



South County Historical Society

Heritage Press

Volume 18, No 6

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER



HISTORIC IOOF HALL



SANTA MANUELA SCHOOLHOUSE



PAULDING HISTORY HOUSE



HERITAGE HOUSE



RUBY'S HOUSE



THE BARN

BOOK SIGNING ***DECEMBER 13***

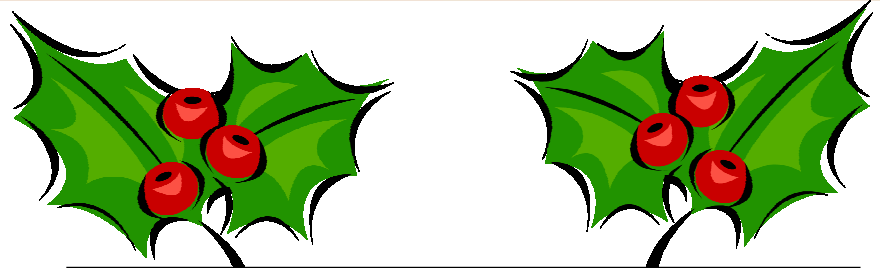
at the IOOF Hall on Bridge Street in the Village

From 1:00 pm until 3:00 pm

Co-Author Mary Mueller will be here
to sign copies of the
recently released book

The Settlers of Arroyo Grande
written with Patricia Loomis.

Refreshments will be served



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EVENTS SCHEDULE

SCHS Board Meeting
November 19

Arroyo Grande Christmas Parade
November 30

Elegant Evening in the Village
December 7

Local Author Book Signing
December 13

SCHS Board Meeting
January 15, 2015

Visit our website

www.southcountyhistory.org

Email:

info@southcountyhistory.org

Museum Phone Numbers:

Pat Loomis History Library
"Ruby's House"
805.489.8282

IOOF History Hall
805.489.8114

Santa Manuela Schoolhouse
The Barn
805.489.8745

Heritage House
805.481.4126

Paulding History House
805.473.3231

HOLIDAY MUSEUMS SCHEDULE

THE BARN
HERITAGE HOUSE
SANTA MANUELA SCHOOLHOUSE

Will be open normal
museum hours :

SATURDAYS
NOV 29, DEC 6, 13, 20
FROM 12 TO 3 PM

SUNDAYS
NOV 30, DEC 14
FROM 1 TO 3 PM

The museums will be closed
on the following dates for
the holidays:

Sunday 12/7/14
Sunday 12/21/14
Sat/Sun 12/27-28/14
Sat/Sun 1/3-4/15

2014 Board of Directors

Gary Hoving	President
Paul Provence	Vice-President
Norman Baxter	Treasurer
Polly Nelson	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
Eric Nelson	Parliamentarian

FROM THE PRESIDENT

I am looking forward to my renewed role as the President of the South County Historical Society. It has been a pleasure to have served in other positions and now, I am returning to the leadership role.



There is no shortage of work for the staff, members and volunteers so please let us know if your are available to help. The society is effective solely based on the actions of the membership. Of course, the thousands of volunteer hours each year has created and maintained a professional historical institution.

We have a number social events coming up that I hope you will join and help to make the society even stronger.

Thank you for support and I am looking forward to my continued service to OUR historical society..

Sincerely, Gary L. Hoving

FROM THE DESK AT RUBY'S

I came into the office of President this year on a sad note—the passing of Kirk Scott, who had served the Society for fourteen years, six of them as President. Along with his wife, Jan, they were the backbone of the Society.

Jan continues to be the glue that holds our organization together, serving not only as Curator of Collections, but organizer, coordinator, worker-bee. She wrote and directed the Readers Theater productions; she organized the annual Rummage Sale. All of accomplished with the devoted participation of Joe Swigert.

My participation in the activities of the organization this past year were miniscule in comparison. Representing the Society to the community and a small bit of administration took far less time than the tasks related to membership and newsletter publication—tasks I will continue to accomplish.

I'm looking forward to the participation of our Society with other Historical Societies in SLO county, an effort being coordinated by Eva Ulz, Curator of SLO History Center.

