

Local

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FRED DICKEY

The Way We Are

Homeless in San Diego, but dreams keep her positive

Transport your mind to this imaginary high school campus. Kids are chattering and wandering about between classes. There's a pretty blonde named Abi over there cradling her books, wearing stylish T.J. Maxx, and just generally throwing off cool.

Boys slow as they pass and say hi with a hopeful little wave. Girls cluster around the leader of their clique. Cheerleader power.

Dream on. That's all the real Abi can do.

Abi is 15 and probably could fit some of the above roles given more favorable circumstances. Alas, circumstances would not be her friend because there is a mountain range of them standing in her way.

The first is her address. She doesn't have one. At present, it's a parking lot on 28th Street that's free to homeless people. That's where I met her when I wrote last week's column on her family, the Garcias.

The family is parked there each night in a '99 Ford Explorer with no place else to go, though they are trying to find one.

They sometimes rent a cheap motel for a night or go to the husband's mother's small apartment for a shower or to cook a meal.

Abi ("Abby") shares the backseat with her sister, Hannah, a year younger. Mom Lisa and stepdad Ramon sleep in the front seat with a 2-year-old daughter who is nursed there by her mother.

The older girls have a different last name, which the mother doesn't want me to use. That's her call.

The family is homeless because it's unable to afford even the cheapest rents in San Diego. Ramon works two full-time restaurant jobs, but they are minimum wage, and that won't get you more than a tent in San Diego.

The family has to leave the parking lot at 6 a.m. every day. With no place else to go, Lisa drives from public park to public library, to fast

SEE DICKEY • B2

MARINES PROBE NOVEMBER AIR CRASH

Pilot errors and lack of training contributed to Hornets' collision

BY CARL PRINE

On Nov. 9, the Marine Corps instructor pilot gazed outside his cockpit and noted nothing but clear blue skies, the sun overhead, a light wind before him and only the smoke from a large fire in Mexico skimming west over the Pacific Ocean 19,000 feet below his F/A-18C Hornet strike fighter. His wingman was green, new to

the "Black Knights" of Miramar's Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 314, and he hadn't flown in a long time. Although he kept insisting over the radio that he had a visual on the instructor, the rookie really seemed to be flying blind as he began arcing left in his turn, toward the instructor.

Over the next 24 seconds, both pilots would begin to rapidly realize that their jets were hurtling toward each other at 403 miles per hour. The instructor tried to bank up and to his right, away from his wingman, but failed.

A loud noise pointed the instruc-

tor to his outer wing panel, now bent straight up. The instructor watched his right aileron break off, "followed by what appeared to be the most of the outer wing."

Jet fuel streamed out of multiple holes and then ignited, the flames running like ivy toward his cockpit. His flight controls failed. The aircraft pitched right before corkscrewing toward the sea. Flames curled over the canopy, and then toward the plane's nose.

He ejected about 30 miles northwest of the Mexican city of Ensenada.

And within hours of his rescue by

Navy helicopters from the carrier Carl Vinson, a probe would begin to find out what went so horribly wrong.

Released to The San Diego Union-Tribune this past week after a Freedom of Information Act request, the thick investigative report appears to have been finished on Jan. 17.

It identifies neither the instructor nor his rookie wingman in the crash by name but finds plenty of fault in how they were trained and led before they took to the air for what was intended to be basic flight

SEE CRASH • B6



PEGGY PEATTIE

San Diego Girl Scout Ava DeMille, 6, offers snacks to Navy veterans Stan Smith, 90, (center) and Andre Nadeau, 91, Sunday at the Veterans Memorial Museum in Balboa Park before the start of the "Spirit of '45" commemoration to World War II's final day, 72 years ago today.

A SALUTE TO WWII'S END

'Spirit of '45' celebration in Balboa Park draws stories from veterans, others about where they were on final day

BY ROGER SHOWLEY

BALBOA PARK

"Rosie the Riveter" factory women spoke of making B-24 bombers. The American Flyboys Orchestra played swing. Actors brought to life field hospitals and battlefield campsites.

