

# Who sits on the boards? (p. 3)

## THE MIDPENINSULA OBSERVER

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# Gen. Hershey's "neighborhood groups"

By John McChesney

Gen. Hershey is fond of describing his local draft boards as "friendly little neighborhood groups." For once he proves to be accurate. Down in Campbell, this reporter found six of Santa Clara County's twenty board members living as near neighbors, fellow employees, and, one is led to assume, sometimes fairly close friends. Moreover, the county's system appears to be non-representative, irrational, antiquated, and secretive. To the observer who can penetrate the mists of bureaucratic reticence the system appears as a machine hastily assembled years ago, now obsolete and in a bad state of disrepair.

In a three square-block neighborhood in Campbell live six of the twenty men now serving on the county's boards, and five others live around the periphery of Campbell. Four of these men occupy administrative positions in the Campbell Union High School District.

Lawrence J. Hill, Superintendent of the District, Nicholas R. Montesano, Deputy Assistant Superintendent, and Octavius Barberi, business manager of the District, are practically next door neighbors. James K. Gilesple, superintendent of physical education, sophomore science, and recreation, lives fairly near by. William H. Maderis of Sitro and Co., Millard J. Sommer (retired), and Gerald E. Hamilton of Cooper Chalen Realty, live in Hill's immediate neighborhood. All but Hamilton sit on panels B and C of Board 62. They live within the boundaries of Board 60.

## APPOINTMENT PROCEDURE

Feeling that such a concentration was a bit unusual, I called Judge Stanley Evans, presiding judge of the Santa Clara Superior Court, to find out something about the nature of the appointment procedure.

Judge Evans told me that the presiding judge makes recommendations to the Governor, who in turn recommends these to the President. In practice, except in rare cases, the presiding judge has actual appointing power. How does the presiding judge get names of prospective board members? Usually the other judges of the court are asked to recommend prospective members, and then they are discussed by all the judges.

If this is the procedure, then how does it happen that six members live almost next door to each other and four members

are employed by the same school district? Judge Evans did not know about this particular situation since he had only recently begun presiding, but the situation did not sound like a good thing. Isn't it in fact true that when a vacancy occurs the remaining board or panel members recommend a replacement whose appointment is almost automatic? Not that he knows of. This hasn't happened to him, but, then, he has only been presiding a short time.

## STRICTLY COINCIDENTAL

The Observer interviewed several board members to find out how the neighborhood (school district) group came about. Millard Sommer, who lives up the street from Hill and Barberi, said, "I couldn't tell you how it happened." Barberi said, "Coincidental, strictly coincidental. It's just nothing." When I pointed out that he and Hill lived next door and both worked for the school district, he said, "Yes but we're on different panels."

Hill told me: "They were looking for fair-minded people, and they found them in this area. There may be some degree of self-perpetuation in these groups, but someone has to be found to serve."

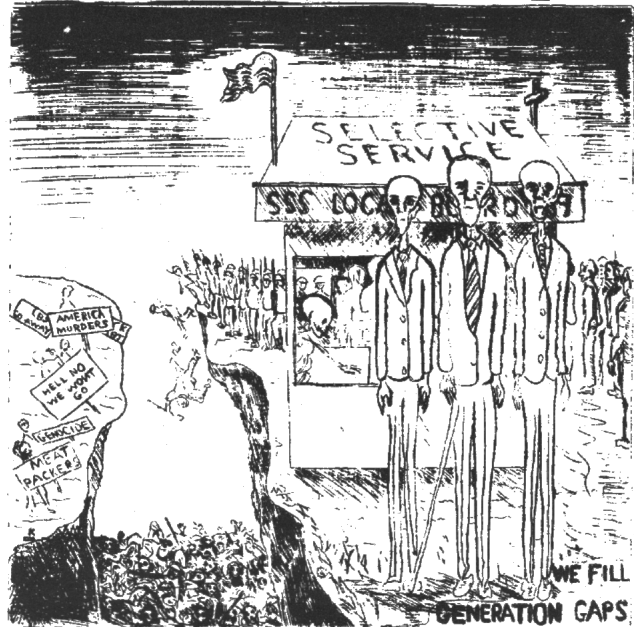
William Maderis said the people on the board knew him as a reliable person who would be willing to serve. Gerald Hamilton, who seemed unhappy about the nature of the question, insisted that he did not know his neighbors and, anyway, these other men sat on a different board. (He sits on Board 60.) Pressed, he remarked rather angrily that "it may be a little inequitable, but so many people are upset about things that are really insignificant these days."

