

skyline . new Snote . 3.15

With great sadness, we received the following note:

I've been going through Al's email and came across the Skyline notes. Wanted to let you know that Al died on January 11 after a 2 1/2 year battle with prostate cancer. His cancer was attributed to his service in Vietnam where he was exposed to Agent Orange.

jstirling@meintl.org

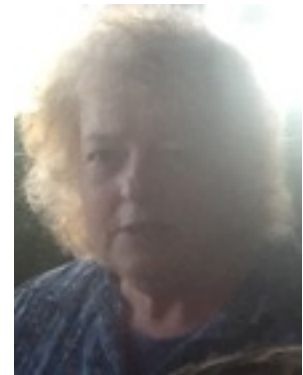
And apologies to **Sue Bingham Pate** who was not on the birthday list to have her February 1 natal event celebrated. She is now on the list as can be any of you whose birthday I do not have!

February was a very social/activeand short....month:

Kasper's continued to be a source of surprises/visitors. At the end of January, **Claude Sanders** won the long distance award, challenged by **Nena Reiners**. That day he was joined by **and Kathy (Costa) and Phil Rocco**, accompanied by the lovely Mrs. Costa and sister as previously pictured in December.



Claude Sanders



Nena Reiners

On Feb 2 **Don Schnarr, Randy Silver, Rick Steen, Tom/Cheryl LaMarre, Howard Allen, Richard Clarke** (w/ Joaquin) consumed canine cuisine..

The next Kasper dates are March 9 and 23.

Continuing on cuisine consumption, Valentine's Day was spent on Treasure Island at Job Corps Fine Dining. Not everyone had an opportunity to visit with one another but conversations never lagged with **Randy Silver, Diane Breen, Dyhannis (Diane Carniglia), Tom and Cheryl LaMarre, Mildred (Caldwell) Swafford, Martha (Gooby) Micks, Cynthia (Young) Harelson, Gay Parker, George and Carol (Vierra) Szymciewicz, Don Schnarr, Barbara (Uhlig) Harbidge, Sharon McWalters, Neil Golden, Nena Reiners and Dan Meckfessel/his wife Kim.**



(top, l to r) Neil, Dyhannis, Randy (bottom, l to r) Beanie, the Meckfessels



The day was also gorgeous with views unparalleled, so some of us made the obligatory pilgrimages to see The Diner Dogs and the Bliss statue as part of the sightseeing. **Neil Golden, Martha (Gooby) Micks, Sharon McWalters** checked out the local nostalgia. Martha's comments: *"It was wonderful seeing some Bret Harte and Skyline friends, but I wish there was more time to visit. I learned from Shayne how to feed 60-100 people on a low cost budget and make it look beautiful for the White Elephant Sale's volunteers. Treasure Island was special for lunch and beautiful views."*





On an incredibly exquisite day, several classmates gathered at the National Cemetery at the Presidio to share **Dick Johns'** farewell to his father. A truly beautiful ceremony was witnessed by **Barbara Lauck**

Johns, Gay Parker, Sue (Girton) Glanville, Gary Sommer, George and Carol (Vierra) Szymciewicz, Maureen Sarment, Tom and Cheryl LaMarre, and Dave Pierce. Dave was in town to attend his mother-in-law's service later that day.



Afterwards, those with no other appointments for the day went to lunch at Scoma's (and some even went in search of Ghiradelli ice cream but got thwarted by the crowds).

Many, many stories were exchanged but the best one is **Sue (Girton) Glanville's** tale of being in the motorcade from Castro Valley to the Presidio.

On February 16 **Barbara (Lauck) and Dick Johns** took time out of moving Dick's mom to savor food and memories. **Tom LaMarre** regaled the crowd with the story of Barbara and Dick's first date (which involved an amusing entry/exit from St. Jarleths).



Barbara Lauck Johns/Gary Sommer



Dick Johns/Dennis Osanna

Also in attendance were Carrie Clinton, **Gary Sommer, Gay Parker, Dennis Osanna** and Doug Sanders from the Class of '67, deep in the search for classmates for their 50th Reunion. They have found over 500 and are well on their way to a raucous event.

