**Jerry’s Jabber**

— By Jerry James
Chapter President

**July 4th**

My wife Pat taught first grade for 27 years, resulting in a fulfilling career—and a whole repertoire of funny stories! One day, in a social studies lesson, she was describing some of the more recent American Presidents. When she got to Gerald Ford, she told what she thought was an amusing story about the President. On a visit to San Antonio he had been offered a tamale, wrapped in the traditional corn husk. He proceeded to try to eat it, wrapper and all. She thought this vignette would amuse the veteran tamale-eaters in her South Texas classroom. While most of the children smiled at his mistake, one little fellow did not. Feeling sympathy for the President, Michael quickly said, “Well, he didn’t know. He’s from a different country, you know—Washington D.C.”

Some of us have had similar thoughts about some of the decisions made by leaders of our country. We sometimes wonder what planet they are from and how being in the nation’s capitol can pervert basically good people with the power that hovers over that city.

But the fact remains that we live in the best country in the world. This coming Independence Day should remind us again of this fact and help us set our resolve to become more active in our democracy.

— continued on page 2

**All Aboard for Tahoe Keys and the Lake Tahoe Cluster**

**Wednesday, July 20, 2011**
11 AM – 2:30 PM or so

**At the Spragues’ Home,**
2145 Venice Drive
South Lake Tahoe, CA

**Lunch: $5.00**

Ginny and Doug invite you to enjoy lunch in their backyard by the water. If you like, start with a power-boat tour of Tahoe Keys and the edge of Lake Tahoe, or a paddle-boat or kayak ride. Or just enjoy visiting with friends, and there may be a surprise or two...

Some like to come early and/or stay over. Call Doug for motel suggestions, and/or to see about meeting for dinner or breakfast.

— continued on page 2

**Mark Your Calendars Now...**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>July 20</td>
<td>Lake Tahoe Cluster</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sep 14-17</td>
<td>AYR Reunion in San Diego</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec ?</td>
<td>McCoy Christmas Party at the Hanzliks</td>
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Henry J. McCoy

1847 - 1921
First General Secretary
San Francisco YMCA
1881 - 1915

AYR Mission Statement

The mission of the Association of YMCA Retirees is to enable members to promote a nurturing worldwide Christian fellowship that provides educational, social and charitable opportunities.

Jerry’s Jabber — continued from page 1

Years ago, I was returning from a very long, extended Mediterranean deployment. This one was not on a luxury cruise ship with family and friends. It was on a U.S. Navy destroyer, and it had lasted 10 1/2 months. I had been in the Persian Gulf, up and down Eastern Africa, and Red Sea areas that were having some of the same issues they are experiencing today. The sailors on my ship were very ready to be on American soil again. As the ship pulled into the Norfolk, VA port, we eagerly lined up to disembark. Before anyone went into the crowd of greeters, most of 150+ of us knelt on the shore and kissed the USA soil/ground. We were home! This is the place we had pledged to defend to the death, if necessary.

About 12 years ago, Pat and I took a “Taste of Europe” tour for two weeks. We had an enjoyable time and loved seeing the sights. But on the plane ride home, just as we were about to land at La Guardia airport in New York, spontaneous singing began on the plane. “God bless America, Land that I Love” began softly and grew as others joined in a tribute to our beautiful homeland.

Recently Pat and I have been thinking about the scripture that says, “I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.” I Timothy 2:1,2 We realized that we had not been praying for our country’s leaders. A friend of ours told us that, while we may not always agree with what our leaders and “all those in authority” are doing, the Roman leader at the time this was written was Nero!

As we sing “God Bless America,” let’s remember to pray for our country and its leaders—even if they eat tamales with the corn husks on!

Jerry
Jerry James
McCoy Chapter President
JerJames@aol.com.

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Membership

Tahoe Cluster — continued from page 1

RSVP by Friday, July 15 to Doug or Ginny: (530) 541-8960 or email dougandginny@sbcglobal.net.

Here’s how to get there: Take Highway 50 to South Lake Tahoe, about a mile after Highway 50 turns right at the “Y,” turn north on Tahoe Keys Blvd. and turn left on Venice Drive, proceed to 2145 (on right).

