

Nevada Seniors Coalition, Inc.

A better quality of life for seniors, their children and grand children

The

NSC FOGHORN

TM



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December 13, 2012

Special Points of Interest

Special Sessions & Special People

By Knight Allen, NSC Director of Legislation

Thoughts on the election: Oh well...

The American people are clearly closely but deeply divided and both parties seem to be OK with that as long as each of them is getting a relatively equal piece of the pie. So, the Federal government is divided just the way it was, while Republicans picked up a couple more governorships. And the band plays on.

Here in Nevada the passage of Q1 was very disappointing. One party is now only three seats away from having the two thirds majority in both Houses of the Legislature needed to call themselves into special session. In fact, all they really need is three defectors (2 Senators & 1 Assemblyman) from the other party to go to Carson City and pass anything they want without the Executive branch veto to restrain them. Unchecked legislative power is very dangerous. Watch it unfold in California. You'll see what I mean.

Last month was the 32nd Anniversary of the MGM fire on 11/21/80 – There were several articles and photo essays of that day and they all served to remind me of one of the most interesting days I've ever experienced. Like most, I woke up to the news on the radio and immediately turned on my TV to see what a surreal scene was playing out right in front of my eyes. Back on the radio I heard a request for volunteers from a group that was trying to confirm the whereabouts of the MGM employees. Obviously things were pretty chaotic at that time and accounting for everybody was an important priority. It was about 11 a.m. when I arrived at the office and joined a handful of people dialing like crazy to confirm the employee was OK. Fortunately the vast majority of calls went well. A few didn't but it was still pretty early so there was no sense of panic. By around 6 p.m. we had gotten through the list and the lady running the operation asked me if I would drive her around. In all honesty I don't know what she was doing but I'd watched her working throughout that long day and was more than happy to be her wheels. It was at the Convention Center I got my eyes opened to what a remarkable place I was living in. Las Vegas had loaded the building with supplies – cots, bedding, clothing and food. Everything you can think of was there for the refugees of the fire. What really boggled my mind was that they were coming in with things but in several instances they were leaving with people. Many Las Vegas opened their homes to the victims of the fire.

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Dear Editor,
I am eighty years old
Some of my little friends
say there is no Santa
Claus. Papa says if
you see it in the sun
it's so. Please tell
me the truth, is there
a Santa Claus?
Virginia O'Grady
115 W. 95 St.

Original letter, from Virginia O'Grady (below), asking the editor of New York City's "The Sun" newspaper about the existence of

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I had been in Las Vegas six years. I had experienced a level of success I couldn't even have imagined and yet I never really felt a connection to this town – on 11/21/80 I truly became a Las Vegan.

How about you? Were you here that day – any stories to tell? Let me know and I'll try to pass them on in future columns.

In the spirit of 11/21/80 I offer you all my best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year.

Knight can be reached at: knightallen702@yahoo.com

Is There a Santa Claus?

We take pleasure in answering at once and thus prominently the communication below, expressing at the same time our great gratification that its faithful author is numbered among the friends of THE SUN:

"DEAR EDITOR: I am 8 years old.

"Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus.

"Papa says 'If you see it in THE SUN it's so.'

"Please tell me the truth; is there a Santa Claus?

" VIRGINIA O'HANLON.

" 115 WEST NINETY-FIFTH STREET."

VIRGINIA, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds. All minds, VIRGINIA, whether they be men's or children's, are little. In this great universe of ours man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect, as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowledge.

Yes, VIRGINIA, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! how dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus. It would be as dreary as if there were no VIRGINIAS. There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyments, except in sense and sight. The eternal light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.



Newsman Francis Pharcellus Church wrote the answer.



Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies! You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas Eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if they did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen and unseeable in the world.

You may tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, nor even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived, could tear apart. Only faith, fancy, poetry, love, romance, can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernal beauty and glory beyond. Is it all real? Ah, VIRGINIA, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding.

No Santa Claus! Thank God! he lives, and he lives forever. A thousand years from now, VIRGINIA, nay, ten times ten thousand years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood.

“Please Don’t Quote Me”

“Yesterday, December 7, 1941—a date which will live in infamy—the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked by naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan.

The United States was at peace with that nation, and, at the solicitation of Japan, was still in conversation with its government and its emperor looking toward the maintenance of peace in the Pacific. Indeed, one hour after Japanese air squadrons had commenced bombing in the American island of Oahu, the Japanese ambassador to the United States and his colleague delivered to our secretary of state a formal reply to a recent American message. While this reply stated that it seemed useless to continue the existing diplomatic negotiations, it contained no threat or hint of war or armed attack.

