



South County Historical Society

Heritage Press

Volume 13, No 23

October/November 2009



—by Gary L. Hoving, President

Yet another year quickly draws to a close and a new decade is upon us.

My congratulations to the previous Board of Directors, the docents, volunteers, staff and outgoing 2009 President, **Jane Line** for all of their hard work and dedication to the South County Historical Society. The accomplishments are great and the accolades few. But the impact upon the community has been fantastic.

Visitation to our museums has increased, research requests continue to climb, the Paulding History House is undergoing a major foundation restoration, the Mill Stone display and reflection area is completed, the newsletter is beautiful and filled with informative articles. We formalized the recognition of our volunteers through two new programs, received State historic recognition for the Paulding House, restored our 1923 fire truck and published one new book. While that is an impressive list of achievements, there were hundreds of other successes made possible by the membership, which is also greatly appreciated.

The challenge facing the new Board of Directors is to continue the energy and set goals to morph the society and our treasures to an even greater impact as we head into 2010. That is definitely a tall order which is compounded by a sluggish economy. However, with your help we will flourish throughout the upcoming year and for the decades to follow.

I am very proud of our Historical Society and the services that we provide to the entire south county. It is also humbling to serve as your president and recognize that my tenure cannot possibly be effective without your assistance. By working together, WE can achieve many successes and make a true difference.

May each of you enjoy the holiday season and I will look forward to working for you and with you throughout the New Year. □



Christmas Trains in the Village

Don't Miss the Railroad Weekend

IOOF Hall, 128 Bridge Street

Arroyo Grande

Bring the Kids

Model Trains Galore—HO, ON30 and G Scale

History of Dunites & the Halcyon Community

Story Times & Polar Express Movie for the Kids

Saturday Dec. 5th—10:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Sunday Dec. 6th—10:00 AM to 8:00 PM

**SCHS Annual Christmas Party
Wassail Bowl & Pastries**

**Sunday, December 6th 4-8 PM
IOOF HALL**

(See complete details on page 7)

CALENDAR of ACTIVITIES

~Heritage Square Museums~

**Santa Manuela Schoolhouse
Barn Museum & Heritage House**
Open Saturday, 12-3 PM
Open Sunday, 1-4 PM

**Historic IOOF Hall
128 Bridge Street**
Open Friday, 1-5 PM
Open Saturday, 1-5 PM

**Pat Loomis Library
134 S. Mason Street**
Open M-F, 1-5 PM

**Paulding History House
551 Crown Hill**
Closed for Renovation

November 29—AG Christmas Parade

December 5 & Dec 6
Christmas Trains in the Village

December 6 SCHS Christmas Party
4-8 PM IOOF Hall

December 21: Museums closed for Christmas & Re-open January 9, 2010



Volunteers Wanted

From time to time we need volunteers to help with small projects at our properties. If you can help with painting, carpentry, plumbing, gardening or other odd jobs, please let me know. Notify me at home 489-4905, cell 801-0189 or e-mail wmccann@charter.net

—Bill McCann, Property Manager

**Merry Christmas to
you and yours, and a
Happy New Year!**

Editorial Committee: Berneda Cochran, Bee Hodges, Gary Hoving, Jane Line, Craig Rock
Editor: Bee Hodges
Contact via e-mail:

A PAULDING HISTORY HOUSE UPDATE

~Chuck Fellows, PHH Curator~

I just got back from Doctor Paulding's family home on Crown Hill and I'm as pleased as I can be of the restoration job that Architect Gary Scherquist has overseen up there.

The rear retaining wall and the new foundation have been in for a while and are rock solid. The bottom floor has been bolstered in several places so the Paulding Family artifacts, furniture, books, table settings, medical equipment and so on will no longer shake and "travel" every time a visitor enters a room. Most of the "stuff" that had been appended to the outside of the house over the years (conduit, security lights, sprinkler controls, etc) have been removed so that the original look has returned. Almost all of the concrete patios and walks that were adjacent to the home have been demolished and replaced because they sloped toward the house! Which of course led to seasonal flooding, termite damage and rot. These effects have also been expertly and invisibly corrected.

All of those who have been involved to date in the restoration -- **Gary Scherquist, Bob Vessely, Paul Rose Builders, Cochran Family Plumbing, Wolcott Concrete, Mike Fairbrother, and Rick Betita** have done a fine job and can be proud of their work.

In order to finish the job, your Society needs your help! You are being offered an opportunity to get involved as well, so that in the very near future when you visit the Paulding History House with your friends and family you will be able to say "See that bench (or plaque, paver stone, garden area, sign)? That's there because we helped make this as nice as you see it, it was once about to fall down."

I know that things are a little tight right now but the project had to be started at this time because the home actually was in danger of falling from its foundation. We would be so grateful if you would help by sending a check for as much as you can.

Please make it out to The South County Historical Society and note on the check that it is for the PHH restoration. If you would like to be recognized on a plaque or bench, or something more substantial ,please contact me regarding other options. My cell phone number is 805-710-3277. Remember, the Society is a recognized 501(C)3 non-profit, so your contribution will be tax deductible. Thank you!



Editor's Note:

The Heritage Series: Dr. Paulding's Letters

With this issue we again share the Paulding letters with our readers. Reproduced here is number thirteen of fourteen letters written by Dr. Paulding to his sister "Tene" when he first left his home and headed West. The letters are reproduced here without editing as he wrote them. This is the last Dr. Paulding letter.

