

**BIG BAND
OF
ROSSMOOR**

HISTORICAL RECORD

2001

NAME Charlie Birt

ADDRESS 1917 Countrywood Court
Walnut Creek, CA 94598

INSTRUMENT, OR INSTRUMENTS PLAYED LEARNED AT WHAT AGE?

Piano, age 8, Cello age 13, Clarinet and Saxophone age 14.

HOMETOWN OR COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

Parsons, Kansas

INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR MUSICAL CAREER...

Played in Middle and High School bands. Played in local Dance Bands. Played in Midwestern Territory Bands during summer months. During college years, I was active in many performing groups, although my major was not music.

During my business career I put down my instruments.

Now that I am retired, I'm back into my music!

ANY PERSONAL INFORMATION YOU MAY WANT TO SHARE SUCH AS AND ARMED SERVICES EXPERIENCES

I was in the Navy during World War II. Spent much of that time in the South Pacific.

TALENTED CHILDREN OR OTHER RELATIVES?

My cousins on both sides of my family were involved with music.

NAME Vern Brown

ADDRESS 4308 Terra Granada Dr. 2B Entry 14
Walnut Creek, CA 94595

TELEPHONE (925) 932-5524

INSTRUMENT, OR INSTRUMENTS PLAYED, LEARNED AT WHAT AGE?

C-Melody Saxophone...5th grade
Eb Alto Saxophone
Bb Tenor Saxophone

HOMETOWN Born in Altura CA, Modoc County
September 20, 1918

INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR MUSICAL CAREER

**I played in two Senior Bands in Santa Clara County,
Cupertino and San Jose.**

ANY PERSONAL INFORMATION YOU MAY WANT TO SHARE AND/OR ARMED SERVICES EXPERIENCES

I started the Rossmoor fun band.

**W.W.11 - Reserve Midshipman, Ensign, Lieut J.g.,
Lieut Cmdr., Capt U.S.Naval Res. (Ret).**

**Was command officer of two mine sweepers, holder of
the Bronze Star and Gold Star in lieu of 2nd Bronze Star.**

(See U.S.S.Strategy AM-308 Mine Sweeper..attached)

WHAT ELSE...TALENTED CHILDREN OR GRANDCHILDREN?

Grandson...Alto Saxophone
Two Grandsons...Trumpet
One granddaughter...Piano and Trombone

From: *Dictionary of American Naval Fighting Ships*

USS *Strategy* AM-308

(AM-308: dp. 850; l. 184'6"; b. 33'; dr. 9'9"; s. 14.8 k.; cpl. 104; a. 1 3", 4 40mm.; cl. *Admirable*)

Strategy (AM-308) was laid down on 4 October 1943 by Associated Shipbuilders, Seattle, Wash.; launched on 28 March 1944, sponsored by Mrs. J. E. Kelley; and commissioned on 22 September 1944, Lt. V. A. Brown, USNR, in command.

Strategy sailed on 20 October for San Pedro, Calif. and held her shakedown in Los Angeles Harbor. After sound training at San Diego, she returned to San Pedro. On 6 December, she got underway for Hawaii and arrived at Pearl Harbor on 14 December. She was attached to Mine Division 36 and began rehearsals at Lahaina Roads, Maui, for the invasion of Iwo Jima.

Strategy sortied with Task Group 51, LST Flotilla One, in the screen of Tractor Group Able, for Ulithi on 22 January 1945. The group remained there from 3 to 5 February and then steamed to the Mariana Islands where final staging for the Iwo Jima operation was begun. She was detached from the screen and with her division, sailed for Iwo Jima on the 13th. The mine division arrived off that island three days later and began sweeping mines for the landings which began on the 19th. The ship remained off Iwo Jima until 28 February when she sailed to Saipan. *Strategy* arrived on 5 March and, two days later, steamed to Ulithi to rejoin her division.

Strategy reached Ulithi on 8 March; rejoined her unit; and, on 19 March, was underway for the Ryukyu Islands. There, the division began sweeping mines on 25 March to clear the way for Army landings the next day. The minesweeper then helped clear the approaches to Okinawa for the impending invasion of 1 April. One of the war's heaviest attacks by Japanese suicide planes occurred on 6 April. One plane made a glide approach on a nearby merchant ship, and the minesweeper opened fire with all of its guns. A wing tank was hit, and the plane burst into flames and [elf short of its target. Another followed within two minutes, and the guns from *Strategy* soon had it blazing, but it banked and crashed into *Logan Victory*. The sweeper closed the ammunition-laden merchantman and rescued 48 survivors. *Strategy* operated in the Okinawa area until 5 May when she departed for Ulithi.