Most of the men in this group expressed reluctance to talk unless they spoke as a group. Several wanted to know how many others we had spoken to.

## SPECIAL MEETING

The staff of the West Valley Jr. College student magazine also found this to be true when they set out to do an article for their Jan. 15 issue. When they tried to interview the members individually, the article claims, a special meeting of panels B and C of Board 62 was called.

The magazine staff was told that if they "wished to speak to them, it had to be at this time, for they were extremely busy." A closed meeting was held where



reporters were asked if they had tape recorders or cameras. Several board members expressed concern over loss of their anonymity. Also, the magazine staff had had to go to considerable effort to get the names, which were finally obtained from Gen. Hershey's office after the staff asked Congressman John E. Moss (Dem., Sacramento) to pressure the Selective Service System.

Unlike judges, several board members seemed unwilling to take on the responsibilities of public officials. They indicated that they had taken on the job, a thankless one, expecting to remain anonymous. They said that if harassment followed the release of their names, they would quit. Lawrence Hill said rather acidly, "If people don't like the way things are, we'll step out. We've—several of us—given it some thought. Why don't you serve?"

## SECRETIVE ATTITUDES

If all of this suggests a conspiratorial atmosphere, it is largely the result of the secretive attitudes and lack of candor on the part of these men rather than any actual conspiracy. Obviously channels of least resistance have been followed for a number of years in the formation of some boards in Santa Clara County.

Nicholas Montesano, Hill's assistant in the School District, seemed a bit more candid when questioned about the formation of the neighborhood group. When a vacancy occurs, Montesano said, the remaining members ask a friend to serve and recommend his name to the presiding judge. "Mr. Hill invited me when his board split. School people are easy bait for this sort of thing." When I suggested that the condition of his district seemed to be the result of drift and fossilization, he responded, "I wouldn't be surprised."

Board 62's geographical area covers most of the northern part of the county, including many of the poorer eastern sections. A rough estimate of just the incorporated population is well over 300,000. This board, particularly panels B and C, handles many more cases than the other two boards, according to minutes posted in the Selective Service Office. NO MINORITIES

No ethnic minorities are represented on Board 62. All members live in upper income neighborhoods. (This is true, of course, for all but one or two of the

members of all the boards.) The Campbell neighborhood is representative. According to the County Census of 1966, their census tract shows a total of 1600 reporting families. About two-thirds of those families has an annual income of over \$10,000.

When asked about the non-representational quality of their boards, the members' reactions varied. Several who were questioned said that no blacks had ever appeared before their boards. (This is understandable since only 1.07 per cent of the county is black.)

Mexican-Americans, however, make up about 10 per cent of the total population, and several panels reported fairly frequent appearances of Mexican-Americans for hardship appeals. Several thought the question of representation irrelevant. Their sort of person had the time and was willing to serve. They could be as fair as anyone else. Hill couldn't understand why everyone asks that question. Barberi thought everyone at age 18 should be drafted, period, in order to avoid inequities.

## WATCH DOGS

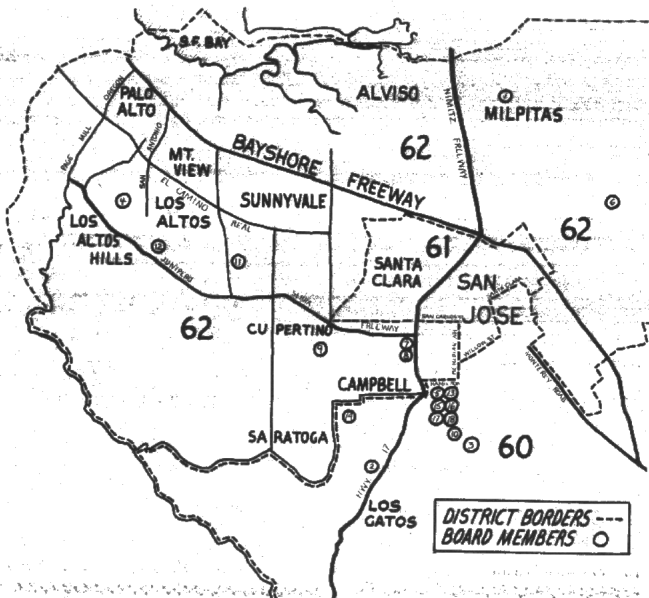
I asked Judge Evans if he considered the Superior Court responsible for the make-up of the boards. He did not feel it is the court's complete responsibility. "They are not, or should not be, the watch dogs of the Selective Service System."

