



The Chanticleer

New 159 website - www.branch159.sirinc2.org

Date January 8, 2015

Place Pardini's Restaurant
2257 W. Shaw Avenue

Social Hour 11:00 AM

Luncheon: 12 Noon
\$15 and no Buck Bucket

Program: Mark Grossi - Fresno Bee Writer

Many thanks to outgoing Big Sir James Noriega, who did such a terrific job for the branch in 2014. Thank you, James, for your service to 159!

December's Ladies Day event was another smash hit, with the ladies apparently enjoying it every bit as much as the gents. Everyone raved about the terrific kids of the Clovis High School choir, and with good reason. What a terrific bunch of talented youngsters. Hats off to Sir Shane Peterson and his crew for doing it all, and doing it right, yet again! Cock-a-doodle-do!

Yet how exciting it is to look ahead into 2015. Our incredible Little Sir, Ole' Lonesome Perry Huffman, has a dynamite line-up of first-class speakers ready for the coming year. You are not going to want to miss any of these, or any of the humor from our resident *Mark Twain*. I can't wait!

But there is more: As snow now settles upon the distant sierra, and the rain falls gently on the plain, the stage is being set for streams, swollen with spring, to soon feel the lash of countless fishing lines cast by the roosters of Branch 159. Moreover, fairways will be greening up, bowling lanes waxed, new card decks removed from their cartons ready to be cut and dealt, tickets to be purchased, tennis rackets fetched from closets and baseball gloves removed from attics -- ready for the roosters to PLAY! (There might even be interest in starting *Bocci Ball* and *Pickle Ball*.) Nature never provided a better playground, and I say we use it to the maximum!

And, after all, why not? We are the retired men of Fresno, and we did not "play" when we were on the line with nose pressed firmly against the grindstone. But now, we can and should straighten our backs up to full height and posture! Let us proudly walk into the light of day and recreate ourselves. We owe that to our families as well as to our community and ourselves. That is what I intend to do to the extent that I can, while enjoying the company of my fellow Sons In Retirement.

Yes sir! With all on board, 2015 promises to be a very happy new year.



Big SIR Charlie

Happy New Year, Sirs. You've ended a good year...some dining with our ladies at the Ramada Inn and now you are starting the New Year with Avenal's humorist serving Big Sir Charlie and Branch 159 as your Little Sir. **Good luck...to all of us.**

Back in Avenal, I entertained our family's company with lots of laughs. My Pop asked me questions and everyone cracked up with each of my answers. I enjoyed seeing everybody laugh. As a four or five-year old with a speech impediment, I did not hear myself say that I was going pishing with my pishing pole and catching pish. Not clean humor even then. There were some questions about catching progs and eating pomatos

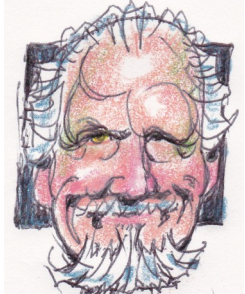
I know. After some of my borrowed stories, some of you feel nothing has changed in seventy five years. We will move forward this year with some fun. Good, clean and otherwise.

Coming clean with you now, I am pleased to have Mark Grossi, (Earth Log Guy with the Fresno Bee) for our January speaker, who is one of my fellow ink-stained wretches. Well, maybe I was more graphite smudged and paint stained in those earlier olden days.

You will find Mark to be a smart and informative guy who is naturally easy to like. He is clean too.

Guys: keep your eyes open and watch your friends and look for ones you would like to visit and lunch with at Pardini's.

There are lots of retired guys like you who would enjoy discovering a group of new friends to share interests, activities and engage more fully in the good life



Little SIR Perry

The 2015 assessments are now due.

The assessments pay for;
all of the Branch159 operating expenses for the year.
Please make checks for \$15 payable to; SIR Branch #159
Mail to; Shane Petersen 3245 E. Sample Fresno, Ca. 93710

Reminder : All Meetings will now be held at Pardini's

SIR OF THE MONTH – PERRY LEON HUFFMAN

It gives me great pleasure to introduce you to an accomplished author, a gifted artist, our incoming Little SIR, and an all around humorist guy: Perry Leon Huffman. Perry has written two auto biographies: Wild Oats, and Oats to Art. Wild Oats covers his growing up in Avenal through his high school years, and, Oats to Art tells of his later years. He is a gifted artist, and you will find his art each month in the Chanticleer. Each luncheon, he regales us with his droll jokes. They always have a poignant punch line. We will also be blessed having Perry as our Little SIR for 2015.



