



The Story of the Christmas Card

By Vivian Krug

As Christmas will soon be upon us, I thought I would share with you the story of the World's First Christmas card. Over 7 billion greeting cards were purchased in the United States last year. 60% of those cards were Christmas cards. Most of us probably send Christmas cards to friends and loved ones, but do you know where the tradition began?

Dating back more than 160 years, the first commercial Christmas card was commissioned in England by Sir Henry Cole in 1843, the same year Charles Dickens wrote *A Christmas Carol*. Cole sought the help of his friend, the noted English painter John Calcott Horsley. Neither man had any idea of the impact the card would have in Britain and later in America.



The World's First Christmas Card

Even the early Christmas card manufacturers believed Christmas cards to be a fad which would soon pass.

Cole wanted a pre-printed ready to mail greeting card as he was too busy to write letters with Christmas and New Year's greetings to friends and family, which was customary at the time. Cole, who happened to write and publish Christmas books decided to print cards.

The card was lithographed on stiff cardboard, 5 1/8 by 3 1/4 inches, in dark sepia and was hand-colored as it pre-dated color printing. He printed 1,000 of these Christmas cards, used as many as he needed and the rest were sold for 6d (sixpence) each. This price made them a luxury item, available only to the wealthy and unavailable to the working class.

The card was divided into three panels with the center panel depicting a family drinking wine at a celebration and the side panels illustrated charitable acts of feeding and clothing the poor. So much for their good intentions! The card caused quite a large controversy in many areas of Victorian English society when it was published because it prominently featured a child taking a sip from a glass of wine and was considered "fostering the moral corruption of children." Other un-festive critics condemned the design for promoting drunkenness.

Legend has it that Cole did not send any cards the following year, but the custom became popular and just three years after the English Parliament passed the Postage Act, it made it possible to send letters for a penny.

Widespread commercial printing of Christmas cards began in the 1860s, when a new process of color printing lowered the manufacturing cost and the price. Consequently, the custom of sending printed Christmas greetings spread throughout England. One of the first to mass produce Christmas cards was Charles Goodall & Sons. Goodall began producing Christmas stationery in 1859 and issued what is thought to be the first visiting card style Christmas card in 1862. In about 1850 they had bought out the firm of Reynolds & Co. They continued producing greeting cards until approximately 1885 and then merged with one of their competitors, Thomas De La Rue in 1922.

(Continued on page 6)

CALENDAR of ACTIVITIES

IOOF Exhibit Hall

Open

Fridays & Saturdays 1-5 pm
128 Bridge St., Arroyo Grande
Free Admission

Museums Open:

Heritage Hall, Barn, School House: Sat.
12-3 pm Sun. 1-4 pm
Paulding House, 1st Saturday each month

**Nov. 25: Arroyo Grande Xmas Parade
in the Village 5:00 pm**

**Dec 1: 10:00 am Grover Beach
Christmas Parade**

**Dec 2: First Annual SCHS Christmas
Party, IOOF Historic Hall, 4-8 pm**

“Elegant Christmas in the Village” 4 pm.

December 25—**Merry Christmas**
December 31—**Happy New Year!**

January 8—General Meeting, 6:30 pm
Hiawatha Lodge, Halcyon
January 16—Book Committee, Ruby’s
January 16—Board of Directors 7-9 pm

Jan. 2008: Picture the Past Productions
Film “School Days in Edna”,
Charter Cable CH 2—Tuesday 7:30 pm;
Wednesday 2:00 pm, Thursday 8 am.

Ed. Note :
Peggy Teague taught in the Edna schools.

New Members

| | |
|------------------|----------|
| Curtis Reinhardt | 773-4173 |
| Bill Bookout | 441-5792 |
| Don Rivara | 781-0874 |
| Chris Line | 481-6510 |

