

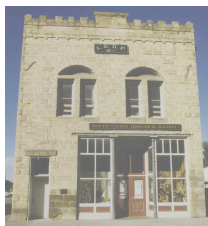


South County Historical Society

Heritage Press

Volume 17, No 3

APRIL 2013



HISTORIC IOOF HALL



SANTA MANUELA SCHOOLHOUSE



PAULDING HISTORY HOUSE



HERITAGE HOUSE



RUBY'S HOUSE



THE BARN

Editor's Note: Kirk's Korner will be empty this month, since he has been busy rehearsing for the starring role in The Spot's upcoming play "Tuesday's With Morrie", which starts March 29th.

(Visit www.thespotag.com for more info.)

The Spot is located in the Village at 116 W Branch St., next to Doc Burnsteins' Ice Cream Parlor..

**KIRK'S
KORNER**



SOUTH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2013



Top row from left

JOE SWIGERT, Property Manager

JAN SCOTT, Curator of Collections

DEBORAH MASON, Secretary

LINDA KIME, Docent Leader

GARY HOVING, Parliamentarian

Bottom row from left

STEVEN SINGER, Vice-President

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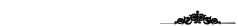
MIKE DREES, Treasurer

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MUSEUMS SCHEDULE

THE BARN
HERITAGE HOUSE
SANTA MANUELA SCHOOLHOUSE

are open
Saturdays
from 12 to 3 pm
Sundays
from 1 to 4 pm



PAULDING HISTORY HOUSE

is open
1st Saturday of the month
From 12 to 3 pm



RUBY'S HOUSE
(PAT LOOMIS HISTORY LIBRARY)

is open
Monday thru Friday
1 to 5 pm

Historical Research
by appointment



Group tours
of any or all
of the museums
may be scheduled
by calling
805.489.8282
or email
SCHS76@sbcglobal.net

2013 Board of Directors

Kirk Scott	President
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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Art in the Village (Arroyo Grande)
March 22 3:00 until 7:00 pm

SCHS Board of Directors Meeting
April 17 6:00 pm IOOF Hall

Spirit Night at McClintock's Saloon
 (% proceeds to SCHS)
April 24 6 pm to closing

Radiance from Halcyon - Paul Ivey
May 3 6 pm IOOF Hall

SCHS Board of Directors Meeting
May 15 6:00 pm IOOF Hall

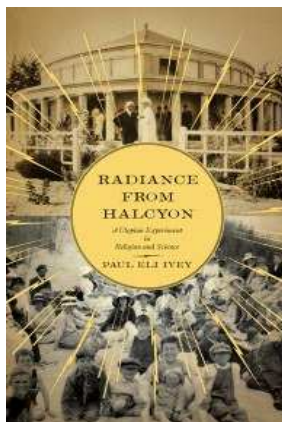
Strawberry Festival
May 25-26 in the Village

Summer Historic Theatre
Weekly beginning June 8

Summer Concerts in the Park
Bi-weekly beginning June 9

COMING SOON !

Author **Paul Ivey**
 Associate Professor Art History
 University of Arizona



Paul has been a frequent visitor to our area, having spent over 10 years researching and writing about the history of Halcyon.

He will share personal stories about his discovery of Halcyon and his association with it, and will read passages from his newly-released book, as he explains how the little-known utopian religious community of Halcyon—located on California's central coast in the early 1900s—profoundly influenced so many aspects of the modern world.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS !

FRIDAY - MAY 3 - IOOF HALL - 6PM

CURATOR OF COLLECTIONS

Jan Scott

Happy Spring!

Spring again! We still need the rain, but I have to admit the warmth has been feeling good. There's a lot coming up in the next months: the Docent Tea, Paul Ivey speaking about his new book on Halcyon, Summer Theatre with a new mini-exhibit at the IOOF Hall. There's info about some of these in this issue and more coming up.

Sewing Help?

That mini-exhibit involves clothesline and aprons and irons and kids clothes. Now that we have a wonderfully dedicated textiles conservator, **Eva Ulz**, we find we're learning more about protecting the collection so that it outlives all of us.

