



Alumni Corner: Reunion with shuttle *Endeavour*

Priceless!!!

Nothing could describe the sense of pride Sillimanian **Alex Strong** felt when he saw the space shuttle *Endeavour* in its final home, the **California Science Center** in Los Angeles. *Endeavour*, the fifth and final NASA space shuttle, was constructed as a replacement for *Challenger*, which was destroyed seconds after its launch on January 28, 1986. *Endeavour* flew its first mission in May 1992 and completed its last mission in May 2011.



Alex Strong, SUHS '51, meets shuttle Endeavour — again!

Alex Strong had been part of the welding crew that had worked on the shuttle before it was shipped to Florida by Rockwell International Space Transportation Systems Division in May 1991. Not unlike meeting an old friend again.

Alex's father **Dr. James Walter Strong**, a U.S. Navy dentist, came to Manila with Admiral Dewey in 1898-1899 when the Philippines became US territory. He stayed after his discharge and settled in Basilan where he

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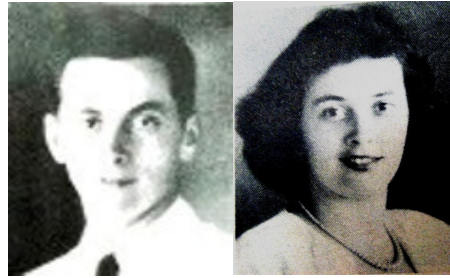
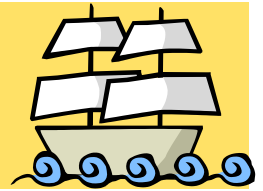
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SD Portal

November 2012

Xtra

Happy Thanksgiving



Bells toil for Silliman, started extension initiative

Boyd Anderson and Rosemary Bell
1948—1958

By Ligaya Magbanua Simpkins

An offer of a job in the Philippines as a missionary and teacher of agriculture at a university was made to **Boyd Anderson Bell** after the end of WWII. In 1948 the Boyd Bells, the youngest Presbyterian missionaries in their time, soon found their way on the ship *The Silver Briar* to Silliman University with their three-year-old daughter, **Betsy Jane**.

Prior to their arrival in the Philippines, **Rosemary Fleming Bell, R.N.**, served as Head Nurse of the maternity Unit at Allegheny General Hospital in 1944 and as an Infirmary Nurse at the Torrance State Hospital in 1945. Boyd obtained his B.S. in Agronomy from Penn-



The Bell family in 1955: Betsy in back, and Raymond, Tom and Marilyn in front.

sylvania State University in 1942 and worked at the Eastern States Farmers Exchange in 1942 and at State College, Pennsylvania in 1948 as an assistant manager. Boyd Bell served with the 462nd Squadron of the U.S. Air Force from 1942-1946. He was stationed in Florida and was later sent to Iwo Jima in 1945.

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American Missionaries
11th in a Series

Christmas party Dec. 9

The annual SUAF Christmas party will be held Sunday, Dec. 9 from 1—5pm at the Mira Mesa Library community room, 8405 New Salem Drive, SD.

Family contributions (\$20 per family) should be directed to Grace Tan before Nov. 30 to allow for menu preparation.

Those planning to bring favorite dishes, please coordinate with Fely Narvaez, Laarni Gularek, Ligaya Simpkins and Precy Garrido.

Doing good, SUAF donates books

Philippine-related books and media materials collected by SUAF became welcome additions to the Mira Mesa library following a presentation Oct. 27 with US Rep. **Bob Filner** as guest speaker.

Over 100 attendees participated in the event wherein librarian **Jennifer Suder** accepted the donated collection for the library's Philippine Heritage and Cultural section from SUAF president **Laarni Gularek**.

The event was characterized with a Filipino theme — décor, food, attire and entertainment, including violin renditions by SUAF member **Dr. Jose Jacinto**. It also generated coverage in local Filipino newspapers, eliciting comment from former librarian **Teresita Flores** as easily "surpassing past book presentations".

Aside from retiring Rep. Filner (who success- *See BOOKS page 2*

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owned a rubber plantation named American Rubber Company. He met and married **Crispina Tolentino**, a Filipina teacher with whom he had five children: **Julia, Estella, Inez, Feliza and Walter**. When Crispina died during childbirth, he married **Isabel Garcia**, a Spanish woman and had seven more children: **Elizabeth, Fred, James, Francis, Josephine, Thomas and Alexis**.

