



South County Historical Society Heritage Press

Volume 9, No. 4

April 2005

Curator's Corner

by Jan Scott



WANTED: Loan of a 1940's bridal gown or bridal suit for display in Heritage House Museum for the summer months. It will be returned packed in acid-free paper for proper storage.

WANTED: Old mattress pads that we cut up and sew into hanger padding for our vintage clothing.

WANTED: Old sheets that we use in all kinds of ways.

Call me at 481-4435 or Joe at 489-5472 if you can help.

NEWS: We received approval from the city's Architectural Review Committee and Planning Commission for the makeover of the Meat Locker façade in the Village. Robin at AVILA SIGN & DESIGN has the go-ahead for our beautiful new signs. Painting will begin within the next weeks and be ready for Strawberry Festival if all moves along as it should.

MORE NEWS: The first step of the Ruby's House makeover has been completed. Fresh paint has given the house a whole new look. Tenting for termites followed by a new roof and rebuild of the chimney destroyed in the earthquake will be next. Windows will be replaced and foundation work will begin in the fall.

BETTER NEWS: Kirk is doing very well. Three more cycles of chemo should take finish this difficult chapter. Thank you for all your prayers and concern.



Brandon Butcher, Carol Sargent-SCHS Treasurer, Jason Harris, Wade Morrison, Doug LeSage-Antique Show Director, Vivian Krug-SCHS Publicity Director, Chris McCullough, Dave McLaughlin.

Gratitude for Community Support

The South County Historical Society thanks team members from the Arroyo Grande High School Baseball Team!

Twenty Two Exhibitors, *thousands* of items, many weighing hundreds of pounds, all moved in and out of the Regional Center for an Antique Show and Sale in a two day period! How do we do it?!

With the help of some fine young men from the

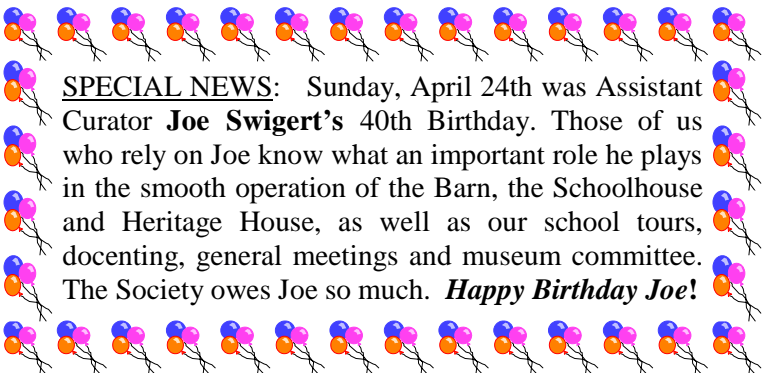
Arroyo Grande High School Baseball Team!

Now in its 23rd year, the Antique Show and Sale draws hundreds of visitors for its two day fundraising event. Every year the South County Historical Society Annual Antique Show and Sale grows and with the help of these fine young men from Arroyo Grande High School's Baseball Team, the show was once again a huge success.

Coach Steve DeRose along with team members, helped set up, tear down, pack, carry in and out thousands of antiques and collectibles displayed by the vendors exhibiting in this years show. Despite drizzle and rain, these young men were cheerful, supportive and ready to lend a hand, working tirelessly to help the South County Historical Society with its largest fundraiser of the year.

In gratitude of these young men's assistance, the South County Historical Society was pleased to donate \$500.00 to the **Arroyo Grande Eagles Baseball Team.**

We are grateful to Steve, Arroyo Grande High School and these fine young men for their help and support.



SPECIAL NEWS: Sunday, April 24th was Assistant Curator **Joe Swigert's** 40th Birthday. Those of us who rely on Joe know what an important role he plays in the smooth operation of the Barn, the Schoolhouse and Heritage House, as well as our school tours, docenting, general meetings and museum committee. The Society owes Joe so much. **Happy Birthday Joe!**



From the Docents Desk

by Jane Line

Strawberry Fields Forever....!

This song by the Beatles could have been written for the Joseph and Clara Gularte family.

