



Looking Forward

—By Jane Line, President

On April 6, 1837, **Francis Ziba Branch** became the first white settler in the Arroyo Grande Valley. Granted nearly 17,000 acres of land by Governor Alvarado of Alta California, Francis and Manuela Carlon Branch began a legacy that endures today.

One hundred sixty-two years later almost to the month, SCHS will honor them and their descendants with the dedication of the Branch Millstone Courtyard, located creek side in Arroyo Grande's Heritage Square.

I have chosen to excerpt writings from Myron Angel's "*History of San Luis County*" * in order that we may learn more of this man, who he was and what he valued. Mr. Angel wrote his book in 1883, a short few years after Mr. Branch's death, and provides us with a wonderful glimpse into one of the men who "won the West."

'Francis Ziba Branch belonged to that old line of pioneers to California, now almost vanished from the earth, around whose lives there gathers the glammers of romance more interesting than the tales of ancient chivalry, and more instructive than the lessons of philosophy.

**"To some are given spirits high and daring,
And stouter hearts than others of their kinds;
Who never know the sense of fear and fearing,
Who never in the race are left behind."**

The poet's laudation of the pioneers pertinently applies to the subject of this sketch. Mr. Branch was born at Scipio, Cayuga County, New York, July 24, 1802. The region of his birth was then in the wild West – but twenty years after the close of the Revolutionary War, in which his grandfathers had served as soldiers – and where Gen. Sullivan had made his celebrated campaign against the Indians. On such a frontier was Mr. Branch born, and there passed his youth, there among the lovely and romantic lakes of western New York, a favorite hunting ground of the Iroquois, many of whom still lingered around the graves of their fathers....It was a pleasant section in which to grow to manhood, and a favorable period to inure one to hardship, to self-reliance and to that manly independence and individual courage which were so characteristic of Mr. Branch, and had such an influence in shaping his future life.

Becomes a Sailor. His father died while he was a mere child, and of him, he retained no recollection. The mother was left poor and with a family of children who, at whatever age they could earn their living, were required to take care of themselves.

When eighteen years of age Ziba Branch left his home and went to the city of Buffalo, then coming into prominence as the terminus of the great New York and Erie Canal....There were no railroads in existence and the steamboat was scarcely known. The commerce of the lakes was carried on by sailing vessels and upon one of these the young adventurer obtained employment. Continuing the life of a sailor for five years on the lakes, he then went forward to St. Louis, in Missouri, then the extreme frontier of civilization. St. Louis was then almost a French city, much of its business being with the *voyageurs* who followed the great rivers of the West with their light birch bark canoes, trapping and hunting for furs, for trading with the Indians, that city being the center of the fur trade. These voyageurs and trappers were, as explorers of the great wilderness, what the mining prospectors are to the present day.....during the last quarter century.

Joins a Party for New Mexico. At St. Louis Mr. Branch joined a trading party commanded by Captain Savory and bound for Santa Fe in Nuevo Mexico...For this distant land the party journeyed with a large train of one hundred and fifty men and eighty-two wagons, chiefly drawn by oxen. This was the largest party that had ever crossed the plains to that date. Being well armed and having a small cannon to protect themselves from the Indians, who were ever hostile and treacherous, they made the passage safely.' (Continued on page 3)

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
Open 1st Sat 1-3 PM

**May 15 “Members Only
Champagne Preview”
Halcyon Exhibit**
Historic Hall 6:30 PM

**May 16 Halcyon Exhibit
Early History of Halcyon Community
Presentation by Eleanor Shumway**
Current Guardian of Temple of the People
Public Opening @ 2:30 PM
Historic Hall

June 7 Charter Day Barbeque
1 PM Hosted by Friends of Price House
Price Historical Park

**July 11 Dunite Poetry
Clam & Sausage Paella Dinner**
SLO Poets Laureates Kevin Sullivan,
George Burns, James Cushing,
Jane Elsdon & Dian Sousa.
1 PM & 3:30 PM

**Reservations highly recommended
\$20 Call: 489-8282.**
Fundraiser for New Exhibits

August 1 2 PM
Program about Halcyon writers,
John Varian & Ella Young
(This event held at Hiawatha Lodge
in Halcyon)

Editor’s Note: You will note this issue has our new, refreshed logo on the front page. It retains the images from our previous logo, but has more clarity and definition. Our IS Director, Tom Goss, designed this update, and we will be using it in all our future communications with the community and membership.



