



ROBERT BESS

President's Corner

by Bob Bess

As I write this column, membership applications are being returned and dinner reservations are coming in at a good

click. If you did not receive the invitation to join and attend the dinner on October 21, you can find them at our web site (csus.edu/org/emeritus) or you can send me an e-mail (rbess@sbcglobal.net) and I will send you a hard copy.

If you have been a member of the Emeritus Association, you are already aware that we have added numerous benefits. This year we are able to offer even more, including discounts in the Bookstore and University Center Dining Room. As you contemplate whether to become a member, please take into consideration that as our numbers grow, we will have greater leverage to obtain still more benefits over time. At present, about one emeritus in five holds membership in the Association. We know that many of you who have not joined are either residing outside the area or have health limitations which preclude your participating in our activities and benefits. However, based upon numerous conversations, I am sure that for some of you it is simply a matter of getting to it. Please do so today, and help us make the Emeritus Association the best it can be for its members and for the campus.

President Alex Gonzalez' letter, included with my recent membership letter, symbolized the support and encouragement we are receiving from the campus. In addition

to a near unanimous willingness to offer benefits to our members, we have been given funds to cover much of our communication expense. We now have formal campus liaison with the office of Vice President for University Advancement Carole Hayashino, and I am having regular meetings with her to address our role within the university community.

Over the past few months, I have received several inquiries concerning policies and practices which do not appear to be in the best interest of either the University or Association members. I am optimistic that we will be able to achieve positive changes over the next few months. If you are among those who have raised concerns, please know that they are not being ignored and watch for more information. If you have concerns which you believe might be addressed by the Association, please let me or any member of the Board know and we will consider whether we can be helpful. Use the above e-mail address or phone me at (916) 635-1405.

I would like to call your attention to one new benefit in particular: The Osher Lifelong Learning Center within the College of Continuing Education is offering a \$25 discount on two of its fall courses. This benefit alone will cover the cost of dues for those of you who chose to participate. Your membership packet includes a letter describing the courses and an application form.

Please join your friends and colleagues. There is strength in numbers, and the stronger we are, the more we can influence response to emeritus interests.

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ALAN WADE

Note from the Editor

President Dwight D. Eisenhower, 1952 Comments on Social Security, etc.:

“Should any political party attempt to abolish social security, unemployment insurance, and eliminate labor laws and farm programs, you would not hear of that party again in our political history. There is a tiny splinter group, of course, that believes that you can do these things. Among them are a few Texas oil millionaires, and an occasional politician or businessman from other areas. Their number is negligible and they are stupid.”

—President Dwight D. Eisenhower, 1952

The party to which Mr. Eisenhower seems to have been referring has managed to survive quite well, it seems, despite having tried most of the things which he said they would not dare to do—their support of farm subsidies being the major exception. ■

President’s Corner

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And finally—we will soon begin the task of developing a new slate of board members to be presented at our spring meeting. If you are interested in assuming a leadership position, please let us know. Likewise, I encourage you to suggest the names of other emeriti who might be willing to share the tasks of leadership. Have a good year and enjoy your emeritus benefits.

Peace, Bob Bess ■

Book Bin Hours Expand

The Book Bin schedule has been expanded to the first and third Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays of each month. The Book Bin is operated by the Friends of the Library to benefit the Library. ■

Sports Department

Word has come to The Silver Bulletin that the Fearless Foursome of the local golf world (Murray Work, Peter Shattuck, Gerry McDaniel, and Rod Sime), has finally displayed what some of us have suspected all along—its basic humanity. For the first time, all four of this intrepid group were sufficiently incapacitated on the same recent match that they unabashedly rented a golf cart! This is the same group that has claimed two holes-in-one, including one described as “immaculate”—meaning apparently that the ball found its way to the hole without a single bounce. The Bulletin wishes them the best, trusting that at least one of them will be able to walk the course at their next match.

