SADDLEBACK VALLEY NEWS

SOUTH COUNTY NEWS | THE ORANGE COUNTY Register | WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 1992

Photo courtesy of Eddie Grijalva

Eddie Grijalva (far right corner) and his brother Butch, whose family first settled in Orange County in the 18th century, watch a train coming into El Toro station in 1940. The boys' ancestor, Juan Pablo Grijalva, built El Toro's first adobe house.

Local Heritage

By Gina Tenorio
The News

Amy Grijalva remembers the days when her children's entertainment was the bedtime stories she used to make up for them.

Back in 1930 that's the way it was in El Toro. There was no electricity so there were no radios or refrigerators, Grijalva said. There was little water and few homes.

Her husband, Louis Philip Grijalva, used to work for ranchers in the area.

"At that time, the fields were different; there used to be a lot of different fruits and vegetables," Grijalva said.

Grijalva and her family came to South Orange County in the early part of this century from

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Photo courtesy of Eddie Grijalva

El Toro pioneer Juan Pablo Grijalva.

SADDLEBACK COLLEGE

Trustees vote selves benefits

By Steven Church
The News

Saddleback Community College District trustees voted last week to continue medical benefits for three veteran board members who lost re-election bids this month.

The 5-2 vote raised the ire of some faculty members who said the move was a waste of money.

Trustees Marcia Milchiker and Harriett Walther both voted against the measure, which will pay full health, dental and eye care benefits worth about $6,800 a year for trustees Robert L. Moore, John Connolly and Shirley Gellatly.

Under state law, the board is allowed to vote itself benefits and to extend benefits to retiring or defeated members who have served 12 years or are have retired from the Public Employees Retirement System. The benefits also extend to trustees' families.

"They voted themselves the Cadillac plan currently in effect for administrators," said a memo the college faculty association sent to members. "The faculty plan does not have coverage as extensive."

Gellatly said she did not consider the health coverage controversial because "every other previous board member gets this."

"It's something that always before has been done in closed session," she said. "We thought we were doing the right thing by voting on it in public."

Saddleback journalism instructor Mike Reed, however, thinks public officials should serve out of a sense of civic duty.

"I can't believe somebody who came (to the campus) once a month and was paid $400 a month should get health insurance," Reed said. "They haven't put in anything to the educational activities like the faculty have."

Moore has been a trustee for 13 years, Connolly 14 and Gellatly nine.