Yet the Superior Court is most directly responsible for the appointments made. Judge Evans felt that people should look to the State Director's office for reforms. He has recently received, he said, a letter from that office urging that an attempt be made to get a representative cross section of the community onto the boards.

The geographic boundaries of the districts seem to have little rationality today, if they ever did. The struggle to find out what these boundaries are proved to be lengthy, and is indicative of petty officialdom's reluctance to release public information. Two other publications tried to see this map and got the same routine.

When I first asked for a map at the Selective Service Office in San Jose, I was handed a dog-eared map which broke the county into twenty separate plates. About 30 seconds later the map was

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## Boards...

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taken back by Ruby Seito, the head secretary. "The girls have to use it every minute or so," she said. We would have to get the districts from Sacramento.

### BUREAUCRATIC SHUFFLE

I called Sacramento and was placed on the bureaucratic phone shuffle for 15 minutes. Twelve referrals later I was told to write Lt. Col. Jensen's office. I did. No reply. I called the San Jose office and threatened legal action. "Go ahead," Ruby said. I called Sacramento again. Col. Jensen's secretary told me that the information had been in the archives for years, that Col. Jensen was ill, and no one knew where it was. She would call me back.

The next day I received four mimeographed pages of complex verbal descriptions. Many of the street names and creek names had long since changed. One assumes the lines were drawn back in the late thirties. It took three hours to trace the boundaries on the map.

In district 62 two of the eight members are residents. In 61 none of the five are residents. In 60 five out of seven are residents. The Selective Service Law says that "if practicable," members should live in their districts. Judge Evans said he was not aware of this clause, but claimed that in modern suburban communities no one knows his neighbor anyway.

### NO RELATIONSHIP

Given the present district boundaries, with the exception of 61, it does not seem to make much difference whether the members live in their districts. The boundaries seem to have no relationship to ethnic, economic, population, or community concentrations.

But this is not to argue that this is the way it should be. Nor is there any justification for so many members being concentrated in one neighborhood, a factor which surely prohibits a board from having any understanding of the problems of particular areas and communities, if the Selective Service System has to exist, and that is certainly not the viewpoint of the reporter, then it needs to be reexamined from the bottom up to Gen. Hershey.

The Observer interviewed 10 of the county's 20 members. We concentrated on Board 62. Although some had doubts about the war, most felt that we were not doing enough. Barberi felt we should "use all means necessary" to win and get out. Most thought that their feelings about the war had nothing to do with their jobs. They were just given quotas to fill. No one had any definite feelings about Gen. Hershey. Three had not read Hershey's "punitive memorandum". Hill said he did not think it was the job of draft boards to punish protestors. Six of nine asked said they were veterans.

### ILLUMINATING COMMENTS

Octavius Barberi, who has been on the board since 1952, made several illuminating comments. "When you've been running through these cases for years," he said, "you can tell right off when a fellow's not telling the truth." Catholic C.O.'s "get me—a man can't be a C.O. if he's a true Catholic. It's too bad a reporter can't sit in and hear some of the stories some people tell."

Panel A of Board 60 is a bit different from the other panels discussed. Very recently Mel Garrison, a black from Los Altos, and Ralph Reyes, a Mexican American from San Jose, were appointed to this panel. This may have been the joint result of the new consciousness on the

part of the State Director's office and the influence of Morton I. Levine, a liberal publisher of weekly papers in Milpitas and San Jose.

