

Peter Burg Featured in Skateboarding Documentary

By Terry Kraus
Greenhorn Valley View

Peter Burg, Rye, and a number of his childhood friends are the subject of a Documentary Short entitled, *Skateboarding's First Wave*. Set in Pacific Palisades, California, the 21 minute documentary is currently making the circuit of film festivals around the world.

The film was created by Don Michael Burgess, son of the team's sponsor and academy award nominated cinematographer for his work on *Forrest Gump*. He also worked on *Spider-Man*, *The Polar Express*, and *The Book of Eli*. He and brother Ric were both members of the skateboard club. This is his first film as a director.

Burg wrote the soundtrack for much of the film.

Palisades is a small community on the west side of Los Angeles. It ends where

Sunset Blvd. and the Pacific Coast Highway connect. In the mid 60's the single level homes cost between \$25K-\$35K. Because of its proximity to Hollywood many aspiring actors and musicians moved into the area. The two-level homes found there now have a price tag in the millions.

The film shows footage shot on a 16mm camera of the young skateboarders, as well as current footage of the not-so-young skateboarders. The original footage was shot by Don Burgess Sr., father of the Burgess boys and eventually their first sponsor.

Burgess owned Don Burgess Pools and eventually used nonskid pool material to invent a better skateboard. The original Palisades Skateboard, made by Don Burgess Sr., was in produc-

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Photo by Kim Turner

Nine original members of Palisades Skateboard Team joined in Santa Monica with family and friends for the invitation-only premiere screening of *Skateboarding's First Wave* on December 20, 2014. Pictured with the movie poster below are, from left, Colleen Boyd Turner, Terry Keller, Wendy Bearer Bull, Tim Keller, Peter Burg, Don Burgess, Suzanne (Suzi Rowland) Levin, and Ric Burgess. Donna Cash Harris got away before the photo, taken by Colleen's daughter, Kim Turner.

Eye Care Specialist Makes Colorado City Home



Courtesy Photo

Dr. Anna O'Brien, pictured here with her children, looks forward to opening Valley EyeCare located in the Colorado City Professional Building at 4491 Bent Bros. Blvd.

By Lori Kraus
Greenhorn Valley View

With a plan for opening Valley EyeCare in February, Optometrist, Dr. Anna O'Brien, has never been one to waste time. Just 31 years old, Dr. O'Brien graduated from Centennial High School, Pueblo, in 2002 and went directly into the the Air Force, followed by eight

years of school including Oklahoma State University and Optometry school at Illinois State College. She then spent three years at Fort Bragg, North Carolina as an active duty optometrist. With three young children, O'Brien stated that she wasn't interested in making the military her career and, having completed the three years required for her Army

Scholarship, was free to open her business.

Owning her own business has always been on her list of things she would like to do, and the Colorado City area appeared ideal. "There isn't an optometrist between Trinidad and Pueblo," stated O'Brien. "I think the doctor in Colorado City is staying busy, so I hope to do the same." She offers clinic hours six days per week, providing a large variety of glasses for all ages, prescription and nonprescription sunglasses, contacts, and safety glasses; and will be in the office to provide full eye exams for patients of any age on Monday, Tuesday, Friday and Saturday. O'Brien fills in for other doctors in Pueblo, Colorado Springs, and Trinidad on Wednesday and Thursday. "The clinic will handle the full scope of eye care needs, including glaucoma, diabetes related eye care, and macular degeneration. Walk-ins are always welcome for emergency care due

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D70 Board Approves Traditional Calendar for Two Years

By Press Release
Greenhorn Valley View

Parents, teachers and staff voted on three calendars offered by District 70 for the next two school years, and 55% of the 1,750 respondents voted to keep the calendar similar to the one in use. The other 45% were evenly split between an extended calendar and one with a later start and end date.

The District 70 board approved that calendar at their meeting Tuesday night. The approval was for two years and included the 2015-16 and 2016-17 school years.

Andy Beeman, Director of Personnel Services, said the traditional calendar emerged the favorite of those voting. The calendar will have week breaks at Thanksgiving and in March. There will be a two week Christmas break.

"We tried to meet the middle ground for all involved," said Beeman.

Debbie Houghton, board member from the valley, said, "As far as I'm concerned I need to go with the residents in the valley. That's what I promised when I was elected. So, that is what I did." She voted for the traditional calendar.

Board President Ted Ortiviz, who has been a proponent of the extended calendar, said he was voting for the recommendation because it is what the constituents wanted. Ortiviz favors the extended calendar because data indicates students retain more with shorter breaks than over the longer traditional summer breaks.

"But I owe it to my constituents to vote on their behalf," said Ortiviz.

Houghton said Ortiviz mentioned his interview with the *Greenhorn Valley View* (see the *Viewpoint* this week), as part of the reason for his vote for the proposal despite his preference for the

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Burg

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tion from 1964 to 1967. Burg built his first skateboard at a very young age. "It was in 1963. I constructed my first skateboard from garage sale steel rollerskates and boards from the lumber yard," shared Burg. After their formation, the Palisades Skate Club began to hold contests, inviting other area skateboard groups. There were no sports for girls, so four girls were allowed to compete along



Photo by Rich Schmitt Photography
Peter Burg, after a 30 year absence, skates near Palisades High School, where he began skating as a teenager.

with the group. The girls initially had their own sponsor but were incorporated into the Palisades team. They were life long friends with their male compadres. Wendy Bearer Bull was one of those young ladies. She was inducted into the 2013 Skateboarding Hall of Fame and Museum located in Simi Valley, California. Another member of the original group was Barry Blenkhorn. The world knows him as Barry Williams, a team member and Greg Brady in the Brady Bunch television show. Burg himself had a television commercial with Williams. Burg, Ric Burgess and Williams were featured in a Hormel hot dog commercial on their skateboards in the mid-60's. In 1965 the first national skateboard contest happened and ABC's *Wild World of Sports* was there. In the nationals, Burg placed 4th overall in the 12 and under division, and the Palisades team finished tied for third. The Palisades group preceded second wave skaters

portrayed in movies such as *Lords of Dogtown* by a full ten years. Burg moved to the valley on January 1, 1984 from Venice, California. At the time he and his pregnant wife had just lost their rental as the owner of the property moved a family member into the home. Peter's sister told him she had found someone here who would rent them a house on Old San Isabel Road for \$100/month. That spring, Burg and his family moved to the home on Main St. in Rye where he continues to live.

Burg loves all kinds of music. His taste runs from traditional Irish, to punk rock, to folk and bluegrass. Currently, he is exploring orchestral pieces. Just enter "Peter Edward Burg" on YouTube and you can explore his musical interests. "Whatever I'm doing, I like," he says in summation. But music isn't his only interest. He has written three plays for the Greenhorn Valley Players. He got his Arts Degree in 1996 from Colorado State University-Pueblo with an emphasis on graphic design and a minor in music.

"The most important thing to me about the film is the historical connection," says Burg. "Nobody invents anything, it's just a progression. It is an evolutionary process, and one of the things the film brings out is how everything happened at the right time to just come together." Nine of the original 16 members of the group were found when work on the film began. At the premier screening, at a state of the art theatre in Santa Monica for some of the cast members, it was only the second time they had been together in the last 50 years. Tim Keller, who was the oldest of the group in July, 1966, and now lives in Raton, NM, had written a press release in which he said, "Skateboarding is the nation's youngest and most rapidly growing sport." That sport is now captured for the ages.



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