“GET WELL WISHES” were
sent to:
Geri Fesler and Helen
Summerfield

2008 ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

Directors and Committees

| | | |
|---|--|-----------------|
| President _____ | Jane Line _____ | 481-6510 |
| Programs | Craig Rock | |
| Ways & Means—First VP _____ | Kirk Scott _____ | 481-4435 |
| Books & Publishing | Loren Nicholson, Linda Shepherd | |
| Antiques Show | Doug LeSage | |
| Events Coordinator | Shelly Cochran, Doug LeSage | |
| Summer Concerts | | |
| Adopt-A-Poll | Paulette McCann | |
| Membership—2nd VP | | |
| Corporate Membership Sales | | |
| Sunshine | Ethel M. Gilliland | 473-0175 |
| Recording Secretary _____ | Elaine Parrent _____ | 489-3486 |
| Corresponding Secretary _____ | Berneda Cochran _____ | 489-4129 |
| 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 Schoolhouse | Kathleen Sullivan | |
| The Barn | Orville Schultz | |
| Library & Resource Center | Craig Rock | |
| Property Management _____ | Charles Porter _____ | 929-1014 |
| Vehicles | Chet Thomas | |
| Gardening—Heritage House | Barbara LeSage | |
| Gardening—Santa Manuela School | Juan Jazo | |
| Gardening—Ruby’s House | Juan Jazo | |
| Gardening—Paulding House | Juan Jazo | |
| Docent Leader | | |
| 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 _____ | Ross Kongable _____ | 489-2885 |
| Heritage Press Newsletter Editor | Bee Hodges <i>hodges39@sbcglobal.net</i> | |
| Parliamentarian _____ | Nancy Davis _____ | 489-7398 |

Society Information 473-5077

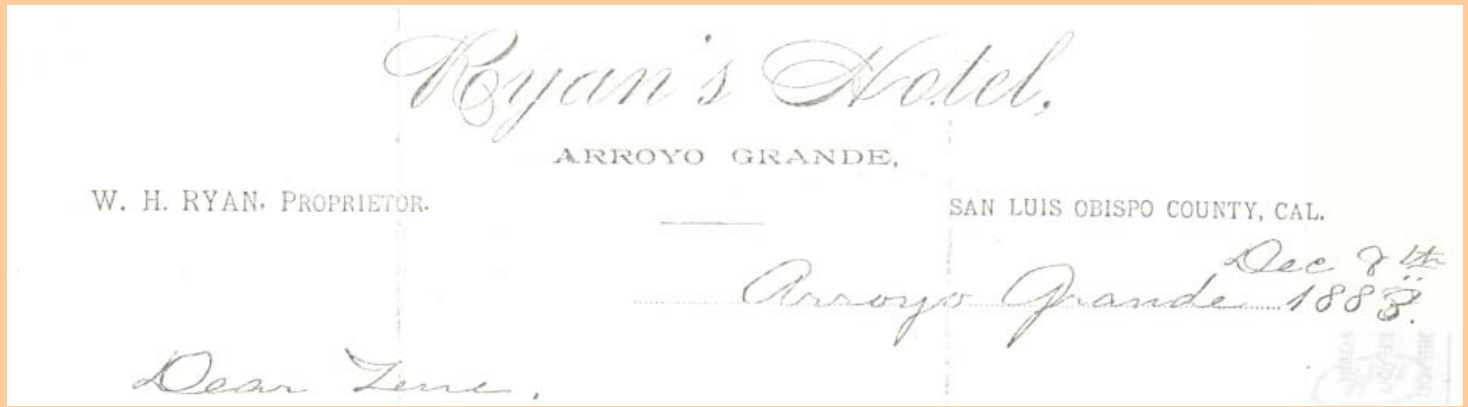
| | |
|--|---|
| Heritage House 481-4126 | Paulding History House 473-3231 |
| Santa Manuela School & The Barn 489-8745 | Historic Hall 489-8114 |
| Ruby’s House 489-8282 | Website—www.SouthCountyHistory.org |

Sincere condolences are extended to the families of:

*Ron & Peggy Schenck on the loss of their mother, Peggy Teague
Tim Yager on the loss of his wife, Pat Yager
Jane Line on the loss of her niece, Briana Line Svenson, and
Briana’s mother and Jane’s sister,-in-law Diana Line
Mary Bassett on the loss of her father, Hugh King*