Brian Crane Update

Brian Crane, the Pickles cartoonist who spoke at our Reno Annual Meeting, has used 8 of Pat James’ suggested “jokes” in his cartoons and will probably use more of her stories, according to him. The cartoon he drew for us in Reno sold for $50 at the silent auction held at the Shakespeare Festival. Proceeds went to Y World Service.

Jerry’s Jabber — continued from page 1

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Jerry
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McCoy Chapter President
JerJames@aol.com.
38 members and guests of the McCoy and Allen-Stone Chapters of AYR attended the 2011 Oregon Shakespeare Festival in Ashland, Oregon. This was the 22nd year of this joint venture which was chaired by Ralph and Barbara Drake in 2010 and 2011. The Allen-Stone Chapter will organize the event for the next 2 years. Three plays were seen by everyone and a fourth was optional. Consensus was that “To Kill a Mockingbird” was outstanding and the best of the three. Mike and Sharon Robinson won the silent auction for the Pickles cartoon with their bid of $50 going to Y World Service.

April 26 - 28 2011

Thanks to Doug Sprague for providing these OSF photos.
Pearl & Raymond Carpenter (Davis) – On June 9th we proudly attended the graduation of our granddaughter Melanie from Da Vinci Charter Academy. Mel will be going to Cal Poly in San Luis Obispo in the Fall. In July Raymond and I will attend our 3rd family reunion in Massachusetts, where the family first settled in the very early 1900’s. Then down to the beautiful city of San Diego to participate in the AYR 2011 reunion. Hope to see you all there!

Jean Crichton (Kenwood) celebrated her 90th birthday with daughter Lori, son Rick, neighbors, friends, and members from her Art and Qigong Classes. Mary & Marty Hanzlik were in attendance. A gourmet twelve course traditional Chinese Birthday Banquet was enjoyed by all and ended with fresh Mango pudding and the traditional Lotus Buns for longevity (shown in photo to the right).

Ralph & Barbara Drake (Reno) – “We’re celebrating our 50th adjacent to the site of YMCA Camp Brooklyn (New York City; closed in ’75), in Paupack, PA, near the PA/NY border. We can almost hear the sound of 200 boys resounding through the woods and across Fairview Lake. With family and camp friends around us it’s been a wonderful week. Had a good Memorial Day reunion in the Detroit area w/long-time “Y” staff friends on our drive East. Looking forward to the July cluster and San Diego in September.”

Carl Gieseke (Fresno) – Carl has been in and out of the hospital several times these past few months. The good news is that he seems to have completely recovered and is getting up and around four to five hours a day!! Carl celebrated his 85th birthday in April with cards, calls and visits from family and friends. A “party” was held at LifeSpring Church for him after services. He recently went to the Fresno Chaffee Zoo with Terry and Kathy Horak.

Marty & Mary Hanzlik (Novato) – “Here is a YMCA story: We just hired a new Marin Y Executive by the name of Tim Byrd and are extremely pleased. He was born and raised here in Novato and his parents and family went to our church (still do) so have known him since diapers. When he was a teen and just out of high school he did the membership desk, teen work and camp at the Marin Y. We often said then here is a future Y professional that carries the Y flame. He has been in the East Bay and at El Camino branch on the Peninsula and we fortunately, amidst a strong field, got him to come home. The flame continues…

Rich & Susan Hill (Estes Park, CO & Green Valley, AZ) – “In mid May we left Green Valley, AZ for Estes Park, Co. We drove our new RV pulling our car so that it would be in Estes Park in mid July.

We are volunteering at the YMCA of the Rockies beginning on May 16 and ending on June 24. That is six weeks of work. I am working in the woodshop building great projects and having a great time. Susan and two other women are peopling the Information Desk in the main building. We have enough free time to visit family (two daughters and family live here) and friends.

On June 25th we are flying to NYC to join a group traveling the next day to South Africa. We are staying in Cape Town for 4 days, then staying with families in Jo’burg and ending with a 4-day safari. Hoping to photo the 5 big animals – Lion, Giraffe, Elephant, Rhinoceros and Hippopotamus. Our return flight is likely to be 24 hours, so we are going to stay in a cabin at the Y for three days to recover.

