



Jul 12, 2012

This Week

Nick Smith
Pasadena Library
Stories of Union
Veterans at
Mountain View
Program Host
Gordon Seyffert

Last year marked the beginning of the sesquicentennial observance of the Civil War. This week's speaker, Nick Smith, *led the charge* last year in bringing back to Mountain View Cemetery the 1890s-to-1940s tradition of honoring veterans on Memorial Day — but especially the more than 600 Union vets (together with some 15 Confederates) from that great conflict.

The Pasadena area attracted Civil War veterans for decades after the war. Often they came for business or health reasons, but in time they also came just to share fellowship with other veterans. For several years, Smith has worked diligently to identify these men (and some women nurses), and also to identify and mark the few graves that have unknown locations. He has done this

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Johnson's
Judgments
 by President Julius Johnson

Let's hit the ground Running

First I would like you to know that I thank God, the author and finisher of my faith, for blessing me to become the President of such a fantastic, accomplished, fun loving and giving group of people — the Rotary Club of Altadena. If you really knew how much I honor, cherish and respect each and every one of you, you would blush.

Second, I thank Tony Hill, on behalf of this club for his past year of quality leadership. I also thank him for his personal mentoring of me to make sure that I was ready and equipped to do this job.

Finally, I thank all of you for the faith trust and confidence you have placed in me to get this job done. With God's help and yours, I will do all that I can to be worthy of this honor.

This Rotary year will be filled with fun fellowship and accomplishment. I want us to intermingle with our community and other Rotary Clubs. I plan for us to develop a directory of community organizations that provide services to our youth. The development of such a directory will make us more aware of our community and get our community more involved with us.

As our big event of the year, let's take a cruise together with members of our community and other Rotary clubs. I recognize that I cannot do any of these things by myself. I need a Point person to spear head each of these goals. Each chairman is going to need committee members from both inside and outside of this club. This is also a call to our Rotary partners and friends.

This is where I really need your help. If any of you would like to head or work on any of these projects or know someone who would, please call or e-mail me (jjohnsonlawfirm@yahoo.com) Do not wait for a personal invitation; this is it. I am asking YOU for your help and I need it NOW.

Get involved. We will have fun and we will make a difference that matters. ☺

Greeters

July 12
Ray Carlson
 July 19
Gary Clark
 July 26
Theo Clarke



Program Review

Summer Club Assembly

The new year under President Julius Johnson started relatively quietly, but with much spirit. Several of our members were absent due to the holiday and/or summer travel, yet we begin the year in a good frame of mind and with much anticipation. New member Greg Edmonds was initiated by Craig Cox with the assistance of Johnson and Gordon Seyffert. Visitors were Don Applegate and Linda Seyffert.

Gary Clark read from a selection describing *The Cost* paid by the signers of

our *Declaration of Independence*, one of whom was his 7-generation back ancestor — Abraham Clark. Our new president then read from several thank you notes recently received to remind us that what we do makes a difference in the lives of others.

President Julius spoke of three initiatives he envisions for his presidential year. The first of these is to reach out to neighboring Rotary clubs in our District 5300. To that end, he announced that he will represent us Sunday at the first function of a New Generations Rotary Club that has just formed (and at which other members were encouraged to attend). The second initiative is the publication of a directory of organizations within our greater community that support Altadena's youth. And last, he envisions a fellowship cruise that will intermingle our members with those of other clubs and with representatives of community organizations with whom we cooperate or partner.



Each of these three initiatives requires the assistance of our membership, beginning with the designation of a point person to guide implementation. The point person need not be a club member, but may be a partner. But definitely, each of these needs both leadership and followership!

President Julius then read the names of the committee chairs for 2012-13, and announced that two vacancies on the board of directors must be filled. One of these is the seat of Brian Hayes, who must leave the board owing to personal obligations; the other is his own seat, which must be vacated while he serves as president*. Board meetings will continue to be held primarily at the Green Street offices

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Sparks is published 48 weeks a year and is the official publication of the Rotary Club of Altadena. The deadline for submission of articles is Friday at 6p to current editor email, fax, or delivery.