Joseph Rosa Gularte and Clara Conception Silva were born in the Azores, eventually immigrating to the United States where they met in San Luis Obispo County. They married in the Old Mission Church in San Luis Obispo in 1906 and raised ten children to adulthood in the Arroyo Grande Valley area on the family farm, growing strawberries and other produce successfully. Sadly, their strawberry fields are gone, but many of their descendants continue to live in the South County area.

Joseph and Clara's first farm was in Los Osos Valley area, but on October 12, 1919, they moved to their new 129 acre farm in the softly rolling hills northeast of Arroyo Grande, roughly between Corbett Canyon and Stagecoach Rd., behind the Arroyo Grande Association Hall.

To make the move even more special, Clara Gularte gave birth the very next day to daughter Annie! Ann continues to live in Arroyo Grande and is a member of our Society. She married Johnny Silva, the son of a neighboring farmer, in 1943. Johnny passed away in February 2004, much loved by all.

The next time you travel to San Luis Obispo via Corbett Canyon, notice Gularte Road just off to the right as you near the edge of Arroyo Grande's city limits. The address for the Gularte Ranch was 259 Corbett Canyon. The farmhouse is gone now, replaced by the home of SCHS members Ken and Carolyn Huffine, but the buckwheat tree, planted as a seed by the Gularte children, remains in their front yard.

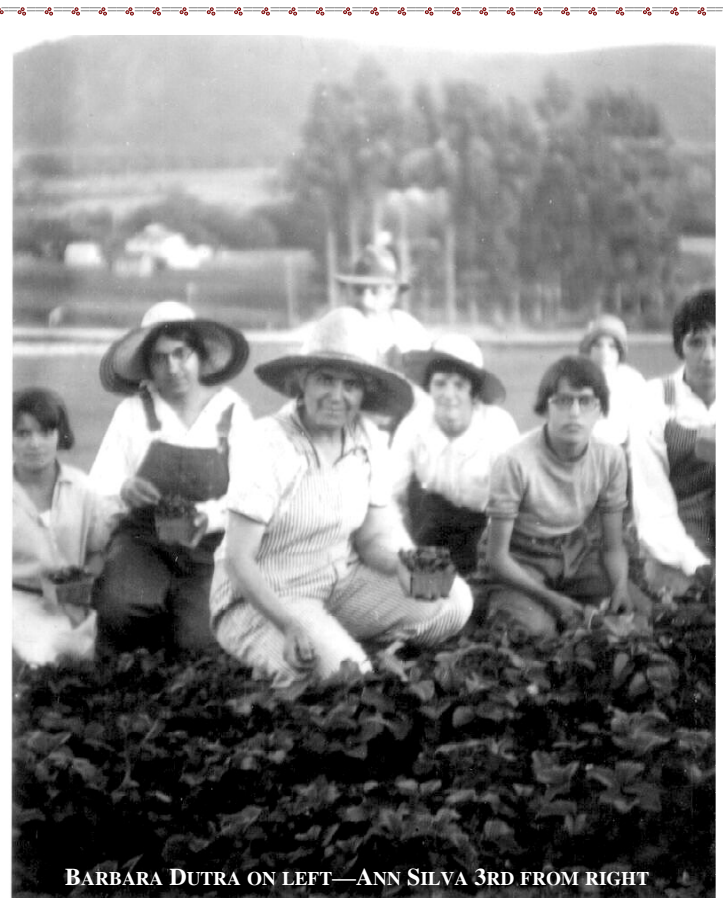
The home of one of their older sons remains on Gularte Rd. and is being renovated by the Reinheimer family. The farm was eventually split among the children and sold, but was farmed into the 1980s by Joseph and Clara's boys Joe, Tony, Manuel, and Frank. Today homes cover the hillsides where strawberries once grew.

Joseph and Clara were successful with their farming efforts though hard work was the order of the day....and everybody helped! In addition to a small dairy operation, they grew corn, beans, sweet peas - all vegetable crops typical of the day in the fertile Arroyo Grande Valley. Each day the produce was picked to fill orders taken the day before from their customers. Daughters Ann Silva and Barbara Dutra remember those days well.

