

South County Historical Society



Heritage Press

Volume 15, No 35

September 2011

As summer draws to a close I am simply amazed at the accomplishments of the South County Historical Society. Creative new programs, high attendance at our museums and a staggering number of volunteer hours are indicators of a healthy organization.

President's Report Gary L. Hoving



I hope that each of you were able to see the history theater program at the IOOF Historic Hall during the summer. If not, it was surely your loss. The series of three separate performances were an extremely effective means of humanizing history in a most entertaining way. Written by an accomplished professional and executed by talented performers produced wonderful stories from the Gallant Lady and Gordon Bennett and John Loomis. Jan Scott's vision and implementation was greatly appreciated as were the hard work and efforts from the actors to the support team.

The Arroyo Grande Centennial celebration brought scores of visitors to our museums. Our Centennial exhibition at the IOOF Historic Hall was very well received by the viewers which tells an interpretive story of the formation of the city and the changes we have seen. Our hats are off to the Centennial Committee for a wonderful string of community events that have shared our heritage and expanded the appreciation of the sense of community for one of the jewels of the Central Coast.

The loss of Gordon Bennett has left a deep void as we say goodbye to a friend and an accomplished historian. His impact on the Society is evident in many of our publications and it was our honor to recognize his work, and that of Manetta's, as Historians of the Year—2011. Our thoughts and prayers are extended to the family as they adjust to life without Gordon.

If there is a common trait shared by members of this Historical Society, it is surely generosity. The outpouring of donations to support the many programs, including the library development program, is overwhelming at times. Without your financial support, many of our museums and special projects would simply not be possible to sustain. Please consider continuing your support of the Museum Sponsorship Program through an annual donation of \$100. This structured method of giving is a wonderful opportunity to show your support. additional information is available by calling 489-8282.

Speaking of generosity...there is this wonderful lady who has continued her support through financial donations on a regular basis. She is not a rich woman but is simply pleased with the work of the Society and loves giving back. Her identity shall remain anonymous per her request, but we can still express our appreciation. The latest in a series of donations was the purchase of two of the solid silver Arroyo Grande Centennial coins which were donated to the society for use during a fundraiser. A silent auction and fundraising event is under development with a target date in early November.

A personal thank you is extended to the summer concert series BBQ/hot dog crew who have made a very significant financial contribution to our financial well-being. Also, my appreciation to the museum docents who have maintained our programs in a professional manner. And finally, to the Board of Directors who work hard as a united voice dedicated to the current and future sustainability of South County Historical Society.

Heritage Square Museums

Heritage House

Santa Manuela Schoolhouse

The Barn

Open Saturday 12-3 PM

Open Sunday 1-4 PM

Historic IOOF Hall

Pat Loomis Library

Open M-F, 1-5 PM

Paulding History House

CALENDAR of ACTIVITIES

Sep 15

Board of Directors Meeting

Sep 23-24

Harvest Festival

Oct 19

Board of Directors Meeting

Nov 5-6

Annual Yard Sale

Nov 8

Annual Membership Meeting

Election of 2012 Board

Revision of Bylaws

2011 Board of Directors

Gary Hoving—President

Larry Turner—Vice President

Mike Drees—Treasurer

Ross Kongable—Recording Secy

Jan Scott—Curator of Collections

Kirk Scott—Information Systems

Vivian Krug—Publicity

Joe Swigert—Property Manager

Berneda Cochran—Corresp Secy

Chuck Fellows—Curator Paulding

Lynn Titus—Parliamentarian

Docent Leader Linda Kime



Docent Doings

Docent Doings We had a busy summer at all of our museums. July was especially busy with five Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. When the Summer Readers Theatre presented the story “*The Gallant Lady*”, Clara Paulding, we had the Paulding House open for an hour after each play. The Centennial on July 10th presented the challenge of longer hours at all the museums. At the Schoolhouse, we had a special presentation on *The History of the Santa Manuela Schoolhouse*. We also had young and older poets reading their poems at the Schoolhouse. Extra docents were needed at each museum, especially during the Centennial and I am grateful we found enough people to fill all of the spots. A big thank you to all of you who helped during this busy month!

