

# Chronicles

Newsletter of the UCSD Emeriti Association

September 2017

Volume XVII, No. 1

## Genesis: How UCSD Came to Be

By Jack C. Fisher Edward A. Dickson Professor Emeritus EA Historian and Past President

"It was an interesting experiment, watching a bunch of sailors invent a university."

Walter Munk

### Part 1: Pearl Harbor: San Diego's Wake-Up Call and the Catalyst for a New Campus

Prior to the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, San Diego was still the quiet if not totally sleepy residential community and naval base it had been since it was annexed to the United States a century earlier under the treaty that ended the war with Mexico. The city's population had climbed to about 200,000, no larger than Modesto is today. Apart from the excitement surrounding the Panama-California Exposition of 1915, about the only distractions were the proximity to Tijuana during Prohibition and the hijinks of sailors on shore leave. Because of the city's large natural harbor, the US Navy maintained its headquarters for western operations, including a repair base for the Pacific Fleet, and on nearby North Island, one of the nation's largest naval air bases.

Despite the successful exposition in 1915 and a subsequent one in 1935, the city had not been able to attract much in the way of manufacturing. Consolidated Aircraft remained the city's only major private industry, a 1935 import from Buffalo. Tucked



Jack C. Fisher

between Lindbergh Field and the Marine Corps Recruit Depot, its assembly plant in 1941 was engaged in completing orders derived from President **Franklin Roosevelt**'s controversial Lend-Lease Act aimed at helping Great Britain defend itself.

The war brought big changes. The Marine Corps' Camp Calvin B. Matthews and its neighbor, Army Camp Robert E. Callan, served as centers for training and processing over a million troops bound for overseas deployment. When the war came to its victorious end, portions of each facility were destined for a San Diego campus of the University of California, but not without several years of on-again, offagain deliberations confounded by conflicting expectations for the institution's intended purpose and engaging a host of politicians, academics, and ordinary citizens, many with sharply differing views.

But first there was a war to win. Suddenly thrust into a "blitz-boom,"

as the Saturday Evening Post called it, the city's population surged, rising to almost 300,000 within a year, nearly half active military. Together with an infusion of federal funds for the military came massive housing projects in Clairemont and Linda Vista, trailer parks throughout Mission Valley, an expanded Red Light district downtown, and after voters approved a 200-foot-wide lien, a new highway through Balboa Park to facilitate harbor access.

Consolidated Aircraft, soon to merge with Vultee Aircraft and become Convair, kept expanding its assembly facilities on Pacific Coast Highway to eventually accommodate 45,000 workers, all committed to around-the-clock production of B-24 Liberator bombers and PBY Catalina flying boats. One or the other came off the assembly lines every 60 minutes (162 a week for the duration of the war). Only the aircraft produc-

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tion at Ford's giant Willow Run plant outside Detroit matched this pace.

The heart of San Diego's military installations lay at the perimeter of its net-protected harbor. They included the 11<sup>th</sup> Naval District Headquarters, Naval Fuel and Supply Depot, Naval Air Station North Island, Naval Amphibious Base, Destroyer Maintenance Base, and on a picturesque bluff overlooking the harbor, Naval Hospital Balboa, with thousands of additional beds in tents pitched across the Pan American Exposition site nearby.

Anybody with enough gasoline ration stamps could motor throughout San Diego County and encounter more than 50 military installations operating in support of the Navy, the Marines, the Army and its affiliated Air Corps, plus a vigilant Coast Guard responsible for harbor protection and offshore defense. These sites extended north to the Fallbrook Ammunition Depot and recently established Marine Corps Base Pendleton, eastward to the Borrego Springs Maneuver Area, and south to the Naval Air Station at Brown Field.

San Diego's gigantic military enterprise began in 1900 from a rumor that the Navy was interested in developing a west coast presence for its expanding fleet. Word of the Navy's plan to establish a coaling station somewhere in southern California prompted San Diego's mayor to re-examine the city's natural harbor, long serviceable for shallow-draft sailing vessels, but not deep enough for the new dreadnought class of warships. A dredging estimate commissioned by the City Council came in at \$219,000 (about \$5.5 million in 2017 dollars). The federal government had previously allocated major funding for harbor improvements in San Pedro, Puget Sound, and Galveston Bay, but Admiral of the Fleet George Dewey shelved a plan for



An artist's rendering of the southern extent of Camp Callan where the Rady School, Eleanor Roosevelt College, and Muir College now stand. US 101 is just out of view on left; green zone on far right will later become La Jolla Farms.

upgrading San Diego's harbor. And there it stood for nearly a decade.

