



SOUTH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Heritage Press

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President's Report

—Gary L. Hoving

The level of energy exerted by the membership and our Board of Directors is one of amazement and a source of pride. The amount of work generated by our volunteers is staggering and the resulting benefit to the society and community is remarkable. For that, I offer my heartfelt thanks.

One example of a volunteer effort was in the annual rummage sale held at the IOOF Historic Hall. The event was held on February 27, 2010 in the IOOF Historic Hall and netted a whopping \$1600. Under the supervision of **Jan Scott** and **Norma Burton**, the event took 10 days to prepare and 152 volunteer hours. The long list of workers includes **Janet Baxter, Sam Burton, Berneda Cochran, MaryAnn Feller, Jeanne Frederick, Crystal Hoving, Caroline Huffine, Edie Juck, Linda Kime, Kirk Scott, Barbara LeSage, Doug LeSage, Bea Salem, Joe Swigert** and **Lynn Titus**.

A special thank you to the **Howard & Aileen Mankins Foundation** for their generous gift of over \$3000 to help enable us to continue our participation in the AmeriCorps program. If my numbers are correct, that program had a zero net cost to the society based on membership donating our portion of the project. Thanks to all for making that possible. Also, we appreciate the extra workload taken on by **Jane Line** to coordinate and supervise this multi-year program.

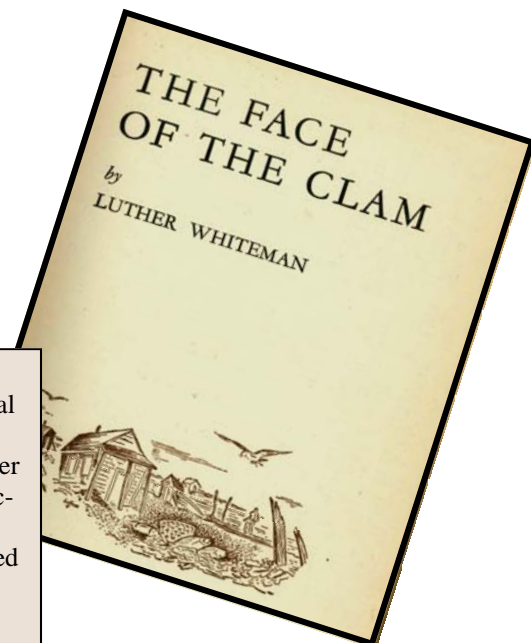
The Paulding History House is nearing completion of the foundation rebuild. If you haven't seen it recently, please drive by to look at the new paint. It is a beautiful building that will surely now endure another one hundred years of service. We have just entered into a contract with **Joe Swigert** to resume his role as caretaker for the Paulding House reoccupying the upstairs effective May 1, 2010.

A new activity for the membership and their guests has been developed. A tour of the Gene Autry Museum of Western Heritage has been arranged for June 23, 2010. This one day trip will include transportation and admission in a modern state-of-the art touring bus. Advance reservations are required so please make checks payable to the SCHS for \$80 per each person in your party or call me at 929-3106. Seating is limited to 56 and sorry, but this bus is not equipped with a handicap lift. Additional details will follow: our tentative schedule is to leave Arroyo Grande K-Mart parking lot by 8 am, and return by 7 pm. Please join us for a fun and educational day.

Strawberry Festival is just around the corner scheduled for May 29-30, 2010. Historical Society books will be available at a table to be set up in the alcove of the (meat locker) off-site storage facility on Branch Street. This location is right in the middle of the activity, and we are hopeful that the huge foot traffic will help generate funds through the sale of our books. **Paulette McCann, Jean Hubbard** and myself will staff the table so please come by to say hello while you are enjoying the festival. Additional assistance is always welcome, so please call **Paulette McCann**, 489-8282 if you are available to help.

