

San Luis Obispo
Senior High School
Class of 1963

What We've Been Up To

[Print date: 25-Jun-26]

Notes:

- Everyone is encouraged to scribble something for the rest of the folks in the class
- You can change your submission any time. Send new info, new pictures, tell us more about what happened in your life. You can make hand edits and send a photo of the edited copy, whatever. (Apple people, please try *not* to send stuff in "pages" format)
- At some point we'll fold in the obituaries we have. Many of them are terse, so anyone who had kept up with those who have now passed on might add other stuff about their lives.
- If you don't write about yourself, possibly a classmate will do so for you, but who knows if you'll like what they say 😊.

Buck, Molly (Lewis)

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I have lived in Montrose, Colorado, since 1992. The town is located in the Uncompahgre Valley on the Western slope of the Rocky Mountains. It's a great place to live due to good weather and outside adventures that include hiking, biking, skiing, fishing, river rafting, etc.

For myself I like to garden, bake, cook, read and enjoy my friends. I play harmonica (no laughing allowed) with a group of friends and we have a hoot. It's really good for your lungs as well when you live at high altitude. Montrose sits at 5,800 feet.

I have three girls ranging in age from 33 to 55 and they are my friends as well. My husband passed in 1995 but I stay busy and that helps. I have four grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

How I had got into Medicine way back in 1964 all started with Cuesta Grade Park. I had gone to CalPoly for the '63-'64 school year but I didn't find any occupation there that interested me but it was an engineering school so I had to look further. In June of 1964 I went to the campus post office to get my mail and saw a list of summer jobs on the post office wall. Well that started it. I got a



Molly Buck Lewis and daughter Erica

job at the Cuesta Grade Veterinary and Boarding Clinic for the summer but the regular Vet and his wife were on vacation. I watched the interim Vet take x-rays and those x-rays fascinated me. One day the office phone rang and a gentlemen's voice told me the roof of the clinic was on fire so I hightailed it out of the clinic with 12 or so dogs on leashes and waited in the parking lot for a fire engine that never came. That dang man who called the clinic drove up and told me of the roof fire said he was "just kidding me". I could have brained him. Within two months I was allowed into a Radiology Program in Los Angeles and the rest is how I got where I am today.

I worked in hospitals for 50 years....25 years in Nuclear Medicine and the next 25 years in Ultrasound and Cardiology. I loved it all except for late night call, of course, but I found the patients to be very kind and appreciative.

As students I remember we had the best teachers EVER and I will always remember the Quonset huts we had for classrooms and, of course, Puff the Magic Dragon was atop the roof of the huts. Try doing that nowadays at a school! I feel most all of us lived and still live in the best years of our lives starting with the 50's and 60's. I wish more than anything my children could have had the same experience as well.



I would have liked to be able to make it to SLO for the reunion but it's a 500mile roundtrip from my home to the airport and back plus the airplane flight from Denver to SLO and back.

My youngest daughter, Shea got her degree in Gunnison in 2012. Not a fan of small towns, so she moved to Daegu, South Korea. She is a teacher in a Hagwon there as well as supervisor of the expatriates. She loves teaching and really like living there mainly because it's a great starting point to see so much of the rest of the world. I flew over to see her in 2017...what a beautiful country.

Recently I found a picture on my phone that took me back 73 years or so. It was taken at a prekindergarten play school off of Monterey Street I believe. There were a few of us and I am in the front row on the left (the big girl) and on my left is Beth Pereira and on Beth's left side is **Betsy Leslie**.



With all my best wishes to the class of '63 take care and enjoy the days ahead.

Molly Buck Lewis
August 8, 2023

Update 1Jun26: Molly is living in a memory care facility in Montrose, CO. She's doing well and calls from time to time. hw

Caspari, Jürgen (Obit)

**Dr. Jürgen
Thomas Caspari**



San Luis Obispo, California - Dr. Jürgen Thomas Caspari, 78 suddenly passed away March 28, 2023, while on a cruise with his wife, Birgit, on the Douro River in Portugal. Jürgen Caspari was a former GSC Exchange Student from Stuttgart, Germany who attended San Luis Obispo High School on an International Exchange for the 1962-1963 school year. His Host Family in San Luis Obispo was Ken and Ouida Glick and teenage children Rich, Shelly and Fritz Glick. Jürgen's daughter, Verena Caspari, also attended San Luis Obispo High School on a guest exchange arranged by Ethel Cooley in September through October 1990 and stayed at the home of Fritz and Sharon Glick and children Katie and Jack Glick continuing the exchange another generation.

Jürgen graduated from San Luis Obispo High School in June 1963. After graduating in Germany in 1965 he attended Universities in Tübingen and Freiburg majoring in Law Studies completing his Doctor of Law in 1973. Jürgen married his love for life, Birgit, in May 1971. Jürgen was employed by Audi as Licensing Manager for the rotary engine in 1974. He eventually became head of the Legal Department for the largest German Machine Tool Manufacturer. In 1983 he founded his own Law Firm in Heilbronn, Germany specializing in International Law. Throughout his professional life he visited San Luis Obispo many times making many friends on these visits as he was a very outgoing friendly-natured German. The Glick family and friends also visited Jürgen's family in Heilbronn, Germany and other parts of Europe as well.

The vacation on the Douro River was a celebration gift to his wife for her birthday of which he said, "We both are looking forward to this trip as we had our most rewarding times on our exceptional traveling events like this tour of Portugal

Dr. Jürgen Thomas Caspari, 78 is survived by his wife of 52 years, Birgit, children Verena (Kilian Brucklacher), Johannes (Katja) and 4 grandchildren. A memorial celebration of life was held at Jürgen and Birgit's home in Heilbronn, Germany in the garden he enjoyed so much on April 21, 2023, to welcome him home from Portugal before burial.

Collins, Carolyn

After graduating in 1963 I headed off to UCSB as a pre-med major. The first semester I hit Chem 1A which put the kabash on that major. (I eventually did it again on my vacation.) The next few years I spent as a flower child in the mountains until I realized that that was a downhill course. Finished medical school at UCSF when I was 34 and did a medical oncology fellowship. Practiced at UW, in Boise and Redding retiring in 2012. Yeah! Medicine is not so fun anymore but working with patients and staff was quite fulfilling. Since then Pete and I have traveled a lot, including 6 months in Europe. This year was our 50th anniversary. We have a son, Matthew, who fell in love with Sara.....and her four girls, so our family grew rapidly. We are blessed to have a cabin at Echo Lake at the head of the Desolation Wilderness where we spend 3 to 4 months yearly if possible. For me, life all in all has been good.

