



**Curator's Corner** Jan Scott



The great Cleaning of the Schoolhouse finally happened. On Thursday April 8, we had an incredible crew consisting of **Betty Brown, Norma Burton, Margaret Haak, Marya Kindig, Ross Kongable, Jane Line, Orville Schultz, Joe Swigert.** I keep envisioning another person running around but can't come up with a name.



Perhaps it was Santa Manuela, happy to be getting clean. We waxed and polished, vacuumed and washed. It even smelled good by the time we were through. We were using Briwax," a British wax that takes a little getting used to. By the end of the morning we were becoming experts—well, we were getting better at it.

The Schoolhouse looks wonderful and thanks are due to all who participated. In two hours we really did work wonders.



The Museum Committee is busy working on the Barn. **John Bryant** finished the sealing of the interior walls, but there is still much to be done before that June opening date. There is a new configuration for the museum and we've been busy pulling and tugging and pushing things into place. Once

*(Continued on page 4)*



*Kirk's Komer*

**by Kirk Scott, President**

Last fall, our Board-appointed Nominating Committee set a mission for themselves: to create a list of nominees who were dedicated to correcting our negative cash flow, a constant thorn in the Society's side, and to increase our membership base. The result of their efforts is our current Board of Directors which I consider to be the hardest-working I have had the pleasure of serving with in my five years as your president

The goal of bringing in more income to offset our growing expenses is a major one and can only be achieved by creating new sources of revenue. New blood, new ideas, and new energy for the future can only be realized by increasing our membership. To this end, I would like to laud some of the new faces that have joined the team.

Believe it or not we actually have some Board members that don't qualify for a senior discount; one of them is **Sandy Arnold**, our Second Vice-President, Membership, who amazes us all with her ideas, dedication and hours volunteered to the society. Another, **Vivian Krug**, Publicity Director, has been a godsend. She has single-handedly created a magnificent web site for us and is a virtual fountain of marketing techniques for bringing in more income. **Carol Sargent**, Treasurer, is modifying our accounting system so we will be able to see where every dime is spent and can therefore rein in escalating expenses. Bless you all!

Each of our Board members has a legal fiduciary responsibility to uphold. They must identify new sources of income and keep our society fiscally responsible.

A consortium of the South County senior groups recently presented such an income opportunity to the Society. Your Board had a limited time frame in which to respond to this opportunity but voted with an overwhelming majority to pursue the management contract for the South County Regional Center. Within about ten days a business plan was developed for managing the Center and this proposal has been submitted to the County. Our proposal is truly a win-win-win situation. The seniors get two small rooms as a day center. The County gets more usage of a taxpayer facility at no additional cost. Most importantly for the Society, we get a free place to meet and an income potential for the next five years.

The South County Historical Society is a large, thriving *non-political, non-profit* corporation comprised of

*(Continued on page 3)*

# FROM THE DOCENTS' DESK

by Jane Line,  
Docent Leader



These are exciting times for some reason...there's a hum in the air as our communities buzz around being the great communities they are! Could it be Spring?

One of the fun projects coming soon is our Annual Founder's Day Barbeque and Barn Dedication scheduled for Sunday, June 6. **Charles Porter** and **Sandy Arnold** are heading up a committee to make this year's event a *community affair* with the public being invited to join in the fun! You know, *an old-fashioned get-together with food, ice cream, and even a mayor!*

Of particular note to us in the Docent Program is that all of our museums will be open that day from noon until 4 p.m. So, we will be working while the community eats and plays, but that's a good thing! Please let Jane Line or Jean Frederick know if you can work a shift that day. We thank you in advance!

It's also **School Tour** time again. **Norma Harloe** needs your support. Typically, the children go through all four museums, plus a hike through the Village up to the Hoosgow! Most of the requests are from third grade classes who make this their final school trip of the year. The calendar gets heavy in May and early June so please call her and volunteer some time. You'll be glad you did.

The School Tour Program is one of the most important programs we sponsor and it is quite a satisfying feeling to reflect on the children's sometimes funny, always interesting, observations. Today I am reflecting on a third-grade boy named **Tyler** who came through on Friday's tour.

Tyler sat between Norma and I on the bench at the Hoosgow Park enjoying the breeze and the beautiful view while his classmates ate their lunch. He looked south over the Village and homes toward the green hills and said, "Just imagine sitting on a bench like this and not seeing any buildings - just trees."

I thought he was talking about the old, old days, but he explained that he lived on a ranch in Arroyo Grande and his home was situated in the midst of an oak woodland.

I mentioned he was a lucky, lucky boy!