The Class of '65 will be celebrating their 50th at the Sequoyah Country Club on September 26 which also turns out to be a weekend for A's v. Giants

The Class of '67 is starting to develop their mailing list of their 50th. Anyone who has siblings, cousins or friends from that class are urged to send contact information to Doug Saunders (on Facebook) or Carol (Brick) Newton <cfignewton@gmail.com>

Mail Bag:

Maureen Sarment: Any of my friends interested in going ? We all love dobbies and if u haven't seen and heard california honeydrops u will love them after this show

[Stern Grove Festival](#)

Listen to the music! We're excited to announce that [The Doobie Brothers](#) will headline our opening day celebration, The Big Picnic, on Sunday, June 14. Local favorite, [The California Honeydrops](#) will open the show. The concert is admission-free and open to the public. Don't miss it! <http://www.sterngrove.org/home/concertsevents/thebigpicnic/>

From Beth (Beeby) Nicholson Re: Salt, Sugar,Fat: Sclafani's experiments with rodents were borne out in my own experience. My home in Cottonwood Heights UT, now sold, was an older structure w/o a finished basement, common in Utah. As such, it was open to critters it attempted to displace, like field mice. We cohabited, up to a point, hygiene permitting.

One day as I was working on my computer, adjacent to the closet, I saw peripherally a small grey mouse make a dash under the closed closet door (clearance ~1"). I respected his/her space, but eventually rose to inspect if there was mouse damage I needed to attend to. Lo and behold, upon stack of books, I saw a wrapped Lindt chocolate bar (dark, of course), I had placed amongst other Easter holiday accoutrements I meant to sort through. The bar was munched and ~ 1/4 of it was gone. Sighing, I removed and discarded the bar and cleaned up chewed-through debris.

The following day, back at the computer, I saw the same mouse make a run for the closet. Within a few seconds the mouse was out of the closet, stopped and sat up on the carpet right next to me ~ a foot away. I looked down at the mouse, and he/she looked questioningly up at me. We made eye contact for maybe five seconds before the mouse departed back the way it had come. I just knew the mouse wanted to know where the chocolate was. It was an adorable cross-species moment.

The umwelt (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Umwelt>) in my home is mutual-tolerance, catch. and release, basically animal-friendly. With much rolling of the eyes, my sons watched me capture mice, spiders, bees, etc. and take them outside. Well, not so much Black Widows; Mr. Nice Guy only goes so far...

...

Bruce Goddard
Assistant Coach/Instructor
Piedmont High School Softball 2015

Bruce Goddard enters his first year in the high school coaching ranks, after a lifetime on the diamond. Bruce learned to play baseball as a youngster from legendary Oakland coach Des Leonard, and over the years he never stopped playing. He looks forward to sharing his knowledge and love of the game with a new generation.

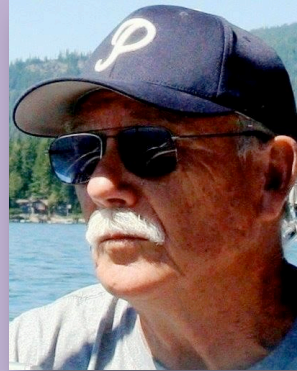
His playing resume includes co-ed, recreational and tournament teams, as well as a Native American traveling team. These days, he's a regular in "Saturday Softball," a local institution at Montclair Park in Oakland, and continues to play in the Hayward Over-60 Softball League.



Bruce's involvement with women's softball spans

nearly two decades. His daughter, Caroline, was a standout performer for Piedmont High from 2004-2007; a four-year starter and two-time BSAL all-star. She earned a Div. I softball scholarship and graduated from the University of Vermont in 2011.

For the past two seasons, Goddard has been an instructor in the Piedmont Pinto Baseball Program (7-8 yr. olds). In 2015, he will serve as an assistant coach/instructor for the Highlanders and also handle statistics.



Contact:
Bruce Goddard
bgod@sbcglobal.net

Point being, that the sugar, fat, salt in the form of chocolate was irresistible to the furry short stuff... And complete validation of Sclafani's premise. I'm sure peanut butter would have had the same attraction, but it's safely in the fridge.

Rick Steen representing International Sports Group with Baseball Clinic in Brest, Belarus January 15-18, 2015

Another dream was realized by another non-descript 1964 graduate of Skyline High School when I was so proud to represent the ISG group, along with Major League Baseball by leading a baseball coaches clinic with 2 other coaches from the US and Italy, in Brest, Belarus January 15-18, 2015.

Of course the journey did not occur without drama, hiccups, and surprises. But that is what makes this job intriguing, along with working with baseball. One of my coaches missed his connection in Paris, and arrived 6 hours late. Igor, my contact and the director of the clinic got stuck in traffic and was 3 hours late. No wonder I couldn't find a man with a sign with my name on it! After finding Igor, collecting all 3 of us coaches, spending 1 ½ hours at the border of Poland and Belarus (we flew into Warsaw, Poland and drove 200 km. to Brest, Belarus), we arrived for our 8:00 p.m. dinner at 1:00a.m.