We have a new challenge. If we can open up one of our museums for at least 15 hours a week, we will qualify to be included in the AAA Magazine. We are seeking additional docents to work on Thursdays or Fridays. (Scheduling will be very flexible—2, 3 or 4 hour shifts.) Please let us know if you are interested in docenting at the Barn or the Schoolhouse. If this is something you could help with, please call Linda Kime at 489-1837 or email me at lindakime1@yahoo.com

Our deepest sympathies to the family of

GORDON BENNETT

YOUR PLANNED GIFT could be of great importance to the future of the South County Historical Society. You are welcome to contact Gary Hoving at the Society at (805) 489-8282 to discuss your gifts to support the Society in its dedication to research, preservation, restoration and dissemination of information to enhance and preserve our local historical heritage.

We've had a most amazing and busy summer with our free historic theatre programs. The IOOF Hall was packed most Saturdays, with us often guarding the front door to keep people out after we could squeeze no more bodies in, standing or otherwise.



Ruth, Doctor, Clara sitting on original bench at Paulding History House.

We presented entertaining local history to people who might never have known any of it otherwise. People responded by giving generous donations to guarantee our ability to continue, and by returning to see all three of the shows. To those of you who came, laughed, smiled and cried (and sweated, until we found a way to keep air moving during the performances), my first thank you is to you.



Our last program, *The Old Days*, based on the John Loomis & Gordon Bennett book of the same name was a particular hit, funny and nostalgic for many, at a time when the community's thoughts were on and with the Bennett family.

We hope you all attended at least one Members-Only-Preview or a Saturday matinee during the summer. If you didn't, you really did miss something...but never fear. Our plan is to begin again next year, quite possibly with an encore of *The Old Days* to start the season off with a bang (just like those firecrackers the boys had)!

For an incredibly gratifying summer, a thank you goes to the City of Arroyo Grande who

Curator of Museum Collections Jan Scott



wanted something special for their Centennial celebration, and to Craig Rock who, while I was in the room, mentioned Readers Theatre as a possibility for a program. I used to teach Readers Theatre! That combination had me off and running, seeking permission to adapt books to scripts.

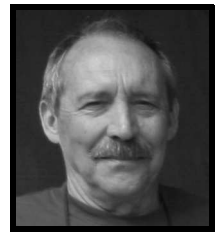
To everyone who participated, from actors to builders to technicians to greeters, my deepest thank you. It could not have happened without you, each and every one: James Allen, Tom & Kerry Aller, Linda Brownson, Norma Burton, Shelly Cochran, Joanne Connolly, Cheryl Dougan, Colleen Drees, Ken & Carolyn Huffine, Dick Jackson, Edie Juck, Rich Lasiewski, Barbara Main, Deb Mason, Jon Mounts, Elaine Parrent, Rose Marie Perry, Deb Rowlands, Karen & Will White, David B. Williams, Bonnie Young, Sage Young. I can only pray I didn't inadvertently omit someone.

A resounding thank you to the SCHS Board for their support. They helped whenever they could, however they could, as often as they could: Berneda Cochran, Mike Drees, Linda Kime, Ross Kongable, Vivian Krug, Kirk Scott, Joe Swigert, Lynn Titus, Larry Turner, and our fearless leader, Gary Hoving, whose delight in the shows reminded me again of the simple, yet extraordinary power people speaking in a live performance can create.

Others to be thanked for their support: Bob & Karen Talley Miller, MaryAnn Feller and **Cal Coast Carpet**.

And, lastly, our **Sponsors**, this group of four people, who gave *generously* to assure our ability to get this season off the ground. There were no funds to create this program. These people made it happen: **Rick TerBorch** of *TerBorch & Associates*, who, along with **Tom Aller** of *5-Cities Music & Sound* made it possible to begin to create stage lighting at the IOOF Hall. **Howard Mankins** and his family whose generosity allowed us to design and build our display platforms and stage, and who joined **Don Gullickson** in giving us the ability to handle the expected and unexpected expenses that came up during production. I do not have words to adequately express my gratitude to all of you for your trust. Just, THANK YOU.

Ways & Means Larry Turner



Summer break is over and it's back to Board Meetings, Newsletter, Fund raising, and only 2 more BBQs left in the Summer Concert Series.

What a great year it has been so far! Arroyo Grande's Centennial Year Activities have been super and all of our functions have been well attended thanks to our membership and all of our volunteers!

