

San Antonio Fire & Police Pensioners
311 Roosevelt St. San Antonio, Texas 78210
Pensioners Newsletter-8 March 2011
By Vick Abate

WELLNESS REPORTS

FIRE—by S.B. ‘Breezy’ Briseno

(Anyone having information about deaths or illness involving fire department personnel, retirees or relatives, is invited to call Breezy Briseno @ (210) 654-3580) with information.

ILL OR INJURED: Gordon Jackson, recuperating at home, from hip replacement; Jose “Joe” Flores, recuperating at home from vascular surgery.

DECEASED: Richard A. Wagner, 68, 1/8/11. He entered SAFD 11/4/68, retired 5/2/02, as a Paramedic. He was known as a person who took a lot of pride in his job as a paramedic, being very conscientious and professional. Ronald Bilbrey, 64, 2/7/11. He was a self-taught musician and singer. He had his own band “Heart of Texas Band.” He was one of twins with a brother, Donald. His younger brother, Glen, is a retired Fire Engineer; Tracy Doane Flores. She was the step-daughter of retired Fire Lt. Richard K. Vela. She considered Richard the only father she ever had. Robert “Bobby” Renteria, 86, 2/23/11. He entered SAFD 7/16/55, retiring 10/16/85. His highlight was the fact that he lived within walking distance from the fire station (#28) on El Monte, to which he was assigned for many years. He earned the nickname of “Clark Gable” because of his trim moustache.

POLICE--- by Bill Turner

Anyone having information about deaths or illness involving police department personnel, retirees or relatives, is invited to call Bill Turner @ (210) 525-9962 with information.

ILL OR INJURED: none reported

DECEASED: none reported

SPEAKER: Frank Walsh, retired SAFD, the Head Curator of the San Antonio Fire History Museum (SA Fire Museum Society, Inc.) presented information about the museum and it’s plans, to build a real museum and not just display old fire engines. Already collected are some antiquated engines, old FD photos of the 1800 & 1900’s, such as the first steam-powered engine and plenty of memorabilia. The temporary location of the museum is the old FS #1 at 801. E. Houston, while plans and financing for a new structure is in process. Donations to this project can be made by contacting Mario Arrellano @ (210) 887-0678 or The San Antonio Fire History Museum (office) at POB 29643, SATX 78229.

PENSION FUND COMMITTEE: Alex Perez reported the fund is up +7.4%. He also introduced Mr. Jesus Torres who has been hired by the Board as an Investment Analyst.

PRE-FUNDED HEALTH COMMITTEE: Jerry Clancy reported the fund is doing well and up +6.5% YTD. He said the fund board members are monitoring current atmosphere of health care groups.

PRE-89 HEALTH INSURANCE: The prospect of double-billing for the January premiums has been handled by President Trainer.

Website: The S.A. Fire & Police Pensioner's Association has a web-site. The URL is:
<www.safppa.org>

DID YOU KNOW: The origin of the word shrapnel? The British army adopted an artillery shell for use in the war with Napoleon. A hollow artillery shell was filled with smaller musket balls, along with a charge of gunpowder ignited by a fuse. The shell could be launched long-distance at the enemy's lines. When it exploded in mid-air, it spread a deadly carpet of metal shards over a wide area. Sir George Wood, commander of the British artillery, credited the new shell with playing a critical role in the defeat of Napoleon at the Battle of Waterloo. Artillery became infinitely more terrifying and the name of the officer who invented the shell became known around the world. His name: Henry SCHRAPNEL. (*Excerpt from "The Greatest War Stories Never Told"*)

