



Looking Forward

By Jane Line



A new book, entitled "Be the Change!" written by Michelle Nunn, co-founder and CEO of *Hands On Network*, explores the personal transformation of over 1000 everyday people, business leaders and celebrities through their involvement in volunteer service.

Volunteers are big business these days...especially since 9/11. Here are some statistics from a recent article in The Tribune: "An increase in volunteerism (nationally) rose from 20.4% in 1989 to 26.7% in 2006. Out of the tragedy of 9/11 and the devastation of hurricanes has come an unmistakable goodness: a strong interest in volunteering and community involvement."

Approximately 61.2 million people volunteered throughout the United States last year! Interestingly, one of the largest increases in the volunteer rate has occurred in the 16 - 19 age group! However, volunteerism in the 45 - 64 age group has also increased while the volunteer rate for seniors increased from 16.9% in 1989 to 23.9% in 2006.

This is fabulous news if you are a 501(c) 3 nonprofit organization like the South County Historical Society! The Society and its programs have grown considerably in 31 years and so has the need for volunteers. But did you also know that if you are a docent, sitting at The Barn regularly, you are contributing to the economic vitality of our county? You are. In fact, in SLO county alone volunteers contribute \$18 million worth of labor annually to the nearly 1,000 nonprofit groups according to the 2006 Nonprofit Economic Impact Study.

Stephanie Cochran, a new member, is currently heading up an effort to increase our volunteer base. Stephanie's background in program development is a big plus for us. We are hoping to have enough volunteers to open some of our museums on Fridays this summer in order to meet the increasing numbers of tourists coming into the South County—Heritage Square in particular. Additionally, we will need docents to accommodate our hours at the IOOF Historic Hall once our exhibits come on line beginning middle of May. One of the first outreach opportunities for increasing the volunteer count is our "Opportun-a-Tea" which Stephanie organized in the Heritage House Gardens on April 29. She will be planning more of these in the future months to come.

Our Society has many fascinating opportunities for volunteering: the Museums, the History Library, the gardening—Heritage House and the Heirloom Garden at Ruby's House, working with our computer database as an accessioner or a researcher, or assisting our curators as they attend to the Society's collections. The SCHS Book Committee or the Heritage Press, our monthly newsletter, might be just "your cup of tea," as Stephanie says. Or perhaps you might want to read Ms. Nunn's book to find out just what volunteering has done for others and what it might do for you! Be a part of this national movement!

We have a lot of fun in this organization. Come, be part of it, and help us make an even larger impact on the culture and economy of this area we love so much! Every Director is available by phone or you can drop into one of our venues and learn more!

Opening May 19th



EXHIBITS, FILMS, AND MORE AT IOOF HALL

By Craig Rock

Residents and tourists alike will soon have a chance to explore the history of coastal California through a series of changing exhibits hosted at our "new" IOOF Historic Hall.

Opening May 19 (2-5 PM), visitors will experience the Great Depression of the 1930's through two exhibits: "Behind a Lens: The Photography of Dorothea Lange" and "The Civilian Conservation Corps, A Bridge to Recovery."

Professor Dan Krieger will be on hand to introduce these two exhibits with a short talk on the Great Depression and its effects on local communities. The exhibits were put together by Ashley Fletcher and Joseph Walker, students in Krieger's California history class, as part of a collaborative effort with the newly formed Exhibit Committee of the South County Historical Society. These exhibits run through June 17.

For those of you interested in local fishing communities, an additional exhibit will be featured on Abalone Harvesting in San Luis Obispo County (1900-1970s). This traveling exhibit was created by **Steve Rebuck**, and our Resource Center Director/Librarian, **Craig Rock** for the County Historical Society. In addition to photographs, the exhibit has many artifacts including a Japanese diving suit and helmet. The exhibit opens May 19th as well and runs through most of the summer.

History buffs will notice local connections in all of the above exhibits especially with some of Lange's photographs entitled the "Migrant Mother Series." Thanks to the Library of Congress, our audience will be able to see several photographs in this series that were taken near Nipomo. The abalone exhibit features a section on the Sylvestor family and others who harvested abalone in South County.

More exhibits by Krieger's students will open throughout the summer:

June 23 – July 22

- Architecture in SLO County
- Mexican Migrant Workers

July 28 – August 22

- Japanese American Internment Camps
- Children in Internment Camps
- Fishermen in SLO County

September 1 – September 22

- Santa Barbara's Film Industry
- Hollywood in the 1920s
- Disney Studios

Loren Nicholson's exhibit on the history of Avila will open September 29. Contact **Craig Rock at 489-8282** for more information, or to volunteer as a docent for these exhibits.

CALENDAR of ACTIVITIES

**Note: New Hours for the
Pat Loomis
History Library &
Resource Center
At Ruby's House**

Tue-Fri
1:00 pm until 5:00 pm
Or by appointment

May 5-6, 12-13, 19-20, 26-27
Data Entry Workshops 1:00 pm
Ruby's House

May 6, 2007:
In Lieu of General Meeting
Field Trip to Oceano Depot
& Tour of Depot,
12-4 pm
Fund raiser for Depot Association.
(See full details on page 11)

IOOF HALL
May 19
First Exhibit Opening

Exhibits on Photographer Dorothea Lange, the Civilian Conservation Corps. (CCC), and abalone harvesting in SLO County
(Full details on page 1)

May 26 & 27
Strawberry Festival
Arroyo Grande Village

Happy Cinco de Mayo



“Friendship is a word, the very sight of which in print makes the heart warm.”