It will be recorded that the distance of Hawaii from Japan makes it obvious that the attack was deliberately planned many days or even weeks ago. During the intervening time the Japanese government has deliberately sought to deceive the United States by false statements and expressions of hope for continued peace.

The attack yesterday on the Hawaiian Islands has caused severe damage to American naval and military forces. I regret to tell you that very many American lives have been lost. In addition, American ships have been reported torpedoed on the high seas between San Francisco and Honolulu.

Yesterday the Japanese government also launched an attack against Malaya.

Last night Japanese forces attacked Hong Kong.

Last night Japanese forces attacked Guam.

Last night Japanese forces attacked the Philippine Islands.

Last night Japanese forces attacked Wake Island.

And this morning the Japanese attacked Midway Island.

Japan has, therefore, undertaken a surprise offensive extending throughout the Pacific area. The facts of yesterday and today speak for themselves. The people of the United States have already formed their opinions and well understand the implications to the very life and safety of our nation. As commander in chief of the Army and Navy I have directed that all measures be taken for our defense. But always will our whole nation remember the character of the onslaught against us. . . . “

President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, **December 8, 1941**

“I should like to say just a word to the women in the country tonight. I have a boy at sea on a destroyer, for all I know he may be on his way to the Pacific. Two of my children are in coast cities on the Pacific. Many of you all over the country have boys in the services who will now be called upon to go into action. You have friends and families in what has suddenly become a danger zone. You cannot escape anxiety. You cannot escape a clutch of fear at your heart and yet I hope that the certainty of what we have to meet will make you rise above these fears.”

First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt, On her Sunday evening radio show, Sunday evening, **December 7, 1941**

Hono-lulu after Pearl Harbor: A report published for the first time, 71 years later



(Courtesy of Elizabeth P. McIntosh) - Elizabeth P. McIntosh interviews a U.S. sailor in Hono-lulu. She wrote an account of the days after the Dec. 7, 1941, attack on Pearl Harbor, which her editors decided not to publish. It appears here the first time.

Firefighters from the Hickam Air Force Base carried the victims in. The men had a red T marked on their foreheads, mute testimony of the efficiency of first-aiders in giving tetanus shots to ward off lock-jaw. The body of a man with a monogrammed shirt, H.A.D., was marked DOA (dead on arrival), trundled off to make room for victims who were still breathing.

There was blood and the fear of death — and death itself — in the emergency room as doctors calmly continued to treat the victims of this new war. Interns were taping up windows to prevent them from crashing into the emergency area as bombs fell and the dead and wounded continued to arrive. I had never known that blood could be so bright red.

Returning to the city, I felt a mounting sense of fear as Honolulu began to realize that more was in the air than an Army alert.

I went to a bombed store on King Street, where I often, in times past, stopped for a Coke at the cool drug counter.

Seven little stores, including my drugstore, had nearly completely burned down. Charred, ripply walls, as high as the first story, alone remained to give any hint of where the store had been. At the

smashed soda fountain was a half-eaten chocolate sundae. Scorched bonbons were scattered on the sidewalk. There were odd pieces lying in the wreckage, half-burned Christmas cards, on one, the words “Hark the Herald” still visible. There were twisted bedsprings, half-burned mattresses, cans of food, a child’s blackened bicycle, a lunch box, a green raveled sweater, a Bang-Up comic book, ripped awnings.

I ran out of notepaper and reached down and picked up a charred batch of writing paper, still wet from a fire hose. There was, too, the irony of Christmas tinsel, cellophane, decorations. A burned doll, with moving eyes, singed curls and straw bonnet, like a miniature corpse, lay in the wreckage.

That Sunday after dusk there was the all-night horror of attack in the dark. Sirens shrieking, sharp, crackling police reports and the tension of a city wrapped in fear.

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Then, in the nightmare of Monday and Tuesday, there was the struggle to keep normal when planes zoomed overhead and guns cracked out at an unseen enemy. There was blackout and suspicion riding the back of wild rumors: Parachutists in the hills! Poison in your food! Starvation and death were all that was left in a tourist bureau paradise.

