



South County Historical Society

Heritage Press

Volume 17, No 4

MAY 2013



HISTORIC IOOF HALL



SANTA MANUELA SCHOOLHOUSE



PAULDING HISTORY HOUSE



HERITAGE HOUSE



RUBY'S HOUSE



THE BARN

KIRK'S KORNER



Many wonderful things are happening.

- ◆ The back porch and the sunny side of Ruby's House has been repaired and painted. A new front steps handrail was designed and built by Bill Smith and Don Gullickson.
- ◆ The Gazebo at Heritage House was pressure washed by Dennis Sawade and then painted by Gary Schaper.
- ◆ Mike Drees and Joe Swigert are in the process of installing strings of LED lights for the Heritage House Garden. This will encourage evening events.
- ◆ Shelly Cochran, wedding coordinator, reports that 17 weddings are booked for this year.

Hats off to you all!

More hero work was done at Paulding House. A neighbor on the hill, Pepe Marin, cut down the weeds that were overtaking the yard. Sandy Arnold and her father, Fred Wilson have just finished redoing the kitchen counters and cabinets on the second floor of Paulding house, replacing linoleum glued to the countertop with real tile, period-appropriate white subway tile, donated by Cal Coast Carpet. (see pictures on page 4)

As the president of SCHS you automatically become a member of the Steering Committee (Historical Chair) of Arroyo Grande in Bloom. I have learned a lot about this wonderful organization that has local volunteers out each Saturday, planting pots in the Village, weeding, etc. and they have planted the Victory Gardens at both Paulding History

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MUSEUMS SCHEDULE

THE BARN

HERITAGE HOUSE

SANTA MANUELA SCHOOLHOUSE

are open
Saturdays
from 12 to 3 pm
Sundays
from 1 to 4 pm

PAULDING HISTORY HOUSE

is open
1st Saturday of the month
From 12 to 3 pm

RUBY'S HOUSE

(PAT LOOMIS HISTORY LIBRARY)

is open
Monday thru Friday
1 to 5 pm

Historical Research
by appointment

Group tours
of any or all
of the museums
may be scheduled
by calling

805.489.8282
or email

SCHS76@sbcglobal.net

2013 Board of Directors

Kirk Scott	President
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Jeff Kime	Information Systems
Gary Hoving	Parliamentarian

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Radiance from Halcyon
Paul Ivey

May 3 6 pm IOOF Hall

SCHS Board of Directors
Meeting

May 15 6:00 pm IOOF Hall

Strawberry Festival
May 25-26 in the Village

Summer Historic Theatre
Weekly beginning June 8

Summer Concerts in the Park
Bi-weekly beginning June 9

Dunite Days
June 8-9 at Oceano Depot

*This edition of Heritage Press
has been printed in
smaller booklet format.*

*We would appreciate your
comments on this style versus
the larger previous style.*

*Please call 805.489.8282
or email schs76@sbcglobal.net
with your comments.*

Editorial Committee:

*Ross Kongable,
Berneda Cochran
Paul Provence,
Deborah Mason,*

CURATOR OF COLLECTIONS

Jan Scott



Docent Appreciation Tea

A round of applause for Linda Kime and Joe Swigert for the wonderful job they did on the Docent Appreciation Tea. If any of you docents didn't or couldn't attend, make a note to not miss this wonderful event. Linda cooked and baked for two days getting all the food ready. There were so many leftover sandwiches and sweets, member Margaret Haak suggested we put out our donation bucket and baggies. That's exactly what happened. It was a great afternoon.

May 3rd EVENT - 6PM - IOOF

(see separate listing)

I am really pleased that we are hosting a presentation and book signing on the newly-released book, *Radiance From Halcyon* by Paul Ivey, an Associate Professor of Art History at the University of Arizona. Paul has photographs you've never seen and stories to tell, and we are his only appearance on the Central Coast open to the public.

I've heard Paul speak in the past and it will be well worth the effort to attend.

Paul spent thirteen years researching, from the time he first came across Halcyon, and his book is not only the story of that community past and present, but also a wide-ranging cultural history.