"Papa would load the pick-up. If we were lucky, we got to go into San Luis Obispo with him to deliver the load and get orders for the next day. It was so fun! At Andre's Market on Higuera we would get animal crackers and at Sinsheimers General Store on Monterey we would get penny candy sometimes. The most fun of all though was when we took orders to the Oceano Depot for shipment to Los Angeles. There we often got a popsicle, looking carefully at our stick which might be marked for a free popsicle!"

Sometime around 1925, the Gulartes added strawberries to their crops. Barbara and Ann remember the care they had to take picking strawberries after school. *"The strawberries had to be placed just so in their baskets because Papa checked"* as he and the boys placed twelve baskets to a tray, readying the strawberries for sale. The children picking were often seven, eight, ten years old....just old enough to have a little fun throwing berries at each other when they thought *"Mama wasn't looking!"*

These were happy times for the family. When Joseph died in 1933, the older boys carried on and the family farm continued as before. There was a gentleness and rhythm to life in the Valley. The weather was mild, the soils were fertile, nobody feared hard work, and the family remained strong. Strawberry fields forever? Maybe not, but the memories they provide make for wonderful stories!



BARBARA DUTRA ON LEFT—ANN SILVA 3RD FROM RIGHT

Contributed by Ann Gularte Silva and Barbara Gularte Dutra, in association with the SCHS Living History program.



Paulding History House—a Family record of the lives of Dr. Paulding, his wife Clara and their daughter Ruth.

Since the Society acquired the home in 1999, Jean Hubbard, Jean Frederick, Dee Trybom, Margaret Price, Mario Tognazzini, Jean Bryant and Betty Brown have spent countless hours organizing the entire contents of the Paulding home. Correspondence, photographs, artifacts, clothing, books—thousands of items are being preserved by scanning, photographing and recording them into Past-Perfect Museum Software, a program used by museums to catalogue and preserve for historical research.

In reviewing this unique collection of family history covering over one-hundred years, unique stories are discovered. One of those is Ruth's letter to her Mother of a trip with her fellow teachers from Watsonville visiting in Arroyo Grande and then on the way home, visiting San Simeon in 1928.

"We certainly had a most interesting time after leaving you. At San Simeon, of course, we left the road and climbed the hill. A gate-keeper looked at our invitation and cautioned us about driving slowly that the paddocks where the animals were. A cantilever gate let us in and such a quality of spoiled darlings and fallow deer (white) and emus, spring bucks, water-bucks, reindeer, antelope and orix as we found. Dot got out to get a picture (bought a kodak in San Luis) of an orix, and he took after her. (Famous end run by Dot!)

"Coming back by a slightly different road we saw kangaroo, zebra and giraffes, the most graceful, flapperish individuals you ever saw. They looked at you so coquetishly out of their lovely brown eyes, shaded by lashes at least four inches long, that I suspected them of wanting to stage a necking party and believe me there would be plenty of neck for such, since they have doors on their barns that are eighteen feet tall.

"The castle is most imposing from below and ever as you climb. Castle it is not—but a Spanish cathedral with its \$100,000 facade of old carved stone, and I think its sacrilege for Mr. Hearst to have brought it here and much more so for him to live in it. However, the family don't feel that way about it arid think it is a wonderful way for him to spend his money; so maybe I'm queer.

"On the top of this oak wooded knoll is the cathedral and its formal garden with three enormous guest houses (regular residences like the 17 mile drive houses), and it is crowded! The garden is of the extremely ornate type, about thirty statues, eight huge fountains, a beautiful swimming pool of marble with cascades running into it, a marvelous bath house below the level of most of the garden, so that the flat roof makes a terrace on which to sit to watch the swimmers below.

"The oak trees all had begonias planted underneath, very

effective because of their bright shades in the dark. They were the most enormous ones and most perfect that I have ever seen.

"The front of the castle is all paved with a fish pool simply cluttered with statues. There are two beautiful old marble sarcophagi down on the next terrace. They must have been Greek! and marble statues everywhere, that certainly were not Greek, tho' there was a lovely copy of the Three Graces.

