



South County Historical Society

Heritage Press

Volume 10, No. 1

January 2006

Our major fund-raiser each year is the annual Antique Show & Sale held on the 2nd weekend of February at the South County Regional Center. This year will be the **25th** year the Society has sponsored this popular event. That's 25 years of hard-working volunteers. Most of those years, **Doug and Barbara LeSage** were the driving force behind those efforts, and the tireless contributions of all the volunteers are unmatched—and our gratitude is beyond expression. Enclosed you will find more information on how you can help make this year's anniversary celebration a huge success.

LOOKING FORWARD...

In a recent column I told you that **Effie McDermott** had mentioned to me that our Society's strength lay in our ability "to float a full slate of officers each year." I am learning that statement tells only a part of the story.



Jane Line
President

By 10:00 a.m. today, January 21, I could name almost 3 dozen people who were already up and working in their specific area of responsibility to make our Society a smooth running, successful operation. The dedication of our members - new and old - is the secret of our success and I know Effie would agree!

In November, I told you a bit about four of our 2006 Directors - **Jim Bergman, Mike and Colleen Drees, and Edie Juck**. This month I am spotlighting three more.

Jan Scott, our Curator of Museums, returns for a fourth year in that position. An Honors graduate from Northwestern University, she specialized in High School Drama and English. While teaching in New York, her love of set and lighting design led her into showbiz. Dancing, singing and acting gave way to producing and directing educational films when she moved to L.A. in 1977. She also continued her studies in Design at UCLA and somehow found time to restore her 1911 Craftsman style home. In 1996, Jan and husband Kirk (SCHS's president from 2000 - 2005) moved to Arroyo Grande to be near Kirk's mother.

From time to time, Jan and Kirk and their new 4 month old puppy named Boo, pack up the motor home and travel the countryside, visiting museums and learning the tricks of the trade!

∨

Another Director with several hats is (bona fide) Parliamentarian **Kathleen Sullivan**. A Central Coast native, Kathleen is a retired librarian and

(continued on page 3)

 **South County Historical Society** 
Presents the 25th Annual
Antique Show & Sale
February 11 10 am - 6 pm
February 12 11 am - 5 pm
South County Regional Center
800 W. Branch Street, Arroyo Grande
22 DEALERS of ANTIQUE
Furniture, Glass, Jewelry, Art,
Postcards & Collectibles
GIFT BASKETS & PRIZE DRAWINGS
Donation \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00
Tickets Available at the Door
Drawing Held on Sunday at 4:00 pm
Winner need not be present
 

2006 ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE
Directors and Committees

President	Jane Line	481-6510
Programs	Charles Porter	
Ways & Means— First VP	Jim Bergman	473-9757
Books & Publishing	Linda Shephard	
Tour Bus Coordinator	Barbara Freel	
Antique Show & Sale	Jim Bergman	
Annual Rummage Sale	Jan Scott	
Wedding/Social Coordinator	Doug LeSage	
Membership—Second VP	Michael & Colleen Drees	489-0295
Volunteer Coordinator		
Recording Secretary		
Corresponding Secretary	Edie Juck	773-4689
Historian & Sunshine	Ethel Gilliland	
Treasurer	Gary Hoving	929-3106
Publicity	Vivian Krug	458-3321
Community Relations		
Webmaster		
Paulding History House Curator	Chuck Fellows	481-3464
Paulding Committee	Jean Hubbard	
Museums Curator	Jan Scott	481-4435
Assistant Curator	Joe Swigert	
Heritage House	Joe Swigert	
Santa Manuela Schoolhouse	Kathleen Sullivan	
The Barn	Jim Bergman	
Property Management	Charles Porter	929-1014
IOOF Building Committee	Howard Mankins	
Vehicles	Edward Diable & Chet Thomas	
Gardening—Heritage House	Barbara LeSage	
Gardening—Santa Manuela Schoolhouse	Jane Line	
Gardening Paulding History House	Jean Bryant	
Docent Leader		
Docent Supervisor	Joe Swigert	
Heritage House Coordinator	Jeanne Frederick	
Paulding House Coordinator	Dee Trybom	
Santa Manuela School Coordinator	Kathleen Sullivan	
Barn	Joe Swigert	
Student Tours	Norma Harloe	
Information Systems	Ross Kongable	489-2885
Heritage Press Newsletter		
Computer Systems and Software		
Parliamentarian	Kathleen Sullivan	489-8195
Society Information		473-5077
Heritage House		481-4126
Paulding History House		473-3231
Santa Manuela School		489-8745
The Barn		489-8745