Rotary Club of Altadena - #7183

Chartered: February 14, 1949

P.O. Box 414, Altadena, CA 91003

www.altadenarotary.com

Meets: Thursday, 12:10p

Altadena Town & Country Club

2290 Country Club Drive • Altadena, CA

626-794-7163

Rotary Int. Pres. Kalyan Banerjee

Dist 5300 Gov. Doug Fowler

Officers

Tony Hill, Pres. Bus. 626-795-5363

Julius Johnson, Pres. Elec. Bus. 626-797-1186

Brian Hayes, VPres. Bus. 626-529-8093

Jim Gorton, Sec. Bus. 626-793-6215

Mike Noll, Treas. Bus. 626-683-0515

Directors

Jim Gorton • Craig Cox • Julius Johnson

Sterling Louviere • Brian Hayes

Linda Wilkes • David Smith

Chairmen

Julius Johnson Administration

Craig Cox Foundation

Jacque Foreman Public Awareness

Jacque Foreman Acting Publicity

Jacque Foreman Sparks/Website

Mike Zoeller Club Projects

Ed Jasnow Community

John Frykenberg International

Gordon Seyffert ... Youth Contests/Awards

Hal Yorke Vocational/Youth Projects

Craig Cox Membership

Editor, Design & Typesetting Foreman Graphics

Photography Jacque Foreman

July Programs

No Designation

Program Chair, Gordon Seyffert

Jul 12 - Nick Smith, Pasadena Library -
Stories of Union Veterans at Mountain
View

Jul 19 - Martha Camacho, Pasadena Li-
brary - Pasadena Digital History Col-
laboration

Jul 26 - Susan Harden, RBF Consulting -
Altadena Community Visioning Process

August

Membership & Extension Month

Program Chair, To be Announced

Aug 02 - To be Announced

Aug 09 - To be Announced

Aug 16 - To be Announced

Aug 23 - To be Announced

Aug 30 - To be Announced

Congratulations



Birthdays

07/27 - Tony Hill





Anniversaries

07/01 - Bill & Ruth Reeder
07/04 - Linda Wilkes & Emily Aiken
07/15 Craig & Susan Cox



Another Year Underway



Well, as Gordon Seyffert so artfully put it: it's time to saddle up the old mule and head out on another year's journey of Community Service. In case you haven't figured it out, I wouldn't be signing up for these many years as Chairman of the Community Service Committee if I didn't truly enjoy it. Just the joy in the faces of the teachers when I hand them their \$300 mini-grant check alone would make me sign up again.

It's in the area of Community Service that our Club makes the most immediate visible impact. When we completed

the playground at Burbank Elementary, we could see the kids playing on it. When we repaired bicycles as part of our bike safety campaign, we could see the kids riding away happily. Isn't this really why we all joined Rotary? To make a difference? In Community Service, we can make that difference, and see the results immediately. Talk about instant gratification. Along with Project Chairman Mike Zoeller, we plan to come up with a similar project that will have an immediate impact on the community.

This year, we hope to expand the teacher mini-grant program to provide even more funds for desperately strapped teachers under the pressure of extreme

budget cuts. We are sponsoring the Summer Concert Series at Farnsworth Park, our highest-profile event in the community. In addition to raising funds for Club operations, this is a great way to show the community what we do, and recruit new members. We will also be showcasing the Corvette that we help the Rotary Club of Pomona auction off at the LA County Fair.

In addition, we will be helping with President Julius' project of producing a directory of all the organizations in the community whose primary objective is the support of youth.

It's going to be a great year, and this old mule can't wait to get started. Come on along for the ride!!!