When in 1908 President **Theodore** Roosevelt dispatched a convoy of sixteen battleships -"the Great White Fleet" -- on a globe-circuiting demonstration of American naval power, San Diego's business community persuaded Admiral Robley Evan, its Commander, to anchor off Coronado long enough to entertain officers and crew with guided tours of the city, parades, theatrical performances, and dinners and balls, all funded by a private subscription. Apparently, the extravaganza made a lasting impression because in 1910, Congress approved the first of a series of appropriations to modernize the harbor. For the next twenty years, the City Council reciprocated by approving one land grant to the Navy after another.

The Marines had conducted their first local amphibious landing for temporary operations during the 1846 Mexican-American War. But when 4<sup>th</sup> Regiment leathernecks arrived in 1914 under the command of Col. **Joseph Pendleton**, they came to stay in what was intended as a permanent base on North Island with a rifle range needed for marksmanship requalification. During preparations for the 1915 Panama-California Exposition, provisional barracks were constructed in Balboa Park

for the regiment's 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion

Beginning in 1917 when the United States entered World War I, much of San Diego was suddenly transformed into a military training camp, foreshadowing the role it would later relive in the next war. In addition to its expanding Navy base, the city played host to as many as 4,000 Marines in Balboa Park, 5,000 Army men at Fort Rosecrans, 2,000 aviators on North Island, and up to 28,000 troops at Camp Kearney north and east of downtown San Diego. And when these troops returned

from battle, they brought influenza with them, overwhelming the city's medical resources, including a county hospital as well as the newly opened Scripps Metabolic Clinic in downtown La Jolla.

When North Island's facilities were later reassigned to the Army Air Corps, the city added a grant of 500 acres to the 232 purchased for the Marine Corps Recruit Depot (MCRD) commissioned in 1921, eventually becoming the nation's largest Marine basic training facility. Rural land suitable for a rifle range was identified thirteen miles north of the base. A short-term lease of 363 acres led to a total purchase of 545 acres. Long known as the Marine Rifle Range, the facility was renamed Camp Calvin B. Matthews on March 23, 1942.

Motorists traveling in 1943 from Los Angeles to San Diego and facing the Torrey Pines Grade had two choices, the original two-lane switchback that was notoriously unwelcoming to underpowered vehicles or a new southbound "cut and fill" grade opened in 1932 for US 101. Either choice brought travelers the reward of passing through Torrey Pines City Park (not yet a state natural reserve) before reaching the 24/7 frenzy of Camp Callan on 710 ocean front acres leased from the city for a dollar a year.

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Comprised of nearly 300 hastilybuilt wooden structures, the base could house 15,000 troops and staff at a time. There were barracks and mess halls, six post exchanges and three chapels, medical facilities for 900, a reservoir filled with 4.5 million gallons of water, numerous warehouses, an incinerator, and small arms firing ranges. On a site now occupied by the Salk Institute, there was a chemical warfare training center with two gas chambers in which thousands of recruits learned to differentiate tear gas from phosgene or mustard gas and take appropriate precautions. Obstacle



Troops entering chemical warfare training center, where Salk Institute now stands.

courses imparted skills needed for an invasion of the Japanese home islands, including one replicated village dubbed "Little Tokyo," with its own booby traps and simulated land mines. Where UCSD's Torrey Pines Administrative Center stands today, an amphitheater accommodated as many as 5,000 troops for entertainment provided by stars like **Bob Hope** and **Jack Benny**.

Conceived as a coastal defense facility, Camp Callan's mission changed as the character of the war evolved, in time becoming a training center for anti-aircraft defense and later for amphibious landings in the Pacific. The firepower generated from coastal artillery required definition of an offshore danger zone extending from La Jolla's oceanographic pier northward past Del Mar to Solana Beach. Only on weekends were sailors and surfers allowed to enter this area.

