

South County Historical Society

Heritage Press

Volume 10, No. 2 February 2006



LOOKING FORWARD...

Jane Line - President

Whew! Another month gone by and the goodness just keeps coming! Here are a few updates:

The Antique Show - 25th Annual, no less - almost ran itself this year. Lots and lots of members participate in this fundraising event and they all know their jobs! I heard of only a couple of small glitches but none that threatened the effectiveness of the event. My hat's off to all of you who made this one so special - our entire membership is indebted to each of you for your hard work and good team play. Treasurer Gary Hoving will be reporting the financials once all the accounting is complete.

Speaking good Ross team play, Kongable has single handedly created a tasty new fundraiser for us. Check out the "oh-so-cute" vintage **popcorn machine** that will now be set up in front of the Barn Museum every weekwell end. as as festivals around the South County. It looks just right and the popcorn is delicious. We will use it officially for the first time during the Rotary Bandstand "day in the



park" Saturday, Feb. 25, 11 am - 5 pm.

Another note on the Feb. 25 event to celebrate the dedication of the Rotary Bandstand to the

community. The **Society** is proud to join with the **Arroyo Grande Rotary Club, the City of Arroyo Grande,** and the **Village Association** as a sponsor of this day. Our museums will be open from 11am - 5pm and special activities are planned throughout the Village's Nelson Green. If you can help out that day, please call me at 481-6510.

Annoucement! Annoucement! Orville Schultz has agreed to be the Honorary Chairman of the Ruby's House Project! Why is that so special you ask? Well, Orville was born in Ruby's House on November 20, 1919 and it is soooo appropriate that he be brought back together with his birth house during its renovation!

A further note on Orville's early life - his parents lived in Ruby's House just a little while before buying their ranch up near the one-room Branch School on Branch Mill Rd. Orville remembers spending the week-end with his "townie" friends when he was about 12 or 13. A family with two young ladies was living in Ruby's House at that time. Orville, his buddy Dale French, and a couple of other boys rode their bicycles over to visit the girls! "It was great fun when I got to week-end with my friends in town," he says. When he shared this story with me, I asked if he remembered any garage or outbuilding around the house and he answered me in his special way, "No, I wasn't paying any attention to the outbuildings at the time."

The renovation of Ruby's House is going very smoothly also, thanks to **Gary Scherquist** and **Tim Harris** of Harris Cabinets and Construction. Drive by from time to time and watch our progress.

<u>More goodness</u>! The retrofit project at the ^{IOOF} **Historic Hall Museum** is nearing its end. Committee members have set July as the completion date for the construction with some interesting ideas coming forward for a "Certificate of Occupancy" celebration! Stay tuned for more on this event also!

(Continued on page 2)

Directors and Committees				
PresidentJane Line 481-6510				
Programs				
Ways & Means– First VPJim Bergman 473-9757				
Books & Publishing Linda Shephard				
Tour Bus Coordinator ······Barbara Freel				
Antique Show & Sale				
Annual Rummage SaleJan Scott				
Wedding/Social Coordinator ······Doug LeSage				
Membership—Second VP ·····················Michael & Colleen Drees ··· 489-0295				
Volunteer Coordinator				
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Corresponding Secretary Edie Juck 773-4689				
Historian & Sunshine Ethel Gilliland				
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Paulding Committee — Jean Hubbard				
Museums CuratorJan Scott 481-4435				
Assistant CuratorJoe Swigert				
Heritage House ·····Joe Swigert				
Santa Manuela Schoolhouse······Kathleen Sullivan				
The Barn Jim Bergman				
Property Management ······ 929-1014				
IOOF Building Committee ··································				
Vehicles Edward Diable & Chet Thomas				
Gardening—Heritage House ······Barbara LeSage				
Gardening—Santa Manuela Schoolhouse ····· Jane Line				
Gardening Paulding History HouseJean Bryant				
Docent Leader				
Docent SupervisorJoe Swigert				
Heritage House CoordinatorJeanne Frederick				
Paulding House Coordinator Dee Trybom				
Santa Manuela School Coordinator ······ Kathleen Sullivan				
BarnJoe Swigert				
Student ToursNorma Harloe				
Information Systems ·····Ross Kongable ··· 489-2885				
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Parliamentarian Kathleen Sullivan 489-8195				
Society Information 452 FORE				
Society Information 473-5077 Heritage House 481-4126				
Paulding History House 481-4126 473-3231				
Santa Manuela School				
Santa Manueia School 489-8745 The Barn 489-8745				
The Barn 489-8/45				