Website— www.SouthCountyHistory.Org

Condolences were sent to:

Martin Dempsey family
On his passing

Lia Kalpakoff
On passing of her husband

Edyth Wood
On passing of her husband

Dr. G. Levine
On passing of her Mother

Get Well Wishes were sent to:

John Loomis

From the Sunshine Committee
Ethel Gilliland

John K. Kalpakoff, husband of Lia Kalpakoff,
passed away Thursday, January 19, 2006.
The SCHS Docent Program will mark John's
passing with a donation to
Central Coast Kidney Foundation,
P.O. Box 13537,
San Luis Obispo, CA 93406.

Thoughts For the Year

The best day— Today
The greatest handicap— Fear
Easiest thing to do— Find a fault
Most useless asset— Pride
Greatest mistake— Giving up
Greatest stumbling block— Egotism
Greatest comfort— Work well done
Most disagreeable person— The complainer
Meanest feeling— Regret at another's success
Worst bankruptcy— Loss of enthusiasm
Greatest need— Common sense
Best gift— Forgiveness
Greatest moment— Death
Greatest knowledge— God
Greatest thing in the world— Love
-Source Unknown

Pistachio Dessert— Ann Silva

- (by popular request from members)
- 1 (3-oz) package of instant pistachio pudding
 - 1 (20-oz) can of crushed pineapple (do not drain)
 - 1 (8-oz) can chunk pineapple (drained)
 - 2 cups miniature marshmallows
 - 1 large Cool Whip
 - 1 cup toasted walnuts (broken optional)

Combine all ingredients except nuts
Blend well
Put in a 1-1/2—2 quart dish.
Sprinkle with walnuts.
Serves 6-8

Prez Jane Line (continued from Page 1)
avid reader who now volunteers her time with the South County Library as well as the Clark Center. Together with their 17 year old Siamese cat named Mi'ja, Kathleen and husband Bob moved to Arroyo Grande in 2003 where they immediately joined our Society's Docent Program. Bob docents at The Barn while Kathleen runs the Santa Manuela School program - including dusting, piano repair, and docent scheduling!

Stop by the Schoolhouse and watch her sometime because this is one school marm no one ever calls staid! Everyone loves her Irish charm and natural grace!

∨

Long time community member, **Chuck Fellows**, joins our Board this year as Curator of the Paulding History House Museum. Here is one multi-faceted Director with many areas of expertise. Chuck has a Masters in Botany, 30 years in real estate with wife Linda, three children - Kristen, Amy, Matt, and two granddaughters whom he refers to as 'The Dollies'. The Fellows family are strong supporters of the Village of Arroyo Grande and in 2000 Chuck started 'Preserve the Village', a 500 member organization, as a way to highlight the community's determination for maintaining the history and character of one of our county's earliest settlements. This effort has resulted in the Loomis Barn, Maud and Hildie's houses, Ruby's house, and several other vintage structures being preserved.

Chuck and Linda are lovers of antiques with Chuck authoring a book on *Antique Bargain Hunting in London, England*.

We look forward to seeing all of you at the **25th Annual SCHS Antique Show** on February 11 and 12.

This is our biggest fundraiser and these lovely old buildings we maintain for the public's education and enjoyment just keep needing their outsides painted, the footings lifted, their roofs patched, their termites and beetles thwarted, and their gardens weeded! Your support is appreciated.

See you there,

Jane Line and the 2006 Board of Directors

P.S. Program Chair **Charles Porter** was so eloquent in his opening remarks at our January Potluck Meeting that I wanted to share his thoughts with those of you who did not attend.