Then on July 13 we are driving the RV from Estes to friends in Ohio, our daughter’s new home in upstate NY, friends in PA with the Virginia Atlantic seashore as the eastern most destination. Our trip back home in AZ begins on August 5 with a stop in Yorktown, VA for Susan’s brother’s birthday, then to Nashville, Little Rock (Clinton Library), Austin (LBJ Library), San Antonio and arriving home in Green Valley on August 20. Ready for the monsoons – we hope.”
Terry & Kathy Horak (Fresno) have made several trips to Santa Maria to visit Kathy’s parents and their grandchildren. Kathy went with her parents on a ten-day trip to the mid-west to see a nephew graduate from college. They have also spent a lot of time with long-time friend Carl Gieseke including a trip on Memorial Day to the Fresno Chaffee Zoo (see photo with Carl’s news).  

Jerry & Pat James (Lincoln) Here is a photo of our son, Rick James and me. He was “hooded” a few weeks ago with his doctorate in Mechanical Engineering from Southern Methodist University in Dallas, TX. The other photo is Pat and I celebrating 49 years of marriage and enjoying a meal at Tahoe Joe’s last evening. June 1 was our anniversary. 

Jim and Mary Lipscomb (Albuquerque) have visited their 7 grandchildren in Ventura and Santa Barbara and attended their oldest grandson’s graduation. He will follow his uncle to San Diego State next fall. “We have enjoyed meeting monthly with the New Mexico cluster of the Grand Canyon Chapter for lunch. We have explored quite a few wineries for lunch and tasting!”

Robin & Ann McDonald (Fresno) “We seem to be doing pretty good. Both of us are dealing with some muscular and joint problems and some of our activities have been slowed down. We only have three trips planned at this time. One it to the coast at Cambria, CA. One is to Sacramento for the Bronzan Family Reunion. This will be held at the annual Croatian Extravaganza festival. The last trip is to Ann’s nephews Wedding. Hope all is well with everyone.”

Dave & Joyce Mercer (Vancouver, WA) – “The big news for us is that we have moved. Only 10 miles away from Portland, but in another state. We now live on a golf course with a big pond in front. What a deal! New address: 15408 SE 35th St. Vancouver, WA, 98683. New e-mail: Davidmercer@comcast.net. Our new phone: 360-235-1824. For a change we have stayed home to make this move.” The photo was taken by Doug Sprague and shows Dave and Joyce and Ginny Sprague.

Bill & Joanne Newton (Orangevale) are looking forward to family reunions this summer starting with the 34th annual Newton reunion in June at Lake Tahoe’s Sugar Pine Point State Park. RV’s and tents will cover the area for 4 days of fun, fellowship and the always-popular Saturday-nite potluck. Joanne’s triennial family reunion in July take place in Springfield, IL (Joanne’s birthplace) for a 3 day celebration featuring a real special service for 3 babies that died soon after birth (one being Joanne’s twin). Small head stones were recently placed at the gravesites since Joanne’s parents were unable to afford doing this at the time of deaths. Joanne is looking forward to seeing her 4 sisters and many Philbrook relatives. This entire family for years has challenged each other in the game of pinochle.

Doug & Ginny Sprague (South Lake Tahoe & Lincoln) spent two weeks in Pennsylvania in May, visiting Ginny’s family. They experienced a tornado warning. There were very hard winds and a heavy thunderstorm, which took down a lot of trees. But no tornado. They also drove to Georgia to visit friends, and back to Pa. They have moved back to Tahoe for the summer and fall. Ginny is getting in gear to play tennis, and Doug is helping the high school move into its new $7M video complex. They look forward to welcoming YOU to the McCoy Tahoe Cluster.

