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"Why do psychics have to ask you for your name?"

# BALBOA BEACON



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## RUPERT IMORTALIZED ON FILM

Well, **Phoebe Shackeroff, Seal Beach**, did it! For months she chased Rupert the black swan's human friends around the harbor to make a film worthy of Rupert's memory. She entered it in the Newport Beach Film Festival and the documentary was accepted.



Ooh are we excited for her and our best friend Rupert! Talking to Phoebe she told us, "For now, the title is just "Rupert." It's a short documentary (24 minutes) about Rupert's life, full of

tragedy and comedy, and the outpouring of love for him after he died. We had more than 40 participants in the movie - artists, people with Rupert stories, photographers. Thanks to you, Gay, we had some live video footage of Rupert and Pearl. I also had a fabulous animator named **Daisy Church** animate some scenes from Rupert's life. I think it will be a real treat for the community!

There were so many great Rupert memories (Pg. 3)

## BACK BAY CAMPING AND FISHING

By **John R. Lugo**

George Grupe's Back Bay article (02/22/07) reminded me of the times fishing during the years of 1929-33. When the weather was good and we got out of grammar school on Friday afternoons we would make the



decision to go camping & fishing for the weekend. We would load a row boat, either Burtons or mine with our sleeping

bags, fishing gear, food and head out. We kept out boat close to the Harbor Master's Dock (end of Washington St.) next to the Balboa Pavilion. It would take us about 2 hour and 1/2 to row to the Back Bay and find a place to camp before it got dark. First thing we did was un-load, set up camp and build a fire for the night. At times we would do a little fishing from the shore, then have (Pg. 3)

## BALBOA CHRONICLES CLASSICS

By **George Grupe, Research Historian**

Previously in *Balboa Beacon* 03/010/01

**A Change in the Weather** As I write on this rainy February day I look back on a weather change 58 years ago this week. When we left California it was 70° (3/1/43) and when we arrived in Lincoln NE the temperature would drop to 40° below zero a 110° drop! We would receive no warm Government Issue clothes to protect us. How could this happen?

After the attack on Pearl Harbor, 12/7/41, many of us wanted to be flyers or officers on aircrews. I was one of them. Jan '42 I went to downtown Los Angeles to volunteer to fly for the Army Air Corps, my father had done this (Page 3)

## "SEA" you around BALBOA ISLAND

By **Lynn Semer, Balboa Island/Irvine**

There's something to be said about the 80-degree weather we had in February & now in March, especially



when you come from Denver, Colorado's frigid temperatures. Yes, Lieutenant **James Cosgrove**, his wife **Pam**, & son **Josh** were

literally thawing out in this picture! (Page 3)

## THE GALLEY.....IF IT AIN'T BROKE....

By **Brian White, owner The Galley**

Not many restaurants weather 50 years but *The Galley*, 829 Harbor Island Dr. is a half century this year.



1925 Eddie bought the food concession in Balboa Pavilion a local retirement home and bring him a chocolate malt not a shake (Pg. 6)

"Don't change a thing & you'll do just fine" my grandfather said to me when I asked him what was the most important thing I could do at "The Galley." I

**CHRONICLES** (From page 1) in 1917, WWI. We needed 50,000 pilots. I would be one of them! I was in my first year at Occidental College and waited until Aug. '42 to be called to 6<sup>th</sup> & Main (Pacific Electric Bldg.) Los Angeles where I was tested for flight training, 8/6/42. I was sworn into the Air Corps & told to return to school until called to active duty hopefully in a few weeks. I would wait seven months before I was called.

During the last week of February 2500 young volunteers from San Diego to Seattle & I were told to report. Those from Southern California went to the S. Pacific Train Station in Los Angeles, 3/1/43. We said goodbye to loved ones and boarded a train. We had no idea where we were going. As it turned out neither did the Air Corps. After 2 days we wondered where the hell were we? Someone said, "Look, it's Green River, Wyoming", someone else said "look at the temperature on the water tank", it read 40° below zero! (Later we learned that an epidemic of spinal meningitis had taken place at the base so we were now going to Lincoln, NE.) When we arrived at Lincoln AFB, 15mi from town, it was only 20° below zero with the wind blowing 20-30mph almost all the time.