"Before we turn the page on the Kirk Scott chapter of our Society, there are a few words left to be said. Kirk was our last 20th century president and our first 21st century president. As a 20th century president, he built the barn which houses many of our early 20th century artifacts. As a 21st century president, he led the way to the computerization of our society. Both outstanding achievements.

But the most poignant moment of his presidency occurred at last January's Board meeting when he informed the board that due to personal health issues, he may not be able to be a full-time president. After a stunned silence and some fumbling around with the by-laws, a female member of the Board turned to Kirk and said, 'You are our president.' In those four words she said what every board member felt. All that can be added to this is: thank you Kirk and Jan. Your presidency was outstanding!*

** I apologize for not remembering who that board member was.*

(See presentation photo on pg 5)

Board of Directors Highlights—January 18, 2006

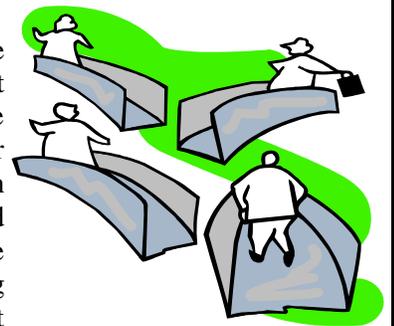
Edie Juck resigned as Recording Secretary and was appointed as Corresponding Secretary. **Ross Kongable** will act as a temporary Recording Secretary for Board meetings. The office of Docent Director remains unfilled.

Our bookkeeper **Kristin Fisher** provided a full and complete accounting of our books, monthly, quarterly, and YTD. The Audit Committee will review the books simultaneously with the CPA office's preparing our tax report. Kristin has been capitalizing our properties as time permits. **Gary Hoving**, Treasurer, is on board now and contributed substantively on his first meeting.

Gary Scherquist, architect, and **Charles Porter**, Property Director, updated the Board on the Ruby's House project: permits have been granted for the renovation portion of the project while the AG Architectural Review Committee approved the plans for the little Model-T garage to be constructed adjacent to the home's driveway. This 10' x 16' structure will be used for storage. The Board voted to fully fund the renovation project in order to ensure its completion in 4-1/2 to 5 months, accommodating our wedding calendar and allowing for increased marketing in 2006 of the Heritage House Gardens and Gazebo. Increased rental of Heritage House is seen as an important opportunity for additional revenue to meet our operating expenses. Additional fundraising will be scheduled throughout the year to aid in cost reimbursements.

Charles Porter, along with two other directors, will be meeting with **Howard Mankins** to determine what is remaining on the Historical Museum Retrofit project. Determination of a completion date will be discussed.

Doug LeSage reported on the Antique Show, indicating all is progressing according to plan. All 22 dealers are booked, and the basket committee is hard at work.





Jan Scott, Director of Museums

2005—Looking Back . . .

*Curator's
Corner*

In June we opened our 1940's display in Heritage House museum, just in time for the 60th anniversary of V-E Day. If you haven't been by in a while, stop in to see memories from the War Years. Some glorious Victorian summer gowns graced the back room for the warm months. They have been replaced by cold weather wear now.

We, with the blessings of the donor, located the real home of a 1901 handmade cotton quilt. When I sent my query letter with names from the quilt, the **St. Joseph, Missouri Historical Society** curator was able to identify over 75% of them. They were ecstatic to receive it. The curator's wife even found a square that had been made by her foster parents. We were talked about in their newsletter, and I came away from the experience feeling almost giddy. This quest to preserve history ends up being a gift to all of us who participate.

And speaking of gifts...thanks to **Gus and Rossi Berger**, who began the schoolhouse map preservation drive almost two years ago. Because of their determination to raise funds, we met a new "angel." **Mike Gillespie**, a businessman from Ventura, happened into our little schoolhouse and met Gus. Before the month was out, he had given us a sizable check to redo one of our maps. At the end of the year, he returned to us with a question. How much would it cost to finish the map project? We scurried to get estimates to meet his deadline. He wrote us a check that, added to the money Gus and Rossi collected, will allow us to complete the cleaning, restoration and, in some cases, framing of our maps and the Audubon chart. Even the pull down map above the teacher's desk will be workable again. We are grateful to Mike who gave so generously in memory of his mother, **Dorothy N. Gillespie**, a woman who taught in a one-room schoolhouse in Pennsylvania, and to Gus and Rossi, without whom, Mike never would have known of the need, and to every one of you who tossed money into Gus' collection box. Thank you all. This is an expensive and miraculous completion.