The Face of the Clam reprinting is going forward with a special Collector's Edition also available which will be produced in a very limited quantity. This can be purchased as an advance order for \$35.00 plus tax of \$3.06. A reservation order for this collector's edition can be placed with **Paulette McCann**, 489-8282, with an advance payment. Check payable to SCHS can be mailed to:

**South County Historical Society
PO Box 633
Arroyo Grande CA 93421**



CALENDAR of ACTIVITIES

~Heritage Square Museums~

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 Renovations)

April 30

Shell Beach Elementary Tour
11:00 am

May 8

School Docents Meeting
3:30 PM IOOF Hall

May 15

2:00 PM IOOF Hall
"Life & Times in Guadalupe"
Presentation & Talk by
Joe & Margie Talaugon
Admission \$2.00

Sunday, May 16 2PM
SCHS Fund Raiser

Sit-down Dinner & Entertainment
Cal Poly Filipino
Cultural Exchange Choir
Chicken Adobo, Lumpia, Pancit & Wine
\$20 per person including drink
Seating Limited

Call for Reservations: 489-8282
4 PM Free Event
Cal Poly Filipino Dance Program
Heritage House Lawn

May 29 & 30

Strawberry Festival

June 23, 2010

Bus Tour to Gene Autry Museum

One Day trip 8 AM - 7 PM
\$80. per person, incl. Lunch & Admission.
Park & Pick Up at K-Mart Parking Lot

(See Flyer Enclosed for details.)

Bee Hodges, Editor

Editorial Committee:
Berneda Cochran, Bee Hodges, Gary
Hoving, Jane Line, Craig Rock.

SLO COUNTY BAND CONCERTS

The San Luis Obispo County Band performed its Annual Spring concert on April 11 at the First United Methodist Church in Arroyo Grande under the direction of its conductor, Leonard Lutz. The Band is 136 years old, and the Methodist Church is now 126 years old, so that performance was an historic occasion for both.

The Band traces its origins back to the "SLO Military Band" founded in 1874, perhaps a local outgrowth of the popularity of brass bands created during the Civil War. During its 135 years, the Band was affiliated with the Elks Club early in the 1920's, with the American Legion in the 1930's, and in the 1940's and 50's donned military khaki as the Veterans of Foreign Wars Band. With the advent of Cuesta College in the 1960's, the Band was offered as a Cuesta College class for several years and is now a part of the educational offerings of the SLO Adult School. The Band is partially supported by a grant from the City of San Luis Obispo Promotional Coordinating Committee.

Personnel in the County Band have changed over the years too. For the first 86 years, the Band was made up of only men and boys. It was in 1970 that Mayle Tarwater, a percussionist, joined the Band as its first female member. And in 1985, Henrietta Tognazzini was elected Band President, the first woman to hold the position. Today, men and women of all ages are part of the Band, including several husband-and-wife teams. The Band is currently planning a busy summer schedule which will include several appearances at the SLO Farmers' Market, its traditional patriotic shows and a couple new special performances.

For more concert information call 543-5691, or see the Band's website:
www.slocountyband.org.

Upcoming County Band Performances for 2010

Sunday, May 16, 10:00 AM, Portuguese Festival, Arroyo Grande

Sunday, May 30, 9:30 AM, Portuguese Festival, SLO

Monday, May 31, 10:30 AM, Memorial Day Celebration, Los Osos

This is a recent thank you we received from Cub Scouts' Den 11 and their Den Mother, Stephanie Maldonado.

JJ Nick
Jonah
Kardov
Carter
Dear Joe, Linda & Bernede ~
Cub Scout Den 11 would like
to thank all of you for a
terrific tour of all three
historical buildings on March 25.
A great time was had by
all... & your patience was
definitely appreciated by

Thank You!
all the moms!! :)
Thanks again,
Den 11

FOR SALE

Historical Society Logo Items



The Board of Directors has approved the acquisition of caps, shirts and aprons with the South County Historical Society logo directly embroidered on the items. Available in Navy or White, the shirts are made of a high quality non-wrinkle fiber in a polo style. Caps are available in the soft cotton brushed material, and the aprons are cotton with two pockets.



