



# South County Historical Society

## Heritage Press

Volume 10, No. 7

September 2006

### LOOKING FORWARD

Jane Line - President



I have never participated in the opening of a library before BUT last Saturday was so satisfying, I would do it again! What a lovely day..... and what a lovely crowd we had! I call it "making magic" and **Patricia Loomis** held the wand!

For those of you who were unable to attend, our Dedication program began with the following comment made by President Roosevelt 65 years earlier at the dedication of his presidential library in June 1941:

*"It seems to me that the dedication of a library is in itself an act of faith. To bring together the records of the past and to house them in buildings where they will be preserved for the use of men and women in the future, a nation must believe in three things.*

*It must believe in the past. It must believe in the future. It must, above all, believe in the capacity of its own people to learn from the past that they may gain in judgment in creating their own future."*

You'll be interested to know, perhaps, that Ross Kongable videotaped the dedication ceremony so that **Posterity** may one day watch it with great interest:

*"Gee, see how funny their clothes were back then."*

*"Oh, look, that building looks so different now."*

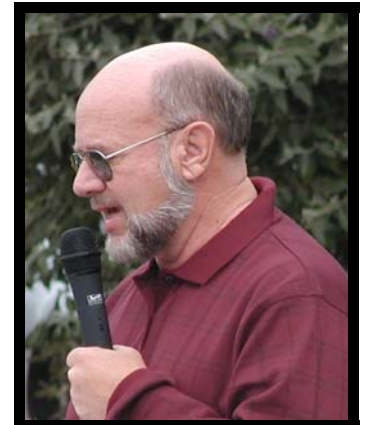
*"Look, we still have that book in the Library now!"*

**Craig Rock**, our Library/ Outreach Director, gave us the following overview of the Patricia Loomis History Library and Resource Center:

"It is indeed a history library....a collection of books dealing with South County, San Luis Obispo County, California and the West.

"It's my philosophy, as director, to include books on many different perspectives on life in the Western United States. Books on our eleven local communities, as well as the rest of SLO County, are our most immediate past, present and future. Books on the rest of California and the West are important because settlers throughout this region shared many aspects of pioneer life with settlers in South County. Yet today we share a common pool of challenges, some of which are critical to a decent quality of life for our children and their children.....and so on.

"The books in our library come from many sources throughout the years, but recently three donors have come through with significant contributions. We received nearly a hundred books from the family of John B. Loomis; boxes and boxes of books from Patricia Loomis including the 39 volumes of Bancroft's works. The research for this Bancroft collection was gathered in the late 1800s by Hubert Bancroft of the Bay Area who employed up to 50 historians at a time who gathered historical information on California, the Pacific Northwest, Mexico and Central America. The third donor I'll mention in a minute.



(Continued on page 2)

“I would like to stress that the library is also a Resource Center – a place for researchers, teachers and students to visit – no – to explore various issues relevant to our communities’ past, present and future. For example, we have one collection of books connecting the Old West to the New West - involving land, water and other development issues. We have library categories on railroads, mining and oil, natural history, categories which teach about the West, Native Americans, the Missions, early and not-so-early California. We have original copies of Harpers Weekly dating back to the Civil War era.



“We have original research, magazines and publications on California history, local genealogy and cemeteries, local communities and local families!

“The Research Center also has a mission – a mission to record the oral histories of families that have kept our local communities together by settling and staying in the area. But we also need to record the histories of newer families whose energies and love of the area we need to insure that our schools, quality of life and local institutions and groups flourish.

“The Research Center hopes to bring together all these groups – to sponsor speaker series and panel discussions – to re-create or re-enact historical plays, skits and Chautauqua's – where individual researchers act out the lives of historical characters. So, we need project organizers. We need students, teachers and skilled technicians to produce digital stories for community showings or school lessons. We need people to research and develop programs involving cultural tourism and historic preservation.

“We need help in all the projects I just mentioned. We need your energy as volunteers, as consultants if you are skilled in a certain area, as docents, as researchers and exhibit creators or as financial supporters if you are able to do so.”



(Continued on page 3)



On behalf of **Mildred O’Neill Davis and the O’Neill family**, Jean Hubbard made a special presentation to the Library of a book authored by Mildred’s father entitled “The History of Santa Barbara County.” **Owen Hugh O’Neill** was a fifth generation descendant of California’s **Captain Jose Francisco Ortega** and the Society is proud to have been gifted in this way.



