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# Celebrities WHO HAVE KNOWN ME

by Dan Robertson

Early this week, I ran into Bob Read as he was coming out of the Santa Fe Market. Bob is author of the best-selling "The San Francisco Underground Gourmet" and has been in the papers often, due to various exploits. He is, in other words, a celebrity.

Now you may think it is pretty heady stuff for me to meet an actual celebrity on the doorstep of the Santa Fe Market, but you would be wrong. Bob Read, in reality, is only one of a long list of famous and infamous celebrities who have known me. Roy Rogers has known me, so have Doris Day, Cardinal Spellman, Walter Robertson and Gorgeous George. At least 31 celebrities have known me to date.

In the event, you haven't met many celebrities yourself, you are probably hungry for details of how these famous people have met me. Well, here are a few true highlights of my life among the stars.

One of the first celebrities who ever met me was Rosemary Clooney. I was waiting for an elevator in a building in New York, when she swept into the lobby with two of her toadies. When we got into the elevator, one of the goons said, "Don't push the button. This here is Rosemary Clooney and she wants to go straight to the top floor. You can catch your floor on the way down."

I said, "Rosemary Clooney! Wow! Are you really Rosemary Clooney?" but she just ignored me, bored and disdainful. I

said, "Wow! Rosemary Clooney, huh? Imagine that!" and pushed the button for my floor. As an afterthought just before I got out, I pushed all the other buttons with both hands, and that is how I met Rosemary Clooney. She was famous at that time, but I haven't heard of her since. Maybe she is still in the elevator. It was an awfully tall building.

Another time, as a high school reporter, I had an exclusive interview with a Broadway Actress. On the way to her room, her manager assured me over and over that she was one of Broadway's three best actresses. I was duly impressed, and still am, because of all the celebrities who have met me, she was the most beautiful and gracious. She poured wine, posed for my camera and talked for hours, asking more questions about me than I could possibly think to ask about her. I left hours later, dizzy with love and success, not to mention the wine.

Who was she? Well, hold onto your hats, for she was none other than Anne Harris!

A widow took in a male boarder  
Because they both played the Recorder.  
After weeks of John Dowland  
She threw in the towel and  
Confessed that the instrument bored her!

- Louise Foran

You never heard of Anne Harris? That's odd, but not too odd. I never heard of her until the day she met me, and I have never heard of her since.

Sometimes, my meetings with celebrities have

been quite brief. As an example, I was at Harrah's Club at Lake Tahoe, sleepily tossing the dice one 4 a.m., when a noisy entourage of people approached, with a short, red faced man at their center. By now, I was accustomed to meeting celebrities, so I said, "Hi, Phil, how's it going? Tough to make a buck up here, ain't it?" and Phil Harris, for sure enough it was he himself, said, "Don't bother me, kid," and that is how I met Phil Harris.

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Interesting and sometimes amusing articles from old Richmond and Point Richmond newspapers, courtesy of the Richmond Museum.

April 30, 1913.....

## STREETCAR TRACKS FOR A BED?

... "About one o'clock, as the crew of one of the late cars was returning to the car barns, the motorman saw a man lying in the grass between the tracks but a short distance ahead. He threw on the emergency brake and tried to stop the car, but the fender and front trucks passed over the man. As soon as the car stopped, the motorman jumped off expecting to find the mangled body underneath the wheels. Instead he found the man crawling out from beneath the car unharmed save for a cut on his head. He was rushed back to the West Side to be taken to the hospital, but not being injured he refused any medical treatment and went on his way unaided, to his boarding house on Standard Avenue.

May 1, 1916.....

## HOW TO GET TO L.A.... THE HARD WAY

"Nevermore will Pat Casey, employee of the Standard Oil Company of Richmond, board an ocean going vessel until he has first inquired of the

Captain, the first mate, the ticket taker, the pilot and the deck hands of its destination. Pat was given a vacation by the company and planned on spending the time in Los Angeles. He sent his wife and children by train and planned to make the trip by steamer. Boarding a vessel at the ferry building which he thought was going to the southern metropolis, with \$18 and his ticket, he awoke the next morning to find himself enroute to Australia. As the ship had already made the Farrallones, he decided it was too far to swim

and the walking was not good. Pat is now in Honolulu with his money and job gone and his wife and children mourning him as dead."