The ship put in at Ulithi on 9 May and refitted there until the 20th when she and other ships of her division escorted a resupply convoy back to Okinawa arriving a week later. *Strategy* operated from Kerama Retto until 31 July. In June, she helped clear area "Zebra" in the East China Sea of an antisubmarine minefield. She then aided in clearing another area of about 7,500 square miles northwest of Okinawa, almost to Kyushu. The operation took more than three weeks after which the ship returned to Buckner Bay for logistics. On 6 August, she sailed for Leyte for an availability period.

Strategy was at Leyte when hostilities with Japan ceased. The ship sailed for Japan on 28 August. At Kii Suido, Wakayama, Honshu, she swept mines for the occupation forces until 5 October. The ship then moved to Nagoya on 7 October and remained in that area until the 19th when she went to Sasebo. She rejoined Mine Squadron 36 in sweeping known minefields from Kyushu to Korea until early December. *Strategy* sailed from Japan on 12 December 1945, en route to the California coast, via Eniwetok and Pearl Harbor.

Strategy reached San Diego on 12 January 1946 and was routed onward to the east coast for disposition. She arrived at Galveston, Tex., on 10 February for a pre-inactivation overhaul. The minesweeper then moved to Orange, Tex., on 10 May 1946 and, four days later, was decommissioned and assigned to the 16th Fleet. *Strategy* was redesignated MSF-308 on 7 February 1955 while in reserve. *Strategy* was struck from the Navy list on 1 October 1967.

Strategy received four battle stars for World War II service.

NAME **Bob Burnett**

ADDRESS **1012 Juanita Drive
Walnut Creek, CA 94595**

TELEPHONE **(925) 935-1793**

INSTRUMENT OR INSTRUMENTS PLAYED...LEARNED AT WHAT AGE?
Alto Saxophone, started at age 10

HOMETOWN **Glen Ellyn, Illinois**

INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR MUSICAL CAREER..

**Played through college, then put instrument away
for 30 years.**

Was a member of the LaMorinda Community Band.

(Contra Costa Wind Symphony for about 16 years.

Have been in the Walnut Creek Concert Band for 6 years.

Have been in the El Nino Saxophone Quartet for 4 years.

**ANY PERSONAL INFORMATION YOU MAY WANT TO SHARE
SUCH AS ANY ARMED SERVICES EXPERIENCES.**

Was in the U.S. Army 1952 to 1954.

**Retired from 35 year career as a research chemist
with Chevron.**

NAME Herm Cordes
ADDRESS 132 Whitethorne Dr.
Moraga, CA 94556
PHONE NUMBER (925) 376-7632

INSTRUMENTS PLAYED, LEARNED AT WHAT AGE?
Cornet/Trumpet (high school) Accordion, age 7,
Plano/Organ 30 +.

HISTORY OF YOUR MUSICAL CAREER.
Played Trumpet in high school and for University of San Francisco Band.
Short stint with 4 piece group. Did not play again until about age 50.
Played with Doc Carrol in what is now the "Wind Symphony" for about 7 years.
Started Rossmoor Fun Band with Vern Brown, Jan Cordes, Herb Daley, Phil Klein, Ed Luce, and Monty Edelen about 10 years ago.

In early 1991 when we saw Vern Brown's ad in the Fremont News looking for musicians to start a Fun Band. I called quickly and met Vern and I became Charter Members, meeting that first night in a little room upstairs at Stanley Dancer's house. The rest is Rossmoor history, from the Fun Band to the Big Band of Rossmoor.

OTHER INFORMATION TO STATE
March 1967, travelled to Knoxville, Tennessee to play in the Pop Band for Stanley's College women. Established team in the NCAA Regional Finals. Who would have ever thought! Also attending that special time were Cordes, Ed Levick, Herb Santiago, and Don Bruce.

TALENTED AND DEAR GRANDCHILDREN:
Three boys and a girl, two sons and a daughter.
Three adorable grandchildren, two girls and a boy.
One dependent husband, Herm.

NAME Jan Cordes

ADDRESS 132 Whitethorne Dr.
Moraga CA 94556

TELEPHONE (925) 376-7632

INSTRUMENT..LEARNED AT WHAT AGE?

I played clarinet for three years in high school. I used a school instrument and never thought of playing again until my early 50's when I took a music theory class at D.V.C. from Charlie Blossom. We were required to play recorders. This piqued my interest in Clarinet again, and I dug out a Clarinet our son had tried...and dropped... in grade school. With a little "reclaimed" ability and lots of middleage "guts" I joined the LaMorinda Band with husband Herm on Trumpet and warmed a seat for a few years. We eventually dropped that band and that group is now the very successful Contra Costa Wind Symphony.

