
RAMONA ROUND UP
Native Sons of the Golden West

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

Chartered June 9, 1887

President's Message

Greetings to Brothers and Friends:

If last month's meeting was any indication of the concern of the membership for how the Fletcher Fund is being handled I would have to say that the Finance Committee has some additional work to do. They have done a fine job researching possibilities for investment, but they will have to provide us with more than just one or two options before a decision can be made. Meanwhile, the money is drawing interest and we expect an interesting report at the next meeting.

I had the opportunity to attend Grand Parlor this year and found it very enlightening. I will share my report with the other delegates at the next meeting.

The Relocation Committee has been very busy. There have been a couple of possible locations that may be available very soon. We might find a home a little sooner than any of us expected, but then, Ramona Parlor has always been a resilient group.

I feel honored to be trusted to lead the membership through the end of the year. I will try my best for my Brothers and the future of Ramona Parlor.

In Friendship, Loyalty and Charity...

Frank Claro

GENERAL MEETING

THURSDAY, JUNE 12, 1997

6:00 DINNER/7:00 MEETING

Meatloaf
Mashed Potatoes

Peas and Corn
Tossed Green Salad
Fresh Bread

Cherry Cobbler
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
May 8, 1997**

Visiting Brothers included Jim Smith of Arrowhead #110 and Ted Garcia #45. DDGP Ben White was under the weather and we all missed him.

President Frank Claro announced that a committee is being formed to revise our by-laws and bring them up to date. A call went out to solicit interested members.

It was agreed to keep the current slate of officers in their positions until the end of the year because of our transitional financial situation.

Sick and Distressed report was given by Harry Beardo and flyers were read announcing activities of other Parlors and coming events sponsored by the Native Daughters.

Brother Harry Scholar spoke on behalf of the Financial Committee and his report was met with a multitude of questions and concerns. The Committee recommended that the members approve investment in Charitable Remainder Trusts as the best that we could do for our future security. All we were supposed to do was agree as to what charities should receive the money and the rate of return on the money would be guaranteed for the next 20 years. Much discussion followed as members expressed their concern about giving away the money Brother Fletcher gave us for a clubhouse and museum. There was a great desire by all to protect the money and invest it to insure the future of Ramona Parlor and the Museum. There were many opinions to consider and the Financial Committee was basically sent back to the drawing board to come up with more information about some other alternatives to their first suggestion. The issue was tabled until the June meeting.

First Vice-President Chris Lotito reported on his plans for the Anniversary Dinner Dance to be held at Steven's Steak House. It sounded like things were going great!

It was voted and approved to add two more signatures to our bank account to control the large amount of money we received from the city. Joe La Casella reminded us that we should place the money in some kind of interest bearing account until we decide how to invest it.

Financial Secretary Roberta Overton gave her report. Treasurer Joe La Casella revealed our bank balance. The Opportunity Chance was drawn and the meeting was adjourned.

Friday, June 20, 1997

110th Anniversary Dinner Dance

Steven's Steak House

**5332 Steven Place
City of Commerce, CA**

No Host bar 6-7 pm
Dinner 7 pm

Music Provided by Tony Gianini
Dancing until 11 pm

\$25.00 per person

Please plan to join the fun!

Send Reservations to:

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

Finance Committee

Harry Scholar

Back to the drawing board...The initial suggestions to donate the majority of the money to approved charities and generate a guaranteed 8% plus income for the next 20 years went over with mixed reactions. There were several concerns and questions expressed by the members at the May meeting and even though all of the officers approved the CRT (Charitable Remainder Trust) idea at a previous meeting, it was evident that the members wanted more options explored.

We will give a complete report at the next meeting, but generally speaking there are several ways the group could invest the money.

- 1) Self-invest: Ramona would control all of the money and a committee could be formed to invest it. The State Attorney General's office might show a little concern over this method only because tax-exempt and non-profit groups are simply not supposed to have huge sums of money in the bank without a specific purpose that falls in line with the reason that they were granted tax-exempt status.
- 2) CRT: some of the money could be donated to approved charities (like Cleft Palate) and held in trust for 20 years. The Trustees (not us) would control the money and give us whatever rate of interest we want on the money (if we get too greedy, our principle would be tapped and our income could diminish over the years, but if we take out about 8% we could actually wind up with increased income). Of course, after the 20 year period whatever is donated is gone to the named charity. There are great tax advantages to using a CRT, but since we are already tax-exempt and operate a non-profit Museum, the tax advantage is not a concern.
- 3) Foundation: The group could control the money, but only for a specific purpose as drawn up in a mission statement. Governed by a Board of Directors, the money is monitored carefully and investments would not yield nearly as much as a CRT, but Ramona Parlor would still be in control of the principle. Extra income (if there is any) could be donated within the scope of the goals of the Foundation.
- 4) Holding Company: A business entity that is set up separate from Ramona Parlor and run by a committee. Arrowhead Parlor uses something like this and we have to determine if enough controls and safeguards can be set on the funds to insure the future of the club. Again, there is so much money involved that we would have to check on the legal ramifications of setting up this kind of company.

