



THE BALDING EAGLE

Newsletter of the ESHS class of 1944

December 11, 2011



This issue contains more good news about Howard Rainey, plus news from Richard McCreary and Marilyn McQueen Mayer. If there is space, maybe there will be some benign political commentary on the 2012 Presidential election process.

I talked with Howard yesterday on his cell phone (714 454 4549) He is in good spirits and looking forward to going home in two weeks. Currently, he is getting physical therapy (walking) after being bed ridden for nearly 4 months. Is using a walker and may be using a portable oxygen unit. He has lost about 35 lbs. and would like to drop a few more if he can. He sounded better yesterday than when Mary and I visited him at the Garden Grove rehab facility about three weeks ago. I am sure he will welcome your Christmas cards and phone calls this year more than ever.

Friday night I received a telephone call from Richard McCreary who lives in Paradise, CA. Paradise is a community of about 26000 about 10 miles east of Chico and 85 miles north of Sacramento. He is doing well but struggling with a hearing problem somewhat worse than mine. On the other hand, he has great eye sight – passed his last driver's license test without glasses. Wish I could say as much. My left eye had a corneal transplant last April, which is healing well, but now glaucoma is getting worse and I may need more surgery. Rich has a daughter living here in El Segundo on Maryland St. just off of Mariposa, not far from where Mary and I live. We are just off of Mariposa on California St. He also has a son living in Lakewood who spends a lot of time in our old stomping grounds, Prescott, AZ. Hearing from Rich adds one more name to our active list which now numbers 18 – 12 on the internet and 6 using USPS. I forgot to query Rich about the internet –maybe he can be converted.

Marilyn sent me an e-mail several days ago. She lives in Arkansas. She and I share eye problems, though I think hers are more troublesome than mine at the moment. She had a career as a writer and still maintains an interest in the subject. She also belongs to a group of "intellectuals" who enjoy sharing thoughts on books they are reading. I guess that makes them something of a book club group. They are about to take up the challenge of a book titled "Whatever Gods May Be" which challenges supernaturalism in religion. The book is essentially a literature review of everything the author could lay his hands on written in the last 500 hundred years on the six major religions and concludes that the Proper God, if there has to be one, is social justice. (About 200 books reviewed and or commented on) I hope to get more feed back on this project as they progress. Marilyn, I'm counting on you for periodic reports.

The Alumni Association met on Saturday, Dec. 3rd. For the first time they have an effective speaker phone system that allows "call in" attendance. Wilton Kanode '47 who lives in North Carolina, and Wynogene McNulty '52 were call in attendees, along with the class rep from the class of 2004 who lives in San Francisco. If you haven't visited the Alumni website (Elsegundoalumni.org) you should do so. All

our newsletters are posted there, along with those of other classes. The AA is beginning to gain some traction, thanks to the work of Rick Crowell '65 who built and maintains the website.

That about does it for this edition. Keep in mind, that producing this newsletter is dependent upon receiving news from all of you for distribution to all the others, so let me know what you are doing, trips you are planning, books you are reading, how many grandkids(and great-grandkids) you have, etc. On that last subject, I have a new grandson, born in New York City on October 6th, 2011. He makes the 7th, 5 boys, 2 girls. The new arrival is Robert Anders Widen, and the two girls are his sisters. They are the children of my younger son, Scott, and his wife Jayne. The other 4 grandsons, aging from 26 to 20 months, are the children of my older son, Bill, who lives in Miami. (He had help from both Melinda, wife of 25 years and Allyson, his current "significant other."

I think I'll save the political commentary until next time.

Until Again,

Bob