Our efforts for the BBQs have generated almost \$5,000 thanks to the efforts of Tony Ferrara, Jim Dickens, Dick Perry, Mike Drees (our cooks), Berneda Cochran (grilled onion and lemonade specialist), Lynn Titus (cashier and helper), Rose Marie Perry (our newest popcorn expert and helper), Ross Kongable (popcorn and helper), Carolyn & Ken Huffine, Melissa Hanson, Colleen Drees, Jan Scott, Kirk Scott, Donna Evenson (our servers and helpers with everything), Joe Swigert (who opens the doors and helps with everything and anything until we're done!), Jeff Hanson, Cody Bright, Tim Lombardini (our set-up and take down experts! Muscle!). And a special thank you for Sam and Norma Burton who took on running our 3 biggest BBQ's in my absence. I thank you all!! Great job!!

NOTE: 22 Volunteers

Readers Theater! What can I say, What a Show!! I am sure Jan will give details. I just hope you all saw at least one showing of each as all 3 were outstanding!! A fantastic draw for our Museum and our donations.

Shelly Cochran has done it again, 15 Wedding bookings for 2011 and 6 set for 2012, and this is only August! That was on top of all the time she spent putting together the Gala Ball for the Centennial which I hear was fantastic!!

VOLUNTEER HOURS

Volunteer Hours for July

845.5 (includes 181 Docent hrs.)

Total Volunteer Hours to date

4,394

Our Library Development Fund and Museum Sponsorship Program have really provided great support for the Society's projects. We would like to recognize and thank the following:

Jan Scott
Edie Juck
Kirk Scott
Julie Stow
Jean Rotta
Lynn Titus
Lisa LeSage
June Waller
Robert Stow
Mary Mueller
Bernice Flood
Norma Harloe
Dorothea Rible
Margaret Haak
Michael Kodaj
Ethyl Gilliland
Evelyn Loomis
Berniece Salem
Barbara Vinson
Geraldine Fesler
Richard Jackson
Mary Ann Feller
Christine Harvey
Lesley Gerber Benn
Judy & Larry Turner
Crystal & Gary Hoving
Charles & Wanda Porter
Doug & Barbara LeSage,
Jeanne & Vernon Frederick
William & Marion Kleinecke

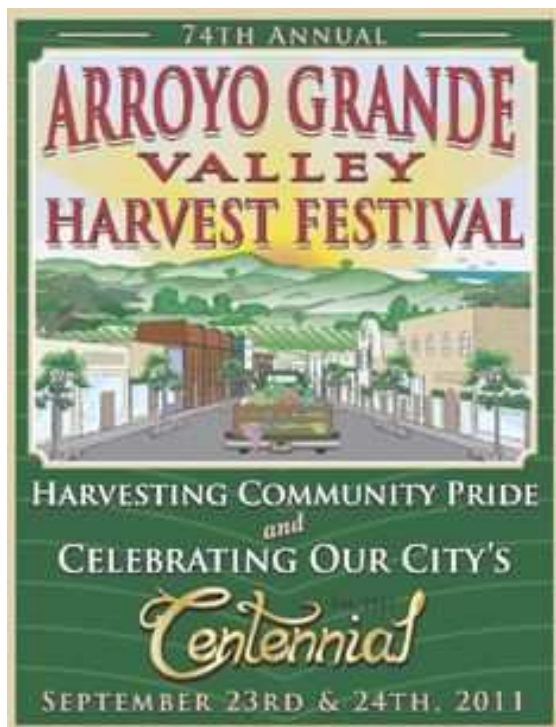
Howard Mankins (Brisco's)
Rick TerBorch & Associates
Linda Osty (Osty Insurance)
Karrie Machado (Serendipity)
Byron Grant (South County Realty)
John & Maureen Gutierrez (Branch Street Deli).
Greg Bernstein (Doc Burnstein's Ice Cream Lab)
Thanks so much for your continuing support!

Harvest Festival

It's that time again to get ready for the Harvest Festival!!

This year's theme is
"Harvesting Community Pride and Celebrating Our City's Centennial".

This year's logo was designed by our very own Tom Goss and the Harvest Festival Buttons are now available at stores throughout Arroyo Grande.