Breaking News.....

Our **SCHS** sign is up at both of the new entry gates into the City of AG. We’re sharing this photo shared with us from **Bob Lund**. You can see we are in good company and completely indebted to **Tom Goss** for his graphic arts skills! We are further indebted to **Rob Strong** and **Jim Bergman** for hanging it for us! What a town!

Green Goddess Dressing*

- | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1 cup finely chopped onion | 3 tsp red wine vinegar |
| 1 cup finely chopped parsley | 3 tsp anchovy paste |
| 3/4 cup mayonnaise | 1/2 tsp pepper |
| 1/2 cup sour cream | 1/2 tsp Worcestershire |
| 3 tsp lemon juice | 1/2 tsp salt |
| 1/4 cup half and half cream | 1 tsp sugar |
- Mix all ingredients in blender until smooth.

* 239 Beans in a Cassoulet — by Norman Goss, Tom Goss’ father & owner of Stufft Shirt Restaurants

Editor’s Note:
The Heritage Series: Dr. Paulding’s Letters
In this issue of the newsletter, and in the next few newsletter issues, we are not reproducing the last of fourteen letters written by Dr. Paulding to his sister “Tene” when he first left his home and headed west. Instead, we will print them when the Paulding House reopens after its renovation and renewal expected later this year.

Our heartfelt sympathy to the families of

**Payton Bryan
Rachel Ann Cecka
Jane Cooney
Margaret Price
Robby Robinson**

Looking Forward

Francis Z. Branch (continued)

Extends his Journey to California. Subsequently Mr. Branch joined a trapping party under the leadership of William Wolfskill, and thus exploring the western country, arrived in California in February, 1831. . . . Previous to their arrival in the settled regions of California, they had wandered along the Colorado, trapping and trading with the Indians and suffering much for food. . . . They took the route by the Mojave River and through the Cajon Pass to the old mission of San Bernardino and thence to Los Angeles. Of this party, Messrs. Wm. Wolfskill, F. Z. Branch, George C. Yount, S. J. Shields and Lewis T. Burton remained in California. . . . Mr. Branch engaged in hunting, the most valuable game being the sea otter, with which the coast abounded. After pursuing this business for several years, he invested his means in a store of general merchandise in Santa Barbara, subsequently disposing of his business to Mr. Alpheus B. Thompson.

Marries and Settles. In 1835 he married Doña Manuela Carlona and settled in the region now included in San Luis County. In 1837 he received from the Mexican Government a grant of land on the Arroyo Grande, the Santa Manuela, comprising, as confirmed by the U.S. Courts, 16,954.83 acres, subsequently becoming the owner of the Huer Huero, Arroyo Grande, Pismo, and other large tracts.

Mr. Branch came to California with nothing but his rifle to earn his living and make his way in the world; but in the hands of brave and self-reliant men that trusty weapon was not only capital in business, but a power that commanded respect and raised the holder to influence. His youthful time as a sailor was of great assistance in the pursuit of the sea otter and the hunting of that valuable animal proved very remunerative and laid the foundation for the fortune he afterwards acquired.'



Francis Ziba Branch.

Will be continued in the May newsletter.

Brisco's in Business 100 Years.....**

—Howard Mankins

Leo Albert Brisco and his parents moved to San Luis Obispo County in 1902 and settled in Arroyo Grande. Leo and his father, Charles Albert Brisco, started in business at the corner of Nelson and Traffic Way. They were in the construction business along with auto maintenance and wood business.

All the buildings at the present location on Brisco Road and El Camino Real were built from lumber thrown off a Canadian ship that ran aground on the Oceano Beach during the 1930's.

Leo's brother-in-law ran the business up to the start of World War II. After a stint in the army, Harold Mankins joined the business. In 1951 after graduating from college, Howard Mankins joined his uncle, Leo Brisco, and brother with the mill running most of the business.

At this time Harold and Howard Mankins purchased the business from their uncle and ran the business until Harold had a serious accident; whereupon Howard purchased the business and now his two sons, Mark and Blair, own and operate the business.

The business has grown into a Tru Value Hardware and building material business. They plan to keep it going for another 100 years as a family oriented business with the same small town way of doing business.

** Ed. Note: SCHS recently presented the Brisco family with a Certificate of Appreciation for all they have done for the community over the past century.

Hello Central Coast Railroaders!