Eggert, Dia

The "WILDS OF IDAHO" have cradled me for this most recent THIRD of my 75-plus-2 years. Brother Max and I sold the San Luis Phillips Lane family home (yes, beloved parents both passed through "the veil") and I wavered between following my cherished SUN to New Zealand or visiting the Mighty Salmon River country to join long time friend Jane who had become a river guide. The kayaking adventure won out.



Jane was stationed in the small (population 66 at that time in 1988) town of Stanley, Idaho, located in the Sawtooth Mountain Valley. I had sold my RX7 Mazda (a love affair of NINE years!), purchased a four-wheel drive and pulled a small U-Haul trailer to the very small A-frame cabin on the Salmon River with a deck clear out to the water. The seduction of the Indian Summer had succeeded in my wanting to live there "forever". I had discovered the near-by 4300' mostly flat dirt AIRSTRIP up on "the bench"---a dumping ground for the receding glaciers and Salmon River waters of yore. With the funds from selling the San Luis home I had the means to satisfy my singular desire, that of becoming a private pilot. Afterall, I had "flown" all my life in my "dreams". And older brother Darell had become a Navy Pilot.



Only trouble is, "gee whiz", WINTER FELL, ending SUMMER abruptly in November, burying the airstrip in snow until May/June. I had fallen in love with recorded "COLDEST PLACE IN THE NATION" and spent my winter in an uninsulated cabin, fascinated with the River Otters (I had believed otters were only in the SEA) as the Salmon River froze up at 56 degrees BELOW zero. When it warmed up to the "twenty belows" I drove seventy-five miles over the mountain passes to Hailey/Friedman Airport where I had found a FEMALE FLIGHT INSTRUCTOR, Pam Penkoff.

As all long stories must (or at the least SHOULD be) shortened, here goes MINE of the 35 years



following my "Destiny Move to Idaho".

~Enter into my life Bob Danner, cowboy backcountry pilot and Owner/Operator of Stanley Air Taxi and single room log cabin FBO (Fixed Base Operation) 30 feet from Stanley dirt airstrip, named "Stanley/Danner Field" following his sudden death in 2004 in a weather related crash in the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness.

~Danner returned in the spring from flying a float plane in Chile for Patagonia Lodge. ~He turned me on to an old Cessna 182 High Performance airplane, 8690 Tango, which I purchased for \$9,500.00. Over several years it was at its zenith insured for \$80K skills, the rest of my APPRECIATION of airplanes.

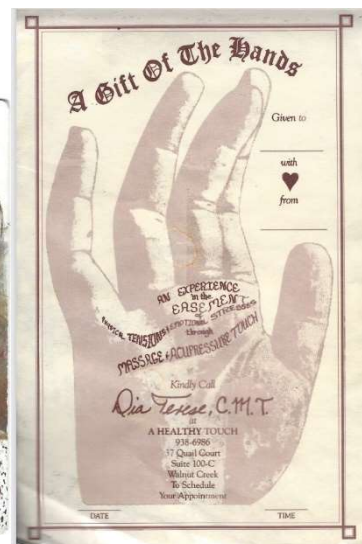


~My new "career" emerged the business and flying. We seven months and had five ~I did not fly commercially but (BY our pilots!) thousands of Sawtooth and White Cloud Wolverine Recon/Tracking hunters, fisherpeople, photographers, film makers.

for the next 14 years building worked seven days a week for months off .

Tango worked for me flying people for scenics in the Mountains, Wolf and NOT shooting), Backcountry

For 12 years following Danner's death I lived a frontiers woman life alone until our cabin caught fire in 2016, forcing a reluctant move to civilization here in Boise, population approximately 240 K. Here now for seven years, a full time STUDENT OF LIFE, I am privileged with TIME and FUNDS to explore the HUMAN BEING. My "knowing" is that the HUMAN is "by design", genetically tweaked (crisp chromosomes #'s 2 and 7 by The Seven Sisters Pleiadians, Orion Constellation, approximately 200,000 thousand years ago) in order to re-establish pathways for HIGHER CONSCIOUSNESS. My passion is discovering and experiencing ONENESS, the CONNECTED, UNIFIED FIELD. Favorite scientist in my pocket—NASSIM HARAMAIN, Unified Science.



My mission is to assist in Indigenous Wisdom running Pacha Mama and to participate in Planet EARTH's ascending in frequency to take its rightful orbital place in our MILKY WAY GALAXY. All the MULTI-VERSE applauds.

ALL is VIBRATION, FREQUENCY, LIGHT and ALL IS LOVE.

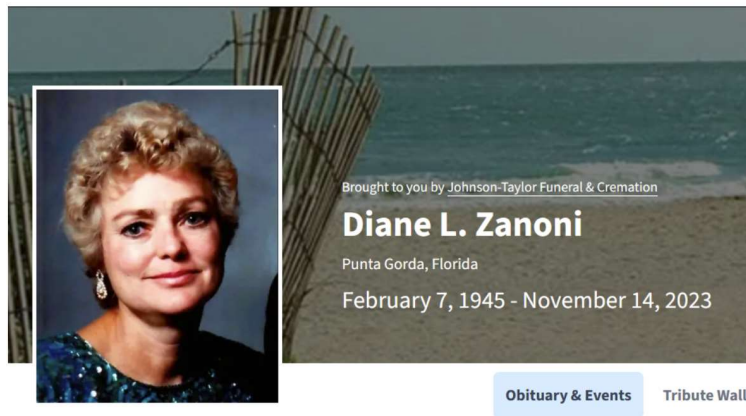
My seven days a week commitment is to LOVE. I continue to play piano, pieces I learned as a young person, as well as learning new pieces.

I humbly share this tiny slice of my life with you all IN GRATITUDE for having been given the gift of moving to San Luis Obispo for my Junior and Senior Years.

NAMASTE I AM ANOTHER YOU; YOU ARE ANOTHER (I) ME.

And LOVE, LOVE, LOVE from Dia

Finch, Diane (Zanoni) - Obit



Diane L. (Finch) Zanoni of Punta Gorda, FL, passed away on November 14, 2023. She was born on February 7, 1945, to Donna N. (Doerr) Finch and Aubrey M. Finch in Los Angeles, CA. She graduated from Garden Grove High School in Garden Grove, CA in 1963; and Rutgers University in New Brunswick, NJ. She married the love of her life, Louis J. Zanoni on December 28, 1963 in Garden Grove, CA.