The Heritage Series: Dr. Paulding's Letters

Paulding Letter #3 — 12'8'88



Dear Tene,

I should have written sooner but there were several reasons why I did not. In the first place I was busy getting settled unpacking, getting acquainted, etc. Before twenty hours I was called to my first case a case of diphtheria that took the croupous form and before I had been here two days, I had a victim. I feel very badly over it and think now even, that I had better take up the alphabetical list and hunt my B. I will scarcely be able to establish a good reputation with such a disastrous beginning. However, I did all I could and had a good doctor called in consultation. It was painful to stand by as if maniced and witness that most dreadful of all deaths - slow suffocation from croup but I cannot reproach myself. It seems that misfortune and disaster follow on my steps as on those of the "wandering Jew". One thing this case will advertise to all over this county for it occurred with a man who owns a thousand acres of land and where land is valued at from \$150 to \$300 per acre, that represents a big pile. Land in the Valley is scarce and high and there are few that can afford to own much the majority of farms being of ten and twenty acre prices. It is scarce because the valley is only about a mile wide and eight or ten long and held high because it is valuable for beans. East we say "not good enough for beans" of very poor land as if beans grew almost anywhere but there is no such proverb here for they know beans will not grow except on the best of ground. Many a farmer has paid for his land in this valley out of the proceeds of his first crop. There is a man here that came here penniless a few yeas ago, and has now besides his farm a bank account of \$60,000 which money represents the proceeds from only three crops. His farm is small. There is a pumpkin field across the creek here that has so many pumpkins in it that you could run across the field on them and not touch your foot to the ground once. There are no vineyards or orchards in bearing, but it is a new country but it is no doubt a good fruit country. There are no doctors inside of ten miles and none charge less than \$15 a visit so there out to be a living at fair prices. \$2.50 a visit and \$1.00 a mile is what I will charge if I get anything to do.

The population is about 150. There is a great mixture. Many greasers and some who claim pure Castilian blood. Irish Scotch Swiss, etc. etc. There is an English lord lives just above town. There are some springs up a canon in the vicinity that possess great therapeutic value in rheumatic diseases they are warm 950 and contain iron and sulpher.

The mountains are all bare now but since the rain - the first this season here - the grass is springing and if it rains again before long everything will be green again as Dr. Lucas (my consultant) observed "California is that land with an eternal spring of growth and an everlasting autumn of harvest". I like it better here than in Frisco but the people are not perfect, though very sociable. Sabbath is unknown and drunks are the rule. Educated drunks are common and it is not uncommon to see the figuerative Shepherd of a Flock in a city church become a practical shepherd in the more expressive Cal. term of sheep herder. There is the sheep herder Greene who was once Chief Engineer on a "Cunnarder". Billy N. now in Napa asylum and lately a sheep herder once cashier of the California bank in Frisco. Henry Blank having over the bar here in a maudlin imbecile state trying to get a drink on trust was once cashier of a bank in Amsterdam, Holland. "Whiskey Jack" claims to have been the original Jack of Mark Twains Innocents Abroad. Dozens of others are mentioned but these I have seen, except Billy N. They have all emptied their histories out on us and talked my arm off and that is why this is so poorly written.

Dr. Barxx and I undertook a cross cut across the mountain night came on before we reached the main trail and the darkness was Egyptian "not a star was seen". The wonder was we ever got through without broken neck. We had the horse and buggy once on top of one of the high peaks and again got stuck in a deep and gloomy canon and had to lift the buggy around to get down. We were on the brink of deep gulches several times. The voice of the locomotive coming into Los Alamos was as the voice of God, calling us into the right way.

Well, write soon. Love to all. Ed with an undeserved M.D.

Editor's Note:

In this issue of the newsletter, we are reproducing the third of fourteen letters written by Dr. Paulding to his sister "Tene" when he first left his home and headed West. The letters are reproduced as he wrote them without editing.



Pondering the Pier

Most people who spend any real time on the pier are fishermen and their families. They spend two to five hours on the pier; some have two or three fishing poles at one time. The fish they catch most often is perch, sometimes called surfperch. I have learned that most fishermen are not there for the fish; that is just a sideshow. The fishermen are mainly there for peace of mind and relaxation, and they get a lot of it!

The other people on the pier just take in the scenery. Many ogle the surfers, the sunsets, the sunrises, or other people on the beach. Once in a while I see people taking photographs or, when it's cold, drinking a hot chocolate. They do a lot of nothing, and they seem to like it that way! And so do I.

