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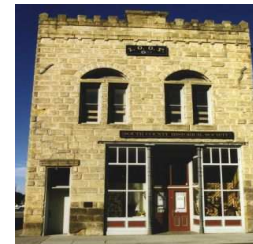
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South County Historical Society Heritage Press

Volume 22, No 4

OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 2017



HISTORIC IOOF HALL



SANTA MANUELA SCHOOLHOUSE



PAULDING HISTORY HOUSE



HERITAGE HOUSE



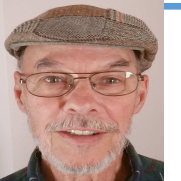
RUBY'S HOUSE



The BARN

President's Report

I would like to thank all SCHS members, representatives from the police department and our city council, who attended our School House rededication! Those in attendance received a real treat! **Sandy Arnold** and her sister, **Lisa**, designed an outstanding food presentation table!! The theme was objects from school, such as a book worm made out of grapes, black boards for each table, red chocolate apples, peanut butter and jelly sandwiches and on and on!! It was truly amazing! Help for the event was provided, as always beautifully, by **Joe Swigert, Linda Kime and Polly and Eric Nelson**. One of the highlights of the meeting was a talk given by Chad Robertson, our contractor for School House restoration. We send special thanks to Robertson Builders for providing our largest donation of over \$6,000!! Thank you to everyone for making this a wonderful, fun filled, event!



MEMBERSHIP MEETING &

ELECTION OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Don't forget to join us for the **ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING AND ELECTION** on **Saturday, November 18 at 2PM** at the IOOF Hall! Lunch of pizza, salad, soft drinks and beer (if you're so inclined). Just **remember to let Joe know you're coming 489-8282**, or he won't have food for you. Or beer!

We have a special program for the meeting! Our favorite historian, **Jim Gregory** will speak on his new book, **SLO County Outlaws: Desperados, Vigilantes & Bootleggers**. Don't miss it.

Mike Drees

Please volunteer and become involved!

Nominating Committee presents slate of Nominees for the 2018 Board of Directors

President	Mike Drees
V.P, Ways and Means	Paul Provence
Treasurer	Gail Maggio
Secretary	Polly Nelson
Membership Chairman	Nan Fowler
Public Information Officer.....	Vivian Krug
Curator of Collections	Jan Scott
Docent Leader	Linda Kime
Property Manager.....	Joe Swigert
Information Systems.....	Jeff Kime
Parliamentarian	Eric Nelson
Corresponding Secretary... (appointed)	Colleen Drees

Respectfully submitted:

Larry Turner, Linda Kime, Jeff Kime, Joe Swigert and Colleen Drees



Annual Membership Meeting And Board Election

Saturday, November 18 2 pm

At the IOOF Hall on Bridge Street
in the Village

Pizza-Salad-Soft Drinks-Beer
Please RSVP to Joe 805.489.8282

Special Program

Local historian & author, Jim Gregory will
present his new book

*San Luis Obispo County Outlaws:
Desperado, Vigilantes & Bootleggers*

Annual Rummage Sale

Sat-Nov 4: 8-2 pm

Sun-Nov 5: 11-1 pm

Drop off

Your tax-deductible

donations every Monday in Oct and

Sat-Oct 21 11-1

Or call 489-8282

For appointment.

(see page 4 for acceptable items).

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MUSEUMS SCHEDULES

THE BARN
HERITAGE HOUSE
SANTA MANUELA SCHOOLHOUSE

Saturdays from 12n to 3 pm
 Sundays from 1pm to 3 pm

PAULDING HISTORY HOUSE

Is open:
 1st Saturday of the month
 From 1pm to 3 pm

RUBY'S HOUSE
 (Pat Loomis History Library)

Monday thru Friday
 From 1 pm to 5 pm
 (closed Holidays)

Group tours of any or all of the museums may be scheduled
 By calling 805.489.8282

2017 Board of Directors

Michael Drees	President
Paul Provence	Vice-President
Norman Baxter	Treasurer
Polly Nelson	Secretary
Jan Scott	Curator of Collections
	Membership
Vivian Krug	Public Information
Linda Kime	Docent Leader
Joe Swigert	Property Manager
Jeff Kime	Information Systems
Eric Nelson	Parliamentarian