The next day, Friday, we were guests at the Brest Fortress, which was a main player in WWII. The Fortress is huge, and our guide chronicled for over 2 hours about the facts of this site's particular involvement in WWII. Really fascinating! What is really fascinating is how much I am realizing in my 60's, how long/often I slept through history classes in my teens! From the Fortress, we were taken to the original forest of Russia, which also is a habitat for the Zubrs(bison). Also, deep in the forest, we were guests of Russia's version of Santa Claus; the village, the workshops, the elk (no reindeer for the Russian sleigh), helpers(cute helpers) etc. From here we went to see the facilities where we were holding the clinic.

The Olympic training facilities in Brest were, to put it modestly, outstanding. Since the temperature was in the twenties, the practical part of the clinic was to be held indoors as well. The baseball part of the facility, which consisted of a painted infield and a drop-down hitting net, was surrounded by a 400 meter track, all facilities for athletics, 8 badminton courts just outside the track at one end, and ultimate frisbee/field hockey at the other end. As you entered the facility through the vestibule, you dodged combatants on 12 ping pong tables. Next to this facility was the ice arena, used by Olympic trainees, the pro and national hockey teams, and the general public. The 3rd building contained a 10-lane, 50 meter pool, and a diving pool with 4 platforms and 4 diving boards. The facilities coordinator informed us that over 3000 people used this facility *per day*. The second floor of this facility housed the classrooms, and the multi-media theater, where we would be holding our clinic. Outside, surrounded by parking and the buildings (which also contained a hotel and restaurant) was the baseball facility, a regulation diamond and a little league diamond. We were all duly impressed by the magnitude of the facility, as well as its use, defined by the facilities director.

One of the surprises awaiting me when I got to Belarus, was the fact that the US Ambassador to Belarus was traveling 400 km. from Minsk, the capital of Belarus, to open the clinic. So, as we arrived Saturday morning, we were greeted by two town cars, with the 4 American flags on each car. The Ambassador, or Attaché as they are referred to, Scott Reauland, was a baseball

fanatic out of Minnesota, was joined by the President of the Belarus Baseball Federation, the Minister of Sport in Brest, the co-administrator of the Olympic committee, and a few other dignitaries, of whom I got lost trying to identify as I was flitting my head between the translator and the person. The morning went without further flinches, other than the fact that Scott (we soon got on first name basis) took his professional translator(Sasha) with him and left us with an amateur. Our translator would get frustrated at times (just like the Russian pitchers after an umpire's call which they didn't like. They would throw the rosin bag to the ground about 15 mph. faster than their fastest fastball), and he would stutter and finish with a "whatever." I would have to stop and remind Alexi that this was not a "whatever" situation, the coaches needed the correct information, and he had an outline of every presentation at his disposal. I found out later that Alexi WAS a pitcher on the national team.

The afternoon session, the practical one, started as a mock practice, with the Ambassador and a couple of his henchman taking part in it, so that the national television stations present could make a commercial out of it. The secretary to the Ambassador was from LA and he was wearing a Dodger jacket. What was he thinking?! They knew that the clinic leader was from the San Francisco Bay Area, that one of the other speakers was now scouting for the Oakland A's, and yet this guy was flaunting his Dodger blue like a red cape in front of a bull. My new best friend, Scott (Mr. Ambassador), got a good laugh when he found out that I hid the jacket when he took it off.

That evening, the Ambassador hosted a dinner for the clinic staff, and the organizers from Belarus. It here over a couple of shots of vodka where I was able to get his candid opinion of the Russian/Ukraine leadership, the cause of the war, the possibility of imminent peace, and other tidbits. Really interesting! The entourage from Minsk, especially the Olympic committee representatives, were extremely complimentary of the organization of the clinic, and concluded with the Ambassador, that this was not only a baseball endeavor, but a functional event of humanitarianism as well. I think that is a heck of a compliment!

After my first presentation on Sunday morning, I was hit with another surprise. We were supposed to guests of the local professional hockey team at their game that evening, but, because of recent law enacted by the Belarus president (effective January 1, 2015), we would have to take a train back to Warsaw that evening, in order to catch our planes home the next day. The law stated that no vehicle nor driver could cross the border 3 times within 8 days, so there was no vehicle or person that could take us back across the Polish border. This law was established as a result of the recent decline in the economy of Russia, and he didn't want the Polish coming into Belarus to purchase, or the Belarusians to sell, either taking advantage of the situation.