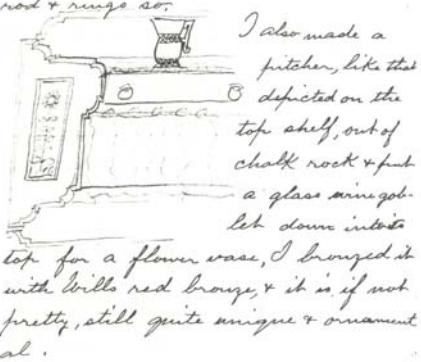
Arroyo Grande, Cal.
June 29 '85

Dear sister,

Your letter came a few days ago. We were all glad to hear from you. Pardon me for accusing you of writing two letters to Will. Will says neither of them was from you and accounts for my mistake by the fact that all Piquads write Spencerian.

Will and Ormond went off on another hunt up Lopez creek last week with the usual result of a failure to bring home anything except the poison oak's work. Ormond came home all bunged up again. He is getting disgusted at deer and bear stories in general and would not go hunting for anything anymore. I want to try it again in a week or two just for two or three days. You think we do nothing but hunt and fish, but we never all go off at once and there is scarcely ever a time when one cannot do all the work. We lost considerable business when I went to Los Alamos to attend Dr. Bartholemew. Two baby cases and one that is far more paying than Dr. Kellogg got. Dr. B. is now much better and convalescing slowly. It could not be otherwise in his disease.

I put a spray of leaves & flowers in a panel on one side in depressed carving & a sunflower in raised work on the other side, & top shelf for bricabrac & a drawer under that & a lower shelf with a curtain hiding it runs on rod & rings so.



I am at work on a book case or rather a little shelf. It is two feet long and twenty inches wide and hangs on the wall. I ebonized it, what there is done of it, and it will make quite an elegant addition to the furniture of my office. I put a spray of leaves and flowers in a panel on one side in depressed carving and a sunflower in raised work on the other side. A top shelf for bricabrac and a drawer under that and a lower shelf with a curtain hiding it runs on rod and rings so.

I also made a pitcher, like that depicted on the top shelf, out of chalk rock and put a glass wine goblet down into its top for a flower vase. I bronzed it with Wills red bronze, and it is if not pretty, still quite unique and ornamental.

We are away behind with our CSLC work and it will take until fall to complete it. I suppose you are about through your four years course. I would not have missed the reading already done for anything. It has straightened out many crooked places in my education and given me an insight into Greek history and literature such as I would have got at only by hard work and devious methods if left to my own resources and probably never been done at all.

Ormie still delights us as she has always done. She is very fair and her hair is lighter in color. They bang it in front and she looks very cute. She has taken to Will at last and yesterday crawled up on his lap for the first time. She is the shyest little thing I ever met.

I have two pups as I told you before and they are also learning very fast. The one that I'm to keep will run and get a ball and bring it to me already. The other one is a purer colored setter (red) but is slower to learn and very stubborn. I have spent more time on him than on the other, but he won't learn as fast. Mine is a curly black and is smaller than his brother. He is going to make an excellent retriever. It was fun to see them hunting chickens yesterday. They would get after a little pullet and make her fly, but they finally tackled the wrong chicken, an old hen with little chicks. The hen ran them into the stable and pecked them and beat them with her wings till they both ran to me for protection. I guess they will learn to let old hens along. I call them Dick and Doc. The latter is my dog's name and given to show my contempt for the doctor's common nickname.

Will got a letter from Mary today. She seems to enjoy life at Perrysburg but would be happier if she could only get a boat. Too bad.

I will send you ten dollars and when you want more let me know.

It sounds funny now to read in Piqua papers about refreshing rains. If it should rain here now there would be such a storm of curses and execrations raised that the Chief of the weather bureau would be ashamed of his record. The hay is all out and nothing protected from the weather. It is a Paradise here for lazy farmers.

Let me hear from you soon. All send love.

Yours, Ed.



Docent Leader

—Jane Line

The First Annual President's Docent Appreciation Tea

A little SCHS history was made Friday, November 20, 2009, with this **Docent Appreciation Tea**. Plans are for this event to happen every year. Outgoing Docent Leader **Charles Porter**, together with **Barbara LeSage, Joe Swigert, and Shelly Cochran**, should be very proud of this "**First Annual**" event to show our Society's appreciation to our **Docents**. Without our **Docents**, there is no show and the doors to our museums would not open. The museums' exhibits and displays would be unseen. The Society's mission would be unmet!

Serendipitously, to make this "**First Annual**" a little more special, another bit of history was made that day. The event was scheduled for the **Heritage House Gardens**, but rain threatened so the Tea was moved to **SCHS' IOOF Hall**. This was without doubt the first tea held in that building for many, many decades! How's that for honoring the **Docents**!