2006 ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

Website-www.SouthCountyHistory.Org

Bill Smith
on the passing of his Wife

Betty Guthrie
On the passing of her sister

Get Well Wishes were sent to:

Norma Harloe
Ms Rotta
Ethel Gilliland

Happy 80th birthday to
John Loomis

Prez Jane Line (Continued from page 1)

School Tours have started - don't be left out! If you can work any of the museums during the next few months, please call **Norma Harloe at 489-5642.** These children will put a spring in your step just being around them! Their energy and enthusiasm for life is contagious! We are happy to have the Jr. Docents helping out at Paulding History House again this year, too. I have to admit the Student Tours are probably my favorite SCHS program!

I'll get back to writing a bit more on our Directors next month, but I thought you needed to have an update on our projects this time!

Thanks to all of you who are working so hard. Jane

WELCOME NEW **MEMBERS**

Paul Broberg—489-0949 251 Larchmont Dr, Arroyo Grande 93420

Bob & Linda Brownson—474-1014 653 Asilo, Arroyo Grande 93420

Art & Jane Delgadillo—489-2275 210 Crown Terrace, Arroyo Grande 93420

Sharon Georges—922-3231 1214 E Seaward, Santa Maria 93454 П

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Barbara & Carl Grieb— 489-7076 4287 Lopez Dr, Arroyo Grande 93420

Don & Esther Stepnitz—481-5722 329 Rodeo Dr, Arroyo Grande 93420

Check the EXP date on your mailing label Have you renewed for 2006? If not, Please continue your support of the Society by renewing your membership.

The Rudolph Store (in Lompoc) closed in 1939 and everything that was left was put up in the attic...where it stayed until the 1980's.

The person hired to empty it out lived next door to my aunt Inez and I happened to be visiting when all these interesting itemsfurniture, trunks, and boxes full of any manner of things started arriving.

As they were trying to get rid of as much as they could, I picked up some beautiful hats (with the price tags-\$1.00 still on them), a breadbox, wicker plant stand dresses, etc.-and offered them \$10 for the lot.

So off we went (with my arms full) back to my aunt's to see what I'd gotten.

Of course I had no idea what I was going to do with any of it, so most of it sat in a box where I would look at it all now and then.

A few years later I volunteered for something with the Society and was asked if I had a period costume to wear. There had to be something around, and of course the hats and dresses in the closet came to mind. The black dress made of brushed satin with the beautiful lace would fit the bill nicely, topped off with one of the large brimmed \$1 hats. And now every year I get the privilege of wearing and showing off my 'treasure' outfit.



Barbara Main

In the News— Outstanding Accomplishments

Congratulations to Rachel Dewar, the 10 year-old daughter of Life members Ken and Sandi Dewar, for her contributions to the Guide Dogs to the Blind. Rachel has worked with three "puppies-in-training" for this San Rafael-based non-profit program which provides seeing eye dogs for the visually handicapped.

In an interview with the TPR recently, Rachel explained that she is technically a "Puppy Trainer" and is responsible for take care of the puppies, socializing them, while teaching them basic commands. She became interested in doing this as part of her 4-H Club's community

"Potty training does just mean making sure they don't go in the house," says Rachel's mother Sandi. "They are not to go while they are working. That means when they have their little jacket on, they can only go on command."

Rachel has also successfully managed to fund two harnesses for the Guide Dog program by raising a prize winning turkey at the Mid-State Fair. "I guess I do this because it's fun," says this Harloe Elementary student. After the puppies leave Rachel and her family, they have five more months of training before they are placed free of charge with their blind companions.

We think stewardship must run in the Dewar family. Father Ken sponsors the Mid-State Fair tractor restoration program which SCHS director Jim Bergman has worked on for two years with two of our local Boy Scouts, Kyle Perez and Paul Driggers. They have placed each year - once with our beautiful 1937 Farmall which is showcased in the Barn Museum.

We also know that no child excels without the support of a wonderful mother like Sandi who oversees the Huasna 4-H Club and its programs.



M u s e u m s Jan Scott Curator's Curator's

Ruby's House is "in process." If you've driven down Mason Street in AG Village, you've seen the construction fence up around our little Victorian cottage. It's getting more than a face lift; it's having its bones reset. The new foundation has been poured and next week we'll see the beginning of level floors.