Program

Continued from p.2

of Jim Gorton on the third Tuesdays of the month. However, some meetings may be held at community locations as Altadena Rotary attempts to reach out to other groups.

The meeting contained a few announcements, including these: (1) our Concerts in the Park series begins this Saturday, but each Saturday requires at least nine participants — so sign up if you've overlooked this; (2) committee budgets are due by week's end, so that we may not lose valuable time starting our Fall activities; and (3) the first meeting of the Membership Committee (to which all are invited) is at the home of Gordon Seyffert, 610 E. Calaveras, at 7 on Thursday, July 12. *Gordon Seyffert*

**Editor's Note: President's Julius' position on the board will be filled by Dennis Mehringer as that is the seat reserved for the president elect.*

This Week

Continued from p. 1

primarily through painstaking research into local newspaper obituaries, as many veterans' graves have private markers giving no indication of their service.

Smith is known locally as both a storyteller and a Civil War historian. He combines these roles for us this week in re-

counting the unique stories of many of these men. I was drawn to Mountain View after first reading about the revived tradition in 2011, just before my June move to Altadena. Upon my arrival this last Memorial Day, there was Smith working valiantly to decorate Union graves with small



Pasadena Star News 2008 - Now: Pasadena Digital History Collaboration

flags; I couldn't NOT join him, and so I did. Hearing him speak later to the assembled audience, I knew his would be a fascinating program for our Rotary club.



MONEY by Linda Wilkes MATTERS

Economic Update

Last Week in the News

New home sales rose 7.6 percent in May to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 369,000 units, the highest level since April 2010. On a year-over-year basis, new home sales are up 19.8 percent compared with May 2011. At the current sales pace, there's a 4.7-month supply of new homes on the market, the lowest level since 2005.

The Standard & Poor's/Case-Shiller 20-city housing price index — on a non-seasonally adjusted basis — rose 1.3 percent in April, following a flat reading in March. On a year-over-year basis, prices fell 1.9 percent compared with April 2011.

The Mortgage Bankers Association said its seasonally adjusted composite index of mortgage applications for the week ending June 22 fell 7.1 percent. Refinancing applications decreased 8 percent. Purchase volume fell 1 percent.

Orders for durable goods — items expected to last three or more years — rose \$2.3 billion or 1.1 percent to \$217.2 billion in May. This increase follows an unrevised 0.2 percent decrease in April. Excluding volatile transportation-related goods, May orders posted a monthly increase of 0.4 percent.

Pending home sales, a forward-looking indicator based on signed contracts, rose 5.9 percent in May after a 5.5 percent decrease in April. On a year-over-year basis, pending home sales are up 13.3 percent compared with May 2011.

The Commerce Department announced that gross domestic product — the total output of goods and services produced in the U.S. — increased at an unrevised annual rate of 1.9 percent in the first quarter of 2012. This follows a 3 percent pace of growth in the fourth quar-

ter of 2011.

Initial claims for unemployment benefits for the week ending June 23 fell by 6,000 to 386,000 from an upwardly revised 392,000 the prior week. Continuing claims for the week ending June 16 fell 15,000 to 3.296 million.

Upcoming on the economic calendar are reports on construction spending on July 2 and factory orders on July 3.

Industry Insider

Housing Affordability Index Reaches Record High

The *Housing Affordability Index* rose to a record high of 205.9 in the first quarter of 2012, breaking the 200 mark for the first time since recordkeeping began in 1970.

According to NAR, a household earning the median family income of just under \$61,000 could afford a home costing \$325,500 in the first quarter. That's remarkable purchasing power when you consider that the median cost of an existing home nationwide is \$158,100.

Currently, the median monthly mortgage principal and interest payment for a median-priced home would take only 13.5 percent of gross income.

Commenting on the report, NAR's president Moe Veissi said, "We've never seen better housing affordability conditions or market opportunities than we see at present."