Motorists leaving downtown San Diego bound for the beach communities could use Grand Avenue to cross Pacific Beach. Turning northward into La Jolla, they passed by the Naval Anti-aircraft Gunnery Training School, a site where concrete foundations can still be seen. Between 1941 and 1945, twenty million rounds of ammunition were hurled offshore at airborne targets towed by light aircraft. The Navy Shore Patrol stood watch over this facility, not because of unruly sailors or the risk of foreign invasion but to fend off neighborhood youth looking

for stray ordnance.

Three miles north of La Jolla Cove lay the campus of the University of California's Scripps Institution of Oceanography where wartime research was conducted in several laboratories. The road beyond SIO, a switchback ascending to the Torrey Pines Mesa, intersected with US 101. Choices at this junction included a pause at the

Flying A Service Station and its Torrey Pines Café, continuing on [Old] Miramar Road, or turning north or south on US 101.

Motorists traveling northward from downtown San Diego on U.S. 101 through Rose Canyon might pass as many as 9,000 recruits

marching beside the highway bound for their small arms training. Throughout the war years, Camp Matthews echoed the sound of several thousand M-1 rifles as aspiring marksmen blazed away at their targets. Three weeks later. as fully trained Marines, they marched back downtown to board troop carriers bound for the next scheduled invasion, some – may their sacrifice never be forgotten-- not to return. More than a million Marines earned their qualification during Camp Matthews' 45 years of operation, among them President Kennedy's assassin, Lee Harvey Oswald.

Although the facility had long functioned with three firing ranges and a few dozen tents, an accelerated building program commencing soon after Pearl Harbor yielded fifteen ranges, an administrative building, several large barracks, dozens of Quonset huts, four mess halls seating 1,000 each, a post exchange, a post office, a swimming pool, and an open air theater, all of this surrounded by an ocean of tents erected over wooden platforms. Armed guards stood watch day and night over seven large magazines holding weapons and ammunition.

Training operations were conducted by 700 instructors and support staff, many of them women keeping track of target scores. Range "H," extending from the site of today's Sheraton Hotel to land now occupied

by a Mormon Temple, was designated for 60mm-mortar, hand grenade, rocketpropelled grenade (aka bazooka), and flame-thrower proficiency. Every recruit entering any firing range saw incentive posters like the one that read "Hits mean dead Nips." Qualification rates approached 90 percent; re-qualification rates



On site now occupied by UCSD's Torrey Pines Administrative Center, an amphitheater where troops were entertained by stars like Bob Hope.

were nearly 100 percent, later confirmed by testimony taken from Japanese prisoners on Guadalcanal: "American riflemen better; always hit target."

The awaited peace brought with it a sudden deceleration of San Diego's industrial momentum to 10% of peak wartime production, prompting someone to brand the city a "broken down boomtown." Workers at Solar Aircraft, today's Solar Turbines, were making stainless steel caskets instead of airplane components. Corporate visionaries, fearing a contraction of the region's manufacturing capacity or even worse, a recession of the severity that gripped the nation followed WWI, pondered events that brought the war to its end and envisioned a commitment to nuclear innovation as an economic foundation for San Diego's future prosperity.

Enter **Roger Revelle**, who became SIO's Acting Director in 1950 and Director in 1951. His dreams extended beyond ocean discovery; they included a graduate school for scientists and engineers, in synchrony with San Diego's burgeoning nuclear

industry. What Revelle did not want was a general campus. Any obligation to instruct undergraduates represented a distraction, a barrier to recruiting the very finest mentors and apprentices. His plan was to assemble a faculty of top scientists and provide them with facilities for research to be conducted with the most promising graduate students.

Speaking at Princeton University in 1958 to an audience of graduate school advisors, Revelle described his image of an ideal campus: "...a university to be distinguished needs to be distinctive, with a faculty built from the top down and not from the bottom up, from the inside out and not from the outside in." It would also have to include faculty from other disciplines, to allow for an integration of natural and physical sciences with humanities and social sciences, "...because of the profound effect of technology and scientific discovery on all aspects of modern society."

