John Loutas, William Rogers  
 Aug 7<sup>th</sup>: Daniel Delloso  
 Aug 9<sup>th</sup>: Ralph Ardito, Glenn Kabanuck  
 Aug 11<sup>th</sup>: William Knapp  
 Aug 12<sup>th</sup>: Jeff Garon  
 Aug 13<sup>th</sup>: Jay Brown, William Glueck, Vincent Patterson  
 Aug 14<sup>th</sup>: Brian Franzoia, Craig Zellers  
 Aug 15<sup>th</sup>: John Mohr  
 Aug 16<sup>th</sup>: Ron Hinck  
 Aug 18<sup>th</sup>: Brian Kennedy, Pasquale Tarantino  
 Aug 19<sup>th</sup>: Cortney Balzan, Peter Barto  
 Aug 21<sup>st</sup>: William Denson  
 Aug 22<sup>nd</sup>: Walter Connolly, George Thornton  
 Aug 25<sup>th</sup>: Richard Bonfiglio  
 Aug 26<sup>th</sup>: Mark Porto  
 Aug 27<sup>th</sup>: Jack Pizza, David Scafani  
 Aug 28<sup>th</sup>: Daniel Baker  
 Aug 29<sup>th</sup>: Joseph Morrison, Jr. (Pay your dues!)  
 Aug 30<sup>th</sup>: Chris Wand

## Starelli Summits Mt. Whitney



Brother Anthony Starelli has been hiking the Pacific Crest trail to memorialize his father, Tony Starelli, our long-time treasurer. Early on July 21<sup>st</sup> he made it to the top of Mt. Whitney. He's come 767 miles so far but he's still got 1,894 to go. Good luck and God speed, brother!



### July 23<sup>rd</sup> Lunch

Chicken Caesar salad with garlic bread and Its-Its for dessert. The day was hot – triple digits. The kitchen was hot. But the cooks kept their cool and nobody got hurt. A cool lunch for a cool Parlor.



*The Kitchen Cabinet  
L-R: Lou 'Lunch-Saver' Langlamet,  
Bill 'Small Menu' Madsen and Matt 'The Butcher' Marcucci*

# Big Boy – Union Pacific’s 4041 Steam Locomotive

*By Don Cronk*



On July 9, 2024, Ray Potter, myself and our significant others, Elizabeth Potter and Kathleen Giono drove to Roseville California to view up close and personal Union Pacific’s largest steam locomotive still in existence today. This steam engine is affectionately known as “Big Boy 4041”. We had a fantastic time that even the day’s sweltering 111 degree temperature could not dampen. Good food, drinks and music were provided free of charge which made enduring the heat of the day bearable.

This steam engine was built in 1941 by The American Locomotive Company and was designed to haul freight mainly coal and ore over the 160 mile Wasatch mountain range which runs from the Utah-Idaho border to central Utah. It is the western edge of the Rocky Mountains extending just into Idaho and the Bear River Mountains, not an easy route. At its peak Big Boy hauled 65 freight cars (4200 tons) between Utah and Wyoming

Big Boy is the only remaining operable locomotive out of the 15 that were originally built in 1941 at a cost of roughly 266 thousand dollars (5.6 million dollars today). The engine is longer than two city buses (85.7 feet) and weighs more than a Boeing 747 (762 thousand pounds) and while it could achieve a top speed of 70 miles an hour it usually operated around 35 mph where it would operate at a maximum horsepower of 7000. Big Boy measures 117 feet long

by 11 feet wide and 16 feet tall. Water capacity is 25 thousand gallons and holds 6500 gallons of fuel. Total weight is 1,198,500 pounds including the tender and with fluids filled to capacity.

Its last official run was on July 21, 1959 and was retired from service on December 7, 1961. Big Boy was completely restored in 2019 and in May of that year moved under its own power once again after sitting for more than six decades and is now known as the world’s largest operational steam locomotive.

In May of 2022, Big Boy’s tender car was converted to diesel fuel rather than coal, a much more practical and cheaper way to heat the boilers. Big Boy consumes 25 gallons of diesel and 200 gallons of water for every mile it travels. Big Boy tours the country and draws quite the following of fans as we witnessed during this three day event.