Dr. Strong sent all his children to Silliman. Inez and Feliza, Alex's half-sisters, are shown in a picture of the choir directed by Rev. **Irving Channon** (SD PortalXtra, Oct. 2012). After a 3-year delay because of WWII, the youngest, Alex, was sent to Silliman in 1946 for his 6th grade education and he completed his high school education at SUHS in 1951.

It was early on that Alex met **Norma Belloso**, SUHS '50. Both remember **Jean Carson, Phyllis Mckinley, Carol Mahy and Donald Appleton** as their classmates.

Alex and Norma got married and came to the U.S. They have been married for 61 years and have five chil-

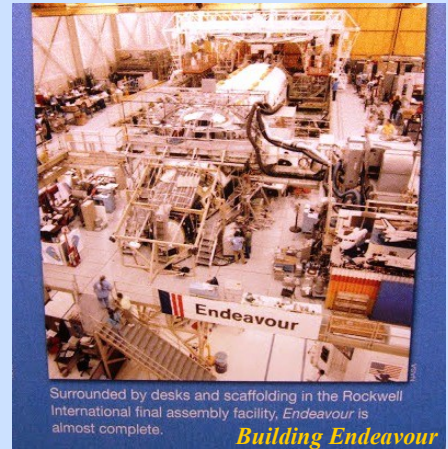
dren: **Alexa Ann, William Richard, Randolph Henry, Nancy Rae, and Dianne Mae**.

While working at North American Aviation, later known as Rockwell International, Alex pursued his undergraduate studies and earned his Manufacturing Engineering degree which focused on machine shop, welding and manufacturing. He had worked on the Minuteman program and participated in the NASA/APOLLO program at various locations (Palmdale, Canaveral, St Louis) but eventually returned to Palmdale to work on the shuttle *Endeavour* as Weld Engineer until his retirement in 1992.

Norma Strong took accounting classes at night and handled their private machine/welding shop business in Oregon until its closure. She was then hired as an accounting assistant at Rockwell in the Accounts Payable department where she worked until she, too, retired in 1992.

Alex and Norma presently reside in Los Angeles. They plan to relocate to Oregon where other family members now reside.

— *Ligaya Magbanua Simpkins*



Surrounded by desks and scaffolding in the Rockwell International final assembly facility, *Endeavour* is almost complete.
Building Endeavour



Silliman alumni Norma and Alex Strong beside the retired space shuttle.

BOOKS ... from page 1

fully won his bid to become mayor of San Diego), other luminaries graced the occasion. US Congressman-elect **Scott Peters**, and **Dave Roberts**, also elected to San Diego's Board of Supervisors, came as did actor **Bruce Davison** of the ABC television series "Last Resort".

Retiring US Rep. Filner (and newly elected San Diego mayor), with Bruce Davison and US Rep.-elect Scott Peters.

The book committee was headed by **Fely Narvaez**. Great work was done by other committee members especially **Ben Sy**. Assistance also came from **Shana (Soldwisch) Johnson** whose husband **Ky** works for US AID in Manila.

Library donations by SUAF is an on-going project dating

back to chapter presidents **Susan Monte de Ramos**

Soldwisch, Nate Tan and Fely.

Also performing with vocal renditions during the presentation was **Grace de los Reyes**.



Emcee Ben Sy addresses attendees.

The donation came out to more than 150 books/CDs/DVDs collected from donors and purchased from chapter funds raised through caroling last Christmas.

Professor Jacinto in a violin solo "Pakiusap"

More pictures of book presentation on page 6.



BELLS ... from page 1

The Silliman Agriculture Department was organized on March 2, 1949 and Boyd Bell, an assistant professor on the department faculty, became the first department head in May 1952. He set objectives to prepare students for teaching, managing plantations, rural organizing, extension service and cooperative organizing in addition to preparing them for community teaching and contributing to the preparation of rural ministers. With these objectives, the Agriculture department used Silliman Farm as their laboratory for practical training and experimentation and the cooperative effort was successful in aug-



Picture of the Bell extended family taken during memorial service for Rosemary Bell in 2005.

menting the food supply for the campus, especially for the cafeteria and dormitories.

