

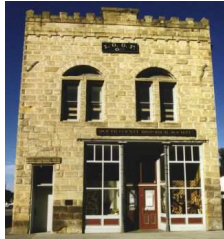


# South County Historical Society

## Heritage Press

Volume 17, No 8

NOVEMBER 2013



**HISTORIC IOOF HALL**



**SANTA MANUELA SCHOOLHOUSE**



**PAULDING HISTORY HOUSE**



**HERITAGE HOUSE**



**RUBY'S HOUSE**



**THE BARN**

I've spent some time in the hospital this month and will keep my column basic.

Kudos again to **Shelly Cochran**, who seems, almost single-handedly, to have kept us *solidly* 'in the black' this year. She is retiring, but will be on hand to give **Fran Taillon** the benefit of her expert instincts and years of experience. We welcome Fran and wish her well in this new endeavor, and once again thank Shelly for her dedicated work.

We owe an enormous debt of gratitude (once again!) to **The Questers** - Chapter #1351, an amazing and dedicated group of preservationists who not only made the dry walling and painting of **Paulding History House** happen, but have stepped forward again to work what looks like close to a miracle on the floors up there.

**Sandy Arnold** got the idea that she wanted to see what was under the worn out carpeting in the dining room up there, and she wanted to see if she could clean up the kitchen floor. Both tasks proved so daunting, she hesitated. The kitchen floor was a mess and the dining room? A bigger mess with overspray from the early days of its gifting to San Luis Obispo Historical Society. We thought it was hopeless, but.... **The Questers** came through for us once again! With light sanding and resealing, the floors in those two rooms are not only beautiful but, in the best way possible, showing the signs of wear and traffic, they don't look brand new, but old and used, just the way they should. That work was done by **Bill Evans Hardwood Floors**. You'll have to see it at a special event we'll do next year. We are impressed.

But sad news is that the large oak tree at Paulding History House which we had tried so hard to save, has now been removed. A 4' base trunk was left in place to commemorate the 100+ year old landmark tree.

And finally, please join us for our once-a-year pizza party on **November 12**, that we know as the **General Membership Meeting**. Pizza and salad and a special program this year before the **elections of our 2014 Board of Directors**. **Effie McDermott** will be giving a short program on the amazing developments at **Price House**, and she'll be happy to sign her new Arcadia book on Pismo Beach. Don't miss it! It's our one certain meeting of the year, to catch up with old friends, maybe make some new ones, but a good time unlike any other meeting we have.

See you there! *Kirk*

### KIRK'S KORNER



#### Nominees for the 2014 Board of Directors:

President: Kirk Scott  
Vice-President: Susan Boughner  
Secretary: Polly Nelson  
Treasurer: Norman Baxter  
Curator: Jan Scott  
Membership: Ross Kongable

Docent Leader: Linda Kime  
Public Information: Vivian Krug  
Property Manager: Joe Swigert  
Information Services: Jeff Kime  
Parliamentarian: Gary Hoving

## 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
Steven Singer	Vice President
Mike Drees	Treasurer
Ross Kongable	Secretary
Jan Scott	Curator of Collections
Ross Kongable	Membership
Vivian Krug	Public Information
Linda Kime	Docent Leader
Joe Swigert	Property Manager
Jeff Kime	Information Systems
Gary Hoving	Parliamentarian

## EVENTS SCHEDULE

**NOVEMBER 12**

**IOOF Hall**

**6:30 pm**

**Refreshments**

**ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

**&**

**ELECTION of 2014**

**Board of Directors**

**Our museums and offices  
will be closed for the holidays**

**Dec 22**

**thru**

**Jan 10**

### Board of Directors' Meetings

are held the 3rd Wednesday of each month  
at 6:00 pm

in the IOOF Historic Hall on Bridge Street in Arroyo Grande



**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**



# CURATOR OF COLLECTIONS

Jan Scott



September ended with us hosting the "Roosters" at the IOOF Hall during Harvest Festival. **Nan Fowler & Trudy Jarratt** ran the show, and it was quite a day. The individually painted roosters were the first fundraising effort of *Arroyo Grande Public Art* and was a massive success. Over 700 people stopped by to look and over 600 ballots were filled out to decide the favorite roosters.