Ray and I can attest one cannot really appreciate its sheer size unless you are up close and personal. We were fortunate enough to be present as Big Boy approached the train yard and from over 50 feet away could feel the sheer power of the steam pistons and the ground shaking as it came to a stop. Even if you are not a train buff after seeing this monster and talking to the engineers and staff you will walk away impressed with what man can accomplish when there is a need.

# Looking to the Future

By 1<sup>st</sup> VP Bill Madsen

Here's something I learned at Grand Parlor: While the membership of our Order continues to decline, the individual parlors that are providing some service to the community are still thriving.

Napa Parlor is a good example: Having a conversation with one of their younger members in our hospitality room, I commented on the number of 'kids' they had at Grand Parlor – where did they find so many guys under the age of 25 willing to participate? He smiled and said that some of their Parlor members were into gaming and that they had found students at Napa JC that needed a place for their weekly gaming sessions and told them that if they were Parlor members they could hold these sessions at their hall. So now they have all these young brothers that are spending time at the Parlor and volunteering at events because Napa Parlor meets a need of young college students.

Ferndale doesn't have their own hall, but when there are events in town the community reaches out to the Parlor looking for bartenders. Need a bartender? Why not call the Native Sons? It's genius – it gets their name out there and their members – what better place to have a casual conversation about the Native Sons than while you're slinging booze?

Talking to these Parlors and hearing their stories reminded me of an event Brother Sean Aguilar helped to organize last fall – where he volunteered his time and our pickleball courts for a fund-raiser to benefit Play Marin, a local non-profit providing opportunities for under-served children. It raised \$4500 in 4 hours.

What if we could have more events like that? Working with local non-profits and other organizations, offering our facilities to those in need, what a great way to promote our organization and make ourselves a relevant force in the community.

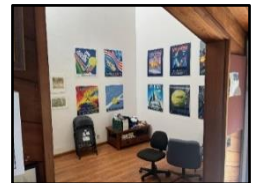
Cleft Palate and historical preservation are good causes, but they don't resonate with younger people and our local community – these are the people we need to focus on to build membership – and we need to find causes that are meaningful to them.

With this in mind, Fairfax Parlor is forming a **5-Year Plan Committee** to look at how we can position ourselves to address community needs, encourage new membership while retaining the members we have, and make our Parlor and our clubhouse relevant and indispensable to the community in the future.

The following are just a few of the things that we'll be looking at in the coming months:

## 1. The Lounge

Converting the Club's tennis shop into a permanent bar and lounge area. Currently at meals we squeeze 12 or 14 people in this space. With a better design we could fit 24. A permanent bar with a kegerator with 2-3 taps and appropriate lounge seating would make this small room more inviting and could, over time, become a hang-out for our Parlor members. This is a high priority for me because I think it would demonstrate to our younger members that the Parlor is cool. Also, draft beer.



## 2. The Kitchen

Our kitchen is a great asset for the Parlor and could be a great asset for the Club but right now it's super janky. The layout is abysmal. It's difficult to keep clean. There's hardly any food prep area and it's woefully outdated.

This may not be an immediate priority but we need to start thinking about the potential benefits of a functional, hygienic, modern kitchen with an eye towards future fundraisers and events.

## 3. A Bocce Court

A couple of bocce courts, a sunshade and some benches would put a nice finishing touch on the east-end of our Club. There were many requests for this in our Parlor survey. A potential venue for parties with other parlors.



## 4. The Balcony

For larger events and fundraisers a permanent 3-season covered deck would be huge. With a tinted UV roof you'd still have plenty of light but no more need for the unwieldy umbrella tables. With windscreens we could be making use of it almost year-round. With the extra space we could eliminate our dependence on St. Rita's.

## 5. Fundraisers and Other Events

This could be a monthly occurrence for us down the road. Club tournaments. Inter-Parlor competitions. Community events and Fundraisers. We're only limited by our imagination (and our parking). Do you know an organization that could use a hand? Let's figure out a way to help.



These are just a few of the things we'll be looking at over the next few years. If you've got some ideas you'd like to add, why not join our committee? Or you can email Bill Madsen at [uubmadsen@sbcglobal.net](mailto:uubmadsen@sbcglobal.net). Please let us know what you're thinking. I've just told you what I'm thinking.

