

Rooster's Tale



Sons in Retirement – Branch 110 **No March Meeting!!**

1705 Manzanita Avenue, Chico, CA—**No Luncheon –No Executive Committee Meeting**

SIR Luncheon and Program Update:

**No luncheons are planned for the near future.
ZOOM Programs are being pursued once again.**



Big Sir Message:

It will be great to see everyone again. I miss the social part of SIRS and the programs that we have.

The BEC is working at getting us back to having our lunch meetings. I have been meeting with the Elks Lodge general manager regarding when we can have our meetings there.

State Big SIR is launching the SIR Vaccine Assistance Team, a program to assist SIR members to get their COVID 19 vaccination. All the members should be getting a questionnaire from him regarding what to do.

State Big SIR has authorized branches to resume some in person activities, which is great news. This includes many of our Ramp activities. That means that our ramp committee chairmen need to start thinking of things to do and places to go. I can think of fishing, travel and hiking for some. Maybe we can think of some other interesting activities that we might try. Think picnic.

If you have any ideas let me know, I will be around for a while. Everyone stay safe, wear a mask and do social distancing

There have been two BEC meetings held via ZOOM on February 10 and February 23. These have resulted in the appointment of Norm Stump as Big SIR and Jim Amis as Little SIR for the 2021 year. This and other situations have created several vacancies in the list of 2021 officers and directors as indicated below. This provides opportunities for members to volunteer for several positions. Branch 110 could use your help.

2021 Officers & Directors

Big Sir – Norm, Stump	Little Sir – Jim Amis
Secretary – Bob Dinger	Asst. Sec. – Vacant
DB Mgr. – Rocky Rockwell	Treasurer – Ed Matzdorff
Asst. Treas. – Vacant	Asst. Treas. – Vacant
Attend. Sec. – Don Curtis (replacement requested)	
Director – Vacant ??	Director – Dave Jones
Director – Vacant	Director – Mike Nicholas
Director – Jose Lopez	Director – Ken Edson

Lunch Menu

**No Meeting
No Lunch
No Menu**

Attendance

**No Meeting
No Lunch
No Contact Necessary**

Branch 110 Website: <http://www.branch110.sirinc2.org>

Webmaster: Ron Braziel

Chaplain's Corner: Health, Wisdom and Memorials

There has been an endeavor to include more information about Branch 110 members who have health issues or have passed away. It is often found that information of this sort is not known to those who would be responsible for informing the membership at large. Therefore, **everyone's assistance is requested**. If you know of a member who has or has had health issues or has recently died, please inform either Tom Shifflet or Don Alger. It is important to not miss acknowledging our fellow members.

Chaplain's Message:

In the midst of these troublesome days, brought on by the coronavirus and subsequent social distancing, you may be a SIR (Bidwell Branch 110) with an unmet need. If so, feel free to email **TomShifflet@aol.com**. Likewise, if you are a SIR 110 member that is willing to volunteer some time and energy towards helping a fellow SIR with a specific need, please contact me, **TomShifflet@aol.com**. I will try to match SIRs with needs and SIRs who are willing to help. We can get through this pandemic together.



March 28, 1971: The 1,068th and final edition of *The Ed Sullivan Show* was broadcast in the U.S. after a run of 23 seasons that had started on June 20, 1948. In explaining the demise of the show, Sullivan commented "Vaudeville on television finally died out. Frankly, I always feared it would happen and then it did... I was reluctant about admitting what was wrong. But Sylvia, my wife, sensed the trend instantly. She said to me, 'Ed, people don't want it anymore. You'll have to get yourself a new idea.'" Reruns of Sullivan's variety show continued on Sunday nights until June 6.

Nature Notes and Quotes

Whether you view these as Nature Being the Best Art, or Admiration of Nature's Beauty or Appreciation of Landscape Photography or just as a Love of Nature, here are some of the most beautiful places in the world.



Mount St. Helens



Lake McDonald in Glacier N. P.



Bryce Canyon National Park

SIR 110 Activities

There were of course no official SIR activities due to the COVID-19 Pandemic restrictions. However, some members pursued related activities on an individual basis.