"But oh! the views! Such a location for a house only the gods could dream of—no wonder he lives in a cathedral. From this terrace and indeed from the upper ones a whole amphitheatre of higher hills surrounds you with the diarama in a vortex below your very feet. One high crag of interesting contour towers above the rest. From the top and lower left terrace, forty miles of Pacific stretch before you, and little irregular San Simeon Bay shelters some little fishing shacks. --- Piedras Blancas light-house stands sentinel!

"Mr. Hyde was consulted by the manager, Mr. Sallerly and the foreman, Pete Sebastian, a friend of Bernice Loomis', and received an order that paid for his trip down five times over he said! Those two were very lovely to all of us and showed us everything outside.

"Afterwards we went up the coast as far as the convict camp, having our nice lunch on the way. Such a glory as that road is going to be. We'll drive for miles right on top of the ocean, five hundred to almost a thousand feet below and such a blue. I believe it will be one of the wonders of the world when it is done! The coastline before you get to those high cliffs that plunge into the sea is most interesting, too. Lovely little needles of rock bounding a little cove of beach and running far out into the sea!

"We came back to Cambria and asked about the road from there to Adelaide. A nice Swiss sized up Mr. Hyde and the car and told us we'd save time by going thru there instead of back to Cayucos. "It was a perfectly good road," he said. It was more than perfectly good! It was wonderful! Steep, yes, and narrow but nobody did we meet for twenty miles, and the view that we got from almost the top of that grade just after the sun had gone down was worth the whole trip. An old Monterey or Cambria pine stood between us and the sunset glow on fifty miles of Pacific, and the evening star stood just above the highmost scraggly branch of that old pine. I drove from Paso to King City and Dot from there to Salinas to rest Mr. Hyde. We got home (Watsonville) at about eleven thirty."

Be sure and visit Paulding History House and see this unique collection in a unique setting.

**Paulding History House —551 Crown Hill, AG
is open for viewing on the
First Saturday of each Month—12 until 3:00 pm
Or group tours by appointment
Tel: 805 . 473. 5077**



ublicity and Web News

Vivian Krug— Publicity Director

The Historical Society and its Members in the News;

Freedom of Speech and a Word of Caution

As the Historical Society grows and we become more involved in the community the more interest our local newspapers and publications will have in reporting on our activities and our Members.

I've been asked by a few of you recently who have been contacted directly by reporters and have been uncomfortable and unhappy with the line of questions, the practice and the resulting stories, to help out.

Unfortunately, I am unable to help out *after* you have spoken to a reporter. Recently we had one unfortunate situation, so I can give you a little advise based on that incident.

Anything, I'll repeat, *anything* you say to a reporter can (and will) be printed. There is no such thing as "off the record". If you speak to a reporter, they have the right to print that information.

Despite popular misunderstanding, the right to freedom of the press guaranteed by the first amendment is not very different from the right to freedom of speech for you and me. It allows an individual to express themselves through publication and dissemination. It is part of the constitutional protection of freedom of expression.

But, you do not need to feel pressured or intimidated to answer any questions. You do not need to answer just to be nice. If you don't want to speak to a reporter or answer a question, you are not obligated to do so. As offered in one situation, a reporter offered a copy/proof of the story for the member to see before it was printed. This did not happen. Please note: a newspaper is *not* obligated to give you a copy or get an approval for any story they write.

So, when can I help? If you are contacted by a reporter I will be happy to go with you or sit in on the interview. I will be happy to answer or handle any of the questions you are uncomfortable with. If you don't want to speak with the reporter at all you can refer them to me and I will speak with them. Please remember, if you are contacted by a reporter, you are not obligated to speak to or answer any questions about yourself or the Historical Society, but if you do, they do have the right to print anything you have said. Questions or help? Call me at 458-3321.

Don't Miss the Strawberry Festival

Harvest Festival

Yes, it's time to start thinking about this year's Harvest Festival coming on **September 23rd and 24th**! This year's 68th Harvest Festival theme is "Back To Our Roots". Also added this year will be an area called "Country Fair" which will be located in Heritage Square.

The 2005 Harvest Festival web site is up and running at: www.agharvestfestival.com.