The **SCHS Board of Directors** also honored **Jean Hubbard**, a founder of our Society, by naming the Library Reading Room for her. No project has occurred in our 30 year history that Jean has not influenced in

one way or another. A small plaque will be placed inside Ruby’s House in the Reading Room so that all may know of her contributions to our community’s knowledge and understanding of its past.

The honoree of the day – **Patricia Loomis** – received a resounding applause from the 140 or so guests as she was introduced.

Her generosity not only enabled the Society to restore and preserve the 1888 Ruby’s House in Heritage Square, but also funded our Library’s ability to get off the ground formally – and to flourish in the process! Simply put, Pat made magic happen for our Society and we love her dearly. We hope to continue to benefit from her ideas and enthusiasm.



Stay tuned for the next chapter!

(Continued on page 4)



(LOOKING FORWARD Continued from page 3)

Following the dedication portion of our program, **Pat Loomis** and **Craig Rock** welcomed guests in the main library room.



**Gordon Bennett**, the grandson of Arroyo Grande's first mayor, showed guests some of the early city books from 1911 and 1912. His table also exhibited old minutes from the IOOF meetings as well as displaying a fabulous photo from 1904 showing a dirigible behind the Andreini Building in the Village of Arroyo Grande.

**Jean Hubbard** hosted in the Reading Room where the attendance records from our Santa Manuela School were displayed, as well as some of Dr. Paulding's Harper's Weekly volumes and local pioneer and author Horace Vachall's books.

Last, but never least, **Effie McDermott** used photos to tell us early stories about 'El Pizmo' – the "Beach" having been added later in Pismo's history. Did you

know that Pismo had a Ferris wheel up and running on their boardwalk one year after the first one was exhibited at the Chicago's World's Fair 1893? Well, Effie knew and shared a wealth of info with us all!

The Library Committee members – Jean Hubbard, Linda Shepherd, Gordon Bennett, Effie McDermott, Kathleen Sullivan, Loren Nicholson, Sandy Cabassi, and Barbara LeSage - were thanked by the Board of Directors for their contributions to the overall story with big thanks going to Barbara and Bob Watson who oversaw the sale of books sold by our Society. Norma Burton, Barbara Vinson, Linda Fellows, Joe Swigert, Martin Line, and a cast of thousands deserve kudos for a month!

A lovely day, as I mentioned at the top of the long piece. But I didn't want anyone to feel left out of these festivities – even if they could not attend.

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One of the goals of the San Luis Obispo County Agriculture Education Committee is the promotion of the inclusion of agriculture activities in the classrooms, especially in the elementary schools. To support that goal, the Committee has provided seminars for teachers to share agricultural based classroom materials that match the State Curriculum Standards. In addition, the Committee offers an annual event called AGventure for 4<sup>th</sup> graders who are bused to the Mid State Fair grounds to participate in a series of presentations by local people active in agriculture. Educators and students study role and importance of agriculture in our lives and, through classroom lessons, our young people learn about local agriculture.

For about the last ten years, the Committee annually recognizes a county educator who has been actively involved in local agricultural education activities. In July of 2006, at the Mid State Fair on Cattlemen and Farmers' Day, the award was presented to Linda Shephard for her long time involvement with the Committee and her on-going support of local agriculture in the classroom activities. She was part of the group that founded the Committee more than 20 years ago and has participated in seminars, presentations and both school site and county wide agriculture events.



Through much of her career in education, she has had a long term commitment to agriculture literacy. Activities include coordinating the dissemination of federal funds in support of agriculture programs at the high school level, the incorporation of agriculture concepts in the curriculum for elementary students, promoting hands-on agriculture based lessons in the classrooms, serving on both local and state legislative committees and her involvement with the County Agriculture Education Committee.

*Congratulations, Linda !!*

## **YARD SALE !!**

**Mark your calendars:  
Saturday, November 4th**

We need your donations delivered to the HISTORIC HALL on the weekend beginning on FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27.  
*Call 481-4435 or 710-1560 for Sunday deliveries.*

Please, please, try to bring everything on that weekend. It's a nightmare to receive items the day before the sale.