The Pismo Beach Pier was first built in September of 1881, and was a whopping 1,600 feet long. It was built by the Meherin Brothers of Arroyo Grande at a cost of \$14,613. This pier was built just below present day Main Street. Thirteen years later in 1894 the pier was extended to a lengthy 1,780 feet; this extension allowed for steamship travel from Pismo Beach to other cities. Jean Femling author of Great Piers of California: A Guided Tour writes, "In 1882, thirty-seven vessels called at the wharf." It also had a handcar track to take goods and luggage from one end to the other. In the 1890's locals could take a steamship from Pismo Beach Pier to San Francisco for \$5!

The 1905 Storm

Tragically, in the winter of 1905, the pier was completely washed away by high waves in a storm. No money was available to rebuild it. And for nineteen years there was no pier in Pismo!

By the 1920s Pismo Beach was a booming town. A brand new pier was opened on July 4, 1924, and a firework celebration ensued which is still a tradition today. This new pier was much longer than the original one; Navy ships could dock on the new pier and sailors could come into town. TPR reporter Cynthia Call wrote "...some people can remember driving cars along its length, then backing out or using the tight turn-around at the end." Shortly after the pier was built, five hundred feet of it was lost to a storm, and it was rebuilt.

The Good Times

The 1920s were roaring in Pismo Beach; people came here for good times. Pismo was famous for having saloons, amusement parks, skating rinks, bowling alleys and Ferris wheels. There was even a huge dance hall right near the sand on the beach. During the Prohibition era, Pismo Beach was known as a place you could find whiskey, and, rumor has it, many notorious brothels. Life in Pismo Beach was delectably scrumptious!

In 1983 El Nino storms crashed the Central Coast. On March 2, 1983 Jerry Bunin, another TPR staff writer, reported "Monstrous waves constantly pounding the shoreline finally exacted their toll, knocking out about 100 feet of the Pismo Beach pier...". At about 1 am a 100-foot middle section of the pier, which included the restrooms, was lost forever. The gap of the missing section of the pier was about fifty feet from the end. The twenty foot high swells damaged the pier and boats as well.

Almost three years later on January 18, 1986 the third version of the pier was rebuilt. TPR reporter Mary McAlister wrote "When government officials, citizens, and visitors gather at the Pismo Pier on Saturday, they will be doing more than marking the completion of a \$1.9 million construction project. They will be celebrating the rebirth of a landmark that has been a focal point in the city since 1891." The pier is now 1,190 feet long according to my measurements.

Sources for Local Writers and Historians

On the Central Coast there are numerous cultural archives to choose from. I have sought out many different places that stockpile information on the Pismo Beach Pier. I have used many research tools: five different libraries, The South County Historical Society, The San Luis Obispo Historical Museum, and local historians Effie McDermott and Jean Hubbard. While most libraries look like boring, dull, drab, and gray cement government buildings, the Historical Societies and Museums are old historic Victorian houses with wonderfully cheery paint on the outside and even more cheery people on the inside. There is usually a librarian in charge of the libraries and a president in charge of the Museums and Historical societies. These sources are useful in many ways. First and most importantly I could not do this term paper without them. Second, we as a society need a place to store all the millions of pieces of information, and the people to organize it. Third, if we don't have these places, we'll be destined to forget our past, and then most likely repeat it.

Finally, if we didn't have these cultural archives we would lose a sense of connection with our community; we would lose our roots. Mr. Loeb would have something to say about that. Other sources quoted above include: Bunin, Jerry. "End of a Landmark Crumbles in Pismo." Times-Press-Recorder 3/2/83; Call, Cynthia. "Pismo Beach Pier." Times-Press-Recorder 6/7/97; Femling, Jean. Great Piers of California: A Guided Tour. Chicago. Capra Press, 1984; Jones, Ken. Pier Fishing in California. Aptos: Marketscope, 1992; and Pier Fishing in California, Second edition. Roseville. Publishers Design Group, 2004.



First Pier in Pismo, built in 1881

November 2007



Dear Members and Friends,

Today the South County Historical Society is more productive, more viable and more publicly appreciated than ever. This has been achieved through the dedication of our members, our small staff and our Board of Directors. As the 2007 term draws to a close, custom calls for a review of our accomplishments. It is always surprising how much we have done together. Here are some highlights that show our Mission Statement in action.

