

## **THE BALDING EAGLE**

Newsletter of the ESHS Class of 1944

January 2, 2012

All – this issue contains more information about contact with class members, some miscellaneous information about El Segundo, and some updating on what is happening in my world.

I talked with HLR an hour or so ago and he is getting along fine –glad to be home, and looking forward to all of the football being played this date. He talked to his sister, Roberta, and brother-in-law, Hershel Wilson, a few days ago using SKYPE. This is a piece of new technology that allows you to talk via telephone and view the person you are talking to on your computer screen simultaneously. Since the Wilsons live in Australia, using SKYPE has to be a huge treat...I also talked with Dorothy Clifford Manning before talking with Howard. I called her because the last newsletter was returned marked “no such address.” ( I’d messed up the zip code.) The amazing thing was she answered the phone with “Hi Bob” before I had said a word!! She has caller identifying capability and it told her just who the call was coming from. After I recovered from the shock of that new tech stuff, I explained the nature of my call and she advised me of the correct zip code. She lives in Sunland with a great view of the San Fernando Valley and can even see the Burbank airport. Her sister still lives in El Segundo, so she is able to stay in touch with some of the happenings in ‘Gundo, as the more recent grads sometimes refer to the city of our youth....In response to my query to all of you about how you spend your time, Dick Randall reports that he and his grandson are into geocaching. This is a kind of treasure hunting activity using GPS equipment to locate the particular cache you are seeking. He recommends the activity and says you can find out more about it by visiting the website [geocaching.com](http://geocaching.com). Another first for me – I had never heard of it before – fascinating!!...Marilyn McQueen Mayer e-mailed me additional information about her book club group. As mentioned in an earlier newsletter, her group is reviewing a book titled “WHATEVER GODS MAY BE: A Personal Journey In Search of a Proper God.” The book expresses skepticism about the supernatural aspects of religion and is essentially a literature review of writings on the subject composed over the last 500 years or so. Her book club group ordinarily reviews and discusses works of fiction. This is their first venture into non-fiction. What is especially interesting is the composition of the group. It consists of a defrocked Episcopalian priest, a surgical technician who is an atheist, (both men), a woman who was a former San Francisco style hippie and claims to be a practicing witch, and another man who is a part time rabbi for the county. The fifth member is, of course, Marilyn. Now, I am not sure where she stands on the believer/non-believer scale, but I suspect she maintains an open mind willing to be persuaded depending upon the strength of the argument. She certainly has gathered an eclectic group for the project at hand. It will be interesting to learn how the group deals with the subject matter. I hope she keeps us informed....How are the rest of you keeping busy?...I was very pleasantly surprised to receive Christmas Cards from Gloria Bisbey Coffman and Marylyn Manley Lewis, both of whom expressed their appreciation for my efforts in providing the class newsletter. Thank you very much, Gloria and Marylyn. It means a lot to me to hear from you. I also

received a card from Pat Fleming Opp, but she, Howard, and I have been exchanging Christmas Cards for years, so her's was no surprise. For obvious reasons, Howard wasn't doing cards this year. He usually makes fudge for Pat on her Nov. 8<sup>th</sup> birthday, but again, she missed out on that also.

Now for some news about El Segundo. We have a new bakery in town named "David Schatt's Bakery." For those of you who have traveled Hwy 395 through Bishop, CA, you might recognize "Schatt's Bakery." It has been there for years. It was founded by David's grandfather and is currently run by his uncle. The new bakery is located on the north side of Grand Ave. between Main St. and Richmond. The alley between the two streets composes the east side of the Bakery. In addition to the usual bakery products, it serves luncheons and will soon be serving breakfasts....There is another business in town which I bet all of you have heard about is..(no, not Chevron).. is Direct TV. Their corporate headquarters is located at 2230 Imperial Hwy close to the entrance to the old main terminal of Mines Field. Those latter buildings are still there and very much in use...We have a new City Manager who formerly was the manager of Salt Lake County, Utah. He has decided that Chevron pays significantly less property taxes than other refineries in the area, and that they should be paying an additional \$10 million per year. Stay tuned to that one. That idea is almost as sacrilegious as the book Marilyn's group is reviewing!!...Efforts are being expended within the community to build an additional pool (an outdoor one) behind the existing plunge on the Richmond St. School property. I will continue to follow this project and keep you informed...So much for local news.

I will close with some final words about what is going on in my world. Mostly, I keep rather busy looking after my wife, Mary, who suffered a stroke a few years ago and gets around with the aid of a walker. She, at times, also has trouble selecting words, but most of the time does just fine. At the moment, she is in Arizona visiting family over the holidays. Her daughter from Australia is visiting and Mary wanted to spend time with her. On Saturday, the 7<sup>th</sup> I fly to Miami to see a couple of eye specialists at the Bascom Palmer Eye Institute, part of the University of Miami. Last year, in April, I had a corneal transplant done on my left eye by Dr. Sonia Yoo of Bascom Palmer. Follow up work on the eye is being done by colleagues of Dr. Yoo at UCLA. The transplant is doing fine and I expect to be able to get my permanent driver's license again in a few weeks. (I have a temporary license now – rt eye is 20/20) However, the UCLA people have found that the glaucoma in the left eye is progressing and I may need an additional implant to correct the situation. (something called a Ahmed valve implant.) Bascom Palmer is ranked #1 Eye Institute in the country – UCLA is #5. I want a second opinion from the surgeon who did the surgery last April and her glaucoma specialist colleague. I would never had known about Bascom Palmer in the first place, but for the fact that my son is on the law school faculty there and suggested when I learned locally that a corneal implant was going to be necessary, that I have it done at Bascom Palmer because he and his family could then look after me post-surgery. (No such assets locally) Anyway, that is my story. Both Mary and I will return to El Segundo on Sat. the 14<sup>th</sup>. This also explains why I am getting this newsletter out at the beginning of the month rather than waiting until later...All Best Wishes to all of you for a HAPPY NEW YEAR....Bob