



# South County Historical Society

## Heritage Press

Volume 9, No. 5

May 2005

### Curator's Corner

by Jan Scott



There's much to tell you in this last newsletter before our summer hiatus, but I have to begin with applause for the wonderful **Rancho Nipomo Heritage Day** at the Dana Adobe last Saturday.

Not only is the Adobe practically a mystical place (and we all need to keep working to save the surrounding countryside from development), but for this day it was inhabited by a fine selection of "18th and 19th Century" people. You could watch soap making or learn how to dye yarn using native plants. A flint knapper made arrowheads and I learned that "ox" is a generic term for a 4 year old, trained work animal, no matter the breed, and that they follow voice commands, not prodding, so are virtually impossible to steal. We ate bread from the newly constructed Horno (pron: orno), an oven of the day.

A "vaquero" worked in an elegant and beautiful way with his horse, while he explained the life of the "Californios." He also taught me how to care for our rawhide lariat on display in The Barn. I won't bore you with the process but it involves raw beef liver. I learn, I learn. All this for \$3. Mark your calendars for next year. It was an extraordinary day that ended with a BBQ and entertainment in the evening.

**THE MEATLOCKER** - Our Village facade is nearly done. Our brilliant painter, **John Bryant**, assisted by stalwarts **Don Gullickson** and **Bill Smith** put in a hard week of long hours at the tops of ladders and a gizmo called a scissor lift, creating a true Victorian paint job on the front of our building. There's more to do before we're finished, but you can drive by or even stop and admire our antique lock, restored and installed by **Frank's Lock & Key**.

**SCHOOLHOUSE MAPS** - Two are "in process", one waiting for the correct framing material and one in line at the restorer's. When that one returns, more will go out. Thanks to **Linda Shephard** for her research and shipping chores, to **Gus & Rossie Berger** for spearheading the effort on the restoration, and to our "angel," **Michael Gillespie**, whose mother used to teach in a one-room schoolhouse.

**"THE 1940'S -The War & Beyond"** - A new display will be in place for a grand opening at Heritage House on Sunday, June 5th, just in time for D-Day. We hope to present a scholarship check to **Daniel MacDougall**, the AG High School student who won a national essay competition (see related story)ROSS - I'm assuming you can point them in the right direction for this one) Please join us at 1:00 pm that day and enjoy 40's music and new sights.

**Don't forget the Charter Day BBQ**  
**and have a wonderful summer.**

### Bob and Betty Brown Honored at May General Meeting.



The Brown's (pictured above with Charles Porter), members of the Society since 1987, will be moving soon to be nearer their children. They have been active members working with the Paulding History House museum committee. Bob wrote a book "*The Arroyo Grande Creek*", telling of the history of the area and the creek's influence on the environment and development in the area. (The book is available at the Heritage House or on the Society's website.) Charles Porter, Program Chairman for the Society, presented each with a plaque expressing our gratitude for their years of support and service. We wish them health and happiness in their new home.

### Carol Sargent—Member of the Board and Treasurer of the Society was presented a plaque by President Kirk Scott



thanking her for her efforts during her short tenure on the board. Her organizational abilities will be sorely missed. Carol is moving to Texas to be near her daughter. We wish her health and happiness in her new home.



## From the Docents Desk

by Jane Line and Kathleen Sullivan

### *Is that one lump or two?*

As the SCHS Docent Leader, I am working on a Docent Appreciation Tea. My plan is to use the Kaleidoscope Inn in Nipomo as our setting. This should be a fun yet an historically appropriate way to celebrate the efforts of our individual docents and their contributions to local history!

The Kaleidoscope Inn, for those who are not aware, was originally the home of the pioneer Runels family. This family has farmed for several generations in our area, still owning farmland under production along Valley Road in Arroyo Grande. A grandson, Tom Runels, recently served two terms as an Arroyo Grande city councilman.

