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**RAMONA ROUND UP**  
**Native Sons of the Golden West**

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*Ramona Parlor #109*  
*P.O. Box 292*  
*San Gabriel, CA 91778*

*Chartered June 9, 1887*

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Greetings to Brothers and Friends:

I would like to sincerely thank all of the members who are actively serving the group on our various committees. There is a lot of work being done on behalf of the Parlor and we can be grateful for the efforts of those members who have offered to help. Thank you one and all...

We will be obligating two new members this month: Cynthia Smith works for the City of San Gabriel and Nicole Daddona is a young anthropology student attending Mt. San Antonio College. I would like to warmly welcome both women to Ramona Parlor #109.

Our Anniversary Dinner Dance was a very nice affair. We all had a great time. Chris Lotito and his committee did a really good job organizing the event. A good time was had by all who attended.

Keep your fingers crossed...with any luck our proposal to buy the Literacy Building will blossom into a purchase and we'll have a home sometime soon. The City of Los Angeles has not helped, but that is no surprise (they still owe us for past bills from the hall!).

Hope to see you at the meeting!

In Friendship, Loyalty and Charity...

*Frank Claro*

## **GENERAL MEETING**

THURSDAY, JULY 10, 1997

6:00 DINNER/7:00 MEETING

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Manicotti

Italian Sausage  
Onion Pizza  
Tossed Green Salad

Assorted Cookies  
Beverage

\$6.00 per person

Earlybirds can play cards!

*Held at the*

*Grape Vine Room  
Near Santa Anita and Mission  
San Gabriel*

## **MINUTES IN A MINUTE**

**June 12, 1997**

After President Frank Claro opened the meeting, Brother Harry Beardo gave his report on the sick and distressed members. Get well cards were passed around for recovering brothers Leo Baudino and Nick Moramarco.

Brother Harry also mentioned that any brothers who were interested in attending the annual St. John's Mass and Brunch for Cleft Palate should contact him for reservations.

A full report of Grand Parlor activities was given by delegates Brothers Mario Zanotti and Harry Beardo. They approved the Per Capita Tax increase much to the consternation of many of the members. Brother Chris Lotito suggested that we look into the Grand Parlor Constitution and put together a resolution next year to better control what Grand Parlor does with our money and possibly cut the Per Capita Tax. Fran Hubert moved that we research the Grand Parlor by-laws and Constitution and put together a resolution to

cut the Per Capita Tax to be considered at the next Grand Parlor. It was seconded by Rosemarie Lippman and vigorously passed.

After much discussion, it was decided that part of the money left to us by Brother Fletcher be used in the way he intended, to purchase a home for our Parlor and Museum. Brother Fran gave the Relocation Committee report and she said it would be easier to negotiate if we knew just how much of a building budget we would have. A motion was made to buy a building and not spend more than \$300,000. It was passed enthusiastically. Brother Grady Hardy indicated that he would like to join the Relocation Committee. Other members include: Pat Gabriele, Art Claro, Rosemarie Lippman, Fran Hubert (chair) and Frank Claro (President).

It was also voted to move some of our funds into a higher interest account. The Finance Committee was authorized to obtain appropriate legal advice as to how best to protect our funds for future use by the Parlor and Museum.

Brother Chris Lotito lamented the lack of interest in the Anniversary Dinner Dance. He reported advance ticket sales of only 39 people so far and was hoping that at least 50 would come. He reminded us of how important it was for members to participate in club activities.

Opportunity Chance winner was Doris Scholar.

## **ANNIVERSARY DINNER DANCE**

### **110 Years Young!**

Held at Steven's Steak House in the City of Commerce, Ramona's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner Dance was a beautiful affair enjoyed by all who attended. Dance music was provided by Tony Giannini and dancing went on until 11:00 or so.

The food was delicious and the surroundings were intimate and romantic. We had over 50 guests and expect a favorable report from chairperson Chris Lotito. Brother Chris did a great job planning the event with the support of Brothers Art Claro and Harry

Beardo. Good Work Guys!

## **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

*Harry Scholar*

Aside from transferring \$300,000 into a “building account” for the purchase of our new home, things have been quiet for the committee this last month.

The members have authorized the committee to seek legal advice to determine the best way to protect the bulk of the money and a complete report will be given at the next meeting.

## **RELOCATION COMMITTEE**

*Fran Hubert*

Hooray! The members of Ramona have voted the Committee a budget of \$300,000 to find a suitable building to serve as a meeting place for our Parlor and a home for the Museum. It will be much easier to find a location when we actually have the funds available and the commitment of the group behind us.

Last month we reported two possible locations available. The Santa Anita building (about 2,800 square feet) has no parking and is listed for \$250,000. It is a large rectangular building and is almost completely plain on the inside awaiting work or remodeling. The Literacy Building is owned by a non-profit group and is larger (about 3,800 square feet). It is on Mission directly across from the Grape Vine Room. The Committee went through the building on July 3<sup>rd</sup> and agreed to put together a proposal for their Board of Directors to consider an offer to purchase their building. If you would like details of their price and would like to see a copy of the letter we wrote, come to the next meeting. If you can't get out call toll-free (800) 507-0450 and Rosemarie Lippman will promptly mail you a copy. We are trying to be a little discreet during the negotiating phase of the purchase. Suffice it to say that the building falls within our budget and with an attached parking lot and plenty of room to meet, it presents a much better value than the other properties we've seen thus far.