All five of our museums are open and functioning for the first time ever! Our youth programs grew, with our Digital Storytelling project on the “History of Avila” reaching 90 elementary students this year. The Teague Oral History Project was organized by Linda Kime and housed at Paulding. With help from Anita Garcia, we were successful in acquiring the Branch Millstones for permanent placement in Heritage Square – a major project for 2008. The accessioning of our collections continued and new volunteers were trained. Our Research Program expanded as historians, authors, students and public entities sought information available in our historical records.

SCHS continues to be recognized for its cooperation in community festivals, parades, and events. This spring we were proud to be a part of Arroyo Grande’s America in Bloom project. Our volunteers and our projects had more media coverage than ever before, thanks to Publicity Director Vivian Krug. The Heritage Press newsletter, edited by Bee Hodges, garners accolades with each edition and Heritage Square is the pride of the Village!

Ways and Means worked hard this year with nine Summer Concert BBQs, two successful grant efforts, our 26th Antique Show, ’06 Yard Sale, new brochures for the HH Garden & Gazebo Rental program, Book offerings (thanks to Jack Tiedemann) and a \$4500 gift from Kiwanis for signage on the ‘Karriage House’. You, our members, donated almost twice the dollars anticipated and memberships exceeded expectations also! The Finance Committee created our first Financial Plan which, together with our first Strategic Plan, is the basis for further growth through grants and endowments. The Board created new “corporate” membership levels which allows further improvement to our bottom line.

As you consider your end-of-the-year gifts, please remember our Society. Major projects for 2008 are the new permanent display for the Branch Millstones, restoration and repair of the Paulding History House, including completion of its state and national historical designation, and ongoing improvements to the IOOF Historic Hall and its exhibits.

We look forward to seeing everyone at the first “annual” Christmas Party at the Hall.

Thank you to all who made this year so successful,

Jane Line, President



(The Story of the Christmas Card — continued from page one)

The custom of sending Christmas cards in the United States began in 1856, spearheaded by Louis Prang a German immigrant who is credited as “The Father of the American Christmas Card”. Believe it or not, the celebration of Christmas was once banned in Boston. It seems the Puritans considered it an invention of the devil. Although the law banning Christmas was repealed in 1681, it was not proclaimed a legal holiday here until 1856. In that year Prang began promoting the Christmas greeting card movement and began producing cards at his lithograph shop in Boston.

For more than 30 years, Americans had to import greeting cards from England. Then in 1875 the first modern, color printed Christmas card was produced by Prang. The quality of print was sheer perfection, and the designs were exquisite portrayals of flora and fauna, children, angels, fruit and other symbols of the season. The cards were an immediate hit with the public, which demanded more. A man of high standards, Prang decided to hold annual contests with substantial cash prizes for new artistic designs to be used for his cards. With as much as \$100 or even \$300 (a whopping sum in the 1870s and 1880s) awarded for the winning entries, noted artists like Elihu Vedder, Will H. Low and Thomas Moran eagerly created and submitted their designs to Prang. These are in great demand by today's collectors, for the reverse side of the card notes that it is a prize-winning entry and states the artist's name.

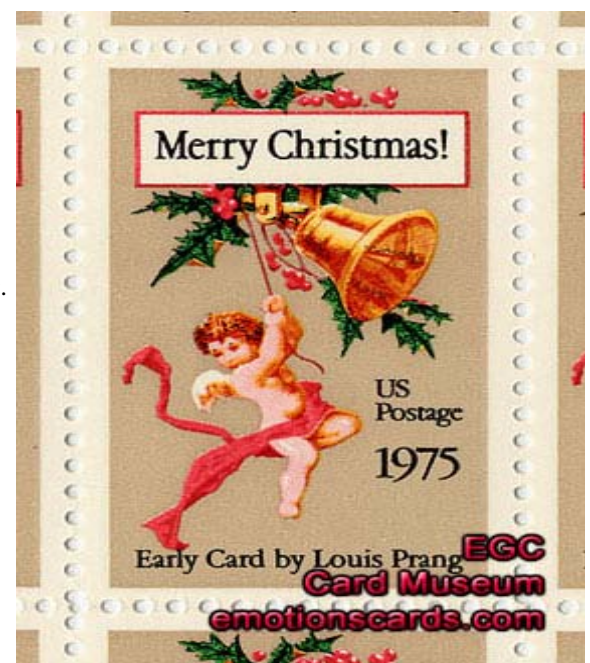
Needless to say, Prang's business created much excitement in the art world and helped elevate the custom of card sending to an art. With tastes leaning to the opulent during the Victorian age, even in New England, Prang's cards included silken fringe, silken cord, tassels and other richly sensuous touches. They were expensive to buy, but Prang never forgot that the market included those with slim wallets. There were also lovely cards on an affordable level, identified at the bottom as a product of the L. Prang Company and the date.