In early 1991 when we saw Vern Brown's ad in the Rossmoor News looking for musicians to start a Fun Band. I called quickly in response. Herm and I became Charter Members, meeting that first night in a little room upstairs at Stanley Dollar Clubhouse. The rest is Rossmoor History, from the Fun Band to the Big Band of Rossmoor.

OTHER INFORMATION TO SHARE

March 2001, travelled to Knoxville, Tennessee to play in the Pep Band for St Mary's College women's Basketball team in the NCAA Regional Finals. Who would have ever thought! Also attending that special trip, Herm Cordes, Mo Levich, Herb Sontag, and Don Bruce.

TALENTED CHILDREN OR GRANDCHILDREN?

Three brilliant children, two sons and a daughter.
Three adorable grandchildren, two girls and a boy.
One dependable husband, Herm.

NAME C.W. Erickson (Bud)

ADDRESS 2109 Ptarmigan Dr. #2
Walnut Creek, CA 94595

TELEPHONE (925) 934-1772

INSTRUMENT, OR INSTRUMENTS PLAYED, AND AT WHAT AGE?

Violin, started lessons at age 6.

Clarinet, in High School Band

Wurlitzer Organ in retirement

HOMETOWN

Butte, Montana

INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR MUSICAL CAREER

2nd and 1st seat in All State Orchestra

3 years in High School Violin Ensemble

3 years in Dance Orchestra

Jam Sessions at Lions Conventions

ANY PERSONAL INFORMATION YOU MAY WANT TO SHARE...ANY ARMED SERVICES EXPERIENCES?

I enlisted in the Army Air Corps in 1942. Flew single engine P38, B17, B29, and was a flight instructor 1943-1946

Commendation...for bringing home a twin engine plane that was damaged in mid-air collision during training in formation flight. I was then assigned to 2nd Air Force Training Command until the war was over.

WHAT ELSE, TALENTED CHILDREN OR GRANDCHILDREN?

Three sons, Bill has a Masters degree at Cal Berkeley; John Retired Navy Masterchief; Dave, Cal Berkeley and S.F. State Masters Degree.

NAME Jerry Ferro

ADDRESS 500 Glasgow Circle
Danville, CA 94526

TELEPHONE (925) 820-6860

INSTRUMENT PLAYED , LEARNED AT WHAT AGE?
Violin, started at age 7

HOMETOWN Alameda, California

INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR MUSICAL CAREER

Played violin from age 7 through high school.
Resumed playing following retirement.

NAME Hal Friedman

ADDRESS 116 Hardle Drive
Moraga, CA 94556

TELEPHONE (925) 631-0355

INSTRUMENT PLAYED, LEARNED AT WHAT AGE?
Clarinet, age 11, and started again age 50.

HOMETOWN Takoma, Washington.

NAME Sholom Groesberg

ADDRESS 2709 Ptarmigan Dr. #2
Walnut Creek, CA 94595

TELEPHONE (925) 946-1812

INSTRUMENT PLAYED, LEARNED AT WHAT AGE?
Guitar at age 15

HOMETOWN New York, New York

HISTORY OF YOUR MUSICAL CAREER
...been an amateur all my life.

PERSONAL INFORMATION YOU MAY WANT TO SHARE?
Have been a Professor and Dean of Engineering.
Presently a Rabbi retired from the active pulpit.

NAME A.J. Groh (Jim)

ADDRESS 1546 Eastshore Drive
Alameda CA

INSTRUMENT, OR INSTRUMENTS PLAYED...LEARNED AT WHAT AGE?
Clarinet, age 12 and Saxophone age 14

HOME TOWN OR COUNTRY OF ORIGIN
Encinitas, California

INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR MUSICAL CAREER
Bandmaster 91st Div Army Reserve 4 years
Tice Valley Dixieland Combo
Hayward Municipal band 20 years
Alameda Community Band 35 years

ANY PERSONAL INFORMATION YOU MAY WANT TO SHARE, SUCH AS ARMED SERVICES EXPERIENCES

Army Reserve Ret. 39 years
Competitive swimmer
Worldwide Ski race
Rifle Competition, Army Teams

NAME **Jamie O. Harris**

ADDRESS **853 McEllen Way
Lafayette CA 94595**

PHONE NUMBER **283-1049**

INSTRUMENT OR INSTRUMENTS PLAYED, LEARNED AT WHAT AGE?

Piano, aged 7 or 8, then again at age 40

Trombone, age 50

HOMETOWN **Bakersfield, California**

HISTORY OF YOUR MUSICAL CAREER...

I took piano lessons as a kid, then broke my arm playing basketball and quit. Started piano again around 40 and played classical music for 10 years. Decided to learn a band instrument when my kids were in school bands.

