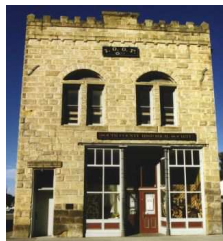




# South County Historical Society Heritage Press

Volume 18, No 1

February 2014



HISTORIC IOOF HALL



SANTA MANUELA SCHOOLHOUSE



PAULDING HISTORY HOUSE



HERITAGE HOUSE



RUBY'S HOUSE



THE BARN

## Donors & suppliers

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## 33rd Annual

Antique  
Show & Sale

22 Dealers  
presenting  
Antiques & Collectibles  
Toys  
Dolls  
Paper  
Jewelry  
Furniture  
Knick-Knacks  
And much-much more

Above you see all the donors and suppliers who helped make this year's event such a success. We thank them sincerely for their generosity.

But the Show would not have happened if it weren't for our dedicated volunteers: **Shelly Cochran** and her crew in the *Society Café* ; **those members** who brought in homemade pies and cakes; **Polly Nelson** who provided the snacks and goodies for the kids who helped the vendors setup/teardown on Friday and Sunday; **Norma Burton** who rounded up and scheduled the volunteers; **Steve & Helene Morrison** who covered the county with our brochures and discount coupons; **Steve & Linda Curry**, who, for the 33rd year, handled setup and registration of the vendors; **Bonnie Crawford** for gathering donations for 22 gift baskets in the Raffle; and of course to **Mike Drees**, who herded all the cats, i.e. volunteers, and kept track of every task, and **Joe Swigert**, who tracks all the stuff and things we use every year.

A special thank you to our **County Supervisors Adam Hill and Caren Ray** for their financial support.

## 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

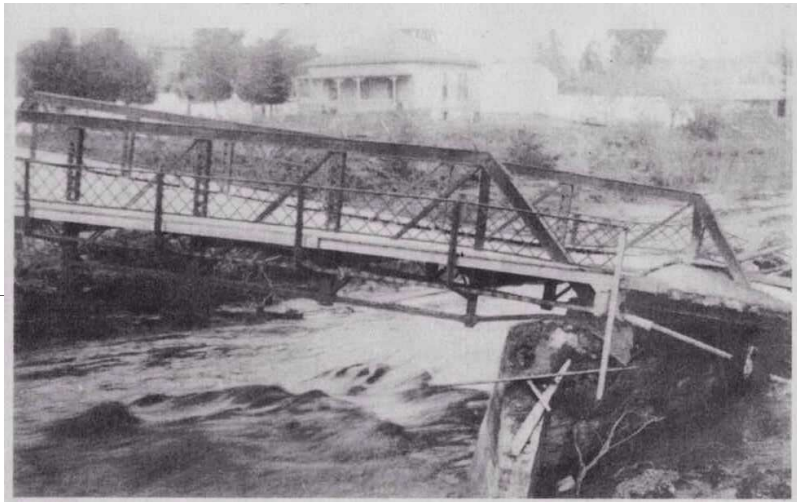


Group tours  
of any or all  
of the museums  
may be scheduled  
by calling  
805.489.8282  
or email

[info@southcountyhistory.org](mailto:info@southcountyhistory.org)

## 2014 Board of Directors

Ross Kongable	President
Susan Boughner	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
Gary Hoving	Parliamentarian



BRIDGE UNDER ATTACK — The Bridge Street Bridge was only a few years old when the rampaging Arroyo Grande Creek took out the supports at the south end. Photo courtesy of Billie Swigert

*The picture above was taken in 1914. See the story on page 6.*

Today, 100 years later, the Bridge Street bridge has a sufficiency rating of 12.8 (out of 50) and is restricted to 3 ton loading which is the lowest rating prior to bridge closure!

The resolution of this improvement project is under study and community meetings were held in January and February. The next meeting is scheduled for April.

The South County Historical Society is one of the members of the "Stakeholders" committee established to determine the resolution. Currently there are 5 alternatives proposed by the consulting group, Wallace Group of San Luis Obispo..

As members of the South County Historical Society, the Board would like you to express your choice and/or suggestions for the resolution.

Please take a moment to respond to this survey by calling and leave a message at 805.489.8282. You may also respond by visiting our website [www.southcountyhistory.org](http://www.southcountyhistory.org).