Get Well Wishes to

Bernice Flood

Kathleen Sullivan

Lynn Titus

EVENTS SCHEDULE

Annual Rummage Sale
 November 4-5

SCHS Board of Directors Meetings
 November 15

SCHS General Membership Election of Board of Directors
 November 18

Annual Christmas Parade
 November 26

Elegant Evening in the Village
SCHS Christmas Party
 December 3

THE 2017 EDITION OF THE MEMBERSHIP BOOK

Is available at Ruby's House for any member

Museum Phone Numbers:

Pat Loomis History Library
"Ruby's House"
 805.489.8282

IOOF History Hall
 805.489.8114

Santa Manuela Schoolhouse
The Barn
 805.489.8745

Heritage House
 805.481.4126

Paulding History House
 805.473.3231

Email:
 info@SouthCountyHistory.org

Visit our website
 www.SouthCountyHistory.org

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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
 May be paid in 12 monthly installments.

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

2017 MEMBERSHIP — SOUTH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

CHANGES? NEW GIFT RENEWAL

Please print legibly.
 Name (s) * _____

Address * _____

Home Tel: * _____ Cell Tel: * _____

Email: * _____

Type of Membership _____ Amount Enlosed \$ _____ 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.

We had a great turnout for the Spelling Bee at the Harvest Festival. We had a total of 23 students participating. Thanks to a generous donation by Doc Burnstein's we had enough gift cards for every participant as well as prizes for first and second place. The winners are:

Third & Fourth Grades: First Place - Shane Moncriet - 4th Grade - Ocean View Elementary

Second Place - Connor Smith - 3rd Grade - Branch Elementary

Fifth & Sixth Grades: First Place - Delilah Bonneau - 5th Grade - Santa Barbara Charter School

Second Place - Zoey Shurgil - 6th Grade - Ocean View Elementary

Seventh & Eighth Grades: First Place - Mia Renteria - 7th Grade - Mesa Middle School

Second Place - Carlos Leiva - 7th Grade - Paulding Middle School

Thanks to those that helped me during the Spelling Bee. **Karin Groteluschen** sat at a table outside the schoolhouse and registered kids. **Rosemarie Janowicz** helped hand out prizes and ribbons inside the schoolhouse. We were entertained before and after each Spelling Bee by **BanjerDan**, who is a colorful and talented banjo player. Please drop by the museums sometime, we have a lot of local history to share!

Linda Kime, Docent Leader



The Schoolhouse Rededication was catered by an amazing trio of very imaginative ladies: **Sandy Arnold**, her sister **Lisa Valdez** and **Garin Sinclair** .. So unique and extra special.. Thank you for a spectacular..unique and delicious spread!



THE ANNUAL SALE at IOOF

Saturday, November 4th (8-2) & Sunday, November 5th (10-1)

This is *YOUR* sale, your chance to help SCHS keep our museums open and our programs alive.

Clear out that unwanted stuff. (You'll feel better.) Bring it all to the Hall and get a receipt for your taxes.

DROP OFF: MONDAYS: Oct. 9, 16, 23, 30 from 10—12:30

SATURDAY: Oct 21st from 11-1

or call 489-8282 to make an appointment

WHAT WE WANT:

- ◆ **QUALITY GOODS** of any kind
- ◆ **VINTAGE ITEMS**
- ◆ **COLLECTIBLES**
- ◆ **BOOKS !!** (no magazines or encyclopedias)
- ◆ **FURNITURE** in good/decent condition
- ◆ **KIDS & INFANTS** - clothing & everything EXCEPT car seats
- ◆ **TOYS - GAMES - PUZZLES - DVD's - CD's**
- ◆ **DECOR - HOUSEWARES - LINEN - CHINA - TABLEWEAR**
- ◆ **JEWELRY !!**
- ◆ **SPORTING GOODS & CAMPING GEAR**
- ◆ **SMALL WORKING APPLICANCES** (please **MARK** as working)
- ◆ **POTS - GARDEN SUPPLIES**
- ◆ **CRAFT & ART SUPPLIES**
- ◆ **One-of-a-kind ITEMS**
- ◆ **USABLE or COLLECTIBLE TOOLS**
- ◆ **CLOTHING - ONLY JACKETS/SWEATERS/or SOMETHING very SPECIAL.**