P.L.H. was born in Colinga, CA in 1935. The year Social Security began. A gift of Perry's birth. His father was an oil field worker and his mother was a stay at home Mom. (Remember those?) He has one older brother and another one younger.

When Perry was 2, his father moved the family to Avenal. A very rich oil field had been discovered in the Kettleman Hills. (Crude, sweet crude) It was the richest and most pure oil ever found. To reach this sweet oil, the wells had to be dug deep.

This began a wonderful childhood for the "Huff". He had many childhood friends and they explored, on their bikes, the open hills around Avenal. He tells of many adventures that he and his friends had. I recommend you read his book, Wild Oats, and learn more about Perry.

While living in Avenal, Perry's dad built the family homes. Often, they had to live in less than ideal conditions, while the homes were being built. This only added to the joy of Perry's growing up. He said, "the highlight of my growing up was escaping the coyotes." He must have been successful.

Perry attended grade school and high school in Avenal. He participated in sports, but this was not his greatest calling. It was in school, that he discovered his talent as an artist. He became looked upon as the "class artist", and his talents were often used.

"The Huffman" graduated from Avenal High in 1953. He went on to Visalia Junior College where he earned an AA in Art/Education. Following JC he moved on to San Jose State University where in 1959 he earned a BA in Commercial Art. This led to a job in Fresno at Fresno Photo Engraving. During his 18 months with Fresno Photo Engraving, he learned the engraving business from the ground up.

He followed this job with 6 months at Sid Hall Advertising. As he said, "This is the highest job I would ever have, because they were located on the 6th floor". (Huffman the punster) He moved down in the world to Mac Mahan's Furniture Co. (There he was located on the second floor.) His job was in the advertising department. He was with Mac Mahan's for 5 years. Now, Perry is moving back up in the world. He was hired by The Fresno Bee art department. They were located on the 4th floor.

While at "The Bee", he created and drew the Saturday editorial cartoons. He made the Sunday TV covers, and drew feature illustrations for stories. His job, also, included 33 years of police sketches for homicides, rapes, robberies and any other

drawings need to catch the bad people. Some were even forensic drawings. One time he was, even, called upon to sketch a corpse. Perry did courtroom sketches for TV and newspapers. Retirement sketches were part of his job as well. In 1995, after 32 years with "The Bee", Perry drew his last retirement sketch for the paper: His own.

While in Junior College in 1956, Perry married Barbara, the love of his life. They have been married for 58 years.

Barbara and Perry had 3 children. 1 boy, Mike, and 2 girls, Cherie, and the youngest child, Denise. All are 2 years apart. Mike and Cherie graduated

from Fresno State University. Denise went to nursing school in Texas. She finished her training at Fresno State. Mike is the head of the Fly Fishing Department at the Bass Pro Shops Corporate Headquarters. Cherie has 2 grown children: Linda and Eric – both are teachers. Cherie is a teacher at Erickson in Fresno. Denise was, unfortunately, lost to cancer when she was but 45 years old. She had a son, Ashley, who received a Smittcamp scholarship to Fresno State University and earned a graduate studies scholarship to University of California at Davis. Her daughter, Summer, is a phlebotomist at Fresno Community Hospital.

Perry Leon Huffman joined SIR Branch 159 in February 2006. His sponsor was Carter Roberson. Big SIR, Ron Wilson, recruited Perry to be branch secretary in 2007. (Ron knows how to spot talent.) Reg Rosander, in 2008, anointed "The Huffman" as the branch humorist. This was after hearing Perry speak as a "guest speaker" for one of our luncheons.

Perry recruited Vic Froehmer to become secretary, so that he could step back and be the assistant secretary. This is the job he holds now, along with being "The Humorist". This year, Perry, has stepped forward to become the 2015 Little SIR.