Ross Kougable

Curator of Collections

Jan Scott



Happy Holidays to all. At SCHS, ours will be filled with thanksgiving for all the help and support we had for the Annual Sale. I tried to make a list of everyone involved, but it became impossible. The whole newsletter would have been nothing but a list of names. So thank you, each and every one of you: those who worked day after day for hours in the preparation, those who endured the very long sale days and cleanup aftermath; those who arrived with carloads and truckloads of 'stuff' for us to sell, and those who just kept cheering us on.

Next to the Antique Show, this event requires the largest participation by our members. The Society is deeply in your debt. \$4300.00 in your debt!!! We broke all our records which we really needed to do, having racked up some big costs this year with new chairs for our special events. But there's more.

Dawn Rocha and Lou Stoetzer were our face at the State Emergency Preparedness meetings that were held to help us develop a plan on how we would respond if disaster struck. A sidebar to this important work was the discovery that our water heater in the workroom at IOOF had no drain if it failed. Our workroom, storage boxes and some artifacts would have been flooded. Worse than that, Gil Cochran (plumber extraordinaire) discovered the unit was incorrectly wired and could have been a fire danger!

He moved the water heater outside the building onto the pad that Fred Wilson had prepared. Fred also ran the wiring for it. After Gil did the installation, Fred returned to build a small shed for its protection. He, like his daughter Sandy Arnold, remains almost magical in his ability to get things done. All I have to do is mention a problem, and he's already finding solutions.

A special thank you to The Questers whose generosity and dedication to the preservation of Paulding House, is allowing work to proceed with plastering, painting, restoration. None of this could be in process without them.

At the end of the year, I always want to thank the people who help keep our museums clean and functioning. Along with Fred, there are Barbara Bowles, Kim Greene, Don Gullickson and Bill Smith.

A special thank you to Joe Swigert without whom, our events would lack the special flare and grace he provides, and to Ross Kongable for stepping into the presidency and holding down two offices for the whole year.

And finally, thank you to everyone for seeing me through this year. I have appreciated your every kindness and support. Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas, Happy Chanukah and anything else you'd like to celebrate! A good New Year to us all.

Jan

The Jean Hubbard Historian of the Year

Each year, the Society recognizes an outstanding contributor to the goals of our society which are:

“Dedicated to research, restoration, and dissemination of information that our historical heritage may be enhanced and preserved.”

President Ross Kongable presented this year’s award to the one person who has taken on the task of accomplishing those goals for a particular segment of our ‘domain’ of the south county.

Effie McDermott is the go-to person for anything you want to know about Pismo Beach.

She is former president of the San Luis Obispo Historical Society, and former Board member of our Society. She is also president and driving force in the preservation of the home of John Michael Price and creation of the ‘Friends of Price House’ Park and Museum in Pismo Beach.

Effie also made her acting debut in Jan’s summer theater production of ‘Gold Rush in Oceano?’.

We congratulate this lady of many talents and the extraordinary ability to get things done for the good of the community.

Effie joins a distinguished list of previous recipients:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| Jean Hubbard—2009 | Patricia Loomis—2010 |
| Gordon & Manetta Bennett—2011 | Loren Nicholson—2012 |
| Gary Hoving—2013 | |





Patterns of the Past

From the Archives by Berneda Cochran



REMEMBER STEREOSCOPES?

They're coming out of the vault and into the digital age. In slow but meticulous work at the California State Library in downtown Sacramento, more than 10,000 old sepia-toned 3-D photos – most from the 1800s – are being dusted off and converted to computer-ready images.

Officially known as stereoscopic photos, they were a popular turn-of-the-century parlor activity, shared like postcards and viewed through hand-held viewers that turned the side-by-side double photos into a single 3-D image.

For decades, thousands of the cardboard photos have been sitting in the state library's archives, viewable only by appointment. Now, they're being uploaded to a photo sharing site that's making them available to anyone anywhere. www.phereo.com/CaliforniaStateLibrary

Taken by both professional and amateur photographers, the photos subjects ranged from majestic outdoor settings like Yosemite's Half Dome to news-style photos of major events such as the 1906 San Francisco earthquake. They also captured everyday portraits of Americans at work and play, from Gold Rush miners to tourists visiting "Toyland" at the 1915 Panama-Pacific International Exposition in San Francisco.