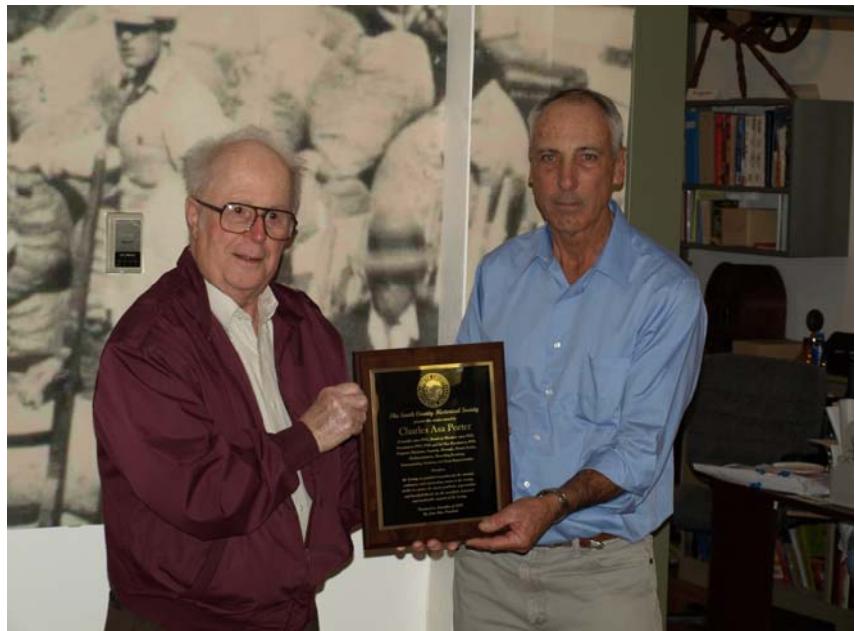
With some of our 2009 Exhibit on **Oceano, Halcyon and the Dunites** still on the walls, the sight was truly special. Imagine small round tables covered in vintage print tablecloths with seasonal flowers and beautiful china cups and plates. It could not have been more charming! **Linda Curry** kept our glasses and tea cups filled with champagne, coffee and tea. The cakes and sandwiches were delicious and **Barbara LeSage's** chocolate dipped strawberries topped things off perfectly.

The Docents were right in step, showing up in their "tea" attire – M.J. Munro, Loren and Bernice Nicholson, Karen Talley Miller, Berneda Cochran, Norma Harloe, Larry and Judy Turner, Gerry Fesler, Jeanne Fredericks, Barbara Main, Shelly Cochran, Orville and Beaulah Schultz, Barbara Main, Margaret Haak, Beth Garner, Ethel Gilliland, Paulette McCann, Linda Fellows, Mary Ann Feller, Helen Summerfield, Lisa LeSage, Bee Hodges, Linda Kime, Helen Summerfield, Jean Hubbard, Joanne Connolly, Dalene Caldwell, Wanda Porter, Mario Tognazzini, Effie McDermott, Lia Kalpakoff, and Ross Konable.

Mario Tognazzini presented a Service Award from the 2009 Board of Directors to **Charles Asa Porter**, in recognition of his many years of devoted and continuing service to the Society. A member since 1982, a Board Director since 1983, President in 1995, 1996 and 1999: other positions he has held were 1st Vice President, Program Chair, Property Manager, Docent Leader, Parliamentarian, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary and Area Representative. (Picture on right)

(Picture on right)

Charles Porter introduced the Docent Coordinators – Jeanne Fredericks (Heritage House), Joe Swigert (The Barn), Kathleen Sullivan (Santa Manuela School), Norma Harloe (School Tours), and Chuck Fellows (Paulding History House) stood in for Dee Trybom. Each Coordinator introduced their **Docents** to a round of applause.



—Photo by Ross Kongable

Several of our Society's earlier presidents were present and serve as docents today somehow ensuring the circle goes unbroken:

Karen Talley Miller, Jean Hubbard, Larry Turner, Helen Summerfield, Loren Nicholson, Charles Porter and outgoing president Jane Line.

Some of our **Docents** work at more than one museum and many, like **Berneda Cochran and Barbara Main**, volunteer in other areas also! There is something very special about those who "docent" and their natural talent for "teaching" serves our Society well!

On behalf of all of us, we thank them. And we look forward to adding to their ranks this coming year. You can also calendar your "Second Annual" **President's Docent Appreciation Tea**" for sometime next Fall. It's already being planned!

P.S. If you would like to learn more about becoming a docent for any of our programs, please call me at 489-8282 or e-mail me at schs76@sbcglobal.net. I would love to hear from you. ■



Museums Curator

-Jan Scott

Since there was no newsletter in October, our new Curator, **Larry Turner**, has allowed me this opportunity to say thank you. I have been privileged and honored to serve on the SCHS Board for nine years, the last seven as Curator. The complexities of the job demanded the best of my abilities and insisted that I learn much more than I could have guessed would be required.

I have never worked alone. The accomplishments of these years happened because of the talents and generosity of others. I want to thank everyone and write paragraphs about you all, but there isn't space here for that book. The scenes associated with each name play out like movies in my brain. I pray I won't miss anyone, but if I do, I apologize.

The thank-you's begin with each of you who have entrusted SCHS with your treasures, heirlooms, your history. Our collection would not be what it has become without your generosity and grace.

To all the people who worked in Collections, many of whom also crossed over into Museum work: **Sandy Arnold**, my compatriot with Joe in the overwhelming task of emptying and cataloguing artifacts from the semi-trailer, who still answers calls for help.

To the Monday Crew, who always say yes, always show up and always work their butts off, tireless and enthusiastic and ready for anything: **Norma Burton**, **Carolyn Huffine** and **Edie Juck**, guided by **Barbara Main**, who handles, with seeming ease, whatever is thrown at her. To the Tuesday Crew, who laughed us through the tedious work: **Colleen Drees**, **Bea Salem** and **Janet Baxter**, our professional librarian who not only laughed, but put order to our reference library and book cataloguing.

To the Thursday Crew: **Margaret Haak**, my friend who at 90-something is still coming in to work, doing her work and then taking more work home to work some more. To all of you who gave your time as you were able, and brought unique gifts of personality and humor to what is often plodding work: **MaryAnn Feller**, **Bee Hodges**, **Barbara LeSage**, **Diane Maiorano**, and **Barbara Vinson**.