One of the highlights of the weekend was the closing ceremonies. Of the 30 coaches that we had in audience, the cities of Kiev, Moscow, St. Petersburg, Minsk, and the capital of Lithuania were represented. Every city gave us a gift representing the best product from that city. Gifts varied from a bottle of vodka, to two crystal beer steins. It was extremely gratifying!

After coaching baseball for 4 different countries in the past 19 summers, and leading coaching seminars in 7 different countries, most recently Croatia and Austria, as Jim Ray Hart at one time most eloquently put it, "Baseball been very, very, good to me!" Who'd a thunk in the 1960s, a

skinny kid running the streets of Montclair would be blessed enough to have the experiences that I have had!? Who'da thunk!
 Jess Gibbs demonstrates how to do Mardi Gras in New Orleans.



Jennifer De Grassi (Foreman) Williams

It is serendipitous that my 4th children's book is complete and listed on Amazon today, Valentine's Day. The book is about love and our beloved Andy cat, and his friend Spooky, who (we believe) were taken by a coyote. It is a tribute to anyone who feels the loss of a pet. For me, losing a pet for whatever reason absolutely can take your breath away. However, it is that pain that also reinforces the fact that we are capable of loving. I hope you will enjoy this story and will take time to write a review on it and books 1-3 also. Thanks, always, to the dear people who continue to listen to the stories.

[The Williams Family and Andy Cat: When the loss of a pet really, really hurts \(Volume 4\)](#)

This story, in rhyme, is about two very special, quirky, and loving felines, Andy and Spooky, who found their way to the Williams house years ago. Each was a stray... amazon.com

(Ed note: Very much enjoyed my stint "cooking" at the Mary's Cafe (named after Debbie Agee Roessler's mother) in preparation for the Oakland Museum's White Elephant sale. Although the sale is March 7-8, anyone interested in helping with the cafe next year, should contact Emmy Johnson ('65) emmyf@pacbell.net. There are many other opportunities and for those not predisposed to soup making, there are shifts for those as security (the "Red Coats" the ones turning on the lights in the morning and turning off the lights at night, put out the signs, open up the parking lot gate, and (like our Van Drivers) regularly serve as our first WES interface with the public, crowd monitoring, package checking and general policing of the warehouse....) On the theme of giving back, this is a great opportunity for those that have memories of the Snow Museum!)

March Birthdays

- 01 Al Newman
- 01 Diana Robinson
- 03 Martha Gooby Micks
- 04 Mildred Caldwell Swafford
- 04 Judy Card
- Dennis Bushell
- 04 Delsa Pauletich Ham
- 05 Sharlyn Brennan Tucker
- Doug Bartman
- Tina Illick Coolahan
- 08 Michael McGarry



- 10 Renee Cameto
- 11 Roy Langridge
Jim Tompkins
- 21 Diane Cecil Laspina
- 25 Randy Silver
- 27 Gary Caso
- 27 Larry Helzel
- 27 Roger Kientz
- 28 Dennis Bruns
Ben Leet
- 29 Patty Marshall Monson

April



- 1 Barbara Uhlig Harbidge
- 3 Kathy Costa Rocco
- 5 John Briggs
- 8 Linda Barkas
- 9 Don Sarver
- 13 Cindy Gibbs Parker
- 16 Gerhard Brostrom
- 18 Carol LaDolce Donato
- 18 Judy Long Lofing
- 19 Sharon McWalters
- 20 Melissa Silverman Willaby
- 24 Gary Montgomery
Sherri Gribben Hester
- 25 David Niemand

Mark Kamena 27 Gary Caso 28
Ben Leet

Remember - Birthday list was compromised at one point, so please fee free to correct/add. sdc

http://www.slate.com/articles/news_and_politics/history/2015/02/gentrification_in_oakland_a_new_arrival_digs_deep_into_california_s_history.html?wpsrc=sh_all_tab_tw_bot

Richard loaned me "Oakland" by Beth Bagwell. Published in 1982, it has a fabulous bibliography and chronicles many, many aspects.....all of which demand further stories.....so get busy!

It was a driving, vigorous, restless population in those days. It was a curious population. It was the only population of the kind that world has ever seen gathered together, and it is not likely that the world will ever see its like again. For, observe, it was an assemblage of two hundred thousand young men....It was a splendid population --- for all the slow, sleepy sluggish brained sloths stayed at home - you never find that sort of people among pioneers - you cannot build pioneers out of that sort of material. It was that population that gave to California a name for

getting up astounding enterprises and rushing them through with a magnificent dash and daring and a recklessness of cost or consequences, which she bears unto this day --- and when she projects a new surprise, the grave world smiles as usual, and says, "Well, that is California all over." But they were tough in those times. They fairly reveled in gold, whiskey, fights, and fandangoes and were unspeakably happy.