ANY PERSONAL INFORMATION YOU MAY WANT TO SHARE

I live in Lafayette, my Dad Norman Harris lives in Rossmoor. My three kids are all musicians. My son Jon on the Drums, daughter Sarah on Flute, and son Ben on the Trumpet.

NAME

Jeff Kolhede

ADDRESS

**639 Los Palos Dr.
Lafayette, CA 94995**

TELEPHONE

283-5039

INSRUMENTS PLAYED

Tenor and Alto Saxophone, started at age 11.

INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR MUSICAL CAREER

I am a Student Associate Member of the Rossmoor Big Band, and I play Tenor Saxophone in the Band. I'm in the eighth grade at Stanley Middle School in Lafayette, where I've been a part of Mr. Bob Athayde's music program, playing Tenor and Alto Saxophone in the Symphonic and Jazz Bands at Stanley. I love jazz music, so I'm really glad to have been invited to be a member of the Rossmoor Big Band, in addition to playing with the Stanley Messengers Jazz Band. I think I'm the youngest member of the Rossmoor Big Band, and I feel lucky to be able to play alongside the other band members who have been musicians much longer than I have been.

Some of the Rossmoor Big Band members are former professional musicians and they are great. All of the band members are super nice to the student members of the band, and they've really welcomed me (the kid) into the group. I really appreciate that Mr. Mo Levich, the Rossmoor Big Band Director, has given me this opportunity to be a part of this great group of people.

Besides playing the Saxophone, I love sports (tennis and basketball). and I like to go mountain biking in Briones Park.

NAME Zuva Pat Kriletich (aka: Patti K)

ADDRESS 1738 Stanley Dollar Drive, 1A
Walnut Creek, CA 94595
(925) 937-2116

INSTRUMENT PLAYED AND AT WHAT AGE
Drums – started at 10 years of age

HOME TOWN OR COUNTRY OF ORIGIN
San Francisco, California

INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR MUSICAL CAREER

One Sunny afternoon when I was 10 years of age, I became enthralled with the drummer playing at a family wedding. I was invited to try my hand that day, and the rest is history. My parents encouraged my taking lessons and suffered through hour upon hour of practice with nary a complaint. Early on I played a variety of jobs: weddings, Bar Mitzvahs, school dances, etc. I started an all-female high school band which played from 1942 through 1947. We played all around San Francisco and were featured at many USO dances and shows. After graduation from high school, I joined the Musician's Union, San Francisco Chapter. I performed at many San Francisco nightclubs playing show music and then later at Jazz gigs. I enjoyed playing with many fine local musicians, such as Allen Smith, Vince Guaraldi, Rudy Salvini and Nick Esposito. During those musical years, I also spent a lot of after-gig hours at Bop City jamming with touring musicians who were in town playing various jazz clubs. This was an extraordinary learning experience for me, as I jammed with Miles Davis, Dizzy Gillespie, Errol Garner, Oscar Peterson, and many other of the top jazz musicians of the day. In 1960 I stopped playing professionally and joined together with my father in the management of the family business, Chris' Seafood in San Francisco. Over the ensuing years, I have maintained a sporadic practicing schedule, and having recently moved to Rossmore, it is obvious that I will once again be much more involved in my musical life.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)

PERSONAL INFORMATION YOU MAY LIKE TO SHARE

Outlined most of it above. However I was pleased to have a picture of me playing at Bop City included in one of the Miles Davis biographies. additionally, a professionally made video of Bop City made within the past five years has several images and references to my jamming there.

NAME Dean D. Leonard

ADDRESS 3225 Rogers Ave.
Walnut Creek, CA 94596

TELEPHONE (925) 945-6459

INSTRUMENT..LEARNED AT WHAT AGE?
Trombone at age 10

HOMETOWN Moorestown, New Jersey

INFORMATION ABOUT YUR MUSICAL CAREER

Played seriously through high school.

All South Jersey Band for 3 years.

All State Orchestra, one year, played Berlioz Requiem.

Played in the High School Band, Orchestra and Jazz Band
in High School.

WHAT ELSE..TALENTED CHILDREN?

Two daughters, both play the Trombone.



NAME Jenny Leonard

ADDRESS 3225 Rogers Ave
Walnut Creek, CA 94596

TELEPHONE 945-6459

INSTRUMENT PLAYED, LEARNED AT WHAT AGE
Trombone, at age 11

HOMETOWN Walnut Creek

INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR MUSICAL HISTORY
Honor Band 7th Grade
Honor Band, 1st Chair, 8th Grade

ANY PERSONAL INFORMATION YOU MAY WANT TO SHARE
I'm 13.