On a more pragmatic level, San Diego's mayor and City Council had ideas of their own and knew the city held a key card to play in shaping the outcome, which was land in abundance. The 1848 Treaty of Guadalupe Hildalgo that transformed Mexico's Alta California into a territory and later a state had left San Diego in possession of historic "pueblo lands" named for the historic settlement's status as a town (pueblo). This inheritance gave the city uncommon control of its destiny, permitting disposition of real estate for railroads and highways, for the Navy, for schools and universities, and for promising commercial ventures. Thanks to the effects of the war, the pieces were there to be put together.

This is the first installment of an edited, much-abbreviated history based on extensive research in primary sources. The full version (including a wealth of footnotes) is available online at <a href="http://blb4371434f">http://blb4371434f</a>.

Thanks to Judy Schulman for the historical photographs in this issue

NEXT ISSUE "SIO: the University of California Comes to La Jolla."



## A Threat to the "70 Percent Floor"

#### By Richard Attiyeh

Professor Emeritus of Economics and Chair of CUCEA

The minutes of the April 2010 meeting of the Council of UC Emeriti Associations (CUCEA) contains this sentence: University contributions to retiree health benefits averaged 92% in 2009 and dropped to 89% in 2010. It is proposed that there be a 3% per year decrease in University contributions to retiree premiums until UC funding reaches a 70% floor. This proposal was made by the President's Task Force on Post-Employment Benefits as a means to help control the budgetary impact of retiree health

care benefits. After a long and heated public debate involving the Academic Senate, CUCEA, and others, it was approved by the Regents. Even though it would increase the cost of health care to retirees, CUCEA came to accept it as something we could live with because of the 70% floor, which we believed would remain in effect for the long term.

On July 2<sup>nd</sup> of this year, however, I received an email from **Daniel Mitchell**, the UCLA representative to CUCEA entitled *Stealth Regents Item July 12 on Retiree Health.* Clicking on a link in the email, I found the agenda to the Regents'

Finance and Capital Strategies Committee for its meeting of July 12<sup>th</sup>. In it was agenda item F7 entitled

AUTHORIZATION TO INCREASE THE UNIVERSITY EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTION RATE, MAKE ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA RETIREMENT PLAN, AND RESCIND THE 70 PERCENT FLOOR FOR THE UNIVERSITY'S AGGREGATE ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE RETIREE HEALTH BENEFIT PROGRAM

This agenda item proposed to provide

the funding needed to meet the required annual contribution to the UC Retirement Plan (a good thing), but potentially pay for it by getting retirees to shoulder a higher proportion of the cost of their Medicare supplemental health insurance (a bad thing). Given that the University has now hit the 70% floor, this would mean that retirees' share of the cost of their supplemental health insurance could increase again as soon as next year.

I immediately drafted a letter to the President, the Regents committee, the Chair of the Academic Senate, the Vice President for Human Resources, and the Chief Financial Officer. The CFO apparently was the author of this agenda item. I shared the draft of my letter with the CUCEA Executive Committee and got some excellent suggestions to enhance its impact. The letter stated four objections to the proposal:

First, it was put on the Regents agenda without consulting the Academic Senate and both CUCEA and

CUCRA.

Second, it undercut the confidence that employees would have in the excellence of the University's retirement system, which plays such a valuable role in recruiting and retaining outstanding faculty and staff.

Third, it would potentially impose a burden on our emeriti who make valuable contributions to the University, often without compensation, as was made clear in the Virtual Eleventh Campus report on emeriti activities.

Finally, its financial analysis was lacking in substance.

Based on these four criticisms, the letter recommended that the proposed action by the Regents be pulled from the agenda, and it was sent on July 5<sup>th</sup>.

I soon learned that letters had also been sent to the powers that be by the Chair of the Academic Council, the Chair of CUCRA, the presidents of several campus emeriti associations, and a number of individual emeriti. And on July 7<sup>th</sup>, I received an email from the Executive Director of Retirement Programs and Services in the

Office of the President which stated that the Regents item was being deferred until September to allow time for more consultation. This was followed up by another email on July 21<sup>st</sup> which stated that the Regents item was being deferred until November and that the 70% floor would remain in effect for the 2018 retiree health program rates. It also stated that there would be meetings scheduled with the CUCEA and CUCRA leadership and with other groups to discuss this issue.