Don & Rosella Zerwer (Lincoln) – Don celebrated St. Patrick’s Day by having an emergency colostomy surgery due to a ruptured colon caused by diverticulitis. A section of his Sigmoid colon was removed and he is currently wearing an ostomy pouch (bag). If all goes well a reversal surgery will be performed in July or August and he will no longer have to wear a pouch. Rosella, who gets faint at the sight of blood, should get an award for doing the daily incision dressing changes for 6 weeks. Later in June they are looking forward to a weekend in Grant Grove with friends followed by a couple weeks at their Westlake Village condo. They will help celebrate 2nd grandson’s 1st birthday while down south.
Greg & Chris O’Brien (Petaluma) – “We had a great trip to Alaska and here is a photo for the newsletter. It was a 12-day cruise, and we saw many bald eagles, whales, and glaciers. The highlight of the trip was a private butler waiting on us hand and foot.”

John McKinley

April 9, 1919 – May 30, 2011

John died peacefully on Memorial Day after a brief illness, surrounded by his wife Jackie and children. He was 92. He had just returned from a wonderful two-week vacation with his family in Missouri. While there he visited with a daughter and her husband, 5 married grandchildren, and he especially had a grand time getting reacquainted with 15 of his 21 great grandchildren. He also attended the graduation of a grandson from the University of Missouri who became a dentist. The grandson was also inducted into the Air Force and John was invited to pin his Captain bars on during the ceremony. John and Jackie celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary last spring with a trip to Yosemite.

He and Jackie were residents of Danville. John was raised in Richmond, Stockton and Oakland. He enjoyed 41 years of marriage to Dorothy Dye, until her death in 1983. They raised 4 children. John served in the Navy during WWII. He was Executive of the Golden West (now Stonestown) Branch of the YMCA of San Francisco from 1949-1955. He enjoyed 19 successful years as an administrator at Chabot College in Hayward. John married Jackie (formerly Fridell) in 1985. Their love of travel took them all over the world.

He is survived by wife, Jackie; a brother; four children, two step children; 13 grandchildren; and 21 great-grandchildren.

Bay Area Cluster Meets on June 22nd

A special thanks to Dan Logan, Ron Markillie, and Pam Sheble for their leadership in planning the first meeting of a new McCoy Bay Area cluster. This meeting will be on June 22 at the Palo Alto YMCA, 3412 Ross Rd. Palo Alto, from 10:00-11:30. The focus of the meeting is to finalize plans for the new cluster. Lunch and a tour of Google will take place shortly afterwards. The tour is limited to the first 12 who respond.

Invitations were extended via phone and e-mail to YMCA retirees and their spouses in the San Francisco, Peninsula, South Bay and Central Coast areas. Unfortunately the timing of this issue of the newsletter was too late to promote it, but we will have news of what was decided in the next issue.

Contact Ron Markille for more info: ronmarkilie@comcast.net

See The Real McCoy in Color

Have you checked out the AYR Website and added it to your bookmarks? You’ll find this newsletter there in color and full information on the San Diego Reunion. Go to: www.yretiree.org
The third annual Cinco de Mayo party hosted by Jerry and Pat James attracted 15 members of the McCoy Chaper. It was held at the James’ log cabin on their son-in-law’s ranch in Lincoln.

A silent auction raised $360 to help the tornado damaged Tuscaloosa County YMCA replace its youth baseball equipment.

Carolyn Ortmeyer & Jean Crichton
Ralph & Barbara Drake
Marty & Mary Hanzlik
Lori & Jean Crichton
Al & Betty Olson
Doug & Ginny Sprague
Don & Rosella Zerwer

Jerry James welcoming the group to Cinco de Mayo Party.

Singing Y Camp songs led by guitarist Jolene Pringle, the wife of the James’ pastor. Because of the heat our “campfire” was held indoors.

Our gracious hosts Jerry & Pat. Pat cooked a delicious enchilada and tamales luncheon. This backdrop was also provided by Lori Crichton.

Ginny Sprague tossing a ring on the Saguaro cactus. Games, decorations, sombreros, displays, etc were all provided by Lori Crichton.

Carolyn Ortmeyer was the winner of the ring toss game. She took home a dozen very fresh eggs laid by the James’ hens.
We want to acknowledge all wedding anniversary dates, so please send us yours using the "return slip" found on page 12.