At the turn of the last century, the new synthesis of religion and science attempted by Theosophy laid a foundation for advances produced by the children of the founding members, including microwave technology and atomic spectral analysis. A reviewer describes *Radiance From Halcyon* as 'a mesmerizing tale of mystical kinship... fusing architecture, landscape, music, and science that reverberate powerfully into the present.'

Don't miss this one-time chance to meet the author, see photographs and hear fascinating stories about our neighbor, the community of Halcyon.

Summer Historic Theatre

We're going to do our THIRD season this year, and for those of you who haven't come out to see what we're doing, why not think about it? I'll have all your info next month about the programs and schedules, and our special Members-Only Wine Preview for each show.

We've learned a lot as we've gone along: how to keep the theatre a comfortable temperature when it's full, what kind of snacks you prefer for the special previews, and the development of shows whose quality (I'm told) keeps getting better and better.

A native of Arroyo Grande, who shall remain nameless, said they would never come to one because they lived

(Continued on page 4)

KIRK'S KORNER (Continued from page 1)

House and the Patricia Loomis Library (Ruby's House). I would love to see the other cities in our area get involved with America in Bloom. This organization helps citizens quickly transforms communities into places of floral and landscape beauty.

While on the subject of Arroyo Grande in Bloom, the Society has been asked to provide a member to serve on the Public Art Committee. This committee will investigate and recommend public art for the City of A.G. If you are so inclined, please let me know and I will submit your name to the committee.

This is a long way of leading up to my point. Recently a joint group (City, AGIB and Rotary Club) has decided to spruce up and develop Hoosegow Park. Landscape students from Cal Poly have been contacted and will submit landscape plans. We were asked to provide historical data on the Hoosegow.

Our member Russ Snow agreed to research the Hoosegow. After several days of work, including the checking of years of County Supervisor meetings, Russ produced a wonderful footnoted paper on the Hoosegow. This is now being utilized by the Committee headed by our member, **Geoff English**, Director of Maintenance Services for A.G. Kudos to Russ for his exemplary work and his patience. (This ex-law enforcement/Chief of Police got a parking ticket in SLO while researching county records.) This is service above and beyond the call. Sorry about that Russ.

And finally, a big thank you to **Linda Kime** and **Joe Swigert** for their work on the Docent Appreciation Tea held last Friday. We hope everyone who should be honored, RSVP'd to the invite in last month's newsletter. It was a wonderful afternoon.

Many thanks to all of you who have discovered the joy of giving. And we're honored to be able to say a small thank you back for your dedicated work. Without you, we don't exist.

Kirk

(COLLECTIONS) (Continued from page 3)

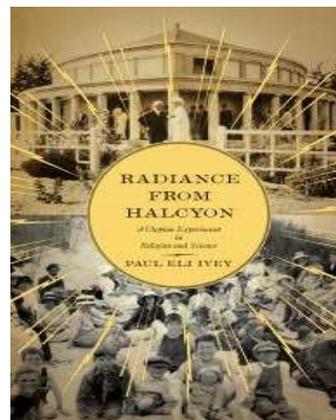
through it all already. I challenge that person because I'm just really certain they weren't alive in 1886 when the Hemmi hanging occurred.

Some people had doubts last year about coming to see that show about murder and lawlessness, but our audiences loved it. (Ross Kongable came back 4 times because he said he learned something new with each viewing).

The newly renamed *Vigilantes!* will be our first show this summer. If you missed it, don't let it slip by again.

I promise, it's a good one.

Jan



Paul Ivey has been a frequent visitor to our area, having spent over 10 years researching and writing about the history of Halcyon.

He will share personal stories about his

discovery of Halcyon and his association with it, and will read passages from his newly-released book, as he explains how the little-known utopian religious community of Halcyon—located on California's central coast in the early 1900s—profoundly influenced so many aspects of the modern world.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS !

**FRIDAY - MAY 3 -
100F HALL - 6PM**

Thanks to Sandy Arnold and her father Fred Wilson the little kitchenette upstairs at Paulding House has a complete new tiled countertop and backsplash. They have plenty of experience in tile work as they completely restored and added to their own home a few years back. Sandy found surplus tiles at Cal Coast Carpet and donated her expertise in creating a beautiful update to the room.