October began with the fascinating Sam Cotton program about weapons and stories of bad guys from the Old West. **Colleen Drees** hosted the night which was a wonderful success.

With our videographer, **Dick Jackson**, we managed to gather a lot of memories on tape about the history of our museums along with a video tour of each. From **The Barn** that was built new from an idea, to **Heritage House** that took an original building and reworked it into a museum, to **Ruby's** adaptive reuse into an office - library - wedding site, to the **IOOF Hall** that underwent a lengthy earthquake retrofit, the stories poured forth onto tape with the Collections Committee asking questions or just listening to the tales of the people who were there. There may be a couple of programs to come out of these.

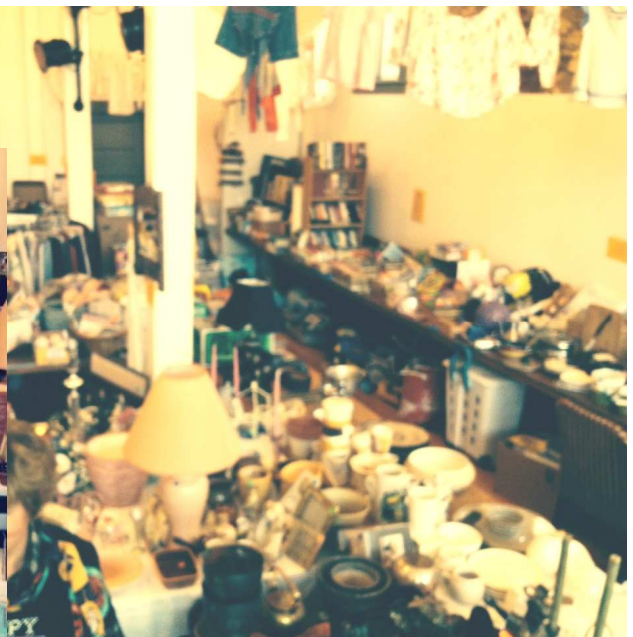
October 12 will live always as the date when we finally, after years of futile plans and aborted attempts, managed to accept **Dick Blankenburg's** gift of nearly a hundred years of bound *Times Press Recorder* newspapers. **Jim Dickens** took the lead on making this happen, and at 8AM that Saturday, he along with family and a schoolmate, joined **Sandy Arnold, Gary Hoving, Jeff Kime, Joe Swigert, Ross Kongable** and me. With Jim heading up the troops at the storage facility and Joe and I organizing as they arrived at the Meatlocker, the whole process took under two hours. It was amazing that after all that angst it was completed so quickly.

I'm not exactly sure when this newsletter will arrive, but we either are about to have our big SALE this Saturday/Sunday, or we've just finished. I hope we do/did well!

Finally, for those of you who met this charming woman over a year ago when she spoke with us about her role as the only child who lived with the Dunites in the 1930's, Ella Thorp Ellis passed away last week. She was truly one-of-a-kind.

*Don't forget  
the General Membership Meeting  
on Tuesday, November 12.*

Pictured: Jan Scott, Joe Swigert, Berneda Cochran, Barbara LeSage, Doug LeSage, Barbara Main, Sue Edington, Bonnie Crawford. Missing: Norma Burton



Jan and her crew and the thousands of articles donated for the annual Rummage Sale, Nov 2, from antique chamber pot cabinet, jewelry, knick-knacks, tools, crystal, china and more.



