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The Mountain Democrat  
Newsletter Editor  
PO Box 760  
Oakhurst, CA 93644



# THE MOUNTAIN DEMOCRAT

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February –  
March  
2015

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The Mountain Democrat is published bimonthly by the Oakhurst Democratic Club and the Mariposa Democratic Club, and is distributed to all current members of those clubs. For a membership application see the inside back cover of this newsletter.

### COMING EVENTS

#### February 2015

Feb. 7: Oakhurst Club Meeting

Feb. 14: Mariposa Club Meeting

#### March 2015

Mar. 7: Oakhurst Club Meeting

Mar. 14: Mariposa Club Meeting

### CONTACT US

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Coyote-Yosemite National Park  
Wikipedia  
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For more information about our Democratic Clubs and Democratic happenings around the state and nation open your trusty web browser and visit our web pages at:

[YosemiteDems.net](http://YosemiteDems.net) or [MariposaDemocraticClub.org](http://MariposaDemocraticClub.org)

**PLEASE RENEW  
FINAL ISSUE**

**If this label is on the cover of your newsletter  
it means that our records indicate your 2015 club  
dues have not been paid.**

It's the beginning of the year, and time for **Mariposa** Democratic Club members to renew! Please fill out the form below and send it with a check to:

**Mariposa Democratic Club**  
PO Box 5008-268  
Mariposa, CA 95338

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

**MAILING** \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**PHYSICAL** \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed: \$\_\_\_\_\_

Note: Dues for the Mariposa Club are \$10 per person and \$15 per family, but please consider donating extra to help us do more!

## So I walk into the Oakhurst Raley's...

By Les Marsden

...(this had to be ten to fifteen years ago) and my eyes immediately locked with those of an elderly man. He was enjoying his morning cup in the coffee area, and I knew him at once despite the fact I hadn't seen the guy in perhaps 30 years. I recognized him though his once-dark hair was now completely silver and his face was age-lined. But then again: so was my hair, so was my face. He was wrestling with his memory to figure out who that maddeningly-familiar younger man might be—and I was so tickled at the incongruity of seeing HIM up HERE that I rushed to his little table: “Mr. Livingston, I presume?!”

And that was all it took: “Les?! Well, I'll BE!”

While my career kept me busy on the east coast for a couple of decades, I'd fallen out of touch with the man who had arrived at Fresno's Fort Miller Junior High in 1971 as the new music teacher at the start of my final year. But that one year of Mr. Livingston was all it took. Some people are just so good, so dedicated, so caring—that a mere moment results in a lifetime of admiration. And when such people are teachers? Well, our society is incredibly fortunate when the Wayne Livingstons of this world walk among us. In the picture at right from our 1971-72 junior high yearbook, that's Mr. Livingston bottom left and Les in stripes (fortunately not PRISON stripes.) He had followed my career and wasn't at all disappointed that I had become an actor rather than a musician; I'm just glad that (despite



## So I walk into the Oakhurst Raley's...(continued)

the injury that caused my early retirement) there was a circularity which brought my life back to music, our home back to this region and serendipitously: the Livingstons to Oakhurst. And of course, Wayne to Raley's coffee bar.

If that's not enough praise for a great man and great teacher, he was a Democrat to boot—and a member of the Oakhurst Democratic Club! They didn't come any better than Wayne.

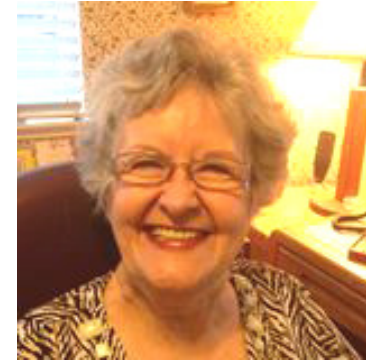
We sat and talked in Raley's that day and the years dropped away, with no awkward adjustment in morphing from a 13-year-old kid/teacher relationship to one of two mutually respectful, admiring men. And Wayne had never made it a secret he thought well of me: he had been completely delighted with the idea of me testing my young wings as a composer back then—and had encouraged me when I decided I'd write my first symphony for the junior high orchestra in which I played trumpet, and which he conducted. And not only did he conduct that little three-movement work in a concert in December of 1971, but he made sure we played it in a citywide school orchestra festival. And then—as the year wound to an end, he asked if I'd compose a march to be used as the formal recessional at my very own graduation from junior high. Of course! And he sweetened the pot, too: he asked if I'd consider conducting the school orchestra while my classmates walked down the aisle: of course again! Did I miss doing the “grad walk” at my junior high graduation? Of course not! What I WAS doing was far more memorable.