In order to integrate the agriculture program into the University's academic program, the agriculture curriculum was organized within the College of Arts and Sciences to ensure adequate education to students who would not be able to pursue further studies at Los Banos and who would have to return to the rural areas. A two year preparatory curriculum was likewise instituted and arrangements were made for Silliman agricultural students to transfer to Los Banos with junior standing in order to complete the four-year course at the U.P. College of Agriculture.

The agricultural extension program had started in 1950 with proposals by Dr. **Leland E. Call**, a visiting Fulbright professor from Kansas State Agricultural College, and continued to develop with the added expertise of Dr. Robert Polson, another visiting Fulbright professor from Cornell University. Boyd Bell served as the Acting Director for the Extension Service starting in 1954, chairman of the Extension Service committee in 1955 and was the Superintendent for Silliman Farm in 1956.

The DYSR radio station at Silliman had a program department with service units on religion, music, women and children, and farm. Mrs. **Helen Mahy** coordinated the programs for women and children and her unit was assisted by **Rosemary Bell**, **Dorothy Vernon**, **Rosita Romero**, **Edna Lauby**, **Rosario Raterta** and several others. Rosemary hosted the

program "You and Your Baby" while Boyd Bell, with the help of **George Juliano**, handled the agricultural and farm programs of DYSR station in disseminating agricultural information through Boyd's "Farm Hour", a program designed to reach people from all walks of life with the University extension programs.

Boyd was transferred from Silliman University in 1958 to do rural extension work under the auspices of the UCCP Church. **Emmanuel Gervacio** succeeded Boyd Bell as head of the agriculture department and continued the university extension program. Boyd Bell had done much to elevate the department's status to merit grant fundings from abroad, particularly Germany. By 1957 the list of specialized courses in the Department of Agriculture totaled 17. During this period, the Fenn survey (1954-1955) had recommended the start of a four-year program leading to a Bachelor of Science degree although this program did not fully materialize until 1962.

Rosemary was the Research Director of Publications and Audio Visual Aids for the Silliman Extension Service in 1956. She worked closely with Dumaguete District Conference churches and held varied positions in an official capacity as an elected member of the Executive Committee, as fraternal worker and program chairman of the Women's Missionary Union, advisor to the Christian Youth Fellowship and chairman of the Christian Education and Planning Committee. She also participated in an aggressive visitation program where volunteers gave one Sunday a month of their time to visit rural churches. As Acting Director of the Christian Literature Center in the University, Rosemary saw how the literature program had benefited students and



Agriculturist with chickens and eggs.

faculty and she proposed extending the scope to serve the rural churches of the Visayas and Mindanao as well as improve the Silliman-Conference relationship.

Boyd had met Rosemary when they were mem-

bers of the choir at Penn State University and at Silliman, Boyd was known for the tenor solos he performed in church. He conducted the University choirs until the arrival of **William Pfeiffer** in 1952 and was a member of the famous "Faculty Four" which regaled the university with

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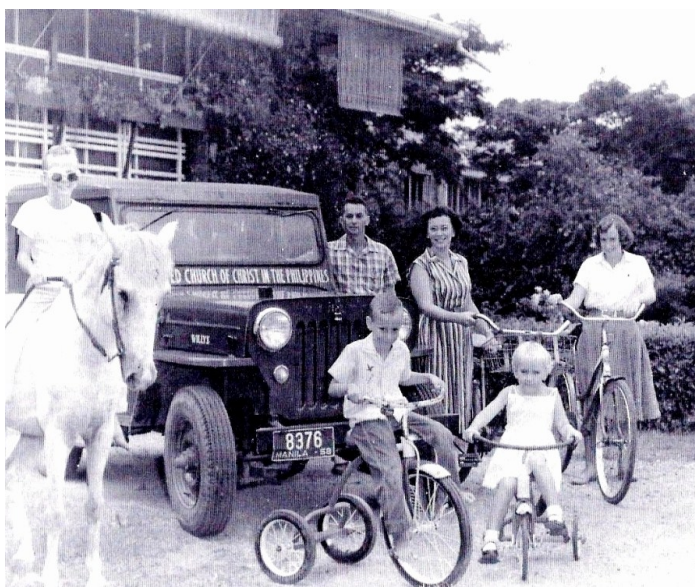
Boyd hosting DYSR farm program

their performances of old favorites, serious music and folk songs. Betsy recalls that he could have been a professional singer but decided early on he did not want to make a living with his voice and preferred to focus on helping farmers. Rosemary continued to study piano with Professor Albert Faurot and accompanied Boyd during recitals in the Faurot studio.