Eva needs some help. She is hand sewing twill tape to a couple of points on our aprons to protect the fabric from unnecessary pulling as it's hung on our 'clothesline'. It's simple overcasting, quick, just a few stitches for each piece, but it would go a lot faster with more fingers involved. **If you do hand sewing, consider coming in to help with this project. We can work around your schedule.**

Steaming Help

The other part of this is steaming, which we learn is less stressful to fabric than ironing. **Barbara LeSage** is our Steamer-in-Chief, assisting Eva, but we could use more hands, and more steamers if they're available? If you're not sure you know how to steam, consider coming in to *give it a try*. (They also serve who only stand and help stabilize the garment for others to steam.)

Call me at 710-1560, or stop by any Monday 10-1 or Thurs 10-1 and introduce yourself. *We sure could use the help.*



We are excited to announce the **Docent Appreciation Tea**, to be held on **Friday, April 19** at 2:00 at the IOOF Hall on Bridge Street.

If you are a current docent or interested in becoming a docent, please join us for a fun afternoon.

But please! We need you to reply by April 12th to be included.

Call Linda Kime at 489-1837

We are also beginning the process of organizing the third floor of the IOOF Hall into its original state as a game room for the IOOF Hall

Lodge. There's a pool table up there that was hauled up the outside of the building and in through the window and reassembled when the Hall was new. There are cue sticks and markers, poker tables and cards. Oh, those poker tables come complete with cans that held water to keep ants from crawling up the legs.

Our use of the upstairs is limited by the fact that it is not ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) compliant. We can't have any event up there that would be open to the public. But still...getting this room in shape would allow our stair-climbing members access to see the views from those windows. It would be a big improvement from the third floor's early use, when only members were allowed, no wives no kids. (The closest the kids came was when they stood on the ground outside and yelled up to Dad to home for dinner.)

I will admit to being more than a little distracted at the moment. Kirk is not only doing SCHS Presidential duties and serving on the City Charter Committee and the A.G. in Bloom Board, but he is also doing a show at The Spot, the new theatre at 116 W. Branch just to the left of Doc Bernstein's. He opens *Tuesdays with Morrie* on the 29th for 3 weekends. I know this isn't SCHS business, but I didn't want you to be able to say I neglected to tell you.

If this interests you call, 474-5711 or go to thespotag.tix.com for more info.



THEY CAME TO TENT CITY: A cool place in early Pismo

One spring day in 1885, a newspaper editor left his office in San Luis Obispo, rented a horse and buggy at Crawford Livery Stable and took the wagon trail to Pismo Beach.

Nowadays, the whirl of highway traffic and the many resort hotels along the bluffs above the beach prevent us from seeing in full measure what this 19th century newspaperman saw as he approached the beach settlement.

"For twenty miles the broad beach extends as level as the sea and as smooth as a floor washed by the ever coming and receding waves...the sand hardened by the beating of the water so the tracks of the horses and wagons scarcely leave an imprint."

For miles and miles, the editor witnessed tourists with their horses and buggies silently rolling along the long white stretch of beach scarcely "conscious of the movement, so enraptured with the spell of the experience."

Campers with covered wagons and strong horses or mules made campsites among the dunes and in the groves of trees above the beach. The editor had a fine lunch at the Pismo Hotel and sold an advertisement to the manager, M. Meherin.

Not long after the editor's visit, a man named P.C. Dolliver assumed management of the hotel. At the time, he announced his association with Messrs. A.E. Pomeroy and Charles W. Stinson, well known "managers and manipulators of the celebrated Long Beach property development near Wilmington." Dolliver and his associates planned to offer "villa" properties close to the beach. These coastal lots were soon laid out and sold for \$150 to \$500. Buyers paid one-third down, one-third after six months and the balance due at the end of one year. They named streets for themselves in the new subdivision.

But for people only wanting a pleasant vacation at the beach, tent city became available. People from the valley suffered intensely from high temperatures, and they had no cooling systems. They came to Pismo Beach in covered wagons and stayed for a month at a time.