-AUGUSTINE BIRRELL

2007 ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

Directors and Committees

President.....Jane Line.....481-6510
Programs..... Craig Rock

Ways & Means– First VP.....Jim Dickens.....481-0540
Books & Publishing..... Linda Shephard
Tour Bus CoordinatorJoe Swigert
Antique Show & Sale.....Doug LeSage
Events Coordinator..... Doug LeSage & Shelly Cochran

**Membership—Second VP ...Michael &
Colleen Drees.....489-0295**
Sunshine.....Ethel M. Gilliland...473-0175

Recording Secretary

Corresponding Secretary..Edie Juck.....773-4689

Treasurer.....Gary Hoving.....929-3106

Publicity.....Vivian Krug.....458-3321
Webmaster..... Vivian Krug

Paulding History House Curator...Chuck Fellows.....481-3464
Paulding Committee.....Jean Hubbard

Museums Curator.....Jan Scott.....481-4435
Assistant Curator.....Joe Swigert
Heritage House.....Joe Swigert
Santa Manuela SchoolhouseKathleen Sullivan
The Barn.....Jim Bergman

Property Management....Charles Porter.....929-1014
Vehicles.....Chet Thomas
Gardening—Heritage House.....Barbara LeSage
Gardening—Santa Manuela Schoolhouse..... Juan Jazo

Docent Leader (Acting)...Stephanie Cochran...
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

Information Systems (Acting).....Dick Jackson
Heritage Press Newsletter.....Editor.....Bee Hodges

Parliamentarian..... Kathleen Sullivan..... 489-8195

Society Information **473-5077**
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



Patricia Loomis History Library and Resource Center



Women in Journalism

-Craig Rock

We continue our library pages this month by covering local women in South County. The focus will be on two women journalists: Mae Ketchum and Patricia Loomis. Mae Ketchum's story is told by Jean Hubbard in a story she wrote for the Times Press Recorder. Patricia's story is written from notes provided by her researcher/friend, Mary Mueller.

Jean Hubbard, of course, continues to educate us all with her knowledge of South County history, her donations of writings, books and magazines to our library and archives, her work at the Paulding House Museum and now with her participation on AG's Historic Resource Committee. Her story will be featured in another issue. Thanks, Jean.

Patricia Loomis

Patricia Loomis reported the news in San Jose for forty years, until she retired in 1983. She attended Arroyo Grande schools, graduating in 1939. She took the advice of her teachers and enrolled at San Jose State University as a journalism student. She also wrote on the campus newspaper, the Spartan Daily.

After graduating in 1943, she started working in public relations for a Bay Area firm but was soon whisked away by the San Jose Mercury News, which needed writers because the men were off fighting World War II.

She worked her way up at the newspaper, first writing church notices, news about local servicemen and obituaries. She later covered local stories about Santa Clara and Campbell. Her writings included coverage of flood damage, droughts and the Farm Bureau in Santa Clara County.

With the war's end, Pat also wrote about the Santa Clara County Fair. She became a Fair Board director, and after her term ended she created historical exhibits for the annual event. Her interest in history continued as a reporter.

In 1977, she took a class by a local historian who help spawn her curiosity in the pioneer emigrant trails that opened up the West starting in 1840s. She persuaded her editor to give her time off to travel on a class field trip that visited sites on the Oregon and California Trails. She wrote daily articles about the trip and phoned them in frequently during the 16-day tour.

For ten years, she wrote a column about well-known citizens and pioneers of the Santa Clara region. These articles became the basis for her two books about local street names.

Since her retirement, Pat has helped publish a newsletter for the California-Nevada Chapter of the Oregon-California Trails Association (OCTA). She is a firmer believer in preserving and recording the history of the Emigrant Trails. Pat has established an endowment that helps fund trail projects sponsored by the OCTA and the National Parks Service. This included a land purchase to preserve an historic registry rock in the City of Rocks in southern Idaho on the California Trail.

She is currently writing a small town guide about forty well-known citizens buried in the Arroyo Grande Cemetery. Although this book will not be out until later this year, Pat has a vision for her next book which is about the streets of Arroyo Grande and who they were named after. Her generosity in supporting the South County Historical Society is making so many of our projects possible. Thank you Pat.

Mae Deiffenbacher (Ketchum)

Five Cities Times-Press-Recorder, Arroyo Grande, California, November 1, 1989

“EARLY NEWSPAPER WOMAN WROTE FOR FIVE LOCAL EDITORS”

-- Echoes by Jean Hubbard

The South County had many strong women who had careers away from home long before it was acceptable to be a career woman. Mae Deiffenbacher (Ketchum) began her newspaper career at the age of 14. In June, her mother sent a note to the owner-editor of the Weekly Herald, Stephen Clevenger, asking if there was something she could do. He put her to work setting type by hand. (Miss Josie Bailey had been typesetter for some months and succeeded Miss Emma Musick, who had worked at the case for several years.) She was an all-around petticoat printer; she would also ink up the old hand press while the editor was getting the next sheet ready to place in the form.

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

"When I became a 'printer's devil,' " Mae said 60 years later, "I was shown what 'type lice' were." Being shown "type lice" was a joke played on novices by putting water in a tray containing type. When the unsuspecting person bent close to see the 'lice', the type was shoved in such a way that a spurt of water hit the looker in the face.

Mae Ketchum remembered that the nimble-fingered girls who handset type in those early years included Lulu Mann, Mamie Lathrop, Ada Adams, Isabelle "Tootsie" Whiteley, and Ethel Jatta.

"A number of boys were used to ink the old Washington Press on publication days," she said. "Among those were Walt and Tom Whiteley, Bill and Bun Swall, Billy Faeh, Oscar Dixson, and Jimmy Branch. Louie Gambert was another printer's devil who worked for some months.

The last of November 1901, the paper moved to a new two story board-and-batten building built by B.F. Stewart, a half block west of the little old shop," said Ketchum. The move was accomplished by wheelbarrow and the two-horse dray owned by Chris and Andy Schow.