The embroidery is a high definition with 11,000 stitches per logo producing a very sharp image with great durability. While the apparel is made overseas, the embroidery is done in-house by a local business. The items feature our newly approved Society logo created by Tom Goss.

All items are by special order and forms are available at each of our Society facilities.

Prices

Caps: \$15 Members/ \$20 Non-members

Polo Shirts: \$ 30 Members/ \$35 Non-Members

Aprons: \$ 20 Members/ \$25 Non Members

--Crystal Hoving models the shirt in navy.

MUSEUM VISITORS -- 1ST QUARTER 2010

<u>The Barn</u>	<u>Heritage House</u>	<u>IOOF Hall</u>	<u>Schoolhouse</u>
914 Visitors	299	175*	998
22 Days	18 days	4 days	26 days
41.55 /Day	16.61	43.75	38.38

Hall was closed in order to put up the new Exhibit, and in 4 days we had a total of 175 visitors.

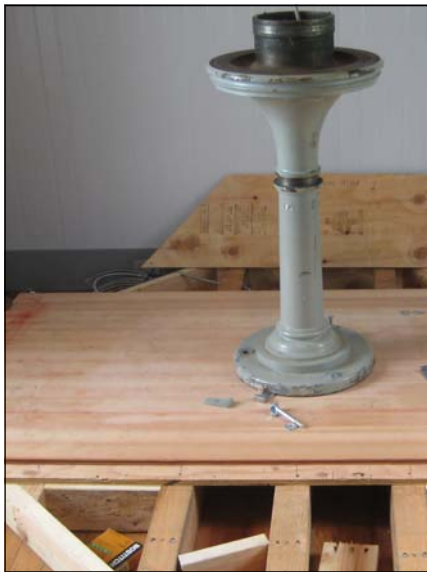
65 Members attended the "Members Only Prevue" on Friday, 3/19, and 75 visitors attended on Saturday, 3/20 for the Grand Opening.



Moving the Point San Luis Light Station Fresnel Lens Back to the Light Station

—Jane Line, Docent Leader

(This column and images provided by Joe Bradbury)



On Tuesday, March 2, 2010 the lens for the Point San Luis Light Station was moved from its temporary home at the San Luis Obispo City-County Library back to the Point San Luis Light Station.

The light station was built in 1890 and the lantern was turned on for the first time on June 20, 1890. In 1975 it was removed from the station and placed in the Heritage Museum in San Luis Obispo and then moved to the library approximately ten years ago. It has been the dream of the Port San Luis Lighthouse Keepers organization to have the lens moved back to its original home.



The Port San Luis Harbor District hired James “Woody” Woodward, a lighthouse consultant and lampist to help move the lens. Woody is retired from the Coast Guard and now helps in the moving and restoring of lighthouse lenses across the nation. He flew in from Ohio in order to help with the moving of the lens. After a close inspection of the lens, he was able to determine that the lens was made in 1875.

The light was moved back to the light station and installed on a platform in the Horn House. It is displayed on a pedestal so that visitors to the Light Station will be able to view the light. Because it is not installed in the tower, visitors will still be able to climb up the narrow stairs to enjoy the view at the top of the tower.

Because of many hours of volunteer help and hard work, the lighthouse and the Horn House is currently about 90% restored to their original condition. It is possible to tour the Light Station and Horn House on Wednesdays and Saturdays via a 3.5 mile hike from Port San Luis. A charge of \$5.00 per person, or \$10.00 per family, is charged for a docent-led tour. Van tours can be arranged for those who cannot do the hike. Arrangements and tour information can be obtained by calling Diane Jenkins at (805) 541-5763. ■



South County Historical Society

Help Raise Funds for the **Filipino American Exhibit**

Saturday and Sunday, May 15 and 16



Two Special Events **Saturday, May 15 2PM**

Life and Times in Guadalupe

A presentation on life as a farm worker and town dweller
with Joe and Margie Talaugon (Admission \$2.00)