So, at a minimum, we have earned a one-year deferral of an unwelcome increase in the cost of retiree health insurance. We should all be thankful to the many organizations and individuals who reached out to the University leadership and made clear the importance of the 70% floor to retired faculty and staff. I am hoping that we can persuade the Office of the President that they should find another source of revenue to cover the cost of the UC Retirement Plan.



## Dickson Professorships to Bailey, Craig & Miller

Three Edward A. Dickson Emeriti Professorships have been awarded this year, one to David Bailey, Ann Craig and David Miller.

The awards come from a fund established through the estate of Mr. Dickson, who served on the Board of Regents of the University from 1913 to 1946, the longest tenure of any Regent. They endow appointments for the designated academic year at each of the ten campuses of the University, in accordance with the stipulation of the 1955 gift document:

For the support and maintenance of special annual professorships in the University of California to which shall be appointed by the President, with the approval of the Regents, persons of academic rank who have been retired after service in the University of California and who shall receive such awards in addition to their retirement or pension allowances.

Awards shall be made upon such conditions of service, research or teaching as The Regents may require. Professorships so awarded shall be known as the Edward A. Dickson Emeriti Professorships.

#### DAVID N. BAILEY

During his more than three decades as an active faculty member, David Bailey served not only as chair of the department of Pathology but also as Dean of the school. He was also interim Dean and Dean of the School of Medicine at UC Irvine during its formative years. Since retirement, he has been recalled to service as Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Pathology and Pharmacy, Vice Chair for Education and Academic Affairs in his department, and Deputy Dean of the Skaggs School of Pharmacy.

At the same time he has revised and taught the Core Course in Laboratory Medicine he previously designed and taught. It is now an extremely popular two-quarter elective for second-year medical students. The 300-page course manual he has developed for this course is currently in

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Professor Emeritus David N. Bailey

press for publication as a textbook.

And in addition, he organizes programs for the student Pathology Interest Group, mentors its members, directs undergraduate medical education, and serves on the advisory board of the UCSD student-run Free Clinic project and as a member of the Independent Review Committee on Conflict of Interest.

### **ANN CRAIG**

As a faculty member, Ann Craig studied and taught Latin American politics and served as founding Provost of Eleanor Roosevelt College. She returned to service after retirement as Acting Provost and Interim Provost of Revelle College. She has also been President of the Emeriti Association, chair of the Academic Senate Committee on International Education, and a member of the UCSD New Colleges Pre-Planning Committee and the system-wide Committee on International Education.

She has also remained actively engaged in teaching. For two years she offered a one-unit senior seminar designed to help students returning from education abroad to translate their experience into coursework, research, internships, employ-



Professor Emerita Ann Craig

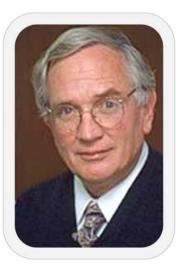
ment and graduate study. She has taught two freshmen seminars, including one on Eleanor Roosevelt's human rights work. She has served in the Chancellor's Scholar Mentor program since 2010 and a volunteer instructor twice each week in an after-school program for Spanish-speaking preschoolers.

#### DAVID R. MILLER

Since retiring from the Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, David R. Miller has shown outstanding leadership in emeriti activities and the work of the Academic Senate. He has served as president and executive board member of the Emeriti Association and as a member of the Academic Senate Faculty Welfare Committee, the Transportation Policy Committee, and the Standing Inquiry Committee for Integrity of Research.

In addition, he has been recalled to teach two required upper division engineering courses in the new Nano Engineering program and has been an active member of both the Chancellors' Scholar Mentoring Program and the Jacobs School of Engineering mentoring program.





Professor Emeritus David Miller

## Dickson Award Recipients

2017 David N. Bailey Ann Craig David Miller

2016 Ruth Covell Charles Kennel

2015 Jack C. Fisher Wayne Cornelius

2014 Richard Somerville

2013 Mel Green

2012 Marjorie Caserio Lea Rudee

2011 Jerry Schneider

2009 **Peter Farrell Robert Hamburger** 

2008 Sandy Lakoff Kurt Benirschke

More information about the Dickson Award can be found on the Emeriti Association website.