The State Leadership has reminded all branches that when its activities resume, it is critical that activities obtain BEC approval and have it entered into the minutes for insurance coverage.

Golf: SIR branches may re-open golf activities provided that their BEC first approves the designated resolutions and protocols. The details may be found at the State website. <https://sirinc.org/>

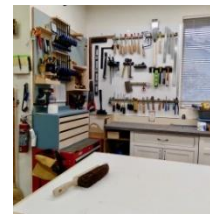
Woodworking: As described in last December's Rooster's Tale woodworking article, Jim Kirks' idea to donate picture frames to Enloe Regional Cancer Center for their Faces of Hope project was brought to fruition recently. Craig Lindquist and Bill Gebhardt completed building the 28 special 11" x 17" picture frames in January, and they were subsequently delivered by Jim and Craig to Rebecca Senoglu, Cancer Support Program Coordinator.

At Rebecca's request, we sent her photos of Bill and Craig working in Bill's shop, and on February 9th Rebecca posted a notice about the donation on Enloe's Facebook page. Anyone can see the post by clicking the link below, or pasting it into your browser:

https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=4245879952092115&id=173189322694552&tn=-R

Thanks go to Craig and Bill for donating their time, and to Jim for the idea and covering the materials cost.

Since then Bill has been doing general shop maintenance, including constructing a nice new top for his main workbench, a 4-drawer tool cabinet, and reorganizing the locations of his woodworking tools. (See Photo)



Michael Kobelt has also come to terms with some overdue shop maintenance, like emptying dust collectors, organizing router bits, sharpening cutting tools, and inventorying lumber. Project work is designing small boxes, trays, pen and pencil holders.

Craig is currently making a custom desk keyboard slide-out to replace one that broke on his grandson's desk. The wood types being glued up are oak, black walnut and cherry. (See Photo)



He's also trying something new by cutting triangles of Baltic Birch plywood showing the end grain, and gluing them into hexagons, then gluing the hexagons together. Could this be his next cutting board? (See Photo)



Travel

Most tours have been canceled, but there are or were a couple available.

- **May 2-10, 2021, Columbia River Cruise aboard the American Empress**
- **July 11-19, 2021, Canadian Rockies by Train**

For information on tours, contact Jose Lopez at 891-6715 or 864-5978.

Buying a watch in 1880!

If you were in the market for a watch in 1880, would you know where to get one? You would go to a store, right? Well, of course, you could do that, but if you wanted one that was cheaper and a bit better than most of the store watches, you went to the train station!

Sound a bit funny?

Well, for about 500 towns across the northern United States, that's where the best watches were found. Why?

The railroad company wasn't selling the watches, not at all. The telegraph operator was.

Most of the time the telegraph operator was located in the railroad station because the telegraph lines followed the railroad tracks from town to town.

It was usually the shortest distance and the right-of-way had already been secured for the rail line.

Most of the station agents were also skilled telegraph operators and it was the primary way they communicated with the railroad.

They would know when trains left the previous station and when they were due at their next station.

And it was the telegraph operator who had the watches.

As a matter of fact, they sold more of them than almost all the stores combined for a period of about 9 years.

This was all arranged by "Richard", who was a telegraph operator himself.

He was on duty in the North Redwood, Minnesota train station one day when a load of watches arrived from the East. It was a huge crate of pocket watches. No one ever came to claim them.

So Richard sent a telegram to the manufacturer and asked them what they wanted to do with the watches.

The manufacturer didn't want to pay the freight back, so they wired Richard to see if he could sell them. So Richard did.

He sent a wire to every agent in the system asking them if they wanted a cheap, but good, pocket watch.

He sold the entire case in less than two days and at a handsome profit.

That started it all. He ordered more watches from the watch company and encouraged the telegraph operators to set up a display case in the station offering high quality watches for a cheap price to all the travelers.

It worked!

It didn't take long for the word to spread and, before long, people other than travelers came to the train station to buy watches. Richard became so busy that he had to hire a professional watchmaker to help him with the orders.

That was Alvah.

And the rest is history as they say. The business took off and soon expanded to many other lines of dry goods.