Sunday, May 16, 2PM

Sit-down Dinner and Entertainment

Chicken Adobo, Lumpia, Pancit and Wine
(Or bring your own choice of wine)

Entertainment by Cal Poly's Pilipino Cultural Exchange Choir

\$20 per person, Seating Limited, Call for Reservations. 489-8282

All events at the IOOF Hall, 128 Bridge St, Arroyo Grande

(See page 8 for more details on Guadalupe's history)



**Publicity Director
—Vivian Krug**

Web Site

Our web site continues to grow with ongoing additions and new information. As our site grows, so does the amount of visitors to our site! Here are the statistics of visitation to our site. (Total Visitors for 2009: 33,125.)

Total Visitors so far for 2010: (as of April 15th) 11,598 **Unique Total Visitors** for 2010: 8,396

Keep updated and connect with other Historical Society Members and join our Facebook Page! You can join for free. Visit our website at www.SouthCountyHistory.org and click on the Join Facebook link on the top right hand corner of the page.

Arroyo Grande in Bloom (AGIB) and the America In Bloom (AIB) Competition

AGIB continues to grow and thrive, much to the support it receives from the Historical Society which focuses on the Heritage Category of the AIB criteria. The America in Bloom Competition is underway and this year's judges are due to arrive May 2nd and will be in Arroyo Grande for three days. Arroyo Grande is competing against Addison, TX, Junction City, KS and Webster Groves, MO. This year's judges are Jack Clasen and Mark Miller.

Roll Out for a New Tourism Logo for Arroyo Grande!

The roll out for the new City Tourism logo will be held at the Heritage House Gardens on May 13th with a jazz band walking down Branch Street, turning right on Mason and the unveiling at the Gazebo at around 3:30. Details will be in the press soon.

Strawberry Festival

The Strawberry Festival is right around the corner with lots of new events and entertainment planned for this year! Mark your calendars for May 29th and 30th and get ready for eight stages of free entertainment and lots of great arts, crafts and food. Also...one of the biggest changes to this year's event, is that the booths on Branch Street will stay up through the night on Saturday night!

Mother's Day - Have you ever wondered how Mother's Day began? It was the work of many people! See www.emotionscards.com/trivia/mothersday/mothersday.html for the full story of Mother's Day.



EARLY CELEBRATIONS Some historians believe that the earliest celebration of Mother's Day was the ancient spring festival dedicated to mother goddesses. The ancient Greek empire had a spring festival honoring Rhea, wife of Cronus and mother of the gods and goddesses. In Rome there was a Mother's Day-like festival dedicated to the worship of Cybele, also a mother goddess. Ceremonies in her honor began some 250 years before Christ was born. This Roman religious celebration, known as Hilaria, lasted for three days - from March 15 to 18.

IN THE UNITED STATES Mother's Day started nearly 150 years ago, when Anna Jarvis, an Appalachian homemaker, organized a day to raise awareness of poor health conditions in her community, a cause she believed would be best advocated by mothers. She called it "Mother's Work Day". In 1905 when Anna Jarvis died, her daughter, also named Anna, began a campaign to memorialize the life work of her mother. Legend has it that young Anna remembered a Sunday school lesson that her mother gave in which she said, "I hope and pray that someone, sometime, will found a memorial mother's day. There are many days for men, but none for mothers."

Anna began to lobby prominent businessmen like John Wannamaker, and politicians including Presidents Taft and Roosevelt to support her campaign to create a special day to honor mothers. At one of the first services organized to celebrate Anna's mother in 1908, at her church in West Virginia, Anna handed out her mother's favorite flower, the white carnation. Five years later,

the House of Representatives adopted a resolution calling for officials of the federal government to wear white carnations on Mother's Day. In 1914 Anna's hard work paid off when Woodrow Wilson signed a bill recognizing Mother's Day as a national holiday.