I need volunteers to man the Hall, mark items, ALL WEEK, EVERYDAY, beginning on that Friday (we have things in storage to mark).

No, you don't have to work everyday, but we need all the help we can get.  
This is a big undertaking and we need good company.

We will set up our tables in the Hall, or in boxes, and carry them outside on the day of the sale. (We need a strong crew willing to show up around 6:30 that morning). We'll be able to work with coffee, a bathroom, light and air. And of course, great people.

Call and leave a message at 481-4435 telling me when you can work, or just come on in.

This is a great way to get involved. Please come help.

Once again,

- we will be accepting almost everything, except adult clothing. If you have some clothing that you think is pretty spectacular... okay. But we make the least money and spend the most time on it, not to mention the boxing of it after the sale. Do us a favor and take it straight to Goodwill or the charity of your choice.

**Children's clothing is very desirable.  
gardening equipment,  
entertainment items,  
household goods,  
books,  
tools,  
toys,  
art,  
just about anything that's taking up room  
that you could use for other things.**



# Harvest Festival 2006



Ross Kongable checks at the Wells Fargo Stagecoach to be used for Photo Op fundraiser.



Charles Porter, Kirk Scott and Mayor Tony Ready the 1925 Loomis Truck for the parade.



Ken Huffine and his fellow 'whittler/carvers' set up shop in the Barn.



**Celebrities abounded in the Village for the Harvest Festival**  
**Left—Howard & Aileen Mankins, Grand Marshalls**  
**Center—Abe Lincoln slept in the Heritage Gardens**  
**Right—Kathleen Sullivan and Jackie Thomas grab onto John Wayne**



5TH PLACE  
VINTAGE COSTUME



Visit our website [SouthCountyHistory.org](http://SouthCountyHistory.org)

For more pictures and results of the Harvest Festival Spelling Bee, Costume Contest.  
For a full story on the Dedication of the Patricia Loomis History Library and Resource Center

SCHS fundraiser “Roasin’Ears”, “Lemonade and Popcorn” and “Photo Op” booths raised over \$300 for our museum fund. Thanks to all the volunteers for helping out, especially to Diana and Natalie Schmidt of Fallbrook who helped their dad/granddad Ross K. from setup to teardown!!

Thanks to the Harvest Festival Committee and all the participants for this year’s efforts. It was a beautiful fun-filled family day that reflected the true nature of our “quality of life” here on the Central Coast. Thank you, **Doug Perrin** and **Vivian Krug**, co-chairs of the event.

## GORDON'S MACON ADVENTURE

by Gordon Bennett

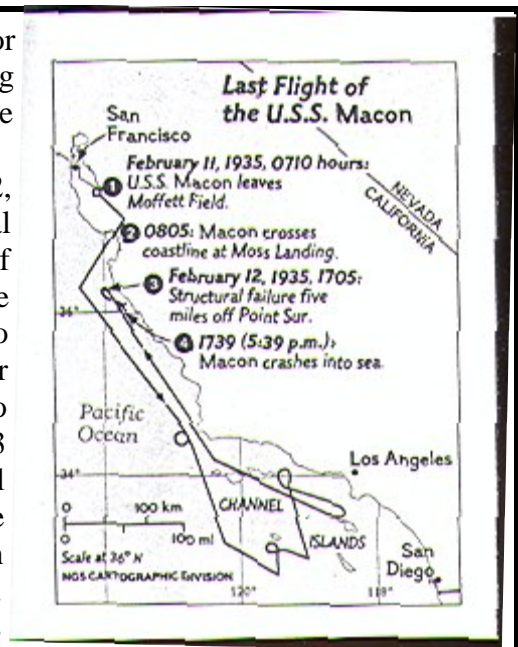
In the summer of 1934, I accompanied my parents and brother to the San Francisco bay area to visit our relatives in Oakland. On the way we took a side trip to Sunnyvale and Moffett Field where the world's largest dirigible was stationed.

Going inside the hanger, we saw the Macon, a monster dirigible which was over 2-1/2 football fields long, or 785 feet. We walked along the side of the Macon and came to an open stairway that led up into its large interior. The hatch was opened and had a 'no admittance' sign above. As my parents and brother walked by, I decided to climb up the stairway and see what was inside. I was amazed to see the mass of metal girders going in all directions. I wondered how the Macon could lift off the ground with all of that metal aboard. I also saw some of the large helium fuel cells that gave the Macon its lifting ability.