# PATTERNS OF THE PAST

from the Archives—By Berneda Cochran



**This is a History Exam for those who don't mind seeing how much they really remember about what went on in their life. Everyone over 40 should have a pretty easy time with it. If you are under 40 you can claim a handicap (or if you are blonde!).**

**1. In the 1940s, where were automobile headlight dimmer switches located?**

- a. On the floor shift knob
- b. On the floor board, to the left of the clutch
- c. Next to the horn

**2. The bottle top of a Royal Crown Cola bottle had holes in it. For what was it used?**

- a. Capture lightning bugs
- b. To sprinkle clothes before ironing
- c. Large salt shaker

**3. Why was having milk delivered a problem in northern winters?**

- a. Cows got cold and wouldn't produce milk
- b. Ice on highways forced delivery by dog sled
- c. Milkmen left deliveries outside of front doors, milk would freeze, expanding and pushing up the cardboard bottle top.

**4. What was the popular chewing gum named for a game of chance?**

- a. Blackjack
- b. Gin
- c. Craps!

**5. What method did women use to look as if they were wearing stockings when none were available due to rationing during W.W.II?**

- a. Suntan
- b. Leg painting
- c. Wearing slacks

**6. What postwar car turned automotive design on its ear when you couldn't tell whether it was coming or going?**

- a. Studebaker
- b. Nash Metro
- c. Tucker

**7. Which was a popular candy when you were a kid?**

- a. Strips of dried peanut butter
- b. Chocolate licorice bars
- c. Wax coke-shaped bottles with colored sugar water inside

**8. How was Butch wax used?**

- a. To stiffen a flat-top haircut so it stood up
- b. To make floors shiny and prevent scuffing
- c. On the wheels of roller skates to prevent rust

**9. Before inline skates, how did you keep your roller skates attached to your shoes?**

- a. With clamps, tightened by a skate key
- b. Woven straps that crossed the foot
- c. Long pieces of twine

**10. As a kid, what was considered the best way to reach a decision?**

- a. Consider all the facts
- b. Ask Mom
- c. Eeny-meeny-miney-mo

**11. What was the most dreaded disease in the 1940's?**

- a. Smallpox
- b. AIDS
- c. Polio

**12. "I'll be down to get you in a \_\_\_\_\_, Honey"**

- a. SUV
- b. Taxi
- c. Streetcar

**13. What was the name of Caroline Kennedy's pet pony?**

- a. Old Blue
- b. Paint
- c. Macaroni

**14. What was a Duck-and-Cover Drill?**

- a. Part of the game of hide and seek
- b. What you did when your Mom called you in to do chores
- c. Hiding under your desk, and covering your head with your arms in an A-bomb drill.

**15. What was the name of the Indian Princess on the Howdy Doody show?**

- a. Princess Summerfallwinterspring
- b. Princess Sacajawea
- c. Princess Moonshadow

**16. What did all the really savvy students do when dittoed tests were handed out in school?**

- a. Immediately sniffed the purple ink as this was believed to get you high
- b. Made paper airplanes to see who could sail theirs out the window
- c. Wrote another pupil's name on the top, to avoid their failure

**17. Why did your Mom shop in stores that gave Green Stamps with purchases?**

- a. To keep you out of mischief by licking the backs, which tasted like bubble gum
- b. They could be put in special books and redeemed for various household items
- c. They were given to the kids to be used as stick-on tattoos

**18. Praise the Lord, and pass the \_\_\_\_\_?**

- a. Meatballs
- b. Dames
- c. Ammunition

**19. What was the name of the singing group that made the song "Cabdriver" a hit?**

- a. The Ink Spots
- b. The Supremes
- c. The Esquires

**20. Who left his heart in San Francisco ?**

- a. Tony Bennett
- b. Xavier Cugat
- c. George Gershwin

## ANSWERS on page 5

**SCORING - 17- 20 correct:** You are older than dirt, and obviously gifted with mental abilities.

Now if you could only find your glasses. Definitely someone who should share your wisdom

**12 -16 correct:** Not quite dirt yet, but you're getting there.

**0 -11 correct:** You are not old enough to share the wisdom of your experiences.

## CHARLES PORTER -2013

We extend our condolences to Wanda, wife of our dear friend Charles, and all his family on their loss.

Charles was a staunch supporter and friend of the Society, having served as President numerous times as well as on the Board many years.