Rosemary... and the Bell campus home on Langheim Rd.

By 1954, the Bell family, who had made their home on Langheim road, had grown with the births of three more children, **Raymond**, **Tom**, and **Marily**. The entire family loved music and spent time around the piano singing for fun, thus it was no surprise that daughter Betsy found music to be her fa-



Pony and bike rides ... fun and play with the Bell children.

vorite subject while at Parker High School, Arizona. Her early violin lessons were given by Professor **Zoe Lopez** at Silliman and Betsy continued her lessons with the violin and clarinet in Arizona. She performed her first solo at Silliman Church at age 13 and continued doing solos throughout high school.

Betsy received a voice scholarship to attend Arizona State and after graduating in 1963 she went to Tempe, with music performance as her major. She worked full-time as secretary to the Dean of Social Work at Arizona State, finished her bachelor's degree and earned her Masters in Voice Performance and Pedagogy. In 1972 she was awarded a Rockefeller Grant in Music for study in New York City. Her music career has included performances as an opera singer and concert soloist throughout the United States. From 1986 until 1993 Betsy was administrator of the Montessori de Terra Linda Montessori school in San Rafael, California and then returned to school for a California Teaching Credential.

Betsy married **Everett Taylor** in 1966. They divorced as Betsy's career started to take off. Her second husband, **Jim Allen**, Justin's father, worked for the San Francisco Opera Company. Their marriage ended when Justin was five years old. **Justin**, a registered nurse like his grandmother, works in Traverse City, Michigan where son **Quincy** lives.

Betsy now resides in Anderson Valley, CA where she had conducted the Anderson Valley Community Chorus, taught English and reading at the public schools and coordinated the A.V.I.D program, a course designed to prepare high school students for college. Betsy continues to help educate young people and share her love of music by playing violin with her local community orchestra.

Upon completion of his undergraduate work at the Arizona State University, **Raymond Bell** began a 13-year teaching career in Albuquerque, New Mexico then went on to earn his MM at the University of New Mexico. He taught high school band in the Albuquerque Public Schools. Raymond and his wife **Kathy** moved to Colorado Springs in 1985 where they still reside with **Colleen**, the youngest of their three children. After a sales career that spanned 18 years, he returned to teaching high school band and orchestra in 2003. Kathy had met Raymond at Arizona State University and has been actively involved in Christian Education through the United Methodist Church they belong to. She is the current program coordinator for the Foster Grandparents program of Volunteers of America in El Paso County. Daughter **Erin Maldoff** lives with husband **Christian** and daughter **Emma** in Longmont, Colorado and son **Ryan** and **Madeleine Bell** are in Missoula, Montana where they are pursuing advanced degrees at the University of Montana.

Tom Bell, who was born at the Silliman University Hospital two years after Raymond, studied Art at Clarion College for three years then transferred to Ivy School of Professional Art in Pittsburgh, PA to study photography. Tom met his wife **Sarah (Sis) Maietta** in college. Both are now retired from life-long careers with the state government where Tom worked for 15 years as a photographer for State Media Services and 15 years for the Pennsylvania State Treasury Department. They have two children, **Patrick** and **Christine**, two grandchildren and two step-grandchildren. Tom has lived in Harrisburg since 1960 and notes that "... *I'm retired and working harder than ever but loving it.*"

Marily, the youngest, got her BA in Liberal Studies and Master's in Education. She taught drama and self-esteem building classes for twenty years at a middle school in Union City, CA which coincidentally then was 75% Filipino. She married **Steve Harrington** in 1974. Steve taught high school *Continued next page*

drama for 33 years and upon retirement, the Harringtons moved to Loveland, CO. Marily made costumes for 75 of Steve's over 100 productions and now enjoys teaching jewelry making classes and doing the costumes for the Harrington Arts Academy, her son's business in Loveland. God has blessed them with three children and three grandchildren, all residing in Loveland.