THE FIRST MOTHER'S DAY The first Mother's Day observance was a church service honoring Mrs. Anna Reese Jarvis, held at Anna Jarvis's request in Grafton, West Virginia, and in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on May 10, 1908. Carnations, her mother's favorite flowers, were supplied at that first service by Miss Jarvis. White carnations were chosen because they represented the sweetness, purity and endurance of mother love. Red carnations, in time, became the symbol of a living mother. White ones now signify that one's mother has died.

OFFICIAL PROCLAMATION The House of Representatives in May, 1913, unanimously adopted a resolution requesting the President, his Cabinet, members of Congress, and all officials of the federal government to wear a white carnation on Mother's Day. Congress passed another Joint Resolution May 8, 1914, designating the second Sunday in May as Mother's Day. The U.S. flag is to be displayed on government buildings and at people's homes "as a public expression of our love and reverence for the mothers of our country." President Woodrow Wilson issued the first proclamation making Mother's Day an official national holiday.

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 email: Vivian@EmotionsCards.com. Until next month, Stay Connected! Viv
*Card from Vivian Krug personal collection.



Curator of Museum Collections
—Larry Turner

ANSWERS TO --- "WHAT IS THAT"???

Paulding House Curator **Chuck Fellows** thought our "masher" might actually be one end of an old-fashioned exercise contraption made of springs that the user pulled apart to work out. We've looked at our piece again and think his explanation makes as much sense as anything we've thought of.



We had more answers from member, **Dick Miller**:

"The pliers are a specialized version of 'Bernard (so called after the patentee) parallel jaw pliers, first manufactured in the late 19th century by the William Schollhorn Company of New Haven."



He thinks the pliers are still made. Our guess that they might be for leatherworking turned out to be true. The pair in question was made to splice round leather belts on industrial (especially Singer) sewing machines.

His next identification of the double boiler embarrassed Jan Scott, who used such things when she taught technical theatre. "Your double boiler is almost certainly a cabinetmaker's glue pot. Before the Age of Elmer's, wood was mostly glued with animal hide glue (musical instrument makers still use it, and still use glue pots, though now usually electric). Glue came in dry, flaky form. To use it, one soaked the glue overnight in water in the inner pot, then put the inner into the outer pot filled with water and set it on the stove until the glue melted/liquefied. The glue was applied hot and quickly clamped. Hide glue is a hassle, but every bit as strong as more modern cold glues, and has the added advantage of being reversible using heat and moisture. Hence it is the **ONLY** proper glue for wooden antique restoration."



Thank you Dick, and Chuck for your expert help in this matter.

Important Notice to Homeowners

from Our Curators

This will be of interest if you live in a vintage home. As of April 22, 2010 any house built before 1978 must have an EPA certified contractor for renovations and repairs. '78 is the year when lead paint was banned. To see the whole story go to: <http://www.epa.gov/lead/pubs/renovation.htm>.

An armful
of Floral Bouquets &
Thinking of You
Wishes to:



**Deanna Bryant, Norma Burton,
Mark Mankin, Carol Wilcock.**



**Happy 100th Birthday to
Anita Garcia!**



Patricia Loomis History Library and Resource Center
-Craig Rock, Librarian and Resource Center Director



Filipino Exhibit Runs through July 3rd

If you haven't visited the new IOOF Hall exhibit on Filipino Americans, you're missing an important story of the Central Coast. Fear not however. You still have the chance to hear more fascinating stories of life in this area and support the changing exhibits program at the IOOF Hall by attending two fundraisers on May 15 and 16.

Guadalupe Talk on Saturday, May 15th

On Saturday, May 15, at 2 PM, Joe and Margie Talaugon will talk about their life in the nearby town of Guadalupe. Founders of the Guadalupe Arts and Education Center, Joe and Margie have been a great help to Professor Grace Yeh and me in putting together the two IOOF Hall exhibits which will be on display through July 3. Later in this article, you'll find excerpts of their personal stories to give you a preview of their talk and a flavor of life during the 1940s and 1950s in Guadalupe. Admission to this program is only \$2 and funds will go to support the current exhibit.

