

Founded in 1955

**The Riverside County Record**

David Harding Barnes *Publisher/Editor*  
 Catherine Jean Barnes *Publisher*  
 Michael D. Evans *Assistant to the Publishers*  
 Bob Steinbrinck *Columnist*  
 Dorothy Brown *Columnist*

Contributors to The Riverside County Record  
 Michael Murphy • David Foster • Oscar Canfield • Kim Johnson

Circulation: Drexel and Phyllis Blankenship

The Riverside County Record newspaper is published every Thursday at Rubidoux, California by N.C. Publications, Inc., at 8175 Limonite Avenue, Mailing address: P.O. Box 3187 • Riverside, CA 92519-3187. Telephone (951) 685-6191, (951) 685-6192; FAX: (951) 685-2961, E-Mail: Recordhnb@AOL.com. The Riverside County Record was adjudicated as a legal newspaper on June 15, 1956 by Superior Court Docket No. 64169. Annual subscription rate is \$20 in Riverside County, and elsewhere.

MEMBER: National Newspaper Association • DVBE

INTERNET: e-mail: recordhnb@aol.com WEBSITE: www.riversidecountyrecord.com  
 Certified California Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise • California Small Business • California Micro Business

## What Others Say...

# Former Superintendent Asks for Pelosi to Investigate Land Deal

Dear Editor: The following letter is being sent on May 2, 2007:

Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker, House of Representatives

235 Cannon HOB, Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi:

This letter is a request for a Congressional Ethics Committee investigation of Congressman Kenneth Calvert from Orange and Riverside Counties in Southern California.

Congressman Calvert, with his family and employees, purchased a land parcel from the Jurupa Community Services District (JCSD) in Riverside County last year. About 1975 this parcel was donated to JCSD for Little League ballfield use. At that time JCSD provided water, sewer and park services to a large portion of the unincorporated Jurupa area.

In 1984 a new Jurupa Area Recreation and Parks District was formed. It took over the operation of parks in the JCSD and another large unincorporated area. Existing parks were transferred to the new parks district. Strangely, this Little League ballfield parcel, which was undeveloped, was overlooked.

The sale of this land to Congressman Calvert and his partners for 1.2 million dollars created a major community uproar. The sale was made secretly after the land use designation was changed from "Little League ballfield" to "surplus property" in a manner which has never been explained. The Closed Session sale was made by the general manager rather than the agency attorney who previously negotiated surplus land sales. Apparently, the attorney wasn't even present at this sale and although normally attends every meeting from beginning to end.

The secret sale was made despite an earlier request from the park district general manager for information about acquiring it for park use. There was no solicitation of other buyers and no competitive bidding. A California law requiring public notice and advertisement prior to disposing of surplus property was ignored. So was another law requiring notification of surplus land availability to other public agencies so they could have first opportunity to obtain it.

At least one JCSD director has admitted he voted to approve the sale without ever being informed the parcel had been donated for Little League ballfield use.

When this stinking debacle was uncovered, critical related sale documents couldn't be found, including an alleged appraisal of the land's value. The JCSD General Manager was eased into a golden parachute separation involving a quarter of a million dollars after this and other serious management failures.

This issue has drawn lots of public press, including a humorous column in the Riverside Press-Enterprise indicating Calvert should return the land. A local newspaper stated the Riverside County Grand Jury is investigating the land deal. The Jurupa Area Recreation and Park District has employed an attorney to determine whether they should file suit to recover the park, or at least the money paid by the Calvert Group.

Please understand there have been prior relationships between Congressmen Calvert and the Jurupa Community Services District, such as his obtaining a special water treatment plant for the district. Is this quid pro quo for the Congressman? This secret deal appears to cast him as receiving and accepting, if not soliciting, preferential treatment. At a minimum, this very irregular transaction certainly has the appearance of preferential treatment and a conflict of interest.

We also have been told the Center for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington has placed Congressman Ken Calvert in the top 20 of your legislators in unethical conduct, and we have heard he was in a similar questionable land deal in Perris, California, also in Riverside County.

I will be happy to refer you to a group of citizens who share these concerns and have amassed a number of documents regarding these issues. This may be a ready-made opportunity to validate your stated concerns regarding Congressional ethics. Your assistance will be greatly appreciated in this community.

Edward E. Hawkins, Ed.D.,

Retired Superintendent of Jurupa Unified School District

Copies: Congressman Kenneth Calvert, the Jurupa Community Services District, the Jurupa Area Recreation and Park District, the Los Angeles Times, the Orange County Register, the Riverside Press-Enterprise, the Riverside County Record, the Inland Valley Daily Bulletin.