The Society's efforts in the Harvest Festival are well underway. Once again, I am the Co-Chair of the Festival along with Doug Perrin of Parks and Rec. Many of our members are involved on Harvest Festival committees such as the Costume Contest—Ross Kongable, Teri Kelly Nixon with the Baking and Canning Competition, Linda Kime with the Spelling Bee, Gary Hoving with his Law Enforcement Museum, to name a few. The festival is slated for September 23rd and 24th and we hope you come join in on the fun with our Homegrown Fruits and Vegetable competition, (so bring your fruits and veggies!!), Cut Flower Contest, Bread, Pie and Canning Competition and the traditional Costume Contest. Remember if you aren't dressed in Costume you are subject to arrest by the Festival law enforcement, Deputy Doug LeSage and his posse. We'll be watching for you!

There are also many new events such as a Grape Stomp! Contest and entertainment info is on the Festival website,

www.AGHarvestFestival.com

Another Centennial! Another Centennial is still coming! On October 10, 1911 the voters of San Luis Obispo County cast YES by a 12% margin to give California women the right to vote. It was the voters in rural towns like Arroyo Grande that helped to make California the sixth state to do so. There will be an event on October 10th at the Dallidet Adobe and Gardens to commemorate this historic event. More information is available on line at

www.votes4women.org.

America in Bloom / Arroyo Grande in Bloom The judges for the America in Bloom Competition were here on June 5th, 6th and 7th and the International judges were here on June 14th, 15th and 16th. The judging and tour was much the same as last year with a general tour of the city and on the specific categories, one of which, of course, was Heritage. The AIB judges once again enjoyed a lunch at the Heritage House Gardens on June 7th. Both sets of judges were taken on a Historic Walking Tour by the Society. We will know the results of the judging in October.

Contact Me If you have any questions regarding my column, would like to participate in the upcoming Harvest Festival or the Centennial of California Women given the right to vote I'm easy to reach by phone 458-3321 or email: Vivian@EmotionsCards.com.

I am always looking for information to include on our website or any news that involves the Society or the history of the South County, so please let me know if you have anything you think we can use!

Until then, Stay Connected! Vivian



Taking a break after the Saturday Night Western Dance under the big Tent.



PATTERNS OF THE PAST

By Berneda Cochran



HARVEST ASSOCIATION

Association with the transition from warm to cold weather, and its related status as the season of the primary harvest, has dominated its themes and popular images. In Western cultures, personifications of autumn are usually pretty, well-fed females adorned with fruits, vegetables and grains that ripen at this time. Most ancient cultures featured autumnal celebrations of the harvest, often the most important on their calendars. Still extant echoes of these celebrations are found in the mid-autumn Thanksgiving holiday of the United States and Canada, and the Jewish Sukkot holiday with its roots as a full-moon harvest festival of "tabernacles" (huts wherein the harvest was processed and which later gained religious significance). There are also the many North American Indian festivals tied to harvest of autumnally ripe foods gathered in the wild, the Chinese Mid-Autumn or Moon festival, and many others. The predominant mood of these autumnal celebrations is a gladness for the fruits of the earth mixed with a certain melancholy linked to the imminent arrival of harsh weather. wikipedia.org/wiki/Autumn



Personification of Autumn **AUTUMN**
Illustration by Berneda Cochran

Arroyo Grande has an annual Harvest Festival as well. Following are excerpts from the Arroyo Grande Herald-Recorder. (October 22, 1937 edition) from our archives:

Festival Proves Successful Show

The Harvest Festival has come and gone and the large attendance on Friday evening and Saturday afternoon and evening, of jubilant, appreciative people from San Luis Obispo and this section of the county, and Santa Ynez, Santa Maria and Lompoc, numbering in all, 1,101, including those with passes, was highly pleasing to the members of the Woman's Club of

Arroyo Grande, who had worked hard and had gone to a great deal of expense to put on this big festival, with the hope that the public would respond and show its appreciation of the efforts of the club, by attending.

Many interesting and valuable hobbies were exhibited. The exhibit of vegetables exceeded all expectations and brought many favorable comments as to the wonderful productiveness of the soil of the Arroyo Grande Valley, as did the exquisite floral exhibits of all kinds, everyone bringing the choicest they had to exhibit.

This festival was the brain child of the Garden Section of the club of which Mrs. Kenneth Stewart was chairman. When Mrs. Stewart presented the proposition to the club to hold a flower show and agricultural exhibit some time in the fall, it was unanimously adopted by the club and then it started growing and growing and adding more departments such as the antiques,

hobbies and the pet parade.