I talked with evacuees. From Hickam, a nurse who had dropped to the floor in the hospital kitchen as machine gun bullets dotted a neat row of holes directly above her; from Schofield, a woman who wanted me to send word to her sweetheart “somewhere in Honolulu” that she was still alive; from Pearl Harbor, a nurse who wanted scraps of paper and pencil stubs to give to the boys in the hospital who had last messages they wanted sent home; a little girl named Theda who had a big doll named Nancy and who told me in a quiet voice that “Daddy was killed at Hickam.”

At the office there were frantic calls from all sorts of women — housewives, stenographers, debutantes — wanting to know what they could do during the day, when husbands and brothers were away and there was nothing left but to listen to the radio and imagine that all hell had broken out on another part of the island.

It was then that I realized how important women can be in a war-torn world.

There is a job for every woman in Hawaii to do.

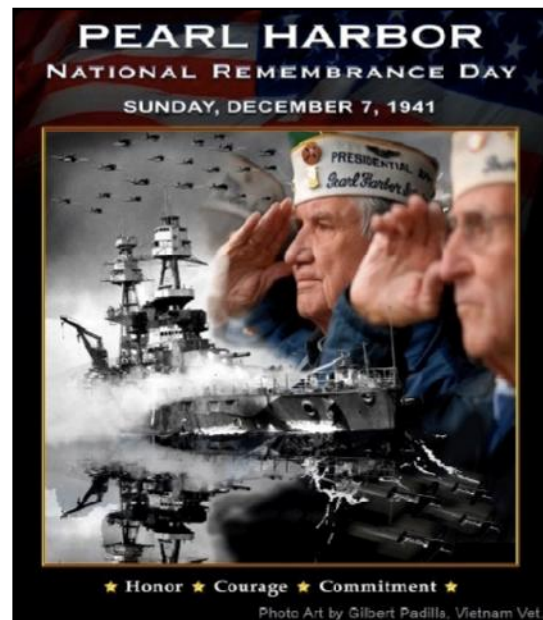
I discovered that when I visited the Red Cross centers, canteens, evacuee districts, the motor corps headquarters.



Betty McIntosh's account of the attack on Pearl Harbor went unpublished until today. Now 97, she's still sharp as a whip and speaks to a reporter about what she remembers from that infamous day and her later work as a wartime spy.

There is great organization in Honolulu, mapped out thoughtfully and competently by women who have had experience in World War I, who have looked ahead and foreseen the carnage of the past seven days and planned.

After her journalism career, **Elizabeth P. McIntosh** served in the Office of Strategic Services and the Central Intelligence Agency before retiring to Prince William County. She is the author of four books.



At the November Meeting

Our speaker at this meeting was Tim Kiersz from NV energy who spoke about the Senior Energy Ambassador program which involves energy conservation. The slide presentation covered all aspects of energy efficiency and conservation. This included what uses the most electricity and what to do to save money. There are many residential and other programs that can help you accomplish this.

Those that did not attend this meeting can download the slide presentation on the Internet at:

http://www.swenergy.org/news/news/documents/file/Senior_Energy_Ambassador1.pdf

Members

Renewing Members:

- *Bernice Borge*
- *Margaret P. Cummings*
- Mark & Malony Schofield*

Thanks for your continued support



To all the members that help us, especially Ted and Mark & Maloney Schofield.



**HAPPY
HANUKAH**

Your membership anniversary date is on the Foghorn Mailing label. If the label is **RED**, please renew your membership, either by mail, or at the next meeting you attend. Your name is removed from the membership list 90 days after expiration.

Membership dues are \$10.00 per person.





From the Editor

“We’re not discussing the affairs of the clean-living church choir, but members of the equivalent of the chimp cage in the Washington Zoo”.

LVRJ columnist John L. Smith describing the U.S. Congress in his 10/17/2012 COMMENTARY column.

The Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada (RTC), *ITN Las Vegas Valley* (ITN) and Easter Seals Southern Nevada have partnered to provide transportation to Paratransit-eligible residents who live in and near Henderson.

What is the purpose of this partnership ?

The RTC received requests to expand transportation service into the Anthem and Seven Hills areas for quite some time. In order to service Anthem and Seven Hills which is outside the current service area, the RTC has partnered with Easter Seals and ITN to provide senior transportation and ADA Paratransit services.

Who is ITN Las Vegas Valley?

ITN Las Vegas Valley provides rides to seniors 60 years of age and older. The service is door-through-door, arm-through-arm and available 24/7 any time, anywhere for any purpose whatsoever.