Then he made one of those comments that children make that stops you short. "Well, yes, but there is something about me that some people think is weird." "What is that, Tyler?"

"I don't believe in God," he said.

Recovering as fast as I could, I managed to say, "But I bet you believe in Mother Nature, the moon and the stars, and all the wonderful animals."  
"Oh, yes, I can *see* those," he nodded, very matter-of-factly.

I last saw Tyler and his classmates marching and singing through the Village, on their way back to the bus after touring Paulding History House. But it will be some time before I forget Tyler, so don't tell me this isn't what it's all about!

Some of our docents will be giving a very special private tour on April 26. We are hosting **Orville and Beaulah Smith** who will bring 37 WW II veterans and their wives from Orville's 69<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division unit. We look forward to hearing some of their reminiscences while showing them around our museums. Many thanks to **Jean Hubbard, Don Gullickson, Barbara Vinson, Norma Harloe, Joe Swigert** for making this a memorable day for everyone.

**Orville** has offered to furnish us with a short history of the **69<sup>th</sup> Infantry** for inclusion in our newsletter. As a teaser, I will tell you that two of the men he served with were in the group that linked up with the Russian allies following the Battle of the Bulge and the march through Germany. It means so much when our members are able to contribute to our common bond—a love of history!

This is a big year for the veterans of WW II. On May 29, in Washington, D.C., there will be the dedication of our first national monument to the men and women who claimed liberty for the USA *one more time* and liberated so many others in the process. As **Jean Hubbard** says, "it was simply *the defining moment* of our generation."

If you do not intend to go to Washington, D. C., perhaps you will consider going to our local Memorial Day Services at the Arroyo Grande Cemetery. The services are remarkable for their simplicity and genuineness. The local papers always give the time and date.

As a way to highlight our Society members who served in WWII, the Docent Program is dedicating our May column to listing these names. If you are or know of a veteran of that war, please let one of our docents know or call me at 481-6510. Wouldn't it be nice if we had every name listed. It would make my day!

I am sure there is more to share with you, but time is short and the editor is hollering!

Don't forget to call our docent leaders, **Betty Brown, Jean Frederick, Norma Harloe, or me**, and volunteer your services for the upcoming events. And please, phone in those veterans' names for the May column. My appreciation is on its way right back to you!

Jane Line  
481 . 6510

Jean Frederick  
481 . 9546

Norma Harloe  
489 . 5642

Betty Brown  
489 . 8650

**2004 ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE**  
Directors and Committees

**President**..... Kirk Scott.....481-4435  
 Audit Committee:  
 Kirk Scott, Jane Line, Carol Sargent, Sandy Arnold  
 Programs..... Charles Porter

**Ways & Means— First VP**.....  
 Books & Publishing.....Linda Shephard  
 Antique Show & Sale.....Doug LeSage  
 Annual Rummage Sale.....Jan Scott  
 Christmas Walk.....MaryAnn Feller  
 Wedding/Social Coordinator.....Deborah Love

**Membership—Second VP**..... Sandy Arnold.....489-2845  
 Volunteer Coordinator

**Recording Secretary**..... Edie Juck.....773-4689

**Corresponding Secretary**..... Martha Saari.....474-8031  
 Historian & Sunshine..... Ethel Gilliland

**Treasurer**..... Carol Sargent.....489-8568

**Publicity**..... Vivian Krug.....474-9444  
 Community Relations  
 Webmaster

**Paulding History House Curator**.....Jean Hubbard.....489-1701  
 Paulding Committee.....Jean Hubbard

**Museums Curator**..... Jan Scott.....481-4435  
 Assistant Curator.....Joe Swigert  
 Heritage House.....Joe Swigert  
 Santa Manuela Schoolhouse.....Marj Wolters  
 The Barn.....Ken Leonard

**Property Management**..... Charles Porter.....929-1014  
 IOOF Building Committee.....Howard Mankins  
 Vehicles.....Edward Diable  
 Gardening—Heritage House.....Barbara LeSage  
 Gardening—Santa Manuela Schoolhouse..Billie Boultinghouse  
 Gardening Paulding History House.....Cathy Hughes

**Docent Leader**..... Jane Line.....481-6510  
 Docent Supervisor.....Joe Swigert  
 Heritage House Coordinator.....Jeanne Frederick  
 Paulding House Coordinator.....Betty Brown  
 Santa Manuela School Coordinator.....Jane Line  
 Student Tours.....Norma Harloe  
 Tour Bus Coordinator.....Joe Swigert