We will also be extending an invitation to docents from other South County historical programs such as the Price House in Pismo, the Oceano Depot, the Dana Adobe in Nipomo, as well as the Guadalupe Historical Society in Guadalupe.

It will be a very special day. Those of us who serve as docents work the front line for our organizations, not only educating the public, but helping to create a respect and awareness for the past efforts of those who have gone before - a very worthwhile goal!

### ***Flowers for your Friends!***

I would like to publicly thank Kathy Veder of the D.A.N.A. for her gift of a bouquet of flowers when I attended their very successful Living History Day event on May 21. (See Jan Scott's article for more information.) The bouquet was given "in friendship" to our membership for their support of the D.A.N.A program. The flowers are blooming happily on my tabletop!

### ***You are now entering a Western Village!***

Banners over the entrances to our Heritage Square parking lots will read something like this during the Harvest Festival '05. Mark your calendars now for the last week-end in September. Our Society will, once again, be recreating vignettes, crafts, and exhibits from a turn of the century western village! Ideas are everything so please plan on working along with Vivian Krug and me as we work with the Harvest Festival Committee to ensure another successful community event going "Back to Our Roots!"

*The following is a report by Kathleen Sullivan about the visit to the weavers who appeared at Harvest Festival 2004, and will again display in the Harvest Festival 2005.*

*On a beautiful, Central Coast morning, 16 lively ladies left Santa Manuela Schoolhouse to wend their way to Atascadero and a visit with the Thorne sisters.*

*Retired librarians, the sisters, now expert weavers, had agreed to give us a tour and mini lecture on the art of weaving.*

*The tour group consisted of docents from the Dana Adobe and the South County Historical Society.*

*The trip wound through valleys as green as any in Ireland and replete with wildflowers.*

*Our arrival at the straw bale barn, yes, I said straw, was heralded by magpies and horses.*

*The barn, made of straw and stucco, was spacious and airy, with light provided by skylights. The structure needs no, or little, heat in the winter and no air-conditioning in the summer. A few heaters scattered here and there provide needed warmth and throwing open the upstairs windows will provide cool air when necessary.*



*The sisters took us through the steps from shearing the sheep, cleaning the wool, carding, spinning it into usable hanks, dyeing, and finally, weaving. We were shown works in progress, both on traditional looms and one run by computer.*

*After the tour, 19 of us headed to Templeton to feast at McFee's.*

*Great tour, good food, and lots of new friends. Good show, Jane!*



## Paulding History House

The ceiling in the 2nd floor office of the House will be repaired during the month of June, and roof repairs will also be taking place during that month, so the House will not be open to the public. The new patio was recently the site of a fund-raiser 'Tea' for the Questers organization. (Questers donated the funds for the construction of that garden site).

**Jeanne Frederick, Dee Trybom** and **Jean Hubbard** continue cataloguing the collection of artifacts and correspondence of the Paulding family, and **Mario Tognazzini** and **Ruth Kodaj** make the entries into the museum software 'Past-Perfect'. Scanning and converting into searchable text of all the writings of Dr. and Mrs. Paulding as well as their daughter Ruth will provide a priceless look into the past of a unique family and of the Arroyo Grande valley.

**Paulding History House —551 Crown Hill, AG  
is open for viewing on the  
First Saturday of each Month—12 until 3:00 pm**

**The 29th Annual  
June 12  
Charter Day**

**Celebrate our Charter Day Anniversary  
At the Heritage House Garden & Gazebo  
126 Mason St., Arroyo Grande**

**12 noon until 4:00 pm (lunch served at 1:00)**

**Good Eats  
Refreshments  
Good Entertainment  
Good Fellowship**

All for \$15.00 per person

**Call Billie Swigert for reservations 489-5472**



**P**ublicity and Web News  
**Vivian Krug— Publicity Director**

**Strawberry Festival Cookbook**

This year we celebrate the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Strawberry Festival and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Strawberry Cooking Contest. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Strawberry Festival Cookbook is now on sale at Lund's and the Heritage House Museum. The Cookbook features all the winning recipes from last year's Strawberry Cook-off and more. Proceeds from the sale of the Cookbook benefit the Historical Society, so don't forget to buy your copy today. They are available at Heritage House and various locations throughout the Village.

