



Craig Rock



**“A Library....  
Should Be the Delivery Room  
For the Birth of Ideas –  
A Place Where History Comes to Life.”**

Norman Cousins

So we built the **Patricia Loomis Library and Resource Center!** Will people come? This is the big challenge! And, this is part of my job as librarian and resource center director.

First things first. Many of you have been asking about the library **hours** at Ruby’s House. Initially, we’ll be open according to the schedule published on the back page of this issue. If we have a high demand, we’ll adjust accordingly.

Another issue is our **lending policy**. The history library was originally conceived as a reference library. However, we realized that most of our books have in-depth information about particular topics; it would be difficult to read them in a three-hour sitting. So we developed a special library membership category. For a \$20 annual fee you can become a **Friend of the Patricia Loomis History Library**. You will be able to check out books for three weeks if the book was published after 1970. The fee will help finance library and resource center projects. Yes, you can become a Friend of the Library even if you are not a reader, but wish to support the library and its projects.

**We Need Your Help With Projects!**

What are these **projects**? The South County Historical Society hopes to attract people with diverse interests and from all age groups. One way to do this is to offer public programs in our communities. I would like to hear your ideas along with whatever skills you would like to contribute. Remember our library has books, magazines, and primary source material on the experiences of people who settled in the South County area, our county in general, other parts of California, and other parts of the West. We also have **computers** available for local research and **access to the Internet**.

**Are you interested in helping to organize one of the following projects?**

*Continued on page 4*

LOOKING FORWARD

Jane Line - President



*Jane came down with a bad cold just at the time we started creating this issue of the newsletter—so her column will be, instead, an old-fashioned recipe for Chicken Soup . . . which we are hoping will help the healing action we are all praying for.*

*Our Prez has worked 10-12 hours a day for the past six months, keeping all the various projects on schedule and within budget, but this isn’t the best way to “take a break”. We wish her a rapid recovery. (editor)*

From ‘The Brides’ Cook Book’, which was presented free to the Bride and Groom as a gift from the Merchants of Bakersfield.

The book had the following on page 5:

‘Below is a facsimile of the indorsement received by the “Bride’s Cook Book” in its effort to do its part in helping to win the war. Recipes in this book have been changed back to a Pre-War basis with many new and valuable additions.’

dated July 18, 1918

Gentlemen:

The recipes in the Bride’s Cook Book have been carefully examined by the Home Economics Department of the United States Food Administration for California and found to be in accordance with its ruling.

By following the Wheatless and Sugarless recipes contained therein the Housewife is performing a patriotic duty in the conserving of Food so necessary for our allies and armies abroad. . . .

Yours verly truly,  
United States Food Administration  
for California  
(signed) Frederick O’Brien  
Director of Education.

on the cover of the book:

*We may live without poetry, music and art;  
We may live without conscience and live without hearts.  
We may live without friends, we may live without books;  
But civilized men cannot live without cooks.*

*-Owen Meredith*

**CHICKEN SOUP**

Time, four hours. Boil two chickens with great care, skimming constantly and keeping them covered with water.

When tender, take out the chickens and remove every bone from the meat; put a large piece of butter in a frying-pan and sprinkle the chicken meat well with flour, lay in the hot pan; fry a nice brown and keep it hot and dry. Take a pint of the chicken water and stir in two large spoonfuls of curry powder, one teaspoonful of salt and a little cayenne; mix it with the broth in the pot; when well mixed, simmer five minutes, then add back the browned chicken.

Serve with rice.

*This book is in the archives of the Society donated by Denise Madsen.  
2000.072.001*

**CALENDAR of ACTIVITIES**

**November 2**

PPS Workshop  
Ruby's House—10:00

**November 3**

PPS Workshop  
Ruby's House—1:00 pm

**November 4**

SCHS Rummage Sale  
Historic Hall on Bridge Street—8am

**November 5**

Price House Ice Cream Social

**November 7**

Don't Forget to Vote

**November 8**

\* SCHS Book Committee  
Ruby's House—10:00 am

\* SCHS Wedding/Social Committee  
Ruby's House—2:00 pm

**November 9**

PPS Workshop  
Ruby's House—10:00 am

**November 10**

PPS Workshop  
Ruby's House—1:00 pm

**November 11**

PPS Workshop  
Ruby's House—2:00 pm

**November 14**

\*SCHS General Meeting  
Annual Election  
\*Final Report on Hall Retrofit  
by Howard Mankins  
Hiawatha Lodge—6:30 pm