The heyday of stereoscopic photos was roughly between the 1870s and the 1920s. Printed on cardboard from glass negatives, the images were sold by photography studios, by door-to-door salesmen or from catalogs like Sears, Roebuck & Co. "Back then, people would have hundreds of these cards at home. It would be their television of the day," said Vincent Beiderbecke, a state library digital specialist, who's been working on the project for two years.

Those already posted range from images of horse-drawn wagons trudging up Donner Pass, turn-of-the-century tourists posing before Yosemite Falls, and a locomotive stopped at the foot of dirt-lined J Street in Old Sacramento, circa 1865. Not all of them are dated or captioned.

VIEWING HISTORY OF 3-D PHOTOS AND FILM

1838: English scientist and inventor Sir Charles Wheatstone produces the first stereoscopic viewer. Created before widespread use of 3-D photography, it uses a bulky tabletop device with mirrors to create a three-dimensional view of painted drawings.

1861: Oliver Wendell Holmes Sr., an American physician, poet and author, invents the first hand-held viewer to hold 3-D stereoscopic cards. It becomes the norm for viewers.

1939: At the New York World's Fair, the first plastic View-Master is introduced, using rounded cardboard reels of 3-D images, primarily to show postcard-style views. Created by a Portland, Ore., company, the first View-Masters are originally sold in gift shops and photography stores.

You can find a stereoscope at Heritage History House available for hands-on use.

VOLUNTEERS WORKING AT PAULDING HISTORY

Robust activities are ongoing to repair and renew the Paulding House. Sandy Arnold, Fred & Gloria Wilson (Sandy's parents), Joe Swigert, Ryan L'Esperance (Sandy's nephew) and financial support from the Questers have put in considerable effort to refresh and renew the property.

For starters, a number of repairs were performed on the property in the past two years. All of the stained and smelly carpet was removed. Fred removed two layers of flooring, and replaced floor boards in the kitchen with extra original 1900 vintage boards from Sandy's home. And the floors were refinished in the appropriate areas. On the porch, Fred carved a hand rail in the original configuration to replace the rotted one. He also has kept the yard tidy by periodically mowing the weeds.

Wall paper was removed in all of the living areas by Sandy, Gloria, Fred, Ryan and Joe. There were many leaks around the front windows and they required new flashing and caulking. Some rotted wood and plaster repairs were needed; many hours were required to remove old paint which covered walls and fixtures. The plaster repairs on walls and the ceiling were completed in various locations. The work group then repainted all of the interior of the home.

Fred took off all the unique locks on the windows that had MANY layers of paint to even work correctly. He stripped them all of paint, repaired springs and reinstalled them to display a beautiful scroll design and porcelain knob. New carpeting is on order and should be installed soon.

Sandy says, "The walls and trim had all the bumps and bruises that have occurred over the 100 plus years of sheltering people but it is now more waterproof and has a fresh coat of paint to help it stay strong for another 100 plus years!!! There are still many hinges and knobs to be stripped and repaired. It's a slow process. Also the downstairs bathroom is hideous. That is our next challenge to conquer!"

The Questers

Questers is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the study, conservation and preservation of historical objects for the benefit of today and tomorrow. Members seek to identify preservation and restoration of existing landmarks as well to educate through the research and study of antiques. Projects that support educational programs for children are of special interest.

Preservation and Restoration are twin tenets of the The Questers organization. Projects are discovered and selected by the individual chapters, based on their locale which varies immensely. Projects, selected by the chapters, are to preserve historical buildings, sites and artifacts for the community and the future.

Questers has contributed to projects throughout California. They include iconic Spanish missions, the agricultural development of our fertile valleys, the rough and tumble Gold Rush, electronic technologies, as well as the entertainment media industries associated with Hollywood.

Our California Chapter, the Cinco Ciudades, has financed all of the projects noted above with the Paulding House.

Thank You and Bless You from all the members of our Society.

“THE DIG” at the HOOSGOW PARK

Just before the annual sale, Geoff English, the Director of Public Works for the City of AG, contacted Curator Jan Scott to tell her, that while doing some grading as part of the Hoosgow Park re-do, some workers discovered bottles and clamshells, beef bones, china shards and who knows what else?



