

# Boag - C 'Mr. Cardiff' Receives Big Boy Scout Salute

By BILL NEUBAUER  
Sentinel Staff Writer

They gave a Boy Scout salute straight from the heart to "Mr. Cardiff" recently, and if you don't know who "Mr. Cardiff" is then you don't know much about scouting locally . . . or about a family history here that goes back to 1852.

The salute was given because for 30 years and to some 700 boys in Santa Cruz Darrell Cardiff represented scouting: its lore and ideals, its character-building discipline and horizon-widening activities and inspirational moral values.

Some 85 former scouts and 20 adult scout leaders, with their wives, gave the salute to Cardiff at a recent surprise fete in the Elks Lodge.

The master of ceremonies was Ricky Main, a former troop member, who flew here from Chicago for the party.

There was a plaque for Cardiff, a house plant for his wife, Helen.

It was Helen, you see, who got Cardiff into scouting way back there in 1938, before World War II.

Cardiff had just moved back to his native Santa Cruz from San Francisco to start the first pest control business in the county. Their son, Chuck, had joined the scouts in San Francisco and had attended a few meetings of Troop 83 here at

the East Side Methodist Church, which is now known as Grace Methodist Church.

Problem was, though, that Scoutmaster Joe Bell did not always show up for the meetings, so Helen asked her husband Darrell to give the scoutmaster a hand with the troop.

"The following Thursday I went to a meeting and met Mr. Bell," Cardiff recalled. "He was very glad to see me, gave me a scout handbook to read and a few words of instruction and then left, saying he would see me the next Thursday."

"Well, that Thursday never came because I have never seen Joe Bell again."

For Cardiff, however, the surprising headlong plunge into full responsibility for Troop 83 turned out to be one of the most rewarding experiences of his life.

"That was the start of 30 continuous years of scouting with many boys, with many camp-outs, including jamborees, with fine weeks at the Filmmount Scout Ranch, the 127,000-acre ranch given to scouting by Mr. Waite Phillips of the Phillips Oil Co.

In the troop in 1938 were four boys who attended the recent salute to Cardiff, including Sentinel Photographer Pete Amos and his brother Jim.

Troop 83 later became Troop 17 and came under the sponsorship of the Santa Cruz Optimists.

"I was always 'Mr. Cardiff' to the boys," Cardiff said. "But I was one of them and tried to help them and be a good influence in their lives."

At the fete Cardiff was told he had indeed succeeded in being that good influence.

"What touched me at the evening of appreciation more than anything else was the way the different boys came up and thanked me for being a good influence in their lives. One boy told my wife that his mother had been so busy being a politician in a woman's club that I

## Cal Poly Entrance

Tim Ronda of Santa Cruz, a Santa Cruz High School graduate, is among six Californians to be given honors at entrance to California Polytechnic University (SLO). Ronda will be an architecture major.

was the closet thing he had to being a father.

"A boy, Robert Whitney, came up to thank me for teaching him to told his temper. He said he had learned how to count to 10 and that he had gone to Viet Nam and come out as a master sergeant because he didn't lose his temper very often."

Cardiff brought to the fete considerable mementos of his scouting years, including neckerchiefs, neckerchief slides, four scrapbooks and awards.

Plus the long, long memory of a man who knows and appreciates the value of local history.

Darrell is a member of a true pioneer family. His maternal grandfather left Yellow Bridges, Pa., in 1851 and arrived here April 16, 1852, via the Isthmus of Panama, with his wife and two boys.

Darrell's paternal grandfather, Capt. Thomas Pryce, was a Civil War veteran who, with other ex-soldiers, hired out as guard for a wagon train leaving Independence, Mo. He reached Santa Cruz in 1864.

It was Pryce (Pryce Street is named for him) who purchased 22 acres on the old Santa Cruz-San Jose stagecoach road that is today's Ocean Street. He built a house and planted apple trees. Some of those trees still stand down near the river.

A daughter of this family, Lizzie Pryce, married Darrell's grandfather, Charles Elliott Russell, who became a lumberman and was superintendent of the Santa Clara Co. lumber mill that was situated for years on Mill Street in Ben Lomond. Russell also milled on Love Creek, on Laguna Creek and on the Majors property up the coast. Russell's house still stands on the corner of Mission Street and Town Lane. It was built in 1885 for \$1,500.

His daughter, Louise Russell, married Darrell's father, Robert Louis Cardiff in 1896. On Oct. 17, 1901, Darrell was born in the old Alta building where Woolworth's stands today on the Pacific Avenue Garden Mall. Darrell's grandmother, mother and aunt ran a board-and-room house on the third floor of this building.

Darrell's father became one of the most prominent men here of the early 1900s, manag-

ing the Seaside Company, the Coast Counties Gas and Electric Co., the Union Traction Street Car Co. and the Casa Del Rey Hotel for the S. Waldo Coleman interests. He retired in 1932 when Coast Counties Electric was sold to PG&E.

Darrell graduated from Santa Cruz High School in 1920 and is president of the alumni association. After various jobs elsewhere, he passed the state examination as a licensed pest control operator and established the Cardiff Pest Control service here.

"Rats used to be a big problem on Pacific Avenue," he recalls. "We got into a complete service, from ants and termites to aphids and scale to mice and rats."

Darrell sold this business in 1969.

But there was one fellow at the recent fete who recalled this business very well. And after Helen Cardiff had given a much appreciated slide and movie presentation on scouting here for 30 years, this former scout, John Harwood, brought tears to Darrell's eyes with this statement:

"Everyone is giving praises to this man but I know of many iniquities that have not been presented. I was called at midnight to get Mr. Cardiff out of jail for drunken driving (Cardiff never drank), he put rocks in the knapsacks to toughen us up, he used to employ us at Cardiff Pest Control not for our benefit but as slave labor so he could retire a millionaire."

"But I will pay tribute to Mrs. Cardiff because she never allowed Mr. Cardiff to call up."

Recalling the scouting and the history, the boys and the help of Helen, his wife, Cardiff said: "It was all very nice . . . I won't ever forget."

## Meeting Postponed

The Santa Cruz Port District Commission has postponed its Monday night scheduled meeting to a date to be announced later. The commissioners and city officials met with Congressman Leon Panetta here Friday to discuss harbor and San Lorenzo River problems (see story on page 3).



Darrell Cardiff got this handsome trophy along with a Boy Scout salute recently when he was honored for 30 years of service to some 700 boys as scoutmaster of Santa Cruz Troop 17 (originally Troop 83). Beside him is the lady who got him started in scouting, his wife, Helen Cardiff. At far left is Terry Masamori. At the lectern is Mike Azzaro, program chairman. Some 85 former scouts attended. Note that the ribbon and pendant worn by Cardiff is the Silver Beaver award for community service.

## Health Projects Need Data Ready For Public Inspection

Copies of procedures and criteria proposed for use by the Mid-Coast Health Systems Agency (HSA) in reviewing applications for certificates of need for health projects are now available for public inspection, according to Alan Samuels, HSA executive director.

The material is at the HSA office at 344 Salinas St., Salinas.

Written comments by the interested public must be received by HSA not later than Sept. 2.

The HSA is the health plan-

ning agency for a four-county area that includes Santa Cruz, San Benito, Monterey and San Luis Obispo.

The HSA has announced also that the plan development committee chaired by Linda Bergthold of Santa Cruz will hold a workshop Thursday, 7:30 p.m., to discuss general goals and objectives for the agency. This meeting will be at the Monterey County Office of Education, 901 Blanco Circle, Salinas.

Bergthold said the public is welcome to attend and to participate in the discussion.

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