Also, we have learned that Jim Bosco (Physical Education) has been inducted into the Seniors Badminton Hall of Fame in recognition of his athleticism and sportsmanship. Jim is currently USA and Canadian National Champion, U.S. senior Olympics and World Masters Champion in the 75-79 year-old category. Congratulations, Jim! ■

Older Driver Safety

Jerry McDaniels contributed this item

Older driver safety and senior mobility in general have been of growing concern in California and the nation. In an effort to further inform Californians about the problem, Tuesday, October 25, 2005 has been designated Senior Safe Mobility Day. That evening every public television station in California will be showing The Golden Road, a 30-minute documentary produced by KQED. In Sacramento, KVIE will show it at 7:30 pm. While the program contains information about how to maintain mobility for seniors without compromising safety, special attention is given to the important role provided by family and friends of senior drivers. Addressed will be the difficult question of when should a senior driver relinquish the keys - or should someone else step in to take them? In addition, how can you help an elderly relative or neighbor remain more mobile and engaged after their own driving has ended? ■

Book Group Updates

The Book Group of the Friends of the Library now meets at the homes of members. For locations, and to confirm meeting dates and times, contact Louellyn Lower at lcohan@saclink.csus.edu, or (916) 456-5879. The reading schedule for the remainder of 2005 and the beginning of 2006 includes:

- **November 10:** The Crisis of Islam: Holy War and Unholy Terror, by Bernard Lewis
- **January 12, 2006:** The Plot Against America, by Philip Roth
- **February 9, 2006:** Krakatoa: The Day the World Exploded, by Simon Winchester

The November, 2004, recapture of the presidency by George W. Bush was the cause of discomfort and genuine embarrassment for me because my father had been a loyal member of the Republican Party until the Great Depression.

My father died at age 43 in 1934 when I was six months old. I have no personal memory of him and that is my life-long regret. He was David Franklin Humphers, and I was named after him. He wanted to name me Charles Gassaway for a Pontotoc county judge that he admired. My mother effectively curtailed his naming effort by paying him a compliment that he could not refuse...“Let’s give this child your name.”

Like most of the members of my family, my father was known by his nickname, “Bud.” My mother, Sarah, spoke of “Bud” often when I was a child. She described him in tones of endearment: “Bud was a good man...He took care of us in good times and hard...Bud was a hard worker...

He was in the fields plowing, planting, or the harvest” —whatever the season required.

Bud Humphers and Sarah Bowen met, married and began their family in Bebee, Pontotoc County, Oklahoma. They eloped in a one-horse shay and Sarah’s sister Kitty accompanied them as chaperone and witness. Their 1918 marriage ceremony was conducted by Pastor Roberts at his home in Bebee.

Bud was about six feet tall and very thin. Sarah was a petite 5’ 4.” Bud and Sarah Humphers had eight children, five boys and three girls. Their first child was born in 1920, and a new sibling was born every two years until Bud’s death six months after my birth in 1934. I would have younger siblings

if my father had lived longer.

Bud was born in Indian Territory in 1891. The political and economic climate of the 1890’s was much like the present. The “trusts,” the corporations were unregulated and free wheeling. The benefits of the “trusts” accrued primarily to the captains of industry and earned for the 1890’s decade the titles “The Gilded Age” and the “Era of the



My Republican father died as a loyal Democrat!

By David Humphers,
Emeritus professor
of social work

Robber Barons.” Their counter parts today are the Enron, WorldCom and Halliburton executives, to name only a few. During the 1890’s, like today, the rich became richer, the poor poorer.

The Republican party of my father’s youth was Theodore Roosevelt’s Progressive Republican party. The mission of the Republican Progressives was to eliminate some of the gravest economic abuses in an attempt to level the playing field for the working classes and to require industries to provide safe conditions for their workers. It was during the Progressive Era that the foundation was laid for New Deal social insurance, public aid and collective bargaining legislation that provided a modicum of social justice for working people

and a “safety net” for children and the elderly. Unlike the Republican party of the late 20th and early 21st Century, the Progressive era Republican Party led with a strong social conscience and genuine compassion.

Bud Humphers was a “tenant farmer” in Pontotoc county Oklahoma when the Great Depression began. “Tenant farming” and “share cropping” represented the American adaptation of the medieval feudal economy that our ancestors escaped from in the British Isles and Europe. Tenant farming was only a small step above “share cropping,” the common pattern in the Southern states. The “share cropper” provided all of the labor, clearing trees, plowing, planting, cultivating, and harvesting a crop and received a ¼ share of the harvest. The owner of the land typically provided the equipment and seed stock for the crop, so the landowner shared some of the risk.

“Tenant farm” contracts were typically two years in duration. The “tenant farmer” furnished his own equipment—horses, oxen, wagons, plows, etc. The landowner provided the land and living quarters for the tenant farmer’s family. The tenant farm contract typically designated a two-thirds share of crops raised to feed the farm animals; crops raised for the market were split 50/50. If the landowner had cattle on the land, the tenant farmer cared for the owner’s cattle and was entitled to keep the heifer calves. The owner’s share was all of the bull calves. Bull calves were more valuable because they were neutered and raised for the beef market.