ANITA GARCIA, celebrating her 103rd birthday in May 2013, is a lifetime member of the Society. She served as docent in our museums as well as in the History Center of San Luis Obispo, until she was 99 when she moved to Arizona to be near her children.

Anita Jones was born and raised here in Arroyo Grande. She is a direct descendent of Francis Zeba Branch, who obtained the Arroyo Grande Mexican land grant in the 1840's. She was first cousin of Billie Records Swigert.

Anita is being presented the 2013 Preservation Award at the San Luis Obispo History Center for her years of service.



DUNITE DAYS
OCEANO DEPOT
2013

The Oceano Depot Association will be hosting their First Annual ***DUNITE DAYS Celebration*** **June 8 and 9, 2013** at the Oceano Depot in Oceano.

This event will commemorate the spirit of the Dunites and will also be a Fund Raiser for Restoration of the Cabin of Dunite Chester Alan Arthur III (Gavin), which has now been relocated to the Oceano Depot. Gavin's Cabin is the only one remaining from the Dunite era.

The Oceano Depot, Caboose, and Boxcar will be open for free tours on both days from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Included in the tours will be a display of Dunite Art and Artifacts in the Warehouse section of the Depot, with prints of Dunite Art, books, and other items relating to the Dunites available for purchasing.

On Saturday the 8th there will be an evening event with food and live entertainment. For further information on this event

call Linda Austin at
489-5446,

or visit Oceano Depot
on Facebook

and also the depot website
at www.oceanodepot.com

ARROYO GRANDE -

In the late 1930's Jack Schnyder, Arroyo Grande blacksmith and city councilman, climbed the hill above Le Point St. with his blow torch and burned the

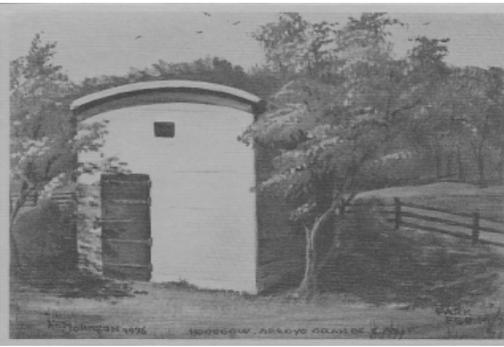
Word "Hoosgow" through the heavy iron door of the old Arroyo Grande jail.

In doing so, he transformed the bleak little cement jail house into a landmark veiled in all the mystery and speculation the imagination can create.

Built in the late 1880's, (*some sources claim it was built in 1910 or 1911*) the hoosegow stood long before Arroyo Grande had a Police department. At the time of its construction, law and order for the area was provided by deputy sheriffs out of San Luis Obispo and by concerned local citizens.

Made entirely of concrete, the walls of the jail measure eight inches thick with the total building size being 15 feet, 3 inches long by 11 feet, 3 inches wide.

Three very high windows, one on each of three sides of the



building, let in air and light. Other than the holes made by the word hoosegow burned through the door, there are no other vents or openings for air. Each window measures 10 inches by 12 inches and is criss-crossed by heavy iron bars.

The iron door, complete with iron bolt and padlock, is the second door to seal the jail. The first door was made of wood. It was replaced with the more substantial iron door because the prisoners kept chipping away at the wooden one.

Over the years, the curved tar roof of the building has become cloaked with a living carpet of weeds and grasses.

Inside, the prisoners were confronted with two bunks and later a washstand and toilet facilities.

Those who were unfortunate enough to be locked in, whether by law or by prank, soon discovered that the formidable little

building was quite escape proof. Virtually indestructible, the only way in or out of the jail is through the door. Since only the deputy in charge had a key, once locked in, you stayed there until he personally unlocked the door.

The inside walls of the jail are blackened by smoke caused by fires set to the mattresses in attempts to attract attention to the jail when someone was locked in accidentally. Nonetheless, the victim remained in the building, fire and all, until the deputy could be found to unlock the door.

Fires were also started accidentally by the drunks who were the hoosegow's most frequent tenants in the later years of its service.

Buron Ewing, a former deputy for the area, recalls that during World War II when dances were held at Tanners' Hall in Arroyo Grande, "some of the boys would have a little more than they could handle and we'd have to lock them up over-night."