"The next year, the summer of 1902," Ketchum remembered, "a professional advertisement man came to town. He solicited special feature ads and write-ups from the business people of the city and area." She and Lulu Mann worked long hours setting them up, and she was paid by check because the bank had just opened in Arroyo Grande. "It was a big day in my life when I walked into the bank to cash my first check," she said.

In 1906, Russell Robison built the first electric plant in Arroyo Grande. As soon as possible, Mr. Clevenger had his shop and home wired for electricity and installed his first power press. Porter Clevenger, son of the owners, grew up at the newspaper. Ketchum remembered seeing him when he was 11 years old, standing on two books to feed the job press.

In 1916 Ketchum turned reporter and began working in the news department. She worked for five editors of the Herald-Recorder": Stephen Clevenger, William Smith, Norris Klink, Newell W. Strother, and R.E. Blankenburg, before ending her career. She also wrote for the Grover City Press and the Pismo Times. For 30 years, she was the local correspondent for the Santa Barbara News-Press. She also wrote for the Telegram-Tribune for several years. She married Robert Ketchum, the son of early pioneers, in 1902, and worked part-time for a few years but never quit entirely. They never had children. In later years, she had an open Model T car.

Rob liked animals of all sorts. If they were maimed or lame, he took them in and gave them the run of the yard. When he came to work, he frequently loaded them into the back seat and let them ride along. His relatives loved to say, "There goes Uncle Rob and his kids."

Steve Clevenger died in 1910.

Porter and Mrs. Clevenger ran the Herald until they sold to William H. Smith, who had begun the Arroyo Grande Recorder in 1909. Smith combined the two papers into the Herald-Recorder. He was a single parent with two sons, Joe and Bill, who worked in the shop after school. After they graduated from high school, they went to San Francisco and learned the Linotype. With the installation of the Linotype, girls were no longer needed to set type.

In 1929, Smith turned the business over to his sons, and Ketchum continued on as assistant editor. Bill eventually left and Joe Smith drowned in 1934. William H. Smith came back and ran the paper until his death in November 1935. The executors of the Smith estate — J.J. Schnyder, Mae Ketchum, along with Dick Humphrey and Lee Johnson, continued to publish the paper until it was sold to Norris L. Klink in July 1936. Special court permission was granted so Ketchum could continue as society editor. Norris Klink moved his wife and two children into the small building on Branch Street and published the paper for three years before selling to Newell W. Strother in August 1939. "Rob Robinson in that backup shop and I," said Ketchum, "at the desk, continued with the new owner.

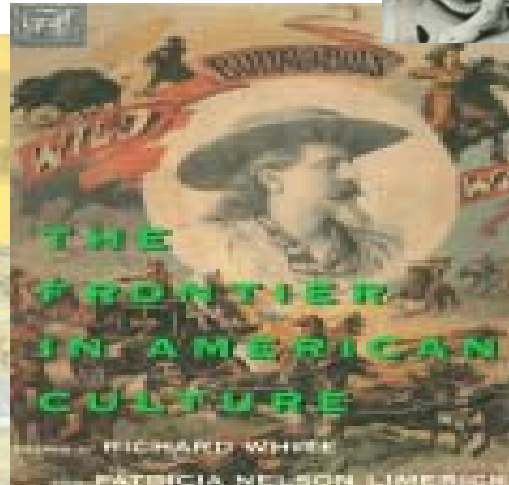
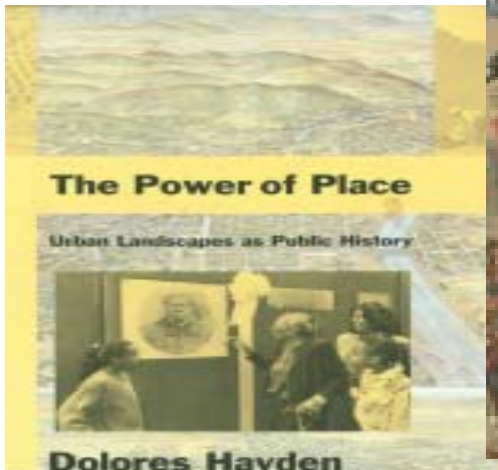
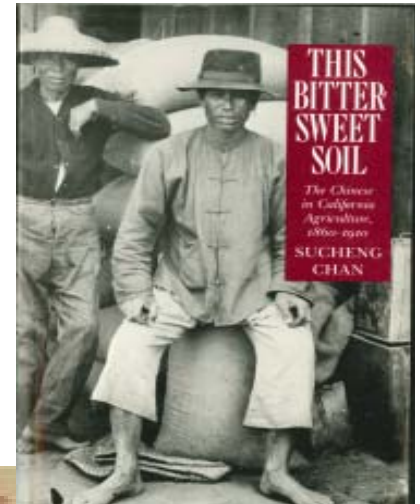
"Mr. Strother was owner-publisher for almost 20 years, and I was Society Editor, and during World War II, because of shortage of help, I was given charge of the circulation and single wraps department and also proofreader." During this time, Ketchum continued to work full-time. "We were sort of an information bureau for travelers, and for people seeking information on old-time friends and former residents, and on historic and other events in the area," she said. Soon after the newspaper was sold in June 1959 to R.E. Blankenburg and his wife, Lois, and Albert Douglass.

Ketchum began writing from home. She was involved in numerous worthwhile organizations. She was a leader in the Presbyterian Church. In May 1916, she was the first woman appointed to the general election board. In 1960, she reigned as queen of the Harvest Festival. She looked back with great enjoyment and nostalgia to those years when she was growing up here and working for the newspaper. "A bunch of us kids used to watch silent movies through a window in the back of the old skating rink operated by the late Frank Swiggert (where the law offices of David, Zimmerman & Zeilenga are). In those days (1907), you could see from the back of the screen, as well as the front. We saved 10 cents by staying outside," said Ketchum.