But the stars of the eighth annual "Spirit of '45" celebration Sunday at Balboa Park's Veterans Memori-

al Museum were some 100 veterans who recalled where they were on Aug. 14, 1945, the day World War II ended.

"I was at home (in New York City) on furlough," said Bill Kehayias, a B-24 gunner, "and was walking down to Western Union to ask for a furlough from the commanding officer at Fort Dix. As I was walking, everybody was cheering, 'The war's over, the war's over!'"

This very enthusiastic lady, who weighed much more than I did, hugged me and hugged me and hugged me, and I backed up and almost broke a window."

Steve Hedley, a Pearl Harbor survivor, said, "We could light up the whole ship, which hadn't been done for four years. We operated with red lights through the passage ways. And the one thing that came to my mind later was, there was a

song, 'When the Lights Go on All Over the World.' That was the joy of my life."

Nelson Robinson, 17 at war's end, was finishing up airplane mechanics training at the Tuskegee Airmen's flight school in Alabama. He was in the first such class offered by the Army Air Force to an African-American squadron, the 99th.

"It turned out to be just a little

SEE SPIRIT OF '45 • B4

ARTIST WANTS TO SET BIG HOMELESS TENTS NEXT TO BROWN FIELD

Plan similar to one by Padres' Seidler, restaurant executive

BY GARY WARTH

SAN DIEGO

From the third-story art studio where he has painted for 20 years, George Mullen has had an unobstructed view of the growing homeless population in downtown San Diego.

"As the years went on, it's gotten dramatically worse downtown," the native San Diegan said from Studio

Revolution in the historic Brokers Building. "One day I was driving downtown, and I thought, 'This is absolutely crazy. What is the city leadership doing here?'"

Mullen, who is in the investment business besides being an artist, said he reached a breaking point late last year when he passed the sprawling homeless encampment around 17th Street and Imperial Avenue.

In February, he and Brian Caster, CEO of A1 Self Storage, wrote an opinion piece for The San Diego Union-Tribune that proposed using large industrial tents to temporarily house



GARY WARTH

George Mullen has seen downtown San Diego's homeless population grow from his art studio.

the homeless near Brown Field in Otay Mesa. Originally proposed as Camp Hope, the idea now is called Sunbreak Ranch.

The proposal gained

some traction, and supporters include Jerome's Furniture Chairman Jerry Navarra, Metropolitan Airport CEO Charles Black,

SEE TENTS • B4

CAMPAIGN VIOLATION COSTS GROUP \$16K

Fine issued for not disclosing unions as major donors

BY DAVID GARRICK

SAN DIEGO

San Diego's Ethics Commission is levying \$16,000 in fines on a voting rights group and its campaign staff for not identifying labor unions as the major donors in support of ballot measures that boosted the power of the November electorate.

San Diegans for Full Voter Participation, its campaign consultant and its campaign treasurer have agreed to pay the fines

rather than demand a hearing to dispute the charges.

They ran a \$1 million campaign last fall in support of Measure K, which requires November runoff in all elections for City Council and mayor, and Measure L, which prohibits votes on initiatives and referendums during June primaries or during off-year elections unless the City Council OKs that.

Voters approved both measures by wide margins last November.

The campaign in favor of the measures failed to identify labor unions as its largest donors on thousands of yard signs, mailers and door

SEE FINE • B6

BEST HOSPITALS

USNews

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PEGGY PEATTIE

Field Hospital re-enactors Stephanie Roach (center) and Nikki McDowell (left) explain how war injuries were treated on World War II battlefields to girl scouts from San Ysidro on Sunday.

SPIRIT OF '45 Re-enactors help set scene

FROM B1 late," he said, but he did ship out to Okinawa for a post-war assignment and served there about 18 months before his unit was disbanded.