Levine, the only board member interviewed who opposed the war, said that he is a pragmatist who believes in working within systems. One of his reasons for joining the board seems to be a desire to reform the board from within. He would like to see a lottery introduced.

Maybe everyone should call his local board members and tell them what he thinks of the system. Humanize the system. Get acquainted.

## Jungle...

(cont. from p. 4)

all volunteers, and a battalion of Vietnamese infantrymen made the final assault that wrested the quarter-square-mile palace grounds in the Citadel from Communist hands. They recovered virtually undamaged the red lacquer and gilt throne on which Vietnam's rulers once received their subjects."

### ALIENATION ON SECONDARY LEVEL

I recently addressed several high school classes in the area. At one session the talk was preceded by the Pledge of Allegiance guided by a voice which came through the intercom system. Before beginning my talk, I asked the class how many believed honestly that this was "one nation, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all." Two hands went up. How many did not believe it? Thirty-three hands were raised.

There's a lesson in it. For some thirteen years of their school lives, a daily loyalty oath to the system has been extracted from students. Their experience teaches them otherwise. Who and what will harvest the crop of disenchantment which no amount of loyalty oaths can stop?

### THE TECHNOLOGICAL HORSE

The Stanford Observer for February reports a talk to a Stanford audience by Dr. E. Fuller Torrey, one of the Farm's psychiatrists. Dr. Torrey, like most liberals, is agonizing over the problems which technology has produced and which will continue to multiply. Said he, "The technological revolution has solved many problems, but left untended, it has created many others. What remains to be done is to climb astride the machine and begin to truly direct its course."

On the face of it the advice sounds good. What Dr. Torrey ignores is the problem of climbing aboard a machine which is privately owned. The civilized use of the machine can be realized only when its private ownership is replaced by its ownership by society as a whole. Whether it's visible or not, the sign on the machine today reads, "Private property, keep off."

## Persons needed to leaflet GI's

Marc Sapor, well-known local troublemaker, is trying to organize individuals to leaflet and talk to soldiers at the S.F. Airport. A similar project last year, involving about 10 people and lasting for 2-3 months, was deemed a success.

If you are interested in the project—approximately 20 have already said they are—there is a large calendar in the Stanford ASSU office on which you can sign up. You are asked to sign up several days in advance of the time you intend to leaflet.

More information on what leafleting soldiers involves, organizing rides, etc., can be obtained from Mary Hanson, 321-2300 x 4331, or from the troublemaker himself, 325-2504.

## Where they live & work

- BOARD 60**
- Panel A**
- 1) Morton I. Levine, newspaper publisher  
Business address: 615 So. Main, Milpitas 262-2454
  - 2) W. John Whisenant, realtor  
17212 Buena Vista Ave., Los Gatos
  - 3) Ralph Reyes, real estate appraiser  
2059 Cherry Ave., San Jose 266-2411
  - 4) Melvin Garrison  
27744 Lupine Rd., Los Altos 948-3482
- Panel B**
- 5) Gerald E. Hamilton, realtor  
Corner of Campbell and Leigh, Campbell  
Cooper Chalen Realty, 85 N. First, San Jose 292-8382
  - Ralph C. Fitzsimmons, retired  
John Telfer Drive, Morgan Hill  
P.O. Box 445  
John L. Patchen, insurance  
422 Claremont Dr., Morgan Hill
- BOARD 61**
- 6) Paul E. Potts, Vice Pres., Title Insurance and Trust  
15870 E. Alta Vista Way, San Jose 258-8398
  - 7) Elmer D. Jensen, attorney  
601 So. Baywood Ave., San Jose 296-3405
  - 777 N. First, San Jose 295-2525
  - 8) Weed Hall, realtor  
615 So. Baywood Ave., San Jose 243-1487
  - 9) Grant Shimizu, attorney  
1544 Greene Dr., Cupertino 253-5174  
724 N. First, San Jose 297-2088
  - 10) Lloyd E. Cole, traffic manager for Peerless Stages  
1740 Balsa Ave., San Jose 269-3211
- BOARD 62**
- Panel A**
- 11) Burton W. Mann  
939 Aberdeen Dr., Sunnyvale 736-2611
  - 12) Neil J. Callahan  
24191 Summerhill Ave., Los Altos 948-3545
- Panel B**
- 13) Lawrence J. Hill, Superintendent, Campbell Union  
H.S. District 1678 Patio Dr., Campbell 269-9543
  - 14) James K. Gillespie, Supervisor of Phys. Ed. for  
C.U.H.S. Dist. 18353 Clemson Ave., Saratoga 379-2605
  - 15) Millard J. Sommer, retired  
1766 Patio Drive, Campbell 269-4762
- Panel C**
- 16) Octavius Barberi, Business Manager for C.U.H.S. District  
1660 Patio Drive, Campbell 269-9105
  - 17) Nicholas R. Montesano, Assistant Super. for C.U.H.S.  
District 1058 Shadydale, Campbell 377-9105
  - 18) William H. Waderis, Sutor & Co.  
1901 Campbell Ave., Campbell 377-2461  
111 W. St. John, San Jose

