Julie Karwatt (left), Todd Patrick and Bridget Gorich of Marquerite M. O'Nei Elementary School study an artifact at the Mission Viejo Cultural Resources Center hands-on table (see page 5).
people

Ayres makes a big issue of first editions

Before you take those old magazines from the attic to the local recycling center or trash bin, Don Ayres would like to take a look at them.

For the past six months, Ayres has been scouring Southern California bookstores and magazine stands and even a few attics for additions to his collection of first copies (volume one, number one) of magazines.

And in just a half year’s time, the Mission Viejo resident has already assembled a good-sized collection (around 20 periodicals), including initial editions of HiFi and Music Review (from February, 1958) and Orange County Illustrated (circa 1962).

“I’ve found a few shops, for example one on Hollywood Boulevard in Hollywood, where the owner sets aside old editions,” says the bespectacled Ayres. “But that’s too easy. There’s no joy in that. I’d rather dig through a garage or attic to find one.

“I also want to avoid paying, let’s say, $1,000 for the first ever issue of Playboy. Although I’m sure if I found someone with a volume one, number one of Time or Newsweek, it would cost a couple of hundred dollars, though.”

Ayres, a self-employed architect and interior designer, says he started his collection after helping a friend move.

“While packing some things, I noticed he had the first copy ever of Sports Illustrated framed behind glass on his wall,” Ayres recalled. “Since I am a self-employed businessman and I like new adventures, I became interested. It’s their (the magazine’s) first effort, the original. That’s what makes it interesting.”

What does his family think of his rather unique collection?

“ ‘My wife finds it funny because she says it’s the perfect hobby for me. I love to drive and snoop around in old stores.’

“As for my kids, I have to remind them ‘For heavens sake, don’t take those old magazines on the shelf and give them to the school paper drive’.”

Applications now available for St. Pat’s Parade

The Mission Viejo Activities Committee is now accepting applications for participants in the 12th annual St. Patrick’s Day Parade scheduled for Saturday, March 14.

First, second and third place trophies will be awarded to entrants in six categories, including best parade entry (Grand Sweepstakes), best youth group entry (Pride of the Town), most humorous entry (The Leprechaun Trophy), best St. Patrick’s theme (St. Patrick’s Trophy), best high school band (High School Band Sweepstakes) and best high school drill team (High School Drill Team Sweepstakes).

Junior high and intermediate schools plus military bands along with all color guards will be non-competitive and receive participation trophies. All elementary school and youth group entries will receive participation trophies.

The parade is limited to the first 100 entries and deadline for entry is Feb. 13, parade general chairman Jack Houston reported. All entries will be judged by the Southern California School Band and Orchestra Association (SCSBOA).

For more information, contact Betty Bobbie at 837-6050, extension 2B.

Skateway will stay open during long weekend

Despite an extended holiday weekend for Lincoln’s and Washington’s birthdays, Mission Viejo Skateway will be open for afternoon skating Feb. 12, 13, and 16.

Special matinee sessions will be held on each of these dates beginning at noon. Sessions will run from 12-2:30 p.m., 2:45-5:30 p.m. and 5:30-8 p.m.

Admission is $2 per session with or without skates. Skate rental is 75 cents.

In addition to normal Skateway hours, evening sessions from 6-8:30 p.m. and 8-10:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 12 and Thursday, Feb. 13 are scheduled.

Skateway’s regular Wednesday discount admission price of $1.50 per session will be in effect. Admission on Thursday evening is $2.50. Sign-ups for classes beginning the first week of March will be taken throughout February. Beginning, intermediate, backwards skating, freestyle and figures and adult basic fundamental classes will be offered and held weekly for six weeks.

For more information, call the Skateway at 561-4644.

Musical tale tops Las Damas meeting

Dorothy Fuller will review the lives of Rogers and Hammerstein in song and story at the Wednesday, Feb. 11 meeting of the Las Damas del Sol in the Vista Room of the Casta del Sol Recreation Center.

Reservations for the luncheon, which will be served at 12:30 p.m., must be made by Sunday, Feb. 8 at the recreation center office. All female residents of Casta del Sol are welcome to attend.
Living at fire station something to bark about

Howard Betts had been waiting for this day for nearly 30 years. When it finally came, it was everything he had imagined it would be.

December 6 signaled the beginning of a whole new life of freedom, mobility and confidence for the blind and partially paralyzed war veteran—a life he had only dreamed of until recently.

The door to Betts’ life was opened by Goldie, an affectionate seeing-eye golden retriever. Goldie and her new master, Betts, were officially graduated from the Guide Dogs of the Desert training center in Palm Springs.