WHAT WE DON'T WANT:

- ◆ **No UNDERWEAR, OLD SHOES, PANTS, BLOUSES, SOCKS, T-SHIRTS**
- ◆ **No COFFEE MAKERS**
- ◆ **No COMPUTERS/MONITORS/PRINTERS/or peripherals unless new.**
- ◆ **No COMPUTER BOOKS**
- ◆ **No SINKS, TOILETS, PLUMBING PARTS in general...**
- ◆ **No CEILING FANS**
- ◆ **No MINI-BLINDS, VENETIAN BLINDS or shades**
- ◆ **No PROPANE tanks or TIRES**
- ◆ **No OLD PAINT, MATTRESSES, BED PILLOWS**
- ◆ **NOTHING THAT IS BROKEN OR LOOKS LIKE IT IS.**
- ◆ **NO HAZARDOUS WASTE** (including anything controlled by a microchip)
- ◆ **NO GOLF CLUBS!**

In the "iffy" category:

- ⇒ **Toaster Ovens**-Is it stained or still good? Why are *you* tossing it?
- ⇒ **Toasters** - even more iffy.
- ⇒ **Irons**, unless perfect

CLAMS (Continued from page 8)

"The law, as it stands, owing to persistent commercial digging, places the gathering of legal-size clams beyond the reach of the average citizen, as the diggers have so thoroughly cleaned up the beach that one has to risk his life to procure them."

The petitioners went on to ask that the size limit of 13 inches be taken off or reduced, and that the limit be cut down to 100. They also asked that export and sales be banned.

Assemblymen Rigdon and Campbell, who represented the Coast, were on the Fish and Game committee. Already under consideration was the suggestion that the number of clams be limited to 75 and the size reduced to 12 inches.

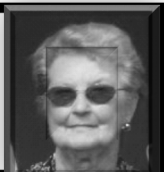
Commercial clamming was over. In a few years, areas of the beach would be closed to let the clams have a chance to come back. In 1949, during a minus tide, one of these sections was opened up. Thousands of clams were taken in a four-mile stretch. It was estimated that 25,000 cars, each with an average of four clambers, streamed into the area for the first three-day weekend.

Almost everyone took the legal limit of 10 giant Pismo clams measuring five inches or more across, it was reported. At an average weight of a pound and a half each, this meant that around 750 tons of the bivalves were taken by sports fishermen.

By Jean Hubbard From the SCHS archives 2004.018.007

DICK BLANKENBURG AND SON HAVE A COLLECTION OF THE BADGES FOR EVERY YEAR OF THE HARVEST FESTIVAL—80 YEARS WORTH@





Clams ruled the lives of Indians and early Pismo Beach.

PISMO BEACH — Clams were an important part of Pismo Beach, even to the Indians. Middens yield quantities of clam shells. Fossil beds in the canyons have fossilized shells into sandstone.

Diaries kept by the rancheros mention going to the beach for clams, although other food stuff was so plentiful they were not dependent on seafood. The early pioneers to the area were fond of the clam and also used them for chicken and pig food.

Advertising for the old El Pizmo Hotel mentioned the "large, luscious, juicy clams, in such numbers and so easy to get that there is no excuse for your not getting your fill. At no expense and little exertion they could be dug out of the clean white sand."

In March 1890, the local paper noted that "clams are getting to be regular article of export to San Francisco from this place."

Since there was no limit, two wheel carts were often seen on the beach and in town heaped with clams for sale.

In 1902, E.J. Bowers, newly arrived from Long Beach, opened a clam-canning plant. Pismo was a small town then, only Oakes saloon and a few others buildings occupied downtown. That part of town north of Hines Street was fenced for a cow pasture.