He then sang a rendition of the 99th Flight Squadron song, which ended, "Fight, fight, fight, Fighting 99th."

Betty Ridenour and Randy Tidmore recalled their days as riveters in airplane factories.

"I said to my grandmother 'I'm going to San Diego,'" Ridenour recalled saying when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor in 1941, "and she said, 'I'll help you pack.' The next day she went out and told the bus driver, 'Take care of this girl. She's going out to San Diego and win the war.'"

Tidmore said she first worked in an airplane factory and then joined the Marines. When the war ended, she was stationed at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot in San Diego but was warned against going downtown because it was going to be "wild."

"So I went across what is now Pacific Highway and there was a pie shop on the other side at the time," she said. "I bought a pie and brought it back to the bar-



PEGGY PEATTIE

Betty Ridenour worked as an airplane factory riveter locally during World War II before joining the Marines.

racks and we celebrated."

Linda Laurie, national events coordinator of the Spirit of '45, said a special rose is being cultivated to plant in Rosie the Riveter memorial gardens all over the U.S. next year.

"So every year your memorial comes back to life and reminds the young people about what these amazing Rosies did in World War II and to inspire them to get an education, go out and get good jobs and become 21st century Rosies," Laurie said.

Accompanying the American Flyboys in "God Bless America" was the descendant of another war hero, Gen. Dwight Eisenhower. Born in 1973, Julie Eisenhower was named after Julie Nixon Eisenhower,

wife of Ike's grandson and President Richard Nixon's daughter.

"My mother liked how she handled things" during the Watergate scandal, the singing Eisenhower said.

Among the re-enactors was a third-time participant, Robert Fisher, 26, of Santa Barbara. Dressed in a 1st Cavalry army uniform, he said he is headed for active duty Sept. 5 and reporting to Fort Drum, N.Y.

He completed officers candidate school engineering training but plans to continue pursuing his interest in military history.

Nikki McDowell, 47, a registered nurse who lives with her "history buff" husband in San Marcos, explained the recreation of the 45th Army

Field Hospital under a tent in one corner of the Spirit of '45 exhibits. The hospital was set up at various battlefields in Europe during the war, and the re-created version included uniforms, medical devices and supplies that were donated or bought on eBay.

Nearby, Asia Arbaugh, 12, of Vista and her sister Aya, 8, were fingering period weapons after meeting a few war vets.

"It was really cool to hear the vets," Asia said.

The generations collided inside the museum, where Emylee Navarro, 8, a Brownie in a San Ysidro Girl Scout Troop, handed a "thank you" message to Jerry Creaper, 93, who served 4½ years in the Army.

"You do it real well," Creaper told Emylee. "Thank you so much."

Creaper said he was in Okinawa when the war ended, but his troops weren't notified immediately and continued to be harassed by Japanese soldiers a few more days.

The only sign that things had changed was the officers had unexpectedly taken away the men's ammunition.

"They kept telling us we were going to Tokyo," he said.

The real truth was that they were going home.

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TENTS Plans differ on financing

FROM B1

the East Village Residents Group, Jacobs Center for Innovation chairmen Norm Hapke Jr. and Val Jacobs Hapke, Serving Hands International and former San Diego City Attorney Casey Gwinn.

But the proposal also has created some confusion, as a similar but significantly different idea has been suggested by San Diego Padres Managing Partner Peter Seidler and Paradigm Investment Group partner and chain restaurant operator Dan Shea.

Proponents of both have similar motivations and arguments. Permanent housing for all is needed, they agree, but that solution is years away, and there is a crisis that should be addressed today to help the 9,100 local homeless people, including 5,600 who were

"There needs to be the will, and in the public there is a will to do something like this."

George Mullen

unsheltered in last January's point-in-time count.