## Letter to The Editor

# Glad to See the Crowd

Editor, The Record:

Sir - I was glad to see so many concerned community members at the Riverside Transmission Reliability Project Open House at the Indian Hills Country Club last week. There were some things that concerned me. One was the information and (lack of) that was dispensed by both the Riverside Public Utilities people and the Edison representatives.

First, the fliers the Riverside representatives gave everyone to fill out stated to return the fliers to them no later than April 27, even though the meeting was April 25th. When I asked them about it they stated that they would like to have the fliers back with the comment as soon as possible. When I asked how our comments would be handled, and if they would be sent to the California Public Utilities Commission, they stated that they would be incorporated in the final EIR report. The way they were talking, it seemed that they wanted to do things their way rather than incorporate anything they were told by residents of Jurupa at the open house.

Second, they handed out a small booklet outlining the effects of Electric Magnetic Fields (EMFs). This booklet was out of date compared to the EMF guidelines that the California Public Utilities Commission issued last summer. When I pressed the Edison representative for an answer on why his information was different, he stated that the CPUC's guidelines were not Edison's report.

During this last weekend I had a long conversation with Joanne Genis of Chino Hills. Ironically, they are having the same problem with Edison only 550kV lines in their community. When she described the open house Edison had for them, I thought this sounds familiar. They must put on a one size fits all open house for all the different communities that they are impacting.

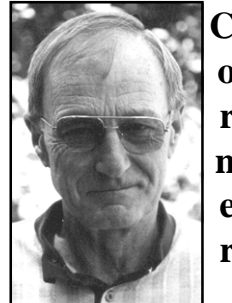
One gentleman that attended the Indian Hills Open House was a resident of the city of Riverside. He suggested that the lines be placed underground. The utility companies must have the technology to do so since the CPUC established guidelines for the utility companies to follow for underground lines. Edison stated that it would be too expensive to go underground, but can we afford to put a price tag on the health of this community? We need to keep the pressure up to prevent these lines from coming into Jurupa.

Betty A. Anderson, Mira Loma

## Bob Steinbrinck

# Don't Do it Yourself

## Steinbrinck's



I arrived on this planet between wars, during the Great Depression. Well before "do it yourself" became a Big Deal. Most guys, having to have something done, did it themselves because: A - There was no one around who knew how, and, B - Even if there was someone, they couldn't afford it.

If you've been reading this space for a while (and thank you), you may recall that my idea of doing-it-myself extends to opening the bottle of olives. In grade school shop, my nickname was "Thumbs." Because I kept hitting mine with a hammer. Oddly enough, the first actual job I had...for money...was working in a small town hardware store outside of Chicago. I didn't last long. Probably because the owner found out he had to teach me how to sweep the floor.

Hardware products and I speak different languages. Ask me for a "screwdriver" and I'll reach for the orange juice. Mention "wrench" and I'll tell you how I injured my shoulder. "Saw" brings to mind a horror movie series I wouldn't go see for nothing. "Vice" equates with something that, as a kid, I was told was naughty but it sounded like fun to me.

My tool IQ is zero, which is still better than my capacity for using such instruments around the house. We do

have some tools and a box for them. It's pink. I gave it to She Who Must Be Obeyed for Christmas many years ago.

There's an irony in this ineptitude. Both of my grandfathers and my Dad were very good with tools. My maternal grandfather built his own house in northern Wisconsin. My Dad's uncle built a gorgeous log cabin on an island in the Wisconsin River...virtually all by himself. About the only function I ever had helping on any project was digging ditches and holding flashlights for close work...and I was pretty lousy at both of those.

So, when projects pop up in SWMBO's mind, there's never a suggestion that I should try my hand at them. Currently She's planning on installing a new overhead light in the kitchen and ceiling fans in two of the bedrooms. (I wonder if she'd consider mirrors up there, too.) The fan project involves going up in the attic. I have never been in our attic once and we've lived here nearly 40 years.

But the idea prompted me to examine all 40 pages of advertising from a do-it-yourself chain store the other day. Times have changed since my brief career at that hardware store. There's a lot more stuff than hammers and nails, nuts and bolts,

chisels and chisels. Stuff specialized for tasks around the old rancho unheard of back in the day....

Take the "Gas Pressure Washer." Please. You can use it to hose down the outside of your house, your driveway, and your next-door neighbor if he looks lustfully at your wife. Almost \$300. Which is about how much it will cost you to operate it, considering the price of gasoline these days.

There's an option to this device. It's called a broom.

For your gardening delight, there are several products on the shelves you can use in the constant battle against bugs. One is designed to do in hornets and wasps. Okay, if you have a ladder long enough to get up in the eaves and give the stingers a lethal squirt. And what happens if you don't get them all right away? There you are, up on a ladder, with wasps and hornets circling for the kill.

