Berylwood Budget
After the 1896 newsletter of the Bard Children

LARRY AND ROBERTA DOWNING, PORT HUENEME CITIZENS OF THE YEAR

Larry and Roberta Downing have been named Port Hueneme Chamber of Commerce Citizens of the Year. This husband and wife team has worked tirelessly in transforming the Hueneme Museum into something the community can really be proud of. Larry has rolled up his sleeves and gone headfirst into every corner, every nook and cranny of the old Myron Hunt built bank building. A beautiful new museum has emerged. And what a roster of programs and speakers! Fascinating and informative speakers have already spoken to overflow crowds. And the calendar is filled for the upcoming year and beyond. The Friends of the Bard board members extend hearty congratulations to their fellow board members Larry and Roberta. And speaking on behalf of the Bard family, I’d like to say how much we love and appreciate the care Larry and Roberta have put forth in remembering the legacy of our family members Thomas and Richard. Congratulations to both of you, this is an honor truly well deserved.

PORT HUENEME SENIOR ANNUAL HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

The annual senior luncheon celebrating the holiday season at the Orvene Carpenter Community Center almost did not take place. Lack of funding threatened the very popular event, Word got out that it may not take place. The community rallied, and within a very short time raised the funds needed. The tickets were sold out within hours. All who were lucky enough to get tickets were treated to a wonderful celebration. Orvene Carpenter spoke to the crowd about the history of the Orvene Carpenter Community Center, as well as regaled us with some of his many wonderful stories and recollections of life in Hueneme, going back over sixty years. The Christmas tree was gorgeous, the men’s choir lovely, the food delicious, and the waiters exceptional... loved the colorful hats!

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QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER - SPRING 2017

DINNER DATE: SATURDAY, MARCH 11, 2017
TIME: SOCIAL HOUR: 5:30, DINNER, 6:30
PRICE: $40, ACTIVE MILITARY, $15
ACTIVE MILITARY SPOUSE, $15
RESERVATIONS MUST BE IN BY THURSDAY, MARCH 2, 2017

MENU: CAESAR SALAD; CHICKEN SALTIMBOCCA (BREAST WRAPPED IN FONTINA AND PROSCIUTTO); RISOTTO PARMIGIANA; FAGIOLI GREEN BEANS; WITH TOASTED ALMONDS; DESSERT: TIRAMISU

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The Bard family lived at the place they called Berylwood from 1876 to 1944. Thomas Bard arrived in San Buenaventura in January, 1865, and built a house on Sulphur Mt., Ojai. He moved to Hueneme ca 1872 when he constructed a wharf for shipping. Upon his marriage to Mollie Gerberding in 1876, Thomas Bard built a home where the Mansion is now located. By 1890, there were seven children in the family. They outgrew the house, and a second story was added. They enjoyed this home for twenty years, but in 1910 the Bards decided to build one more home. The two-story Victorian building was taken down, and the redwood structural material was saved for use in the construction of the new building. In each of his homes, Bard used redwood from northern California, from the Santa Cruz Mountains. The pilings for the Hueneme Wharf came from these groves as well.

Those family members still at home moved with their parents to what they called the Bungalow while construction of the Big House took place. Sisters Beryl and Anna moved in with their mother and father. Brother Phil visited from boarding school. Richard was in school in Mercersburg, Pennsylvania, and came home infrequently. This building was constructed entirely of salvaged redwood from the Victorian home that was razed. The family lived in the Bungalow for two years, and moved to the Big House in 1912.

The Bungalow was quiet until 1916, until my mother Joan and father Richard made it their home. Richard was finishing his education at Princeton University when Senator Bard died in 1915. He had been chosen by his father to run the family business, the Berylwood Investment Company. Richard married Joan Boyd in 1916, and the newlyweds moved into the bungalow to begin their life together at Berylwood.

I was born November 12, 1917 at St. John’s Hospital in Oxnard, California. My mother’s obstetrician was the well-known Dr. Livingston, and the good doctor utilized what was called “twilight sleep” as anesthesia for Joan Bard, my mother. I was brought...
The cozily redwood bungalow was home to me, my mother and father for only a few short weeks, as soon my father left to fight in the 1st World War. But those early months were filled with visits from my mother Joan’s family who came often from their home in Los Olivos. I was named after my maternal grandfather’s mother, becoming the 3rd Joanna in the family tree. We spent the spring and summer days of 1918 surrounded by the lush gardens, with plants of many varieties, evergreens and tropical, rare and common, ferns and flowers. Later my grandmother Bard taught me the botanical names, and I would recite them to her, following her wheelchair along the many paths.

Within two years my sister Kitty was born, and we would share my bedroom. Next my brother Dick was sent to become a member of our family, and my parents recognized the need to expand our little dwelling and add a second story. My father transformed the redwood bungalow to a Cape Cod style building that may have reminded him of his years at Princeton. While this expansion was taking place my mother took Kitty and me to stay in Santa Barbara, at the Potter Hotel. The construction went quickly, and we soon returned with our new little brother to the Bungalow, which now boasted a second story. My parents moved upstairs to their new master bedroom, Kitty and I joined them on this floor in a bedroom next to them, and Dick was welcomed to the nursery with nurse once again in the room next to him. Dick and Joan’s old bedroom on the first floor became a lovely room for guests.