NAME Maurice Levich (Mo)

ADDRESS 38 Diablo Circle
Lafayette, CA 94549

TELEPHONE (925) 283-0361 (WORK) 284-0961

INSTRUMENT OR INSTRUMENTS PLAYED. LEARNED AT WHAT AGE?
Trumpet, fifth grade public school

HOME TOWN
Sioux City, Iowa

HISTORY OF YOUR MUSICAL CAREER
Played 5th and 6th Grade Orchestra, three years of Middle school and two years Central High School Band.

OTHER OTHER INFORMATION YOU MAY WANT TO SHARE
Recruited by former Mayor of Orinda to start Orinda Volunteer Marching Band in 1985. This turned into a 120 piece marching band that rehearsed for one hour per year then marched on July 4th in Orinda Parade.

Recruited in July 1997 to direct Rossmoor Fun Band, now the Big Band of Rossmoor, that now consists of 31 pieces with vocalist and strings.

TALENTED CHILDREN?

Two daughters, Jane who is 15 and Molly age 16.
Jane plays Alto Saxophone, Electric Bass, Piano, and is studying voice.
Molly is a photographer, and helps in the administration of the Rossmoor Big Band.

NAME Lana Patterson

ADDRESS 1675 Ptarmigan Dr. #1B
Walnut Creek, CA 94595

TELEPHONE (925) 296-0009

INSTRUMENT OR INSTRUMENTS, LEARNED AT WHAT AGE?

Piano, started age 7
Violin, started at age 8

INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR MUSICAL CAREER

Graduated University of Michigan, School of Music, 1963.
Taught one year in Plymouth Michigan.
Lived in Europe 2 years, working and travelling.
Moved to California in 1967
Began teaching in Oakland Public Schools 1967-1999,
teaching strings in elementary schools.
Member Diablo Symphony.

ANY ADDITIONAL PERSONAL INFORMATION YOU MAY WANT TO SHARE

Married to Wade Patterson, retired University Professor.

TALENTED CHILDREN OR GRANDCHILDREN?

Two grandchildren 8 and 7, now studying piano and
living in Pleasanton.

NAME

Aase Popper

ADDRESS

**1316 Singingwood Ln
Walnut Creek CA 94595**

INSTRUMENT OR INSTRUMENTS PLAYED, LEARNED AT WHAT AGE?

I always wanted to learn to play the piano, and taught myself how to read music. We could not afford a piano, but got a broken violin, which my Father got repaired. At age 14 I learned to play the violin.

HOMETOWN AND /OR COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

Frederikshavn, Denmark

INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR MUSICAL CAREER

Just an amateur

...WHAT ELSE? TALENTED CHILDREN OR GRANDCHILDREN?

One is tone deaf

One plays the flute

One used to sing in the choir

The Grandchild, now 5 weeks old

...has an enormous voice!

NAME Eric Price
ADDRESS 4839 Phyllis Terrace
Martinez, CA 94553

TELEPHONE (925) 957-1643

INSTRUMENT OR INSTRUMENTS PLAYED, LEARNED AT WHAT AGE?
Bass Electric standup, Piano, Guitar

HOMETOWN Martinez, California

INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR MUSICAL CAREER

Been playing for 7 years. I have been taking lessons for 5 years.

I play in a wide array of places:

Three orchestras; Berkeley Youth Orchestra, Young Peoples Symphony Orchestra, and Acalanes High School Orchestra.

I am in 3 jazz groups, including the Rossmoor Big Band, jazz octet, and jazz quartet. We are putting out a C.D. with the jazz quartet sometime soon.

I have played at many places such as, Stanford University, Laney College, Holy Names College, Dominican University, and the San Francisco Museum of Modern art...to name a few.

WHAT ELSE, TALENTED CHILDREN OR GRANDCHILDREN?

Not yet, I am only 15!

NAME Oz Ramsey
ADDRESS 999 Carol Lane
Lafayette, CA 94549
TELEPHONE (925) 283-6070

INSTRUMENTS PLAYED , LEARNED AT WHAT AGE?

Clarinet at age 9

Drums at age 14

HISTORY OF YOUR MUSICAL CAREER

Started playing professionally at age 15 (six nights a week) in southern Illinois and Missouri. Travelled throughout the midwest playing with a band that was known as a Territory Band. Travelled and slept on a bus playing ballrooms from Iowa to Minnesota, often crossing paths with Lawrence Welk. Musically we had a much better band than Welk..whose band was not too good in those days. Years later things changed. He had a fine band and a new bubble machine.

I attended college at Southeast Missouri State University working my way through school playing in a band. The Korean conflict was happening so I joined an Air Force Band in Austin, Texas; spent a year in Korea playing military functions during the day and dance jobs 7 nights a week. Hamilton Field in Novato was my next assignment.