Thank you to **Bob Lund**, the Executive Director of the Village Improvement Association (VIA) and the Director of the Strawberry Festival as well as the Board of Director's of the VIA for their support of the Historical Society by publishing and distributing the Strawberry Cookbook. Thank you to **Joan Holt**, the VIA's Administrative Assistant, for all her hard work in editing and typesetting the Cookbook.

Special thanks and recognition go to **Teri Nixon**, a South County Historical Society member who was the brainchild of both the Strawberry Cooking Contest and the Strawberry Festival Cookbook. Teri assembled the Strawberry recipes and information in the Cookbook as well as arranging the Cooking Contests. She's been working all year finding sponsors for this year's Cooking Contest and Cookbook in preparation for this year's 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Contest and all for the benefit of the Historical Society. Thank you Teri.

This year's Cooking Contest Judges, **Tony Ferrara**, Mayor of Arroyo Grande, **Terry Fibich**, Arroyo Grande's Fire Chief, **Pepper Daniels**, DJ, KJUG Radio, **John Spencer**, Owner, Spencer's Fresh Markets and yours truly. It's a tough job, but someone has to do it!

Thank you to this year's Strawberry Festival Cook-off / Cookbook sponsors:

**Advantage**  
**Answering Plus**  
**Academy Travel**  
**Bill's Place**  
**Village Salon**  
**McLintock's**  
**McDonald's**  
**Susie's Hallmark**  
**Trader Joe's**

**Driscoll Strawberries**  
**Branch Street Deli**  
**Gina's Italian**  
**Restaurant**  
**El Taco Loco**  
**Lund's**  
**San Luis Farm Supply**  
**Emotions Greeting**  
**Cards**  
**Spencer's Fresh**  
**Markets**

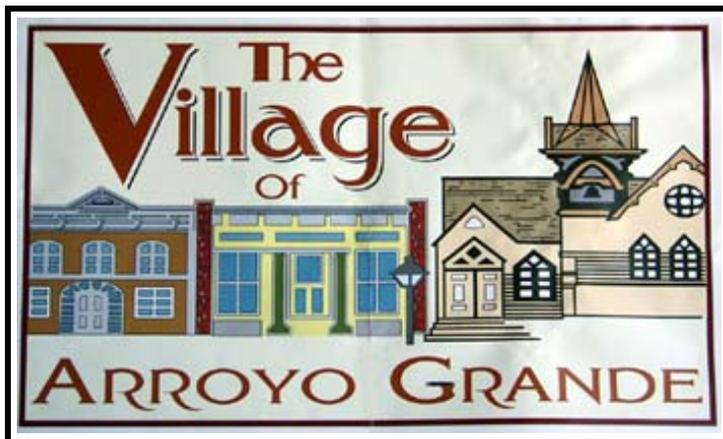
**Harvest Festival 2005**

While enjoying your summer and all of its activities, don't forget to be thinking about your costume for this year's Harvest Festival coming on September 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>! This year's 68<sup>th</sup> Harvest Festival theme is "Back To Our Roots" so keep an eye out for those Vintage and Western clothes. Remember all those not dressed in costume are subject to arrest and will be thrown in the Festival Hoosegow! The Harvest Festival website is located at [www.AGHarvestFestival.com](http://www.AGHarvestFestival.com)

**Tourism and our Museums**

The VIA is close to finalizing their "Historic Walking Tour" and Village Information brochure. The new brochure will list all of the Society's Museums, locations and hours as well as include photographs.

Also close to being finalized are the first set of plans for directional signs proposed to be posted through-out the Village and entrances of Arroyo Grande pointing to the Village Shopping area, our Museums and other historic spots.



