

THE BALDING EAGLE

Newsletter of the ESHS class of 1944 – Feb. 11, 2012

All – Not much classmate news to report. We did hear from Marilyn McQueen Mayer subsequent to last month's issue, and I talked to Howard earlier today. Also, there are some developments in the "tax Chevron" issue that the new City Manager proposed in January. In addition, there is a bit of news about the Alumni Association. Finally, I will conclude with a bit of benign commentary on our current political scene.

Marilyn reports that eye problems continue to plague her. She is working toward the use of a device that will allow her to read more effectively. Her book group did not meet last month for several reasons, but hopes to get back on schedule either later this month or in March. (How about some feed back from a few you as to what you are currently reading?) Marilyn is quite good about staying in touch and I applaud her for that. She has a daughter with some sobering health issues that weighs on her mind...Howard continues to get stronger. He does not expect to do any more driving. After spending two months in a coma he is just glad to still be around to enjoy family get to gethers watching the Super Bowl... I had a successful trip to Miami where, in addition to a family visit, I saw the surgeon who did my corneal transplant last April – Dr. Sonia Yoo – a Chinese lady, attractive as well as talented. Also saw a glaucoma specialist who says I may need more eye surgery if the pressure level from the glaucoma does not drop. When I returned, I was able to pass the DMV vision test and should soon be receiving a renewal of my permanent driver's license. My younger son, Scott, visited Mary and me over last weekend. It was primarily a business trip. He was attending the annual American Bar Association meeting in Laguna Beach where he was on a panel discussing aspects of his specialty – fairness evaluation in mergers and acquisitions. Scott is the father of my youngest grandchild – Robert Anders Widen born last Oct. 6th. February is a big birthday month in our family – granddaughter, Avery, was nine on the 9th, grandson Tom, a senior at Dickinson College in Carlisle, PA will be 22 on the 12th, and young Bengt Arthur Widen is two on this date....So much for notes on classmates.

I reported last month that the new City Manager, Doug Witmore from Salt Lake City, Utah was proposing a \$10 million increase on Chevron's local refinery property. As all of you might have predicted, Mr. Witmore is no longer City Manager. Last Thursday evening the Council voted 3-2 to replace Mr. Witmore. There were numerous letters to the editor of the local El Segundo Herald criticizing the idea of increasing the refinery's taxes. I didn't think Mr. Witmore was going to last very long, but I was surprised at how quickly he had the carpet pulled out from under him. Next week's Herald should have a full story on the subject.

Those of you who are internet users should make sure to visit the alumni website, www.elsegundoalumni.org. It looks like the alumni association is going to be selling High School memorabilia items via the website as a fundraising activity for the High School. More on that at a later date as the project develops. The AA is also looking for a VP to strength our executive ranks and provide backup to Susanne Fuentes '75 who is our current chairperson/President.

I note with some surprise that this issue of THE BALDING EAGLE is the sixth consecutive one starting with Sept of last year, when I wrote that Howard was rather seriously ill and unable to send out the newsletter he had been preparing. He has been back home now since shortly before Christmas and continues to regain his strength and zest for life. I am running out of items and news to fill these couple of pages and need more input from all of you. If there is to be a March issue, I have to hear more from all of you. So the next newsletter will be depend upon what news all of you have to report. On the subject of what you are reading, I would like to recommend a book I have just begun: "The Quest: Energy, Security, and Remaking the Modern World," by David Yergin, published last year. It is about oil and other sources of energy and how the search for oil etc, is impacting the world we live in. You might find it interesting because, among other things, it talks about Chevron's role in "The Quest". It is quite an exciting story.

Finally, allow me to offer some benign remarks on the state of politics in this Presidential year. Expect some surprises. Look for news about a group called "Americans Elect". This organization is in the process of planning an online presidential nominating scheme in June where the President would be from one party and the VP from the other, or one or both might be independents. They are currently on the ballot in over a dozen states. All registered voters are eligible to participate. It could be interesting. Also, don't be surprised if the Republicans in their August Convention come up with a nominee other than those currently participating in the state primaries. When the Democrats meet in September, look for Joe Biden and Hillary Clinton to change jobs, putting Hillary on the ballot along with Barack Obama. "May the best man – or maybe we need a woman - win." (Where is the place on the ballot where you can mark "None of the above?")

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY
EVERYBODY!!

Until Again,

Bob