Housing affordability is based on a combination of factors, including the median home price, median family income and the average mortgage interest rate. A composite Housing Affordability Index of 100 is defined as the point where a median-income family household has exactly enough income to qualify for the purchase of a median-priced existing single-family

home, assuming a down payment of 20 percent and 25 percent of gross income devoted to mortgage principal and interest payments.

Also, conditions for first-time homebuyers have never been better. A companion index measuring the ability of first-time homebuyers to purchase a home rose to a record high of 135.8 in the first quarter. The index is configured differently for first-time homebuyers: an income of 65 percent median (\$39,632), a starter home of 85 percent median (\$134,400), and a down payment of 10%.

According to NAR, first-time homebuyers could afford a home costing \$182,500, an amount well above the overall median-price home.

For the year, the Housing Affordability Index is projected to set a record high average of 191. Share this good news with any potential buyers you have. For more information about the favorable home-buying environment as well as record low interest rates, call me today. ☎

Find Linda Wilkes on line: <http://www.myprospectmortgage.com/lwilkes>

**MEMBERSHIP
COMMITTEE
MEETING
THURSDAY, JULY 12
Starts 7p
Gordon Seyffert's
Home
610 E Calaveras
Altadena**

Gordon's Corner

by Gordon Seyffert

My Hero!

His grave isn't even in California, but in St. Louis, Missouri. And it's only a modest stone whereas, a short walk away, that of his brother is topped by an immense winged angel and has a bas-relief of the latter's likeness carved into its side. The first man was my great granduncle, who died in poverty, whereas the second was my great grandfather, Adolph Moll, founder and owner of a major wholesale and retail grocery. But that wasn't the only distinction.

My direct ancestor had appeared for his late Civil War draft physical in St. Louis while his business was still in its formative years. He was rejected for army service because of an injury he had suffered to his Achilles tendon. I only learned of this from consulting the records of the National Archives, but it fits. The only photograph I have of A. Moll in his grocery shows him seated on a barrel, while the others of his firm are all standing.

His brother, Robert Moll, was still in Brooklyn when the war began. He did not hesitate, but enlisted for three months' service with the 6th New York Militia. Recall that no one expected the war to last more than a few weeks! By August it was apparent that it would take some time for the Union to prevail, and Robert Moll accordingly joined the 55th Regiment of the New York Volunteer Infantry on Staten Island. The 55th, known as the *Garde de Lafayette*, was actually raised primarily from French immigrants, with Germans added when several of the original enlistees joined other units once it seemed that the slow-to-organize 55th might miss the fighting. Moll must have shown some promise as he was promoted to Corporal

after only a month in the *Garde*.

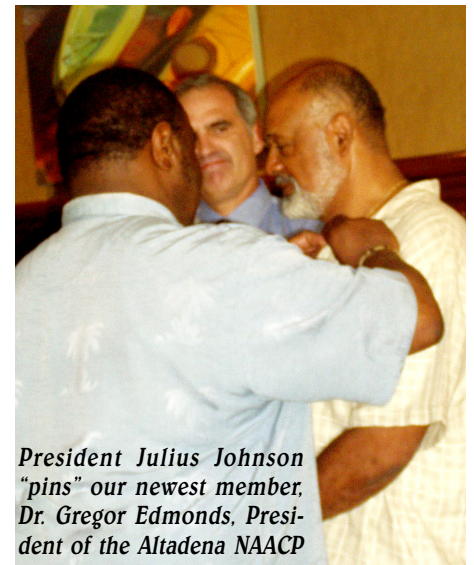
The early enlistees to the 55th NY Inf. needn't have worried. While initially posted in the fall to Fort Gaines, Maryland in the defense of Washington, by March of '62 the unit was attached to the 4th Army Corps and moved to the Peninsula. Their battles began with the Siege of Yorktown in April, and by May's end, Moll had received a slight head wound from a minie ball at Fair Oaks/Seven Pines. By year's end the 55th had suffered sufficient casualties that the remaining men (some 300 of an original 700-odd!) were consolidated into the 38th NY Infantry.