The new Arroyo Grande Village Freeway signs have been finalized and you will be seeing the first sign go up soon. The first sign will be replacing the old "visit the historic Village of Arroyo Grande" that is on the East side of the Freeway near the El Campo interchange.

**Arroyo Grande Village Improvement Association and the Anne Ricci Scholarship Fund**

The Anne Ricci Scholarship Fund awarded four \$500 scholarships to Arroyo Grande High School students, Cecile Merrin, Lindsay Hunter, Jessica Darway and Carrie Petro. for their winning essays. This year's essay was titled

*"What is the significance of the South County Historical Society to the Village?"*



Choosing the top essays was a tough job this year. All the essays submitted were interesting and full of comments on how we at the Society benefit the Village. The essays also included further ways we can benefit the Village and ways to bring in younger members. The winning essays and photographs will be posted on our website soon. Presenters are (L) Bob Lund—VIA, and (R ) Jim Dickens, AG City Councilman.

Publicity continued from page 4

## **Web Updates and Stats**

As of this month, we've had 4,696 visitors to our site. Those are individual counts, not including anyone that has visited the site more than once during that time! That's almost as many visitors as we had all of last year.

Our newest addition...the SCHS Bookstore where you can purchase books about the Terrible Tragedy, the Arroyo Grande Creek, the Guadalupe Dunes and more. Currently there are sixteen titles for sale and more will be added in the coming months (including the Strawberry Festival Cookbook!).

## **View Your Newsletter On Line in full living color!**

Don't forget, you can view your Historical Society Newsletter, the Heritage Press in full living color on our website located at [www.SouthCountyHistory.org](http://www.SouthCountyHistory.org). It's a great way to read your newsletter and enjoy color photographs.

### **Contact Me**

If you want to participate in any of our upcoming events or have information I can use for publicity or on our website, I'm easy to reach by Phone 458-3321 or Email: [Vivian@emotionscards.com](mailto:Vivian@emotionscards.com)

**Stay connected! Viv**

## ***Heritage House Garden & Gazebo Gardening Support - Doug & Barbara LeSage***



Thanks to **Larry Ramey** and his Ramey Horticulture crew, the yard at Heritage House looks fresh and new again. The felling of the grand old magnolia, root removal and planting of the new tree, (Camphor tree recommended by both the City and the Cherry Tree Nursery) was accomplished between weddings and socials. The new tree was planted a little further east and south from the magnolia site to allow for more yard space. Also a new Jacaranda tree replaced a damaged tree in the rear corner of the yard.



Pruning, weeding and watering are ongoing and our maintenance crew, **Tom Cooney, Doug and Barbara LeSage, Ken & Carolyn Huffine** continue their weekly efforts.

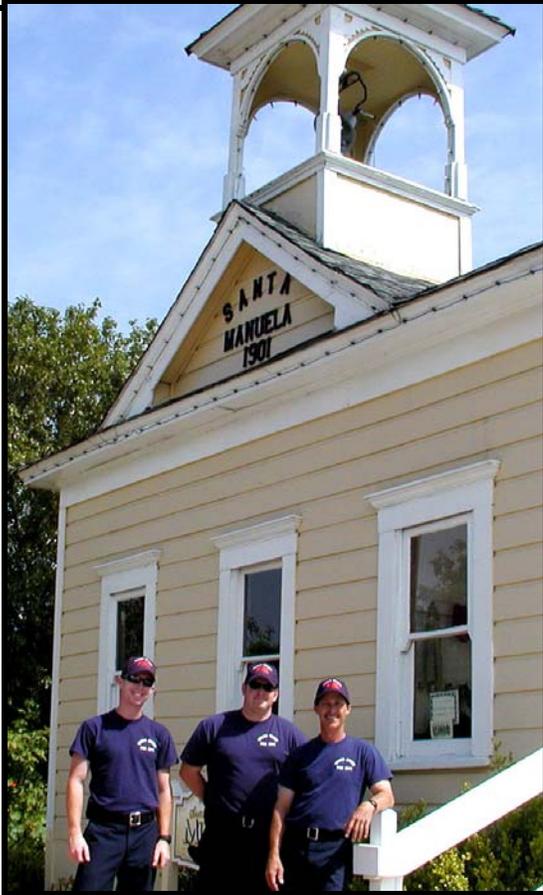
During the week while gardening, we have constant interruptions with out-of-town visitors coming by—so we open up Heritage House and give them a tour.