There's another product which "...Kills over 100 insects on contact organically..." according to the ad. It doesn't say, you might have noticed, whether that's 100 different kinds of insects or just 100 house flies.

How about a "Copper Cedar Solar Postcap Light" for the patio? Just over

\$23, with tax. I'm not sure what it does but it wins the long-name contest. Don't overlook the "Country Manor Wood Storage Building" for the back yard. The wasps will love it. I'm tempted by the "Single Pole Preset Dimmer" but I doubt SWMBO is interested in Pole Dancing at her age.

They use such fancy names for some things. A toilet is titled "Cimarron High Performance." Sounds like an episode from "Gunsmoke." The ceiling fans are just as exotically listed: "Millenium," "Monte Carlo," "Continuum," and "Georgetown" where you can order in from a Massage Parlor...as long as the papers don't find out.

Here's something your grandparents never heard of: An "Enchanted Garden Mural." You can (allegedly) "Create the look of finely detailed hand-painting in minutes." Or you could just scotch tape stuff from magazines (Sminthsonian? Museum of Modern Art? Playboy?) and get the same effect.

The ads say you "...pay nothing for 12 months." That's how the housing industry, shyder mortgage companies, and gullible homebuyers wound up in the mess they're in today. And they did it themselves.

## Barnes' Stormin'

# Air Pollution and Locally Elected Officials: An Erroneous Parallel

By David H. Barnes

Only two of 20 elected officials representing Jurupa attended the public meeting by the City of Riverside's Public Utilities Agency and Southern California Edison last week at the Indian Hills Golf Club.

The meeting was called by SCE and the RPU to discuss the Riverside Transmission Reliability Project, a proposal to bring electrical power to the City of Riverside either by 230 Kv towers on Van Buren or Bain, or north of Jurupa to the City of Riverside.

Only the school district's John J. Chavez and Jurupa Community Services District's R.M. "Cook" Barela signed in at the four hour event. All told, 95 residents signed in, although there were probably 125 or so who came through the doors.

No one from the Rubidoux Community Services District attended. That is not unusual at any community event in Jurupa, ever. (Name two RCSD directors! There are five. Answer next week.)

No one from the Jurupa Area Park and Recreation District attended. That is unusual for Bob Hernandez, the one JARPD director who attends community functions.

Chavez was the lone school official and Barela the lone JCSD representative. I was a tad dismayed that Jack Smith, Jim Huber and Paul Hamrick didn't make an appearance -- only because two weeks earlier they blocked a resolution opposing Jurupa routes claiming they needed more information.

Some observers aghast there were no county officials attending.

I figure all alternative routes needed by the City of Riverside and SCE are in the Second Supervisorial District, so that's a no-win situation for the County Supervisor.

Nevertheless... It is difficult to be at all of the events in Jurupa all of the time, so I don't blame all of the elected officials for not being able to be everywhere.

\*\*\*

We're No. 1! We're No. 1!

The American Lung Association has announced the Top 20 in poor air in America.

We're No. 1 with Los Angeles for generally poor quality air, and No. 1 in our own right in fine particulates (primarily from diesel soot).

The Top 20 polluted counties in America, in the sub category of fine particulates, linked to heart disease and premature death, are:

1. Riverside, CA
2. Allegheny, PA
3. Los Angeles, CA
4. Fresno, CA
5. Kern, CA
6. Cache, Utah
7. Jefferson, Alabama
8. Salt Lake City, Utah

9. Wayne, Michigan
10. (tie) Orange, CA
10. (tie) San Bernardino, CA
12. Lane, Oregon
13. Cuyaho, Ohio
14. Baltimore, MD
15. Sacramento, C A
16. Cook, Ill
17. Cumberland, PA
18. Santa Clara, CA
19. New Haven, CT
20. Marion, IN

I am pleased to see the people of Orange County in a dead heat with the people of San Bernardino in the pollution category of fine particulates.

I hate to see us ranked No. 1 in America. Perhaps we can be overlooked for the proposed 230 Kv City of Riverside Towers and instead get some of those Palm Springs fans -- aimed at L.A. and Orange County where the vast majority of the pollution is generated.

I am rather perplexed why the Long Beach, Compton, Paramount area isn't No. 1. Millions of diesel trucks line two lanes of the Long Beach (7) freeway

practically seven days a week. I suppose the soot blows over here.

The trucks are traveling to and from the Port of Long Beach, picking up foreign goods for distribution hubs in, gulp, Mira Loma.

We must wonder what will happen if Mexico does, eventually, win approval to bring its big rig traffic to Southern California and beyond.