- ◇ **Option 1:** Conventional Replacement: Construct an entirely new bridge, wider with bike lane, sidewalks. (Fully funded by Caltrans.)
- ◇ **Option 2:** Salvage and Relocate Trusses (original upper structure) on new concrete structure. Retain the upper historic structure placed on a new bridge, wider with bike lanes, sidewalks. (Fully funded by Caltrans.)
- ◇ **Option 3:** Replace in Kind. (funding by Caltrans doubtful).
- ◇ **Option 4:** Retrofit the existing structure. (funding by Caltrans doubtful).
- ◇ **Option 5:** Do nothing. (the bridge will be closed to vehicular traffic.
- ◇ **Option 6:** No opinion

If you are interested in attending future public meetings, please email [jillp@wallacgroup.us](mailto:jillp@wallacgroup.us), or call Jill McPeck: 805.544.4011 at the Wallace Group in San Luis Obispo. Jill is in the best position to discuss the nuances of the alternatives and the engineering team's findings.

# Curator of Collections

Jan Scott



It seems hard to believe that we're halfway through February rushing toward March, but so we are.

It makes it even harder to realize there are thank you's to be done that stretch back to last year. Some I will get to later this year...there are so many people who give!

*Our Christmas Party.* If you haven't yet braved the crowd to walk Elegant Evening in the Village the first Sunday of December, promise yourself that you will do it next year. The Village is in party-mode. People are friendly. You're likely to run into folk you haven't seen in years...and you can end up at the IOOF Hall where the Collections Committee under the direction of **Joe Swigert** have decorated. Joe and **Linda Kime** have decided the menu, and Linda (our multi-talented docent director) bakes and cooks and figures out how to make the food appear. (She's also gone gluten-free this year with several dishes.) Joe handles the rest: staffing and organization (He'd rather prep a party than deal with most of his other jobs which are legion. He drags out the real wine glasses and silver serving pieces.) So join us next year. It's more fun than you can imagine.

But here we are, already finished with the *33rd Antique Show & Sale* (I'll let others talk about the *Antique Show*, but it was an especially wonderful experience this year, reminding us again of how much we can accomplish giving each other the support we need to do our best work.)

.....and moving forward - the new Board is working hard, thinking hard, trying to make sure we are on sure footing and moving in directions we want to move in.

We are all grateful that **Ross Kongable** with the urging of the Board, stepped in as President for 2014, adding to his already overwhelming job description. He handles membership which means all the mailings and keeping records up to date, as well as creating the Heritage Press Newsletter, not to mention serving on our *Arroyo Grande in Bloom* committee and the *Bridge on Bridge St.* Committee. The man hardly has time to take care of his new puppy! But he does.

**Gary Hoving** is our new liaison with Arroyo Grande on the redo of *Hoosgow Park*. The entire park is being rethought, rebuilt, with emphasis on the hoosgow itself. We are hoping to have an exhibit in the Hoosgow, and info on its history on the outside. This is an exciting project for both us and the city. We'll keep you posted.

I'm already moving into thinking about the summer. I may not get three shows up for our Historic Summer Theatre, but I will do what I can to keep this project going. Too many people have told me they hope it won't stop. So it won't.

Someone asked me at the Antique Show, when it was that we had our meetings...and that made me smile. Unlike many organizations, our meetings (few and far between) are not how we become friends and allies. It is our volunteering: at museums, on committees, just calling up to say "I want to help and don't know how." I am still trying to catch up on promises made to show people how to be part of us. I am still going to do that...just taking a little more time than I expected. Hang in there. And the rest of you...leave a message...we'll get back to you.

Promise.

Onward.

**Shelly Cochran**, Events Coordinator for the Heritage House Gardens, has decided "to get a life", and has resigned the position after #\*&@ years.

We were fortunate to find a replacement in

**Diane Maiorano** (tel 805-712-7422 and

**Diane Krajsa** (tel 805-710-3569.

So if you have need of or know someone looking for a beautiful garden setting for a wedding or other celebration, please call them, or leave a message at 805-489-8282.

*More about Shelly's "retirement" in the next issue of this newsletter...*









# Antique Show & Sale 2014





The article below, written by Jean Hubbard in 1989 gives a little history of the bridge on Bridge Street which is now under study for replacement/renewal or closure by Caltrans due to its current status.

See the article on page 2 regarding this, and take the opinion survey offered by telephone or on our website [www.southcountyhistory.org](http://www.southcountyhistory.org).