What is ADA Paratransit?

The RTC's Paratransit Service is a shared-ride, door-to-door program available for those who are determined unable to use the RTC's fixed-route system (i.e., the bus).

How do I become Paratransit-eligible?

The reservation-based door-to-door service is available to customers who have been certified eligible through an evaluation process which is based on one's ability to use the fixed-route system and is determined through an in-person functional ability assessment process. The

assessments are conducted by third party professionals. Applicants must appear in person to take part in the assessment. Medical information from a physician is considered in the assessment, though doctors cannot prescribe Paratransit service. To schedule an appointment, call 676-1815.

Can I use ITN's service without Paratransit certification?

ITN's service is available to seniors 60+ who live in or near Henderson. To take advantage of the service, seniors become dues paying members.

How do I join ITN?

Clients may contact *ITN Las Vegas Valley* or apply for membership at:
8965 S. Eastern Ave.
Ste. 120F
Las Vegas, NV 89123
Phone: 702-506-0917
E-mail: info@itnlasvegasvalley.org

VERN

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be Thursday, January 10th starting at 10 a.m. at >>>>>>>>>>



After the meeting why don't you eat and play, and stay all day?

The January 2013 Speaker will be:

Las Vegas Review Journal Editor

Michael Hengel

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Liaison

December 13, 1862

The Battle of Fredericksburg

On December 13, 1862, Confederate General Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia defeated General Ambrose Burnside's Army of the Potomac at Fredericksburg, Virginia. This was one of the most decisive losses for the Union army, dealing a serious blow to Northern morale in the winter of 1862-63.

Burnside replaced George McClellan as head of the Army of the Potomac in November 1862 after McClellan failed to pursue Lee into Virginia following the Battle of Antietam in Maryland on September 17. Burnside immediately planned to move against the Confederate capital at Richmond, Virginia which required a rapid march by the Federals from their positions in northern Virginia to Fredericksburg on the Rappahannock River. Burnside planned to cross the river at Fredericksburg and then continue south. The Union campaign began promisingly. The army moved quickly down the Rappahannock, but then bogged down across the river from Fredericksburg. Poor execution of orders delayed placing a pontoon bridge across the river for several days. The delay allowed Lee to place his troops along Marye's Heights above Fredericksburg. The Confederates were in a sunken road protected by a stone wall, looking down on the open slopes that stretched from the edge of Fredericksburg. The Confederate position was so strong that one Rebel officer claimed "**a chicken could not live on that field when we open on it.**"

However Burnside decided to attack regardless. On **December 13**, he ordered 14 attacks against the Confederate lines. Although the Union artillery was effective against the Confederates, the 600-yard field was a killing ground for

The Nevada Seniors Coalition, Inc. (NSC) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization. No person is excluded on the basis of race, sex, religion or national origin.

The organization's purpose is to promote the physical and social welfare of senior citizens, their children and grandchildren.

The organizations' goals and objectives are:

- Improvement of political and governmental institutions and processes on local, state and federal levels.
- Identify legislative trends at all levels and set NSC priorities.
- Support domestic policies responsive to the needs and will of the Nevada senior population.
- Work to involve more seniors in government. to assure government is open, responsive and accountable.
- Keep members and the general public informed on current issues affecting them. Encourage them to make their voices heard at all government levels.
- Work with other organizations in a common endeavor when their issues and programs coincide with those of NSC.

the attacking Yankees. No Union soldiers reached the wall at the top of Marye's Heights, and few even came within 50 yards of it. "**It is well that war is so horrible, or else we should grow too fond of it,**" Lee remarked to General James Longstreet as they watched the carnage. Many of the Union dead and wounded froze during the bitterly cold night.

Burnside wanted to continue the attack on December 14, but his subordinates urged him to stop. A truce was called on December 15 so that the Union could collect their dead and wounded soldiers. Under the cover of darkness and rain, Burnside retreated northward. The one-sided nature of the battle was shown by the casualty figures. The Union suffered around 12,650 killed and wounded, while Lee lost only about 4,200 men. Burnside was replaced by General Joseph Hooker as commander of the Army of the Potomac in January 1863.

On July 3, 1863 this defeat was avenged by the Union Army at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. The Union troops yelled, "Fredericksburg, Fredericksburg", as what was left of the 15,000 Confederates retreated back to their lines after suffering a terrible defeat that was the turning point in the U.S. Civil War.