Richard and Alvah left the train station and moved their company to Chicago -- and it's still there.

YES, IT'S A LITTLE KNOWN FACT that for a while in the 1880s, the biggest watch retailer in the country was at the train station. It all started with a telegraph operator: Richard **Sears** and partner Alvah **Roebuck**!

Thanks to Dave Rush for this contribution.



There are currently 170 active members.

Membership brochures and applications are normally available at the membership table or you can call Don Levensaler at 891-1045 to get one via the postal service.

If anyone knows of SIR members that have moved or are otherwise not interested in continuing their membership please contact our membership chairman, Don Levensaler, at (530) 891-1045 or dlev29@comcast.net

The BEC has generally agreed that the ABC fee paid in 2020 will carry over to 2021. If you find your name on the list below please remit your \$24 fee to 'Sir branch 110' and send it to Don Levensaler, 1492 Keri Ln, Chico, CA 95926. Thank You

If you have already paid, please excuse the inclusion of your name again.

064 Barger Jim	187 Emmons Steve	174 Kreider Larry	037 Scott Troy
025 Bingaman William	004 Fromer Michael	090 Marple Larry	168 Shook Doug
221 Bollinger John	029 Giberson Richard	255 Matthews Paul	047 Sorger Neil
083 Carlson Ernie	026 Hagen Lyman	012 McNamara Dennis	118 Spooner Daryl
231 Cohea William	019 Hansen Raymond	205 Merrill Fred	282 Van Houtte Edward
234 Costa Peter	034 Herman Craig	206 Musgrave Mike	263 Wilbur Richard
074 Day Jeff	036 Kandler Art	169 Prewitt William	125 Wilson Terrance

Announcements

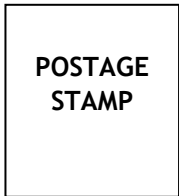
- **Editor's Note:** The deadline for the **April** Rooster's Tale is **Thursday, April 4**. Send your articles by email: dalger@csuchico.edu or phone him at: (530) 894-2452.
- **State SIR Bulletin: ("Sir Happenings")** The latest edition is available for review at <https://sirinc.org/newsletters/>
- **Future Programs:** Whenever we can have another normal luncheon meeting, we will have another interesting program. **As always, your ideas are welcome.**
- **Annual Basket Collection (ABC):** As suggested above, the BEC has not formalized a policy for 2021 ABC fees, but it seems likely that 2020 fees will carry over to 2021 and probably those who did not pay the 2020 fees will need to pay also as indicated above.

While it seems that with vaccinations for COVID-19 well underway, there may be less of a need for social distancing in the future. However, just in case you may still be interested in an opportunity for some extreme isolation, you may be interested in the pictured real estate.

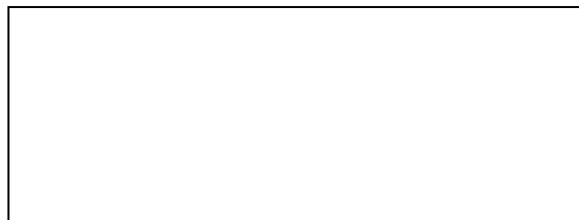




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If you have a March Birthday, we are sorry we will not be able to celebrate with you. Here's hoping you had or will have a great day.

Rocky	Rockwell	Mar	1	Larry	Hildenbrand	Mar	20	Ray	Hansen	Mar	24
Robin	Thompson	Mar	5	Tom	Shifflet	Mar	22	Vern	Hartman	Mar	25
Lyman	Hagen	Mar	7	Scott	Donahoo	Mar	23	Bob	Weckerle	Mar	26
Norman	Atkin	Mar	7	Jim	Bondan	Mar	23	Gary	Krup	Mar	28
Duff	Kandler	Mar	11								

It was possible to get a free lunch card without being a Birthday Boy. There was a free lunch winner at every meeting from a name badge drawing. Also both the sponsor and his guest received a free lunch when the guest joins and is inducted. Perhaps that will continue when lunch opportunities return.

Please plan on bringing a friend to the next SIR meeting!