## PATTERNS OF THE PAST

from the Archives—By Berneda Cochran



### BRIDGE'S RICH HISTORY SPANS HORSE BUGGY TO AUTOMOBILE - ARROYO GRANDE --September 27, 1989

In 1882, when the young Miss Clara Edwards (later to marry Dr. Edwin Paulding) came to Arroyo Grande to teach school, the Arroyo Grande Creek meandered along a few feet below the street surface. It was a gentle creek, showing its unruly side only when nature sent a gully washer that covered the valley. A plank across the creek helped foot traffic to the other side while horse and buggies splashed their way across. Some time in the next 20 years the county road boss, probably a man named Rice, put a wooden structure across the creek. At the same time other improvements were made to Bridge Street. Rocks were sunk into the wettest part, and large logs were laid across these. Early pioneers talked of the corduroy road. This was the highway through Arroyo Grande and it still has some connection with the state highway system.

The old wood bridge supported the feet of those early pioneers for many years, but the newspaper reported in 1906 that, "The most important item of business transacted by the supervisors, from Arroyo Grande's point of view, was the board's unanimous declaration that the bridge on Bridge Street across the Arroyo Grande Creek was dangerous, and that it was the intention to construct a new one in its place. "A sign 'dangerous' was lately placed above the center to warn people against any careless driving in crossing," the news report continued.

The Auto Club, the forerunner of the Automobile Club of Southern California, had been formed in 1900 as a service organization to promote reasonable traffic laws, better roads, and such safeguards as might protect and increase the pleasure of motorists. It wasn't until 1905 that California required automobile registration. The first car registered was a White Steamer owned by John. D. Spreckels of San Diego. But Arroyo Grande wasn't troubled by auto traffic. It's not likely that many autos left the city streets to travel this far north.

Ruth Paulding remembered that she saw her first automobile about this time. She was in class at the grammar school located where the

Ford agency is today. The students heard this awful noise and the teacher lined them up at the window to see a car. It was several minutes before it came into sight and roared its way down Bridge Street to cross the bridge and turn on Branch Street, which was the highway. In 1910, San Luis Obispo passed its first automobile ordinance, regulating the speed to 10 mph in the business district and 15 in the residential section. And automobiles had to stop their engines when stationary at the curb and to carry lights after sunset.

In Arroyo Grande in 1907, "The new steel bridge that was to take the place of the old wooden structure was being rushed by Atlantic, Gulf, and Pacific Company, who have the contract for its erection," reported the Arroyo Grande Herald-Recorder. Mark Hall-Patton, current curator of the County Museum, said that Austin F. Parsons designed the bridge and that it cost \$10,589. It was the only bridge in Arroyo Grande to carry vehicular traffic across the creek. The Pacific Coast Railroad had a bridge near their depot at the foot of Crown Hill. Foot traffic could also use the swinging bridge that had just recently added sides to it, but the Mason Street bridge was years away.

"Howard and Chitwood," reported the Herald-Recorder, "have the contract for excavating and gravel, and they are well along with their work. The hydraulic pump and the cement mixer, both run by electricity, are sources of wonder to the people, and scores of idle 'foremen' are continuously idling around there to see them work." Arroyo Grande was proud of her new bridge with its ornamental truss sides and special walkways for pedestrians. But the bridge has not had an easy life, although it saw few cars in those early years and has hosted hundreds of happy children's feet and the clip-clop of the families in horse and buggy.

The gentle creek that murmured beneath the bridge most of the time could become a raging giant during a winter storm. The 1911 storm was terrible, but 1914 was awesome. It literally changed the face of the valley. Mrs. Paulding, who was teaching at the Huasna School at the time, put her horse and buggy in a stable near the bridge rather than take it up Crown Hill. She wrote to her college

daughter, Ruth, about the storm. "When I woke on Sunday morning, I missed the street lights and, sure enough, the gas stove was useless.