## Strong Huey resolution endorsed by local PFM

By Jo Anne Wallace

A strongly worded resolution calling for a vigorous campaign to free Huey P. Newton was approved almost unanimously by the San Mateo County Peace and Freedom Movement Convention February 25.

The resolution states that the "illegitimate (white) power structure" is the "oppressor of black people" and that this power structure has chosen Huey Newton as a "political leader to be eliminated."

Specifically, the resolution asks for an investigating committee to be set up by San Mateo P&F to compile evidence on the Newton case and its background, to publicize this evidence, and to "propose additional specific actions."

Bruce Franklin, associate professor of English at Stanford, spoke for the resolution before it was adopted and said it is important for P&F to conduct its own investigation in order to have its own "hard facts" about the case. With these facts P&F could launch an effective full-scale information campaign to free Huey.

David Ransom, co-editor of the Midpeninsula Observer, was endorsed by the San Mateo Peace and Freedom Movement as a candidate for U.S. Congress in the 11th District. If he and Republican incumbent Pete McCloskey win in their respective primaries, they will oppose each other in the general election.

Ransom said that the Peace and Freedom Party can be a significant movement only if it organizes locally around

issues which major parties will ignore.

The Convention also endorsed two candidates running for State Assembly in the P&F primaries; George Louzensky of San Mateo for the 27th District, and Glenda Jones of East Palo Alto for the 26th.

Louzensky will qualify to run in P&F primaries if the Aikist Bill now before the California legislature passes. This bill would allow a person to run in the primary of a party even if he had been a member of another party within the year prior to the primary. Ransom and Miss Jones qualify to run in the P&F primary under the present state code.

"I think the schools are the crucial issue," Miss Jones stated, "and I support the black community's desire and intention to run its own schools."

"When people ask if whites in East Palo Alto shouldn't also have a say in the way the schools are run," she remarked, "I think what they are raising is not an issue." The blacks should control the schools, she said, "and I have trust and faith that they will educate my children" as members of the black community.

A platform was adopted which reflects P&F Movement concern for the problems of the black community.

East Palo Alto is the subject of many platform planks. P&F will work for the incorporation of EPA as a self-governing city and for the return of prime tax lands annexed and purchased by neighboring communities.

San Mateo Local Board 57

1. John L. Carter (ret.)  
San Mateo Rd.  
Half Moon Bay  
726-4792
2. Charles Young (union rep.)  
913 4th Ave.  
San Bruno  
588-3543
3. William T. Kennedy (elec. contractor)  
1632 Lassen Way  
Burlingame  
697-8916
4. Lee Sloan (Southern Pacific labor relations)  
1019 Tahoe Drive  
Belmont  
591-1628

San Mateo Local Board 58

1. Hugh Riley (ret.)  
929 Elm  
Santa Clara  
593-6336
2. Donald Bogle  
28 Fulton  
Redwood City  
366-5174
3. John Volpiano  
165 Ravine Dr.  
Woodside  
851-8340
4. Charles Berryessa (ret.)  
429 Georgetown  
San Mateo  
343-7002
5. Robert E. Sick (Teamsters union)  
1308 Alameda de las Pulgas  
Redwood City  
366-5866