Diane and Louis lived in Bridgewater, NJ for 48 years before moving permanently to Punta Gorda, FL in 2020 after snow birding for 20 years. She was a mental health therapist for 25 years for Richard Hall Community Mental Health Center along with a private practice. She was a Girl Scout leader and an active member of Faith Lutheran Church of Punta Gorda.

Diane enjoyed reading, spending time at the beach and with grandchildren, and playing with her sweet poodles.

Diane will be deeply missed by her husband Louis; daughters Christin Gusler, Courtney Monahan, and Crescent Castine; 5 grandchildren: Zachary, Hunter, Ryleigh, Ryan, and Gavin; and sister Connie (Jim) Silva. She was preceded in death by her mother Donna N. (Doerr) Finch and her father Aubrey M. Finch.

Fisher, Clyde (C.P.)

C.P. (Clyde) Fisher - Yes, changed my name 60 years ago!

Cursory overview of 50 years ...

After earning my B.A. and Master's Degrees, and getting married to the lovely and talented Linda, we moved to Redlands, CA to begin my Education Career where I taught 6th grade, MGM "Mentality Gifted Minors," and Junior High Math and Science. I became the Coordinator of Special Education and an Elementary Principal in Redlands, and then left education to experience the mortgage broker business.

Although a long story, suffice to say that through the Mortgage Business, I affiliated with a small bank in Vista, CA, moved to San Clemente, CA, with Linda and our two children, and became CEO/President of Frontier National Bank. Moving on from there, I became involved with international finance and owned a third of The Bank of Nassau in the Bahamas. After selling out, I started Interbank Funding Group, Inc. in San Diego as a Mortgage Bank, active and licensed in 37 States, operating with 150 employees, until I sold and retired, after two heart attacks, a stint and defibrillator, when I was 55.

We continue to live in San Clemente and have 5 fantastic grandchildren, ages 11 through 23. We have been fortunate to have our daughter's family live one block from us with her 3 kids, and our son's family just recently moved from S.C. to Truckee, CA. Certainly, we have enjoyed our time in San Clemente for 40 years and a boat in San Diego at the Marriott Marina.

Because my sister, Marti Fisher, still lives in San Luis, we get up there several times a year and enjoy our time visiting with friends and watching all the many changes that have occurred over the years, with great memories of my High School experiences and being our Senior Class President, so long ago!

Grove, Michael

I find myself at this point in life as grateful. Happy to be on the planet. Lucky. I have three sons, my adopted son Chris who is 50, Sebastian 30, and Ty 27. They are all doing well – each creating their own journey. I have one granddaughter who is delight at 11. Sebastian just got married to his girlfriend who is from Barcelona. I have been to three Tiger reunions each with a different wife. It wasn't my design. I love each of them and life is not a straight line, predictable. No Regrets. Those who attended our 50th reunion met my current and last wife 😊 Karen. We are happy empty nesters. She is a building designer, an artist, incredible with crafts, a baker, and deep into a sport with our dog, Duarte, called Agility. When we were saying our wedding vows, I got choked up (I know it's my third time) and all I could say was I am "lucky". We are mates and friends. And recently we started playing pickleball. Lots of fun. Pushing me to get in better shape.

I am also grateful to still be following my passion, a sense of purpose that we can make a difference and leave this earth in a better place. I have been working my fifth startup company. The goal is to shift the "we" management and "they" employee model to a "we" culture where trusted relationships are at the center of value creation. At this point in life, it is not about money, I frankly like working – especially if it a creation I believe in. Here is a recent article, and you can see how little Mikey got to his gray hair. [humancentric copy.pdf](#)

Life is short, and for us/me – my visit in this body is getting shorter in time - and yet sweeter in joyful moments. Little things seem to matter more for me. Just a lovely morning in the garden. Or getting an unexpected helping hand. I am still learning and thrive on it. Example are these new AI tools which will transform work in ways we are just discovering. Candidly, I don't like getting old, and prefer not to look in the mirror. On one hand I want to be greedy and live like I was forty, on the other hand, I remind myself such as in writing this story – that I am part, a small part, of a much bigger story of life on earth and all its magic of what is known and yet to be. And as the moments and days pass towards my setting sun, let me linger with the intense light that shines on me. Let me smile in contentment that my journey has been rich and perfect in its own way. And let me say to my fellow classmates of 63 Tigers – bravo to each of you and let's rejoice that we are indeed lucky to be here and to celebrate who we are together after 60 years – with Love.

Mike

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Hart, Harry

June 1968 got off with a big bang. In that month, I graduated from Cal Poly (Math), married Carla Beaulieu (SLO '66), and was drafted in the Army where our first daughter born in Texas. Returning to SLO with an "Early Out" in 1970 and a five-year tan, I took several computer courses at Cal Poly and was hired by Control Data Corp, a computer mainframe manufacturer. My first assignment was at Vandenberg AFB, then transferred every few years to Sacramento (second daughter born), Las Vegas (where we met the Lord) and finally to Reno. The local office salesman and I were not good Corporate citizens, having ideas and minds of our own. Soon, we obligated the Company to provide Data Processing services to a variety of business clients, while the Company sought out only scientific-based clients.

After several years of an uneasy relationship, we separated from the company and formed our own on April Fools, 1978. From providing any computing service to a variety of clients (local as well as Western Union and Charles Schwab), we steered our business into providing Payroll and Payroll Tax services, and along with a variety of banks, became the fourth largest tax payroll provider nationwide. A large personal finance company bought our company in 1999 while Carla and I were circumnavigating the world on a two-year sailing plan.

Returning to the Mediterranean in the summer of 2000, we visited Portofino, Italy and wondered "what real estate could cost?" and purchased our first of three residences in adjacent Santa Margherita Ligure. Subsequently, we have added Kona, Hawaii and Devonport, Auckland NZ and until the "covid wars", spent our time somewhat equally among them.

On a more personal note, we have been involved in various Christian ministries over the years and had, until Italy, expected to relocate to Germany. Along with our two daughters, we have four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren – most all living on the Big Island.

We anticipate moving within a year to (?) somewhere, possibly overseas.

Hoffman, Ginger (Goodell)

After my marriage 12 December 1964 to the "boy" (he later proved to be a 4th year senior) I met at Cal Poly's Welcome Week Stomp, September 1963, John and I lived in numerous places (Goleta, CA; Forest Hill, MD; Petersburg, VA; Granite City, IL; Isla Vista, CA; Renton, WA; Costa Mesa, CA; Huntington Beach, CA; Murray, KY). We finally returned to San Luis Obispo in February 2005. And here we've lived quite happily. As my brother, Tony, once said upon a visit to our parents' graves at the San Luis Cemetery. "We're lucky Mom and Dad moved us here in 1953."