The occasion carried special meaning for the men at Orange County Fire Station No. 9 in Mission Viejo as well, since the men of the station’s “B” shift were Goldie’s “foster parents” until she was returned to the school for four months of intensive training.

Goldie had been placed with the firefighters by the San Clemente Lions Club, which arranges for such puppies to be cared for in temporary homes so they can become comfortable in as many different environments as possible before undertaking lifetime assignments as seeing-eye dogs.

Goldie, however, is unique among her peers. She is believed to be the first guide dog in the country to be reared at a fire station, according to Engineer Jeff Taylor, who convinced his fellow firefighter to take on the project. The crew enthusiastically took up the new task of raising the lovable, mischievous pup, and before long, she had stolen the hearts of all who met her and won accolades from her temporary masters.

It didn’t take Goldie long to settle into the hectic and unpredictable routine at the station. She quickly adjusted to the sudden clanging of the alarm and learned to ignore the flashes as they scrolled across the engines and roared away with sirens screaming. In no time at all, Goldie was considered part of the family, both as an affectionate mascot and station watch dog.

While at Goldie’s graduation ceremony, Fireman Jeff Williams recalled one incident in which the dog demonstrated her protective characteristics.

“The Orange County sheriff’s deputies have keys to the stations and they often stop by to grab a quick cup of coffee. Well, one night while we were out on a call, one of the deputies used his key to get in. Goldie met him at the door, and I want to tell you, he was ready to draw— he was scared!” chuckled Williams.

And then there was the time the fire crew was called away just as they were about to sit down to dinner. The irresistible temptation of seven juicy hamburgers left unattended on the dining room table can easily be imagined, even for a future guide dog of good reputation.

The firemen returned later to discover that Goldie had devoured all the hamburgers on the table, considerately leaving the buns, pickles and relish on each plate.

When the “B” shift went off duty each week, its members took turns taking Goldie home, enabling the puppy to learn how to cope with a variety of family situations along with her life at the firehouse.

Before they knew it, Goldie was ready for the next step in her training. She was taken to the Desert to begin her training.

Instructors at the school immediately took notice of Goldie’s exceptional qualities and decided she would be well-suited to handle the highly specialized training necessary to serve a multiply-handicapped person.

In a letter to the firemen inviting them to attend Goldie’s graduation, L. (Bud) Haynard, director of the center, wrote, “Goldie has been assigned to Howard H. Betts Sr. Mr. Betts came to us with a very special problem—a paralyzed dog that has lost the left side of his body (requiring) a special dog. Goldie seems to have what that special something needed for specialized training. The very special care and socialization you men of the “B” shift gave to her truly aided in her success.”

But even the satisfaction expressed by Goldie’s instructors couldn’t match the happiness exuded by Betts.

“You just can’t imagine what this means for me,” exclaimed Betts, who was disabled in combat during the Korean War. He had tried unsuccessfully to acquire a guide dog for nearly 30 years and was turned down at nearly every training school in the country.

“I was told that because of my paralysis it would be impossible for me to have a dog,” Betts said.

But that wasn’t all,” she noted. “Goldie has been introduced at the Mission Viejo Cultural Resources Center, giving visitors the opportunity to touch some of the artifacts and fossils collected in the community.

The table features whale vertebra, various rib bones, sharpened teeth, and fragments of a whale’s jaw. The specimens represent the most common and plentiful found in this area and are good examples of marine life which existed from five to 16 million years ago. Early human life is represented by arrowheads, knives and scrapers.

The “new hands-on table has proven to be the most popular exhibit on our tours,” said Diane Pacek, coordinator of the tour intensive four-week training program).

Goldie passed her challenge with flying colors, demonstrating exceptional patience and understanding, which are the most important requirements for a successful seeing-eye dog.

“Maybe it might be hard for me but it’s harder for Goldie,” said Betts. “I’ve been in and out of the veteran’s rehabilitation center for the blind. They can teach you mobility and you can learn to get along by cane travel. But you just don’t have the security you get with a dog.”

“Goldie gives me the incentive to get up and get started. When she nuzzles her nose in my lap it’s as if she’s saying, ‘Come on, you’ll get up, I’ll take care of you.’ And I know she will.”

Betts has some big plans now that he has Goldie to guide him. First on the project is a trip to Ohio to visit his sister, whom he hasn’t been with in 20 years.

“Up until now, I never had the confidence and nerve to make the trip,” he confided. “Goldie and I have a lot of miles to go. A lot of miles.”

CRC offers hands-on table

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Hernandez goes off deep end to gain title

Don't ever tell Sam Hernandez to jump off a cliff. It's a sure set he'll make good on the dare...and look good on the way down.