April 30, 1917.....

## BREAD GOES TO SIX CENTS !

"Richmond will be paying six cents for bread tomorrow, with evidence of the price taking a second jump to seven and a-half cents per loaf in the immediate future. Large loaves will be twelve cents tomorrow with fifteen cents the next step.

"Wheat is being sold at the highest market prices in history of of this country, and millers are having difficulty in filling orders."

April 27, 1900---the City of Richmond was begun. On April 26, 1900, the Santa Fe started work on its terminus.

April 28, 1921---Four acres of land in Marine View Terrace offered free to the city for a park.. was to have been the city's first park.



# Know Your Neighbors

The house at 37 Crest Avenue looks alive and happy. Last year, while its owners were on a year's "leave", it really seemed to be hibernating. The house first came alive when a bright young couple named Hoiland moved in and began to open up and expand its little rooms so that it could relax among visiting friends and a growing family.

Ed Hoiland, who is an architectural draftsman with Callister and Payne in Marin County, is a native of Richmond. After attending Richmond schools, he majored in architecture at Cal Poly in San Luis Obispo. The firm for which he now works creates entire communities, as well as commercial and school buildings.

Ed's schooling was interrupted by a four-year service in the Air Force, and by a trip to Europe.

Pat, his wife, was born in Los Angeles, and, after traveling with her family to several locations, (her father was in the Army), she finished her schooling from the sixth grade through high school in Chico. She attended U.C. in Berkeley for two years, and decided to take out time for traveling, and spent six months in Europe. She then returned to get her degree and teaching credential at Chico State.

After teaching for two years, in Walnut Creek, she took off again for Europe, this time for seven months, and returned to work in Berkeley at the International House, which she enjoyed greatly, as secretary to counselors for foreign students.

Pat's brother was a classmate of Ed's at Cal Poly, and introduced them. They were married in 1963, and first rented a cottage on Golden Gate Avenue. When their first son, Eric, was born, they found the home on Crest Avenue. Two young couples had preceded them in the old house, each contributing some improvements to its old frame before they left. But when the Hoilands

home became rejuvenated. Eric, who is now four-and-a-half years old, soon had a younger brother, Sten (now three). Almost as familiar to all the neighbors on Crest Avenue as the two delightful little blonde boys is their dog, Charlie, who joined the family shortly before they left last year for Connecticut. Neighborly concern over the long trip by car with two children plus Charlie, led the Crest Avenue residents to collect enough money for air fare for Charlie--both ways!

The Hoilands enjoyed their year in Connecticut, where they lived in a small community of Southbury. Ed worked there on the development of a new community, and the family had the opportunity of living in an almost rural atmosphere for a year. Point Richmond welcomed them back early this year, and the Crest Avenue group had a party that was timed exactly right for their return. They are now settling back down to their Point Richmond activities -- of renovating their house, participating in the Wonderland Nursery School, playing with the Point Richmond Recorder and Giggling Society, and being active citizens of this community.

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Did you ever wonder what a "Yankee" really is? When a person moves to the New England states, we think of them as moving to Yankee territory. To southerners, anyone from the north is a Yankee. But to New Englanders, it is someone from Vermont...and to Vermonters, it is someone who eats apple pie for breakfast. At least, that seems to summarize the findings of the Hoilands, after a year in "Yankee" country.

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## Swimming

Session V of the Youth Learn to Swim Classes at the Richmond Plunge begins on May 5. Classes are at 3:00 and 4:00, and are designed for 5 to 16 year-olds.

The Tiny Tots classes will begin their last session on May 13, and will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10 and 11 a.m. Mothers must accompany their pre-school children to this class, and participate.

For more information on swimming classes, call 234-8202.