**November 15**

SCHS Board Meeting  
Historic Hall—7:00 pm

**November 23**

Happy Thanksgiving

**November 26**

Arroyo Grande Christmas Parade  
Arroyo Grande—4:00 pm

**December 2**

Grover Beach Christmas Parade  
Grover Beach—10:00 am

**December 3, 2006**  
**Ruby's House**  
**Dedication**  
**2:00 pm**

***Don't Forget***

**The November 14 meeting is the  
Annual Meeting of the Membership  
Annual Election of the Board of Directors**

The Nominating Committee will place the following in nomination

For President—*Jane Line*

For 1st Vice-President (Ways & Means) \_\_\_\_\_ -

For 2nd Vice-President (Membership) - *Michael & Colleen Drees*

For Recording Secretary \_\_\_\_\_

For Corresponding Secretary—*Edie Juck*

For Treasurer—*Gary Hoving*

For Publicity—*Vivian Krug*

For Curator Museums—*Jan Scott*

For Curator Paulding History House—*Chuck Fellows*

For Property Manager—*Charles Porter*

For Docent Leader \_\_\_\_\_

For Information Systems—*Ross Kongable*

For Parliamentarian—*Kathleen Sullivan*

Nominations will be accepted from the floor.

**The Boys Are At It Again !!!**

Jim Bergman and his crew have a new tractor restoration project underway—and need a little financial support.

This 1937 Allis-Chalmers tractor was donated to the Society by **John McGrath of Arroyo Grande**

**If you would like to contribute, please send your contribution to**

***SCHS Tractor Project***

***PO Box 633***

***Arroyo Grande, Ca 93421***



### The Schoolhouse Map Project

We are almost through with the restoration and framing of our schoolhouse maps. The latest addition isn't a map at all, but Audubon Chart # 3. When I spoke with the National Audubon Society in Boston last year, a woman named Amy told me that, while the print was not extremely valuable, it was a unique teaching device of the times and worthy of our care.

When I told her it hung in a one-room schoolhouse, she asked me to please send her a picture after it had been restored. They have a collection. So we, a society to preserve history, are having our history preserved as well.

The chart was in sorry shape. An evaluation of it reads, "There were numerous small losses in the paper support and in the clay coating as well as numerous horizontal creases...further small areas of paper loss due to holes, a few vertical breaks, and a pull-tear near the bottom center. Exposure to moisture resulted in a large dark water stain at the bottom left and small scattered stains in the bottom quarter of the chart. Surface dirt was moderate. There were spots of bright blue paint along the bottom of the chart and on the bottom stick."

The chart was sent to the Northeast Document Conservation Center in Andover, Massachusetts where it was first cleaned, then "the object was immersed in a filtered water bath to clean the paper and reduce acidity. Despite careful testing, spots of media loss occurred during washing throughout the background where the clay coating was affected. The gauze lining was removed...the poster was backed with Japanese paper to mend tears, fill losses to support and provide overall support. The worst areas of loss along the tears and breaks were in-painted using watercolors. Loss that occurred during washing was also retouched. The object was encapsulated in polyester film to reinforce and to protect against dirt, handling and atmospheric pollution. The hanging sticks were replaced."

So reads our complete record, with photographs, from the Conservation Center. We sent the chart to them last December and had to wait in line for most of the year. But now, the Audubon Chart is back in the schoolhouse, where it will stay indefinitely with no further deterioration.

That leaves one last map to do— our rollup world map. We knew it would have to be encapsulated in polyester to protect its constant use when our schools come to visit. We waited to see how the Audubon turned out. We now believe the map will still roll easily and we will move forward with this last schoolhouse paper project.

A thank you to our "Map Angel," **Michael Gillespie**, whose mother taught in a one-room schoolhouse, to **Gus and Rossi Berger** who initiated the fundraising, to **Linda Shephard** who did most of our source research and to all of you who donated what you could to see this through.

**Christmas is Coming....** And it's time to decorate our many houses of the Society for the holidays - usually the weekend after Thanksgiving, but each leader decides.

Please contact :

- ☒ JOE SWIGERT at 305-7940 or 489-5472 for Heritage House
- ☒ KATHLEEN SULLIVAN at 489-8195 for the Santa Manuela Schoolhouse
- ☒ JANE LINE at 489-8282 or 481-6510 for Ruby's House
- ☒ VIVIAN KRUG at 458-3321 for Parade vehicles.
- ☒ JAN SCOTT for Historic Hall and questions or other assignments.

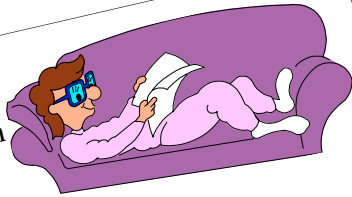
### ***There is one new rule !!***

If you decorate (the fun part), you must commit to the packing up of the decorations (the not-so-fun part) before we re-open our museums on January 6, 2007. (Some of us got tired of the being the lonely cleaner-uppers.)