Mom said that my dad was not active in Pontotoc county politics

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but he voted the Republican ticket in every election until the Great Depression. Bud's last vote for a Republican presidential candidate was in the 1928 election of Herbert Hoover.

The Great Depression began with the stock market crash in October, 1929, the first year of Hoover's presidency. Over the next three years the depression worsened. A drought in the American heartland exacerbated the effects of the depression. Crops failed and farm animals died when water wells and streams dried up. Farmers were evicted because they were unable to meet the payments on their mortgages. Thousands of hungry American workers marched on Washington in 1931, seeking to petition their president for minimum wage employment. They were turned away from the White House.

President Hoover's promises were empty platitudes. "Prosperity is just around the corner" he said, as the unemployment lines grew.

In May, 1932, hundreds of veterans of World War I marched on Washington, D.C. to ask the President and Congress to pay the bonus that was promised for their military service. The veterans, pejoratively labeled the "Bonus Army," eventually grew to 17,000 veterans in their Washington, D.C. encampment. When it became apparent that the District of Columbia police were unable to disperse the "Bonus Army," President Hoover directed Army Chief of Staff, Douglas MacArthur, and his aide, Major Dwight David Eisenhower, to use troops to evict the veterans from their D.C. encampment. Members of the "Bonus Army" refused to leave and MacArthur ordered his troops to fire on the veterans. Many were wounded and some were killed. The World War I combat veterans were forced to depart Washington, D.C., and without the promised bonus.

Hoover's best effort to help working people was the Relief and Reconstruction Act of July, 1932, which offered loans to the states and local governments for public works projects and relief for the unemployed. However, the loans were granted only to states and local governments that could guarantee repayment. Many states and local governments were on the brink of bankruptcy and only a few could guarantee repayment of the federal loans. Consequently, only a small proportion of the authorized funds were actually distributed.

At the same time, summer of 1932, the Republican Convention met in Chicago and endorsed Hoover for a second term, while revelations were leaking from the Senate Banking Committee about executives of many major U.S. corporations who were profiting personally by unethical manipulations in the securities market.

I do not know whether my father knew about the national economic situation but we know that economic conditions in rural Oklahoma were such that many of the Republican Party faithful bolted eagerly and angrily to the other side for the 1932 election. According to Sarah, Bud remained a moral values voter in 1932 when he changed parties so that he could vote for Franklin D. Roosevelt who promised to provide jobs for the unemployed and to expand the social and economic initiatives introduced by Republican Progressives decades earlier.

Bud Humphers' brief period of political activism occurred at election time in November, 1932. He volunteered to help get out the vote on election day. Sarah recalled that it rained heavily on election day in 1932. The roads in rural Pontotoc county were mostly unpaved soil. The slippery mud and deep ruts were the likely reason why many early-

rising farmers had not voted by mid-day "dinner" time. Bud went to the polling place in East Jesse in his big 1925 or 26 Studebaker four-door sedan. The voting precinct officer gave Bud the names of Jesse-East Jesse area registered voters who had not voted, and Bud began his effort to get out the vote for Franklin D. Roosevelt. I was overjoyed when I heard about my father's contribution to Roosevelt's election but my mother's voice and expression revealed embarrassment as she told me the details of Dad's duplicity.

Bud drove his big Studebaker to each farm and knocked on the door. When the neighbor answered the door, Bud said "I am here to drive you all who want to vote to the polling place." While the neighbor was getting raincoat or umbrella, Bud would ask "Are you voting for Hoover?" If the answer was affirmative, Bud pulled out his big pocket watch and quickly made an excuse to leave—"Oh my...look at the time...I must rush right back to the barn and milk the cows"—and he departed without the Hoover supporters. But the neighbors who said they were voting for Roosevelt were given a ride to the polling place as well as a return ride home. Bud's big Studebaker sedan had room for six or seven passengers, and he made a number of trips to the polling place on that rainy election day in November, 1932. Mom was certain that Bud had an impact on the election outcome in their voting precinct.

Bud died two years later at age 43, a confirmed Democrat who, no doubt, voted the values and moral concerns that he learned as a young Republican in the early 1900's. He voted for the candidates who would replace the bankrupt economy with one that would provide opportunity and safe working conditions for the American workers. ■

Fall Dinner Oct. 21

Friday, Oct. 21 is the date of the annual Fall Dinner and Business Meeting. The evening begins with a reception at 6 p.m. in the Sac State Alumni Center; dinner will begin at 7 p.m. Entrees are grilled chicken and stuffed portabella mushrooms. Door prizes will add to the fun. Contact Bob Curry at (916) 920-8890 if you haven't yet made your reservation. ■

Pension Protection Goes National

(Editor's Note: Thanks to Wilma Krebs for this update.)