And now we look forward. 2006 is upon us. I'll keep you posted but the projects this year involve laying out a floor plan for the IOOF Museum displays, finishing the data entry/photographs on our clothing collection, and as always, trying to catch up on accessions and collection management.

Contact me if you think you'd like to help. Or, if you prefer sitting quietly alone in front of a computer, contact Ross Kongable who is Curator of Archives, along with everything else he does. He can put you to work in a flash.

Jan

HELP WANTED—As you know, all the activities in our Historical Society are supported solely by donations and volunteer efforts.

Our museum complex, now four museum and soon to be five with the completed restoration of the Historical Hall, needs not only funds for support, but manpower (and womanpower).

During the past year, Heritage Square has become a prime tourist attraction and a drawing power to the south county area.

Volunteer activities include Docents, gardening, museum archiving, computer data input, as well as committee work on our annual events.

If each of our members could commit only 5 hours per month in their chosen activity, we could provide not only additional museum open hours—but improve our historical research and educational efforts—our purpose. Please call any of our Directors and let them know where you can participate.

every hour counts!!



Pat Loomis - A Literary Angel

Sometime during her long career as a journalist, studying and writing for the San Jose Mercury News, **Pat Loomis** took a fancy to owning **Hubert Howe Bancroft's** series on western history - all thirty-nine volumes! She eventually got her wish! Those beautiful, leather bound books written by the namesake of the University of California's Bancroft Library, have been given by Pat to our Society in order to spur the creation of our Reference Library.

Bancroft, a transplanted New England bookseller and collector, saw his massive collection of history books awaiting an author. Deciding he would be his own author, he began a comprehensive, often first-hand, history project.

Upon completion in 1894, he realized the value to posterity of his historical series covering the Native Races, the Western Americas, California, Alaska, and the remainder of the American west. The rest is history!

Except for one new thing! Our Reference Library will start its fledgling life mid-year in a renovated Ruby's House, not only with Pat's beloved Bancroft history series, but with her offer of financial support which presents SCHS the opportunity to "make some literary magic!"

Pat has been so very generous with our Society. Send her a note (4121 Holly Dr., San Jose, CA 93401) and tell her how much you appreciate all she has done for us as we attempt to meet our mission statement of "researching, preserving, and disseminating the history" of South County and its pioneers.



1927 - Los Berros School - Garnet is the large fellow in overalls on the third row, right hand side .
The teacher on the left is Gladys Walker Sullivan, mother of SCHS docent Gerry Fesler.

GRAMMAR SCHOOL DAYS

By Garnet Woods

June 1989

My daughter, Jane Fesler Delgadillo, made a request that I tell about my grammar school experiences. Knowing that she would repeat the request, I decided to give in and write.

My formal education began at the age of eight. That was the age when we all started, older than when kids start now. No kindergarten or anything, all of a sudden at the end of summer, you were enrolled in the first grade.

Because we were living at the Newsome Hot Springs Mineral resort, I was enrolled in first grade at the Arroyo Grande Grammar School where the Ford dealership is now. I was about halfway through the first grade when we moved to a small ranch in Los Berros and I was enrolled in a new school.

The **Los Berros School** was a one room building housing all eight grades and one teacher. The first grade sat on the extreme left and as you progressed through the grades you moved from left to right and when you were in the eighth grade you were by the windows again and could look out. There was also a small horse barn for horses as some of the pupils rode horses to school on account of the distance. The restrooms were outhouses, one for boys and one for girls. These were located at the back of the school yard about one hundred yards from the school.

I will never forget my first day there. Off I

trotted with my lunch pail. Lard used to come in a five pound pail complete with a bail. This made the ideal and standard lunch pail. Sometimes you almost needed a can opener to get the lid off. I think this is where the term lunch pail originated. To get back to school, there was no empty seat in the first grade row and to my embarrassment I had to sit with a girl. Naturally the rest of the school snickered and grinned. Finally I had to make that one hundred yard dash to the little boy's room. Alas, I had waited too long and wet my pants. That was a day to remember.