Mark Twain - Roughing It, 1872

Why is it that year after year Oakland continues in this prosperous course? The reasons are apparent to Oaklanders themselves....The most desirable classes of people are attracted hither by an incomparable climate, superior educational facilities for the young, and proximity to SF....We accept with ready resignation the appellation of "SF's bedchamber"....Yet we experience no little gratification in improvements now being made to our local harbor, which soon is to convert the entire waterfront into one vast workshop for the Pacific Ocean. The natural and only profitable location for manufacturer is where ship and cars come together....Oakland will soon become the great manufacturing city of the Pacific Coast

Woodward and Taggart's Real Estate Catalogue and Price List of Oakland Property for 1877

Oakland is now but beginning to come into its birthright of business....The virile spirit of the new Oakland, conscious of its powers and possibilities, has replaced that of the suburban or independent community. The Oakland of 1911 is a vigorous energetic city...confident of its own destiny....This city, which has become famous for its residential attractions and its genial climate, is now taking its place as one of the chief centers of industry, of commerce, and of finance on the Pacific Coast.....

W. Evarts Black Greater Oakland 1911

What was the use of my having come from Oakland I was not natural to come from there yes write about it if I like or anything if I like but not there, there is no there there.....Ah Thirteenth Avenue was the same it was shabby and overgrown....Not of course the house, the house the big house and the big garden and the eucalyptus trees and the rose hedge naturally were not any longer existing, what was the use

Gertrude Stein

Everybody's Autobiography 1937

Oakland now is like a great old blues singer. She know how to moan and cry, but the bad times behind her make her know how to savor the good times. Maybe she's got some scars, but when she gets cooking she can still shake things up and she can sing the pants off the young ones coming up that don

t have her savvy -- there's no soul in Walnut Creek! The oldtime Oaklanders, and the port, and the big corporations building new skyscrapers downtown, are like instruments in the band, and all together now we are blowing some pretty good jazz.

Anonymous Oaklander, 1982

Make no little plan. They have no magic to stir men's blood and probably themselves will not be realized. Make big plans; aim high in hope and work, remembering that a noble logical diagram once recorded will never die, but long after we are gone, will be a living thing, asserting with growing intensity.

Daniel Burnham 1901 Plan for Chicago

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From the "Why-I-Love-Oakland-Dept": The Dimond district in Oakland is "growing" a river...! *grin* *emoticon* <https://vimeo.com/120276294> Dimond River [vimeo.com](https://vimeo.com/120276294) By tomcoroneos

[John A. Harris Oakland History](#)

This is a 1912 colored postcard of "Broadway looking East-by Moonlight"

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[Coming in 2015: 10 exciting bike infrastructure projects on the way to the Bay Area this year](#)

Around San Francisco and throughout the Bay Area, 2015 will be an exciting one for bicycling. A number of bike infrastructure projects long proposed, debated, and... blog.sfgate.com

Regional Parks eNews March, 2015

Become a Volunteer [Get Involved!](#) Learn to be a Docent

Spring is a great time to embark on new adventures in our parks. Several parks are hosting [docent trainings in March](#), where volunteers can learn more about the local plants, wildlife, history, culture, and other interesting facts about our parks, and help share that information with the public. Docents may lead school groups, represent the Park District at events, answer questions from visitors, assist naturalists, and generally be a welcoming face at our parks and visitor centers. Email docents.ardenwood@ebparks.org for more information.

Current docent volunteer training opportunities are available at Ardenwood Historic Farm, Crab Cove Visitor Center and Tilden Nature Area.

Sat 3/7: [Healthy Parks Healthy People Hike](#), Coyote Hills, Fremont

Sun 3/8: [Ohlone Village Site Tour](#), Coyote Hills, Fremont

Sun 3/8: [Hazel Atlas Mine Tours](#), Black Diamond Mine, Antioch

Tue 3/10: [Hikes for Tykes](#), Elsie Roemer Bird Sanctuary, Crown beach, Alameda

Sat 3/14: [Kayaking](#), Big Break, Oakley

Sun 3/15: [Wild Edibles and Plant Uses](#), Garin, Hayward

Tue 3/17: [Over the Hills Gang](#), Wildcat, Richmond

Sat 3/21: [Slug n' Salamander Sleuths](#), Tilden Nature Center, Berkeley

Sun 3/22: [Owl Pellet Dissection](#), Big Break, Oakley

Sat 3/28: [Pet First-Aid and CPR](#), Lake Chabot

Sun 3/28: [Llamas - Mystics of the Andes](#), Redwood, Oakland