Congratulations and best wishes to the following couples:

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<th>Years</th>
<th>Couples</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>62</td>
<td>Andy &amp; Barbara Balerud</td>
<td>June 12</td>
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<tr>
<td>61</td>
<td>Mary &amp; Marty Hanzlik</td>
<td>Aug 19</td>
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<td>58</td>
<td>Bob &amp; June Tacy</td>
<td>June 21</td>
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<td>53</td>
<td>Dave &amp; Joyce Mercer</td>
<td>Aug 23</td>
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<td>Jerry &amp; Karen Nutter</td>
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<td>51</td>
<td>Art &amp; Pat Bergthold</td>
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<td>50</td>
<td>Ralph &amp; Barbara Drake</td>
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<td>49</td>
<td>Jerry &amp; Patricia James</td>
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<td>48</td>
<td>Hank &amp; Jo Bagelman</td>
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<td>47</td>
<td>Richard &amp; Susan Hill</td>
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<td>Bruce &amp; Susan Ahlquist</td>
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<td>41</td>
<td>Don &amp; Jan Greer</td>
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<td>31</td>
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<td>30</td>
<td>Mike &amp; Jan Murphy</td>
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<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Mary &amp; Everett Archer</td>
<td>Aug 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Liz Gallegos &amp; Joe Glynn</td>
<td>July 7</td>
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Please let us know your birthday so we can light a candle for you.
EAF Report
— By Pearl Carpenter
EAF Chairperson

Emergency Assistance Fund
A Tortoise and a Hare

We’ve started the 2011 EAF donation year like a tortoise. Due to unforeseen circumstances, our campaign began with a later than usual mailing. As a result, we have received pledges from 317 Y retirees totaling $30,612, an amount smaller than last year.

On the reverse side, we have already awarded 14 grants totally $68,163 with two additional maximum grants pending this year. So you can see that we need to send the Hare on the run, so we can get that turtle moving.

AYP sends out three mailings per year, so be on the lookout for the next EAF solicitation letter with the appropriate form. Direct withdrawal from your checking account is offered, which saves writing a check and the cost of a postage stamp.

I know you’ve heard me say this many times, but one never knows when disaster strikes. It could be ill health with overwhelming bills, a natural disaster, or a serious accident that puts one of our fellow YMCA active staff or retirees in need of financial assistance. A grant from EAF has been a godsend to many and is truly appreciated. Any amount you can pledge is a blessing to share with others.

So hare-y up and send in your pledge, so we can make the tortoise our winner of the year. But we do know who the real winners are – it’s all of us who give and those who receive!!!

You may mail your pledge to: Assoc. of YMCA Professionals, Stitzer YMCA Center, Springfield College, 263 Alden St., Springfield, MA 01109 and let them know you are from the McCoy Chapter.

Pearl

Health Report
— By Doug Sprague
Health Chairperson

If you would like to report a health matter for The Real McCoy, please tell Doug by phone at (530) 541-8960 or by email: dougandginny@sbcglobal.net. Everyone seems to be fairly healthy right now. Here are a few recent updates:

Carl Gieseke, was in and out of the hospital several times last month. He’s out of the hospital and seems to be improving. See “Member News” for more about Carl.

Raymond Carpenter had knee replacement surgery in February. Pearl reports that he is walking very well, but isn’t ready for clog dancing yet.

Gerry and Jeannie Morse are doing well. They send best wishes for good health to you all.

Betty and Al Olson are on the mend. Al is 85 to 90% recuperated from his prostate surgery, and is back to flying. Betty is fighting to get her energy level up.

Don Zerwer had emergency surgery in March for a burst diverticulum in the lining of his colon. He was in Intensive Care for a week, and in the hospital for another week. He is doing well, and is back at the computer to do this issue of "The Real McCoy". He will give you more details in “Member News.”

Stay Well,

Stay well,

"My doctor told me to avoid any unnecessary stress, so I didn’t open his bill."

Doug
Japan YMCA and the Earthquake and Tsunami Update

Mr. Shigeru Shimada, National General Secretary of the National Council of YMCAs of Japan, reports that more than 12,600 people have died, nearly 17,000 are missing and 157,600 have been displaced as a result of the March earthquake and tsunami. The devastation remains great, and the loss is too much to bear, but the Japanese YMCAs are resolute. They continue to forge ahead with—and expand—their efforts to assist vulnerable populations, including children and youth, the elderly, the disabled and foreign citizens.