We were relieved when our governor removed the measure threatening our pension system from the November propositions, even though we were warned that it might reappear next June if the Legislature did not reconcile the major issues. Meanwhile we learned that pension protection has become a national as well as a state problem.

We have a contract to coordinate our pensions with our social security retirement income. This could be threatened by a significant increase in social security taxes, or by the Bush plan to divert a portion of social security taxes into personal savings accounts.

Defined Benefit pensions like ours are meeting more widespread national opposition from firms complaining of higher taxes. Low-paid workers in the private economy may get inadequate pensions and resent higher pensions received by those who work for government or large firms. But decent retirement pensions are needed to attract high quality people.

We need to work with our congressional representatives, especially on Social Security. (Write a letter.) Our Pension Coalition needs all the support we can give. Checks can be sent to CSU-ERFA, our statewide organization, with a note on the check that it's for the Pension Coalition. Address is 18111 Nordhoff St, Northridge, CA 91330 -8339). Talk to your friends. ■

Peter Shattuck's Travel Corner

Almost a thousand years apart, two great invading armies set out across the English Channel and fought on to world-changing victories. The Normans in 1066, the Americans and the British in 1944, each left tangible records of their campaigns; last fall, Elizabeth and I got to visit the Bayeux Tapestry, which records the Norman Conquest, and the 20th century invasion beaches and cemeteries of Normandy.

As an undergraduate, I first encountered pictures of the Bayeux Tapestry as a primary source in a course in British Constitutional History. Commissioned by Bishop Odo, brother of William the Conqueror, a few years after 1066, this three feet by seventy feet embroidery illustrated the Norman version of the story. In graphic, comic-book style images, the fabric shows the English King Edward promising the throne of England to William, and Harold of England swearing allegiance to William. When Edward died and Harold treacherously claimed the kingship, William had no choice but to load men and horses into ships and cross the Channel. The arrow that lodged in Harold's eye must have been aimed by God, and William rightfully assumed the English throne.

Other documents challenged this partisan telling of the story, but the vivid colors of the Tapestry remained bright in my mind until I finally saw the original. Carefully preserved and respectfully displayed in Bayeux, this marvelous piece of propaganda still glows with conviction. And, thanks to two books from the University Library (have you joined the Friends of the Library?), we also knew that the Tapestry contains a wealth of allusions to Eleventh Century stories and scandals—so we could understand just what the little naked men along the edges had meant to the earliest viewers.

The Norman Conquest, while dramatic, held little emotional meaning for us. But not far away, we contemplated the beaches and cemeteries of 1944, scenes which left us awed, sad, somber, and grateful. The crosses and Stars of David in the American cemeteries march geometrically across the green lawns, somehow conveying a sense of final peace. Omaha Beach and Utah Beach are now just beaches, not killing fields. At Pointe du Hoc, sixty years on, the land still shows the catastrophic upheavals rendered by the pitifully few Rangers who reached the top of the unscalable cliffs.

Our trip had much more, of course: the standing stones of Brittany, the magnificent vistas of the coast, and, it should go without saying, good food (though surprisingly few fresh vegetables), excellent wine, and wonderful Calvados. Everywhere we went, we received warm and welcoming hospitality, despite President Bush's petty and provincial sneers at the French. Still, the reminders of 1066 and 1944 will stand out in our memories as we continue to explore as much of the world as we are allowed. ■

Web Site

The Emeritus Association extends a very big thank you to former College of Education Dean Steve Gregorich for the marvelous work he has done in developing a web site designed explicitly for all campus emeriti. Do not take our word for it; go to

www.csus.edu/org/emeritus and see for yourself. Steve has also recruited a number of members who will be responsible for editing and updating particular pages. As you explore the site, please take note of improvements and additions which you believe would make this fine site even better. ■



◀ www.csus.edu/org/emeritus

IN MEMORIAM

James O. Booker, Registrar, May 14, 2005

Sara Green, Family and Consumer Sciences, September 26, 2005

Vernon T. "Ted" Hornback, English, September 22, 2005

Madlyne MacDonald, Communication Studies, July 25, 2005

Lee Martelle, Education, May 3, 2005

Merle Vance, Education, May 10, 2005

Paul R. Waldo, Theatre & Dance, May 20, 2005

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