As contests, events and entertainment are added the web site will continue to grow. Also being added to the site soon is a "*Harvest Festival's of the Past*" photo album. If you have photographs from a past Harvest Festival and would like to see them on the Harvest Festival site, you can email your images to me or I can scan them in from your original photo.

If you would like to participate in this year's event, the Historical Society will once again be involved in variety of activities such as the Costume Contest and Historical Re-enactments. Added this year will be a Society Fundraiser. We'll be selling Corn on the Cob and Pies in Heritage Square. We're looking for volunteers to serve pie and roast corn on September 24th. If you can help, let me know as soon as possible and don't forget to mark your calendar for the 23rd and 24th of September so you don't miss this best Harvest Festival ever! Call me at 458-3321

Web Updates and Stats.

Our web site is always growing. Our newest addition:

"We Get Letters"

Enjoy some of the letters that we have received from our local 3rd graders who have toured the Historical Society Museums on our website.

As Art Linkletter use to say "*Kids Say the Darndest Things*", and he was right.

One of the letters included the following: "I'm glad that the 77 year old man was still alive". Yes, we are all happy that Ross is

with us!

Stats. January 1st to April 15th - we've now had 3,600 visitors to our web site, that's about 30 visitors per day! These numbers do not include our own members visiting the site. These are new visitors, mostly from the United States, but to date now include visitors from 18 countries.

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.

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

Stay connected! Viv

Heritage House Garden & Gazebo Gardening Support - Barbara LeSage

Spring is here and the garden committee got a big boost when **Carolyn & Ken Huffine** showed up to help. **Tom Cooney** is the most devoted worker. He always shows up with a smile and ready for work. **Edward Diable** has planted around the Gazebo so that our brides should be pleased and **Doug Le Sage** is always there in a pinch. If you would like to join us just call me (489-1735).

We are mourning the loss of our grand Magnolia and are in the process of replacing it as soon as possible.

The following dates are booked for Santa Manuela School Tours.

If you would like to work any of these dates, please call **Norma Harloe, 489-5642.**

If you need training, please call **Jane Line, 481-6510.**

May 12	9:15AM	Ocean View Elementary	(40 students)
20	9:15AM	Dana Elementary	(40 students)
27	AM	N. Oceano Elementary	(84 students)
June 1	9:15AM	Ocean View Elementary	(40 students)
3	AM	Dana Elementary	(40 students)

Our **Docent Coordinators** would love to hear from you if you can work our museums at other times.
Training is always available!

Heritage House Museum, please call **Jean Fredericks, 481-9546**

The Barn Museum, please call **Joe Swigert, 489-5472**

Santa Manuela School, please call **Kathleen Sullivan, 489-8195**

Our museums are open year-round, in addition to annual events such as Harvest Festival and Strawberry Festival. Give us a call!

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HERITAGE DAY AT THE DANA ADOBE **May 21, 2005 Event begins at 10:00 am**

Performances:
Los Californios Band
Coastal Voices
Ecos del Fandango

Vaquero Style Roping Demonstration by Pat and Deb Puckett
New World Baroque Orchestra
Yesteryears Dancers

There will be two performances of "Yankee Ciudadano" 1:30 and 3:30
"Yankee" is a play about Capt Dana's arrival in Santa Barbara and his early years in California. The play is performed by actors from P.C.P.A

There will be tours of the adobe and reenactments.
The daytime event admission is \$3.00—and closes at 4:00

Campfire Concert and BBQ Gate opens at 4:30

BBQ at 5:00 No Host Bar
Concert begins at 5:00— Dave Stamey & Audry Auld

Tickets for Concert and BBQ; \$35.00 each or 2 for \$65.00
For further information call 929-5679

Ramblings from Ross - Director of Information Services

Our Treasurer, **Carol Sargent**, is moving to Texas to be near her daughter. Her home is in escrow—and she is -packin' up and movin' out- in mid-May.



Carol has not only been a great bookkeeper, but has been reviewing past financial records to build a history of our Society's growth and current status. This task is still in process.

Of course this leaves a tremendous gap in our governing board and the search for a new Treasurer is on. If you have any recommendations for filling the position, please contact any of the current Board members.