We were "in the Army now." They hadn't expected us. We were placed in tarpaper barracks with a coal stove. We had to march everywhere-me in my Balboa Island tweed suit, rayon socks and "London Fog" raincoat. We froze indoors or out. Eleven days before we got any warm clothes. 30 days of basic training and we "college boys" really caught it from the non-commissioned enlisted men. In June they moved us to Texas-that's where we found out that a large percentage of us had T. B. or spots on our lungs after we got x-rayed.

It took me 15 months to win my Pilots wings. Was it tough? Yes! Was it worth it? Yes! The wings were a special badge, worn by a special breed of men. We became members of the greatest generation! I shared it with my great Newport friend **Reed Sprinkel**; we both flew B-24's. He flew in Europe and I flew in the Pacific. **George Grupe** ~ 949.721.8090

**MAXWELL'S TRUNK SHOW** - Spring/Summer plus save on our regular stock of finest men's & women's sport & active wear. Saturday March 10am-4pm. Custom order shirts: men - children. Taking 2007 Christmas Shirts orders! 204 Marine Ave., Balboa Island. 949.673.7211

**RUPERT'S in the MOVIES** (From page 1) and antics, we couldn't fit them in this cut. Film festivals want the movies to be as short as possible, when they're not feature-length. But we're going to release a DVD with all of the fun Rupert stories. In some ways, the movie is just a "teaser" for all of the great content on the DVD! I think the DVD will be ready for 4th of July. Editing the Rupert stories has been like a daily dose of good cheer. I imagine that people will be able to use the DVD to get their daily Rupert-fix -- a shot of laughter!

<http://www.RupertTheSwan.com> our website will be up soon: -- we'll post updates on the film as they come

in: screenings, awards, press, DVD availability, etc. Kindly, **Phoebe** If you would like to contact Phoebe: [phoebephilms@hotmail.com](mailto:phoebephilms@hotmail.com) or call Beacon 949.673.9575

"Rupert" the short documentary is also looking for sponsors to help offset the cost. Phoebe is determined to go low-environmental-impact using organic cotton T-shirts since Rupert & Pearl were affected by urban runoff and pollutants. Also she is going to try to make all the post cards & DVD packaging out of recycled material with water and soy-based inks (which are way less toxic/polluting than conventional dyes/inks.) They will be a little more expensive to make but she figures that if she is going to put her money where her mouth is when it comes to supporting wildlife that is the thing to do! Water creatures are the most affected by pollutants.

More to come. To contact Phoebe at to see how you can get involved if not on internet you can call **Gay W-K**

**LUGO FUN in BACK BAY** (From page 1) fun fixing our Friday night dinner. If we caught some fish that is what we had for dinner plus some of what food we brought with us. After dinner we washed what we used for dinner and around 9pm we would climb into our sleeping bags, visit a little then fall asleep!

We would awaken around 6-7am Saturday morning-start the fire - go for a short swim then fix breakfast of bacon, eggs & toast. Then we would straighten up our camp area, load the boat with our gear and shove off around 10am and do some fishing. We caught different kinds of fish. Some we kept the rest we threw back in the bay. A few times we would hook up with a large Sting Ray which was strong enough to pull us around the Back Bay for awhile. This was a lot of fun. No point in landing a Sting Ray so we would get him close to the boat and cut the line. He was free and so were we to fool around in the Back Bay. We then looked for another place to camp on Saturday night if we decided to spend the night again. (To be continued) **JL 8334 E. San Marino Dr., Scottsdale AZ 85358 490.998.8117 or [jaylugo@aol.com](mailto:jaylugo@aol.com)**

**BLACKBEARD'** (From page 2) around 4-5 pm all the office workers would jam the places. If one got too crowded they would go to the other one in the Devils Triangle. They shared a parking lot. The Little Mermaid was also close by, remember that one? Today they have all changed names and one hot spot is missing.

**"SEA" BALBOA ISLAND** (From page 1) Within three hours of arriving into John Wayne Airport, renting a car, checking into their hotel, and having lunch at the **Crab Cooker**, I found the Cosgrove family beach walking from Newport Pier to Balboa Pier. We had a conversation about whale watching, and about other fun things to do and places to visit. That afternoon, they had driven their car onto the ferry to cross the bay to Balboa Island. Amazingly, our paths crossed once again on the Little Island. And so, I can officially say, "I'll 'Sea' you around the Island!" **PS.** A tip for out-of-towners, check out the website [www.BalboaBeacon.com](http://www.BalboaBeacon.com) for previous stories and current news, or enjoy having the Balboa Beacon mailed for \$35.00 per year! **LS**