Ewing also recalls the day the late Jack Schnyder burned the word hoosegow

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HOOSGOW (Continued from page 6)

through the door of the jail. Schnyder wrote the word hoosegow instead of jail "because that's the way us boys referred to it."

"Us boys," refers to Ewing, Gerard Dana and Ed Pearl who were deputies at the time the name was added to the door.

Dana, who continued to work in

the field of law and order, recently retired as judge of the fourth district court in San Luis Obispo county.

The holes created by writing with a blow torch were meant to allow more air and light.

By Kathy Jensen

SCHS Archive # 2001.107.073

Information compiled by Russell Snow

*Notes by Ruth Paulding at the dedication of Hoosgow Park
February 14, 1976*

"We come to celebrate the Hoosgow's day in the sun. My mother and father taught me that the juzgado was a place to stay away from, so I did. Those were the days of obedience to your parents!

Later, when I studied Spanish in 1911, I learned what juzgado meant: It means "tribunal, a court of justice." Maybe that is where they ought to put the judges until they mete out justice!

"Hoosgow" is Mexican and it was spelled "Jusgado" pronounced *hoos-gah-do*.

Maybe the "Hoosgow" was the Christian way of meting out justice. Not an eye-for-an-eye but justice tempered by mercy.

Any way the chronic cure for chronic old drunks was to put them in the tank until they were cured temporarily. It was before the sobriety test was given. So I don't know what proof they had to give. Maybe to walk a mile in a straight line!!



The Docent Appreciation Tea was held Friday, April 19th to honor all of our docents that give of their time at our museums. There were 20 in attendance, including 7 men! A variety of delicious homemade tea sandwiches, scones, muffins, cookies and fruits were served. A good time was had by all. Become a docent and be included in our next event!

Contact Linda Kime at
489-1837.





PATTERNS OF THE PAST

From the Archives—By Berneda Cochran



SALOONS PACED POPULATION IN PISMO, ARROYO

By Doris Olsen, South County Tribune, (undated)

Pismo's saloons outnumbered those in Arroyo Grande at the turn of the century and business was good in both places, despite the vocal objections of many non-drinking citizens.

The first business in Pismo was a saloon and within a few years there were several more. In 1905, the county Board of Supervisors approved licenses for five more saloons in the beach town, bringing the total there to more than nine.

Booze was also plentiful in Arroyo Grande, where liquor was found in saloons, stores and drug stores, the latter allegedly stocked for "medicinal purposes."

Widely consumed patent medicines contained a high percentage of alcohol at that time. Many a teetotaler would have been shocked to know they were guzzling sweet syrup laced with alcohol to "cure" a chronic ailment.

Whiskey was a staple item with dentists and physicians, who used it for dulling a patient's

pain. Some dosed themselves with their own prescription, nipping a drop here and there as a "protective measure."

Arroyo Grande's pioneer physician, Dr. Edwin L. Paulding, was appalled at the number of drunks he was called upon to administer to after he came to Arroyo Grande in 1883, as evidenced in letters appearing earlier in this column. At one point he wrote: "Sabbath is unknown and drunks are the rule."

Saloons proliferated as the populations grew. By 1905, Arroyo Grande's business district contained the Bank Saloon, operated by A. W. Chadwick; the bar at Ryan's Hotel, where Thomas Burnett stocked "fine liquor and cigars"; the Capital Bar, Frank Cook, proprietor; and the Pioneer and Palace Saloons, owned and operated by Pete Olohan.

By that time, Dr. Paulding shared medical duties with H.S. Walters, M.D., who operated the Arroyo Grande sanitarium, Dr. C.A. Daily, a homeopathic physician and surgeon, and Dr. C.S. Clark. Dr. G.S. Noble served as the

town's dentist and Amos Lowe was justice of the peace and a notary public. J.M. Emmert hung out his shingle as an attorney at law.