The National Council of YMCAs of Japan has established a five-year disaster relief and recovery plan. The Japan Y’s goal is to raise $3.7 million (US) to support this plan. More information can be found on the Japan Y’s web site at www.ymcajapan.org. To date, individuals and Y’s across the United States have donated more than $215,000 to the Japan YMCA Relief Fund.

If you would like to help, please give to the Japan YMCA Relief Fund
YMCA of USA
101 N. Wacker Drive
Chicago, IL 60606

Will Rogers’ Sayings

- There are two theories to arguing with a woman. Neither works.
- Never miss a good chance to shut up.
- Never kick a cow chip on a hot day.
- Good judgment comes from experience, and a lot of that comes from bad judgment.
- Lettin’ the cat outta the bag is a whole lot easier’n puttin’ it back.
Editor’s Note:

We welcome Eileen Murray as a columnist for The Real McCoy. She has chosen “Six Degrees” for the title of her column. It reminds me of the expression “Six degrees of separation” which refers to the idea that everyone is on average only six steps away from any other person and that a chain of “a friend of a friend” statements can be made, on average, to connect any two people in six steps or fewer. I suspect that YMCA retirees are likely only 2 or 3 steps from being connected with each other. I have a hunch that we will all know or know about most of the Y people with whom Eileen has worked.

Don Zerwer, Editor

Thoughts...

- They told me I was gullible and I believed them.
- I used to be indecisive. Now I’m not sure.
- Is it me -- or do buffalo wings taste like chicken?
- All I ask is a chance to prove that money can’t make me happy.
Don’t tell me! You haven’t signed up yet to attend our upcoming Reunion 2011 in San Diego, CA? Folks, you will be missing a really special opportunity to see old friends, be entertained by outstanding and humorous speakers, and relax at a beautiful resort in the heart of San Diego, the most beautiful vacation city in California. No arguments from Northern California about that, please!

Southwest Airlines is offering special rates from various cities around the country. Go to www.southwest.com on Tuesdays when their special offers come out, if you don’t already get these offers automatically in your email. And remember, you can check one suitcase per person with Southwest with no additional fee. What a deal!

I lived in San Diego for many years before we migrated up to Davis to be near our family. And I’ve never heard of staying in a resort hotel for $99.00/night in recent years in the heart of the city. And the parking fee was reduced for our group to something very nominal, like $4.00 a day. Don’t quote me on that. I’m using my memory on that one. And the reunion committee has continued the reduced registration fee to boot. This is a bargain you can’t miss!!!!!

I’m pleased to report that we have 17 McCoy members registered. I hope those of you who haven’t signed up yet will decide this is not to be missed. We want as many McCoy members in attendance as possible to show off what a great chapter to which we belong. See you in San Diego in September!!!!

Pearl Carpenter
Hospitality Chairperson
AYR Reunion 2011

McCoy Chapter AYR Return Slip

Name(s) ___________________________________________ Phone _____________________
Street Address _____________________________________________ Email ______________________
City/State _________________________________________________ Zip ________________________

McCoy Chapter Dues/Contribution for 2010-11 (Dues are $15/couple or $10/single) Our current dues period is October 1, 2010 – September 30, 2011. Check your address label and if you are current it will say “Expires 9/30/11.” If your label says “inactive” or “new” and you would like to join, please return your check and this slip to the address below. If you would like to include an extra contribution to help subsidize the costs printing and mailing this newsletter, we thank you. Dues and contributions are tax deductible.

Make check payable to McCoy Chapter AYR Total Amount Enclosed: $______

News for Real McCoy – Updates on yourself, your family, favorite hobby, volunteer work, recognitions, photos, etc. News and photos may also be sent direct to Don Zerwer, see page 2 for details.

Birth Date (Month & Day) Retiree ________ Spouse ________
Wedding Anniversary (Month, Day and Year) ____________________

Return to: Al Olson, Treasurer, McCoy AYR, 24451 Shel Max Rd., Oak Run, CA 96069