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THE PRESS-ENTERPRISE

# LOCAL

**C4**  
WEDNESDAY  
MARCH 8, 2011

MORE LOCAL NEWS IN SECTION 4

## FORMER ACTOR MAKES SAVING HOTEL HIS PASSION

**INLAND PEOPLE:** Ivan Bush collects artifacts and photos from the Norcorian.

**BY IAN HAZARD**  
Ivan Bush is bent on preserving the Norcorian Hotel as it stands as an impossible dream, like Don Quixote's jousting at windmills. The historic preservation activist and actor has tried for years to save the historic hotel, built by Norm and Bea Clark, whose movie stars romped in the 1930s and 1940s before the Great Depression closed the resort. During that time, strange happenings haunted his wife and how he was hospitalized to save the hotel.

When Bush, 64, moved to Norco in the 1980s as a 7-year-old boy, his parents bought a house his father learned was built by the Clark. While chatting about the history of the hotel as an actor, he found a photo of two old people and a man he had come to recognize as the Clark. Later, he attended TV City Days, a school help founded by the Clark's daughter's husband, Roger Deville. Stripped of all his belongings while researching Clark's death, Clark died on Aug. 21, 1988 at age 82. Bush was born Aug. 21, 1926 at 528 Pst. "It got a little creepy," said Bush. "Maybe a bit creepy." Before becoming an actor, he was a TV commercial actor and in 1967 TV commercial. From 1965 to 1987, he played Philip Walker on the soap opera

**INLAND PEOPLE**

"General Hospital" and he was a founding member of the Los Angeles Theatre Center. "I was the only one of the group there, including Bill Hines, Adam Arkin and Chris Gardner, who didn't become famous. But I had to choose between pursuing my career in film and my daughter, and chose my daughter," he said.

Bush had walked into the Riverside County, where his parents have run a long-time preschool, with his wife Debbie, a professional photographer, and daughter. He became involved in Norco, serving as a public relations coordinator, with the Norco Schools Commission, 2000, after while holding a home boarder facility in the city. Currently, Bush is a Norcorian resident.

While he acted, Bush also had other work, such as involving historical sites. He taught his wife how to properly handle artifacts. He said that Krueger taught him that to be an historian, one has to be impeccable in the handling of artifacts. That knowledge helped him as he gathered artifacts from old Norco and from the hotel. Bush has acted at times as an impromptu as that of Tom Cruise, began when he first saw the old hotel. "In 1960, I went to a dinner at the hotel, and I thought, 'I don't know how it is, but I thought that I had to be the one to do this,'" said Bush. "I had to make it. I've got to save this." Bush and his wife took three days to photograph and document what was left of the



**TV PERSONALITY** Ivan Bush, right, meets town Board, of Norco. Bush has an effort to preserve the Norcorian Hotel.



**COLLECTING** Ivan Bush and a woman look at a photo of the Norcorian Hotel. Bush has an effort to preserve the Norcorian Hotel.

daughter of the Clark and wife of Roger Deville, one of the founders of TV City. Currently, he is searching for members of the Captain Jack family, Bill Bush Family, Orantiana family, photos of Joe DiMaggio, Helen Keller, Bill West, Roy Francis, Bob Hope, Bing Crosby, Bessie Coleman and other celebrities at Naval Hospital. Allen's footage of the opening of the Geneva Theatre, Gene Decker photo, photos of Norcorian, interviews with guests and staff photos of Norcorian employees, patients, and artifacts for the city offices. He has also put together a book of photos of patients from during World War II, after the Navy took over the Norcorian resort and turned it into a naval hospital where one patient from Pearl Harbor was taken. Bush also did a tour film with Hoot Houser for his TV show. The area including the Norcorian hotel and buildings were recently made part of the historic overlay that will allow opportunities for grants to preserve the area. Bush has made the preservation of the Norcorian hotel his life's work. And finally, it would be to no longer being at windmills as the hotel.

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1-440-2661 TO 1-440-2662  
8:30 AM TO 10:00 AM

**TRIP**  
RIVERSIDE  
RIVERSIDE  
RIVERSIDE

**WEDNESDAY**  
THE ANTHONY LEE AND THE BIRMINGHAM  
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The Anthony Lee and the Birmingham  
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## Riverside seeks community input for Police Chief search

A series of three community meetings will be held to provide residents with a unique opportunity to share their thoughts directly with City officials.



- Meetings will be held:**
- Thursday, March 4 at 5:30 p.m.  
César Chávez Auditorium  
2060 University Avenue
  - Wednesday, March 10 at 6:30 p.m.  
Orange Terrace Community Center  
20010 Orange Terrace Parkway  
\*ASL interpreter provided
  - Monday, March 15 at 7 p.m.  
La Sierra Senior Center  
5215 La Sierra Avenue

- Topics of focus include:**
1. What do residents see as the major public safety (law enforcement) issues facing our City?
  2. What type of experience is important for the next Chief of Police?
  3. What personal characteristics should the Chief possess?
  4. How would Riverside residents like the Chief to be involved in our community?

For more information on these meetings, contact City of Riverside Special Events at (951) 826-5586 or [specialevents@riversideca.gov](mailto:specialevents@riversideca.gov)

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