Upon discharge from the Air Force I decided to live and teach in the Bay Area. I taught music in Walnut Creek from 1956 to 1989. In the meantime I spent time working with some great bands and some horrible ones. The bad ones payed the money. Things never change in the Entertainment Business. In 1988 I began my own band. I had my fill of playing music led by some non-playing leader who was musically ignorant. I surrounded myself with some great musicians, and two of the most talented people on the planet, Roberta and Frank Como currently living in Rossmoor. Thanks to their ability to write great music and some of the finest musicians in the Bay Area, the Bay Area Big Band has become a very good band. Eighteen players plus two vocalists is a big band. We have had our share of paying jobs but no one has quit their day job. We do it because we love the music of a great period of music in America. (continued)

Unable to play drums due to a stroke, I was encouraged by my good friend Mo Levich to play Clarinet in the big band he directs in Rossmoor. Under Mo's leadership the Big Band of Rossmoor has become a good sounding band. He encourages the older people to play and brings in younger musicians to come in and help fill the musical chairs, thus a great experience for everyone.

Music has been my life. like anything else it has its ups and downs but like an old friend was fond of saying, "You don't make a lot of money playing but you sure do meet a lot of nice people".

ANY TALENTED CHILDREN?

My wife Earline and I have a daughter Suzanne who works full time as a singer and piano player in San Francisco and the Bay Area.

NAME Lee Saylor

ADDRESS 17 Regulus Court
Alameda, CA 94501

PHONE NUMBER (510) 864-0848
(Email) saylors5@aol.com

INSTRUMENT OR INSTRUMENTS PLAYED...LEARNED AT WHAT AGE
Flugelhorn, trumpet...age 13

HOMETOWN San Francisco

HISTORY OF YOUR MUSICAL CAREER

All City Orchestra (high school)
Rube Peterson big band (Rio Nido, CA)
Ina Rae Hutton All Girl Band (Golden Gate Theatre)
Ray Hackett Band (Fairmont Hotel, and other hotels)
Wally Heider three Tenor Orchestra Claremont Hotel
Combos, every tin-pan -alley joint in San Francisco
Worked my way through school in the Heider Orchestra

HISTORY OF ANY OTHER INFORMATION SUCH AS ARMED SERVICES EXPERIENCES
Air corps, 1 year at end of WWII

WHAT ELSE?

Bechtel Corp 9 years
Lee Saylor Inc. 38 years
Published Saylor Cost Guides yearly for 38 years
Published five Construction Manuals

NAME Jack Snyder
ADDRESS 1361 Singingwood Ct. #1
Walnut Creek, CA 94595
TELEPHONE (925) 930-8037
INSTRUMENT OR INSTRUMENTS PLAYED AND AT WHAT AGE
Clarinet, Saxophone at age 12

HOMETOWN
Williston, North Dakota

INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR MUSICAL CAREER

My Mother was instrumental in organizing the band program in our city, hence my musical career began at an early age.

ANY PERSONAL INFORMATION YOU MAY WANT TO SHARE

Eleanor and I were married in 1942. Next year will be our 60th Wedding Anniversary.

We have nine Grandchildren and two Great Grandchildren. We spend six months here in Rossmoor, and the summer months at home in Williston, North Dakota. Our mailing address in North Dakota is ..

1109 Hill Court
P.O.Box 371
Williston, ND 58801

We are definitely what you would call "Snowbirds".

We have two daughters who live in the immediate area. It was because of their research of the area that we decided to move to Rossmoor seven years ago.

We were in the movie exhibition business for 50 years with theatres in North Dakota and Montana.

Music has pretty much ruled our lives forever. My wife is a minor music major and is an accomplished pianist.

(continued)

I had not touched my Clarinet in many years, but when the opportunity arose to play with the Rossmoor big Band, I jumped at the chance. I have enjoyed every minute of my decision.

I was a B-24 Liberator bomber pilot in World War II and was stationed in England. After my discharge from the service I obtained my private flying license and flew all over the United States to visit family and friends.

NAME Herb Sontag

ADDRESS 3945 Woodside Court
Lafayette, CA 94549

INSTRUMENT PLAYED, LEARNED AT WHAT AGE?
Trumpet, started at age 9

HOMETOWN Auburn, New York

INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR MUSICAL CAREER

I purchased my current Super Olds Trumpet in 1945 from earnings while playing in a 12-piece dance band at a large glass roofed night club called "Club Dickman".

Also played big band music with the 18-piece M.I.T. "Tectonians" in Cambridge, Massachusetts. I was both a leader and business manager.

ANY PERSONAL INFORMATION YOU MAY WANT TO SHARE SUCH AS AND ARMED SERVICES EXPERIENCES.