Robert Moll was promoted to 1st Sergeant of Co. "H" on 12 December 1862, and was wounded the next day at Fredericksburg. The next month the new 38th Regiment was attached to the 3rd Army Corps. From Falmouth, Virginia the 38th was called to Chancellorsville, and here the fighting really did get rough. To quote one who was there, "when disaster had befallen the Eleventh Corps, and Birney's Division was cut off from the balance of the army, ...General Sickles ordered that famous midnight charge where the orders were to 'Remove the caps from the guns, fire no shot, take no prisoners, but do all the work with the bayonet....'"

My great granduncle received the Kearney Cross for valor in Ward's Brigade as a result of his actions on the night of 2 May 1863. After Chancellorsville, and with a further reduction in numbers, the men of the 38th were transferred into the 40th Regiment of New York Infantry, seeing action at Devil's Den on the second day of Gettysburg. Robert Moll was discharged near Petersburg on 28 August 1864.

For him the war was at last over. He married just under a month later, back in Brooklyn, to one who appears to have been a childhood sweetheart. They had four children, born from 1868 through 1876. After the war Robert Moll attempted to make a living first as a machinist and then as a coal dealer, but nothing much came of it. He then moved to St. Louis to join his brother's firm as a store clerk. When he died in 1907, it was with a pension that then passed to his widow.

Although I have two Seyfferts who served for the Union, I am proud to join the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War on Robert Moll's military record. I wish he could have received more recognition for what he did, yet I realize that, for many veterans, the key to carrying on with their lives lay in putting the past behind them. That is why Nick Smith found it so difficult to identify many of the some 600 Union dead buried at Mountain View Cemetery. And so it is for us, the living, to carry on their memory. ☉



President Julius Johnson "pins" our newest member, Dr. Gregor Edmonds, President of the Altadena NAACP



Job Creation by C. Ray Carlson & Entrepreneurship

My first Student Entrepreneur ... a legacy of Rodney King?

Today (July 1, 2012), Rodney King was buried in Forest Lawn cemetery, 10 years after the riots in 1992. On his casket: "Can we all get along?" Those immortal words and his gentle spirit generated a deep compassion within me.

"LA is burning" were my son's first words upon meeting me at Heathrow airport in London at that time. I had just arrived from Poland where I had delivered a computer-based management learning center to the Warsaw Polytechnic University on behalf of Rotary District 5300. Its purpose was to teach business and entrepreneurship that might eventually create jobs where there were very few after decades under communism. [And an endemic problem for black male teenagers in Altadena where I live and just about everywhere.]

As I watched LA burn on BBC tv, I thought how odd that I had traveled 8000 miles to Poland three times to implement a job-creating project in two universities, and here was a man who lived in Altadena — maybe a mile from my house — who had a tough start in his early years mainly because of an alcoholic dad and got himself into trouble repeatedly in his later years. [My wife's teen mom abandoned her to alcoholic grandparents who abused her until the court sent her to safety in an orphanage, so I empathized with King.]

When I arrived at LAX, the SuperShuttle drove slowly through the still smoldering riot-torn area. In discussing this tragedy with my wife, she asked 'Why don't you

do something to help these black kids? They need to find hope, a reason for staying in school and graduating so that they might find jobs some day. Simply, a rea-



son for living." "Irrefutable logic," I thought.

We had both attended a Junior Achievement entrepreneurship program many decades earlier, and knew its value in our own lives. So I attended a JA training class and was assigned to Eliot Middle School, two blocks from my house — where King had probably attended in his youth.

