

Fundraisers to benefit Norconian restoration effort

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By **JERRY SOIFER**
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NORCO - The effort to preserve and restore the historic Norconian hotel and resort will take another step forward when an event commemorating the care for those wounded at the 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor will be held Dec. 7 at the Norconian Club, Norco filmmaker Kevin Bash said.

The first patients at the one-time U.S. Navy hospital on the property in the city of Norco were casualties of the Japanese attack that sparked the American entry into World War II.

The Norconian Club is part of the resort developed by Rex Clark in the 1920s. It opened in 1929 with a hotel, swimming pool and other recreational facilities.

Story continues below



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Corey and Jeanette Zogby, of Norco, sport Roarin' 20s costumes to a party that raised about \$21,000 to help restore the Norconian Hotel. "The more color you use, the higher up the ladder you were in things," Jeannette said about Roarin' 20s fashion.

Part of the property was converted into a Navy hospital to treat those wounded during World War II. Most of the property is now used by the California Rehabilitation Center and the Naval Surface Warfare Center Corona Division. The property is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Bash said more than 200 people attended Saturday's Roarin' 20s party and raised about \$21,000 toward the goal of restoration.

Bash said the attendance of people from Corona and Riverside in addition to those from Norco showed that the restoration is a regional concern.

Bash was dressed in a black-and-white tuxedo similar to the one worn by Clark on opening night Feb. 2, 1929.

Many of those attending were colorfully dressed, such as Corey and Jeanette Zogby, of Norco. Corey Zogby wore a gold with black pinstripe zoot suit jacket, a black shirt, a black, white and gold tie and a black-and-white hat. Jeanette Zogby wore a purple Roarin' 20s dress with a black boa and purple headpiece.

Color reflected a higher social status, she said.

"They were very colorful," Jeannette Zogby said. "The more color you use, the higher up the ladder you were in things."

Norco residents Jeff and Kristie Compton and George and Pat Scott did not take advantage of the valet parking. Each arrived in Model A Fords.

"A valet doesn't know how to drive a car like that," said Jeff Compton. "You have to do five different things at the same time just to start it."

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