**Information Systems**..... Ross Kongable.....489-2885  
 Heritage Press Newsletter  
 Computer Systems and Software

**Parliamentarian**..... Dick Blankenburg.....489-7156  
 Society Information.....481-4126

**Website— [Southcountyhistory.Org](http://Southcountyhistory.Org)**  
 Heritage House.....481-4126  
 Paulding History House.....473-3231  
 Santa Manuela School.....489-8745

# Welcome New Members

**Berneda Cochran—489-4129**  
1327 17th St, Oceano 93445

**Donnalee Salzegeber—481-5213**  
525 May St, Arroyo Grande 93420

**Scott & Julie Wilson—473-3544**  
8350 Huasna Rd, Arroyo Grande 93420

**Joan Sullivan—528-3864**  
1455 Tenth St, Los Osos 93402

## Life Members

*In Memoriam*

**Harold D. Mankins**

Our sympathies go to  
**Jeanette Tripodi** and family  
 on the death of her husband Dominic

*Enclosed with this issue is your*  
**2004**  
*Membership Booklet*

Please review your listing and  
 notify the Membership Director  
 of any  
 changes and/or corrections.

Dues Schedule—2004

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**

## **SOCIETY MEETINGS**

General meetings are held on the **2nd Tuesday** at the  
**Hiawatha Lodge, 3065 Temple, Halcyon at 6:30 p.m.**

Bring your table settings and a dish to share.

The board meets on the **3rd Tuesday** at 7:00 p.m. in the  
Arroyo Grande Woman's Club.



**PO Box 633  
Arroyo Grande  
CA 93421**

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### CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS:

**MAY 15—SANTA MARGARITA RANCHO**

**MAY 18—SOCIETY BOARD MEETING**

**MAY 29-30—STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL**

**JUNE 6—ANNUAL BBQ and GRAND OPENING OF  
'THE BARN'**

*summer hiatus*

**AUG 17—SOCIETY BOARD MEETING**

**SEPT 10-11—COUNTRY WESTERN DANCE FESTIVAL**

**SEPT 14—GENERAL MEETING**

**SEPT 24-25—HARVEST FESTIVAL**

## **Patrons of the South County Historical Society**

**DOC BURNSTEIN'S ICE CREAM LAB**

**MORLEY & PAT FARQUAR**

**CAROLE HIZEY**

**HOWARD & AILEEN MANKINS**

**BILL & CHERYL MILLER**

**SOUTH COUNTY REALTY**

102 Bridge Street, Arroyo Grande—481-4297

**Visit our Society's Website -- [Southcountyhistory.org](http://Southcountyhistory.org)**

dedicated volunteers and growing obligations born of our successes from the past years' efforts. It takes an enormous amount of time to effectively perform most of our Board positions. I am very proud of this Board!

I will continue to keep you informed as we move forward in our effort to be considered by the County for management of the Regional Center.

**Sandy Arnold** and her committee are working toward a festive BBQ and "Barn" opening on June 6<sup>th</sup>. Mark that date on your calendar.

The **Arroyo Grande Strawberry Festival** is held annually over the Memorial Day Week-end. The Village Improvement Association who sponsors this event expects around 150,000 people based on last year's attendance!

We will have our museums open from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, May 29 and Sunday, May 30. Our goal is to have enough people volunteer to staff the buildings so that no one has to work more than 2 hours, but it's a fast-paced 2 hours with lots of action! Please call **Jean Frederick**, 481-9546, if you can work Heritage House either day or **Jane Line**, 481-6510, if you can work the Barn or the Santa Manuela School.

**Betty Brown**, 489-8650, is your contact for Paulding History House.

And a **BIG** thank you to **Don Pierce Trucking** of Atascadero for bringing in a huge load of gravel for our School Parking Lot. **Sam Burton** is honchoing this project. Thank You Bill!

Your Prez, *Kirk*

**WEB NEWS** — Vivian Krug, Publicity Director

The date, March 31, 2004. The time, 11:30 p.m. Owls screeching in the cold, dark night and the sounds of horses coming from the West, to the haunting strains of an organ playing the Moonlight Sonata. A hundred people gathered in front of the Loomis building on East Branch Street.

A run of the mill Arroyo Grande evening? Hardly, but a historic evening indeed, for the expectant crowd was about to witness a requiem of Arroyo Grande's "terrible tragedy", which occurred 118 years ago, at midnight, no more than 400 feet from the site of the hushed gathering.

**Gordon Bennett**, who arranged the late night requiem, then told the story of a land dispute that led to the murder of Walker and the subsequent hanging of the two "Hemmis," by masked riders who came under cover of darkness to avenge the slaying.