Come join the fun (and even the not-so-fun part) and get in the spirit of the season.

### Reading Club

A reading club which reads the same book (historical fiction or non-fiction) and meets periodically at our library to discuss ideas generated from the book. Or, group members could read related books (instead of the same one) to create a wider discussion topic. For example, the group could discuss subjects like mining in the West, the pioneer experience of women in the West, or the importance of a sense of place in growing up in particular region



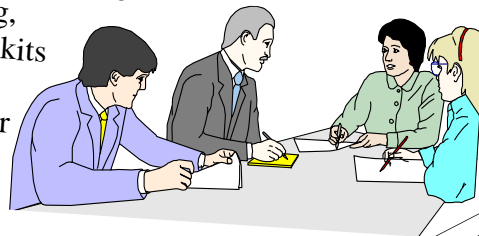
### Writer's Circle

A writers' group in which writers work on their own non-fiction, fiction, or poetry related to some aspect of the history of the West. Group members would bring in their works-in-progress, read portions of it, and get feedback for other members.



### Storytelling, Skits, and Plays

Work with a group of educators and community members to develop a children's program that connects youth to local historical events and places. This could be through storytelling, historical skits and plays, and outdoor activities.



### For the Lone Rangers and a Few Friends

Do you like to work alone? We need to develop a speakers' bureau composed of people who can talk well on a particular historical topic. We also have a collection of cookbooks of the past. Would you like to go through the books and edit a monthly food column for the newsletter?



If you have a lot of time of your hands and research skills, you can become a historic character and dramatically pass on the history of that character to others in the community. This type of one-person presentation is called a Chautauqua. You can work with a partner who can help with the research. Before the radio, Chautauquas discussed important issues of the day by setting up huge performance tents as they traveled throughout the United States.



**If you are interested in helping to develop any of the above projects, please call Craig during library hours at 489-8282. These ideas will be explored in more detail in future columns.**



The South County Historical Society has its own version of the Little Fire Engine that could, a 1923 four-cylinder American LeFrance



fire engine originally owned by the Menlo Park Fire Department. The vehicle was sold in 1938 to volunteer fire fighters in Pinecrest, a small town in the Sierra Nevada Mountains east of Fresno and about 30 miles north of Sonora.

Several years ago **John Loomis**, an Arroyo Grande native and local historian, purchased the engine for his personal collection. Eventually John and his wife Lindy donated the vehicle to the South County Historical Society. Tucked away in a corner of the society's collection, the engine reached the point at which it would no longer run.

About one year ago **Chet Thomas**, a retired field supervisor for Cummins Diesel, discovered the old vehicle. "It was sitting there. I asked if anyone was working on it and discovered that I had volunteered to restore it," Thomas said.

Thomas worked on the engine for nearly a year, taking it apart, cleaning components and tracking down replacements for parts that were no longer made and often, were no longer available on the used

market. The water pump was typical. Leaking badly, it needed a new shaft before the four-cylinder engine could have a new life. **Midstate Precision in Grover Beach** machined a replacement since parts were not available, donating the work as Midstate's contribution to the Society.

After rewiring the engine Thomas had problems getting electricity to the spark plugs and decided that the problem was a faulty magneto. Thomas asked a neighbor, **John Stilwell**, if he could help. A retired maintenance expert with United Airlines, Stilwell said he would try.

Stilwell took the magneto apart, and then using the internet found a company in Maine that specialized in antique electrical parts. With their help Stilwell reassembled the magneto and reworked the timing, the sequence that determines when electricity reaches the spark plugs. After some testing the engine ran, though weakly. The two decided that the problem lay in the gas tank.

"We removed the tank and cleaned it out, removing a coffee can full of rust," Thomas recalled.

When the two reassembled the fuel tank and gas line they tried again. The engine coughed, then roared to life. After testing the vehicle they drove it to the Arroyo Grande fire station on Traffic Way to see if the pump that delivered water to a fire-fighter's hose would work. With a little cleaning it did, delivering nearly 80-pounds of pressure the day it was tested.



**Gordon Bennett**, Loomis's cousin, recalls the day that he and his cousin, John Loomis drove to Pinecrest to pickup the old engine.