ALL HANDS INVOLVED IN A REALLY GOOD SPOT

Work was halted while state archaeologists came in to examine the site. No Native American artifacts were found and the likelihood is that the site is an old privy or just a dump, about a hundred years old.

It sits exactly at spot that was destined to be covered by a walkway within the next 10 days, and the city thought SCHS might be interested in doing a 'dig' before it all disappeared.

So with little notice, on Saturday, October 25, led by Brian & Patti Cole, Edie Juck, Charlene Premer, and an inquisitive neighbor work commenced. It turned out to be a long, hot, but rewarding morning. (see pics)

On Thursday, November 13, a state archaeologist came to examine the discoveries and record them as part of California state history.



Brian & Edie's first bottle find



All hands involved in a really good spot.



Whiskey, Beer, Elixer...?



Early Development in Pismo Beach

By Paul Provence as compiled from SCHS Archives

The 2014 elections brought before Pismo Beach voters the initiative H-14, which sought to amend the city's General Plan, particularly in Price Canyon. It proposed to preserve and maintain the natural resources, water supply, scenic vistas and small town character. The proposal passed by a significant majority.

In 1887, efforts were underway to initially develop the general area. The story was told in a 1988 Five Cities Times Press Recorder feature column by Doris Olsen, South County - the way it was. From the SCHS archives, the column is once again presented here:

“John Price’s land sales set Pismo Beach’s future

in April 1887, John M. Price made two land sales that would affect development of his area.

The first was 1,150 acres southwest of his adobe ranch headquarters. It went to a group of developers headed by a wealthy man from the Santa Cruz area, Dwight W. Grover, for whom Grover City is named. His group paid \$22,982 for land where a city would rise.

The second sale consisted of a parcel in the heart of what is now the city of Pismo Beach and it sold for \$6,000. A.E. Pomeroy headed a group, which included Charles M. Stimson, when that sale was made. They purchased Block 11 of the town of El Pismo, as mapped by Price years earlier. The sale included the hotel that Price built in 1875 and other small buildings.

Not included was the parcel where a pier landing and warehouse were situated or the remainder of Price's townsite. The Pismo Beach Company, as Pomeroy's group was called, would buy more of the townsite later. The parcel containing the pier landing would go to J. C. Jordan of San Francisco in 1892 for the sum of \$1,000.

The Pismo Beach Company planned to subdivide the land purchased from Price and called its new acquisition, "El Pizmo". The variance in spelling of the word "Pismo" as used by Price and Pomeroy has caused confusion for many years.

At any rate, the men with 14 teams of horses graded their acreage in preparation for subdivision. The parcel was south of Main Street and included direct access to the sea. A tent city would come into being there.

The Pismo Beach Company, which soon included P.C. Dolliver, cut its land into lots ranging in size from 25 by 100 feet to 25 by 140 feet and listed them for sale from \$5 to \$75 each.

EARLY DEVELOPMENT (Continued from page 10)

Later, another group that took over the operation was called "El Pizmo Company" and followed the same pattern. However, this group increased the number of lots to 800 , raised the price to \$75 and \$250 each and hiked the rents which were charged for stays in the tent city. The fee rose from \$1 and \$2 a week to a minimum of \$6 a week for two people.

One of the early groups moved the old Price hotel to another site and remodeled and expanded it in size. Under the name "El Pizmo Inn", the hotel would achieve a measure of fame. A portion of the old structure still stands as part of the Pismo Beach Moose Hall.

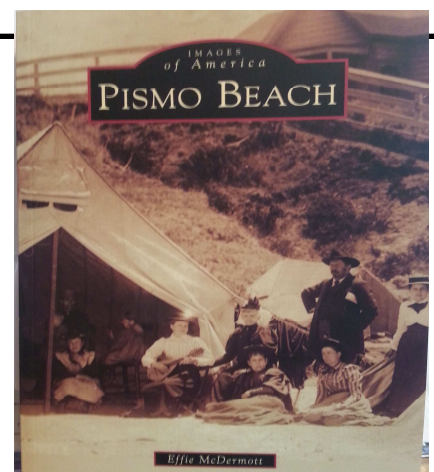
Eventually, the neighboring tent city would be called "El Pismo Colony" and would offer visitors the luxury of running water and an electric light in their tents.

