

## **Pismo Exhibit Explores Early Central Coast History**

For more than a hundred years people from the inland valleys of California have been escaping the summer heat by visiting Pismo Beach. A new exhibit -- *Early Pismo, Vignettes and Photographs* -- explores some of the fascinating people, places and events that have created this small Central Coast haven. Early aviators, restaurateurs, real estate agents, bootleggers, prostitutes, soldiers, farmers, and even Al Capone found work, rest or recreation in the area. The exhibit opens Saturday with a special presentation by local historian Effie McDermott at 2 PM at the South County Historical Society's IOOF Hall, 128 Bridge Street in Arroyo Grande.

This exhibit is the first of three events that will explore Pismo's rise, fall and rebirth as a tourist mecca halfway between San Francisco and Los Angeles. It will include rarely seen photographs gathered from the archives of Effie McDermott, Gordon Bennett, the San Luis Obispo History Center, and the South County Historical Society. A special program in August (date to be announced) will celebrate a new collectors' edition of Luther Whiteman's *Face of the Clam*, soon to be published by the South County Historical Society. An October program will cover the efforts of law enforcement to control vice during the first half of the 1900s.

These exhibits will be presented in tandem with an oral history project that we hope will capture many of the untold stories of Pismo. If you have a story to share, please contact the historical society at 849-8282. Visitors to these exhibits will also be able to view the farming exhibit, *Routes and Roots: Cultivating Filipino American History on the Central Coast*. The exhibits are open Fridays and Saturdays, 1 – 5, and will run through November 27. A \$2 donation is suggested.