

RAMONA ROUNDUP

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>President's Message</i>	2
<i>Sick and Disabled</i>	2
<i>Firehouse Dedication</i>	3
<i>Student Scholarships</i>	3
<i>Building Committee</i>	3
<i>Museum Revamped</i>	4

Ramona Dinner Meeting

Dinner Meetings are held the second Thursday of each month—6:00 PM

Next Meeting: Thursday **February 12, 2004**

Chicken Parmegiano

Farfalle in Pink Sauce

Mixed Italian Vegetables

Tossed Green Salad

Dessert & Beverages

Only \$6.00 p/p

tines Day



Ramona Stagecoach

IT'S GAMBLING TIME AGAIN! TURNAROUND PLANNED ON MARCH 24TH

If you have never joined our energetic group on the annual Museum Turnaround, you really have no idea what you are missing!

The fun and food starts with the wait to get on the bus. We leave at the crack of dawn (7 am sharp!) from San Gabriel, but there is coffee, donuts and Danish to get us started. Once on the road, we pick up another group of gamblers at Fairplex before heading out to Stateline's Buffalo Bill's Casino.

The trip is a virtual food fest featuring sandwiches provided by Claro's Italian Market. Fresh fruit, chips, cookies and soft drinks round out the menu.

In between snacks, bring a few dollars to play Bingo, buy arrival time tickets and, yes, we even bet on the weather!

Many of the gamblers are regulars who join us year after year. Not publicly advertised, the trip is safe and fun for all.

There is a minimum of eight hours of gambling at Buffalo Bill's, but many of our gamblers take a break to shop at the nearby discount mall or to visit Primm Valley's other Casino, Whiskey Pete's.

The \$21.00 ticket includes everything—Bus trip, FREE buffet coupon (for more food once you enter Buffalo Bill's), gambling and a wonderful movie and snack food for the return trip.

As if having fun isn't enough, perhaps knowing that any profit from your \$21.00 will benefit the Ramona Museum of California History will entice you to join us.

Bring your friends—See you there!

GRAND PARLOR DELEGATES TO BE SELECTED AT THE NEXT GENERAL MEETING-FEB 12TH

Grand Parlor is in Modesto this year and as always, Ramona Parlor #109 will be sending at least three delegates to participate in this important annual event.

Members who have never gone to Grand Parlor before are encouraged to join the statewide membership in this annual celebration of our organization. It is also a chance to see how the organization works, network with other Parlor members and obtain fresh ideas for dealing with the changes and challenges that our group faces in

the future.

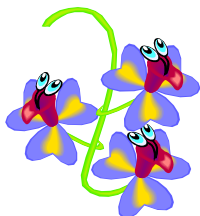
Many Resolutions are proposed that will affect Parlors throughout the state. Our delegates represent all Ramona members as they voice their opinion and vote on issues that can have very far-reaching implications for our group.

Last year, we proposed a resolution suggesting that we attempt to merge Native Sons and Daughters to bolster dwindling memberships.

This year we are considering a proposal to allow non-natives

to attend meetings with a voice, but no vote.

Many of our ideas may not always be popular, but at least they are heard—and it all takes place at Grand Parlor 2004!



“Joy is a net of love with which you can catch souls”.

-Mother Teresa

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE OLA ADDANTE

Greetings to all Members and Friends,

Plans are now firm for the Firehouse-Jail Museum dedication in the City of Covina. Dedication will be March 21, 2004 at 3:00pm by the Dedicatory Team led by Grand President Richard Kimball. I urge you all to attend.

The annual Turnaround is scheduled for March 24, 2004. We are aiming at two full buses.

All packets were delivered to the San Gabriel Valley schools informing teachers and stu-

dents of our speech and essay contests. We will hold this May 13th instead of our regular meeting. Details of the programs are noted elsewhere in the newsletter so please read it thoroughly.

Don't forget to watch for the mail for your Native Sons Newsletter. It is a wonderful source of information about California history. Check it out!