Lige Standerfer operated the Tonsorial Palace, (a barber shop) at Ryan's Hotel and also offered hot and cold baths for a nominal fee. Edwin Fouch was operating the Arroyo Grande Soda Works and M. R. Swall ran the City Meat Market. Bromley the Watchmaker did a brisk business, while Louie Barnett sold hot tamales and soft drinks and Black's Store advertised cigars, tobacco, ice cream, candy and jewelry. Hawkins & Munger, hardware, specialized in tinning and plumbing supplies while Howard and Chitwood operated a Truck and Express business and F. E. Bennett offered staples and fancy groceries. The Bank of Arroyo Grande was busy and so were Aron & Alexander in their mercantile store. C.R. Mayhall and August Beisman ran the New York Store.

The Herald newspaper and print shop was located on Branch Street, very near the Pacific

(Continued on page 9)

SALOONS (Continued from page 8)

Coast Railway office and lumberyard and J.F. Beckett's real estate office. E.C. Loomis had just opened a feed and seed store and J.A. Jernigan was about to open the Arroyo Grande Land Co. office.

In addition, there were several blacksmith shops and livery staples and some milliners and dressmakers were operating from their homes. The streets were still unpaved but an asphaltum sidewalk had been laid in front of the house that was later converted into the city hall.

The little wooden jail was in a dilapidated condition, but it was rarely vacant. Derelicts and drunks were rounded up almost daily and housed there, although their stays were usually brief. There generally was more than one occupant in jail on Saturday night.

Following the gold rush and the breakup of the ranchos, the town of Arroyo Grande came into being in 1867. The rancheros, Francisco Branch, Capt. William Dana, and Juan Price had either employed tutors or sent their children - that is, mainly boys - away to school. One of the first lots laid out by Branch in Arroyo Grande was for a school

on what is now Nevada Street. The old adobe, near the creek and just below Crown Hill, was also used as a school. The first teachers were paid jointly by Price, who owned El Pizmo, and Branch, the owner of the Arroyo Grande Valley.

However, one of the first businesses was a saloon. Even with the emphasis on educating the children, there was a large saloon crowd. Arroyo Grande was apparently a rip-roaring small Western town early on. Even before a church was formally organized, a temperance group established the Good Samaritan Temperance Hall. It seemed to be a necessity. Just what drew so many hard-drinking characters is hard to say. Perhaps Newsom's White Sulphur Springs - a real cure-all in a time when "taking the waters" was popular everywhere - drew people who thought of taking the cure but never quite got around to doing so.

Dr. Edwin Paulding, the town's first permanent doctor, arrived in December 1883 and wrote immediately to his sister: "Sabbath is unknown and drunks are the rule. Educated drunks are common and it is not uncommon to see the figurative 'Shepherd of a Rock' in a

city church become a practical shepherd in the expressive California term of sheep herder. There is a sheep herder Greene who was once Chief Engineer on a 'Cunnarder.' Billy N. was once a cashier of a California bank in Frisco. Henry - once a cashier in Amsterdam, Holland. "Whiskey Jack claims to be the original 'Jack' of Mark Twain's 'Innocents Abroad.'

"There are dozens of others but those mentioned, I have seen. They have all emptied their histories out on me and talked my arm off."

In the latter part of January, Dr. Paulding wrote: "A bank cashier from San Francisco who has been spreeing here for several days and is now all broke up, can't sleep, vomiting and very nervous. He is to be married to a beautiful, refined girl on Thursday. I must do quick work or the wedding will have to be postponed." He mentioned the lack of interesting entertainment. "I go to the Temperance Lodge once a week," he wrote. He mentioned several girls he'd met but they all had mothers who were conspiring to take away his freedom.

Paulding's daughter, Ruth, was fond of saying, with tongue in cheek,

(Continued on page 10)

SALLOONS (Continued from page 9)

that most Western towns boasted a saloon on every corner but old Arroyo Grande had only two or three corners and 11 saloons.