A group of local entrepreneurs built platforms on the beach as flooring for 100 brightly striped tents. Women brought their sewing machines and fabrics to fill their days. Men fished and told tall tales while the children frolicked in the sand and water. In the late afternoon, people in their horse-drawn beach buggies were a common sight gliding along the sand next to the water.

The late Grant and Hazel Hansen operated a general store in Avila in 1910. When they had a free Sunday afternoon, they often rode their horse and buggy along Pismo Beach. During these years, the community also built a pavilion for dancing, entertainment, and holiday celebrations. There are still a few South County residents who remember the Saturday night dances at the pavilion during the 1930's.



The South County Historical Society has many publications for sale and/or research at the Patricia Loomis History Library on Mason Street in the Village. They may be purchased at our museums or on our website www.southcountyhistory.org. Here is a list of a few of them:

ACCORDING TO MADGE - A must-have reference book about the southern part of San Luis Obispo County.

IMAGES OF ARROYO GRANDE - an Arcadia publication written by Jean Hubbard and Gary Hoving.

ARROYO GRANDE CEMETERY - listings of burials.

BLANCO - by Wanda Snow Porter. A children's book of the Dana Adobe burros.

THE BLOND RANCHERO - the story of Juan Francisco Dana, nicknamed 'El Huero' as told to his grandson Rocky Dana.

THE DUNITES - by Norm Hammond, telling of the small group of people who chose to live in the Oceano Dunes in the early 1900's in their Utopian dream.

FACE OF THE CLAM - a collection of the periodical published by the Dunites in the early 1900's.

THE GALLANT LADY - a biography of Clara Edwards Paulding written by her daughter Ruth.

JOURNEY OF JUSTICE - by Gary Hoving. A history of the Sheriff's Department in San Luis Obispo county.

YESTERDAY - TODAY - TOMORROW, VOL 4 & 5 - a collection of anecdotes, photos, bits and pieces of genealogy, excerpts from diaries - written and collected by the Society's Folklore Committee.



In February, AG lost longtime farmer and community contributor **Kaz Ikeda**. It brings to light some of the contributions the Japanese community has brought to the local farming industry since the early 1900s..

Mr. Ikeda was born in King City in 1918. He moved to Arroyo Grande in 1929 where his family began to farm on leased property in Arroyo Grande and Oceano. He graduated from Arroyo Grande High School and went on to play baseball for two years at Cal Poly before returning to the farm.

Many of the hills in the Arroyo Grande area and much of the coastal hills between Avila Beach and Pismo Beach were farmed by Japanese families who planted bush peas each spring. Some of the farms extended to the very edge of the cliffs overlooking the Pacific Ocean. But, farm land was generally not owned by Japanese since at the time. In 1913, California enacted The Alien Land Law, prohibiting all U.S. aliens of Asian origin to own or lease any land.

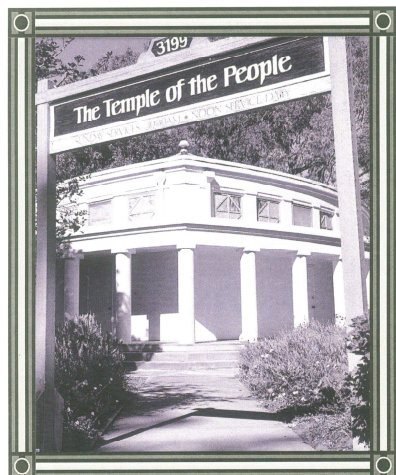
In 1922, the pea growers of the Pismo Beach area banded together to form the Pismo Pea Growers Association with George Fukunaga as its manager. This association provided growers with a centralized marketing capability. Soon after the formation in 1925, the growers in the Arroyo Grande area followed suit forming the Arroyo Grande Pea Growers Association.

Bob Fukunaga, a Hawaiian born and U.S. citizen, was George's younger brother. Bob was well educated and proficient in both Japanese and English. He proved instrumental for providing leased land for farming to the Japanese families.

During World War II, Japanese families, including Ikeda family members, were interned at Gila Relocation Center and other locations in Arizona. Through the generosity of the Loomis Family, the Ikeda's land was cared for until their return to the area after the War.