During the 1920s as our family was growing my father was pursuing the dream of his father and of his own to create what he considered at the time to be one of the most beautiful women in the world. He was the Irish born, Academy Award winning art director of over a thousand films, including the Wizard of Oz, Grand Hotel, and the Philadelphia Story. What a thrill for me! Joan, Richard and Margaret were living in the Richard Bard home when the Bard property and Hueneme Harbor were taken by condemnation in 1942 by Secretary of the Navy James Forrestal. Since 1941 the home has been known as “Quarters A.”

In 1928 my sister Margaret was born. The following year I was sent to boarding school. One by one my other three siblings went off to boarding schools. I went to the Santa Barbara School for Girls, sister Kitty to the Katherine Branson School, and my brothers to Thatcher Boys School in Ojai. By the late 1940s when I came for visits to Berylwood, the barn was now being used as a site for parties and dances. Where once as a child I had swung on ropes and landed in piles of hay, now people visiting from Hollywood came and brought friends and musicians to enjoy the large and informal setting. I remember seeing Dolores Del Rio and her husband Cedric Gibbons driving up to the barn. She was considered at the time to be one of the most beautiful women in the world. He was the Irish born, Academy Award winning art director of over a thousand films, including the Wizard of Oz, Grand Hotel, and the Philadelphia Story. What a thrill for me! Joan, Richard and Margaret were living in the Richard Bard home when the Bard property and Hueneme Harbor were taken by condemnation in 1942 by Secretary of the Navy James Forrestal. Since 1941 the home has been known as “Quarters A.”

The home was surrounded by the extensive botanic garden created by Thomas, and it was not far from the “Big House”. Unfortunately my grandfather died two years before I was born, so I never knew him. But my grandmother lived many more years, in the Big House, and I was able to spend time with her until 1956.
Dear Friends of the Bard Mansion,

As a former president of the Friends of the Bard Mansion, I’d like to offer a few words on the subject of the upcoming program of March 11. I am so fortunate to have Jana Bard Newton as my mother! She has been the rock in my life; strong and kind, wise and gentle. I think she inherited qualities of both her father and her mother; his patience and thoughtfulness, her curiosity and love of adventure. Growing up in the place she knew as Berylwood must have been a truly special experience for her and her family. Surrounded by the beauty of the gardens her grandfather created, she and her brothers and sisters experienced an idyllic life. I am so happy that as she approaches her 100th birthday she still exudes that same gentleness of spirit, and zest for life. We congratulate and welcome Congresswoman Julia Brownley, Supervisor Kelly Long, Hueneme Mayor Tom Figg, and Hueneme Council Member Will Berg.

Georgia Newton Pulos

**GROWING UP IN THE “BUNGALOW”**

**THE CENTENNIAL YEAR OF JANA BARD NEWTON (continued)**

...back to the Bungalow. The house consisted of a small sitting room, kitchen, a bedroom for my parents, small bedroom for my nurse, and a nursery for me. Behind the house were a series of small dwellings for help, including one for a cook for our household. The home was surrounded by the extensive botanic garden created by Thomas, and it was not far from the “Big House.” Unfortunately my grandfather died two years before I was born, so I never knew him. But my grandmother lived many more years, in the Big House, and I was able to spend time with her until 1956.

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During the 1920s as our family was growing my father was pursuing the dream of his father and of his own to create what would become the harbor at Hueneme. He was often away in Washington, DC, fighting for support to make this dream a reality. By 1926 there would be four children in our family, now two girls and two boys with the addition of brother Archie. The house was now being used as a site for parties and dances. Where once as a child I had swung on ropes and landed in piles of hay, now people visiting from Hollywood came and brought friends and musicians to enjoy the large and informal setting. I remember seeing Dolores Del Rio and her husband Cedric Gibbons driving up to the barn. She was considered at the time to be one of the most beautiful women in the world. He was the Irish born, Academy Award winning art director of over a thousand films, including the Wizard of Oz, Grand Hotel, and the Philadelphia Story. What a thrill for me! Joan, Richard and Margaret were living in the Richard Bard home when the Bard property and Huenene Harbor were taken by condemnation in 1942 by Secretary of the Navy James Forrestal. Since 1941 the home has been known as “Quarters A.”

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Around 1926, the “Bungalow”, a small, redwood building, was transformed to this Cape Cod style structure. Since 1944 it has been the happy home for many Seebee Commanding Officers and their families. Please mark your calendars for the afternoon of June 19th of this year, when the current CO Mike Saum and his wife Cheryl, a board member of the Friends, will open the doors to their home for tours and a wonderful barbecue. There will be music as well, so please plan on joining us and our gracious hosts.

Jana March Bard

Kitty Poe Bard
Larry and Roberta Downing have been named Port Hueneme Chamber of Commerce Citizens of the Year. This husband and wife team has worked tirelessly in transforming the Hueneme Museum into something the community can really be proud of. Larry has rolled up his sleeves and gone headfirst into every corner, every nook and cranny of the old Myron Hunt built bank building. A beautiful new museum has emerged. And what a roster of programs and speakers! Fascinating and informative speakers have already spoken to overflow crowds. And the calendar is filled for the upcoming year and beyond. The Friends of the Bard board members extend hearty congratulations to their fellow board members Larry and Roberta. And speaking on behalf of the Bard family, I’d like to say how much we love and appreciate the care Larry and Roberta have put forth in remembering the legacy of our family members Thomas and Richard. Congratulations to both of you, this is an honor truly well deserved.

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