To our Automotive Department, the keepers of the vintage vehicles: **Edward Diable** who took on the responsibility of our "new" Loomis truck way back when, joined by **Ken Leonard** in those early days. To **Jim Bergman** whose devotion to tractors and helping kids enlarged our collection. Now **Chet Thomas** and **John Stilwell** are in charge of our "fleet," with **Jackie Thomas** overseeing parade decorations..

To helpers gone but not forgotten: **Doris Gullickson** and **Clara Madsen**, both artists with needle and thread, capable of crafting curtains for the Meatlocker or Ruby's House, or sleeves to hang a quilt by, or repairing vintage clothing. **Billie Swigert**, always willing to answer questions, deliver cookies and spin her tales of the old days as background.

To our Archivists: **Berneda Cochran** and **Ruth Kodaj** (and Carolyn again, a glutton for typing), led by the gifted and skilled **Ross Kongable**, all of whom work diligently and with great humor on a process that would have most people's eyes spinning in their heads.

They too take their work home with them after hours at work. Also working as they were able over the years: **Gus Berger** and **Dick Jackson**.

To the people whose main focus helped our Museums which host thousands of visitors every year as well as local schoolkids. They took their work beyond docenting: **Barbara Bowles**, **Jean Bryan**, **Jeanne Frederick**, **Lia Kalpakoff**, **Linda Kime** (our new Schoolhouse Curator), **Barbara Main** (our new Heritage House Curator), **Pat Oliveira**, **Orville Schultz**, **Kathleen Sullivan** (our newly retired Schoolhouse Curator after years of service) and **Marge Wolters**.

To the "Can-Do! Gang" who took on any project I could envision. They were always there to support and further the work, whether it was run-of-the-mill or took every ounce of their creativity: **John Bryant** who can make miracles happen with paint; **Don Gullickson** and **Bill Smith**, who just make miracles happen, period; **Sam Burton**, spirited and dedicated who owns every tool AND a trailer. Add in **Mike Drees** and **Ken Huffine** who say "Yes" when asked, and the Property Managers, whose job I am told, was invented to assist the Curator. They did, accomplishing whatever was needed: **Doug LeSage** and **Charles Porter**. Their support kept me going. And most recently, **Bill McCann**, **Vivian Krug** whose eye is infallible and whose instincts and work get us noticed by the outside world.

To the people who shared their wealth of knowledge, both on our history and the Society, went out of their way to help and instruct, and gave their time freely: former Curators **Jean Hubbard** and **Judy Turner**; benefactor and writer **Pat Loomis**; **Howard Mankins** and **Gordon Bennett**, who had answers to all questions I could ask; **Mike Fairbrother** and **Gary Scherquist** on vintage buildings; **Jim Enos** on the care of the pianos.

To our new President, **Gary Hoving**, who gave me the best thank you for my work that I ever received, a sign on my door; to new Curator **Larry Turner** whose willingness to step up has allowed me to step down, and to Past President, husband **Kirk**, who has put up with my erratic hours and the demands I felt obligated to make on myself.

Finally, to **Joe Swigert**, whom most of you know as the host at General Meetings, the person who opens and closes our museums, docents in them, runs the ground operation on school tours, and now works in the "front office" and handles many social functions. He was also my Assistant Curator for all these years, a walking encyclopedia of local history, my teacher in all that I lacked in background information, my trusted "eye" for balance and taste in displays, a functioning memory when mine didn't, my helpmate and fellow discoverer on the intricacies of curatorial work. Joe and I grew into our work together and we both benefited. I cannot imagine having done the job without him.

To all, I owe you a deep debt of gratitude. I will tell you that I loved my job and would not have left, but it became clear that, for many reasons, I could no longer work effectively. The job remains more important than my wishes. Thank you.

PATTERNS OF THE PAST

Tidbits, Tribulations, and Tools for Survival

Column this month contributed by Berneda Cochran, Curtis Reinhardt & Bee Hodges



IT'S A CAR! IT'S A TRAIN! IT'S BOTH!

This Model T was converted into a crew car for the two-foot gauge Sandy River and Rangeley Lakes Railroad at the Phillips, Maine, Car Barn. After the demise of that railroad, it went to the Edaville Railroad in Massachusetts. With the renewed interest in the two footers, it was returned to Maine in 1993. Specifications: engine four-cylinder, in-line, water-cooled; bore 3-3/4 in., stroke 4 in., displacement 176.7 cu. in., 20 hp.

Accession no. 1992L04.

www.ohtm.org/25fdinsp.html

Based on Fairmont's A-6 Model 2330 utility rail coach, this Class A2332A Railbus was builder's #137425. The 20-gage steel body with wood interior & canvas arch roof was built by Eckland Brothers of Minneapolis.*

Cost: \$1685.00. It's 15' long, weighs 6,000 lbs. (3 tons), has a 94 1/2" wheelbase, Ringseald-Bower axle bearings, four demountable 20" wheels with iron-shoe self-centering brakes, and six coil springs, two above the front axle and four above the rear axle. It has a 4-cylinder 40 hp Ford Model A gasoline engine, and a Ford AA truck transmission with Fairmont Reverse gearbox, providing four forward & four reverse speeds. The car has two side doors and a rear one, hand-operated windshield wiper, a center-mounted jack on which it can be raised and turned around, one rear and two front headlights, interior & marker lights, and a vinyl bucket seat for the operator.