Wouldn't it be nice if we were able to support more open hours at our wonderful museums?

*(Editor's Note: The entire cost of this tree project was donated by Doug & Barbara LeSage. A plaque will be placed at the Camphor tree in memory of Barbara's Mother.*



## Ramblings from Ross - Director of Information Service



The Santa Manuela Schoolhouse belltower has been showing signs of old age, and the bell was getting more and more difficult to toll. So Vivian Krug asked Fire Chief Fibitch if they could give a hand in investigating the problem.

True to our small town community attitude, 3 volunteer firemen, Capt. **Steve Whitney**, **Engineer Patrick Irej**, and **Fire-fighter John King** showed up and Steve climbed up into the belfry and determined that besides one of the pulleys being detached, the bell framework was well worn, and though not critical, should be replaced.



The adjustments proved successful as the following day, 30 3rd-graders took turns ringing the bell easily.

150 more 3rd-graders are scheduled for field trip tours of our museums in the next two weeks, so the bell will get further testing.

### Volunteers **John Bryant** and **Don Gullickson**

braved the heights while painting the façade of our Society's headquarters— currently referred to as "The Meatlocker" in the Village.

Under the direction of our Curator **Jan Scott**, with the permission of the building owner **Carol Hizey**, the blessings of the city Architectural Review Committee, and the applause of Village merchants, the "missing tooth in a beautiful smile" is being capped and polished.

"South County Historical Society" will be featured on a new sign over the doors. The sign is being created by 'Avila Signs', makers of the other museum signs at Paulding History House, Heritage House Museum, Santa Manuela Schoolhouse, and The Barn. This improvement is being funded partially by a grant from the 'City Façade Improvement Program'.



**Society Information .....**

**473-5077**

**Heritage House .....**

**481-4126**

**Paulding History House .....**

**473-3231**

**Santa Manuela School · .....**

**489-8745**

**The Barn.....**

**489-8745**

**Website—**

**www.SouthCountyHistory.Org**

**There will be  
No General Meetings  
of the Society  
during the months of  
July  
August**

**The next General Meeting will be held on  
September 13, 2005**

**The next Board Meeting will be held on  
August 17, 2005**

**Dues Schedule—2005**

**Individual.....\$15  
Couple.....\$30**

**Family w/children under 18.....\$40  
Sustaining (individual) .....\$100+**

**Patron (business/individual)...\$200+  
Life (individual).....\$500+**

**MEMBERSHIP SOUTH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

**RENEWAL**

**NEW**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Home Tel: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Tel: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Membership \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Check No. \_\_\_\_\_

**Please make check or money order payable to SOUTH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

# The 29th Annual June 12

See details on Page 3

# Charter

*Our new Phone Number for  
Society information*

**473-5077**

*Please pass it along to everyone for general inquiries and  
information about the Society*

*Visit our Society's Website*

**WWW.SouthCountyHistory.Org**

*Don't forget—as a member, you can view the Heritage Press  
in full living color on the website.*

## Patrons of the South County Historical Society

**DOC BURNSTEIN'S ICE CREAM LAB**

**MORLEY & PAT FARQUAR**

**CAROLE HIZEY**

**PAT LOOMIS**

**HOWARD & AILEEN MANKINS**

**BILL & CHERYL MILLER**

**SOUTH COUNTY REALTY**

102 Bridge Street, Arroyo Grande—481-4297