(Continued on next page)

MORE BOOKS BY AND ABOUT WOMEN

Chan, Sucheng	Asian Americans, An Interpretive History
Chan, Sucheng	This Bittersweet Soil, The Chinese in California Agriculture
Chang, Iris	The Chinese in America
Dilworth, Leah	Imagining Indians in the Southwest
Dunlap, Carol	California People
Fisher, Anne	Cathedral in the Sun
Hamilton, Geneva	Where the Highway Ends, Cambria, San Simeon & the Ran- chos
Hayden, Dolores	The Power of Place, Urban Landscapes as Public History
Holdredege, Helen	Mammy Pleasant
Holdredege, Helen	Mammy Pleasant's Partner
Kunkler, Anita	Hardscrabble, a Narrative of California Hill Country
Laurgaard, Rachel	Patty Reed's Doll
Limerick, Patricia	Trails, Toward a New Western History
Limerick, Patricia	Frontier in American Culture
Limerick, Patricia	Something in the Soil
Limerick, Patricia	The Legacy of Conquest
Loomis, Patricia	Signposts
Loomis, Patricia	Signposts II
Loomis, Patricia	A Walk Through the Past, San Jose's Oak Hill Memorial Park
Millis, Bette& Mord, Jeanne	Sentinels of Love, Rural Churches of California
Older, Mrs. Freemont	Love Stories of Old California
Shirley, Dame	The Shirley Letters
Solnit, Rebecca Savage	Dreams, A Journey into the Landscape Wars of the American West
Sone, Monica	Nisei Daughter



(Continued from page four)

"Jack Shannon will recall another entertaining event," she continued. "only it may not have been so entertaining for him at the time. He was one of the boys who helped remove a farm wagon from the old Union Hall the morning after Halloween. "The big audience watched as the boys dismantled the wagon, 'borrowed' from Cook's Hardware, after having worked a good share of the night getting it onto the roof," she reminisced.

In later years, she met the midnight bus, even from her wheelchair, to get her news copy to Santa Barbara. "I could write many stories about meeting the late bus," she noted. "On one occasion, a well-known local couple was trying to sneak away quietly to be married. But I spotted the pair boarding the late bus and the marriage announcement was made by the time they got back."

She cherished the friendships she made and retained over the years, and said she would change none of it. She would again choose to be a newspaper woman.

The Stone Corrals of Rancho Pismo



One afternoon in December 1892 a man stopped his horse along the road in Price's Canyon, as he observed the rancher in the meadow directing his workers at the corrals. He was so saddened by what he saw that he submitted a story to the local newspaper.* These were the corrals de piedra – corrals of stone – of Rancho Pismo, and they were being torn down.

The old circular corrals of stacked stones were in the form of a large figure 8. They had side gates and a gate where they joined. Though the observer in 1892 thought the corrals were built by John Price as pens to protect his sheep and goats from wolves and coyotes, old maps show animal pens shaped like a figure 8 in that location as early as 1840; and the neighboring rancho was named Corral de Piedra for the stone corrals of the vicinity. They had stood there in every season since the mission Indians built them about 1800. The stones were gathered originally by the means then available – carried by hand, carted in wheeled caretas or dragged in sleds or travois from nearby rock falls. The stones were skillfully stacked to form the curved walls of the corrals.

The corrals endured close to a century of sun, fog, storms and rain. They were used by the Chumash neophytes as pens for the animals of Mission San Luis Obispo de Tolosa. They held cattle, sheep, goats and haystacks. They must have stood at times in floodwaters when the creeks overflowed. They were a familiar landmark to the padres and soldados passing by from San Luis Obispo on El Camino Real to Santa Barbara. They were used by Ortega, Sparks and Price in their ranch operations. But now the corrals were coming down – being taken apart stone by stone to clear the area.

The railroad was coming, and John Price had sold them a right-of-way through his canyon. The Southern Pacific Railroad engineers always wanted the best route for their roadbed, so it would pass through this very spot on the valley floor. The stone corrals had to go; and even in 1892, the locals were sad to see the loss of this unique old landmark.

Using the means at that time available, the men grunted under the strain of loading the larger rocks onto buckboards. Workers loaded each rock, some quite heavy, onto the wagons and guided the horses to the other side of the creek. Here they stacked the rocks in a long line along the slope at the base of the hill. It may have taken weeks to move them, as there were hundreds of stones. The earth and stones settled in and became one with the weeds, brush and oak trees that grew in and around them. Here they would lie, unpretentious and unnoticed, as part of the earth again for more than another century.

Which brings us to today. Now the bulldozers are coming. A new subdivision is coming through with a road and drainage basins. Like John Price, 115 years ago, we have been given limited time to retrieve as many of the rocks as we can save.

With the permission of the property owner, Friends of Price House volunteer Alex Ramey, to whom we are eternally grateful, is as this is written, clearing the brush and undergrowth away from the stones to reveal the location and extent of the wall. Our Board member, **Clay Singer**, an archaeologist and anthropologist, will direct volunteers to measure, photograph, map, and document the stacked stone wall where it now lies for the purpose of registering the historic find. Then the removal work can begin.

The stones are within a few hundred feet of Price Historical Park. Though our preference is to leave the stone wall undisturbed, the grading work is expected to destroy much of it – so we will document the history and stockpile the stones for the construction of a stone corral on the grounds of the park. Hopefully this will be their permanent home and we can tell their story, and history will be served.

If these rocks could talk, what stories they could tell! It's just a little bit of the hidden history of Pismo Beach.