—Curtis Reinhardt

Plans for the first annual Central Coast Railroad Festival are progressing. Here is some important new information:

- 1) A second organizational meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday, April 8th. The 6:00 pm meeting will be held at the PG&E Community Center at 6588 Ontario Road in the Avila area. (Ontario Road runs parallel to Highway 101 and the PG&E facility is just south of the San Luis Bay Drive exit.) We will use their smaller conference room that evening and discussion topics will include scheduling of Festival events and development of a steering committee. All interested individuals are welcome.
- 2) The Central Coast Railroad Festival website is now up! <http://ccrrf.com/> Thanks to Jamie Foster for putting it together! Please give us your comments and suggestion for enhancing the site.



Museums Curator
-Jan Scott

SAVING PERSONAL TREASURES

Okay, some of our weather may not feel exactly Spring-like, but the calendar says we're here. Can Spring Cleaning be far behind? The annual reorganization of life always prompts requests for information for the care and storage of personal antiques, the family heirlooms you've held onto and cherished for years. You want them to pass to the next generation (assuming you're lucky enough to have a next generation that is interested) intact.

When I began this job as curator of our collection, I knew very little about the highly specialized field of conservation. I've learned a lot over the course of seven years; from books, from the internet, from Cal Poly professors and professionals. I still feel like a novice, but better than when I began.

Today, let me give you some help with your personal storage of **TEXTILES**.

WASH YOUR HANDS

The very best thing you can do to protect your treasures is to always wash your hands before handling them. Oils from skin, along with light and air, are the biggest enemies of fabric.

DON'T GET IT DRY CLEANED

No matter how dirty you think it is. The Smithsonian has enlarged microscopic slides of fabric in the 1st Ladies dress collection, showing what dry cleaned fabric looks like, magnified. It looks "dusty," filled with particles. Those particles will eventually wear at the threads of the weave and destroy it. It's quite amazing. Hand brushing will actually drive particles of dirt into the weave of the fabric. Careful vacuuming is the only recourse.

Some cottons can be washed, but that's a whole other article in itself.

DON'T PACK IT IN PLASTIC

We automatically think of dry cleaning bags as the perfect way to keep things clean, but what we don't think about is that fabric, textiles, have to breathe and plastic prevents that. Many plastics also give off gases as they age.

It's okay (if the shoulder seams are sturdy and the fabric strong enough) to hang a garment on a hanger, but make it a *wide* hanger, plastic or wood, and add some padding to ease the stress at the shoulder seam and protect the garment from a chemical reaction if you're using wood. We use old cut-up mattress pads (washed without fabric softener) to pad our hangers.

Avoid using safety pins or straight pins to hold the padding in position. They will inevitably rust over time (unless you happen to be a lepidopterist with archival butterfly pins). If the padding needs to be held in place, pull out a needle and thread and baste it. If the garment itself needs to be attached in some way, use a *contrasting color, white if possible, and use large, easily seen stitches. Don't knot anything when you sew.*

Then take an old clean (no fabric softener) sheet and cover your treasure. You can put it in a zippered garment bag that "breathes" or hang it as is, someplace with breathing room, not tightly packed.

DON'T PUT IT IN A CEDAR CHEST

Cedar chests are excellent places to store regularly-used woolen goods. Cedar gives off some lovely fumes that most bugs, and especially moths, don't like. But that's all they're good for. Those same fumes are harmful to most textiles, especially vintage ones that are already fragile. Get Aunt Millie's cotton lawn summer dress out of there!

BOXES

So what *do* you do with those things that are too fragile to hang? You pack them away, but you do it carefully. One of the most useful tools we have in our workroom is a pH testing pen, that allows us to make certain everything we use for packing is acid free. (My favorite, long-lasting one comes from *Light Impressions, see suppliers*). If we're using archival boxes from an archival supply house (I'll give you that list in a minute), it's not an issue, but those supplies are expensive and we frequently use smaller boxes from Office Max or Staples. Many of those boxes are acid free, but without our trusty testing pen, we can't be sure. If it doesn't "test out" to be acid free, we line our boxes with old sheeting.

Archival textile storage boxes are wonderful because they're *big*, and one of the things you're trying to do is minimize the number of folds in any textile. Don't keep folding a garment in the same way on the same lines every time you refold it. The threads weaken on the fold and will eventually (maybe not in your lifetime, but *eventually*) fray. When you do have to fold, use acid free tissue (or pieces of old sheeting) to cushion the fold.