Meanwhile, Sandy Arnold, Joe Swigert and I have begun stripping the woodwork inside. We're working on the fireplace surround, which turns out to be simply carved redwood. We can only work when the construction people aren't there (or aren't using electricity) because there's only one 20 amp circuit in the house and our heat guns are 14 and 20 amps. **Don Gullickson**, our resident electrician has run a second circuit from Heritage House so we are able to use two guns. Using a heat gun removes all paint layers in one step, leaving only a small residue for chemical stripping. If you're curious, call Sandy to set up a time to come see what it's about.

SCHS painter, John Bryant, has been working on the hardware from the doors. I managed to "teach an old dog a new trick," as John puts it. The easiest and least messy way to remove paint from old hardware is to soak it in full strength Mr. Clean. No kidding. Even John couldn't believe how easy it was.

Museum Committee— New member Bee Hodges has brought great computer skills to the Museum Committee. Three of us working turned out a record amount of work in two days last week. We're thrilled she's joined us. She picked up our museum software, Past Perfect, faster than I did when I began. Welcome, Bee.

A New Curator—Historian and member Effie McDermott has accepted the position of "Curator of the Pismo Collection" for the Society. This allows us to provide Effie with our software for easy accessioning of her vast archival collection of Pismo Beach history. She gains access to our data base at the Meatlocker, and someday we will be able to link to her data base for an astounding compilation of local history. We are grateful she is willing to work with us in this preservation effort.

Congratulations to our new curator—who's looking for help...Effie is extending an invitation to anyone who would like to help her with some Pismo Beach research. She has a traveling exhibit in mind and a celebration of the 100th anniversary of the opening of El Pizmo Inn this year. If you're interested in researching some PB history, give her a call at 773-4854 or drop an e-mail to emcdermo@kcbx.net

Ian

Ramblings from Ross - Director of Information Services

Mid 2005, I got a call from **Lesley Gerber Benn** or Orinda, Ca asking for assistance in her project. She was establishing a Memorial Garden at the Oceano Depot, in memory of her father, Dr. Gerber' home and garden in Oceano. Her project was to digitize her collection of color slides into a presentation format that could be presented to the Oceano Depot, the South County Historical Society and to Cal Poly University for their archives. The project culminated in October with the dedication of the garden at the Oceano Depot, and presentation of the DVD files.

The Society received her donation of the files in December, and we have them available for viewing and future presentations. This week, Mrs. Benn wrote to our president, Jane Line:

Dear Jane, I make this donation of \$500 to support the programs of the South County Kistorical Society, and also in thanks for the assistance of your computer specialist, Ross Kongables advice and assistance to me as G complete my record of Dr. Gerbers Home and Garden for historical presentation. Ross is not only a man with skill but a man with commitment. Sincerely, Lesley Gerber Benn

Our thanks to Lesley for her generosity, and we will use her donation to upgrade some of our computer equipment for use in the future Reference Library at Ruby's House.

I urge all to visit the beautiful Dr. Gerber garden at the Oceano Depot, and when you have the opportunity, view the audio/visual presentation created by Mrs. Benn.

WANTED—As you know, all the activities in our Historical Society are supported solely by donations and volunteer efforts.

Our museum complex, now four museums and soon to be five with the completed restoration of the Historical Hall, needs not only funds for support, but manpower (and womanpower).

During the past year, Heritage Square has become a prime tourist attraction and a drawing power to the south county area.

input, as well as committee work on our annual events.

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Volunteer activities include Docents, gardening, museum archiving, computer data as well as committee work on our annual events.

each of our members could commit only 5 hours per month in their chosen activity, and provide not only additional museum open hours—but improve our historical ch and educational efforts—our purpose.

Please call any of our Directors and let them know where you can participate.

every hour counts!! If each of our members could commit only 5 hours per month in their chosen activity, we could provide not only additional museum open hours—but improve our historical research and educational efforts—our purpose.

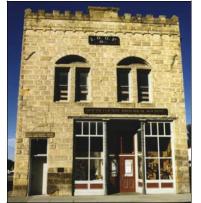
The Many Houses of South County Historical Society



