



Hi, Five



The newsletter of Association Five for all our Friendly Valley neighbors

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Meet your neighbors – George & Irma Patton have lived in FV for 27 years. That's not enough



to qualify as the longest tenancy in FV. They have been married 65 years. That's not enough to qualify as the longest-married couple in FV. But put those two numbers together and, especially in Assn 5, it's enough to qualify for a feature article in *Hi Five*.

George and Irma grew up on farms in southern Illinois during WWII. Both drove tractors at an early age. George was one of eight children, while Irma had two siblings. Both remember the hardships and rationing during the war. They worked long hours tending the crops, gardens, and livestock. Their families managed to grow most of what they ate. Townfolks were happy to buy any surplus eggs, butter, and meat from them.

After high school, George went with an older brother to Michigan where he got a job with General Motors. Two years later he was drafted into the army. On a weekend pass in Illinois, he met Irma Rister on a blind date. They continued corresponding as he served a year in Korea, where he earned the Combat Infantry Badge.

On discharge George returned to Illinois and to Irma, but a decent job was hard to find. He joined

three siblings in L.A., found a job, and sent for Irma. They were married in 1955. Soon they returned to Illinois and took up farming again. They had a son and daughter, but when the son developed asthma, they moved back to L.A. for the dryer climate. George took a job with GM in Van Nuys and stayed till retiring in 1988. Irma worked part-time jobs while being a full-time housewife and mother.

They moved to FV looking for peace and quiet, away from city traffic. They joined the Lawn Bowls Club for exercise and relaxation, bowling and competing with other clubs from Santa Maria on the north to Coronado on the south, making friends along the way. The couple hope to get back on FV's own beautiful green soon.

Their daughter lives nearby in Valencia. They also have four grandchildren and four step-grandchildren.

Gardening hiatus – In case you didn't notice, All-Pro asked for and was granted a two-week stay-at-home period. They returned last week. A *Hi Five Alert* was sent out to our email subscribers.

Letters to the editor – When our Alert went out about the gardening hiatus, the following note came in from one resident: *"Good to know . sort of. I realize those folks have a job to do, and I like a well-maintained landscape as much as the next person. Still, despite the horrible circumstances, I must confess that I've really enjoyed the past two weeks of no leaf-blowers, string-trimmers, saws, and/or mowers disturbing the peace. I'd gladly trade less gardening (and less expense) for more of what induced me to move here 11 years ago: tranquility"*. And from another: *"I can't see my dog in the tall grass."*

How are you coping? – This is a stressful time, and we all have to find ways to adapt to the new reality. Are you reading more or spending more time with the TV or Internet? Are you calling your friends and having longer conversations? Perhaps you're spending more time exercising. Let us know by email or telephone. Your neighbors might benefit from your ideas.

Fifty-Year Resident of FV - by Ellen Brokaw
Dr. Roger Eckblom of Association 4, is possibly our longest continuous resident, having moved to FV on Nov 10, 1970. He is a dentist, retiring at Granada Hills in 1992. He served in WWII, Korean War, Vietnam War, and is honored to be a retired Navy Reserve Captain after 30 years of service. Six years after moving to FV he was joined by his new bride, Faber, who is now a retired neurology office manager.

By chance Dr. Eckblom's realtor knew of our nice, quiet senior community. In a bind between homes, he hurriedly bought in for \$26,800. Minimum age was 45. The following January the Sylmar earthquake occurred, damaging or destroying 14 units in Assn 4. Thereafter, according to Dr. Eckblom, "You couldn't GIVE away property in FV."

Back then only four associations were here, plus the amenities, golf course, pool, common area. Assn 4, largest in FV, was built in two stages, 1964 and 1968. The rest of our property was sand, sage and weed. There was a shopping center on the Sanctuary Church grounds. Chase Bank area was deeply sunken ground which eventually was filled. FV had no entry gates--free entry at FV Parkway and Whispering Leaves. There was a security service that used two cars to patrol the area.

At that point, residents voted to halt further development of FV. However, a realtor then proposed to build low-cost housing on an adjacent parcel, prompting FV residents to vote to buy the property, expanding our community.

Dr. Eckblom did not meet Bob Hope, but hearsay at the time was that Mr. Hope donated a parcel now known as the RV storage area, further expanding FV.

Old issues of *Hi Five* – can be found on www.friendlyvalleycountryclubwebsite.com as far back as January, 2019, when we resumed publishing. Thanks to Dave Swartz, who posts every issue of *Hi Five* as it comes out.

New email category for Alerts – On Monday, March 16, a *Hi Five Alert* was sent out telling of the temporary closure of all FV recreational

facilities, including the Business Office, Security Office, library, auditorium and club rooms. The Alert went only to our email subscribers. Starting now, we are creating a new subscriber category. It is for those Assn 5 residents who want to continue getting *Hi Five* on paper but who would like to get the Alerts by email. Alerts include agendas for the monthly meetings of the CC, the Rec Board, and the Five Board, as well as timely important notices such as the one on March 16. If you are currently a paper subscriber in Assn 5, you may now send us an email saying "Send *Hi Five Alerts* by email."

***Hi Five* in crisis** – During the coronavirus crisis, I intend to publish this newsletter on schedule. News will be gathered by email, telephone, or whatever means possible. Email subscribers will continue to get each issue the day before the publication date. However, delivering to paper subscribers will be problematic. Access to the business office and the library is now restricted, so if you regularly get your *Hi Five* that way, you're out of luck. Likewise, I cannot ask my deliverers in Assn 5 to pass out paper copies if they feel unsafe doing so, and I will have no way of notifying you in advance when that is the case. Therefore, I am creating another list. Send an email saying, "Put me on the Crisis List." You will continue to get paper copies whenever possible, but you will get an email copy as a backup, and you will get *Alerts*. When the crisis is over, the Crisis List will be erased and things will return to normal. If you do not have email, I am truly sorry.

History lesson – The City of Santa Clarita incorporated December 15, 1987 – the largest City ever to incorporate in the history of California. The first Santa Clarita City Council included: Mayor Howard "Buck" McKeon, Mayor Pro-tem Jan Heidt, and Councilmembers Dennis Koontz, Jo Anne Darcy, and Carl Boyer.

Assn 5 picnic – Hang on to the date of June 27. Who knows what will happen by then?

Thanks – to George and Irma Patton for switching to *Hi Five* by email.

Next issue of *Hi Five* – April 20, 2020.

Wise or Otherwise

"Don't complain about growing old. Many, many people do not have that privilege." – Earl Warren, *Chief Justice*
Old age comes at a bad time. You finally know everything just in time to forget it.