ACID FREE TISSUE

Buffered or Unbuffered? Who knew there was a choice? Silk, wool or unknown, order unbuffered. Cotton, linen, jute will take buffered. Here's why. Buffered is actually the better paper for preservation, but the buffering agents can be harmful to other fabrics. They're too strong for silk. If you can only buy one, buy unbuffered to use for everything. Papers can be bought in packages of different sizes.

(Continued next page)

Saving Personal Treasures (continued)

ARCHIVAL SUPPLIERS

Here's the list. There aren't many. They know it. They charge accordingly. But if you want a pH testing pen, or acid free tissue or textile storage boxes, or *anything* to protect something, they are your only choice.

University Products - www.universityproducts.com 1-800-628-1912

Metal Edge (which has just merged with Hollinger Textile storage - www.metaledgeinc.com 1-800-862-2228

Gaylord - www.gaylord.com 1-800-962-9580

Light Impressions - www.lightimpressionsdirect.com 1-800-828-6216

I've ordered from each of them, depending on need. Their catalogs contain a wealth of interesting things.

And a final story today about Assistant Curator, **Joe Swigert**. He was at Heritage House on a recent Saturday, preparing to close up the museum, when a visitor asked about an antique quilt she had. Joe quizzed her on fabric and current storage and told her that a sheet would probably be better than unknown-content tissue paper.

She then asked about displaying it, and Joe explained that the first thing would be to sew a sleeve along the top length of the quilt to evenly distribute the weight. Then, with either a wooden dowel or a rod in place, hang it from something like café curtain holders, *to keep it away from the wall and allow air flow*. She said she would have never thought of that, thanked him and left. The docent on duty looked at Joe and said, "You really do know what you're talking about." Yes, he does, and gave our visitor perfect information for hanging a quilt.

More to come, but that should get you started....let me know if you have questions...710-1560 or jans194@aol.com

The Paulding Museum will begin its "face lift" some time in early May. Does anyone have old sheets we could use as dustcovers?

They would be gratefully accepted any time before May 1st at Ruby's House.

—Jeanne Frederick

Are You Interested in Japanese Gardening?

A recent grant* has given our Society the opportunity to learn about this historic art form starting April 18th.

If you are interested, please call: **Craig Rock**, SCHS Resource Center Director at 805-801-0679.

*Made possible by a grant from the Alliance for California Traditional Arts.

Volunteer Hours for the month of February, 2009

Total Volunteer Hours	1,475
Docent Hours	120
Antique Show Hours	576

(Docent hours are included in total hours for the month.)

—Paulette McCann



More than 150 people attended the IOOF Hall exhibit opening "Dunites of Oceano" on March 22. Forty SCHS members avoided the crowd by attending the "Members Only" Champagne Preview Opening the night before with Norm Hammond speaking at both events.

The next "Members Only" Champagne Preview night is May 15th at 6:30 PM.

The next exhibit opening is at 2PM May 16th. It covers the fascinating history of the Halcyon Community and the Temple of the People with guest speaker, Eleanor Shumway.



1999..022.002.762 SCHS Archives

Ruth Paulding Estate

—Received as a Bequest. c. 1909

The postcard has a raised portion on the mailer side that when pressed, you'll hear a little peeping noise. Still works!

**SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY BAND TO PERFORM ITS ANNUAL SPRING CONCERT
IN ARROYO GRANDE ON APRIL 19TH**


The San Luis Obispo County Band will perform its annual spring concert on Sunday, April 19th, at the Arroyo Grande First United Methodist Church. The concert will begin at 3:00 pm at the facility at 275 N. Halcyon Road. There is no admission charge for the concert although a free-will donation will be taken at the door. Concert fans are welcome to participate in a special church fundraiser BBQ which will be offered earlier that afternoon. Gary Thompson will guest conduct. He currently also directs the Grande Ringers handbell choir at the Arroyo Grande First United Methodist Church as well as the bell choir, choir and band at Valley View Adventist Academy. Gary is a well known local musician and educator who recently retired from duties as the Director for the Allan Hancock College Concert Band.

The program theme is "135 Years of Music", commemorating the Band's 135th Anniversary year. After its traditional opening with the Star-Spangled Banner the band will delight the audience with a wide variety of inspirational concert band music. Several medleys will be featured including the music from "Oliver" and groupings of pieces by John Williams and Lerner & Loewe. Folk and jazz selections will also be performed.