Our son, Jon, a petroleum geologist recently moved to Spring, Texas, but his son, 18, and daughter, 15, remain in Bakersfield with their mom. Jon visits monthly. Our daughter, Jennifer (Jen), lives here now and works as a visiting in-home Physical Therapy Asst. Both John and I are happily retired teachers.

Holmes, Carol (Armstrong)

So my story... after high school I married Bud Davidson and had two wonderful daughters... we divorced and the girls and I moved to Santa Cruz and then onto Sacramento...the majority of that time I was in banking...started as a teller and moved to VP of marketing with a wonderful small business bank..

Once that bank was sold I got my securities and insurance licenses and started my own business as a financial advisor.

There's a lot of water under the bridge there but those are the big pieces.

My life partner and I lived in Sacramento area, Texas (near Galveston/Houston for Ike), Florida (Pensacola —for Katrina and then Mexico Beach Port St Joe Beach) We married in Florida in 2011 and he passed away Dec 2012.

We had horses, boats, his antique cars etc...2013 I relocated to Mesa AZ with my horses... and I am still here loving it...rehomed horses after my last fall..we heal so slow as we age!

I hike, herd (not so far to fall!),bake, swim every day, read ...love the symphony and all the choices of jazz and blues here.

I have travelled ... not in this order: Hawaii 1972 and beyond, New York, Costa Rica ♥, Mexico, Canada, British Columbia, Jamaica, the entire Route 66!

Both my parents and my brother Richard have passed.

I am blessed with three Grandchildren...each one an awesome human and a joy to me...youngest granddaughter of the left with her bff and my heart Granddaughter



Youngest granddaughter on the left with her bff and my heart Granddaughter



My Grandson and his bride



And my artsy adorable Granddaughter and her man!

Johnson, Abbie (Woodward)

My life has remained fairly steady over the years.

San Luis Obispo has remained my home and I continue to live in the same house as when I started the 9th grade.

I am a better date than a mate and have remained single for many years.



Very fortunate to have my two children living locally. Mark, a writer lives, is in Los Osos. Shelly, a dental hygienist, her husband and my two granddaughters have lived with me for the last 15 plus years. (The girls are in and out as they are now in their early twenties). It really does work living in a multi-generational family.

Yes, I still actively work as a Realtor in San Luis Obispo County. Gone through" the good, the bad and the ugly" with real estate over the last 39 years and still enjoy what I do.

With that being said, should some of you Tigers have family, friends, or maybe you are looking to buy or sell real estate in the area, please feel confident, passing my name and info on to them, that they will be well taken care of by a local Realtor.

Jones, Ken

[Editor's note: Ken lives in eastern Idaho and is still active in the company he founded, which serves medical logistics. There is a blog there that starts off with a rich history of his education and early work years.

<http://www.allstarfiling.com/blog>



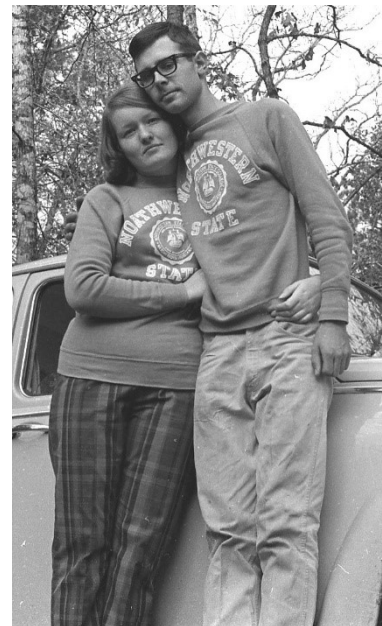
Keyes, Chris

I had been thinking about changing my major to teaching, and on a trip to visit my folks, I went up to Natchitoches, Louisiana to check out N.S.U. I liked what I saw and was accepted for the 1966 term. I met this attractive redhead, Carol. However, I decided to join the Army. After a three-year enlistment, including a year in Vietnam, I returned to N.S.U and rejoined Carol, who became my wife. We had our first child soon after. I taught math and science for one year at Fairview Alpha High School and Middle School near Campti.

In 1973 we moved to a town named Seabrook in the Houston area. It was there we had our three other children. I was the photographer on a project at the Johnson Space Center that measured the astronauts in three dimensions before and after flight. I later worked at the Shuttle Avionics Integration Laboratory, where we test flew the Shuttle on the ground to make sure it would fly safely into space. I was a test conductor for the main engine, external tank and solid rocket booster.

I worked in the Houston area as a customer service engineer for a computer controls company, Modicon. One of their customers, ASI Keystone, hired me to automate huge grain storage complexes to chemical plants.

Sadly, Carol and I parted. I moved to Oregon and worked as a project engineer for a company that automated industries from sawmills to production equipment for Boeing bombers. My 19-year-old son passed away in 2020 from a burst grain aneurysm. I was consoling Karen, one of Carol's best Texas friends, who had lost a 25-year-old daughter to extreme anaphylactic shock. We became interested in each other. I had been single for a couple of years and was tired of living alone.



Karen and I married.

I enjoy building and repairing things now, from performing household maintenance to building cedar fences and remodeling simple home structures. Life is good. I work out at the YMCA with my youngest daughter and enjoy excellent health.

--Aug 2021



Lewelling, Cheryl (Hahn)

Hi Hank, Following is what I've been up to. I saw you wrote in your email that it could be like a "long letter". Since I love to write, you may be sorry you sent that message. 😊 I'm sending you three pics at the end of this email...one of me, one of Mel and me with our Golden doodle, Lexie, and the 3rd pic of daughter Stacey on the far right, youngest granddaughter Lily who just graduated from SDSU/Political Science in the middle and me on the far left. You can use whichever ones you want (or all). Feel free to convert the following to a Reader's Digest version. ¶ And feel free to correct any grammatical errors. I just reread for the 5th time and still found errors! Just saw your email that the first registrant has confirmed. Yea! My will be coming in soon by mail with a check.



A big thanks to you (and all the others who helped) for picking up the torch and continuing the Reunions. I know how much work it is! Personally I love the idea of a BarBQ. Can't wait!

[editor's note: There is no editing needed. It's great hearing from folks in their own words.]