His caring and considerate attitude towards everyone made him an immediate friend.

We will all miss him sorely.



1. b) On the floor, to the left of the clutch. Hand controls, popular in Europe, took till the late '60s to catch on.
2. b) To sprinkle clothes before ironing. Who had a steam iron?
3. c) Cold weather caused the milk to freeze and expand, popping the bottle top.
4. a) Blackjack Gum.
5. b) Special makeup was applied, followed by drawing a seam down the back of the leg with eyebrow pencil.
6. a) 1946 Studebaker.
7. c) Wax coke bottles containing super-sweet colored water.
8. a) Wax for your flat top (butch) haircut.
9. a) With clamps, tightened by a skate key, which you wore on a shoestring around your neck.
10. c) Eeny-meeny-miney-mo.
11. c) Polio. In beginning of August, swimming beaches and pools were closed, and movies and other public gathering places were closed to try to prevent spread of the disease.
12. b) Taxi. Better be ready by half-past eight!
13. c) Macaroni.
14. c) Hiding under your desk, and covering your head with your arms in an A-bomb drill.
15. a) Princess Summerfallwinterspring. She was another puppet.
16. a) Immediately sniffed the purple ink of the xerographic (dry-copying) copy to get a high. The ditto process made about twenty-five copies (more if you were careful). The teacher wrote or typed the questions on a master sheet that transferred special ink to the master. The master was mounted onto a drum, and methyl alcohol dissolved a small amount of ink which was transferred to a blank sheet of paper. The methyl alcohol was the smell.
17. b) Put in a special stamp book, they could be traded for household items at the Green Stamp store.
18. c) Ammunition, and we'll all be free.
19. a) The widely famous 50s group: The Inkspots.
20. a) Tony Bennett, and he sounds just as good today..



## PACIFIC COAST RAILWAY KIOSK NEARING COMPLETION ON EAST BRANCH IN THE VILLAGE

From time to time, a rail fan an enthusiast of railways and train operations will wander into an antique shop on East Branch Street in Arroyo Grande. look around and exclaim something along the lines of: "Wow, this is the depot!"

But the rail fan will soon be corrected: "This was the depot." Until railway service was abandoned in 1941, the Pacific Coast Railway came through Arroyo Grande, and the depot was once on the same site where A Glance Into the Past Antiques shop now stands.

"I think it's neat, the idea that people want to come in and feel something," said Chuck Fellows, a former city councilman who has witnessed the preceding conversation at the antique mall.

Fellows, a history buff who now sits on the city's Architectural Review Committee, has been working on a project for several years that would let rail fans' imaginations carry them away just a bit further.

The Pacific Coast Railway was a 3-foot narrow gauge railway that was originally a 10-mile link from San Luis Obispo to Avila Beach and Port Harford. The line was extended to Arroyo Grande in 1881.

The railway wound through the Village, crossing East Branch Street at the foot of Crown Hill.

Today, this spot is a sliver of city-owned land brightened by a patch of flowers maintained by the Village Improvement Association. The rest is dirt and rocks and a few weeds.

But Fellows hopes that, after some improvements, it will become a spot to which rail fans flock.

He obtained two original 14-foot rails, circa 1881, with help from the late Gordon Bennett, a lifelong Arroyo Grande resident who died in August.

Fellows is in the process of collecting 10 rail ties, many of which have since been turned into fence posts, so he can complete an authentic section of railway. *(For those who may spot one, the rail ties are about 6 feet long, 5¼ inches tall and 7 inches wide and don't have any marks that pressure-treated wood would have.)*

A kiosk has been constructed as part of an Eagle Scout service project and will include photos and information on the Pacific Coast Railway's history in Arroyo Grande.

The project was completed by 16-year-old K.J. Harris, a student at St. Joseph High School in Santa Maria. His father, Kyle Harris of Harris Architecture, also sits on the city's Architectural Review Committee.

Kyle Harris said K.J. raised about \$5,000 to 7,000 worth of materials and did much of the labor himself. Donations came from Brisco's True Value Hardware, Brough Construction and Famco Development.