We had three teachers while I was in school there. The first one, a Miss Fritz, was replaced by a Miss Shipsey, an older woman, rather plump with a florid complexion. She lasted two years and left. Guess she couldn't stand the ranch boys and girls anymore. Miss Shipsey was replaced by a Miss Gladys Walker. At the start of her third year of teaching, she made an announcement to the school: "I have been married, and my name is Mrs. Lester Sullivan." Little did I know that way in the future I would have a daughter named Jane who would marry one of her grandsons.

Some of the games we played were marbles, tops, and with yo-yos. I once lost a full bag of marbles playing "keeps", where you kept all the marbles you knocked out of the ring. Tops were played by drawing a ring on the ground and each player putting a top in. The object of the game was to knock your opponent's top out of the ring, winding the string and throwing as fast as you could. We often took the round metal tip out of the top and put in a sharpened nail. It didn't do much for the centrifugal balance, but played havoc with the target tops.

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

One of our favorite sports was to throw a ball over the school and try and lodge it in the belfry. This meant someone had to go get it and that was the object of the game. On this one occasion the boy who was up there started poking around a small, square opening leading to the roof. An owl suddenly swooped out and completely white-washed him with owl manure. He looked like a ghost! When he got back to the ground, he didn't smell like attar of roses and was isolated from the classes for the rest of the day.

Going home after a rainstorm was always a lot of fun. The unwritten rule of the road was never pass a mud puddle without jumping in with both feet and see how much water you could splash out. Needless to say we were always a little wet and muddy when we arrived home.

Sometimes going home wasn't so much fun. The school bully lived across the road from us and he made life a little miserable. On one occasion he was wearing his big brother's ring, walked up to me and hit me in the mouth, cutting my lip. I had had it. I went berserk, picked up a rock, and as he started to run I threw it. Bull's eye! Right in the back of his head, taking him off his feet. He had a head built like a bank vault, so no serious damage resulted. When he came blubbering back to me complaining about what I had done to his head, I said, "Look what you did to my mouth!" From that time on, no more trouble.

Arriving home there was always a treat, cookies, cake, etc. on the table, covered with a dish cloth. I will always remember the tapioca pudding. For some reason it was made differently then and now. To describe tapioca pudding, it resembled white fish eggs suspended in gelatin. The resilience of this was awesome. A person could take a ball of this and bounce it as though it was made of rubber. However, it tasted good.

I had a best friend who lived on a ranch nearby. We always had plenty to do, riding horses, going swimming in the creek and exploring a couple of old prospecting shafts on nearby Mt. Pacheco.

While we were playing at school one day, I was tripped and fell. There was a snap like a stick being broken. I had a broken ankle and spent eight weeks on crutches. A few days later the boy who had tripped me came to the house and said the teacher had told him he had to apologize. He was embarrassed and hated it. I

felt the same and told him so. I saw him at our high school reunion some fifty years later and he still remembered and felt the same. So did I!

One of the highlights of the year was our Christmas play and tree. First, the teacher's desk was removed from the small stage where it sat for the rest of the year. She had a bird's eye view of all of us, and we knew it. Next we got the stage curtains out and hung them. We then started rehearsing our play. Naturally all the parents came to this prestigious event. Getting the tree was also a big event. Two or three of us older boys were sent out in the country to find one. Usually it took two or more trips to find one suitable.

Finally after eight long years I had moved across the room where I could look out the windows again. I was going to graduate!!!

I probably should tell a little about our ranch life. We were fairly primitive. No running water. Water had to be hauled from the well in buckets. Baths were in a galvanized wash tub, usually on Saturday nights, oftener if I got to stinking. The rest of our sanitary facilities consisted of an outhouse, complete with a Montgomery Ward catalog. The black and white pages were not bad, but those slick, glossy ones were something else.

We finally had electricity. Wonderful, no more kerosene lamps.

I remember two events quite clearly. One was the earthquake that partially destroyed Santa Barbara. I can still feel the ground heaving and swaying and things in the house falling.