Paulding History House — Crown Hill



Heritage House Museum — Mason Street



Main Museum—Bridge Street



The 'Meat Locker' - Branch St



Santa Manuela Schoolhouse — Short Street



The Barn - Museum — Short Street



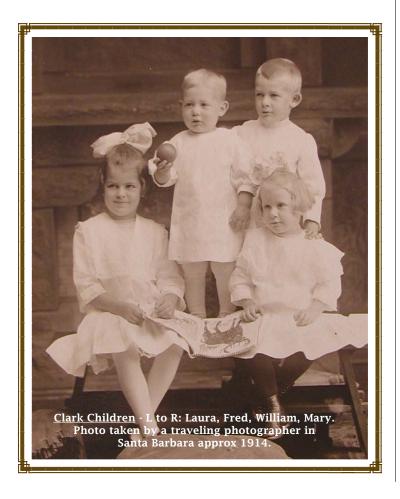
Ruby's House—Mason Street

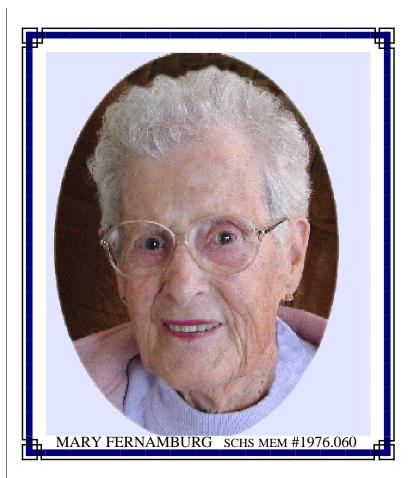
Happy 95th Birthday to Mary Fernamburg!

On the front page of Mary's father's journal is the following: "Dedicated for our use in Recording the many Pleasant Thoughts and Journeys as they may occur to us as we pass along on life's journey in this Grand and Beautiful Old World."

Inside the family's journal, Luman Reid Clark noted the birth of each child. He noted his third child was "born at Santa Barbara Cal. On Saturday Feb. 18, 1911 at 6:30 a.m. A girl. We named her Mary for Grandma Crawford and Barbara for the city of Santa Barbara giving her the full name of Mary Barbara Clark."

Mary was born during a strong Pacific Ocean storm and to this day loves the smell of wet earth. She was the first child of Luman and Lelia Clark to be born in California - a fact that always made her parents proud. Her father was a traveling salesman in Nebraska before bringing his family west. After a brief stint as a carpenter, he went to work in a new Santa Barbara gasoline station which was located next to the Flying A Movie Studio. Automobiles were making their mark in 1911 and gasoline stations represented new business opportunities across the country. Mary remembers big, fancy Touring Cars on their way up and down the coast pulling into her father's station with their famous passengers.





Mary started kindergarten in 1917 at the Garfield Elementary School in Santa Barbara. She remembers WW I vividly because her four half-brothers were all soldiers overseas. Each one came home alive. She still has the family's flag with four stars on it indicating their participation in that long ago war. "If I held it up now, it would fall to pieces," she laments.

Around 1920, the family moved to Lompoc where her father managed another gas station. During this time, a

famous Navy shipwreck occurred at Point Arguello, and several ships piled up on the rocks off the coastline. Her brother rode his bicycle to the



site where rescuers had rigged a towline with a basket used to haul the sailors to shore. Her brother pulled a gray wool Navy blanket from the surf as a remembrance of the worst naval tragedy on the California coastline.

(Continued on page 7)

"My mother cleaned it up real nice and it was the softest blanket," Mary recalls.

Later the family moved to Santa Maria where she graduated from high school on a Friday night and went to work on Monday morning for Allen Hancock's Rosemary Farms registering the lineage on his Holstein cows! She worked there nine years, helping two of her siblings complete their college educations.

Louis Edward Fernamburg had been given the nickname "Shorty" by his family as a small child and though he grew to be 6'3" tall, he was known as Shorty throughout his lifetime. Mary explains the spelling of the family name by saying, "The Fernamburgs were of Dutch origin, spelling the name "burg" as opposed to the German "berg." Shorty was a member of the Arroyo Grande IOOF when Mary met him and was the Noble Grand officer when the Order was disbanded and the building given to the South County Historical Society in the mid-1980s.

They married in 1939 and raised two children, Bob and Barbara. Bob lives in Arroyo Grande today and is a well-known member of our Society. Barbara retired from her East Coast life to do something very few people can do: she became a long haul semi truck driver for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial project *The Wall That Heals*, the half-scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial wall located in Washington, D.C.

Barbara drives a specially outfitted truck - complete with The Wall replica, Information Center, and a Traveling Museum - all across the U.S. allowing millions of Americans to visit this important memorial closer to home.