Food and Music on Sunday, May 15th

On Sunday, May 16, at 2 PM, you have the chance not only to support the exhibit program, but to savor excellent Filipino food and hear great music performed by the Filipino Student Choir from Cal Poly. By the way, Joe and Margie have prepared the main dish for the afternoon, chicken adobo. Cost is \$20 per person including wine. Seating is limited to 40 people, and it is highly recommended that you purchase your tickets in advance on any Friday or Saturday between 1 and 5 PM at the IOOF Hall or at Ruby's House (the Patricia Loomis History Library) on any week day (telephone 489-8282). In addition on Sunday, there will be a free dance program by the Cal Poly group at 4 PM on the lawn between Ruby's house and the Heritage House Museum.

Joe Talaugon

Here is a segment of Joe's memoirs, which we hope will soon be published in a book he just finished writing:

As I entered Manong Titoy's gambling house, it was the same as the other ones, Filipinos all over the place. I remember as a kid long ago playing in the street and looking in the gambling house, curious at the time. Now, as an adult, I have arrived, standing here in a world of gamblers, prostitutes, and hard-working folks who wanted to win that one big one. It was 4:00 p.m. on a typical Friday afternoon, July 1954, in Guadalupe, California. Our town was wide open with the evils and corruption created by man and woman. I was there to begin my work shift in Manong Titoy's gambling house. I worked in the Makapio (Keno) cage marking Keno tickets with a Chinese ink brush. Titoy had given me a job to earn extra money to feed my growing family. Pinoys (Filipinos) were lined up at the window waiting to buy the first ticket of the day, they had their money in hand and hope that luck would be with them to buy that winning ticket that would in their mind solve all their worldly problems. Of course that one win was so very evasive. The game of chance was dealing its hand.

Work in a Gambling House

As I marked the tickets, Manong Titoy with concern in his voice said, "Joe, you don't make mistik, ip you make mistik, big trouble, doh!?" I concentrated hard as I feverishly marked the tickets. I don't think Manong Titoy had much confidence in me. Marking a Keno ticket didn't take much skill, just a matter of copying the marked numbers onto another ticket that the customer marked and paid for. They marked all kinds of combinations of numbers for a cheap price of \$1, mark 7 spot, 9 spot, or even 3 spot. The odds of winning a few hundred dollars were very slim. But that's why Manong Titoy was in that business, there were lots of desperate gamblers among the Filipino population. Of course, you had your occasional white guy who took his chances too. The Filipinos, they had their dreams. Old Pablo, he says, "Suppose I win I go Pilipin, I go home to my home town, I got too much family ober der." (He had hopes to win and go back to the Philippines.) Old Pedro, he looked tired and desperate. As he marked his ticket, he said, "I am too old now. I been dis country ober 40 year. That's why ip I win Makapio 7 spot an den I go home tomorrow. I like die I my home town in the Pili-pin." (Old Pedro just wanted to win Keno and go back to his home town in the Philippines to die.)

In this gambling house ("sikoy sikoy house," as the Pinoys call it), you could hear the constant sound of the click-click of the dominos as people feverishly played the game. Max, the dealer, sits there with a blank look on his face chewing on an unlit cigar as he stirs up the dominos on the table making that familiar clicking sound, then stacks them in front of him. Deals out two per person around the table. Each gambler looks at his dominos and holds them and conceals them as if they were made of gold. They bet their money and Max calls their bluff. All the bettors lose and Max scoops in the money for the house. "Putang ina na talo ko, I lose." "Pusta, bet now," says Max. "Sus dalawa yan, Tabla. Pesos. Ah, Salamabit! Walang suerte." These are some of the words of excitement you hear around the Hi Que table, in Manong Titoy's gambling house. With some, there was a sense of desperation, a need to win. Winning something would be a feeling of accomplishment. Vicente was betting big money. He had a large stack of chips in front of him. His face was tense as he put the chips out in front....