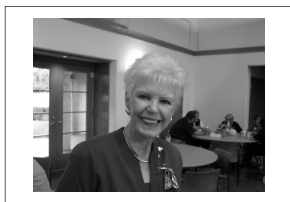
Rosemarie Lippman, 1st Vice President, is the force behind the Ramona Roundup, the Firehouse dedication and the scholarship competitions. A very heartfelt “Thank You” Rosemarie.

Nominations and elections of delegates to Grand Parlor will take place during our February 12th meeting.

We are planning a Veteran's Day exhibit in November that will feature many items from the collection of Scott Cullinane, one of our museum do-

cents. We would like to put together a collage of our members from their military days as part of the exhibit. We are going to open it for almost a week, so mark off your calendars now because we'll need a lot of help.

In Friendship, Loyalty and Charity,
Ola Addante



President Ola Addante helps

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU! MANY HAPPY RETURNS—YOUR DINNER IS FREE!

Is it your birthday? Come and claim your **FREE** dinner!

February: Mary Linda Daddona, Louie Bisetti,

Joe La Casella, Valentino Lombardo, Mary Lotito, Dennis McCarbery, David Munoz, Alfredo Sirignano, Michael Ybarra, jr.

March: Dominic Billi, Art Claro

Joe Claro, Wellestley Peters, Diane DeWinstanly, Mario Zanotti

SICK AND DISABLED MEMBERS REMEMBER THEM IN YOUR PRAYERS

Geraldine Claro, beloved wife of Brother Frank Claro, is recovering nicely after she was discovered to be severely anemic last month. During her hospital stay, tests discovered that she had also developed a pulmonary embolism and so she is learning to take life a little easier. Overall, she is doing much better. Joe La Casella, an active member of Ramona for many years, has

suffered a minor stroke. He actually attended a Pugliese Lodge Meeting recently. We are so glad that he is doing better. We hope to see him soon.

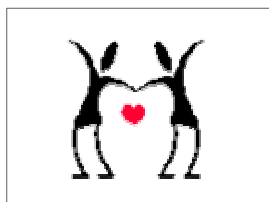
Sidney Epstein, 91 years young, celebrated his birthday at the bowling alley where he has just recently given up his favorite sport. Although he still drives, it is difficult for him to see at night to attend our meetings. Call him!

Charles Finkelstein, recent recipient

of his 25-year membership pin, has been suffering from a painful bout of gout. Rest dear friend.

God Bless all our sick and disabled brothers.

Quick recovery—Healthy life!



Call a friend...
Make a difference...

PLAQUE DEDICATION PLANNED FOR THE COVINA FIREHOUSE ON SUNDAY MARCH 21ST

The Covina Firehouse-Jail was built in 1911. It was the first civic building constructed by the City of Covina and it sits quietly behind City Hall just off Citrus and College where it has been transformed into a community museum.

On Sunday, March 21st, the Covina Valley Historical Society and Ramona Parlor will join together to commemorate and mark this historic building in a Dedication Ceremony at 3:00 pm.

All members are encouraged to attend. The Firehouse-Jail Museum will be open, a Fire and Police Exhibit will be available and visitors can enjoy the Vintage Years, a wonderful photo collection documenting the history of the San Gabriel Valley.

Light refreshments will be served after a short ceremony to install the plaque. Grand President Richard Kimball and representatives from Grand Parlor are coming to

perform the ceremony.

SCHOLARSHIP PACKETS ARE DISTRIBUTED THROUGHOUT THE SAN GABRIEL VALLEY

Ramona Parlor #109, in conjunction with the Ramona Museum of California History, sponsors two opportunities for young historians to obtain significant scholastic scholarships in two competitions held each year.

All High School students are invited to participate in a public speaking competition at our May meeting. The top speaker will take home a \$500.00 first place prize, \$300.00 for second place and \$100 for third place. The topic is simply *California*.