## **FISHING TRIP PLANNED**

**Get Ready For Some *REEL* Fun!**

## Friday, July 25<sup>th</sup>

Several members have requested that we get a group together to do some ocean fishing. Summertime is the season for twilight fishing excursions from many locations off the Southern California coast. If you've got an iron stomach and don't mind freezing until 1:00 in the morning while you handle wiggly live bait, this is the trip you've been waiting for.

The group will meet at Claro's Market in San Gabriel (you can pick up extra food or beverages there if you want) and leave for Balboa Pavilion at 4:30pm. Dress warmly and wear waterproof boots if you have them because we usually stay out well after midnight. We will car pool down to 22<sup>nd</sup> Street Landing where we will board a 75 foot vessel called the Monte Carlo.

Right now you can expect to catch Calico Bass, Sea Bass, Halibut, Yellowtail, Bonita and who knows? Place your reservations early as space is limited. Call Rosemarie Lippman at (818) 288-2026 or (818) 966-5855 to confirm your space.

Twilight Boat Trip.....\$22.00 each  
Day Fishing License (if needed)....\$6.60  
Rod and Reel Rental (if needed)....\$6.00 standard  
  \$8.00 spinning

Food and beverages are available to purchase on board or you can bring your own...

### **SICK AND DISTRESSED**

*Harry Beardo*

The worst news...our beloved Brother John Schmolle has sadly passed away on June 28, 1997. He is survived by his wife Bee and two children. Brother Schmolle joined Ramona Parlor #109 on April 2, 1946. He served as President in 1950 and Grand President in 1959-60. On June 16, 1995 he was honored at our Anniversary Dinner Dance for his many accomplishments and contributions to the native Sons and Ramona Parlor. He was a staunch supporter of the Museum and will be missed by all who had the privilege of making his acquaintance.

Frank Vega is not doing too well. He is at Good Samaritan Hospital and deserves our support and prayers.

Al Lingua had a very frightening hospital stay as doctors tried to control his blood sugar levels. He was feeling too poorly to attend the last meeting, but we all hope he will be strong enough to join us in July.

For any sick or distressed members who haven't been contacted by our group, please rest and recover with the knowledge that the thoughts and prayers of the rest of us are with you and your families always. If a member knows of another brother who should be mentioned, please do not hesitate to call our number toll-free (800) 507-0450.

## **OPINION**

### **Build It and They Will Come**

*Fran Hubert saved this recent article from the Native Son June-July 1997. If you haven't had a chance to read it we have included it here verbatim. We're not exactly sure who wrote it, but Past Grand President Howard Kern sure makes a lot of sense...*

Several years ago there was a movie which portrayed a man who wanted to experience old time baseball. He was told to build a playing field, after which the players will arrive. He built it; the players came.

We were reminded of that movie in a recent conversation with Past Grand President Howard Kern.

Howard believes Native Sons are taking the wrong approach by continually stressing membership gain as the be all and end all of our organization. He pointed out that the purposes of our Order have nothing to do with membership drives: we are dedicated to preserving the history of California and for the “mutual benefit, mental improvement and social intercourse” of our members. During the years when the organization was truly prospering, we attracted and kept members because we did something: individual parlors preserved historic structures, had athletic events and socials for members and their communities.

Our State organization continues to “do something”: the Public Speaking and Essay Contests, marking historical sites and our Charitable Foundation are significant. However, at the local level, many parlors do nothing except meet monthly and have an occasional dinner.

The most successful parlors are those which are active.

Fairfax Parlor, for example, has seen its membership increase steadily from 106 in 1972 to 340 in 1997. Fairfax's brothers didn't do this by having membership drives; rather, they accomplished it by being active in their town and by sponsoring events which drew members into their parlor.

We are reminded of the invention of a device most of you have seen: a cork puller with two blades which is used to open a wine bottle. It was invented by a man who realized that the problem was not to make a better corkscrew but to design a better way to remove a cork.

Brothers, as PGP Kern pointed out, our problem is not membership...it's accomplishing the purposes of our founders.

Do that, and members will come.

**Arrowhead Parlor  
110<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner  
July 19<sup>th</sup> 1997**

Elk's Lodge  
2055 Elk Drive  
San Bernardino, CA

\$15.00 per person

For Reservations or Information  
call Clare McCullough (909) 880-0685

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**La Puente Native Daughters Plan Display**

Flora McKay, wife of longtime Ramona member John McKay is helping to coordinate a historical display of artifacts for the West Covina Library to commemorate "California History Week" and Admission Day.

The display will be available to view from August 1<sup>st</sup> through September 9<sup>th</sup>. For more information or to volunteer to help you may call her at (818) 338-8598.

**Ramona Officers 1997**

President.....Frank Claro

First Vice-President.....Chris Lotito  
Second Vice-President.....Fran Hubert  
Third Vice-President.....Al Lingua  
Jr. Past President.....Louis Bisetti  
Sr. Past President.....Wellesley Peters  
Trustee-18 Months.....Harry Scholar  
Recording Secretary.....Art Claro  
Assistant Recording Secretary.....Pete Pianta  
Financial Secretary.....Roberta Overton  
Treasurer.....Joe La Casella  
Trustee-12 Months.....Leo Baudino  
Trustee-6 Months.....Chris Deghi  
Marshall.....Dominic Billi  
Inside Sentinel.....James Aragno  
Outside Sentinel.....Lou Francone

District Deputy Grand President  
Ben White

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**Ramona Parlor #109**  
**Native Sons of the Golden West**

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Meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each Month  
Grape Vine Room  
Near Santa Anita and Mission  
San Gabriel  
(800) 507-0450