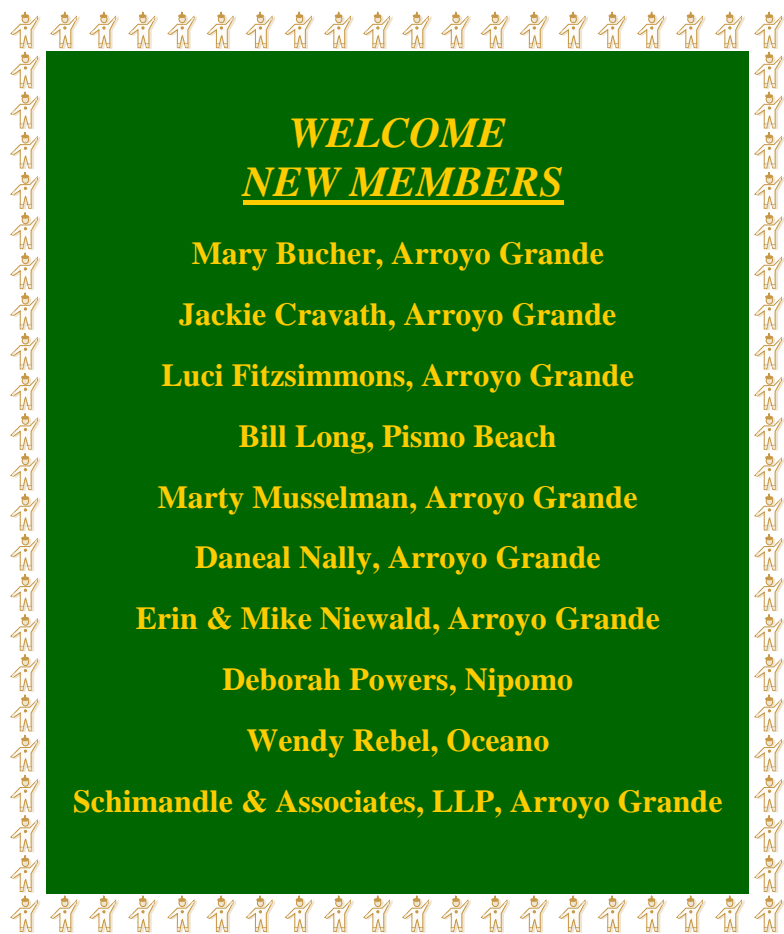
"I heard things that made me anxious and thought I'd go around to the stable. We found them working to stop the washing of the water around the steel bridge. They cut down a big cypress tree and hauled it over and pushed it down by that little cabin. "Not many minutes after," reported Paulding, "a crack was seen across the road and in the shortest time, a cry went up and with a wrench and a groan the great bridge went down. "As many as 20 people were on it, and they ran here and there wildly for an instant and then ran uphill to the other side. "Henry Reghetti ran toward the stable, jumped to the sidewalk, slipped and fell, his hat rolling into the abyss, but he was safe," she wrote.

Actually, the bridge itself sustained little damage. The cement abutments and the street leading to the bridge were washed away. In a few months, the bridge was raised and the street repaired. Meanwhile, the railroad bridge was floored with heavy planks for wagon use, and foot traffic used the swinging bridge on Short Street. J.A. Wilkerson, who remembered the flood, thought there were probably about four cars in town then: Joe Santos' Ford. Oscar Eldridge's Buick, Porter's two-cylinder Cadillac, and one owned by the Phillips boys.

The old bridge was closed again in 1970 for repair of the roadway. During that time, the beautification chairman of the Chamber of Commerce, the late Andy Anderson, persuaded Bert Huston to give it a new coat of paint. Huston donated paint, men, and equipment to do the job. When the bridge opened again, it had a brand new look.

It is sad to see our bridge huddled now with the forbidding signs denying anyone access to her paths. She has echoed to the footsteps of four generations of happy people in her 81 years, as well as watching transportation reverse itself from horse and buggy and a few cars to many cars and an occasional horse. The bridge is a part of our historical heritage. Many of us hope she can be saved.

--Echoes by Jean Hubbard Five Cities Times-Press-Recorder, Arroyo Grande, Calif. SCHS 2004.001.032



**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



**2014 MEMBERSHIP — SOUTH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**



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☐ **NEW**

☐ **GIFT**

☐ **RENEWAL**

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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)



**"THE AUTHENTIC LIFE OF BILLY THE KID"**  
**Now playing at THE SPOT theatre in the**  
**Village of Arroyo Grande.**



**Feb 22-23**  
**Matinees**  
**2:pm**  
**Evening**  
**Sat - 8 pm**  
**Sun - 7 pm**

**(portion of  
proceeds go to  
the South  
County  
Historical  
Society)**

***THE SPOT is  
located next  
door to  
Doc Burnsteins  
Ice Cream***