Eighth Graders are encouraged to compete in our an-

nual Eighth-Grade Essay Contest. Top Prize for the winning paper is \$250.00, second prize is \$150.00 and third prize is \$100.00. Papers require and annotated bibliography and must be meticulously researched. The topic must be related to *California Statehood*.

Dozens of packets have been distributed over the past two weeks, many of them by hand. If we have a good response this year, it will be mostly due to the efforts of our President Ola Addante, Joe Claro, and new First-Vice President Rosemarie

Lippman. They are determined to make schools aware of this scholarship opportunity and we hope to have a good response this year.

We need judges! If you can spare a few hours in May call 626-288-2026.

“Obstacles are those frightful things you see when you take your eyes off the goal”.

-Hannah More

BUILDING COMMITTEE PREPARES TO ACCEPT BIDS FOR OUR NEW CEMENT PARKING LOT

Members of the Building Committee led by Frank Claro, Roger DiVirgilio and Louie Bisetti, are beginning to accept and review several bids to remove the cracked asphalt in our parking lot and replace it with concrete. It is a huge project that will add tremendous curb appeal to our building which is one of the few properties to have its own adjacent parking lot in the Mission District.

The new lot will also enhance the appearance of the wonderful mural painted by Putt Putnam a couple of years ago. It borders the south side of our parking area and is a real artistic treasure. The new cement work includes the addition of a small curb and planter to further define and protect the mural. Curator Susan Gleason has offered to select native plants for the area so the need for water will

be minimal. The planter will be hand watered to avoid any damage to the mural.



Native Sons of the Golden West

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We're on the Web!
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Preserving California's Treasures

The Native Sons of the Golden West is an historic organization that was established in the late 1800s to promote the great State of California. With the common bonds of Friendship, Loyalty and Charity, the group became one of the state's most powerful fraternal organizations at the turn of the last century. Many early California history-makers were members of the Native Sons. Today the NSGW is an active group of native Californians who are dedicated to preserving and promoting the history of our great State.

MUSEUM GETS AN OVERHAUL LIGHTING IS FINALLY COMPLETED!

If the holidays were busy for some of us, they were insane for Curator Dr. Susan Gleason. Despite her busy schedule, during the month of December, she somehow managed to revamp the entire Museum with the help of her sister Janet.

The women selected and supervised the installation of dozens of lighting fixtures throughout the museum.

The lighting alone was a fantastic improvement. It cheered the museum considerably and made the items in the exhibits really stand out. Member Mary Diaz did an excellent job with the electrical work and we can now control the lighting with just a few switches in our meeting room.

Susan and Janet then decided to redisplay many of the items. They reworked the displays, made new descriptive signs and added illustrative displays that helped to explain or enhance the exhib-

its.

They cleaned each of the artifacts carefully and did a complete inventory of items as they were displayed.

The museum has been much improved through their efforts and if you haven't seen it this year, you really should treat yourself to another visit.

Director Rosemarie Lippman was flabbergasted when she saw the rejuvenated displays. "They did an unbelievable job", she was quoted as saying. "Susan is well aware of the significance of the collection and she has exhibited each item to its best advantage. It was really terrific work!"

Susan also assembled many new displays that seem to bring a new dimension to our exhibits and place our artifacts into vivid historical perspective.

Our Parlor owes both women a debt of gratitude for all of the efforts. The Museum

turned out just great!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

FEB 12-General Meeting: delegate selection for GP

Mar 11-Dinner Program

Quickie meeting at 5:00pm

MAR 21-Firehouse-Jail Dedication 3:00pm

MAR 24-Stateline Turnaround

MAY FIRST WEEK-Preliminary Rounds-Speech Competition

MAY 13-Student Scholarship Competition

MAY 16-Grand Parlor Modesto

JUN 10-Dinner Meeting

JUN 25-Anniversary Dinner Dance

JUL 8-Concrete BBQ and Bocce Tournament

AUG-St. John's Hospital Visit

SEP 9-Admission Day Meeting
Public Safety Spaghetti Dinner

OCT 14-Nomination of Officers

NOV-Veteran's Day Exhibit