Although designed to carry twelve people on two

6-seat padded side benches, the car was purchased mainly for mail and express service by the Santa Maria Valley Railway, which numbered it SMV #9. An iron safe was placed in the car, which was so heavy that if not in the center when the car was turned on its jackscrew, the car might topple over! It ran on SMV's 18-mile line from a Southern Pacific connection at Guadelupe to Santa Maria & Gates Station, CA. SMV #9 never ran faster than 35 mph or carried revenue passengers, though it reportedly transported undocumented workers to pick vegetables & fruits. In strawberry harvest season, it often pulled one or two four-wheel trailers. SMV #9 also served as an inspection car and auxiliary section car. It was retired from regular service about 1936, painted orange, and used in some maintenance-of-way service until 1962, when sold because of excessive engine repair costs to the Valley Pipe & Salvage Company of Santa Maria for scrap. Its radiator, drive shaft, and some other parts were removed and sold. Restoration was not completed until April 1991 -- 26 years after its acquisition! Painted orange with a silver roof in August 1967 when restoration was thought to be "80% complete", in 1991 it was painted Beaver brown & tan with black roof, pilot, radiator, & underframe with a lacquered wood interior. The railbus made its public debut from May 3-12 in Sacramento, at the California State Railroad Museum's RailFair '91, where it received much attention. It was also displayed August 8, 1991 at San Diego's Santa Fe depot. SMV #9 is now on exhibit in beautifully restored condition in the Museums Campo carbarn, and is occasionally operated.

* For a link to the SMR coach including video: <http://www.sdrm.org/roster/passenger/railbus9/>

Getting the Bumper Vegetable Crops to the Market 1800's-1930

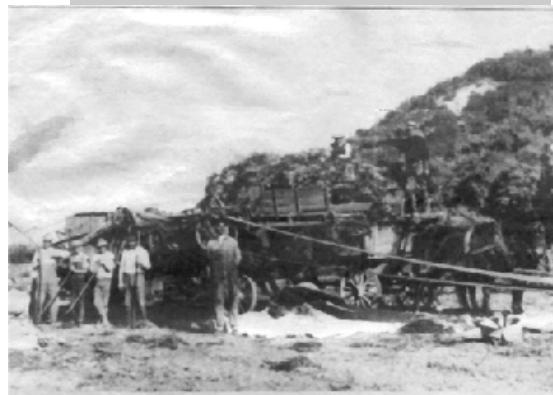
The horse and wagon was used to transport produce until 1881 when the Pacific Coast Railroad tracks were laid and the Pismo wharf was built. "Even with the wharves at Port San Luis and Pismo and the little gauge Pacific Railway that ran from the harbor to as far south as Los Olivos, transportation, was unreliable," wrote **Jean Hubbard**.

Many farmers grew dry beans for their cash crop because they could warehouse sacks of beans. A stalled railroad car or a storm often spelled disaster to a farmer who relied on the train or ships to get his produce to vegetable markets in distant cities through out the country.

Images from Westcott/Johnson book, Pacific Coast Railway, Courtesy Dennis Pearson and Curtis Reinhardt.



An open rail car travels over the line near Port San Luis after a rainstorm. —Collection of Bill Grant.



—SCHS Archives 2003.038.018



Christmas Trains in the Village on December 5th & 6th at the South County Historical Society's Odd Fellows Hall

Model Trains and Festivities will also be featured during that Sunday's Elegant Evening in the Village of Arroyo Grande

A special Christmas Train Weekend is being held on Saturday and Sunday, December 5th & 6th, in the Village of Arroyo Grande. The SLO Model Railroad Association and the South County Historical Society will sponsor this 3rd annual family event at the Historic Odd Fellows Hall at 128 Bridge Street. The activities will take place within the current exhibit which features the Dunite Community of the 1930s, the history of the Halcyon Community and a room backdrop replicating the historic Oceano Train Depot. The events are free although a \$2 admission donation is requested. Activities will include running model trains, festive holiday decorations, children's storytelling, movies, raffles and gifts for the kids and adults. This will be the perfect weekend for children, families, history buffs and train enthusiasts to visit the popular

IOOF Historic Hall. The Hall will open at 10:00 am daily and will close at 5:00 pm on Saturday. IOOF festivities will conclude on Sunday as part of the annual Elegant Evening party throughout the AG Village from 4:00 to 8:00 pm.

The SLOMRA displays will once again be specifically crafted and decorated with children in mind. Model trains of various sizes will be displayed and run for the delight of all within the holiday trapping of the Odd Fellows Hall. Some of the layouts will detail winter scenes and Christmas trains will be abundant. Three model scales will be represented: HO, On30 and G scale. The On30 layout will feature Pacific Coast Railway modules designed and built by Dennis Pearson along with a special On30 Christmas themed train. The HO layout will feature custom Christmas boxcars and flatcars made by SLOMRA members. The public will be invited to vote on their favorite car and there will be a silent auction to sell some of those boxcars to raise money for the SLOMRA. Doc Burnstein's Ice Cream Lab will also be displaying some rolling stock from its Village Railroad that runs daily in their quaint shop on Branch Street just north of the IOOF Hall.

Story times and train themed goodies will be available for the kids and special drawings will delight the adults. The weekend fun will include story times for the kids from 2:00 to 2:30 pm each afternoon. Kids will also be able to watch the ever popular movie Polar Express and the first youngsters that arrive each day will receive wooden train whistles compliments of Doc Burnstein's! Amtrak conductor hats will also be available for the kids. Older train enthusiasts will be offered treats too including a limited number of valuable Amtrak Companion Coupons. The SLOMRA will also conduct a daily raffle for complete train layouts. The Historical Society will have their building and exhibit area all dressed up for the holidays and will provide special holiday refreshments on Sunday evening. Historical books, photographs, calendars and cards will be available for sale throughout the weekend for those still needing to fill Christmas stockings!

