

Sean Gallegos

From: ornstein@aol.com
Sent: Sunday, October 23, 2016 2:48 PM
To: Sean Gallegos
Cc: kgcuervo@gmail.com; soleio@me.com
Subject: the barn @ 210 Alta Vista

To: sgallegos@losaltosca.gov

I won't be able to attend the meeting on Oct 24 as I will be in Hawaii, so I am writing in support of the Cuervo's application.

The barn property had had 6 owners, of which I was the fourth. The daughter of the second family, who owned it between the first and second world wars, told us that they had either redone the barn or reconstructed it, she was not sure as she was a little girl then.

I believe I have some useful experience to contribute, since I have been involved with the barn and environs for more than 50 years.

In the Fall of 1964 I attended the first of several sculpture "pours", casting sessions, by the then owners and several sculpture exhibitions held inside the barn.

I acquired the property, which was the part of 240 Alta Vista, in 1968, and during the next 3 decades there were several notable events there.

Alan Cranston, the US Senator during part of those years, who lived nearby, used to come and lecture about several issues. In addition to discussing foreign policy, he often mentioned, with a nod. the the barn, the need to keep "Old California" alive. When he ran for President, he had several private meetings and discussions there.

A few music concerts in the late '60s and early '70s featured some of the local people who were to become world-famous, and a set of "barn talks" included people who later went on to win a Nobel.

I used the barn as a hideaway writing place for some of my early books, and there was also a working ceramics studio (pottery wheels, but not firing!).

While there were recordings and some photos of all these, alas, they expired in the fire that burned our, original, house in 1998, so all I can offer are these recollections.

So, even during my time with it, a lot has taken place there, as it did before, and it is a great old structure, a piece of "Old California" as our (then) US Senator said. It is certainly worth preserving.

Since it's been there so long, and has held many great events, and had a feeling of its own. I am sure the barn deserves the kind of care and renovation that the Cuervos can give it, and I look forward to it!

Robert Ornstein