And now, years later after we re-connected: he could not have been more encouraging, more supportive—and more kind, taking absolute delight when I told him about the Mariposa Symphony Orchestra I'd formed in our Yosemite area—the area to which he and wife Ginny had retired years earlier. I was to later visit them at their modest Oakhurst home, to drop in on other friends with Wayne (including his old friend and fellow talented

So I walk into the Oakhurst Raley's...(continued)

composer/arranger Bob Bauernschmidt) and to see him occasionally at Oakhurst Club meetings, but more often than not we e-mailed and we were both proud of him for being computer-adept, if a tad gullible when it came to scams and Internet hoaxes. When he reached his 90s, he was REALLY proud of that age attainment and mentioned it often, not as any excuse but as a well-earned badge of honor. I was so grateful that our own Peter Cavanaugh became one of Wayne's deeply-caring friends; Peter and Eileen kept an eye on the Livingstons and when Wayne no longer felt comfortable driving to our Mariposa Symphony Orchestra concerts, Peter wonderfully, kindly became Wayne's chauffeur when the MSO played the Ahwahnee Hotel, or had concerts in Mariposa. And Wayne was always tickled and so incredibly grateful to those Cavanaugh's. Democrats DO help Democrats – and we're all that much richer and rewarded for it.

When his health declined and he could no longer serve as Gin's caretaker, they moved to assisted living in Fresno. And it was there, sadly—that Wayne left us late last year. But in so many ways, he's still here with us, still a proud Democrat, still a talented and wonderful musician—and still a beloved denizen of so many hearts. His legacy is both broad and deep. I was lucky to know him for so long—but no matter how many the decades, when it comes to some special people it's never long enough. And that was Wayne Livingston.



Thank you to everyone that attended the Assembly District 5 election meeting in Coarsegold on Sunday, January 11<sup>th</sup>. What a great turnout! It is so vitally important that the voices of rural Democrats be heard and your participation in the process is greatly appreciated.

I want to pass on my congratulations to all the newly elected Assembly District 5 delegates!

I was sorry I was unable to attend, as there was also a second AD 5 meeting in Placerville, as well as an AD 13 and AD 21 election the same day! But, I look forward to seeing the new delegates in Anaheim at the convention—and the rest of you somewhere in the region this spring!

Warm regards,

Martha Gamez  
CDP Regional Director, Region 4  
gamezm01@att.net

## Missing Mister

By Peter Cavanaugh

*“You've got to accentuate the positive  
Eliminate the negative  
Latch on to the affirmative  
Don't mess with Mister In-Between”*

*“Ac-Cent-Tchu-Ate The Positive”* --  
Harold Arlen/Johnny Mercer (1944)

Mister In-Between is not only missing, but the first two lines of that Bing Crosby/Andrews Sisters classic have been flipped like a flapjack. “Gotcha” carries the day—good news gone away.

It's a money thing.

When I started my broadcast career back in the late '50's, providing extensive local news coverage was seen as a critical public service. Serving the community was regarded as an important consideration in being granted a license by the Federal Communication Commission to operate over limited public broadcast frequencies.

In the pioneering days of “free market broadcasting”, anyone could go on the air on any frequency with any power they wanted. The predictable result was a chaotic cacophony of unintelligible gibberish. Can you imagine a busy intersection without traffic lights or stop signs? Same idea. Regulation was required.

Subsequently, the business model for radio and eventually television allowed enormous profits to be generated from paid advertising in return for presenting a certain amount of public affairs and public service programming, particularly emphasizing news. This was spelled out by competing entities that pledged specific percentages in their license applications and renewals.

## Missing Mister (continued)

An informed electorate was seen as essential to democracy.

Alas, all of this is long gone. Such noble intent has now been swept away by the prioritization of profit over public policy. “News” must score ratings. Only this directly impacts revenue.

Here human nature takes over. What sounds better? Vegetables and vitamins or candy and cookies? Me, too! But our current diet of journalistic jam offers little more than immediate gratification at the expense of critical thinking, a recipe for the triumph of ignorance over information.

Negativity reigns supreme. Its alluring attraction is hard-wired in us all. Do we secretly prefer Gospel or gossip? Truth or trash? Salvation or sin?

With indifference to integrity, performance takes powerful precedence.

The new darling of FOX News, the vivacious Megyn Kelly, snarled her way past both Sean Hannity and Bill O' Reilly in the recent November '14 ratings sweeps to become #1 on Cable TV.

Humility taking a back seat to honesty, Megyn enthusiastically states she would have gladly gone to work for MSNBC ten years ago when she was seeking a network position. *“I'd have done O.K. there, too.”*

In a remarkably prophetic piece, the late Paddy Chayefsky wrote “Network” in 1976. The multiple Academy Award winning film, starring Faye Dunaway, William Holden and Peter Finch, presented network television news reduced to its lowest common titillating denominator.