Gifts from Doc Burnstein's and Amtrak



For More Information Call the Historical Society at 489-8282 on Weekday Afternoons

Information is also available at the following:

South County Historical Society: <http://www.southcountyhistory.org/>

San Luis Obispo Model Railroad Assoc. - [http://www.sломра.org/](http://www.sломra.org/)

For further information please call the Historical Society at 489-8282 on weekday afternoons.

Information is also available on the following websites:
South County Historical Society: www.southcountyhistory.org
or San Luis Obispo Model

—Flyer designed by Jack Tiedemann



Patricia Loomis History Library and Resource Center

-Craig Rock, Librarian and Resource Center Director



New SCHS Project Hopes to Gather a Hundred Stories One Story at a Time

We've all heard them, the same old stories told by a parent or a friend. We've heard them a hundred times. The stories offer interesting tidbits of information about our mothers and fathers, uncles and aunts, spouses and friends. We promise ourselves that we'll find out more details and write the stories down. But, before we know it, it's too late. You're probably thinking of those special persons and their stories right now. **We would like your help in gathering one person's story this year.**

A new project by the SCHS Patricia Loomis Library hopes to preserve these local history stories either orally on videotape or through the written word. We're focusing on the time period of the 1920s through the 1960s. But more recent stories are fine as are memories that have been passed down from one generation to the next.

A story may cover a person's career in building up a family business on the central coast. It may be about life at home dealing with the good and bad times brought out by the social and economic changes of our times. Times of war, times of peace can be included. A story about how a family ended up living in South County maybe interesting in itself. The stories can be about the lives of farmers, factory workers, road builders, carpenters or plumbers, store owners, artists, writers, public officials, police officers, firemen, public officials, or tightrope walkers.

We've all walked tightropes at some point in our lives. And we've somehow manage to survive and even persevere. These stories not only provide interesting reading for historians, and but they also inspire our youth in facing the problems of today. There are also stories about good times spent at those special places on the Central Coast. Places we return to, year after year, sometimes more often. These places provide closer connections to the land around us.

Organizing Meeting Set for Friday January 8 at the IOOF Hall – Meetings at 1 PM and 6 PM (Pick One – Same Discussion)

Come hear more about this project at either of the above times. If you're still interested, stay afterwards for the first workshop on writing memoirs, which will take about an hour. The IOOF Hall is located at 128 Bridge Street in Arroyo Grande. Contact Craig Rock, SCHS Librarian, for more information at 805-801-0679.



—Photo courtesy Toyo Miyatake



—Photo by Craig Rock

Local Group Visits Manzanar National Historic Site

On November 7, fourteen members of the South County Historical Society and Arroyo Grande in Bloom explored the former Manzanar internment camp near Big Pine, California. The trip was part of a local effort to build Japanese gardens in Arroyo Grande and find a permanent site for the SCHS Japanese-American Exhibit featured at the IOOF Hall in 2008.

Pictured in the top left is an internment camp photo showing the long line for lunch in the hot sun at Manzanar. Gardens were built adjacent to the mess halls to provide a sense of peace and well being. The photograph in the upper right shows our local group last month at one of these recently uncovered gardens. The group is listening to NPS Ranger Richard Potashin talk about various garden designs.

More than 10,000 Japanese Americans lived in 504 barracks organized into 36 blocks at Manzanar during WW II. There were nine other camps in the U.S. during this time stretching all the way to Arkansas. The field trip was financed, in part, by a grant from the Alliance for California Traditional Arts.



Notes from the Desk of Vivian Krug, Publicity Director

Web Site & PR Our web site continues to grow with our latest addition being the set of all seven issues of the Dune Forums. As our site grows, so does the amount of visitors to our site. Much of our web traffic is directly related to our exposure in the media. During the past year the Society had an enormous amount of press, from our Antique Show, the Harvest Festival, Society Member **June Waller** chosen as Grand Marshal, and as will soon be announced the Society Members reigning over this year's Christmas Parade! We've had excellent press for our new Exhibits, Presidential Volunteer Awards and the Arroyo Grande Book by Jean Hubbard and Gary Hoving. The Society has been in the news every month ,and there is more coming before the close of the year!

Arroyo Grande in Bloom and the America In Bloom Competition As you may have heard, Arroyo Grande fared well in the America in Bloom Competition as did the Society, winning one of the eight special awards, the Tidiness category. It also received special commendations from the judges for display, promotional materials and photographs for AG in Bloom, and it won four blooms (out of five possible) for the category of Heritage. The two judges Bill and Diana were particularly impressed with our community spirit and the preservation and showcasing of our history. For more visit: www.ArroyoGrandeInBloom.org

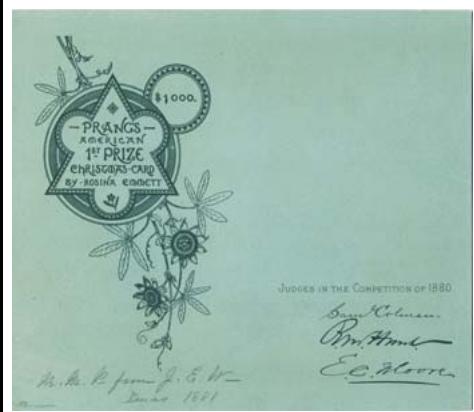
Wishing You Safe and Joyous Holidays. As we close the year I'd like to share with you a little history on the Christmas Card. Last year my column focused on the 1st Christmas Card. This year, we look at the history of the "Father of the American Christmas Card", Louis Prang from Boston, MA.