—By Effie McDermott, April 2007

Effie McDermott can be reached at 773-4854 or emcdermott@kcbx.net

*November 1, 1989: Five Cities Times-Press-Recorder, Arroyo Grande, California

You can receive the Price Historical Park newsletter by joining Friends of Price House, P.O. Box 1418, Pismo Beach, CA 93448-1418. Enclose \$25 dues. The park is open the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month, except holidays, from noon to three. When the new road is complete, we will be on Rancho Pismo Drive, off Highland Drive.

Book Committee Report by Linda Shephard

The many boxes of books that have been in storage are now 'home' again, thanks to **Jan Scott's** plan. As she was moving items from the meat locker to the IOOF building, she brainstormed some ways the books could be secure and accessible. After looking at many possibilities, she determined that there was space for the six metal shelving units in the meat locker. The books were moved in one morning (we had to wait for a day that rain was not predicted), and thanks to **Jan, Joe Swigert, Charles Porter, Sandy Arnold, Carolyn Huffine** and **Norma** and **Sam Burton**. With a couple of pickup trucks, one trailer, and an assembly line similar to old time firemen passing buckets of water, the boxes of books were packed, transported, unpacked and re-shelved in record time. The Book Committee is most appreciative of young strong volunteers. Thank you very much.

Joe Dana has been working on editing his manuscript about Captain William Dana and the Book Committee has been busy reviewing it. Most of the photographs, maps, and other illustrations have been scanned onto a disk, so **Barbara Watson** and I will be working on getting those sized and ready to be inserted into the text.

The Book Committee has been discussing possible use of many documents that have been accumulated by the Society over the years, some by the Folklore Committee and some acquired more recently. They include interviews with local people, letters, and short

anecdotes written by Society members.

The Committee felt that many of them would be of interest to the members, and the initial discussion was to compile and publish them, similar to the Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow series published by the Folklore Committee. However, since the topics are so diverse, further discussion included the possibility of compiling them into mini-series and using the Newsletter to share them with members. So, if there are six related documents, one would be published each month and members would then have the entire series.

Craig Rock shared a book he found that was published in Santa Clara County entitled, "The Way It Was. . . as told by those who were there". Seniors in the county were invited to enter their manuscripts in a contest that was held by RSVP with winning entries selected to publish. Most were reminiscences about a variety of topics such as knickers, mustard plasters, building a crystal radio, a first automobile, electric refrigerator, wearing long pants, earthquakes, holiday celebrations and train travel. The Committee discussed using a similar format (without the contest), inviting members to submit short stories and anecdotes for publication in the Newsletter. Also discussed were themes that might be used, and do a short series of stories.

Staying with the goal of keeping the focus of the Society's publications on the south county, the committee has also been on the lookout for other books about the area to add to the library for reference and to have for sale.



Aoral Bouquets to:

Sandy Cabassi gets a bouquet and a half for her \$50.00 check donation to purchase woodchips for our Ruby's House gardens to get them all 'garbed' for "America in Bloom". **Thank you Sandy!**

PATRONS OF THE SOUTH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

**PATRICIA LOOMIS
KIRK SCOTT
CAROL HIZEY
HOWARD LOUIS
MIKE GILLESPIE
OSTY INSURANCE
CHRISTINE HARVEY
MIKE FAIRBROTHER
MARTIN & JANE LINE
BILL & CHERYL MILLER
SOUTH COUNTY REALTY
HOWARD & AILEEN MANKINS
DOC BURNSTEIN'S ICE CREAM LAB
SUSAN BRANCH 'HEART OF THE HOME'**



PATTERNS OF THE PAST
Tidbits, Tribulations, and Tools for Survival
By Beatrice Hodges and Berneda Cochran



Passenger Travel and Rest Stops*

Eating houses for railroad passengers had, by 1869, been around a long time. The first of these "Refreshment Saloons" was established along Eastern lines in the 1840's:

"At every fifteen miles of the railroads there are refreshment saloons. The cars stop, all the doors are thrown open, and out rush the passengers like boys out of school and crowd round the tables to solace themselves with pies, patties, cakes, hard-boiled eggs, ham, custards, and a variety of railroad luxuries too numerous to mention. The bell rings for departure; in they all hurry with their hands full and mouths full; and off they go again until the next stopping-place induces them to relieve the monotony of the journey by masticating without being hungry." ¹

With such humble beginnings, snack-stands as those mentioned above, evolved into spacious cafeterias offering a large selection of foods, as one encountered at Sydney, Nebraska in 1882:

"...hot beef steak, two slices of cold roast antelope, a bit of cold chicken, ham and poached eggs, a couple of boiled potatoes, two sticks of sweet corn, stewed tomatoes, and flour-thin buckwheat hot cakes laid one on top of each other, to be eaten with golden syrup the last thing of all... Cold tea in tumblers with a quantity of sugar added seemed to constitute the popular beverage, if it was not cold milk. There was hot tea and coffee for those who preferred... For this and every meal, except two, along the route of the Pacific Railroad from Omaha to San Francisco the charge is one dollar." ²

Most of the stops, however, were rather short, perhaps ten, twenty, or maybe thirty minutes. ³ Therefore, the passengers had to rush for a bite to eat, ascending like a cloud of locusts on the poor cook. Some unscrupulous managers would take advantage of the situation and would demand cash in advance, and then be slow in delivering the goods, with the customer leaving hungry and angry. Other times, the foods would be served so hot, the person could not eat it, with the same results. Many passengers felt that their uneaten food was resold to those on the next train through. Timing for meal stops varied from only an hour apart to eight or ten hours apart, so many travelers felt they had to eat at every chance. ⁴

Improvements were short in coming. The conductors on trains would take a count of those wishing refreshments, then at a stop before the meal stop, would telegraph ahead to alert the cooks. "News Butchers", were boys selling magazines and newspapers, included candy, bread, butter, fruits, and local vegetables in their wares. Dining cars in 1869 were virtually unknown. They made their first real appearances in 1871, and were generally used for first-class traffic only. ⁵

Sleeping cars were also rare, again used only on first-class and special trains. First-class passengers had to pay \$1.00 to \$4.00 per day extra. ⁶ These cars, generally manufactured by Pullman, had either reclining upholster seats, or hinged berths above the seats. ⁷ Railroad passenger travel one hundred years ago was still quite primitive. Most travelers had to make do with crude sleeping arrangements, and for years the railroad relied on concessionaires to provide nourishment to their passengers."