(Continued on next page)

(Guadalupe)

Margie Talaugon

The following text is an oral history of Margie Talaugon conducted by Tanner Starbard and Alana Snelling, students in Professor Yeh's class:

My maiden name is Cabatuan. My father, and Filipinos specifically, [were restricted by] the anti-miscegenation law, they couldn't buy property, they couldn't rent many homes, and they couldn't start a business. The only reason why my father got into the business... (was) because he was light complected and the Anglos couldn't tell a Mexican from a Filipino from a Japanese or a Chinese, but my grandfather had Spanish blood, which I'm not proud of but many Filipinos are. He had a pool hall here in Guadalupe, but first it was in Stockton, CA, then in Isleton, then before the Second World War he had two pool halls here in Guadalupe. The first pool hall was successful, and he did fairly well, the second pool hall my grandfather owned was not too successful, and he lasted two years and gave it to my father. There wasn't any problem for my father to acquire it, until he went to get the license. But it was already too late, he was

established so the system figured if they can keep all the Filipinos entertained in one area and they aren't causing any trouble then go ahead and let them have the pool hall.



Serapio Cabatuan, Margie's father on left in front of his pool hall, circa 1935.

Photo courtesy of the Guadalupe Arts and Cultural Center

In front of the pool hall was a soda fountain, a full-blown soda fountain with the pumps for the syrups and the nuts and the goodies for the sundaes and the banana splits. Next to that is a candy counter and then beyond that is a cigar store, with a supply of different forms of tobacco. Beyond that were three card tables and four pool tables, then there was the back door....(everyone) knew that that back door was a gambling house.

During that period of time, everyone supported one another, the town was very active, very self-supporting.We had variety stores, we had bowling alleys, we had skating rinks, we had all the sports you could think of during that period from the mid-twenties up until 1965, maybe 1970. Prior to that, the town thrived by paying all of the authorities. Every hotel in Guadalupe, every bar, had a black market: alcohol, drugs, prostitution. Not that many drugs, but what they were able to market was marijuana, but the other types were unknown to everybody or were not in use I guess.

When my father got raided, and only the Filipinos would get raided, which was only when there was a new sheriff in the county, and to prove his virility or his skills, (he) was to go out and raid the minority people....They would raid them and then it would be a mock arrest, a mock trial, which was always a night trial. Then the next morning all of the dealers and my father would be back in town. During the raids, they would come in full force and they would have hatchets. They would break all the tables; take all the money and the gambling equipment.

Pool Rooms, Guadalupe 1950s.



Photo courtesy of the Guadalupe Arts and Cultural Center

For more details on the stories of Joe and Margie, come to their presentation at 2PM on May 15th at the IOOF Hall, 128 Bridge Street in Arroyo Grande.



PATTERNS OF THE PAST
Tidbits, Tribulations, and Tools for Survival
Column contributed by Berneda Cochran



--www. disneybabycakes clip art

Do you Remember Decoration Day?

When I was a child the 30th of May was set aside as Decoration Day. Although its main purpose was for remembrance of those who have died in our nation's service it also served as a day to remember all our loved ones.

The family would gather together their gardening tools and pack a picnic lunch and we were off to the cemetery. After a morning of weeding and trimming and visiting with neighbors, we had our picnic. For me this was the best time of the day because the adults would tell stories of the lives and times of those gone before us. Not impressive things but the little things that made them more human. The fact that all Grandma knew how to cook when she married was fudge, that Aunt Laura had colic so bad as a baby that Grandpa had to hitch up the buggy and take her for a ride, or that Uncle Charlie was such a tease as a boy that he was always in trouble seemed to a child much more interesting than their adult accomplishments.

Decoration Day was established three years after the end of the Civil War, but the idea had its roots in the decoration of the graves of Civil War dead by women, going back at least to 1864. The hope being that it might help the nation move on after a war that had split not only states and communities but families also.