Believe it or not, the celebration of Christmas was once banned in Boston. The Puritans considered it an invention of the devil. Although the law banning Christmas was repealed in 1681, it was not proclaimed a legal holiday here until 1856. This was the same year that Louis Prang, a German immigrant from Breslau Germany, came to America. He later became known as the father of the American Christmas card.

Louis (1824-1909) was born in Breslau of a French Huguenot father and German mother, and learned to dye print calico in his father's shop. After traveling as a journeyman in Europe, he went to the United States in 1850, a refugee of the revolutionary period. He came well trained as a lithographer and settled in Boston, where he started as a wood-engraver. He also became a lithographer, color-printer and publisher. Soon after the Civil War he began printing chromo lithographs; and during the 1870's he began to issue color reproductions of famous paintings.




He was a writer on many subjects such as the "Prang Method of Art Instruction" and the "Prang Standards of Color.", "Prang's Natural History Series," published in 1873, and "Prang's Aids for Objective Teaching," which appeared in 1877. These books had a noticeable effect on the teaching of art throughout the United States. In 1882, the pioneer of American lithographing organized the Prang Educational Co. to publish drawing books for schools, and Prang's water colors remained standard classroom equipment for many years. He was involved in politics. In 1860, the Mass. legislature, under the influence of the Know-nothings, proposed, and finally passed, the "two year amendment," depriving naturalized citizens of the right to vote or hold office until two years after the completion of their citizenship. Many Republican legislators supported this discrimination against the foreign-born. The Germans resented such a challenge to their dignity as adopted citizens of the US. The Boston Germans met in Turner Hall, led by Charles Heinzen, Prang and Adolf Douai, who urged listeners to support only that party which "does not measure civil rights by place of birth, or human rights by color of skin."



He is acknowledged as the creator of the Christmas card. Although such cards were prepared for sale probably as early as the 1840's, it was not until about 1862 that the custom of sending them to friends and relatives became common. He promoted the greeting card movement in America in 1856 and produced cards at his lithograph shop in Boston every year after that date. He can thus be blamed for the fact that each Christmas we have the tedious job of writing hundreds of Christmas greetings to our relatives and friends. In 1975 the United States Post Office honored Prang with a Christmas Postage Stamp depicting his work.

Bibliography: Faust, Albert Bernhardt. 1909. Wandel, Joseph. *German Dimension of American History*. Chicago: Nelson Hall, 1979. America through the eyes of German Immigrant Painters. Boston: Goethe Institute Boston, 1976. Wittke, Carl. *Refugees of Revolution*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1952.

Cards, Circa 1880. In the late 1800's firms such as Prangs held art contests for Christmas Cards. The card on the left won first prize and \$1,000! Yes, \$1,000.

Contact Me. If you want to participate in any of our upcoming events or have information I can use for publicity or to be included on our website, I'm easy to reach by phone 458-3321 or e-mail: Vivian@EmotionsCards.com. Until next year, Stay Connected! Viv

South County Historical Society
Minutes of the Annual Meeting
November 10, 2009

President Jane Line called the South County Historical Society's thirty-third Annual Meeting to order at 7 PM in the newly redecorated Hiawatha Lodge, Halcyon, CA. Directors present were Effie McDermott, Charles Porter, Vivian Krug, Berneda Cochran, Tom Goss, Bee Hodges, Chuck Fellows, Ken Kitchen, Bill McCann, Elaine Parrent and Jane Line. Directors absent were Joe Costello who was attending an Arroyo Grande City Council meeting and Jan Scott. Craig Rock, Resource Center/Librarian was also present. All Society members attending enjoyed a great pizza and salad dinner hosted by the 2009 Board of Directors and AmeriCorps member Joe Swigert.

President Line introduced Linda Curry, SCHS Life Member, who made a special presentation. Linda pointed out that the Society's greatest asset is the volunteer staff who contribute thousands of hours each year with little recognition yet earn the Society a wonderful reputation in the community. This year the Society has chosen to implement the first "Historian of the Year" award which will be maintained in perpetuity. Linda introduced the first person to be honored as Historian of the Year 2009 - Jean Hubbard, recognized for her years of service to the Society. Following Jean's acceptance of the award, Effie McDermott moved that hereafter the Historian of the Year award shall be named for Jean Hubbard and known as the Jean Hubbard Historian of the Year award. Motion was seconded by Linda Osty and passed unanimously.

Craig Rock, Resource Center/Librarian, reported on the new Oral and Written History Program to be associated with the Pismo Exhibit planned for the I.O.O.F. Hall in 2010. (Ed. Note: If you wish to volunteer for this important project, training will begin in January. Contact Craig at (805) 801-0679.)

Parliamentarian Effie McDermott, Chair of the 2009 Bylaw Committee (Bill McCann and Tom Goss), moved acceptance of the 2009 Bylaws (mailed previously to the membership). The motion was seconded by 1st V.P. Ken Kitchen and passed unanimously.

President Line called upon the 2nd V.P., Membership Chair Bee Hodges, to report the membership count for the purpose of determining a quorum for the evening. Bee Hodges reported the SCHS has 578 active members in good standing in the database. Members signed in for the evening totaled 113, fulfilling the current bylaw requirements for a quorum.