A brochure printed after the turn of the century (probably about 1910) notes that a few model homes had been added to the tent enterprise as "suggestions for summer homes". It further stipulated that anyone building there would be required to expend at least \$300 for a house. "In certain sections of the 800 lots, a higher minimum is enforced.", the brochure said.

The pamphlet contained a tent floor plan that showed two 7-by-9-foot bedrooms, a living room that measured 9 by 10 feet and included a table and dresser, a closet and kitchen area. The kitchen was depicted as slightly more than 3 by 6 feet and had a gasoline stove and four shelves. The tents contained two screened windows and a door in front and a porch that measured 5 by 14 feet.

Renters of these cozy shelters were requested to pay 50 cents a week for electric lights, but the rent included an option of linen and towels to be laundered by the management. For many years the tent city drew summer visitors from a distance, many from the San Joaquin Valley."

For the complete picture story of Pismo Beach, see the Arcadia Series book "PISMO BEACH" by Effie McDermott, available at our museums and online.



What's 'Growing' On In the Garden

I started volunteering in the beautiful Heritage House Garden at the end of August. Through mid November, some friends and I have volunteered over 100 hours.

I have always enjoyed the planting beds and flower pots that Arroyo Grande In Bloom (AGIB) create and maintain so I contacted **Bob Lund** and asked his group to help at Heritage House!



'Bob, Mary Hertel, Laurie Waller and I brainstormed about what would be an improvement to the overgrown and shady planting beds near the wedding gazebo. I researched plants that thrive in the shade, have white or pale pink flowers, have many seasons of interest and have moderate water needs. We came up with camelias and hydrangeas for white flowers, acacia (cousin itt) and sword ferns for year round greenery and dichondra (silver falls) as a bright grey ground cover and begonias (San Miguel) with fuzzy red heart-shaped leaves.

Thanks to Fred Wilson for helping with the plant delivery and to Mary H. for helping decide the artistic placement of the plants! Twenty one eager volunteers joined for the 8-10a.m. improvement project. An enormous pile of plant debris was created and the city of Arroyo Grande helped by hauling it to the green waste facility. AGIB also moved some existing plants around and tidied up other flower beds.

Plants that had been purchased from West Covina Wholesale Nursery (located on the Mesa) and plants donated by myself and AGIB were planted in the beds along Ruby's fence and the barn fence (SW corner).

One enormous root was right where I wanted to plant a hydrangea quecifolia (snow queen). Juan, the maintenance gardener, spent much time and muscle power removing it. Although it may look bare now, more sunlight will filter down to the plants where before, there was only darkness.



If you want to help at Heritage House Garden on a weekday, or donate some plants,



contact me at (805) 440-0366 or at pismoweaver@gmail.com



The Heritage Gardens, on Mason Street in the Village, are the site for weddings and events in 2014, and already booked for 7 events in 2015, is getting a facelift: landscaping (see article on page 12) and new chairs. We recently purchased 200 chairs (to replace the plastic stackables which were originally a gift from Sandra Worsham). They have padded seats and are of a durable white vinyl.

A new crystal chandelier hangs in the gazebo during events and adds a bit of elegance.

Thanks to our Event Coordinators, Diane Mairoano and Diane Krajsa, the year's events went smoothly and all participants were extremely pleased with their events:

23 weddings, 1 rehearsal dinner and the Melodrama's 40th anniversary celebration.



There are currently 7 weddings already scheduled for 2015.

For more information, go to our website www.southcountyhistory.org

TO ALL OUR DOCENTS: When we think of all we are grateful for during Thanksgiving, I am truly thankful for all of you. Without all the hours you spend volunteering at our museums and sharing our wonderful history with visitors, we could not keep the doors open for all to enjoy.

Wishing you a very Happy Thanksgiving and a wonderful Holiday Season !

Linda Kime, Docent Leader

VOLUNTEER HOURS

THIS YEAR:

4,683

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

TO ALL



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.

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

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HOLIDAY PARTY



Museums will be closed December 7 for
"Elegant Evening in the Village"

Visit us at the IOOF Hall on Bridge St for our SCHS Christmas
Party: food & good cheer from 4 pm-8 pm

HOLIDAY



HOURS

To allow our docents time with their families,
our museums will be closed December 21 - January 4.
We will reopen Saturday January 10, 2015.