Mother inherited her father's car, a 1919 Dodge touring car. Having driven horse and buggy all of her life, a neighbor delivered the car. The neighbor gave her instructions and jacked up the rear wheels so she could practice shifting gears while the engine was running. She got to where she drove it. One day she came into the shed where it was stored a little too fast, pulled back on the steering wheel and yelled "Whoa" and went through the back wall. I got my first driver's license when I was fourteen years old and did most of the driving.

We moved back to Newsom Hot Springs after my first year in high school. No electricity again. But bath tubs! You can't have everything!



Once slated for a practice burn,
Ruby's House is now scheduled for a face-lift,
complete with heirloom garden.
Watch our progress.

The flooring on the first floor of the Historical Building is complete. Door frames, moldings, and front windows soon to be installed. Heating system and lighting fixtures come next—Watch for Grand Opening news !!
Soon ??





PUBLICITY AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS

by Vivian Krug

A busy season of activities: Grover Beach Christmas Parade, Arroyo Grande Christmas Parade, establishing publicity sources for the upcoming Antique Show, the Wedding/Social season. All this based on a very successful 2005.

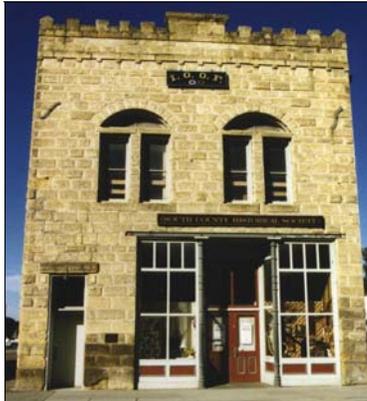
Our **SouthCountyHistory.org** website is becoming more and more popular. Visitors numbered over 14,000 last year, and more than 90% were first-time visitors. We are getting more requests for local historical information as well as inquiries into artifact identification. Book sales have increased through the website. New reciprocal links with other websites are the **Dune Center in Guadalupe** and the **Cambria Historical Society**. Visit and click on



Paulding History House — Crown Hill



Heritage House Museum — Mason Street



Main Museum — Bridge Street



The 'Meat Locker' - Branch St



Santa Manuela Schoolhouse — Short Street

The Many Houses of South County Historical Society



The Barn - Museum — Short Street



Ruby's House — Mason Street



AULDING HISTORY HOUSE

by Susan Heaton

Paulding History House welcomed seventeen Junior docents from Paulding Middle School on Friday, January 13, 2006. A luncheon and orientation was provided to the 7th and 8th grade students. **Jeff Lahr**, Social Studies teacher, and **Susan Heaton**, Paulding History House Docent, are coordinating the program this school year.

The students and teachers arrived about noon and were treated to sub sandwiches, chips, cookies and soda, and were joined by Paulding History House docents **Norma Burton, Jeanne Frederick, Jean Hubbard, Al Spierling** and **Dee Trybom**. **Chuck Fellows**, Curator of Paulding History House, and his wife **Linda** also attended. **Jane Line**, president of SCHS, came to welcome the new Junior docents, as well.

The students toured the house and asked many questions of the docents. They seem to be a very spirited and motivated group and we look forward to their assistance with the visits from elementary students who make field trips in the Spring.



Paulding Middle School Junior Docents get a tour of Paulding History House.

From top left clockwise, Living Room, Dining Room and Al Spierling introduces them to the Lion Headboard in the master bedroom





At the December General Meeting, Kirk was presented this rosewood box with temperature, clock and hygrometer—in gratitude for his six years as President of the Society

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Congratulations to **Todd & Jill Talley**—on the birth of
Violet Talley

She is the 7th grandchild of **Bob and Karen Talley Miller** who have gifted each with a Life Membership in our Society.

<u>Dues Schedule—2006</u>		
Individual.....\$15	Family w/children under 18.....\$40	Patron (business/individual)...\$200+
Couple.....\$30	Sustaining (individual)\$100+	Life (individual).....\$500+

MEMBERSHIP SOUTH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY RENEWAL NEW

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Home Tel: _____ Work Tel: _____ Email: _____

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

Please make check or money order payable to SOUTH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