A benefit BBQ for the Arroyo Grande United Methodist Children's Center will be served at the church that afternoon from 11:30 until 2:30. Music fans are asked to call 481-2223 to reserve or purchase BBQ tickets which range from \$6 and \$10. More BBQ information is also available at www.worshipweekly.com. Also, the church is 125 years old this year!

For more concert information call 543-5691 or see the Band's website: www.slocountyband.org. The Band is supported in part by a grant from the City of San Luis Obispo Promotional Coordinating Fund.



 CHAPTER TEN

Peg Makes Progress

COMET ENGINES, LTD. did not ship to Peg that “best of all two-cylinder marine engines for business and pleasure.” The sales manager instead wrote a letter. In this letter was a regretful request for a statement of their prospective customer’s bank rating. Peg, of course, did not comply. He had been inside of a bank but once or twice in his life. And, as Blackie remarked, “Peg’s bank credit don’t stand on no elephant’s legs.”

Nevertheless, Peg was very proud of the sales manager’s letter. He showed it to everyone in the dunes; he felt that in some way it was a rare compliment to be asked for a credit rating. Power for the *Adenoid* seemed as distant as ever.

But if Peg’s affair of the engine seemed to make slow progress, the same could not be said for his affair of the heart. He was in the General Merchandise Store and Post Office in Oceano. The Postmaster and storekeeper, Dave Becker, had just wrapped up for him a package containing three fish hooks, a plug of Star tobacco, and a pound of Tillamook cheese.

“Peg,” he asked, “you know anybody round here by name of Captain Pegasus Smith? I got a letter for him.”

Peg’s heart skipped a beat. Captain Pegasus Smith! Could it be? Yes, it must be! It must be from one of those ladies, the Friendship Club clients.

The fisherman glanced over his shoulder to see who might be within hearing distance. “It’s likely for me,” he replied. “Some of my folks back east writes me that way.”

“I see it’s from Kansas,” remarked the Postmaster, examining

Daily Life of a Dunite 1934

IT'S LIKE THIS TOO

BY Charlotte Arthur

From *Dune Forum* late 1933. Charlotte Arthur was the wife of Gavin Arthur, Editor.

The Dunes of Oceano are distinctly original. So are the Dunites, a title as solidly descriptive of dwellers in these sands as New Yorkers is of the inhabitants of New York. Although it requires time for an alien to become a true New Yorker, the Dunite seems to emerge almost overnight. Mysteriously, one is seized with a desire to drop all standard conformities and be utterly natural. This can, of course, lead almost anywhere. But it is like an infection, and it is difficult to avoid. The newcomer is at first bewildered by the rapidity of his symptoms. He gives way to them fearfully at first, then with assurance, finally with a mad and joyous abandon.

Glancing down the line at the Community dining table, he sees here a shaven head, there a defiant and untrimmed beard. Yon is a loin cloth, and yonder a figure garbed for whaling in a heavy sea. He sees soup noiselessly consumed. He hears it swooped. He listens to opinions uttered in cultured accents, and opinions couched in fancifully acrobatic grammar. These little externals seem to trouble no one else, so why should he be upset? He joins in the conversation. In the intoxication of the moment, he is likely to make a complete ass of himself. But what of it? He is comfortingly surrounded by other asses, most of whom scarcely look like human beings as they are recognized in cities. He goes to bed, relaxed, with a conviction that he has been a genius all these years without knowing it.

On waking in the morning, he may have a slight relapse. He is no genius. He is certain now that all he did on the previous night was to make a damned fool of himself. At breakfast, everyone appears very brisk and businesslike. This adds to the newcomer's growing conviction that nobody had been crazy the night before except himself.

After the meal, he goes outside and stands around alone, gazing at the Dunes and wishing that things were sometimes as they seem. A neighbor from the fifth dune north is approaching. The newcomer eyes him with deliberate cynicism because last night he had seemed such an astonishing character. The brown and bearded Dunite waves a hand and enters The Community House. A few minutes later, he emerges with a pair of large pruning shears.

"How's everything?"

"Okeh", lies the newcomer, "going to do a bit of gardening?"

The Dunite snaps the pruning shears open and shut. "No", he says casually, "need these to build my house with. So long!"

He strides away. As the newcomer stares after him, his host appears. "Henry's building a willow hut against the winter", he volunteers. "I've got to go to the village to post an important



—Drawing by Elwood Decker

letter. Want to come along?"

"Sure. Do we walk?" "No. The car's on the beach. Fortunately I forgot to take it back yesterday. It's four miles to the post office and the mail goes at three." He dodges back into the house, returns in a moment to say, "Somehow, I forgot to write that letter. It won't take me ten minutes."