I interviewed Mary in her home at 302 Short St., in the Village of Arroyo Grande. She has lived in that home since November 1939. Following their marriage in June, she and Shorty rented a small apartment in the Jones' house (childhood home of member Anita Jones Garcia) on Whitely St. in Arroyo Grande where they lived for about 4 months. During that time, Mary remembers she and her mother would walk the Village, looking for something the young couple could live in that would allow for a little more room. One day they walked by 302 Short St. and her mother convinced her the house was worth looking into even though Mary thought it was a mess! The home had been built by the widow of the local Presbyterian minister and had sat vacant for three years.

"The house was derelict," Mary says. "The wallpaper was peeling, the cobwebs were thick, but Mother said it was a great house!"

The rent was \$25 a month and the property came with twelve walnut trees. They took it on as their first project. Eventually Shorty and Mary bought the house and then bought the lot next door for \$300!



The Fernamburg family contributed their talents, energies, and character to create the fiber of a community that continues to represent our past and our future as one of the chartering communities of the SCHS and the home of all five of our museums.

Molly Dolly - belonged to Mary's mother, Lelia Crawford, born in 1878 in Violet, Nebraska. Lelia was given the doll when she was "about two." The clothes Molly Dolly wears today includes a tucked petticoat made later from Lelia's wedding pantaloons!

Happy Birthday, Mary!

Interview by Jane Line — Mary's photo by Ross Kongable



<u>Harvest Festival</u> - Shorty and Mary Fernamburg were chosen as the A.G. Harvest Festival Grand Marshals in 1987, the 50th anniversary of the event. They are riding in Gene Reis' antique buggy. "Gene apprenticed with Mr. Wood at the old mortuary and he always lent us the buggy for Harvest Festival."

WAYS & MEANS Director Jim Bergman reports:

The 2006 Antique Show & Sale - held Feb 11-12, was a huge success.

The dealers were successful.
The Tea Room was successful.
Attendance was good.

All this was due to the generosity of the **community** and our **volunteers** and the 1,500 attendees at the 2-day event.

We had 20 fantastic gift baskets and ticket sales were brisk (total not available at press time).

Those baskets were donated by:
DOC BURNSTEINS' ICE CREAM LAB
MADELYN'S WHOLESALE APPAREL
DESIRE SWEETS & ANTIQUES
THE GREEN VASE ANTIQUE
VERENA'S GO GOURMET
WILLIS AND BENNET
INNISBROOK WRAPS
VILLAGE PAPERY
POSIE'S
LUND'S

And

NORMA BURTON
JUDY CECCHETTI
BARBARA VINSON
ETHEL GILLILAND
SANDRA WORSHAM
MARY ANN FELLER
DIANE ECKELBERGER
JIM & ANYA BERGMAN
DOUG & BARBARA LeSAGE

A special applause to the

Greater Pismo Beach Kiwanis Club

and

Doug LeSage

For the "Dealer Dinner" on Friday evening.

and to

Ron's Nursery

For the Tea Room table centerpieces













JEAN HUBBARD MARYANN FELLER®

AT THE BOOK STORE



Publicity & Community Relations

Vivian Krug, Director

25th Annual Antique Show and Sale.

Because of this year's 25th Silver Anniversary, the Annual Antique Show and Sale received more than its usual share of publicity. Not only did we have our usual show advertisements in papers, but we were on the morning and evening news, several radio stations, on local television web sites and listed in several local newsletters. Thanks go to the **Coast News, Times – Press – Recorder and Tribune** for the wonderful feature stories with photos in full color that we received! If you missed any of those articles and would like to read them, let me know and I'll get a copy to you.

Rotary Club of Arroyo Grande. The Society continues to work hand in hand with other local groups and this month we were proud to work along with the Rotary Club of Arroyo Grande, the Village Association and the Arroyo Grande Parks and Recreation Department, helping the Arroyo Grande Rotary Club as they commemorate 100 years of service by donating the Rotary Bandstand to the City of Arroyo Grande.

Congratulations and Thank You to all the members of the Arroyo Grande Rotary Club for your special gift to our Community!

It's Wedding Time. Did you see our ads in the Tribune and New Times special Wedding Pull Outs? If not, keep a look out for next months Times Press Recorder Wedding Guide. You'll see us there.

Don't forget, while "Ruby's House" is undergoing restoration, Weddings and other events are still being scheduled and held at the Gardens and Gazebo using Dressing Rooms and facilities in the Heritage House.

Web Stats. Our web site is getting more popular by the day. If you haven't had a chance or haven't visited lately, make sure you visit our site at

www.SouthCountyHistory.org.

There's always something new to see or read on our site.

Have you ever clicked on the Society logo? If you haven't, you are missing out on very interesting information on the areas the Society represents.