Update: After 16 years running a "hamburger joint-Ed's Take Out" and my 2 kids graduating from college, I started back to school at Cuesta and earned an AS degree in Science while at the same time working as an independent contractor for a tax accountant and also other various businesses who needed help cleaning up their accounting messes. I planned to continue at CP the following September after completion at Cuesta to work towards a degree either in English or Science...maybe both. (While at Cuesta I wrote a lot of assignments regarding different areas of science that folks with average knowledge of various topics could easily understand. I loved writing about science.) Before I could continue at



CP Mel was diagnosed with a rare form of cancer-(Hairy Cell Leukemia- in which the B lymphocytic blood cells are covered in cilia, hence "hairy cell". Because we had been self-employed for many years, we didn't have good health insurance coverage. Therefore, I ended up at Cal Poly not as a student but as an Administrative Analyst Specialist in the College of Engineering-Civil-Environmental Engineering Dept. It was a great job from which I retired in 2004. We're very grateful for the health insurance my employment within the CSU system included w/retirement. BTW... after almost three decades and five separate rounds of chemotherapy, Mel is in remission but still under the care of his oncologist and NIH where he participated in clinical trials.

By the time I retired from CP my 2 kids, Steve and Stacey were both married. Steve's wife, Jeannie, is still teaching elementary school and Steve is now a retired prosecutor (San Joaquin County)who returned part time to the DA's Office working on "resentencing" cases (and wind foiling in his spare time out at Rio Vista.) Stacey is an Associate Broker working out of a Shell Beach Real Estate firm. She is married to Scott Schalde who just completed his 2nd year as Principal of Morro Bay HS which Mr. Mores, the Spanish teacher at SLOSH, used to call "SunnyAcres by the Sea".☺ My son-in-law works long hours running MB High so hopefully it's outgrown that moniker.

Between my two kids we have 5 grandchildren- Steve's three-Jack (28), Will (26), and Maggie (24) and Stacey's two -Lily(23) and Corbin (20). Three (Jack, Will and Lily) have graduated from various CA Colleges with degrees in Sociology/Philosophy, Education and Political Science. Corbin, the youngest just got his Associate Degree in Economics and will continue in September to get his BS in Economics. Maggie is presently working for a non-profit organization in Cupertino after completing 2 yrs at Sonoma State. They are all busy living their lives and as grandparents, I can say that it is so much fun to watch them as they grow and evolve!

After retirement, Mel and I continued to RV (which we started to do in the early 1990's with our Golden Retrievers). After our third Golden Retriever died, we traveled with Lexie, our Golden Doodle. Our travels were mostly in the western US and Canada visiting many National Parks along with a 2-week stay every summer in Graeeagle, NE of Truckee. We recently sold our RV when it started to be too much work for 2 old people to keep up with.☺



I really miss traveling in our RV and also not being physically able to play tennis any longer..my obsession since my 20's. Now I'm just a spectator who cheers on her favorite players from a recliner in front of the TV! The good thing is I have more time to play piano-I admit rather badly- and continue to do a lot of reading which I've always done. (I can still be found most of the time with my nose in a book. I read a lot of books re science, politics and psychology among other subjects including "good" fiction. Mel and I walk about 1-1/2 miles every day with Lexie for exercise and spend a lot of time doing projects around the house. We've been in this house for over 50 years so there is always something to do that needs fixing or replacing.

Life has definitely changed and slowed down, but still lots to do and look forward to. My best wishes in the future for all who were part of the Class of 1963!

Mailand, Bob

Bob graduated from Cal Poly in 1968 with a degree in Agriculture Education and we moved to Porterville California where we remain today. He taught Ag at Porterville High School for 41 years and Ornamental Horticulture at Porterville Junior College at night for seventeen years. I retired in 2006 from Burton School District where I was their Assistant Superintendent of Business. We farm olives, have a massive garden and enjoy traveling. We have two kids, Amy lives in Modesto and is a Nurse Practitioner in the NICU and Jason is a research and development engineer in Texas. We have two grandkids in Texas, Koehn's at Texas Tech and Kaedn is a senior in high school.

Maino, Julie (Shepardson)

After college, I worked in a village in Western Nepal 2 days walk from a motorable road. It was there that I learned to speak Nepali. Later, the Britain Nepal Medical Trust employed me during a cholera outbreak and then vaccinating children and working in TB control in remote Northeastern Nepal. I met Fred, the love of my life in 1972 in Kathmandu. He was writing Nepal's first disaster plan for the Nepal Red Cross. The UNHCR put him in charge of a Tibetan Refugee settlement in Western Nepal. By then, I'd learned to weave Tibetan rugs which was helpful in establishing a Tibetan rug weaving center to help the settlement become self-sufficient. We lived in the Tibetan Refugee Settlement for 2 years before returning for a while to San Luis Obispo County, then Massachusetts, Arizona, and finally to the Bay Area. While our 2 sons were young, I had a Tibetan Rug import business and a retail store in Palo Alto but closed the store and instead of importing Tibetan Rugs, I began importing Tibetans as the Bay Area Director of the Tibetan US Resettlement project.



I worked for an environmental organization and then as executive director of Survivors International in San Francisco, helping survivors of torture who had immigrated to the Bay Area. In 2006, I was recruited by the UN Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights as an interpreter during the revolution in Nepal. It wasn't safe to send Nepali interpreters to the villages. We worked in teams of two. This was my dream job – nonstop adrenalin during the revolution and making first contact with the guerrillas. Nowadays, a friend has a fashion design, wholesale, and retail business and takes me with her to Thailand, India, and Nepal to help. I continue to volunteer with America Nepal Medical Foundation, doing projects to improve the medical infrastructure in Nepal.

Melcher, Carol (Gomes) (Obit)

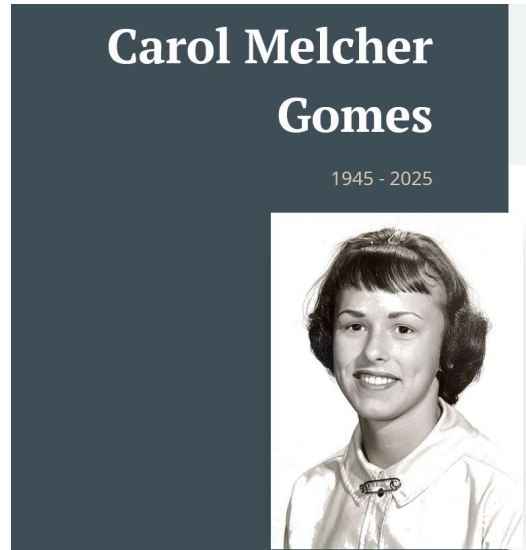
Carol passed away at home on Wednesday, October 29, 2025. Carol had been a lifelong resident of San Luis Obispo with the exception of two brief periods. She was born in Akron, Ohio, and her family moved to San Luis Obispo when she was three years old. Carol graduated from San Luis Obispo High School in 1963, then attended Fresno State College for two years before returning to her roots in San Luis Obispo.

