

BCPUD PIPELINE



Fall 2020

270 Elm Road, P.O. Box 390, Bolinas, CA 94924 (415) 868-1224

Call Before You Dig!

The BCPUD would like to remind everyone about the legal requirement to “Call 811” before starting any digging on your property so that responsible utility providers such as the BCPUD and PG&E can mark the approximate location of buried utilities to ensure that you do not unintentionally dig into an underground utility line.

Please call “811” or visit the www.usanorth811.org website a few business days before you begin any digging, including even such common projects like planting trees and shrubs or installing fences, to provide notice of your project.

It is then important to wait to begin your project until all utility providers have responded and marked their facilities; then, proceed with care and caution when excavating close to utility lines.

Thank you for following this important safety procedure!

**Water or Sewer
emergency? Please
contact our office at
415-868-1224**

Gratitude to Retiring BCPUD Director Vic Amoroso for his Many Years of Public Service!

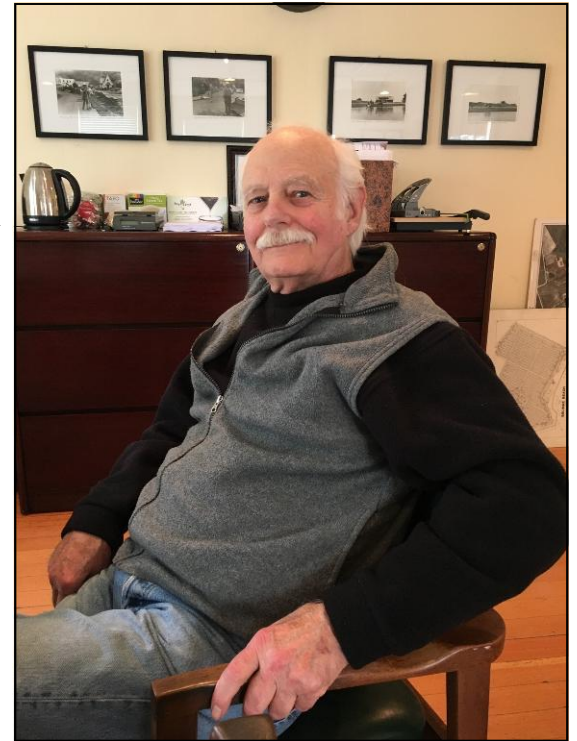
When the gavel strikes to call to order the regular meeting of the BCPUD Board of Directors on December 16, 2020, something will occur that has not happened in nearly forty years: Vic Amoroso will not be seated at the directors’ table. To mark the occasion of his pending retirement from the Board, Vic sat down for an interview with staff to share some details of his remarkable life and reflect upon his service to the community

Victor Churchill Amoroso was born in 1938 in Los Angeles, California, one of two sons born to a professional army officer, Arnold Dante Amoroso and his wife, Eleanor Rutherford Shutt. Vic was still a baby when his family was relocated to Corregidor Island, an island in the Manila Bay, Philippines. In 1941, the families of all military personnel were evacuated from Corregidor Island, but Vic’s dad and the other military personnel remained. The day after Pearl Harbor was bombed on December 7, 1941, the Japanese bombed the Philippines. Vic’s father subsequently was captured and spent the years during World War II in a Japanese prison camp where, as Vic tells it, “he was treated horribly; he weighed 90 pounds when he was released.” When the war ended, Vic’s father declined the option to be flown home from Japan — he chose instead to travel home via boat so that he would have time to gain weight and recover his health before being reunited with his family.

Vic’s early childhood was spent in Fort Bliss, Texas (3rd – 6th grade) and then in Atlanta, Georgia. (7th grade – college), where his father served as the head of the Reserve Officers’ Training Corps (“ROTC”) at Georgia Tech. Vic ultimately attended Georgia Tech, graduating in 1961 with a degree in industrial engineering. While at Georgia Tech, Vic served in the ROTC and, after college, he spent six months in El Paso, Texas, attaining the rank of second lieutenant. After fulfilling his ROTC obligations, Vic moved to Richmond, Virginia where he worked as an industrial engineer from 1961—1965, first for the DuPont corporation and then for Allied Chemical. While working in Richmond, Vic also attended business school at night – “it was a good way to meet women”, he chuckles, noting that he did not complete a masters degree.

In 1965, Vic accepted a job with the Mattel company and moved to Manhattan Beach, California. At Mattel, Vic worked initially as an industrial engineer, setting up production lines. He comments that the company’s most famous toy figures, “Barbie” and “Ken” were named after the actual children (Barbara and Kenneth) of the company’s founders, Elliot and Ruth Handler. After working for Mattel for three years, Vic took a leave of absence in 1968 to spend a year traveling solo around the world — he purchased an “around the world” airline ticket and flew to Amsterdam to begin his adventure.