1. Reinhardt, *Workin' on the Railroad*, from *A Diary in America*, by Capt. Frederick Marryat, Philadelphia, 1840, p. 263.

2. Reinhardt, *op. cit.*, from *Through America*, by W. G. Marshall, London, 1882, p. 265-6

3. Reinhardt, *op. cit.*, p. 266

4. *Ibid.*

5. White, *The American Railroad Passenger Car*, p. 312.

6. White, *op. cit.*, 257

7. Time-Life, *The Railroaders*, p. 135.

* (Park Net, National Park Service) www.nps.gov/archive/gosp/research/passenger_travel

Travelers have always had difficulty finding good food to eat. Those who rode trains in the early 1870s had a harder time than most. Restaurant service at depots was unreliable; either the food was poor quality or there simply **wasn't enough time** to eat it before the train departed the station. Passengers instead often brought along their own food or bought it from vendors on the train. The following is a simple cookie recipe that would probably travel well.

"Jackson Jumbles

3 teacups sugar

1 teacup lard

6 teacups flour

1 teaspoon soda in one cup of sour cream

3 eggs

Add the grated rind of one or two lemons, or a little grated nutmeg. Roll out and bake. *Mrs. H. S.*"

(Continued on next page)

DINING CAR BREAKFAST MENU 1909

ORANGE MARMALADE, 20	PRESERVED FIGS, 25
SHREDDED WHEAT BISQUIT WITH CREAM, 25	
ROLLED OATS WITH CREAM, 25	
GRAPE NUTS WITH CREAM, 25	
SIRLOIN STEAK, 25	
WITH FRENCH FRIES, 1.00	WITH MUSHROOMS, 1.10
WITH BACON, 1.00	
BROILED OR FRIED BACON, 40	BROILED OR FRIED HAM, 40
BACON & EGGS, 50	HAM & EGGS, 50
BOILED, FRIED OR SCRAMBLED EGGS, 25	SHIRRED EGGS 30
POACHED EGGS ON TOAST, 45	
PLAIN OMELETS, 35: WITH HAM, CHEESE, OR JELLY, 45	
POTATOES FRENCH FRIED, 15	
HASHED BROWNEED, 15	LYNNOISE (sic), 15
HOT ROLLS, 10	CORN MUFFINS, 10
	WHEAT CAKES WITH MAPLE SYRUP, 20
DRY TOAST, 10	BUTTERED TOAST, 10
	MILK TOAST, 25
COFFEE, PER POT, FOR ONE, 15: PER POT, FOR TWO, 25	
COCOA OR CHOCOLATE WITH WHIPPED CREAM, PER CUP, 15	
TEA-CEYLON, YOUNG HYSOON, ENGLISH BREAKFAST, OR SPECIAL BLEND,	
PER POT-FOR ONE, 15: PER POT FOR TWO, 25	
MILK, PER GLASS, 10	MALTED MILK, PER CUP, 15

GUESTS WILL PLEASE CALL FOR CHECK BEFORE PAYING AND COMPARE AMOUNTS CHARGED.

A CHARGE OF 25 CENTS IS MADE FOR EACH EXTRA PERSON SERVED FROM A SINGLE MEAT OR FISH ORDER. **

**Reproduced as published by Berneda Cochran from www.library.arizona.edu/exhibits/pams/railintro. *Santa Fe Dining Car Service*.

Ed Note: The material for the column this month comes from our Patricia Loomis History Library and Resource Center. To make it a bit more informative, Berneda has added some material from the Internet to supplant the information found in our Library. Please visit the Library, there are wonderful books there to read covering numerous subjects in the West, and of course, material on South County pioneers and issues.



Museums Curator
— Jan Scott



In the same way that we have a "cowboy corner" of The Barn museum we have an area we call "The Workroom." It is an incomplete shrine to the labor of women in a bygone era. Most people walk past quickly once they've noticed the industrial-sized apple peeler that probably belonged to someone with an orchard, but The Workroom has stories to tell to the observant visitor.

From the washtub and washboard to the wooden drying rack overhead, to the "iron" and a wooden ironing board that takes real muscles to move, laundry day was not a matter of tossing a quick load into the washer.

When it came to wool, you might have the money to buy a suit from a tailor or yard goods for a dress, but odds were that you also kept some sheep whose wool could be carded and spun into yarn to make sweaters and shawls and socks and hats, hence our spinning wheel. A duck-billed, cotton bonnet hung on a chair speaks of days spent outside working in the sun, with a rolling pin waiting for a return to the kitchen.

There's a butter churn, although our county was known for its dairies. So much butter was produced here that butter boxes were loaded in Cayucos for shipment to San Francisco. We have some of those butter boxes in the "dairy" area of The Barn.

It wasn't an easy life for either sex, but there were good times, after you spent the day cranking the ice cream maker for a special treat.

If you haven't seen the Barn in a while, maybe it's time to come back.

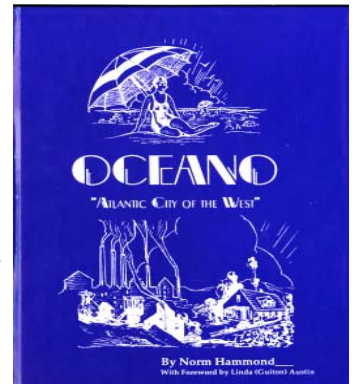
We've just added a new doctor's buggy to our collection, thanks to the generosity of **Sandra Worsham**. It's quite spectacular and worth the trip.