"My clam-canning plant was known as the 'Sunset Packing Co.' and we shipped canned minced clams to all parts of the country until the clam laws became so strict that the business ceased to be profitable and I had to close the plant," stated Bowers. This was in 1915, the plant was operated about 13 years.

"Some of the canneries used a road scraper to harvest the clams," the late Gaylord Jones remembered, "removing every other prong or disk." An employee of the packing company followed along behind as the clams, were plowed up and threw the legal size ones into a cart.

In 1904, the Pismo Packing Company sent the Board of Trade in San Luis a monstrous clam which measured 19½ inches in circumference and weighed five pounds. While this was unusual, large clams were the rule in that day.

Bowers employed people to dig clams for Sunset Packing. They would sack the clams and, from there, they

were hauled to the cannery by four horse teams. Bowers remembered old timers Jans Skow and Jim Scott working for him.

"Reaching the cannery," continued, Bowers, "the sacks of clams were dumped into big vats of hot water which had a capacity of 60 sacks of clams at one operation. This steaming process opened the shells so that they could be easily cleaned. About six or eight girls were employed to open the clams and clean them. The stomach of the clam was the only part not used for canning.

The clam meat was then placed in tubs of hot water and thoroughly cleaned of sand and any foreign matter. The little breathing tubes, called the siphons of the clams, were opened that not a grain of grit or sand would remain. After this cleansing process, they were transferred to the grinding machines in preparation for canning.

After the cans were thoroughly sterilized and filled with the meat, they were put in a capping machine which hermetically sealed the lid over the can in one operation. The labels were then placed upon the cans bearing the legend, "Pismo Beach minced clam, Sunset Packing Co., El Pizmo, California."

"On days when we had a good run we could turn our two or three thousand cans of clams ready for market. Sometimes we shipped the clams by water and sometimes by rail. Those that went by rail were hauled to Oceano and shipped from there. Those going by water were hauled to Miles Station near the present Ontario Hot Spring and shipped to the boats calling at Port Harford, as Port San Luis was then called, via the Pacific Coast narrow gauge. The old pier at Pismo was in ruinous condition at that time and could not be used," he said.

When the canning plant was going full blast, there would be clamshells piled to the roof of the building in back. Never one to waste anything, Bowers kept chickens and fed them the ground-up shell and the portions of the clams that were discarded. High picturesque, latticed, whitewashed fences surrounded the chicken yards on each side of the cannery.

By 1915, the local people organized to stop this rape of the beach. In January, the Herald-Recorder re-ported "a number of gentlemen headed by John Cattoir met in Attorney Emmert's office Thursday to formulate a petition to the legislature to have the clause in the fish and game laws relating to clams amended to that they will in some measure prove a protection to the clams and at the same time give the mass of the people an opportunity to gather clams in reasonable safety and comfort.

(Continued on page 9)

Ways & Means Report Paul Provence



Hot diggity-dogs! The Village Summer Concert Series WAS a big success with great bands playing and hungry attendees buying up our hot dogs, ice cream popcorn and sodas. **Marty Musselman** coordinated our volunteers to run the concessions. And MANY thanks to the volunteers who cheerfully gave **575 hours** of their time throughout the summer. The Society netted about \$7,700 from food/drink sales.

The 2018 Antique show (February 10th & 11th) is in the planning stages. We have formed a committee to prep for the show. I contacted those key people in the past who have helped coordinate. **Larry and Judy Turner** are currently working on dealer participation and marketing event.

I've put some effort into performing a more detailed inventory of our South County newspaper collection. Our recent efforts to relocate our historical collection from the "meatlocker" to the IOOF Hall. The California Newspaper Preservation project completed a query of microfilmed newspaper

editions for our South County collection. That resulted in a pretty complete collection after 1941. Prior to 1941, their collection is spotty. I inventoried our bound book collection and it's complete back to 1926. Research will continue for newspapers prior to 1926 as they are in boxes and other forms. FYI, digitization of the microfilm could be done by Ancestry.com for minimal costs (about \$0.06 per page). I plan to develop an estimate for what it might cost, then pursue somebody who can effectively research/write/obtain grants.