In Amsterdam, Vic purchased a car and drove throughout western Europe (most of eastern Europe was closed to visitors at the time due to the Cold War). Vic’s strategy was to park his car as soon



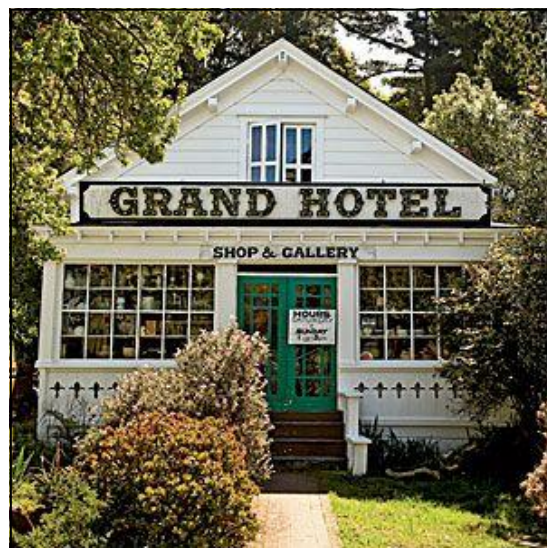
as he arrived at his destination and then use public transportation to see the area; he also would take an organized tour of each city in order to get a “lay of the land”. During this time, he visited England, Ireland, Scotland, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Germany, the former Czechoslovakia, the former Yugoslavia, Austria, Switzerland, France, Italy, Portugal, Greece and more. Vic recalls being in Paris, France during the “events of May”, skiing in Switzerland, and attending Oktoberfest in Munich. When asked to describe the highlights of his European adventures, he says that he was very impressed by the beauty of Portugal, particularly the area outside of Lisbon, as well as the Mediterranean coast and the Costa Brava of Spain – but, he notes, he had “the most fun” in Amsterdam. While in Amsterdam, Vic also had what he describes as “the best meal of my life” at the Bali restaurant (since closed); Vic said the meal included more than 38 different dishes, required the entire day to eat, and was “just incredible”.

After traveling throughout Europe, Vic continued east and visited Istanbul, Turkey; Beirut, Lebanon; Jerusalem, Israel; Tehran, Iran; and then India where he visited New Dehli, Mumbai, and Kolkata. He also traveled to Nepal, where he visited Kathmandu, which Vic describes as “magnificent”. He proceeded to Bangkok, Thailand, where he spent a lot of time and would return later with his family, as well as Taiwan, Hong Kong and the Philippines. While in the Philippines, Vic took a boat to visit Corregidor Island, where his father had been stationed when World War II commenced; on the boat, he met a Japanese interpreter. “We became friendly,” Vic said, noting that “only twenty years earlier we were killing each other [referring to the Japanese and Americans]. I think about that a lot these days.”

The final leg of Vic’s world tour was in Australia and New Zealand, and he headed back to the U.S. via Tahiti. Vic says that his employment with Mattel was very helpful throughout his travels as the company had worldwide operations, so he had many contacts on which he could rely. When he returned from his world tour, Vic resumed working at Mattel and, after just a few months, was offered a job in Arona, Italy, on the south end of Lake Maggiore, where he lived and worked for nearly a year. He ultimately returned to the U.S. and interviewed with Mattel for another job; he was offered a position in the Internal Audit department and served as the Director of Internal Audit for three years, until he resigned in 1973 and “retired from the straight world”. Reflecting back on his years at Mattel, Vic describes the period as “my previous incarnation” and says he consciously stepped away from that world, consistent with the “mentality of the time”.

Vic moved to Mill Valley in 1973 and visited Bolinas from time to time where, in 1976, he met his wife Nancy McDonald in Smiley’s Saloon. Two weeks later, they married and, after returning from their honeymoon, they opened “the shop” at what is now the Grand Hotel on Brighton Avenue, which Vic runs to this day. At the time, he and Nancy lived on the top floor above the shop and rented out the house behind the hotel; eventually they moved into the back house and converted the front building into the hotel. (Vic says he found the “Grand Hotel” sign dumped in a hedge and put it up on the front building!) Vic and Nancy subsequently had two daughters, Kristina and Sonya, whom they raised in Bolinas and who remain close-by. After 30 years of marriage and many adventures together, Vic’s wife Nancy passed away in 2006.

Vic was always interested in local Bolinas affairs; he attended BCPUD Board meetings and got to know the directors. In 1981, he was appointed to the Board to fill a temporary opening for a few months. He subsequently was elected and joined directors Paul Kayfetz, Jack McClellan, Dotty LeMieux and Peter Martin on the Board in 1983. Vic has served on the BCPUD Board since that time, helping guide the district through the litigation challenging the legitimacy of the water meter moratorium resolution and dozens of other controversial town issues. He also served on the Finance Committee throughout his time on the Board, donating his business expertise and keeping a keen eye on the district’s financial position. Vic says he loves living in downtown Bolinas (across the street from the post office) noting that, for the last 44 years, he has had a “bird’s eye view” of the community. Vic acknowledges that a lot in Bolinas has changed since he arrived in 1976; he likens the changes to watching children grow up — on an every day basis, the changes are not that obvious, but over time the changes are quite significant. Notwithstanding those changes, Vic has no plans to relocate — he says he came to town “looking for a home” and he found that home in Bolinas.



There is no question that the town is better off as a result of Vic’s presence here and his dedication to the community. The historical perspective, sociologic understanding of the town, and thoughtfulness he has brought to questions faced by the District have been invaluable. On behalf of the BCPUD staff and his fellow directors, we THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE, VIC, FROM THE BOTTOM OF OUR HEARTS!