Village Improvement Association. By unanimous decision at February's Board meeting, the Board voted to change the name of the Association to

"The Village Association".

23rd Annual Strawberry Festival. It's time to get out your cookbooks and start thinking Strawberry Festival. As a benefit to the Society, the Village Association will once again publish the South County Historical Society's annual Strawberry Cookbook. Winning entries in this year's Strawberry Cook-off Contest will be published in the 3rd Edition of the Cookbook. Let's get some Society member's recipes in this year's book!!

.... Remember, the Historical Society can never get too much publicity or visibility! The more publicity and visibility the Society receives, the more potential we have for new members, for new visitors at our museums and new friends to be made. There is always a Historical Society event around the corner or an opportunity for a member to volunteer or become involved with a community event. Get involved!! Do your share to let the community know what the Historical Society has to offer and what its members contribute, not only to the Society, but to the community.

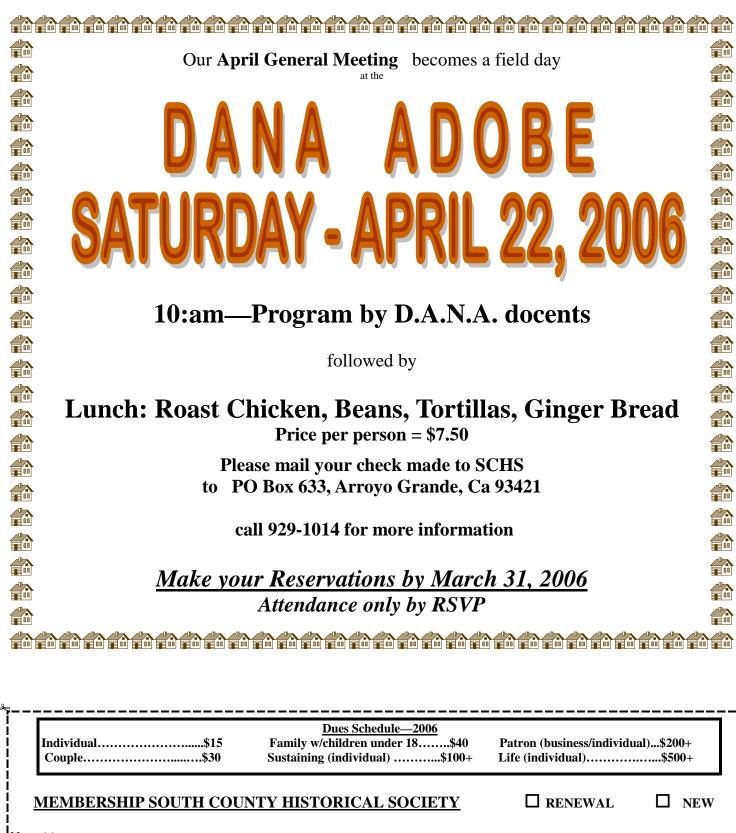
If you would like to help in any publicity activities, have any questions or comments, I'm easy to reach at either **Vivian@EmotionsCards.com** or 458-3321.

Until Next Month.....Stav

SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL WHO HELPED MAKE THE 25TH ANTIQUE SHOW & SALE A SUCCESS - Especially to:

Setup & Put-Away—The Arroyo Grande HS Baseball Team, Charles Porter & Don Gullickson & Bob Fernamburg & Jim Guthrie & Jim Dickens

Dealer setup and registration—Steve & Linda Curry
Basket Ticket Sales—Margaret Haak & Beth Garner
Tea Room—Sam & Norma Burton & Company
Cashiers—Vivian Maniaci & Gary Hoving
Show Directors—Jim Bergman & Ross Kongable
Unnamed heroes—All the Volunteers



Individual Couple		<u>Dues Schedule—2006</u> w/children under 18\$40 ing (individual)\$100+	Patron (business/individual)\$200+ Life (individual)\$500+		
MEMBERSHIP SOUTH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY			☐ RENEWAL	□ NEW	
Name(s)					
Address					
		Email:_			
Type of Membership		Amount Enclosed: \$	Check No.		

SOCIETY MEETINGS

The board meets on the **3rd Wednesday**Members are Welcome

GENERAL MEETING

Held on the **2nd Tuesday at 6:30 pm** at the Hiawatha Lodge, 3065 Temple, Halcyon Bring your table settings and a dish to share

March 14, 2006
"Chumash Technology and How They Lived"
Presented by Gabriel Miossi

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

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