She enjoyed the simple things in life while working various jobs until retirement. She loved rescuing and caring for many dogs and cats over the years. And she also loved shopping around town for good deals and gifts, many times over!

She will be especially missed by her sister, Linda. Her family greatly appreciates her good friend James helping and looking in on her over many years.

Carol is survived by her sister, Linda Melcher Buckmann; her nephew, Rick J. Buckmann; and her niece, Shelbi K. Wiegner.

To plant trees in memory, please visit the Sympathy Store.
Published by San Luis Obispo County Tribune from Nov. 10 to Nov. 16, 2025.



Overton, Jim (Obit)

Jim Overton died on 7Apr24 at home, surrounded by loved ones, peacefully.

It was the final step in his fight with cancer. His life was full and rich until very near the end when, at the appropriate time, he declined further treatment and slipped into the next realm.

He was a proud father of three daughters (Elizabeth, Melissa and Suzanna) and two granddaughters (Resse and Courtney). Additionally he is survived by his partner of 35 years, Patricia O'Toole.

From very early on he was captivated by drag racing, starting with VWs and moving, step by step, up to modern rails. He was an expert mechanic and always welcome in the pits, even when not running a car, for his company and his ability to fix almost anything. That applied not only to cars...he was a handyman extraordinaire. For a few years Elizabeth also campaigned a car beside him.

He also had a passion for scuba diving and traveled extensively to explore the underwater realms of Hawaii (especially Kauai), Panama, Mexico, the Hondouras, the Red Sea, Egypt, Greece, Bali, the Philippines and various islands in the Caribbean.

He also loved square dancing.

In high school with us he was active in FFA and the swim team.

Picaman, Jerry

Aug 21, 2023

Jerry Picaman
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I moved to Auburn in 2009 after 20 years in Palo Alto, CA.

I am very active in the community. I am a member of Auburn Gold Country Rotary, Auburn/Glass Valley Elks lodge 538, The Tahoe Club (a private men's club) and serve on the Auburn Economic Development Commission.

I still support a few customers that I support from my software business of 40 years.

I play golf twice a week and enjoy the social life here in Auburn.

I have 2 sons and 2 grandchildren.

I married my wife Lucinda (Cindy) after my wife Susan passed away in 2018.

Cindy has a daughter that just moved to Roseville to be close to her mom.

Pimentel, Don

[While we haven't, as far as I know, heard anything from Don in years, Mike Cowdrey reports that Don has an architectural degree from Cal Poly, has restored several Victorian homes in the Old Town section, and was a founder of the now discontinued SLO Mardi Gras parade. He now lives in the Brookings, OR area. Mike also ran across a very interesting article in the L.A. Times. It's below, edited down to the parts related to Don.]

How three surfers in a garage turned California's grizzly into a fashion icon

By Peter H. King - LA Times, Oct. 21, 2016

Reporting from SAN LUIS OBISPO — As often happens in the annals of California innovation, the story of how one of the state's last grizzly bears came to be a global fashion icon begins in an 8-by-8 foot garage. In the early 1980s, three young surfers — Kevin Greenwood, Mark Travis and Andrew Batty — set up shop in the Central Coast beach town of Cayucos, seeking to join forces in the T-shirt trade. They named their enterprise Dolphin Shirt. Co., decorating their apparel with images of orcas, sea lions and, yes, dolphins. It was tough going at first: To purchase supplies, the partners often pooled their pocket change. In time, though, Dolphin Shirt expanded, first into a barn, and then to a small shop here near the railroad station.

Enter the bear.

"I noticed that animals were selling," recalled Don Pimentel, a self-employed architect dabbling in T-shirt design. "I said, 'Wow, I can do that.'" In 1985 Pimentel painted a bear, working off an outline of the grizzly that marches across the California flag. He presented it to Dolphin and then headed to Hawaii. While Pimentel was away, the partners expanded on his design. His rendition of the bear, with his signature found just below its rear, right paw, remained.

But now a red star hovered over the bear's snout and a bar ran across the bottom, underscoring the legend "California Republic."

In short, the shirt makers had more or less replicated the California state flag, whose design is rooted in the banner of the so-called Bear Flag Revolt of 1846. They sold eight dozen shirts right off the bat. "It just started going," Greenwood said, "and going and going. And it's still going." Thirty years later, the no longer quite-so-young surfers find themselves riding a fresh wave of global enthusiasm for all things California. The trend goes far beyond bear-flag themed T-shirts and related knick-knacks and spin-offs.

Pimentel, who receives a 50-cent royalty on each sale of a shirt bearing his original, double from what he made in the early days, has his own theory about the appeal of the California bear flag. "One thing about the bear flag," he said, "is that it is not trying to sell you anything. It is not selling you beer or sandals or running shoes. The bear flag is not selling you popcorn. It is just the bear. It is just the mystique of California." And to those who would suggest that the mystique it is selling might be a mirage, a myth: Well, what could be more Californian than that?

Exit the bear, winking.

Robertson, Suzanne (Denend)

Hi Hank, My name is Sally Mailand, SLO class of 1965. I'm Suzanne Robertson Denend's younger sister and married to Bob Mailand for the past 57 years. First regarding Suzanne, she died February 8, 2022 after a long term in a convalescent home after suffering a stroke. Covid restrictions added to her problems. She graduated from Mills College and Highland School of nursing and worked as an ICU nurse until her stroke. She had four children, the twins Marc and Carolyn are both medical doctors, son Matt is a Transportation Director for a school district and Josh is an ordained minister. We certainly do miss her and have stayed close with her kids and eleven grandchildren.

Shea, Sally (Romo)

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I am so looking forward to our 60th class reunion this week. I don't know (or don't remember) a few of you as I moved to SLO in January of our junior year. Even though I lived there for only 10 years...to this day, I consider it my home town. That's where I got married and had my 2 children. It's also where both of our extended families lived (I still have a sister and 2 brothers that live there).

We then moved to Sunnyvale (just saw that I lived just a few blocks away from Hank). In 1981, my husband was offered a great job opportunity in San Antonio, TX. It was a tough decision to move away from both our families. I dreaded telling my Mom that we were moving afraid she would be so upset. But I guess I was projecting my own feelings onto her, because when I finally told her she said, "San Antonio!..." "You're going to LOVE it"! My husband and I decided we could do anything for 5 years, so we gave it a try. Mom was right....42 years later we are still here.