Big rig traffic in our environment, from Mexico, is currently stalled because Mexico is stalling on a U.S. proposal to allow their big rig traffic if they allow our big rig traffic.

Which reminds me of the California Poet Laureate, Alan Young, who spoke at the Glen Avon Regional Library last week.

Young said Mexican immigrants are flocking to the U.S. to seek work because U.S. farmers are exporting their fruits and vegetables from *here* to *there*, and therefore putting the Mexican farmers out of business.

"Therefore, the farm-workers are migrating north to find work," Young

said.

(None of Jurupa's 20 locally elected officials were among the 150 at Glen Avon Regional Library to meet Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's California Poet Laureate).

Young is the only Poet Laureate to ever visit Jurupa.

Please don't tell the 20 elected officials I mentioned them in my column, they tend to get all fussy about it, especially when it is pointed out to them.

I like our 20 elected officials, honest. I also like our county, state and national elected representatives.

They're all doing a fine job, honest.

[Pst. Ask one this week if they know who Arnold appointed California Poet Laureate. Go for two out of three and ask about the alternate routes by SCE and RPU].

We're No. 1! We're No. 1!

It is simply amazing, considering our air pollution, that the Rubidoux Boys Cross Country Team won the California Championship in 2002. Wow.

No elected official saw that feat...



By Dorothy Brown

# Smith Center Art Show Is Gallery Quality Event

The public had a chance to visit the Eddie Dee Smith Senior Center in Rubidoux Saturday and casually walk around and enjoy the wonderful displays of art work in all forms produced from the talented hands of the seniors who keep the center humming every week day.

This was the 4th year of "A Touch of the Getty at the Eddie", an art show aptly named. The committee working on the show continues to produce a classy event, turning the center into a first class place to enjoy displays of art work of all kinds.

Changing the center from a place where tables are set for lunches each day, and where exercise classes are held, where others are playing pool and taking classes, into a lovely building where all traces of other activities have been hidden is incredible.

At the art show, there is only seating for enjoying the displays in a quiet, elegant surrounding, just like most art galleries present. It must take a lot of work and manpower to move all the furniture and have everything in place when the doors open at 11 a.m. for the invited guests and at 1 p.m. for the public.

Visitors were also offered lemonade, wine, cheese and hors d'oeuvres.

Hattie King and Phyllis Bailey poured the wine donated by the Galleano Winery of Mira Loma. Hattie and Phyllis served on the art committee along with Yvonne Harley, Angie Cutrona, Doris

Williams, Wil Donelson, Walt Kumpula and the Directors of the Center, Bob and Lynne Craig. Lynne and Doris worked the crowd with trays of fancy foods.

The featured artist for the show was Peggy Ballard who teaches a class called Painting with Peggy at the Smith Center. She also teaches at the Goeske Center and has taught at Michaels for 15 years. Peggy said loves to encourage her students and says her pupils attempt painting things she has never done before. She does outstanding watercolors.

Angie Cutrona is another instructor and artist at the center. She does outstanding work in ceramics and is an inspiration to her students. She has shown her work at the Riverside Art Museum and at the Riverside Community Flower Show. She can work with her fingers on even the most delicate and fragile pieces of clay or dough art and never miss a stroke.

A fairly new member of the art set is Robert Upton who teaches basic digital photography. He is still learning and teaching and had a number of works on display. He is a third generation Riversider and served as a combat photographer in the army.

Subodh Maheshwari, another instructor at the center, is a very talented artist. Her art was on display Saturday and is a fusion of Eastern symbolism and

Western composition. She has participated in many shows nationally and internationally. She is the teacher for the Young at Heart art class.

Kathy Dillon and Lois Blackmore, instructors from the Young At Heart classes from Riverside Community College, also showed work.

Another art form on display Saturday was the hand made quilts and knitting from the classes held at the center. Sophia Matos, quilt instructor, is enthusiastic about the work her students have done.

Bonna Reading was a new addition to the Art Show, showing decorated eggs. Her display is outstanding and it is hard to believe she started with ordinary egg shells which become a truly beautiful work of art.

Artists showing work this year were Helen Christmon, Cynthia Anne Sexton, Carolyn Carrera-Kilgore, Ron Snelgrove, Janice Smith, Patricia Schippell, JoAnn Main, Maudie Pennington, Phyllis Sandra Sylvia Ramos, Ruth Hoxie, Danniell Good, Roger Nahas, Lillian Shaw, Ann Hughes, Walter Lowe, Norma Cruse and Rose Szychowski.

This show is a credit to the seniors and to the directors of the center. It has grown in stature and the transformation of the center to an attractive art gallery is truly remarkable.