Perry started playing golf soon after joining SIR. He can now be seen weekly at the branch tournaments and the Whitmer Warriors gatherings at the 19th hole. He will be holding court with his infectious smile and sharp wit. Join him, and I am sure he will bring a smile to your face. **John Crawford**

Editor's Note This will be the last mailing of the Chanticleer to all members. Beginning with the February edition of the Chanticleer, it will be distributed to all members with an email address that has been made available to us via email as well as being available to all on our internet website. Other members without email will be able to pick up a black/white Chanticleer at the luncheon. **Mike Williamson**

Attendance Report

In December, 2014, SIR Branch #159 had 255 active members with 85 of those members attending the December 11, 2014 Ladies' Day Christmas luncheon. Total attendance at that luncheon was 160 members and guests. Members are expected to attend the monthly meeting or to notify the Attendance Chairman when the wish to be excused. Three consecutive unexcused absences or six unexcused absences in a twelve month period

constitutes a jeopardy to membership. If you are unable to attend a future meeting, PLEASE call 447-5388 or send an email to DukMarshal@aol.com When you call or email please include your NAME and BADGE NUMBER.

Duke Marshall, Attendance Chairman

January (Buffet)

Spaghetti & Meatballs
Caesar Salad
Garlic Bread
Fruit salad
Assorted Desserts

Anniversaries

Sue & Alan Barton
Dian & Larry Cox
Frances & Roy Harris
Jeanne & Jim Johnson
Carole & Stan Littleworth
Jane & Dick McDonough
Jackie & Merle Petersen
Diane & Howard Ray
Dolores & Orié Reed
Barbara & George Rodriguez
Beverly & Ron Travis

Birthdays

Ray Cereghino, Ron Copp, Hugh Cox
John Crawford, Mike Fair, Gerry Fields
Bill Hedman, Gary Kilgore, Bill Klomp, Nick Lapietra, Ken Lust, Duke-Marshall, Jack Morrill, Corky Nakayama, John Rackin, Alex Ramirez-Michael Rotramel, Michael Rumley
Ron Travis

Bridge Scores

12/2 1st. Ron Vieira, 2nd. George Rurik, 3rd. John Williford, 4th. Jim Lund
Consolation: Hugh Cox
High Score: 3410
High table: 1560
Jim Lund George Rurik

12/16 1st. Fred Wrazel, 2nd. Vic Froehmer, 3rd. Bob Cleveland, 4th. Jack Leonard, 5th. Hugh Cox, 6th. Gene Tognazzini
Consolation: Jim Lund

High score: 7170 Fred Wrazel

(high score for the year!!)

High table: 2330

Jack Leonard Fred Wrazel

Callers Corner

As you know we lost one of our callers-Dennis Costello. We are in need of a caller. It's not hard and takes about 35 minutes to call 16 people. This is a vital part of our Branch and will very much appreciate someone stepping up.

Ron Travis

Sunshine Report

Ahh, January, a new year and a new beginning. But, I'm saddened to report the passing of John Williford. He passed on 12/13 from complications from surgery. His wife, Mary Ellen says there will be services for him on the 2nd or 3rd of January. John had been a board member and was a golfer and bridge player. On Thanksgiving we lost Lee Fanucchi a more recent member. Lee had many friends in our Branch.

Was great to see Bob Moore playing golf with us at Airways. I understand the stent is holding and no further surgery is required. Welcome home Bob. Howard Boston is still out with his broken hip. We all look forward to the day of his return also. Well, that is all I know of at this time. Remember to let me know if you are aware of a downed rooster, my phone # is 960-8294 and my e-mail is ronwilson7777@sbcglobal.net.

Ron Wilson Chairman

There will be no Computer Group meeting for January. ***Dale Reichard, Computer Group Chair***

GOLFERS CORNER

On a day where the weather continued to fluctuate from being overcast, a slight drizzle and then sunshine...there was some great golf played in our individual match at Madera Muni on DEC 4. Bob Wiens led the way on CTP hole #6 with a shot 5' 3" from the hole. Ed Dorn was also close at 5' 7". On CTP #15 Joe Montejano was also just 5' 3" away. Joe Hushek followed at 10' 1". In the 1st

flight Hushek distanced himself from the group with a net 67. Next was Dennis Ensminger at net 72. In flight 2 Reg Rosander fired a net 65. Don Avakian followed at net 70 in a triple tiebreaker. Vic Froehmer was low in the 3rd flight with net 64. New golfer Roger McCoy had a nice 66. In flight 4 Shane Peterson had low net of the day at 60. Joe Cabral was next with a 64. New Big SIR Charles Barrett had a net 63 to win the 5th flight. Kevin Cameron placed 2nd in a tiebreaker at net 67. In flight 6 Louis Shuemade took low net honors with a 64. Lynn Streit followed with net 70.