Hernandez, who in December captured the 1980 World Cliff Diving Championships in Acapulco, has been leaping off rocky precipices and towering platforms for eight years. By garnering the cliff diving crown, he became the only American ever to win the title twice.

The Mission Viejo resident successfully completed two graceful dives from heights of 65 and 87 feet to pile up 734 points and top 14 other divers in the two-day competition in Acapulco.

Since wresting away the world cliff diving championship, the 36-year-old Hernandez has set his sights on recapturing his own world high diving mark.

His planned 180-foot effort would surpass the existing mark by 14 feet. Hernandez previously held the record at heights of 156 feet, set in 1977 at Silver Spring, Florida, and 158 feet, accomplished in 1979 at Orlando, Florida.

However, he's still looking for a place to make the 180-foot try.

"When I do go for it, I'll hit the water at about 110 miles per hour," Hernandez said without even a trace of worry on his face.

Words like dangerous and scared are obviously not part of his vocabulary. In winning the Acapulco title, he reached speeds of 60 miles per hour before entering the water, which was just seven to 14 feet deep. Hernandez also had to clear 14 feet of jagged rock and account for shifting tides that could have meant severe injury.

"The higher you are, the faster you hit the water," he said. "After entering the water, you have to execute a somersault to avoid hitting the rocks on bottom. Any sudden stop can cause an injury."

Amazingly, the only injuries he has ever sustained are pulled muscles in his shoulders.

Hernandez's two dives in the finals at Acapulco were both flying 1½-somersaults. He entered the water head first, which gave him more points than would a feet first entry.

"They were relatively simple maneuvers. I was in a swan dive position when I took off. It (the swan dive) typifies all the grace and beauty of what Acapulco is about."

Then I added a quick pike somersault on the way down."

Hernandez works out under the guidance of Ron O'Brien, head coach of the Nadadores diving team, at the Mission Viejo International Swim Complex. He trained for the cliff diving event from the usual competitive heights of three- and 10-meters. But on occasion, he took the plunge from a specially constructed 90-foot tower.

Hernandez dove competitively at Oregon State University and on the AAU level at age 19. He plans to continue on the professional level as long as possible.

"Our (high) diving is like art work," he said. "You have to concentrate on everything from your fingers to your toes."

And don't forget the water, Sam.

Seniors swear in 1981 officers

Saddleback Valley Seniors Club recently installed its 1981 officers. Earle Neiburger was sworn in as president, Floyd Caldwell as vice president, Irene Tannier as secretary, and Georgia Shearer as treasurer.

On tap this month are three events, topped by a trip to the world famous Indio Date Festival Saturday, Feb. 20 at the Registry Hotel in Irvine.

The luncheon, which starts at noon, is the club's biggest event of the year in garnering funds for the five scholarships given out annually. Social hour begins at 11 a.m. Theme for the fashion show, sponsored by Builocks of Mission Viejo Mall, is "Suddenly It's Spring." Door prizes donated by local merchants will be given away.

Reservations must be made by contacting Diana Lilly at 837-5737 or Lynette Holmes at 951-2128. Reservations must be made by Sunday, Feb. 15.

Seniors and luncheon to raise funds for scholarships

Rancho Viejo Woman's Club will hold its 13th annual fashion show and luncheon to raise funds for scholarships Saturday, Feb. 20 at the Registry Hotel in Irvine.

The luncheon, which starts at noon, is the club's biggest event of the year in garnering funds for the five scholarships given out annually. Social hour begins at 11 a.m. Theme for the fashion show, sponsored by Builocks of Mission Viejo Mall, is "Suddenly It's Spring." Door prizes donated by local merchants will be given away.

Donation is $15 per person.

EXCUSE ME — Damon McJunkin expresses his glee after taking frosting off the birthday cake belonging to his sister, Julie. There will be plenty of cake for everyone, though, at a Happy Birthday Party for Abe and George from 4-5 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 11 at Marguerite Recreation Center. Cost is just 25c. The event is open to recreation center members only.

SAY WHAT? — Maria and Fernando Avalos take one giant step backwards in preparation for Backwards Game Day from 4-5 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 25 at Marguerite Rec Center. Admission is free. The event is open to recreation center members only.

FINAL CHECK — Looking over final plans for the Rancho Viejo Woman's Club 13th annual fashion show luncheon are (from left) co-chairwomen Ann Hirt and Claire Hailes with treasurer Ida Meyer. Not pictured is secretary Anne Parrotti. The 76-member club plays every Tuesday at Casta del Sol.

Fashion show tickets on sale

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