The Ruby House and Heritage House porches are in bad shape. **Fred Wilson, Eric Nelson** and I have all evaluated what repairs are needed. We will wait for wedding season to subside, then perform a more detailed inspection. Fred thinks the Heritage House deck can be repaired and last for a few more years. Ruby's House needs more work and we're unsure what extent of repairs/replacement at this time.

Chuck Fellows has contacted me and asked for input and help on moving

the water tank structure currently located in fenced in property on Grand Ave. We still have to get some support from Arroyo Grande City officials, make determinations of how and where to move it and most of all, find some funding to preserve this part of our local history.

I'd like to add my thanks to a few organizations and people who have helped the Historical Society in recent weeks. **Meathead Movers**...for meeting our schedule and commitments to relocate from the Meat Locker to the IOOF Hall. They're a top notch company and I'm glad they serve in our community. **The Five Cities Mens' Club** members who stepped up to move boxes from the first to second floor of the IOOF Hall via a "chain gang" operation. Next is **Rich Lasiewski** who cheerfully grilled hot dogs throughout the summer concerts. He kept the ol'grill running to its final days. Finally, **Jan Scott** for coordinating the members to assist with the move. The dudes at Meathead were fast and efficient both times thanks to Jan's crew organization.



Meat locker
Racks of newspaper in boxes and bound volumes as well as artifacts



Meat locker
Empty—after 18 years of occupation—formerly Museum offices, then storage.

EXODUS FROM THE MEATLOCKER

This has been quite a month. We made many trips between the Meatlocker and the IOOF Hall with the lighter weight boxes, transferring everything we could easily lift. We = **Paul Provence, Joe Swigert, Susi Edington, Barbara Main, Janet Baxter.**

Monday, September 18th, **Meathead Movers** joined us, taking the heavyweight boxes including the Times Press Recorder morgue (bound books of a hundred years of our local newspapers) which consists of over 200 volumes..

The shelving units were installed in their new home on the second floor, and we began the next stage, reorganizing everything to facilitate the move upstairs at the Hall.

On Monday, September 25th, **The Five Cities Men's Club** turned out in force to join us, forming a line up the stairs, passing all the boxes we could manage.

By the time you read this, everything will be in place, after Meathead comes back for the last and heaviest boxes.

Kirk Scott always envisioned the upstairs as a place with tables and computers and research possibilities. With the TPR ensconced, it seems he's finally getting his wish. The room looks like a classy research library.

ANNUAL SALE

This week begins a time when we will play catchup with preparation for our Annual Sale. Usually by now, the crew is in place, but there hasn't been any time to do that. If you've worked on the sale before, you'll be getting an invite to help again, soon. If you haven't played with us before but think it might be a good, fun place to jump in, drop a note to me at jans194@aol.com and I'll keep you posted on work days and times. (No commitment necessary.)

Once we get the Hall set up, we'll begin processing everything that has already come in during the year, and everything that comes in this month.

SUPPORT OUR SUPPORT

Historic Summer Theatre was chosen as a "Featured Non-Profit" for a Village Summer Concert. Our thanks to Curtis Reinhart/VIA.

It's a wonderful honor, but a big job to gather items for a raffle. President **Mike Drees** did a lot of initial contact before he left town. **Jeff & Linda Kime** took over and did a thorough job of making new friends and keeping meticulous records (a spreadsheet actually!) about our generous donors.

We made \$900 on our raffle sale! A thank you our salespeople: **Patti Cole, Alice Addison, Shelley Cochran, Berneda Cochran and Jan Scott.**

If you can, **please patronize** these businesses. They were there for us; we need to be there for them. Here they are, in random order:

- House of Another Thyme B&B**
- Claiborne & Churchill Wine**
- Trader Joe's**
- Branch St Deli**
- AG Meat Co.**
- Doc Burnstein's**
- Bishop's Peak Wine**
- Quarterdeck Restaurant**
- Saucelito Canyon Wine**
- Gina's Restaurant**
- Talley Wine**
- Starbucks**
- OSH**

Give them a thank you from us!