President Line asked Ken Kitchen, Chair of the 2009 Nominating Committee, to read the nominees for office for 2010. Accepting nomination for office are:

Gary Hoving, President
Bill McCann, Property Manager
Ken Kitchen, 1st V.P. Ways and Means
Chuck Fellows, Curator, Paulding
Bee Hodges, 2nd V.P. Membership
Larry Turner, Curator, Museums
Elaine Parrent, Recording Secretary
Jane Line, Docent Leader
Berneda Cochran, Corresponding Secretary
Tom Goss, Information Services
Joe Costello, Treasurer
Lynn Titus, Parliamentarian
Vivian Krug, Publicity

President Line asked for nominations from the floor. There being no further nominations, Sam Cotton moved to approve the slate of officers as presented. Dick Blankenburg seconded. Motion passed without objection. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned to the University Center where Marti Fast, Hancock Art Department, gave a presentation on the 22 paintings of Harold Forgostein interpreting the Henry W. Longfellow poem, *Song of Hiawatha*.

After the presentation, the meeting was adjourned to the following November 2010.

Respectfully submitted,
Elaine Parrent, Recording Secretary

ATTENTION MEMBERS:

We are in need of back issues of our Membership Directories. If any of you have old copies of the directories, we need to archive a hard copy for 1994, and any directories prior to 1983. If you have any and are willing to part with them, please drop them off at Ruby's House. We'd be most appreciative.

HELP !!!

We need donations for the purchase of stainless flatware to be used at some of our nicer social functions. We've received one set from Bee Hodges, but can use more.

Volunteer Hours

August 2009

Docent Hrs	190
Total Volunteer Hrs	905

September 2009

Docent Hrs	101
Total Volunteer Hrs	799

October 2009

Docent Hrs	128
Total Volunteer Hrs	838



*Our Love & Best Wishes with armloads of
Floral Bouquets to:*

**Bea & Ross Kongable, Mark Mankins,
Karen Hitchen, Paul Salitore, Elaine
Parrent, John Silva.**

**We Welcome our New
Members!**

**Michael Blakeslee
Carol Julian**



Many, many thanks to our **2009 Board of Directors**, including servers **Berneda Cochran, David Saari, Ken and Lupe Kitchen, and Anne Shipstead** for feeding 116 hungry members pizza and a wonderful salad. Many more thanks to **Shelly Cochran** for her beautiful and tasty cupcakes and Tara Cochran for serving them! Thanks to **Paulette McCann and Elaine Parrent** who helped to sign in all those members!

And to **Marti Fast** and the **Temple of the People, Eleanor Shumway, Guardian**, we thank you for your hospitality and for helping make this year's meeting one of our most successful yet! —Editorial Committee

—Jean Hubbard with the plaque she received as Historian of the Year at the Annual Meeting. This award will be named the “Jean Hubbard Award” to future recipients as Historian of the Year. —Photo by Ross Kongable

Membership Renewal : There is a slight increase in the membership dues for Individual to \$20.00 and for Couple Membership to \$35.00. The Corporate Membership levels have been reduced. Other levels have remained the same. As a member, we'd like to encourage you to bring a friend or neighbor to join the Historical Society. Members enjoy champagne previews of new exhibits and advance notice of upcoming events. Mail in your renewal with form below or pay online on our website.

The Society is structured as a non-profit organization 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

If you live in the area and you are interested in supporting our efforts—become a member! One of the benefits of membership is receiving our colorful and informative monthly newsletter. There are many volunteer and committee opportunities: working with our Curator, Librarian, Technology and Photography, Exhibits, Book Committee, and Events—such as our Annual Antique Show and Festivals in the Village. It's fun—we have many social events in addition to our volunteer work.

Membership Dues

Individual	\$20.00
Couple	\$35.00
Family w/children under 18	\$40.00
Patron-Business, Organization, Individual	\$200.00
Sustaining (Individual)	\$100.00
Life (Individual)	\$500.+

Corporate Memberships

Platinum... \$3,000. Gold....2,000. Silver.....\$1,000.

YOUR PLANNED GIFT

could be of great importance to the future of the South County Historical Society. Please contact the Society at (805) 489-8282 to discuss your gifts to support the Society in its dedication to research, restoration and dissemination of information to enhance and preserve our local historical heritage.



MEMBERSHIP SOUTH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Any Changes?

RENEWAL

NEW



Name (s) * _____

Address * _____

Home Tel: * _____ Work 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**. If you wish to receive a copy of the Membership Directory by mail, please add \$2.00 donation to your check to cover the cost.

NOTE: (*Starred information will be printed in annual Membership Directory distributed to members unless you indicate otherwise.) Please print legibly. Our eyesight isn't what it used to be. Thank you for your continuing support of the Society! If you have any questions about your membership, please email me at schs76@sbcglobal.netAttention: Bee Hodges in the "Subject line".

NOTICE TO MEMBERS

Regular Board meetings held at 7:00 pm the third Wednesday of each month except June, July and December. Meeting place is the IOOF Hall, 128 Bridge St., Arroyo Grande. Board Meetings are open to Society members and the public.

Next regularly scheduled Board Meeting Jan 20, 2010

We will continue our "Members Only Champagne Previews" after the first of the year coinciding with the opening of our next new Exhibit. Dates will be announced.

**Our heartfelt sympathy to the family of
Daryl Flood and Warren Holt**

**PO Box 633
Arroyo Grande
CA 93421**

MAJOR SUPPORTERS OF THE SOUTH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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JOAN BUTCH
THE CABASSI FAMILY
CITY OF ARROYO GRANDE
DOC BURNSTEIN'S ICE CREAM LAB
PATRICIA & MORLEY FARQUAR
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