The newcomer sits down on the steps, feeling better. In half an hour his host comes out. "Okeh, the tide will be fine for driving now. At its lowest ebb."

They start off over the Dunes toward the beach. The host halts suddenly half way there. "Say, I guess the keys to the car are in my other pants." They retrace their steps. Twenty-five minutes later, the keys are located under a bed. They start out again.

"We'll drop in on Shorty Haggerty this afternoon", the host says, "he lives four dunes south. Has a shack built up on poles." "Does the tide come up that far?" asks the newcomer. "Oh, no. But Shorty's lived so long in the jungle that he feels more at home in a house on stilts."

The newcomer's spirits soar some more. They arrive on the beach. The host looks in dismay at the tide which is at its highest point. "That's funny", he remarks. "According to the tide book, it ought to be low now. Say, what's the date?" "Twenty-first."

"That's what Bill told me. I don't understand how this can be. I sure looked at the page marked June twenty-first." The newcomer's face breaks into a broad grin as he realizes that now and again things *are* as they seem. "It's *July* twenty-first, you bum!"

"July twenty-first," repeats the host with only the slightest amazement. "Well, that would account for it, wouldn't it" Oh, well, the letter can wait until tomorrow."

The newcomer takes a bursting breath of salt air. You know, I'm crazy about this place!"

Dunite and Halcyon Exhibit Events — IOOF Hall, 128 Bridge Street, Arroyo Grande CA

Dunites, the Great Depression and the WPA (Works Progress Administration) a presentation by **Pete Kelley**. As the Great Depression comes to California in the early 1930s, people asked familiar questions about what went wrong with the economy and how the government was planning to fix it. Some Dunites join the polemics by publishing the *Dune Forum*. Luther Whiteman, author of the *Face of the Clam* (1947), weighs in with *Glory Roads*, a study of political and social groups (and cults) that swamped California in the 1930s. First hand accounts by Ken Schussman in his unpublished manuscript, "Memoirs and Musings of a Maverick" shed light on the politics of the Dunes. Come hear how specific government work projects helped support local and itinerant workers in South County. Event is held at South County Historical Society's IOOF Hall, 128 Bridge Street, Arroyo Grande. Suggested donation \$2.

May 16, 2 PM

New Exhibit on the Halcyon Community. Come hear Eleanor Shumway discuss a unique South County religious community, Temple of the People, established in the early 1900s in Halcyon. Eleanor's talk and rarely seen artifacts in the exhibit tell the story of this highly talented and deeply committed community whose members still live in Halcyon next to Arroyo Grande. Early musical instruments, pottery, photographs and tools used by the community, and medical instruments connected to the Halcyon Hotel and Sanitarium are featured in the exhibit which runs through December. Event is held at South County Historical Society's IOOF Hall, 128 Bridge Street, Arroyo Grande. The museum is open Fridays and Saturdays, 1 – 5 PM. Donation \$2.

July 11, Seating at 1 PM and 3:30 PM

Dunite Poetry and Paella Festival. This fundraiser for South County Historical Society's exhibit program will feature the Dunite poetry of Ella Young, John Varian, Hugo Seelig, Elwood Decker and other poets of the 1920s and 1930s. Poems read by San Luis Obispo Poet Laureates Kevin Patrick Sullivan, Dian Sousa and Jane Elsdon capture the Dunite vision where everything is alive and everything is connected. As an option, dinner guests are invited to bring and read one poem that captures the Dunite spirit. The clam and sausage paella dinner, prepared by retired chef **Pete Kelley**, will be served during two separate sit-downs at 1 PM and 3:30 PM at the IOOF Hall, 128 Bridge Street, Arroyo Grande. **Cost is \$20 per person. Reservations strongly recommended at 489-8282.**

August 1, 2 PM

This program focuses on the work of two fascinating writers and intellectuals connected to both the Halcyon and Dunite communities of the 1920s and 1930s, Ella Young and John Varian. Event to be held at the Hiawatha Lodge on Temple Street in Halcyon. Co-sponsored by the South County Historical Society and the Temple of the People. For more details check after June 1 at www.southcountyhistory.org or call 489-8282.