## Missing Mister (continued)

Part of the inspiration for Chayefsky's script came from the on-air suicide of television news reporter Christine Chubbuck in Sarasota, Florida two years earlier. The anchorwoman was suffering from severe depression and shot herself on camera as stunned viewers watched on July 15, 1974.

*"Television will do anything for a rating. Anything!"* – Paddy Chayefsky (1975)

They're still at it today.

Just watch FOX.



## Oakhurst Democratic Club Activities

By Scott Hill

With the off-term election in November and the holidays behind us the Oakhurst club is taking the opportunity to find out more about people and events in our surrounding area and this part of the state.

Our hard working Program Coordinator, Ellie Schermerhorn, brought the outgoing Sheriff of Madera County, John Anderson, to speak to the club in December of last year. John has spoken to our group several times in the last few years and has always been interesting and informative.

As you can see in the photo below we had an excellent turn-out for the meeting, filling the room at the Denny's in Oakhurst.



At our meeting on February 7<sup>th</sup> we will hear from California Highway Patrol Commander Jason Daugherty about the new CHP Center in Oakhurst, and on March 7<sup>th</sup> we will have a guest speaker from the Madera Oversight Coalition (MOC).

## **Trans-Pacific Partnership: Boon or Bamboozle?**

Lucille Apcar

At first I looked upon NAFTA with a jaundiced eye, then as persuasive advertising and messages from the White House persisted, plus the possibility that NAFTA could slow the illegal border crossings by providing more home jobs for Central and South American labor, my attitude towards the treaty became more benign. This despite presidential candidate Ross Perot's dire predictions of a "giant sucking sound". Well as we have all seen since that time, NAFTA has not delivered on its promises.

Is the TPP more of the same? There appears to be little in the way of comprehensive information as to the exact terms of the treaties being negotiated. So to make an informed decision is next to impossible. We certainly need a lot more transparency, that I hope will be forthcoming before too long. But this I know:

Dealing with Asian countries will be a completely different experience than anything we have witnessed to this time. And we also have the so-called "Global" businesses where the actual head honchos are practically unknown, or even where they are located. Being born and spending the first 20 years of life in an Asian country gives a person a somewhat different perspective, especially where family holdings and doing business are concerned. First and foremost we must examine the legal aspects, for what is permitted or not permitted in the United States differs substantially from the methods applied in Asia.

My dad ran an importing and exporting business in Yokohama, Japan, with the title A. M. Apcar & Co., established by his father sometime in the early 1890's. Being a child I knew little of the actual business activity, except that I had an inborn curiosity, visited the office with fair frequency, even typing some of his correspondence for him, and of course addressed questions when

## **Trans-Pacific Partnership (Continued)**

he had time to answer them. But what stands out in my mind even after all these years is one statement he made.

"I have to keep two sets of books" he said, "One for the Japanese Government and the other for the business".

As he went on to explain, the firm employed the long time services of a British accountant or Chartered Accountants as they called them. But before long, the fact that the Japanese Government in its progress into global trade developed, onerous rules, penalties and taxation of foreign firms forced the company to add another accountant, this time a Japanese provider simply because Japan refused to recognize the tax statements of a foreign firm. To his surprise, the Japanese accounting firm was able to legitimately add many "credits" and deductions to his tax bill, fully acceptable to their Government that the British firm could not.

This could be just one facet in a complicated trade agreement, but one worth considering. We have already seen the devastating effect on the United States of "outsourcing" by American firms, on both our labor and technology. Rare is the "Made in USA" label seen any more, even in simple household products. And if indeed the item is actually produced here, most of the component parts that make up the final purchase are not.

Of course the word "protectionism" is considered a dirty word in many circles. But we have to consider the fact that giving up our right to protect our biggest asset, the American worker, can and quite possibly will put us in a position of subservience to Asian interests and should make us stop and think carefully.



**CDP-AD 5 Convention Representative Elections**  
**Report by: Peter Leinau, Poet Laureate**  
(Reprint from Mountain Democrat, Feb-Mar 2013)

'Twas the day of the voting across the AD,  
all the Dems were a-gathering! It's Dem-ocracy!

There'd be voting in Jackson,  
and in Coarsegold, too,  
and the convenors wondered,  
what were they to do?

'Cuz you can't be two places at once (donta know),  
And E-Board nominations might come from the floor.

In one location  
and not in the other!  
How were we to vote?  
Oh, good grief! What a bother!

The convenors, they sat and they thought and they thought,  
then they realized, "There are cell phones we've got!"

And so through the wonders  
of technology,  
two places were one  
when they had to be.