In 1952, the Alien Land Law was declared unconstitutional and cleared the path for land ownership. Soon, a nonprofit cooperative was established between the Avila Beach, Pismo Beach and Arroyo Grande farmers and was named the Pismo Oceano Vegetable Exchange (P.O.V.E.). Kaz Ikeda was a founding member and Bob Fukunaga was P.O.V.E.'s first manager. This cooperative expanded the geographical area of centralized marketing capabilities for growers. P.O.V.E. became a private corporation in 2001 and continues to provide growing and vegetable packing services to the farming community.

While many Japanese family members have made contributions to the community, we mention Kaz Ikeda with respect to his memory. The family still farms in Arroyo Grande and continues Mr. Ikeda's generosity of spirit in our local community.



The script by Jan Scott, for the Summer Theater production of **Voices from Halcyon**, is now available for purchase from the South County Historical Society.



PATTERNS OF THE PAST

From the Archives—By Berneda Cochran



Spring brings to mind the fields of flowers common to the Arroyo Grande Valley.

During the year 1905, Lionel D. Waller emigrated from England. By April 1906 he had secured a position with the Rawson Seed company. During this time, stories of Routzhan's progress found their way back to the East Coast and prompted Mr. Waller to move out west in 1908.

Mr. Waller was hired by the Routzhan Seed Company and was assigned to the care of the sweet pea ranch located in the Oso Flaco district.

After four years with the Routzhan Seed Company, Mr. Waller resigned the position to grow seeds on his own account. He teamed up with a medical doctor, Dr. Franklin, and Frank McCoy.

Mr. McCoy later dropped out of the partnership and was replaced by Paul Giacomini. After the end of World War I, Dr. Franklin quit his practice and went to work full-time as the company's plant breeder and head of production. The L. D. Waller Seed Company name was changed to Waller-Franklin Seed Company. They leased 35 acres in Guadalupe for \$10 an acre. It was the original site of the office and warehouse.

The business grew and by 1929 they were farming over 2,000 acres which stretched from Los Alamos to Cambria. It has never reached that pinnacle again owing to varietal changes (sweet peas are no longer the number one flower worldwide) and economic conditions.

In 1921, they bought the first piece of land in Arroyo Grande, the Gilliam 20 acres for \$750 per acre. This land was more than twice as productive as the Santa Maria land and the climate was warmer, enabling the company to enlarge its list of flower seed items to such as Asters,

Zinnias, Delphiniums, Carnations, etc. They then bought the Routzhan piece (the same year Routzhan stopped farming) of 45 acres across the road and then the Seely 20 acres adjoining it. This gave the company two units in Arroyo Grande right near the corner of Highway 1 and Valley Road.

Two items of particular interest to the Waller family relate to two flowers; a delphinium and a sweet pea. The Connecticut Yankee Delphinium was so named by the Waller-Franklin Company after working with Edward Steichen, a renowned photographer, as a tribute to Mark Twain who once lived in a town near Mr. Steichen and who wrote, "A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court".

The sweet pea, "Early Spencer Shirley Temple" was named after the child-actress in the early 1930's. Waller-Franklin received permission via a letter from Mrs. Temple to use Shirley's name. The letter is a memento in the family's possession.

The Routzhan Seed Company was established in 1903, and Routzhan became noted throughout the world as a seed man. The Routzhan Seed Company farmed land just east of Crown Hill, Oceano, Halcyon and the Oso Flaco area. The firm prospered until the floods of 1911 greatly damaged their crops and fields. The firm continued in business until about 1920 when Mr. Routzhan closed the doors.

This article, written by Christopher Waller, grandson of L. D. Waller, is excerpted from "*Yesterday Today Tomorrow*" Vol. 5-1981-89, a South County Historical Society publication.

Visit www.wanderingthewest.com/waller/wallerseed.html for more information.



and Avila. We always wished we could have taken the train back home, but had to ride back with my parents in a car. This is one of my fondest memories of the old Arroyo train.

Clara was a longtime member of the Society, growing up in the Huasna area, then

Chug along the narrow gauge way with Clara Madsen.