In 1959, Rosemary began having health issues and the Bell family decided to return to the United States. After a year in Pennsylvania, the family moved to Parker, Arizona under the auspices of the Board of National Missions for the Presbyterian Church. Boyd served as lay preacher at the then Mojave Presbyterian Church located on the Colorado River Indian Tribes reservation while Rosemary worked full-time at the Indian hospital and as a school nurse for Parker Dam schools.

Boyd Bell decided to become an ordained minister after 5 years of service, and chose to attend the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. After his ordination he went to Sligo, Pennsylvania where he served as area minister for eight small Presbyterian churches. Area Ministry was a new concept developed to help smaller churches that could not support a full-time minister. Through this program, Boyd was able to return to the farming area of northeastern Pennsylvania where as a boy he spent every summer vacation on his uncle's farm. Rosemary again worked as a nurse at the local nursing home and helped to build the local Easter Seal program for disabled children. She was also instrumental in starting the Truck Stop Ministry along Highway 80 all across Pennsylvania.

Boyd's health issues forced him to retire in 1985, and he and Rosemary moved to Sun City, Arizona. When Boyd passed away in 1990, Rosemary moved to Los Gatos, California to be near her daughters. She continued to work part-time in nursing. In 2000 Rosemary relocated to live with Betsy in Boonville, California. She became intimately involved with the community, helping to create an Elder Home, finding a site for the Teen Center, becoming a member of the Health Center Board, starting a small writer's group, and singing in the chorus and with The Golden Girls. She passed away in 2005 at the age of 83.

On their years at Silliman, Marily remembers a vibrant, green landscape, digging in the rich soil, swimming in the ocean, and warm, friendly people. Tom recalls *"It was a great time in my life that came to an end too soon. I remember the schools there, and I always felt welcome everywhere we went. The tartanillas were fun to watch and ride in... Fishing for tilapia was fun... the guavas, bud-bud.. sugar cane.. I loved that stuff... Those acacia trees are beautiful and provided shade and some shelter from the rain. The rain, the rain! Listening to it bounce off the tin roof of our house made it easy to fall asleep at siesta time. I have always liked having and being around animals, and I'm sure it's because my dad did too. It was a great time."*

Betsy notes of her parents that *"... religion and our church were certainly important to them and they had all the Christian values. So when I was three we moved... It was the beginning of many years of great happiness for us all and I was there until I turned 13, apart from one year spent back in the*



Betsy with iconic Silliman professor Dioscoro Rabor.

States ...Even after all the years away from Silliman, Boyd and Rosemary had many great memories of their time in the Philippines, shared wonderful stories, and kept in contact with many of their friends and colleagues and their families. Their children also consider their formative time at Silliman as an important part of their family history."

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Editor's Notes:

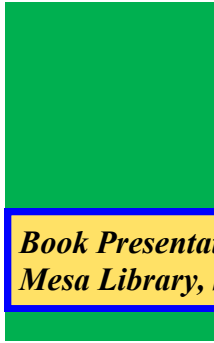
Readers who would like to contact Betsy Bell Taylor may use her email address: greyingdiva@gmail.com.

Next month's feature on **American Missionaries** will be the last to appear in this newsletter. The author will however carry on her research and writing on the more than 150 missionaries/fraternal workers. Should the reader be interested to contribute/share personal or anecdotal references, please contact her directly by email:

simpkins1922@att.net

ERRATUM: In last month's feature in **American Missionaries** on Rev. Channon, son Hiram's birth year was erroneously listed as 1984. It should be **1894**.

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Book Presentation, Oct. 27, Mira Mesa Library, San Diego, CA



The working group



Alma Lavergne with librarians Teresita Flores and Jennifer Suder



Ribbon-cutting



Joe Jacinto marks 90th

SUAF founding member Dr. **Jose Jacinto** was treated to a birthday luncheon Nov. 17 by wife **Julie** with over a hundred other family guests in Ramona, CA — he notched his 90th on Nov. 12.



Professor Jacinto is remembered by alumni for the years he taught philosophy and religion at Silliman. The Jacintos have lived in Ramona for the last seven years, having moved from Corona to be near where daughter **Raquel Branom** and family also reside.

Laarni, Ben, Rep. Filner, TV actor Bruce Davison, Rep.-elect Scott Peters, Ligaya and Fely.



The birthday celebrant with family and Fely and Ga-ya.