"There was no windshield. As we drove home, we sat exposed to the wind, but it was a balmy afternoon and it was pleasant," Gordon said. Driving in relays, they started down the mountain toward Fresno. Not an hour into their drive, the brakes caught on fire and soon after the brake fire had been extinguished, the electrical wiring began to burn. Pulling into a service station, the men waited until the wiring fire stopped. The engine still ran so the two resumed their drive toward Arroyo Grande. Near Atascadero threatening sounds came from the gear box and the vehicle stopped. Bennett and Loomis stayed over night, had two faulty gears replaced the next morning and finally reached Arroyo Grande.

Now that the fire engine is again healthy and running you will be seeing it in Five Cities parades and festivals and in South County Historical Society events.



## Port San Luis Marine Institute Opening Soon!

Be sure to visit the Marine Institute in Avila Beach which will be opening soon. The Institute's mission is to provide children, their parents, and educators with unique opportunities to be delighted and amazed by the ocean, its inhabitants, its uses, its history, and its importance to mankind.

One of its first features is a traveling exhibit exploring the cultural history of the abalone industry in this county – with artifacts, photos, and text covering the contributions of Native Americans as well as Chinese, Japanese and European immigrants. Artifacts include abalone shells and jewelry as well as a Japanese diving helmet, boots, and dress.



This 1940s photograph shows abalone diver Tony Sylvester with his brother, Manuel Junior, to the left.

Tony and Manuel lived in Avila Beach at the time.

The exhibit will be hosted by the South County Historical Society this Spring. The exhibit is coordinated by Craig Rock, our librarian, who also works on exhibits with the County Historical Society. Diving historian, Steve Rebeck, assisted in gathering artifacts and technical information.

The Port San Luis Marine Institute is located on First Street next to the Children's playground. More information can be found on its website at [www.pslmi.org](http://www.pslmi.org) or by calling 595-7280.

## RAMBLINGS FROM ROSS

### DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION SERVICES



### WORKSHOPS for MUSEUM SOFTWARE Volunteers

Now that we're all settled in at our new computer center in Ruby's House, your space is awaiting you—we have computer stations for four—and at least a hundred years of archiving records to input. Please plan to attend one of these workshops and volunteer a few hours per month to accomplish this task. Basic knowledge of Windows is all that is required—we'll teach you the rest. You may attend any one or all of the workshops.

Please call me if you would like to attend the workshops and/or volunteer. 489-8282

Thursday—	November 2	10:00 am til 12:00.
Friday—	November 3	1:00 pm til 3:00 pm
Thursday—	November 9	10:00 am til 12:00
Friday—	November 10	1:00 pm til 3:00 pm
Saturday—	November 11	2:00 pm til 4:00 pm

Continual training will be conducted periodically and upon request.



**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

**Walter & Susan Bethel—489-6735**  
776 Cardinal Ct, Arroyo Grande 93420

**Marcy Feltenberger—951-924-4302**  
28920 Kimberly Ave, Moreno Valley 92555

**Lisa LeSage—474-9798**  
265 Mesa View Dr, Arroyo Grande 93420

**John Stilwell—550-7716**  
60 Capanna St, Pismo Beach 93449

**GET WELL WISHES WERE SENT TO**

*Emily Shimon  
Dorothy Graham  
Rachel Cecka*

*We are sorry for the loss of our faithful member.*

**Agnes Herbold**

*Our condolences to her family*

*A Special Thank You from Billie Swigert*

*Have you ever been homesick?  
After 9 long weeks, I was—in spite of being kept busy with therapy, food and guests.  
I am now home moving about with a walker.  
My thanks to all of you for the beautiful and funny cards that kept me cheered.  
Please just watch your step – and don't crack any bones like I did!*

**Dues Schedule—2007**

Individual.....\$15	Family w/children under 18.....\$40	Patron (business/individual)...\$200+
Couple.....\$30	Sustaining (individual) .....\$100+	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 mail check or money order payable to SOUTH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, PO Box 633, Arroyo Grande Ca 93421

**Patrons of the  
South County Historical Society**

**Patricia Loomis**

**Kirk Scott**

**Carol Hizey**

**Osty Insurance**

**Bill & Cheryl Miller**

**South County Realty**

**Howard & Aileen Mankins**

**Doc Burnstein's Ice Cream Lab**

**Susan Branch 'Heart of the Home'**

**Society Meetings**

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

**GENERAL MEETING**

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

Our next General Meeting will be  
**November 14, 2006**

**An update of the research  
on Francis Z. Branch**  
Presented by David Saari

**Pat Loomis**

**History Library & Resource Center Hours  
At Ruby's House**

**Monday - Tuesday - Wednesday**

2:30 pm until 5:30 pm

**Thursday**

2:30 pm until 8:30 pm

**Or by appointment**

Call 805-489-8282