During the Easter vacation week in 1929, a girl friend and I had the wonderful experience of riding on the Pacific Coast Railway train to San Luis Obispo. We boarded the train in Arroyo Grande, with a sack lunch. All I can remember of our lunch was plenty of bananas. It was quite a long ride, as I recall, through the hills and into the Edna Valley; but we were surely a couple of excited girls, as this was a rare occasion for us. We were met in San Luis Obispo by my sister, Martha Urben, who took us to her home for the week. She lived on a dairy ranch between the town of San Luis Obispo



Meet your newest Board of Directors member - Vice-President Steven Singer:

Steven Singer has practiced law in California for over 34 years. He is now "semi-retired" as he'll never quit working as a consultant, negotiator and problem solver.

Steven decided to become an attorney in the 12th grade, driven by his early years watching "Perry Mason" and a dispute with his CAP professor, over the landmark Jackie Coogan case of 1936, resulting with Steven receiving an "A" in the class, an apology from the professor and leading the graduation. (If you ask him, he'll tell you the story). After graduating with a BA in History from Cal State Northridge and completing graduate classes in Education, Steven decided to "shift gears". He took a position at the prestigious Jay Bernstein Public Relations firm in Hollywood. There he worked in the early 70's as a Press Agent for numerous famous acts in promoting their careers, especially in the music end. It was a good education and he was honored to work with some big stars, especially the Jackson 5, attend the Emmy Awards in 1973, work the first New Year's Rockin Eve, be a part of Isaac Hayes' Shaft Academy Award campaign, the rise of the Motown Record Corporation and see the "behind the scenes" look at how Hollywood worked in those days.

Steven was then offered a position with an international game machine company, living in England and Spain for nearly two years, before coming back to the states to settle down and return to his unfinished goal of becoming an attorney. So, at the ripe old age of 25, he returned to law school and in 1978 earned his Juris Doctorate in Law, took the California Bar, hung his shingle in a corner office in Westwood, by UCLA, and started a long run with his own firm.

He was invited to serve as a Judge Pro Tem for the LA Courts in 1981 and 1982. After years of planning and "thinking" about it, he made the move to Pismo Beach in 1987 and opened his practice on Price Street soon thereafter. In the mid 90's, Steven was appointed by the U.S. Justice Department as a United States Chapter 7 Bankruptcy Trustee. At the same time, he lectured to college students, paralegal programs, and the community at large. He is a member of the State Bar of California, former member of the State Bar of Arizona, and licensed to practice in several Federal District Courts and the United States Supreme Court. Steven also speaks Spanish, one of the first attorneys to do so in South County.

In addition to being a 1992 Charter Member and serving on the Board of Directors of Footprint Chapter #73 for many years, Steven has served on the Board of Directors for both the Pismo Beach Chamber of Commerce, earning a Director of the Year in 1992, was involved with starting the Pismo Beach Business Improvement Group and more recently on the Board of the Clark Center Association for 5 years. He is also a past member of the Pismo Beach Kiwanis Club. He presently serves on the Board as Vice President for the South County Historical Society and continues to spend time working with several non-profits, whose main focus are on the children, seniors and homeless in San Luis Obispo County.

**Our 2013 Membership Directory will be
published this month. If you would like a copy, please call 805-489-8282**

Annual Membership Dues

Individual	\$ 20.00
Couple	\$ 35.00
Family w/children under 18	\$ 40.00
Sustaining (Individual)	\$100.00
Patron:	\$200.00

Business, Organization, Individual

Life (Individual or Couple) \$500.00

The Society is structured as a
non-profit organization 501(c)3
(Federal Tax ID 95-3539454)
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



2013 MEMBERSHIP — SOUTH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

☐ **CHANGES?**

☐ **NEW**

☐ **GIFT**

☐ **RENEWAL**

Please print legibly.

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.

* Starred information will be printed in the annual Membership Directory distributed to members unless you indicate otherwise here.
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.

PO Box 633
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NOTICE TO MEMBERS

Regular Board Meetings are held at 6:00 pm
on the third Wednesday of each month
(except June, July, December)
at the IOOF Hall on Bridge Street in Arroyo Grande
Board Meetings are open to Society members and the public.

Have a glorious Springtime!