## **The Fish That Needed To Get Away: A NATIVE SON OF THE GOLDEN WEST STORY**

*By Russ Knudson*

Back in the day, Fairfax had a small pond known as Smith Lake. The lake was damned by a 15' high berm that supported the train tracks of the North Pacific Coast Railroad in the 1870's. Russian River timber for the San Franciscans and Fairfax Party Trains were the early ventures of this railroad until bankruptcy came calling. The railroad eventually disappeared as the automobile and the Golden Gate Bridge changed the transportation interests of many local Americans. Smith Lake survived for many years afterwards as a happy fishing hole for the trespassing Fairfaxian kids.....Good Times!

Kevin Courtz, The Little Fisherman, loved to fish and he could out-fish everyone! When Kevin went fishing several of his friends wanted to tag along and see if the Kevin Courtz Fishin' Mojo could rub off on them. The Smith Lake property was bought and sold a few times over the early 20<sup>th</sup> century and the railroad berm held steady for the fishin' fun.

The Fall, Winter, Spring and occasional Summer rain droplets would congregate forming several little streams that came to an end at the railroad berm, keeping Smith Lake at full capacity.

In the 1960's a development plan would see to the removal of the railroad berm and Smith Lake.

Condo's and a swim and tennis club would replace this beautiful natural area in West Fairfax.

This was concerning to The Little Fisherman as there was a big big big fish in Smith Lake that no one could capture....not even Kevin!

Kevin hooked that fish over a dozen times.

That powerful fish would either snap Kevin's pole in half, hook line and sinker or it would pull Kevin into the lake as if he was water skiing.

Legend has it that Kevin was pulled around the lake by this powerful fish in a circle three times one afternoon before tumbling onto one of the fishing banks.

Kevin said to his friends one day after learning of the development, "We Gotta catch that fish and save it! It's the greatest fish ever!"

Kevin has a plan.

This is not about The Fish That Got Away ...

....it's about.....

The Fish....That Needed to Get Away!

I hope you enjoy the story.

## **Chapter 1: Richardson**

The year and date is January 7th, 1875.

A ferry boat in San Francisco with an assortment of bribe accepting dignitaries sets off from the area that would eventually be the San Francisco Ferry Building. A short but scenic crossing to an up-and-coming village known as Saucelito with other bribe accepting dignitaries anxiously awaited the ferry boat.

A significant train ride was the occasion.

The Official Maiden Journey of the North Pacific Coast Railroad from Saucelito to Tomales, California, was the event.

A slow-going meandering train ride over 50 miles of breathtaking Marin County Lands was of great anticipation.

Saucelito was an easy arrival this day.

The quaint village name of Saucelito comes from "The Little Willows" that dotted the landscape when in 1838 William Richardson had ownership of Saucelito as a land grant.

The Indigenous who occupied these greater bay area lands long before Europeans arrived believed that land belonged to nobody....and everybody.

.....but the Indigenous had little say when the Europeans arrived.

Richardson was very impactful in the Greater Bay Area. He laid out the first streets in Yerba Buena, now known as San Francisco.

Likewise in the town of Sonoma.

Richardson built an adobe for his family when he moved to Saucelito.

Saucelito was one of many California Land Grants that Mexico used as payment to those who served its conquering cause.

The history of Marin County Land Grants are stories in themselves,

but Saucelito for almost twenty years.....

.....on questionable litigious paper.....

belonged to Richardson.

Richardson died in 1856, penniless.

*To be continued...*

*This is the first installment in a series Russ is writing for our Parlor and the Canon Club community.*

*There should be a new installment each month.*

## Search for Financial Secretary

For over 50 years, Brother Gene Ardito served as Fairfax Parlor's Financial Secretary. When he passed in 2021, Bill Addy volunteered to take on the responsibilities of that position temporarily.

After 3+ years of exemplary service, with no one stepping forward to assume the position, and recognizing that Bill Addy had done it for far longer than anyone anticipated, the Parlor Trustees (Richard Holland, Lou Langlamet and Joel Bantly) met and offered to assume the Financial Secretary's duties themselves. They understand that the Financial Secretary position is critical to the Parlor's ability to manage its member data and collect Parlor dues.

The next time you see one of the trustees, please thank them for stepping up.

Like Bill Addy, their plan is to take on these duties temporarily, until the Parlor can find a volunteer interested in becoming our permanent Financial Secretary. If you have an interest in the position or are curious to learn more about what the job entails, please let any of the current officers know.

## Revised Membership Applications

New NSGW Applications for Membership are available in our Club House Office. We gratefully tip our caps to PGP Fred Codoni for preparing these forms so quickly.

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