Temperance Lodge Flourished and Waned

"Any member who shall frequent saloons for the purpose of playing games of chance in which the refreshments of the saloon are at stake and any member who shall habitually patronize the bar of the same in the purchase of cigars, tobacco or the so-called temperance drinks shall be considered as violating the spirit and letter of his pledge and shall be subject to arraignment." So read section 1, Article IX of the bylaws of Arroyo Grande's Harmony Lodge, Independent order of Good Samaritans. Furthermore, "Any member who shall use any spirituous or malt liquor for medicinal purposes unless upon the written prescription of a physician in regular standing shall be considered as violating his pledge," "Good Samaritan lodges", according to Myron Angel's old "History of San Luis Obispo County, Calif." is a "recent association for the purpose of benevolence and social intercourse among its members,"

Mrs. Yda Addis Storke in her book published in 1891 refers to the organization as a "temperance order" Another bylaw states, "In case of the sickness of a member of this Lodge, should the Lodge prefer to employ a nurse for such sick member, instead of performing the duty of watching in turn, then the expense of such nurse shall be paid by a prorata assessment to be entered upon the account of each member." Lodges existed in San Luis Obispo, Morro Bay and Los Osos as well as Arroyo Grande---formed in 1877, 78 and 79. A chuckle or two is found in the secretary's minute book of 1891-1899. A few quotes follow,

"For the good of the order a chess club was suggested for outside temperance work."

"Under good of the order Miss Mary Prece gave a resitation 'The Lips That Touch Liquor Shall Never Touch Mine'." "Motion made and carried that we have the organ fixed up in good stile.

For "good of the order' A. A. Henry read a selection and Sister Swigert brought a cake."

"Committee on entertainment failed to have any thing of interest." "

Moved and carried that Bro. Swigert sing--- moved and carried that he don't.

"The name of Miss Eckman was ordered erased from the books by her request, the name of C--- F--- (same last name of person rejected), Amanda Robinson, Maria Robinson was also requested to be erased from the books but not being square on the books the request was not granted."

Above paragraph was from minutes of Jan. 15, 1892.

The old Samaritan Hall was later used as a city hall and for a short time a high school. The Arroyo Grande Fire Department is now at the site



The PRICE HOUSE
in Pismo Beach
Is now open for tours
on the
First and Third Sundays
of the month
At 1:00 pm.
Or by appointment

Call
Effie McDermott
805 . 773 . 4854
For more informaton



Our Condolences to
The families of
Andrew Cecka
Pat Vandever
Antonio Dutra

Volunteer hours for
March 398.5
Docent hrs. 83

ANITA GARCIA
 will be 103 on May 1, 2013.
 She would love to receive your
 cards, wishes and chocolate (LOL)
 at
Whispering Heights,
2397 Empire Ranch Rd
Carson City, NV 89701
 (See story page 5)

Additions to the Membership Directory
 Marie & Kent Dadisman - Arroyo Grande 481-6949
 Darlene Mack - Arroyo Grande 471-4450
 Tom & Patti Reding - Arroyo Grande 489-6752

Our 2013 Membership Directory is now
available.
If you would like a copy,
please call 805-489-8282

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	
<u>Life (Individual or Couple)</u>	\$500.00
May be paid in 12 monthly installments.	

The Society is structured as a non-profit organization 501(c)3 (Federal Tax ID 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



2013 MEMBERSHIP — SOUTH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

CHANGES? NEW GIFT RENEWAL

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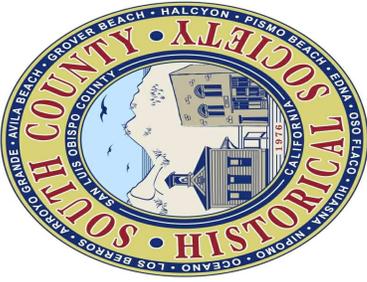
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Type of Membership _____ Amount Enclosed: \$ _____ Check No. _____

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.

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NOTICE TO MEMBERS

Regular Board Meetings are held at 6:00 pm
on the third Wednesday of each month
(except June, July, December)

at the IOOF Hall on Bridge Street in Arroyo Grande

Board Meetings are open to Society members and the public.

SUMMER CONCERTS IN THE PARK

This summer's schedule of concerts held in Heritage Park are listed below.
The South County Historical Society participates with the sale of hot dogs,
lemonade, soft drinks, Doc Burnstein Ice Cream, popcorn.

We need volunteers to work in the booth,

Please contact Richard Lasiewski at
RLash45@gmail.com or call 481-5356

- June 9
- June 23
- July 4
- July 14
- July 28
- August 11
- August 25
- September 8
- September 22