In 1971 Memorial Day was declared a national holiday and placed on the last Monday in May, giving us a three-day weekend. I wonder how many of us stop and really think about the meaning of the day that we celebrate with barbecues and festivities. The National Moment of Remembrance Act was passed by Congress in 2000 in hopes that our fallen heroes are not forgotten. The National Moment of Remembrance encourages all Americans to pause wherever they are at 3 p.m. local time for a moment of silence to remember and honor those who have died in service to the nation.

Memorial Day began here after Civil War

--Abstracted from an article published in ECHOES by Jean Hubbard

In the Arroyo Grande District Cemetery the oldest graves are the Civil War graves. We probably had no natives from here, as our rancho boys -- the Price, Branch and Dana boys -- were too young. The pioneers didn't come to this area until after the Civil War, and Branch did not lay out Arroyo Grande until 1867. There are 42 Civil War or Grand Army of the Republic veterans. All of these men fought for the Union. There is a possibility that there are one or more graves of Confederate soldiers.

California was, in some regions very secessionist. San Luis Obispo County did not go to Lincoln the first time he ran, even though he won the state by a few hundred votes. The county was too busy trying to stabilize from the conquest, statehood and the gold rush to be interested in a Civil War on the other side of the country.

Memorial Day or Decoration Day, as it was first called, came about as a direct result of the commander of the G.A.R. and his wife observing the school children placing flowers on the confederate graves. The practice, as well as the organization, came to California with the Union Veterans. There were impressive ceremonies in the local cemetery every year along with the Union Memorial Service for the Sunday preceding.

"The stage was draped," said one account, "with bunting and hung with flags while many flowers in the national colors made into numerous designs adorned the back of the stage, the wall spaces on either side of the front of and below the stage. On the right of the speaker's stand several muskets were stacked on which hung a wreath of St. Joseph's lilies. Swords were suspended in the flag drapery from above the stage. "The decorating was done...by the Col. Harper Post and Corps and their friends." In years to come, the members of the G.A.R. became fewer and fewer. By 1920, they mustered only five members and in 1926 only Thomas Hodges actively participated in the cemetery ceremony. Nelson O. Munger and Thomas Keown were onlookers from the convenient automobile, while William Brassfield was forced to stay home. ■

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, preservation, 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, too— 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
Sustaining (Individual)	\$100.00
Patron-Business, Organization, Individual	\$200
Life (Individual)	\$500.+

Corporate Memberships

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

Your Membership Chairman asks that you help us increase our Society membership. Just think: if every current member signed up just one new member, we could double our membership!!

Ask a friend, neighbor, or relative to join. Or: give a \$20.00 gift of individual membership.

**Ambitious? Yes. Doable?
 Yes, with your help!!**



MEMBERSHIP SOUTH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

(The 2010-11 Membership Directory will be available in two weeks.)

RENEWAL

CHANGES?

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 the annual Membership Directory distributed to members unless you indicate otherwise here.) 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 with Attention: Bee Hodges in the "Subject Line". We will reply. Use this form as well if there has been an address, phone, email or name change. Thank you!

NOTICE TO MEMBERS

Regular Board Meetings held at 6:00 pm on the third Wednesday of each month. Meeting place is the IOOF Hall, 128 Bridge St., Arroyo Grande. Board Meetings are open to Society members and the public.

**Membership Meeting Date & Details
will be announced at a later date.**

We welcome our New Members!

Doug Jenzen, Christina Domingo for Domingo family, Marian Duncan, Patty & Mike Rice, Mark Cawelti, Jerry Lenthall

CURRENT MAJOR SUPPORTERS OF THE SOUTH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

LESLEY GERBER BENN
JOAN BUTCH
CITY OF ARROYO GRANDE
CHARLES COUCH (Florida)
STEVE & LINDA CURRY
CHRISTINE HARVEY
GARY & CRYSTAL HOVING
VARD IKEDA
DOUG & BARBARA LESAGE
PATRICIA LOOMIS
HOWARD & AILEEN MANKINS
ELIZABETH MILLER
CAROL & JOAN PRUETT
SOUTH COUNTY REALTY

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