Please see:

http://emeriti.ucsd.edu/Awards/

## Anecdotage

By Sandy Lakoff

**Pop Quiz**: How Hip is your Hippocampus?

Who was who and what was what on Radio and Early TV

The other performers on Jack Benny's radio show?

Mary Livingstone (Jack's reallife wife, Sadie), Phil Harris, Rochester (Eddie Anderson), Dennis Day, Andy Devine, and "Mister Kitzel" (Artie Auerbach) who sang the improbably memorable couplet, "Pickle in the middle and mustard on Irving Berlin's "God Bless America."

The joke-tellers on Can You Top

This?

Kate Smith, the first to sing

"Songbird of the South?

Harry Hirshfield, Joe Laurie, Jr. and "Senator" Edward Hastings Ford. (The gag that ended the show each week, never finished, supposedly because time ran out: "There were two men floating down the river on a marble slab...")

The panelists on the TV show What's My Line?

Arlene Francis, Dorothy Kilgallen, Bennett Cerf, most frequent guest Martin Gabel, Arlene's husband). (Announcer: John Daly). Most memorable episode: when "the Mystery Guest" first appeared and guest panelist Groucho Marx spoiled the show by removing his blindfold and whispering to Arlene Francis that it was

Claudette Colbert.

The nationality of Kato, the Green Hornet's "faithful valet?"

Trick question. "Up to 1939, in the series' opening narration, Kato was called **Britt Reid**'s 'Japanese valet' and from 1940 to '45 he was Reid's 'faithful valet.' However, by at least the June 1941 episode ..., he became Reid's 'Filipino valet.' When the characters were used in the first of a pair of movie serials producers had Kato's nationality given as Korean." (Wikipedia)

The theme song on "Jack Armstrong – the All-American Boy?"

Wave the flag for Hudson High, boys,

Show them how we stand. Ever shall our team be champions.

Known throughout the land.

The Shadow?

"Lamont Cranston" (**Frank Readick**, **Jr.**), whose famous line was "Who knows what evil lurks in the hearts of men? The Shadow knows!"

Digby O'Dell, "the friendly undertaker"

Played by **John Brown** on The Life of Riley. His exit line: "I'd better be shoveling off...

The line for which commentator Gabriel Heatter was best known reporting the war news? "There's good news tonight!"





The Green Hornet and Kato



top, That's the way you like 'em and they're all red hot!"

Fred Allen's "neighbors" on "Allen's Alley"?

John Doe (played by John Brown), pompous poet Falstaff Openshaw (Alan Reed), Titus Moody ("Howdy, Bub" – played by Parker Fennelly) and boisterous southern senator Beauregard Claghorn (announcer Kenny Delmar), Mrs. Nussbaum (Minerva Pious: "You were expecting Genghis Cohen?")



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## Chronicles

Newsletter of the UCSD Emeriti Association

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Sanford Lakoff Editor (slakoff@ucsd.edu)

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Forward queries, changes in mailing/email address to: Suzan Cioffi, Director, UCSD Retirement Resource Center, UCSD, 9500 Gilman Drive, #0020, La Jolla, CA 92093-0020. Telephone: (858) 534-4724, Emeriti@ucsd.edu



## Mark your Calendar!



## Benjamin K. Bergen, Professor, Cognitive Science

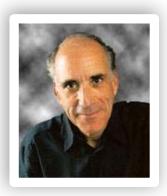
"How and Why Our Brains Use and Process Swear Words"

Wednesday, October 11, 3:30 - 5:00 PM

Ida & Cecil Greene Faculty Club

## Marc A. Schuckit, Professor of Psychiatry

"40 Years of Research: From finding a genetically-influenced risk factor for alcoholism to preventing alcohol problems in UCSD freshmen" Wednesday, November 8, 3:30 - 5 PM





Emeriti & Retirement Associations
Festive Holiday Party (\$10 per member,
\$50 per non-member guest).

Saturday, December 9, 1 - 4 PM