VOLUNTEERS

RSVP (Retired Seniors Volunteer Program) recently held their annual Volunteer Appreciation luncheon. RSVP Volunteers in the County contribute over 200,000 hours annually at over 180 workstations. Volunteers in the Society who belong to RSVP recorded **4,023** hours for the 2004-05 period.

Honoring those with over 500 hours, certificates were presented to **Carol Sargent** (634 hours), **Jan Scott** (546 hours) and **Ross Kongable** (1,359 hours). Ross had the highest number of hours among 27 of those reporting over 700 hours who received a special commendation from State Senator Abel Maldonado.

Members of our Society contributed just over **7,000** hours in the past year.

The following members each contributed **more than 100 hours:**

Jane Line	Kirk Scott
Gus Berger	Rossi Berger
Joe Swigert	John Bryant
Ruth Kodaj	Dee Trybom
Vivian Krug	Dick Jackson
Lia Kalpakoff	Jean Hubbard
Don Gullickson	Jeanne Frederick
Howard Mankins	Mario Tognazzini

NEW SOCIETY VOICE MAIL TELEPHONE NUMBER

805 . 473 . 5077

Don't you find calling a number and getting the long menu of selections—and never seem to be able to talk to a human being—exasperating?

Well—don't be mad at us for installing a Voice Mail system for the Society. It has only 4 selections (offered by a very kind voice Vivian Krug .)

We felt it necessary to establish a single point of contact for the Society's activities and make it more efficient to respond in a timely manner.

Press 1 for: Museum Tours and Hours

Press 2 for: Gifts, Donations and Volunteering

Press 3 for: Wedding and Social Event Reservations
at Heritage House Garden/Gazebo

Press 4 for: Information about Special events
or publicity

Leave your message and someone will return your call within 24 hours.

Of course the numbers to reach someone at our museum sites still exist

Heritage House 481-4126

Paulding History House 473-3231

Santa Manuela School 489-8745

The Barn 489-8745

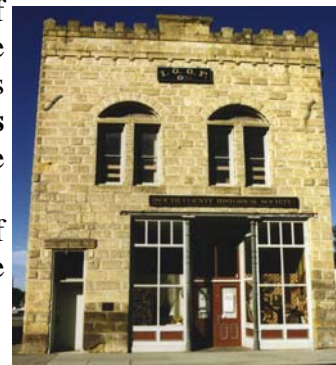
Please pass the new number along to everyone for general inquiries and information about the Society.

ACTIVITY ON BRIDGE STREET

The Society's Main Museum (formerly the IOOF Hall) on Bridge street is going through the last stages of restoration. The exterior of the building was recently power-washed, and the elimination of years of soot and grime has restored the locally-quarried sandstone façade to its original tone. The wood flooring on the main floor is in the process of being re-laid. Thanks to

John Bryan, retouching of the paint damaged in the December earthquake is complete. **Howard Mankins** and **Don Gullickson** are overseeing the final stages.

Watch for announcements of the Grand Opening to be held mid-summer.



Get Well Wishes were sent to:

Jean Bryan
Norma Burton
Al Spierling
Kirk Scott

Condolences were sent to:

Colleen Drees
On the death of her Mother
Clara Madsen
On the death of sister-in-law

Welcome New Members

Virginia Maiers

2856 Northview Ave, Arroyo Grande 93420

Mr. & Mrs. Robert McDonald

424 Orchard St, Arroyo Grande 93420

***Our new Phone Number for
Society information***

473-5077

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

SOCIETY MEETINGS

The board meets on the **3rd Wednesday** at 7:00 p.m. in the
Arroyo Grande Parks & Recreation Building.
Members are Welcome

GENERAL MEETING

held on the **2nd Tuesday** at the
Hiawatha Lodge, 3065 Temple, Halcyon
at 6:30 p.m.

Bring your table settings and a dish to share.

MAY 10, 2005

*“Tomas’s Story -
Forgotten People of Alta California”
Novela Play by Wanda Porter*



PO Box 633
Arroyo Grande
CA 93421

*Our new Phone Number for
Society information*

473-5077

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

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

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.*