So nice to see that we've finally gotten some much needed rain. Even though this past year was very dry...a couple of our matches early in the year just happened to coincide with wet days and we were rained out. Usually our matches are played even if there is a light rain. Golfers are reminded that if you're signed up to play and you're not sure if the match is still on considering the weather...it's a good idea to call the course before you drive a half hour only to find the match was canceled. Also check your email for any updates from the SIR 159 Golf Coordinator.

There are changes being made in the powers to be in SIR 159 golf. I'm stepping down as our 159 Coordinator and Big Sir James Noriega is taking my place (YEA!!!...he'll get to write this article from now on). I'll be helping James out the next few months so we have a smooth transition. At the same time...Butch Evans is stepping away from his Area 29 Golf Director position to devote more time to our SIR 159 golf website. I'll be stepping in for Butch to coordinate Area 29 matches.

Thanks go to James for serving as our golf chairman for December and to Stan Littleworth for being the assistant. There are still some vacancies (MAR, MAY, AUG and NOV) to be filled for monthly chairman next year. Please consider volunteering for this vital position.

Our next year's golf schedule is up on our website. When you go to look at the schedule, maximize your screen and you'll see when our special tournaments are being played (they appear in green on the far right).

Perry's Puns for January - (1) A teacher noticed that a little boy at the back of the class was squirming around, scratching his crotch, and not paying attention.

She went back to find out what was going on.



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He was quite embarrassed and whispered that he had just recently been circumcised and he was quite itchy.

The teacher told him to go down to the principal's office. He was told to telephone his mother and ask her what he should do about it. He did and returned to his class.

Suddenly, there was a commotion at the back of the room.

She went back to investigate only to find him sitting at his desk with his 'private part' hanging out.

"I thought I told you to call your mom!" she said.

"I did,' he said, 'And she told me that if I could stick it out until lunchtime, she'd come and pick me up from school

(2) I had a rose named after me and I was very flattered. But I was not pleased to read the description in the catalogue: - 'No good in a bed, but fine against a wall.' - *Eleanor Roosevelt*

Branch 159 January Golf Schedule
Chairman Mike Williamson 251-3103

Wed 12/31 10AM SG DragonFly
 Wed 1/7 10AM SG Madera CC
 Thur 1/15 10AM SG Ridge Creek
 Thur 1/22 10AM SG Sherwood
 Thur 1/29 10AM SG Madera Mun
 Thur 2/5 10AM SG Riverside

February's Speaker

Mareck Warsawski...
 Bee Sports columnist (Warzone)

February (Buffet)

Baked Filet of Sole
 Chicken Teriyaki
 Jasmine Rice
 Waldorf salad
 Green vegetable
 Assorted Desserts

November Bowling Scores

The new fall league has started and we invite any SIR member to come join us – Friday afternoons, 1 PM Sierra Lanes. Anyone interested please contact Duke Marshall @ 447-5388 or just show up and we will get you started. We will look for you. [Check the Bowling Page from the SIR 159 Home page for updated information](#)

Date		Name	Score	Branch
11/7	Hi Scratch Series	Duke Marshall	540	159
	Hi Hdcp Series	Bill Ripley	643	175
	Hi Scratch Game	Bill Ripley	202	175
	Hi Hdcp Series	Bill Ripley	239	175
11/14	Hi Scratch Series	Merle Knapp	535	175
	Hi Hdcp Series	Merle Knapp	634	175
	Hi Scratch Game	Merle Knapp	210	175
	Hi Hdcp Series	Merle Knapp	243	175
11/21	Hi Scratch Series	Daryl Derouchey	525	159
	Hi Hdcp Series	Daryl Derouchey	603	159
	Hi Scratch Game	Don Corley	200	159
	Hi Hdcp Series	Jim Whitmer	222	159
11/28	Hi Scratch Series	Tom Harlan	544	175
	Hi Hdcp Series	Tom Harlan	661	175
	Hi Scratch Game	Tom Harlan	228	175
	Hi Hdcp Series	Tom Harlan	267	175