Nominations were made, gathered Dems all heard plain,  
then the matter was settled by voter acclaim!

New representation  
gets us on our way!  
Thanks to the convenors,  
who made it happen today.

**CDP-AD 5 Convention Representative Elections**  
**January 11, 2015**  
**PHOTOS**





## **Desalination: A Rational Approach**

By Lowell Young

In the last Mountain Democrat newsletter, there was an article about our desalination, recycling and reclamation of water resolution that I feel needs to be addressed. Because there is not enough room in the newsletter to print the back up materials that I have to support what I am going to say, I will gladly send them to anyone who sends me an e-mail at [lyoung\\_dem@ymail.com](mailto:lyoung_dem@ymail.com) or phone me at 209-966-2547.

In the article it was stated, “This resolution has been extensively rewritten several times . . .” In fact, the resolution was given a few minor tweeks, as all resolutions are to improve them, but its substance was unchanged. It was amended just once after it was submitted and the changes that were made improved and strengthened it from an environmental point of view. If you would like, I will be happy to send copies of both versions to you.

There is a process that all resolutions go through. After it is written, the author seeks support from various Democratic organizations and individuals. As often as not, it is necessary to make minor changes in the resolution to improve it and/or to obtain the support needed. But again, the essence of the resolution is not changed. The resolution is then submitted to the Resolutions Committee (RC). There it is reviewed and given a numerical code which indicates the type of action the RC wishes to take with a given resolution. At each meeting of the RC, resolutions are dealt with in the order that the RC determines. The author of the resolution is given an opportunity to speak about it for three minutes. Anyone who is opposed to it is also allowed to speak. When all discussion is ended, the RC discusses the resolution and votes on what to do with it. Among the actions the RC can take are debated/passed, debated/passed as amended, no debate/passed, referred and postponed. In the case of our desalination resolution, it was postponed and Cesar Diaz, a member of the RC and a representative of the State Building and Construction Trades

## **Desalination: A Rational Approach (continued)**

Council of California, volunteered to help me amend the resolution so all the members of the RC could support it. I was unable to get in touch with Mr. Diaz. So, at their July, 2013 meeting, I asked the RC for direction. I was told that consideration of the resolution was going to be postponed until the following July because of concern about the up coming water bond proposition. At the July 2014 meeting, the resolution was not on the RC's agenda. After the meeting, I spoke to Mr. Diaz, and he assured me that there was a very good reason for the delay and that he would contact me. He did, and we amended the resolution and it was on the RC's agenda for November, 2014.

At the November 2014 meeting of the RC, the Chair of the Environmental Caucus (EC) expressed their opposition to the resolution because it had not been submitted to them for review and asked that it be referred to the EC. The chair of the RC asked if I was willing to have it referred. I said, “No, because I have been told that the Caucus wanted to kill the resolution”. Hearing that, the RC chair called for discussion and a vote and the resolution was passed with a unanimous vote. Now you know the real reason why it took seven sessions to get the resolution passed by the RC. I have since been told that the resolution was pulled from the agenda at request of a state legislator who after the water bond election asked that it be put back on the agenda. I was also told that there is a good possibility that our resolution will become a legislative bill because it makes good sense.

At the general session, the majority of the Executive Board members present voted to refer the resolution to the Environmental Caucus. I am okay with that, because in a democracy, the majority rules. I also believe that the resolution will go all the way.

By the way, there is no rule that says any resolution has to be referred to any caucus; it is simply a courtesy. So, why would I

## Desalination: A Rational Approach (continued)

submit the resolution to a caucus that I was told wanted to kill it, if I didn't have to?

The suggestion in the article that perhaps the resolution should be submitted to the labor caucus to me is a moot point. This resolution was thoroughly vetted by Cesar Diaz and several other representatives of Labor who sit on the Resolutions Committee.

\*Editor's Note: This is part one of Lowell's article on Desalination. Part two will follow in the next issue.



## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Mariposa: Annual Dues are \$10.00 per person  
(Jan. 1 – Dec. 31) \$15.00 family  
Lifetime membership \$150.00

or

\_\_\_ Oakhurst: Annual Dues are \$5.00 per person  
(Jul. 1 - Jun. 30)

\_\_\_ New Member or \_\_\_ Renewal:

How did you find out about us? \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Mailing** Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

**Physical** Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisory District (if known): \_\_\_\_\_

Total Amount Enclosed: \$\_\_\_\_\_

Please mail form and check payable to:

Mariposa Democratic Club	-or- Oakhurst Democratic Club
PO Box 5008-268	PO Box 760
Mariposa, CA 95338	Oakhurst, CA 93644
(209) 742-1010	(559) 658-2342