My oldest son, Rick, is living in Missouri City, TX and has my 2 beautiful grandchildren. Jeff is still single (and probably will be for life). He has spent the last 25 years as my partner in Real Estate. It was really a blessing for me to work with my son as we have the same sense of humor and laughed a lot!

After 41 years of being a Realtor, I finally retired just 2 months ago. Again, a tough decision, but I'm getting pretty good at this retirement thing. We live in a country club community and have developed a lot of close friendships with the people here. I have been playing golf, joined a book club, play cards a couple of times a month, and have just taken up pickleball! My husband, (Richard/Dick) and I have taken a few cruises and hope to do a few more before throwing in the towel.

Richard still owns a staffing company, but his staff who have been with him for years, have taken over running it. We will be totally out of it in 2 more years. We just celebrated our 59th wedding anniversary (yikes) and are feeling really blessed to have had such a wonderful life together.



Tomlin, Alison (Shelton)

After graduation, I attended UCSB, Cal Poly, Davis and Sacramento State for BA in English, teaching credential and Masters' Degree. In there, married Richard Shelton and had two daughters, Laura and Susan. I taught high school English and history for 30 years. After retiring, I took a lot of craft classes which usually resulted in me making the other students look good. I also started writing for magazines (no one reads), an occasional newspaper article and for *Chicken Soup for the Soul*. I lost my husband in 2010 and moved up to a Del Webb community in Lincoln with the other old folks. I again took a bunch of craft classes and this time stayed with card making and jewelry, much of which I donate to silent auctions. I'm active in the breast cancer group and also am the Neighborhood Watch lost/found pet coordinator, a team that reunites lost pets with their owners. Over the years, I've been fortunate to travel to different parts of the world including Egypt and the Ukraine right before they erupted. I have five grandchildren, two boys and three girls. And, my 15 year-old toy poodle still hangs in there with me.



Alison, two daughters, four grandkids

Stimpson, Eileen

Hi Hank, thank you so much all your efforts to pull this reunion together. I wish there was a way to hear a little bit about how everyone is doing. Dave and I just celebrate 50 years in Homer, Alaska. It's been an adventure for sure. We originally bought a historical log hotel, ran that for 7 years, sold, then built the first commercial radio station in our area. Over the period of 44 years have built a network of 6 stations covering the Kenai Peninsula, to Delta Junction and down the chain to Unalaska/Dutch Harbor. Five kids and fifteen grandkids later we are enjoying our later years. We celebrate 58 years of marriage this month. Anyone visiting Alaska we would love to touch base. Have a great reunion. Eileen (Stimson) Becker

Takken, Martha (Maccreary)

I moved to Lexington, Kentucky in 1970 with a new husband and small daughter. I worked in a small bank for 18 years working up from new accounts clerk to AVP/branch coordinator.

I wanted to try something new so got my real estate license and worked that for 18 months which lead to mortgage banking for another 18 months. Neither of these suited me and I remarried (oh, I forgot to mention the divorce) and went back to school for 5 years becoming a physical therapist at age 50!

I had a great and enjoyable career for 23 years before retiring. My husband retired from banking a couple of years later. We decided to move to CA in retirement for the weather and to be closer to my family members. I have a daughter who is a chef in catering in LA and a son who teaches at a Waldorf type school in upstate NY. Both are healthy and happy with their current life choices. I have always enjoyed being outdoors and walking, hiking and biking are our main activities at present.



We have traveled some and have been to about 30 countries. Now, we are content with exploring the good old USA. In my pastimes I enjoy oil painting, reading, doing Qi Gong daily, shopping and cooking organic. We do miss the many friends we have in KY and I especially miss my art class and buddies there. We have been in Arroyo Grande for 6 weeks now and are still finding our way around and working on replacing the activities we left behind.

Tomlin, Alison (Shelton) (Obit)



OBITUARY

Alison Mary Shelton

JULY 24, 1945 - JULY 24, 2025

Alison Mary Shelton, age 80, of Loomis, California passed away on Thursday, July 24, 2025.

Van Matre, Garney John

My post-graduation story actually began on May 30th, 1963. That was when I turned 18, and like all young men at that time, I had to register with the Selective Service (The Draft). I had made the decision to join the military but was undecided as to what branch. The Navy and Air Force did not appeal to me. That left the Marines and the Army. When the Marine Recruiter failed to show up for our appointment, I lost confidence in that Branch.

Enlistment in any Branch meant a four year commitment, which also did not appeal to me. When an older cousin told me about volunteering for the draft, I could cut that commitment time to two years. My mind was made up, so on that day of registration I volunteered, leaving for the Army in October.

My basic training leadership preparation school and advanced infantry training took place at Fort Ord. Then it was off to the Fort Benning, GA. For Airborne (paratroop) training. After jump school I was stationed at Fort Benning with the 11 Air Assault Division. An experimental outfit training in our American swamps, using helicopters to move troops instead of trucks, etc. This experimental division was designated the 1st Cavalry (air mobile) and we became the first army division to deploy full strength to Viet Nam in September 1965.

Coming home from a situation like we faced in Viet Nam was not an easy adjustment. I attended Cuesta College on the G.I. bill and received my AA degree and then tried Cal Poly for two more years. But I was never a serious student. Like so many guys coming home from a combat experience I had an overwhelming feeling of invincibility that nearly killed me a time or two. I worked awhile in restaurants, for the Gas Company, and back to the restaurants. I was offered a job in Dana Point as a kitchen manager in a popular dinner house there. But San Luis was calling me back. I returned to S.L.O. and spent the next 9 & 1/2 years working for the San Luis Garbage Company "picking up a can." It was while working at the Garbage Company that I experienced my two latest accomplishments, my son Justin, now 49, and my daughter Meagan, now 46. I also realized the strong desire to be self-employed.