After viewing the insides of the Macon, I walked back down the steps and caught up with my family who had not missed me in my trespassing venture. As we walked around the Macon, I spied several Sparrow Hawk biplanes sitting in the hanger. They were used in conjunction with the Macon and had a hook on the top

wing allowing for landing or taking off from the Macon.

On February 12, 1935, during naval maneuvers off Point Sur, the Macon ran into turbulent weather and crashed into the ocean with 83 men aboard. All but two were rescued with minor injuries. About ten years



ago I contacted the Moffett Field Historical Society to see if there were any of those survivors still living, and they indicated that they knew of only one who was 90 years old. I was only 8 years old when I climbed up into the interior of the Macon, so I may now be the last living person who was ever on board the dirigible Macon. . . ?

## THE HOT FUDGE SUNDAE TURNS 100 YEARS OLD!

Some anniversaries just outweigh others and acknowledgments for such anniversaries should not be cherry-picked! Consider the plain vanilla facts offered below, but celebrate your own way!

*C.C. Brown's was founded in 1906 in downtown Los Angeles by Clarence Clifton Brown and operated by his son Cliff from 1924 to 1963. Cliff Brown moved the business to Hollywood Boulevard in 1929, where it became a regular spot for Hollywood hopefuls. Bob Hope once worked there and Marion Brando and Joan Crawford were among the stars spotted there enjoying hot fudge sundaes.*

*The store was sold to Carnation dairy chemist John Schumacher in 1963 and closed in 1996, two years after his death. The company, still operated by the Schumacher family, sells bottled ice cream sauces via mail order, the Internet and specialty stores.*

If you register at **Doc Burnstein's Ice Cream Lab** in the Village, you will get a free sundae during the month of your birthday. Then you can celebrate both your and the Sundae's achievement of yet another beautiful year!!





# General Meeting - October 10

## "The program for the General Meeting in October **Audio Visual Story of Isaac Sparks** **Prepared and presented by Martin Line**

Since this newsletter will probably arrive after the meeting, below is the introduction by Charles Porter of Martin:

"Martin grew up in small town West Texas with strong farming and ranching influences. However, after an aborted collegiate career in music and rodeoing, he became an engineer in the early days of the digital revolution.

He was involved in developing radars, airplanes, ships, rockets and space systems. When someone said "It ain't rocket science", he could say "Oh yes it is!", since he was instrumental in the Advanced Solid Rocket Motor development program after the Challenger disaster.

He also told me of being responsible for the Kuwait Parliament being disbanded after his team fought a fraudulent decision by corrupt (bribed) military officials.

At any rate, our speaker tonight got interested in delving into our local history after becoming active in our Society and discovering how relative our history is to our everyday lives."

## **DOCENT TRAINING MEETING!!!**

**Tuesday, October 17, 2006**  
**10:00 AM**

**at the Historic Hall, 128 Bridge Street**  
**Village of Arroyo Grande**

**"Clothing - 1850 to 1920"**  
**by Carol Trotter, DANA Docent**



South County Historical Society's Docent Program is proud to host docents from the SLO County Museum, docents from the D.A.N.A. program, Friends of Price House and the Oceano Depot for a spectacular talk on period clothing going from the "Don" days right up to the Flapper period!

Carol Trotter's fascination with clothing styles will charm you while leaving you much more prepared to costume yourself for the various historical periods we all enjoy in our docent programs.

SCHS Curator, Jan Scott, will be on hand sharing her love of clothing fashions learned during her stage acting years. Expect to see a garment or two from her curatorial "stash" or maybe her private collection.

Come and meet docents from around the area whose interests mirror (!) your own!  
Enjoy peeking around the Historic Hall's main floor.  
See you there!