“Closing the Depot”*



The Coaster, at new Oceano Depot, 1916. Photo from Bennett-Loomis Archives.

* A chapter excerpted in part by Bee Hodges from the book pictured at the right, Oceano “Atlantic City of the West”, by Norm Hammond, foreword by Linda (Guiton) Austin, pgs. 108-111, available for purchase at \$21.50 through Heritage House (Permission has been obtained from the author to use material and photographs from the book.)



“In late 1971, the Oceano Improvement Association voted to send a letter to the Public Utilities Commission in response to rumors that the Southern Pacific Railroad would be closing the Depot. If the Depot were closed, shipments would have to be routed through Guadalupe. Claiming to be the smallest shipper using the Oceano facility, Harold Guiton stated, “They’ll lose at least one shipper when they move away.” He knew it would not be economically feasible for him to have to travel clear to Guadalupe just to complete the paper work required to ship a few carloads of sand.

“Keith Rapp said the owners of the destroyed Box Company were hesitant to rebuild a new factory on the site where fire had recently destroyed another, because of lease terms offered on the property by the railroad.

“A news reporter interviewed Richard Taylor, Station Agent from 1960 to 1966. He said that during the time he had been the agent, the Depot had milk trains, mail trains, freight trains and passenger trains. He told a story he heard about a flood during 1941, when the downtown area was inundated and the floor of the Depot was under two feet of water.

“The fire at the Box Company signaled an end to the traditional method of packaging vegetables in Oceano. Instead of being picked and then taken to a packing shed, vegetables were packed into boxes in the fields and loaded directly onto trucks. Although much produce was still being grown in the area, very little of it was being shipped out by rail. There were....a total of ten freight trains passing through town. None of these trains stopped at Oceano. The arrival and departure times of these trains through Oceano (were) no longer even shown on the timetable. With no passenger trains stopping at the Depot, trucks....moving the bulk of produce in the area, the Railroad’s need for the Depot had become almost non-existent. By August, 1973, a notice was posted on the wall of the Depot stating that the Southern Pacific Transportation Company would close its Oceano facility in 30 days and that all services would thereafter be provided at the Guadalupe Agency.

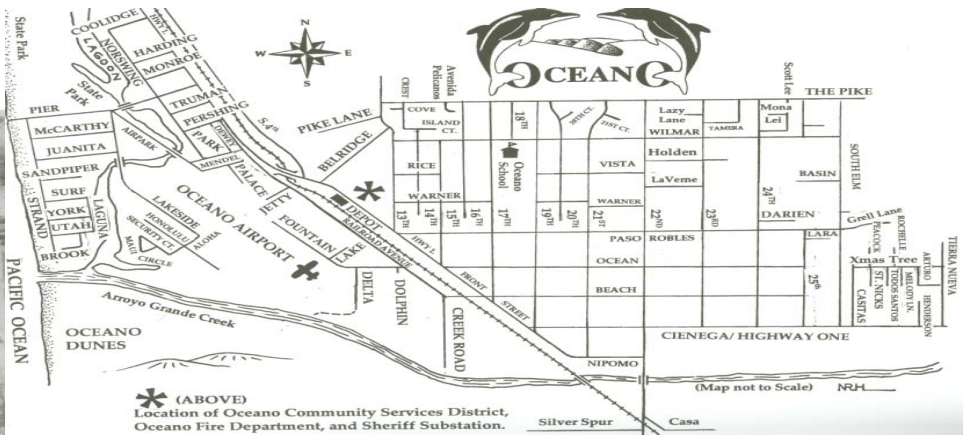
“When local citizens learned the abandoned Depot was slated for demolition, they began to help themselves to souvenirs. All of the inside doors were taken. The desk that the agents worked from was taken, and other things were taken. Since people have heard that the Depot is now a museum, many of those things are starting to come back.

“Several fires...vandals and natural elements were taking their toll, and the abandoned Depot was living on borrowed time. Seeing the opportunity to save an important relic of Oceano’s history, the Oceano Improvement Association took on the ambitious plan to save the building. It had been previously acquired by the neighboring Phelan and Taylor Produce Company for storage, and the warehouse portion was being temporarily operated as an experimental celery heart packing facility. It was around this time that the celery crop around Oceano began to fail. For many years, farmers in the area had been able to “double crop” the celery (instead of rotating different crops) by planting a new crop almost immediately after the old one had been harvested. It was suspected that (this) practice may...(have)...allow(ed) a soil-borne organism known as “celery crown rot” to proliferate. It was pervasive...and fatal to celery. Before long, no celery (was) being produced, and celery production in the Oceano area (was) over. Through the generosity of Edwin M. Taylor, title to the entire Depot was then given to the OIA for one dollar. In another gesture of goodwill, the Phelan-Taylor Company donated a temporary dull green paint job for the Depot (satisfying a condition of the lease with Southern Pacific. It was understood that the Depot would eventually have to be moved from railroad property. The OIA was then paying the railroad \$300.00 per month rent for the land under the Depot, and subleased most of the building to the Great American Melodrama who used it for storage and construction of their theater sets. At their next meeting, Earl Sale reported to OIA members that Supervisor Mankins (had offered to help). Sale also said that the rent for the land where the building sits would now be levied at about fifty dollars a month. Harold Guiton said he had talked with a railroad official about waiving the rental charge.

“County Supervisor Howard Mankins turned out to be a real ‘Knight in Shining Armor’ by managing to secure a Federal Revenue Sharing Grant of \$60,000. for the OIA. He also arranged a 99-year lease on a large County owned parcel adjacent to the railroad where the Depot could be moved. The lease was negotiated for the “traditional” one dollar per year.