I served as a Commanding Officer of a detached platoon supplying gasoline to Armored and other Army Units at Grafenwher, Germany during the Korean War era.

...WHAT ELSE, TALENTED CHILDREN OR GRANDCHILDREN?

Our local Grandchildren reared in Pleasant Hill are especially musically talented. I will tell you about three of them. (Please see next page.)

Collin: Performs on his Acoustic Bass with his Jazz combo, "The Bajo Quartet" and also with the successful Matt Harding Trio. Both groups have recorded a number of C.D.s. Will tour Japan this summer with the B.Y.U. "Young Ambassadors".

Nathan: Recently performed at the Lionel Hampton Jazz Festival in Moscow, Idaho where he won the Best Trumpet Soloist Award. His performance at that festival with the "Collegiate All-Star Band, before an audience of 16,000, was reported in the San Francisco Chronicle. Nathan has performed with Jon Faddis, Clark Terry, Mike Vax and Lou Soloff. The latter was his trumpet instructor at Manhattan School of Music where he went on scholarships for two years. While there he received the "Jon Faddis Most Outstanding Young Jazz Trumpet Player" Scholarship for the New York Metropolitan area. Nathan was also selected for the 1996 "Grammy All-Star Band" as their jazz trumpet soloist. To our knowledge no other high school musician from Contra Costa County has ever been invited to play with this National Grammy Band. Most recently, in mid March, Nathan received recognition as one of three finalists for the International Trumpet Guild Jazz Improv Scholarship which will be decided in Indianapolis in May, 2001.

Trevor: Trevor was awarded the Dave Brubeck Jazz Composition Scholarship through the Concord Pavilion Associates. He plays trumpet with BYU "Synthesis" Jazz Band which will play on the Queen Elizabeth II's June cruise to London. He also plays Acoustic Guitar in a folk band which played one of his original compositions at a recent concert.

NAME Steve Snyder
ADDRESS 543 Silverado Drive
Lafayette CA 95595

TELEPHONE (925) 284-7255

INSTRUMENTS LEARNED AND PLAYED

My Mother, a concert pianist, put me on the piano bench at the age of one year. Studied for 9 years and began studying percussion for 12 years including studio drum.

HOMETOWN

Born Hollywood California, raised in Los Angeles.

EXPERIENCES OTHER THAN MUSIC YOU WOULD CARE TO SHARE

United States Air Force veteran.

TALENTED CHILDREN OR GRANDCHILDREN

Zach Snyder, age 14, plays piano,
Concert baritone in Burton Valley
Alto Sax, Tenor Sax, plays with Contra Costa Jazz Band
and fills in with Rossmore Big Band.

STEVES MUSICAL CAREER

SEE NEXT PAGE

STEVE SNYDER MUSICAL AND ENTERTAINMENT BACKGROUND

MUSICAL EDUCATION

1951-1960 private piano lessons

1956-1960 Drum lesson with Delmonico

1960-1962 Drum lessons with Chuck Flores, Hollywood studio drummer, also with Dorsey Brothers and Stan Kenton.

1962-1965 Drums & Percussion with Artie Anton with Stan Kenton, recording drummer

1963-1965 Latin Percussion with Al Pattectto,ans Joe Pass, N.B.C. Studios.

1962-1970 Drum teacher. Beginning to intermediate students.

PERFORMANCES

1959-1962 (age 10 to 13)

Los Angeles City School All District Orchestra, Principal Percussionist.

1961-1963 Surftones

1963-1964 Viscounts

1963-1965 Nel Chrisy Mistrals

1965-1966 ABC TV Shindig Band

1966-1972 Fireballs First Edition

1972-1973 Marquettes, Deltones

1973-1976 Cruise Director Sitman Cruises Internationally.

1989- after being in the business world since 1976, played again in Rossmoor.

NAME Bob Sutherland

ADDRESS 1459 Rockledge Ln. #4
Walnut Creek CA 94595

TELEPHONE (925) 933-9754

INSTRUMENT PLAYED

Trumpet, learned at age 12

HOME TOWN

Alameda, California

HISTORY OF YOUR MUSICAL CAREER

Played one year in elementary school, four years in High School Band, two years orchestra, two years off campus Big Band (dance).

Quit playing one year after high school when I entered the U.S. Air Force.

Started again 20 years later in an Elks Club "Pep Band".

Continued while working about one night per week in a Community or Night School Band in L.A. area, Phoenix and Walnut Creek area.

Since retired in 1983, became very active in music; Walnut Creek Concert Band, Diablo Symphony, Diablo Light Opera Orchestra, Dixieland Jazz Band, and Rossmoor Big Band.