August 8, 2 PM

Join Professor Dan Krieger and author Ella Thorp Ellis as they discuss two major forces behind the Dunite movement of the 1930s, Gavin Arthur and Dunham Thorp. Gavin and Dunham wrote and edited the Dune Forum magazine which Gavin financed in 1934. The Dune Forum featured articles, art, and poems from leading intellectuals and artists of the day including Ansel Adams, John Varian, R. W. Schindler, John Cage and Leon Trotsky. (Dan Krieger, a Cal Poly history professor and writer, knew Gavin in the 1950s. Ella is the daughter of Dunham Thorp and met many of the Dunites as a young child. She lives in Berkeley and is currently writing about her experiences in Oceano.)

August 15, 2 PM

A program on Dunite and Halcyon art presented by Marty Fast, Hancock College instructor and Art Gallery Director. IOOF Hall, 128 Bridge Street, Arroyo Grande, Donation \$2. For more details check with the South County Historical Society after June 1 at 489-8282 or www.southcountyhistory.org

September 12, 2 PM

Join filmmaker Peter Brosnan as he presents film shorts on both his previous work on the early motion pictures filmed in the Guadalupe dunes, and his upcoming work, **The Lost City of Cecil B. DeMille**. The story of this new production began in 1983 when Peter and a group of friends found the remains of the "The City of the Pharaoh," the massive set from DeMille's 1923 silent film, **The Ten Commandments**. Most of the film set was buried in the Guadalupe dunes after filming was completed. In addition to the film clips, Peter's presentation will cover the archaeological excavation of the set and the oral histories taken with Guadalupe old timers who worked on the 1923 production. ■

PATTERNS OF THE PAST

Tidbits, Tribulations, and Tools for Survival
Column this month contributed by Berneda Cochran

Natural Easter Egg Dyes

Colored Easter Eggs Using Natural Dyes

By Anne Marie Helmenstine, Ph.D., at About.com

It's fun and easy to use foods and flowers to make your own natural Easter egg dyes. Try both fresh and frozen produce. Canned produce will produce much paler colors. Boiling the colors with vinegar will result in deeper colors. Some materials need to be boiled to impart their color. Some of the fruits, vegetables, and spices can be used cold. To use a cold material, cover the boiled eggs with water, add dyeing materials, a teaspoon or less of vinegar, and let the eggs remain in the refrigerator until the desired color is achieved. In most cases, the longer you leave Easter eggs in the dye, the more deeply colored they will become.

Here is the preferred method for using natural dyes:

Place the eggs in a single layer in a pan. Add water until the eggs are covered.

Add approximately one teaspoon of vinegar.

Add the natural dye. Use more dye material for more eggs or for a more intense color.

Bring water to a boil.

Reduce heat and simmer for 15 minutes.

If you are pleased with the color, remove the eggs from the liquid.

If you want more intensely colored eggs, temporarily remove the eggs from the liquid. Strain the dye through a coffee filter (unless you want speckled eggs). Cover the eggs with the filtered dye and let them remain in the refrigerator overnight.

Naturally-colored eggs will not be glossy, but if you want a shiny appearance you can rub a bit of cooking oil onto the eggs once they are dry.

Colors and Ingredients

Lavender-purple: grape juice, violet blossoms plus 2 tsp lemon juice, Red Zinger tea

Blue: canned blueberries, red cabbage leaves (boiled), purple grape juice

Green: spinach leaves (boiled), liquid chlorophyll

Greenish Yellow: yellow delicious apple peels (boiled)

Yellow: orange or lemon peels (boiled), carrot tops (boiled), celery seed (boiled), ground cumin (boiled), ground tumeric (boiled), chamomile tea, green tea

Golden Brown: dill seeds

Orange: yellow onion skins (boiled), cooked carrots, chili powder, paprika

Pink: beets, cranberries or juice, raspberries, red grape juice, juice from pickled beets.

Red: lots of red onions skins (boiled), canned cherries with juice, pomegranate juice, raspberries