Fellows said he's in the process of raising some funds to complete the project, including installing some concrete steps and a retaining wall, and having the informational panels made.

**Donations can be made to the South County Historical Society, with a note that the money is intended for the railway kiosk. Fellows can be reached at 710-3277.**

By Cynthia Lambert  
The Tribune 2012

*Recent update from Fellows: Progress is ongoing and he is still looking for original ties (recognized by the lack of perforations for treatment).*

*He hopes to complete the project by the end of this year.*

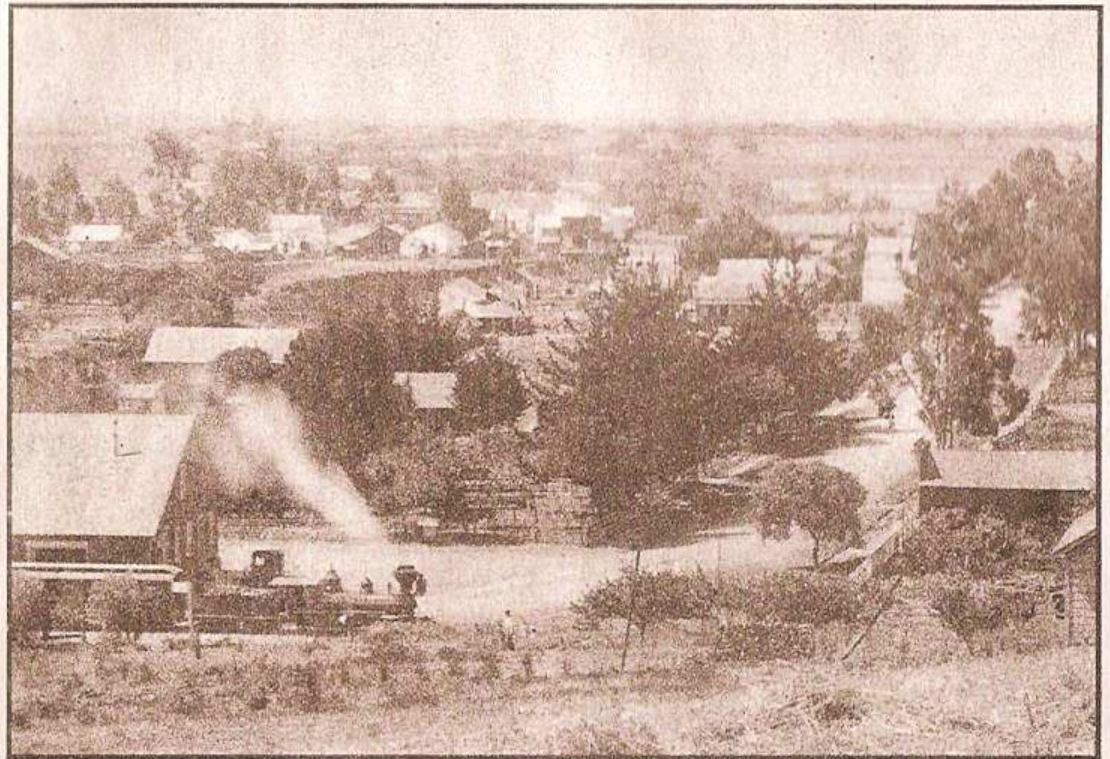


PHOTO COURTESY OF THE SOUTH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

**Pacific Coast Railway engine No. 2 (The John Harford), a wood-burning steam engine, travels next to the depot in Arroyo Grande in this 1893 photo.**



**WELCOME  
NEW MEMBERS**

**Bill & Susie Clark  
Russell & Sheri Haynes  
Francis Taillon**

**DOCENT LEADER**

**Linda Kime**



The Spelling Bee at this year's Harvest Festival was a great success again this year with 39 students participating. **Kathleen Sullivan** did a superb job of administering the spelling words. She has a wonderful way with the kids that helps them relax and enjoy themselves. Thank you Kathleen! I also want to thank Nicole Calderon and **Dee Dee Baggett**. Nicole is a college student who manned the registration table. She has helped me in the schoolhouse and at the Spelling Bee for about 5 years. Dee Dee is one of our newer schoolhouse docents, who is always willing to do extra. Winners:

**3rd - 4th Grade**

1st Jonah Schenberg AG  
2nd Garrett Leighton AG  
3rd Erin Lyn Vernon AG

**5th - 6th Grade**

1st Jeremiah Ferrante AG  
2nd Guinevere Dechance SLO  
3rd Tyler Armstrong AG

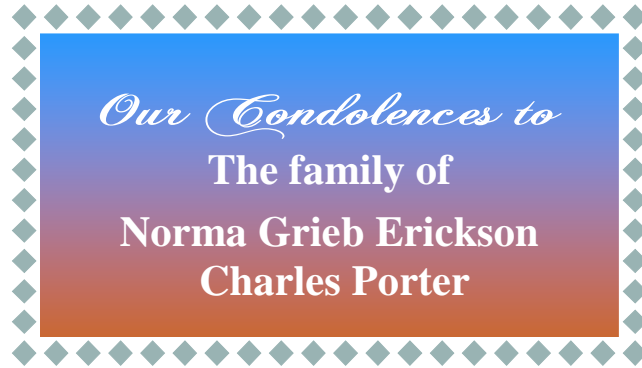
**8th Grade**

1st Cassie Mattina AG  
2nd Xyenna Ausan Santa Maria  
3rd Makenna Stever AG

We have several new docents that I would like to welcome. **Karen Groteluschen** is in training to work at the schoolhouse. **Jennifer Silva** is interested in doing school tours and will be training for that soon. Thank you both for your willingness to help.

We are still looking for volunteers for the Barn Museum. The shifts are only 3 hours and the schedule is very flexible. If you would like to sign up the training,

**please call Linda Kime at 805-489-1837.**



*Our Condolences to*  
The family of  
**Norma Grieb Erickson  
Charles Porter**

**Volunteer hours for  
September = 555 (docent=90)**  
**Volunteer Hours to date this year:**  
**4,502**

**Annual Membership Dues**

<b>Individual</b>	<b>\$ 20.00</b>
<b>Couple</b>	<b>\$ 35.00</b>
<b>Family w/children under 18</b>	<b>\$ 40.00</b>
<b>Sustaining (Individual)</b>	<b>\$100.00</b>
<b>Patron:</b>	<b>\$200.00</b>
<b>Business, Organization, Individual</b>	
<b>Life (Individual or Couple)</b>	<b>\$500.00</b>

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



**2014 MEMBERSHIP — SOUTH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

CHANGES?       NEW       GIFT       RENEWAL

Please print legibly.

Name (s) \* \_\_\_\_\_

Address \* \_\_\_\_\_

Home Tel: \* \_\_\_\_\_ Cell 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.

PO Box 633  
Arroyo Grande CA 93421

visit our website  
[www.SouthCountyHistory.org](http://www.SouthCountyHistory.org)  
Friend us on Facebook

email  
[SCHS76@sbcglobal.net](mailto:SCHS76@sbcglobal.net)



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PERMIT 15

(Come for the free food - stay for the fun!)

## ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

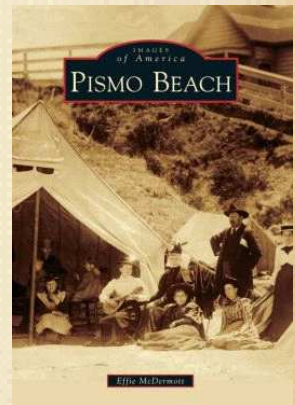
To meet & elect Board of Directors for 2014  
IOOF Hall on Bridge Street

**Tuesday, November 12  
6PM**

**Pizza ! Salad ! Surprises ! \***



\* Including a special short program by Effie McDermott on the progress of Price House (with photos)



\* Including Effie's new Arcadia book on Pismo Beach (which she has promised to autograph)