A disagreement comes in where the tents should be situated and how they should be funded. Seidler and Shea argue the tents should be in different locations, helping the homeless where they already are and near services. They also believe the tents can be funded through philanthropists, and they already have commitments from supporters to fund two tents, which hold 250 people each.

Mullen, who sees funding as the responsibility of the city and county, argues that placing tents in different places will be a hard sell politically.

"In theory, it makes a lot of sense," he said about the multi-site approach. "Why don't we share the load in all the districts? But what's going to happen is the council person is going to get annihilated in the next elections. I have a hard time seeing it get done."

Neither proposal has gone before the City Council or been discussed at city or

county committee, but Seidler and Shea do seem to be outpacing Mullen and Caster in promoting the idea.

Mullen has been relatively quiet in publicly discussing Sunbreak Ranch since his op-ed piece, and he has not met with city or county officials. Seidler said he has met with many officials, attends regular symposiums on homelessness at the University of San Diego, and presented the plan at a conference with Shea last month at USD.

Still, Mullen is confident there will be public support for Sunbreak Ranch and said he believes people also would support a small tax increase to fund it — despite the need for a two-thirds majority needed for approval, if it goes on the ballot.

"There needs to be the will, and in the public there is a will to do something like this," he said, adding that he is disappointed that elected officials have not come forward to endorse it.

Mullen envisions Sunbreak Ranch as a place that is remote enough that it won't intrude on businesses and residents but still close to services. The city-owned property near Brown Field fits the bill. It's 13 miles from the 17th Street encampment and Father Joe's Villages.

Mullen said Sunbreak Ranch would not be a place to warehouse homeless people, but rather would provide a place where they can meet with professional service providers who can help them with long-term recovery. Having government and nonprofit agencies provide services is also part of the Seidler-Shea tent plan.

"Why wouldn't we try to really help our homeless brothers and sisters, get them out of this horrible downtown on-the-street situation or in the canyons, and get them in a clean, safe environment to help turn their lives around?" he said. "Somewhere you can go take a deep breath and not have a drug dealer or gang member or cars speeding by like you see on 17th Street."

While Mullen said he believes Sunbreak Ranch is the best approach to get homeless people off the street in the near future, he's open to other locations and ideas. He also isn't opposed to Seidler's and Shea's proposal, and only hopes some action is taken soon to help the thousands of people on the street.

"We have different ideas, and that's all good," he said. "Whatever works is perfect, if it works."

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Life Tributes

The San Diego Union-Tribune

Everlasting memories of loved ones

Jo Ann Sperry Dearbaugh

October 29, 1929 - August 4, 2017

SAN MARCOS — Jo Ann Dearbaugh passed away on August 4, 2017 in San Marcos, CA.

Born in Toledo, Ohio, she was the daughter of Arthur and Pauline Hunt.

Jo Ann was a graduate of Denison University where she belonged to Alpha Phi Sorority. She attended the University of Michigan Graduate School of Social Work.

Jo Ann was predeceased by her sister Martha Fellabaum and her brother David Hunt.

She had many happy years of marriage to Clifford E. Dearbaugh, who died on September 2, 2014.

Jo Ann was mother to five children, Trenton Johnson (deceased), Tim Johnson (Robyn), Julie Seel (Rich), Michael Johnson, Matthew Johnson (Cheryl)

and stepson Michael Dearbaugh (Tony). She was the grandmother of Steven Johnson, Stacy Johnson, Scott Johnson, Ambrosia Ekelman, Wyatt Johnson, and great-grandmother to Alex Ekelman, Isabella Ekelman, Avery Ekelman and Carl Johnson.

Jo Ann was a member of several art groups and a 40-year member of the choir at First Presbyterian Church. She also belonged to PEO Sisterhood.

A memorial service will be held on August 18, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. at the First Presbyterian Church of Oceanside, CA. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the First Presbyterian Church Memorial Fund or the charity of your choice.