Another of the evening's speakers, **Kirk Scott**, President of the South County Historical Society, related that the lynching most likely occurred because justice in those times moved very slowly. Fearing it might never come, a vigilante group took the law into their own hands.

A marker, commemorating the tragedy is located in front of the Loomis property on East Branch Street, on the corner just west of where the Pacific Coast Railway once traveled and from whose bridge the men were hanged.

You can see the marker and a slide presentation of the requiem, and read the full story of the Walker-Hemmi Tragedy, by visiting the South County Historical Society's website. [www.Southcountyhistory.org](http://www.Southcountyhistory.org)

*Please check our website often—there are lots of changes daily—and new items being added. We are getting "hits" from around the world. Historical Society books are now available for purchase through the website.*

Stay connected

One of our members and a local professional photographer named **Julie (Loomis) Wilson** is undertaking a photographic project that involves citizens of Arroyo Grande.

Julie will be photographing various individuals whose families have had a strong tie to Arroyo Grande's history.

The purpose of the project is to document those families who have influenced our community's past. The photographs as well as a short biography on each family will be placed on exhibit during the grand opening of the South County Historical Society's 'Barn'.

Julie is trying to gather names of people to photograph. If you or someone you know should be part of this display please contact Julie at

**481-1101 or by e-mail at [jmwng@aol.com](mailto:jmwng@aol.com).**

Aspect Media Factory's Natanya von Engel sent a letter of thanks to **Joe Swigert**, for helping them during their film production on March 8.

The cast, crew, and equipment did a 'commercial shoot' using Heritage House as a back-drop. They even added a temporary gate to the front entrance—and left it behind for our use. Ingenious carpenter **Jim Payne** found a way to modify the existing entry and incorporate the gate.

Looks real nice, Jim!



We should be seeing the Heritage House Museum's front yard debut in the **Mid-State Bank & Trust** commercials tentatively scheduled to begin airing in May on KSBY, KCOY and Charter. *(We received a nice donation from the Factory for the use of our beautiful House.)*

**Curator's Corner** *(Continued from page 1)*

the artifacts are (more or less) in order, we will start the task of listing the identification numbers for articles in each section of the museum so that we can get our signage ready.

There's a lot to be done, so if you're interested in lending a hand, please call **Joe Swigert** and we'll let you know when we're working. With the Barn deadline fast upon us, everything else about our work is on hold. After we open, we'll get back to the office and start processing the rest of the items from storage in the semi. If you are interested in learning to use museum software please give me a call or drop an e-mail, jans194@aol.com to be put on the list. There are fun parts to working on the museums, but to become a regular member of the committee, a willingness to get frustrated at the computer is required. I'm hoping to start teaching people, two at a time, once things settle down.

Happy Spring to all

**Bob Brown** and **Ross Kongable** represented the Society on Sunday, April 18th, when they presented the **Friends of Lopez** and the **Lopez Nature Center** with a story-board of the history of the Lopez valley and subsequent lake development. (see Times Press Recorder dated 4/21/04). **Gordon Bennett** had provided pictures, **Dick Blankenburg** developed an historical timeline, and the Society, with the assistance of **Jean Hubbard**, chose pictures from the archives of before and after the dam construction. The story-board had been requested for display at the recent Friends of Lopez Family Day, and staff and visitors were very impressed with the presentation, so it was agreed to gift the display to the Nature Center.



**Book Committee** by Linda Shephard

Last year, the San Luis Obispo Community Foundation awarded a grant of \$1,800 for the writing and publication of a tour booklet for the South County Historical Society. The Book Committee determined that the book collection included history of the area but there were some missing pieces of information. For example, some folks knew about the early Mexican land grants, but were unable to place exactly where they were. And, since many of the old landmarks were gone, or, like Santa Manuela School, were moved, it was hard to get a clear picture of "what was" and relate it to "what is".

The Committee decided that a tour booklet might make that link.. However, the south county is so huge that it was impossible to cover all of the area in one booklet (or one tour, or one day) and so the area was divided into sections. **"Touring Rural Arroyo Grande"** was chosen for the first book.

Influenced by the Folklore Committee that compiled and published the "Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow" series, it was decided to include articles by local folks telling us a bit of history and also sharing what is currently going on in the rural Arroyo Grande area and incorporate those articles into a tour that will take the driver (and passengers) from Heritage House to Huasna, back across the Arroyo Valley to Lopez Lake and out Hi Mountain Road, back to Orcutt Road, returning to Arroyo Grande via Corbett Canyon.

According to the information from the publisher, the booklet is ready to go to print. It is our hope that it will be available by the **May 15 General Meeting**.