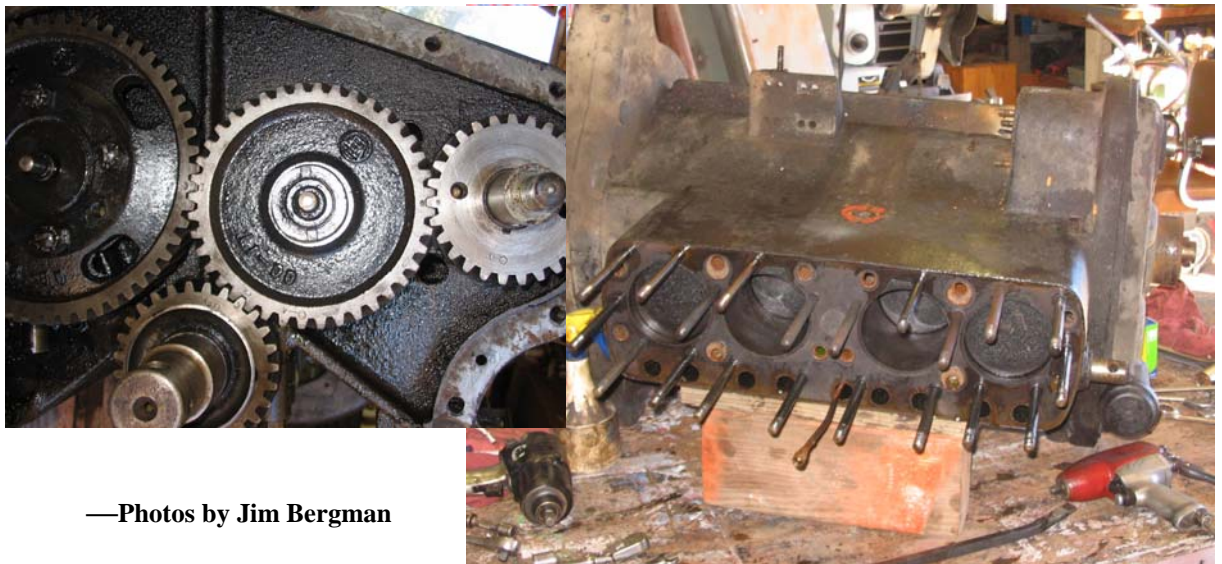


—www.humor matters.com

Fire Truck Restoration

If you would like to help, look for the Fireman's Boot in the Barn, or contact **Larry Turner,**

Cell: 441-4967



—Photos by Jim Bergman

2009 Basket Committee for SCHS Antique Show and Sale

Norma Burton	30 Hours Donated	Carolyn Huffine	5 Hours Donated
Barbara Vinson	25	Barbara Le Sage	5
Diane Eckelberger	10	Ethel Gilliland	5
Mary Ann Feller	8	Sandra Worsham	10
Margaret Haak	5	(Sandra also donated lots of baskets, wrapping material and ribbons and bows.	

Thank you for all your hard work and creativity!!

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.

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	\$15.00
Couple	\$30.00
Family w/children under 18	\$40.00
Patron-Business, Organization, Individual	\$200
Sustaining (Individual)	\$100.00
Life (Individual)	\$500.+

Corporate Memberships

Platinum... \$5,000. Gold....2,500. Silver.....\$1,000.



Last Call! Membership Renewals are 90 Days Overdue



Check your mailing label on the back page: if the date ends in 12/31/08 your membership has expired and you need to renew with a check. Fill out information blank below & mail with your check. Dates ending in ‘99 or ‘20 are Life Members.

MEMBERSHIP SOUTH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY 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 us at schs76@sbcglobal.net Attention: Bee Hodges in the “Subject Line”.

Notice to Members

The Hiawatha Lodge will not be available for the coming months for our Potluck Membership Meetings. We will keep you informed as we schedule other events.

*See Event Schedule page 2
for next "Members Only Champagne Preview"*

We welcome our New Members!

MaryBeth DeVillar, Alex Gough, Barbara Humes,
Shirle Osterman.

NOT PAID YOUR DUES YET?

THIS COULD BE YOUR LAST ISSUE!!

**MAJOR SUPPORTERS OF THE
SOUTH COUNTY HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**

LESLEY GERBER BENN
JOAN BUTCH
THE CABASSI FAMILY
CITY OF ARROYO GRANDE
DOC BURNSTEIN'S ICE CREAM LAB
PATRICIA & MORLEY FARQUAR
TOM GOSS
CHRISTINE HARVEY
CAROL HIZEY
GARY HOVING
VARD IKEDA
DOUG & BARBARA LESAGE
PATRICIA LOOMIS
HOWARD & AILEEN MANKINS
ELIZABETH MILLER
PAT PHELAN
SAUCELITO CANYON VINEYARD
SOUTH COUNTY REALTY
VILLAGE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION
SANDRA WORSHAM

**PO Box 633
Arroyo Grande
CA 93421**



Non-Profit Org
US Postage Paid
Arroyo Grande
CA 93421
PERMIT 15