ANY OTHER PERSONAL EXPERIENCES YOU MAY WANT TO SHARE, SUCH AS ARMED SERVICE EXPERIENCES

U.S. Army Air Corps. W.W.11. Served 21 months in European Theatre.

NAME Dick Williams

ADDRESS 1290 Springbrook Rd
Walnut Creek, CA 94595

TELEPHONE (925) 930-0963

INSTRUMENT OR INSTRUMENTS PLAYED, LEARNED AT WHAT AGE?
Piano, Clarinet, Tenor Saxophone

HOMETOWN Raised in Los Angeles, California.

INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR MUSICAL CAREER

Various instructors, including Bill Hamilton, recording artist.

Organized 8 and 15 piece dance bands.

Played with Prez Prado, Dave Wiseman bands as well as many small combos. played in AirForce Bands in Washington D.C. and France.

Spent last years in Lake County performing with an 8 piece dance band and trios including 10 years at Sunday Brunch at Konocti Harbor Inn.

NAME Earle Cunha
ADDRESS 1277 Avenida Sevilla 1B
Walnut Creek, CA 94595
TELEPHONE (925) 939-5920

INSTRUMENT OR INSTRUMENTS PLAYED, LEARNED AT WHAT AGE?

You might say I came from a very musical family as my Mother and Sister played the piano, and my Father played the trumpet. Since my grandfather fiddled with the violin from time to time, my mother thought it would only be natural for me to learn how to play his strad. I began playing the violin at the age of 8. I did not look upon the violin as a very masculine type of musical instrument, such as a sax or a trumpet. On the other hand, I was grateful my grandfather had not played the harp. The rewards of music came to me when I entered Berkeley High School and took a music class and actually enjoyed playing with other kids. I forgot having to defend myself from ruffians with no familiarity with the arts, in previous years. In fact, I had become quite an expert in the martial arts.

HOMETOWN Berkeley, California

INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR MUSICAL CAREER

I guess I got the jump start I needed in the music business when I volunteered to sing with the Berkeley High School Dance Band at the school on a Friday afternoon. The song was *Dancing Cheek to Cheek*. The following Monday in music class, the violinist sitting next to me had heard my rendition of the song and said a guy by the name of Jimmie Howard was starting a band and needed another violinist and vocalist. I auditioned and got the job. Through the rest of my sophomore and junior years, we played every Friday and Saturday night. We played at Sweets Ballroom in Oakland, and all the major hotels in San Francisco—the Palace, St Francis, Sir Francis Drake, and the Mark Hopkins. My parents living room served as our practice auditorium every Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday night. It was not unusual to see neighbors sitting outside on the front lawn listening to our rendition of some of the hits of the thirties.

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The next summer at the end of my junior year the band went to Hobergs in Lake County. The band joined the Local 6 Musicians Union at that time. For most of my senior year we played at the Claremont and Alameda Hotels every weekend. The band broke up in the spring of 1938 as the leader took a teaching job in the area. It is interesting to note that I saw Jimmie Howard last year when he and a small group played for a dance at Rossmoor. We had a good visit.

The next band was with Bud Maleville, who was taking a band to Bijou, South Lake Tahoe. We played there, then Rio Del Mar, now Aptos, then State Line Country Club..now Harrah's. Rio Del Mar was our next booking where we would have air time up and down the coast, as well as air time coast to coast on Saturday nights. My school plans were sidelined as we played Del Monte Hotel with such M.C.'s as Bob Hope and Bing Crosby. All the movie stars hung out there at that time. We paid one dollar a day for a private room and three meals a day.

My education was always put on the back burner until I wrote to Bing Crosby and asked his advice on what I should do. Go to college, or stay with the band. He gave me the advice to go to school, I could always pursue my music. I took his advice, and resumed my music on a regular basis at Rossmoor.

ANY PERSONAL INFORMATION YOU MAY WANT TO SHARE SUCH AS ANY MILITARY EXPERIENCES.

After the first month at Cal I decided that since R.O.T.C. was compulsory I may as well make the best of it. In 1943 I was ordered to O.C.S. at Ft. Benning Georgia. My time in the service was spent in the Automotive School, then as an instructor in the school. In 1945 I volunteered for Chinese language course at Cal, so I could go to China as a liaison officer in the Chinese Army. Upon completion I was transferred to intelligence, promoted to Captain, and on VJ day sailed from Boston Harbor for Calcutta India. The war ended when they heard I was on my way. I went to Law School in 1946, then into the automotive business with my own dealership, Cunha Pontiac.

WHAT ELSE, TALENTED CHILDREN OR GRANDCHILDREN?

My wife and I have six children, and 11 grandchildren. They are all talented of course, but in the musical line, one grandson is a saxophone player in high school. The others' talents have not been unveiled yet.