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

**Mariah Braxton—473-8595**  
241 N Courtland #334, Arroyo Grande

**Alan & Helen Daurio—929-2606**  
630 Sweet Donna Pl, Nipomo 93444

**Walter & Dorothy Seelos—481-4888**  
1860 Todos Santos Ct, Oceano 93445

**Carol Trotter—343-3133**  
1630 Sarazen Ct, Nipomo 93444

**GET WELL WISHES WERE SENT TO**

*Billie Swigert  
Barbara LeSage*

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

**Clara Madsen  
Maxine Blankenburg**

*Our condolences to their families*



**RAMBLINGS FROM ROSS**  
**DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION SERVICES**

We will be moving our computer center from the Meat Locker to Ruby's House (now we'll have a bathroom, telephone, light and fresh air), and I'll be conducting workshops of our museum software for all our 'input' volunteers starting in October. If you would like to be a part of this tremendous task of inputting thousands of artifacts, please contact me. All that is needed is a basic knowledge of Windows and a few hours a month available.

With the installation of 4 new computers and a new printer/copier/scanner, we should be able to start making headway into the task of providing a research database for our new Resource Center.

**Dues Schedule—2006**

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 make check or money order payable to SOUTH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



**2006 ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE**

**Directors and Committees**

<b>President</b> .....	<b>Jane Line</b> .....	<b>481-6510</b>
Programs.....	Charles Porter	
<b>Ways &amp; Means– First VP</b> .....	<b>Jim Bergman</b> .....	<b>473-9757</b>
Books & Publishing .....	Linda Shephard	
Antique Show & Sale.....	Jim Bergman	
Annual Rummage Sale .....	Jan Scott	
Wedding/Social Coordinator.	Doug LeSage	
<b>Membership—Second VP</b>	<b>Michael &amp; Colleen Drees</b> .....	<b>489-0295</b>
Volunteer Coordinator		
<b>Recording Secretary (Acting)</b> .....	<b>Ross Kongable</b> .....	<b>489-2885</b>
<b>Corresponding Secretary</b> .....	<b>Edie Juck</b> .....	<b>773-4689</b>
Historian & Sunshine .....	Ethel Gilliland	
<b>Treasurer</b> .....	<b>Gary Hoving</b> .....	<b>929-3106</b>
<b>Publicity</b> .....	<b>Vivian Krug</b> .....	<b>458-3321</b>
Community Relations		
Webmaster		
<b>Paulding History House Curator</b> ....	<b>Chuck Fellows</b> .....	<b>481-3464</b>
Paulding Committee.....	Jean Hubbard	
<b>Museums Curator</b> .....	<b>Jan Scott</b> .....	<b>481-4435</b>
Assistant Curator.....	Joe Swigert	
Heritage House .....	Joe Swigert	
Santa Manuela Schoolhouse	Kathleen Sullivan	
The Barn .....	Jim Bergman	
<b>Property Management</b> .....	<b>Charles Porter</b> .....	<b>929-1014</b>
Historic Hall Committee	Howard Mankins	
Vehicles .....	Chet Thomas	
Gardening—Heritage House	Barbara LeSage	
Gardening—Santa Manuela Schoolhouse...	Jane Line	
<b>Docent Leader</b> .....		
Docent Supervisor.....	Joe Swigert	
Heritage House Coordinator....	Jeanne Frederick	
Paulding House Coordinator ..	Dee Trybom	
Santa Manuela School Coordinator...	Kathleen Sullivan	
Barn .....	Joe Swigert	
Student Tours.....	Norma Harloe	
<b>Information Systems</b> .....	<b>Ross Kongable</b> .....	<b>489-2885</b>
Heritage Press Newsletter		
Computer Systems and Software		
<b>Parliamentarian</b> .....	<b>Kathleen Sullivan</b> .....	<b>489-8195</b>
<b>Society Information</b> .....		<b>473-5077</b>
Heritage House .....		481-4126
Paulding History House .....		473-3231
Santa Manuela School .....		489-8745
The Barn.....		489-8745
Historic Hall .....		489-8114
Ruby’s House .....		489-8282

**Website— [www.SouthCountyHistory.Org](http://www.SouthCountyHistory.Org)**



## **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

Our next General Meeting will be

**October 10, 2006**

**Audio Visual Story of Isaac Sparks**

**Prepared and presented by**

**Martin Line**

## **Patrons of the South County Historical Society**

**PATRICIA LOOMIS**

**OSTY INSURANCE**

**CAROL HIZEY**

**SUSAN BRANCH 'HEART OF THE HOME'**

**DOC BURNSTEIN'S ICE CREAM LAB**

**HOWARD & AILEEN MANKINS**

**BILL & CHERYL MILLER**

**SOUTH COUNTY REALTY**

**KIRK SCOTT**