Eight years as a "red headed stepchild" had taught me yard working skills. 9 & v.) years as a "Garbologist" had taught me route work. So with a truck full of tools purchased with my profit sharing money from the garbage company, I started a yard service company. Yeah, mowing lawns! It wasn't glamorous but it paid the bills. We were doing 40 — 50 jobs weekly as well as clearing lots for fire protection, putting in lawns, sprinklers, etc. A contractors license allowed me to add design and installation to the business. I never went after the big jobs, mostly back yards. Koi ponds, and water falls. Thats a lot of ditches to dig, holes to be dug, cobble stones & small boulders 10 move. I enjoyed landscaping. I found it to be challenging and rewarding. However, it was also a lot of long days and hard work. About the year 2000 I started transitioning to the business of vertebrate pest control, which I still practice 3 or 4 days a week. So no Nobel prizes, no scientific discoveries, no MD's, PHD's or any other D's. Just the story of an American working man. 1 out of 21 perfectly good airplanes

I served my Country as I think all Americans should. I got to jump life is good. and -visit a tropical paradise! (?) I am fortunate to have the two best kids in the world and lit

Watts, Hank

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How long have you lived there? I've lived here 49 years. I bought the house in 1974 mostly because, while surrounded by Sunnyvale (which is just a tad north of San Jose in the SF Bay area), it was technically county land and a 1/3-acre parcel. At some level this matched where I grew up east of Venture on a 1/2-acre destitute river-bottom property.

Why that long? Three reasons, I think. First, when I was young I thought I wanted to live just north of San Diego. But every time I moved I ended up further north. Fearful of ending up in Alaska (I actually interviewed for a job with British Petroleum on the Alaskan North Slope at one point) perhaps I kinda decided not to move again. Second, until a year before I bought this place I'd spent 3 years living in vans (even when I had an actual adult job). That may have gotten a bit of the wanderlust out of my system. And finally, one way or another I kept working at interesting jobs around here and what family I had was pretty local.

Other interesting or important places lived? No. A year in Vacaville (weekdays only). Vacaville does *not* count as an interesting place. The job was interesting, running a \$25M/year wholesale wicker importing business that was being inherited by a racing buddy and had gotten into serious trouble. The warehouse was 17 acres (565,000 sq. ft), 24' high and in shambles.

Are you retired? Yes.

If retired, from what? Last job was in the Customer Support group at Facebook, trying to bring visibility to the quantity of issues they had and how they were being addressed. I and most of the company did *not* see things in similar ways and our parting was emphatically mutual.

What was the best part of that job/business? Living in the lion's den.

Were there other interesting jobs in your past?

Oh, yes. After an MS in a novel subtopic (Socio-Technical Systems) at the UCLA School of Business I pretty quickly ended up in Mountain View working for a Semiconductor Company. Wild and wooly days there, crazy-fast technical innovations all the time. Eventually moved into line management and, as



Banner for Christmas letter, family gathered in Aurora, CO. Daughters Lori, Laura (both with families and Cami. And Odysseus

operations manager, ran wafer fabs that made the chips that make everything electronic go. This led to helping design software systems to make the running of such incredibly-complex fabs more feasible. (As a measure of the complexity, currently a production wafer fab costs north of \$15B...which would be enough to buy 2 or 3 aircraft carriers.) The software tools of the time were crude, kinda like trying to build a moon rocket with plywood and nails.

I also, just before Facebook, spent 5+ years at Yahoo in user data protection, a group officially named The Paranoids, a marvelously-talented group, delightful to work with. We did everything possible to protect users and user data from disclosure/harm.

What sorts of activities/sports/hobbies do you still do? I still play a decent game of racquetball, and I think that helps keep me healthier than I'd otherwise be. I sing (baritone) with the large Stanford Symphonic Chorus, which does two concerts each of one major work per quarter, either in Bing Hall or the Memorial Church. Mostly focused on serious choral works that need a large chorus (we're 200 strong at full strength), both well known (e.g. Brahms's German Requiem) and lesser known pieces of merit.

I have a sport-touring motorcycle and ride it often, including weekend camping trips with the BMW club (the bike is a Yamaha FJR but they allow other makes and organize great events). Pretty much every summer for the past 8 years I've taken a privateer, calm-water, 3-week, deep desert canyon rafting trip in SE Utah with a daughter who apparently has the same slickrock coursing through her veins as I do. Many many pictures at the website indicated at the top of all this. Beyond that I busy myself with various projects around the house and on the camper van.

What sorts of activities/sports/hobbies were important to you earlier? Woodworking (still do some), whitewater rafting, playing keyboard in a country-rock band for a few years in my 30s, and, perhaps most importantly, racing cars. A Porsche 911 in 1986 led me into the Porsche club where I eventually became the chief racetrack instructor (with a crew of 30 volunteers each event) for the Porsche Club for Northern California. This pretty much defined what I did from about from about age 40 up to 65, driving, instructing, writing, guest instructing with many organizations. The writing produced a book on competitive driving that has 60,000 copies in print, though it's definitely getting pretty dated by now, over 30 years old.



Want to tell us about family (grandkids?!) and/or pets? Current Chief Dog, Odysseus, a border collie. Various dogs and cats along the way. Also interesting interludes with koi, turtles and opossums. A daughter (with Nancy Chase Watts), Laura, recently married. And triplet children later in life that is a longer story

than can be told here. Four lovely grandkids, living in Aurora Colorado, as well as a step-granddaughter in San Luis.

Any particular perspectives on life you'd like to share? While being this old inevitably brings physical/medical challenges, I think it is, for those of us who have made it this far, a very pleasant time. We have less future to plan for, often much less to worry about. What we are going to make of our lives is mostly settled. We can focus our efforts, whatever we're capable of, on our passions.

I want to mention a little bit of extra history. I was very lucky in my first semiconductor job, to be working on training programs for the front-line workforce. Most of the manual work at that point (1972) was already being done in Asia. So, paid for by the company, I got to travel to Singapore (3 months), Hong Kong (5 weeks), Korea (1 week), Australia, (2 weeks). In the midst of just that trip I managed to fit in visits to Hawaii, Bali, a wonderful hitchhiking trip around much of Australia, an additional week's hitchhiking in New Zealand, and island-hopped my way home stopping in New Caledonia, the New Hebrides, Fiji and Hawaii again. Later trips for various companies took me to Mexico City, Germany, Ireland, Scotland, Germany, Poland and India.

On the hitchhiking notion, before rejoining Fairchild and doing all that international travel I wanted to visit friends in New York and hitchhiked from San Jose to New York and back around Thanksgiving time 1971.



Paul Welshons (Obit)

Paul worked for the County of San Luis Obispo, California for 33 years until he retired as Road Department Supervisor in 2002. He moved to Idaho in 2003 where he lived the rest of his life. He enjoyed hunting and fishing.



He is survived by his wife of 30 years, Bunnie, three children; Ed, Eric and Paula; a stepson Randy, 9 grandchildren, 7 great grandchildren, 2 sisters and 1 brother.

He will be greatly missed.