“The \$60,000. Grant would be used for acquisition of an additional parcel of private land that was needed for the project, and for the actual moving, site preparation, new foundation, and a new roof.

Now on its own, the Depot Rescue Project began a long process of moving and restoration through volunteer help and private donations.”



Above photo: Celery packing in Oceano in 1957. Published Times Press Recorder, 7/14/1993.

Above photo: Celery packing in Oceano in 1957. Published 7/14/1993 Times Press Recorder.

May Program: A field Trip to the Oceano Depot and a Tour of the Depot. **May 6, 2007, Sunday 12-4 pm.** This will be in lieu of our General Meeting, and a fundraiser for the Oceano Depot Association, and they will be serving barbeque tri-tip sandwiches including a drink, for \$6.00 per person.

2002.024.015 Print, Photographic

South County Historical Society



-Oceano Depot, 1907

Reservations and payment for total persons need to be in by May 1st, to Oceano Depot Association, c/o P.O. Box 535, Oceano, CA 93475, Attn: Linda Austin. (Info: Linda at 489-0356, or Linda at Guiton Realty, 489-5446).

Don't Forget All 2006 Memberships are Due for Renewal

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

Society Meetings

The Board meets on the

3rd Wednesday

Members are Welcome

Our next General Meeting will be a
Trip to the Oceano Depot and a Tour of the Depot. **May 6, 2007,**
Sunday 12-4 pm. This will be in lieu of our general meeting.

**PO Box 633
Arroyo Grande
CA 93421**



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Community Relations, Publicity and Web News

April 2007

From the Desk of Vivian Krug

Put on your aprons, get out those pots and pans and start those ovens. It's time for the 5th Annual Arroyo Grande Strawberry Cook-Off.

The Strawberry Cook-Off is a benefit sponsored by the Village Improvement Association and the efforts of Society member, **Teri Kelley-Nixon**, for the South County Historical Society. The Cook-Off is also the official kick off to the Arroyo Grande Strawberry Festival on May 26th and 27th.

There are two sections of the Cook-Off, adults 18 and over, and the new Junior Section for High School Students and all ages below. Strawberry creations are accepted on Friday, May 25th, from 10am to 12:45pm at the Heritage House Gazebo. Categories are appetizers, salads, main dish, desserts, drinks and other. All creations are judged by originality, taste and appearance. Winners will be announced and prizes will be awarded on Sunday May 27th at the Village Gazebo on Short Street at 12 noon.

All participants will receive a participate ribbon and are automatically entered into a raffle. Each entry must be accompanied by your name and phone number, a written recipe of the entry, and it must be in a disposable container. There is a \$5.00 per entry fee. You may enter as many items as you wish.

The following Prizes will be awarded to both the Adult and Junior categories.

1st place \$100 dollars and a restaurant gift certificate

2nd place \$50 dollars and a restaurant gift certificate

3rd place \$25 dollars and a restaurant gift certificate

Plus, five honorable mention awards as well and a raffle after the award ceremony where each participant has the opportunity to win something.

And even more fun is the AG Strawberry Festival Cookbook. Each winning entry will be featured in next year's official Cookbook for sale throughout the County. The proceeds of this Cookbook also benefit the Society.

Some of our sponsors supporting the Cook-Off and Historical Society are Mama's Meatball, Branch Street Deli, Lund's, Grover Beach Door, Academy Travel, Advantage Answering Plus, Avon by Kathleen Rodgers, Miners Ace Hardware, Trader Joe's, McDonalds, Burger King, Emotions Greeting Cards and K-Jug Radio.

For more information on this fun event, call **Teri Kelley Nixon** at 805-546-8520 or 805-546-1465, or e-mail teresakelley62@hotmail.com.

And while you have your apron on, don't forget the Harvest Festival Cook-Off is right around the corner: this year's contests are old favorites, Pumpkin Bread Traditional, Pumpkin Bread Non-Traditional, Zucchini Bread Traditional, Zucchini Bread Non-Traditional and Harvest Gone Wild - a bread of your choice. There will also be a Canning Contest and Pie Exhibition, and the Grand Daddy of them all, the 70th Annual Harvest Festival Apple Pie Contest.

Web Stats and Info

Our web site continues to grow and get more visitors. Last year we had 20,106 visits to our web site, the year before 14,000. As of this writing we have had 6,893 visitors to our site this year. We've had visitors from over 18 countries and we now have reciprocal links with over 20 other historical societies and organizations.

Don't forget, our website also includes up to date information on all our upcoming events. You can also view your Historical Society Newsletter, the Heritage Press on our website, www.SouthCountyHistory.org. It's a great way to read your newsletter or go back to see past issues. If you haven't visited our web site lately come and take a look.

In the News

The Historical Society has received quite a bit of news coverage lately with the Society's involvement in the America in Bloom and Arroyo Grande in Bloom competition. If you missed these news articles, let me know and I'll get copies to you. These and the rest of our 2007 news articles will be available on the web site soon.

Request for Members Help

I have a request for our members who live in San Luis Obispo and the North County: for our archives, could you clip out and mail any articles you see in your local newspapers and magazines about the Historical Society? It would be very much appreciated. We've had many stories printed throughout the county and we'd like to preserve copies of them all. You can mail those to my attention at: P.O. Box 633, Arroyo Grande, CA 93421

Contact Me

If you want to participate in any of our upcoming events or have information I can use for publicity or on our website, I'm easy to reach by Phone 458-3321 or email at Vivian@EmotionsCards.com

Stay connected! Viv



On
Mother's Day

Today is your day
And yesterday too
And also tomorrow
I'll give thanks for you,
And the years of tomorrows
Each one set apart
To hold you and fold you
Deep down in my heart.

May 9-1926