Please sign the Guest Book online obituaries.sandiegouniontribune.com

JoAnne Hogan

October 31, 1930 - June 28, 2017

SAN DIEGO — JoAnne Hogan passed away peacefully on the morning of June 28, 2017 after a brief, but heroic battle with cancer. She championed the love and warmth that bound and supported us as a family. JoAnne was preceded in death by her husband, John. She is survived by children Wendy Ellerman (Wade), Kevin Hogan (Lynne), Kim Bullock (Don), and Beth Hogan (and John Callister), seven grandchildren, Emily (Mark), Benjamin, Max, Cosabeth (Ben), Krista (Matthew), Parker, and Sophie, and great-grandchildren Stella, Jack, Ethan, Ada and Sage.

Services will be held at St. Columba at 11:30 am, August 19 with a reception to follow.



Please ask her children for details. In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to: Sharp Hospice Care, P.O. Box 158, La Mesa, CA 91944, or St. Columba School Tuition Assistance Program, 3327 Glencolum Drive, San Diego, 92123.

Please sign the Guest Book online obituaries.sandiegouniontribune.com

DEATH NOTICES

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DICK LOCHER • 1929-2017

EDITORIAL CARTOONIST WORKED ON 'DICK TRACY'

BY BOB GOLDSBOROUGH

A longtime editorial cartoonist for the Chicago Tribune who won a Pulitzer Prize in 1983, Dick Locher also worked on the popular comic strip "Dick Tracy" for more than three decades, both writing and drawing the adventures of the square-jawed private detective.

Locher, 88, died of complications from Parkinson's disease Sunday at Edward Hospital in Naperville, Ill., said his son, Stephen. He had lived in Naperville for more than 45 years.

"Dick was one of the best cartoonists in the nation," said Tribune Editor and Publisher Bruce Dold. "He was also one of the nicest people who ever walked through the Tribune newsroom. I most admired the richness of detail in his drawings. His work was funny and incisive, and his message often carried a hard pop, but his artwork was always incredibly elegant."

Born and raised in Dubuque, Iowa, Locher graduated from Loras Academy in Dubuque and then studied at Loras College, the University of Iowa and the Art Center of Los Angeles before earning a degree from the Chicago Academy of Fine Arts.

Locher spent two years on active duty as a test pilot in the Air Force, followed by another 18 years in the Air Force Reserve.

While a Chicago Academy of Fine Arts student in 1957, Locher was tapped to do some inking for Chester Gould, the creator of the "Dick Tracy" strip. He went on to work as Gould's assistant for the next four years.

He had regimented working requirements," Locher said of Gould in a 1981 Tribune interview. "Be in at 7:30 every morning, have

everything completed by Friday, no excuses."

Locher left Gould's employ in 1961 and eventually headed an art studio in Oak Brook called Novamark. In 1973, despite having no experience as an editorial cartoonist, Locher was hired by the Tribune. He remained on staff until his retirement in 2013, producing more than 10,000 drawings on a raft of topics.

Tribune editorial cartoonist Scott Stantis said Locher's work "had a level of certitude reserved for very fine artists."

"Every line had a confidence that separates the good from the great," Stantis said. "Conceptually, you never had to guess where Dick stood on the issues. His political outlook was as bold and straightforward as his artwork — the perfect combination that all editorial cartoonists strive for."

Locher won the 1983 Pulitzer Prize for editorial cartooning with work that weighed in on President Ronald Reagan — with whom he once dined in the Oval Office — home computers and the Middle East.

"I'm still numb. I'm still waiting for someone to come in and say they made a mistake," Locher said upon learning he had won. "My first thoughts were that someone was playing a terrible, cruel gag. This sounds hackneyed, but I'm really proud the Tribune won a Pulitzer."

Locher was pulled back into Dick Tracy's orbit in 1983 after the death of Rick Fletcher, who had taken over when Gould retired in 1977. Locher continued drawing the strip until 2009 and kept writing the storyline until 2011.

Goldsborough is a freelance writer.