The JA curriculum — *Enterprise in Action* — was all about business and how to start one. I invited others from my Altadena Rotary Club and the community to each take a class. One of those was attorney Julius Johnson, who joined our club six months later and is now our president. He was impressed by what we were attempting to achieve in the lives of the mostly black students. Later he taught a 5th grade class by himself for five weeks. And last year he participated in a 3-person entrepreneurial training team in Nigeria that taught almost 2,000 university students how to write business plans, and

770 did so. A program we are repeating this month in four universities and, we hope, 4,000 participants.

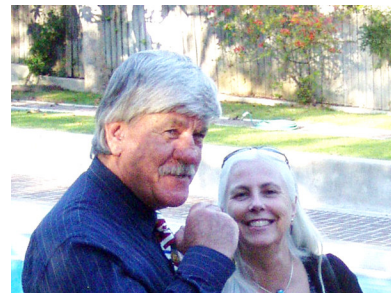
For the Eliot students, there was a very simple business plan template in the curriculum that the kids could understand after a little instruction. Since they were only in 7th grade, I had to feed them with ideas. But when they had completed their plans and were asked to present their ideas to the whole class, I was amazed by how innovative some were. One small boy drew a layout for a shopping mall in West Altadena. He and three others played chess during recess.

When one young lady, Monique Bryant, talked about starting a bakery, I asked to become her first customer if she would bake a chocolate cake for my birthday the next week. When she didn't quite know what to charge me, her eyes brightened when I offered \$10. When I went to pick up the cake at her house, her mother and father, a sheriff's deputy, proudly watched as she handed me the cake and collected \$10. When I brought a photo of the event to the class, they were very impressed, as was I ... my first *entrepreneur!*

That was the beginning of our Job Creation and Entrepreneurship program that is spreading across Rotary Districts and to Africa, the Middle East, and soon in the Philippines. All a kind of legacy of Rodney King whose troubles but forgiving spirit motivated me to seek to help others in my community. Why not try this in your local school? Contact me at crayc@me.com or 1-800-448-3456 on how to get started.

The Demotion of Tony Hill

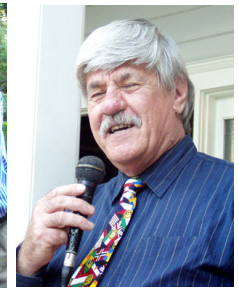
A Photo Essay



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Demotion

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*Thank you, Tony
for
Serving as President
2011-2012*



All **FREE** Concerts start at 7:00 PM in the Amphitheater at Farnsworth Park.
 568 East Mt. Curve Ave., Altadena, CA 91001 for information: 626-798-6335
 Visit: <http://www.altadenasheriffs.blogspot.com>

16th Annual Summer Concert Series Schedule - 2012

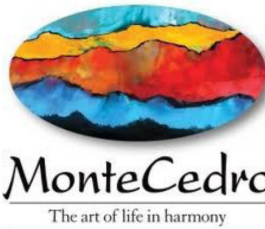
Those Manning Bhoys & the Irish Pride Dancers (Irish music)	Saturday, July 7th
Downbeat Express (Big Band Sound featuring Jennifer Gates)	Saturday, July 14th
Wreck N Sow (Americana, Folk & More)	Saturday, July 21st
Susie Hansen Latin Band (Hot Latin Jazz & Salsa)	Saturday, July 28th
Upstream (Reggae, Calypso, Soca & Steel Drum Music)	Saturday, August 4th
Sgt. Pepper (The sounds of the Beatles and more!)	Saturday, August 11th
Lisa Haley and the Zydekats (Cajun Zydeco Music)	Saturday, August 18th
Guitarist Brian Hughes & Band (Contemporary Latin-Jazz)	Saturday, August 25th

And... For Our Grand Finale... Saturday, Sept. 8th
The Walking Phoenixes in a tribute to Johnny Cash & other Country Classics
With Special Guests The Red Mutts 'Top Classic Rock'
Presented By: Stage Door Music Productions & SSGA

Thank You to our generous sponsors



*Georgia Rutherford
 In memory of
 Don Rutherford*



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Rotary Club
 Of Altadena