And, by the way, did you see that pet parade on Saturday afternoon? It was the cutest as well as cleverest ever pulled off in the history of Arroyo Grande. The residents were wide-eyed with admiration and amazement, for they didn't know there were so many kinds of dogs, cats, and other pets in the country and wasn't that Jersey calf a beauty?

The Harvest Festival was "tops," thanks to the response of the public spirited citizens who backed the club members in their efforts to make a real festival of it and the reason for this wonderful success was cooperation, and willingness to perform any task assigned — and not to say the least — the wonderful support of the public in patronizing the festival which was the first big undertaking of the newly formed club.

2002.022.015

2011 Harvest Festival - September 23-24

The Society is structured as a non-profit organization (Federal Tax ID number is 95-3539454) and depends solely on donations to continue its work.

You can help!

**Write a (tax-deductible) check to the
South County Historical Society,
and mail it to:**

South County Historical Society
PO Box 633
Arroyo Grande, CA 93421-0633

If you live in the area —become a member! One of the benefits of membership is receiving our colorful, informative monthly newsletter as well as invitations to “Members Only Prevue” of our exhibits. Also, members receive discounts on various logo products. There are many volunteer and committee opportunities: working with our Curator, Librarian, Technology and Photography, Exhibits, Book Committee, and special Events— such as our Annual Antique Show and Festivals in the Village. It’s fun — and a way to make new friends and support our efforts.

Annual Membership Dues

Individual	\$ 20.00
Couple	\$ 35.00
Family w/children under 18	\$ 40.00
Sustaining (Individual)	\$100.00
Patron:	\$200.00

Business, Organization, Individual

Life (Individual or Couple) \$500.00

May be paid in 12 monthly installments.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

MARSHA BLACKBURN

DORIS DESIATO

NAN FOWLER

MARY GIAMBALVO

TIM LOMBARDINI

MARILYN MARTIN

MARIAN MILLER

DILLER RYAN

ANN SAWYER

STEVEN SINGER

DORIS ZWINGER



MEMBERSHIP — SOUTH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

☐ CHANGES?

☐ NEW

☐ GIFT

☐ RENEWAL

Please print legibly.

Name (s) * _____

Address * _____

Home Tel: * _____ Work Tel: _____ Email: * _____

Type of Membership _____ Amount Enclosed: \$ _____ Check No. _____

Please mail check or money order payable to SOUTH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, PO Box 633, Arroyo Grande Ca 93421.

* Starred information will be printed in the annual Membership Directory distributed to members unless you indicate otherwise here. If you wish to receive a copy of the Membership Directory by mail, please add \$2.00 donation to your check to cover the cost.

Thank you for your continuing support of the Society!

If you have any questions about your membership,
please email SCHS76@sbcglobal.net with Attention: Membership in the “Subject Line”.
Use this form if there has been an address, phone, email or name change during the year.

NOTICE TO MEMBERS

Regular Board Meetings are held at 6:00 pm on the third Wednesday of each month at the IOOF Hall. Board Meetings are open to Society members and the public.

Next Board Meeting will be September 15, 2011.

**The Annual Membership Meeting will be held
November 8, 2011**

**Election of Society Board of Directors
Revision of Bylaws**



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Director of Publicity Vivian Krug



WOW

—AG's Centennial: There are no words to describe how wonderful all of our Centennial Events went.

For about two months we had event after event, culminating with a full day on July 10th starting at sunrise with a service and ending with fireworks in the Village that night!

We had Bike Rides, Foot Runs, Birthday Parties, Swimming Events, Golfing, a Grand Ball, Poetry, Concerts, Theater, Essay Contests, Car Shows, Parade, Stage Coach Rides, Western Dancing.

There was the unearthing of a time capsule and burying of a new time capsule to be opened in 100 years which will contain a group photo of the Society Directors, Gary Hoving and Jean Hubbard's book on Arroyo Grande, two issues of the Society Newsletters and several photographs from the Society's archives and events over the last year.

We dedicated the new Centennial park, we honored our Nonagenarians, and we even got a new city song. And as the saying goes, a picture tells a 1000 words, so I'll end with a few photos from our Centennial events to speak for themselves!



Nonagenarian Birthday Party at the Pitkin Conrow Estate. Can you pick out our Society Members?



Eager listeners as Linda Kime tells the history of our Santa Manuela Schoolhouse

(Continued on page 7)

The IOOF Hall – home of
100 Years of People theatre