There are so many options for us to consider that it might be worth it to get some good advice from an attorney that specializes in tax-exempt, non-profit groups to outline all of the possibilities for us. We had some wonderful pro-bono (free) work done for us by Kevin Fiore, maybe he can recommend someone who can help us. We will report our progress at the next meeting.

Relocation Committee

Fran Hubert

Unbelievable, but true! There may be two locations in the historical Mission District that might be suitable for a meeting place and museum (please note that the word HALL was not mentioned...). The building that we looked at on Santa Anita Avenue (about 2800 square feet) is still available AND the California Literacy Building (located directly across the street from the Grapevine Room) has just come onto the market. The Literacy Building is a two-story brick building, about 3,800 square feet and has about six parking spaces attached.

In keeping with the Finance Committee's research with foundations and trusts. A building could be purchased and the remainder of the funds invested in a way that would generate enough income to maintain the building expenses. We should keep in mind Brother Fletcher's original intention for his money and the club. It was his wish that the money be used to provide a meeting place for our group and a museum for our collection of artifacts.

Maybe it might be prudent to get some sound legal advice in the area of foundations and trusts to see what approach would be best

for the club to accomplish its goals.

The City of San Gabriel is still very excited about having Ramona Parlor locate its Museum in the Mission District. There are several professional tours that currently include the Mission San Gabriel and the surrounding area in their tour packages. The City feels that our California History Museum would greatly enhance the tours that are being offered. The City can not make any commits to help us until proposals are submitted to them.

We really need to decide on a clear direction for the club. Please come to the next meeting and let us know what you think. If you are unable to attend, write or call us with your thoughts. It is very important that we get a consensus of the membership before we can move forward.

Speech Contest

Harry Beardo

Grand parlor awarded the winner of the statewide speech contest a scholarship for \$2000. Joey Engelberg, the young man who won, hails from San Diego Area I and proved to be an excellent speaker. Four runner-ups received \$600. each. It was wonderful to hear these young people compete. It was like hearing the future speak to just listen to their talented voices.

Now, if we could just get them to join.....

Sick and Distressed

Harry Beardo

- -Pete Pianta is recovering nicely from his eye surgery. Unfortunately, his wife had a minor heart attack. They are both recovering nicely and we hope to see them at the next meeting.
- -Our beloved Brother Ben White was a little under the weather, but he is feeling better now.
- -Sadly, Brother Frank Frontino passed away on May 9th. He was buried in Calvary Cemetery and services were held at St. Peter's Church. He was a good friend and will be sadly missed by all who knew him.
- -Dario Balzano is hanging in there. His leg still bothers him, but he is doing O.K.
- -Brother Victor Carno lost his wife Theresa on May 6th. She had been ill for quite a long time, but her family and friends were

not prepared for the loss. She was dearly loved and will be sorely missed.

To all of our sick and distressed brothers and their families we would like to send our best wishes and a heartfelt prayer for quick and complete recoveries.

**Arrowhead Parlor
110th Anniversary Dinner
July 19th, 1997**

**Elk's Lodge
2055 Elk Drive
San Bernardino, CA**

\$15.00 per person

Happy Father's Day!

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

Ramona Parlor #109
Native Sons of the Golden West

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

Ramona Parlor #109
Early Members

*This collection of names represents just a few of the thousands we have on file in our Museum archive. Many of our members were the movers and shakers of early Los Angeles. For example; Fred Eaton was a former mayor of Los Angeles and surveyed the small town of **Covina**. Any of the other names ring a bell? The Native Sons archive is a valuable resource for social historians as they try to piece together the "human" side of history...*

Frederick Eaton

September 25, 1855 Surveyor

J.M. Griffith

March 16, 1865 Lumber Merchant

Frank Sabichi

March 7, 1866 Attorney

Boyle Workman

September 20, 1868 Paymaster

Edwin A. Meserve

July 28, 1863

Hancock Banning

May 12, 1865 Shipping

J. De Barth Shorb, Jr.

April 4, 1870

George B. Schaefer

January 23, 1856 First National Bank

Hugh Glassell

July 11, 1859 Glassell Estate

Alessandro V. Rowland

January 23, 1879 City Engineer's Office