By 1890 the market was flooded with cheap imitations of the fine products created by Prang, Raphael Tuck, Marcus Ward and the initial group of European and American card makers. Imports from Germany caught the imagination of the public since they included mechanical components that folded, jumped up, or out, and often swayed from left to right with aid of a paper tab. Where Prang had used rich layers of mellowed gold ink, the cheap imitators applied glue and sprinkled sparkling glitter or other crushed material that looked like snow. The new cards were embossed and included cutout areas. But the verse lost its significance, and some cards hardly offered a greeting to the receiver. They became a novelty that got more and more elaborate. Prang decided that he would not compete in this market. He refused to lower his standards and ceased production of Christmas cards soon after 1890. He did not abandon artistic printing, however, but continued good quality work after merging with a company named Taber and the Taber-Prang operation relocated to Springfield in 1892.

Christmas cards have changed since the days of Sir Henry Cole and Louis Prang. They now sport comics, jokes and clever verses. But those that picture timeless and simple settings such as excited children around a Christmas tree, Nativity scenes, nature scenes and carolers singing in the snow are still in the highest demand today.

In 1975, the United State Postal Service issued a Postage Stamp commemorating an early Christmas card by Louis Prang.

For images or more information about John Calcott Horsley, Charles Goodall, Louis Prang and other early Christmas card manufacturers, visit www.emotionscards.com/museum/museum.html





Community Relations, Publicity and Web News ~

From the Desk of Vivian Krug

Village Christmas Parade / Grover Holiday Parade

The Historical Society will be participating in the 5th Annual Village Christmas Parade on November 25th. We will have a parade entry and our Vis a Vis Carriage will once again serve as Santa's Sleigh. The Society will be serving hot cocoa and cider during the festivities which begin at 3:30 with the Grace Bible Church Choir "GraceFull" a 50 voice choir singing Christmas music from 3:30 to 4:30 at the Rotary Bandstand. The parade begins at 5 pm at Traffic Way and Branch Street, then proceeds up East Branch Street to City Hall. A Christmas sing-a-long and the Tree Lighting ceremony will take place at the conclusion of the parade. The Harvest Church will have their Live Nativity from 6:15 to 6:45 pm at 124 W. Branch on the lawn. We hope to see you all on the 25th, and let us know if you would like to help with the hot cocoa and cider! On December 1st at 10 am come cheer as the Society also has a parade entry in the Grover Beach Holiday Parade.

Web Notes

Our web site continues to grow. Last month we surpassed the number of visitors we had to our site all last year and as of this writing we have had 26,331 visitors, seventy three a day! And don't forget to send the historical society link, www.SouthCountyHistory.org to all your friends. It's a great way for people to get acquainted with the Historical Society and let them know all the exciting new events and things going on in our Society. Also, archives of every newsletter the Society has published since 2005 are available on our site.

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: Vivian@EmotionsCards.com.

As we close out the year, I would like to send my best wishes to all. We are fortunate to live here in a wonderful place, a paradise. Live each day to its fullest, appreciate life and everything around you. I am ever so grateful and thankful for each and every day. There are also many of you in my life that I appreciate and owe thanks. I thank you! I wish you all a wonderful Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Have a safe and happy holiday season and until next year, stay connected! **Viv**



2008 Membership Renewals Due by January 1, 2008

| | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Individual.....\$15 | Family w/children under 18.....\$40 | Patron (business/individual)....\$200 |
| Couple.....\$30 | Sustaining (individual).....\$100 | Life (individual).....\$500+ |
| Corporate Memberships | | |
| Platinum.....\$5,000 | Gold.....\$2,500 | Silver.....\$1,000 |

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.**

If you wish to receive a copy of the Membership Directory by mail, please add \$2.00 donation to your check to cover the cost.

NOTE: (*Starred information will be printed in annual Membership Directory distributed to members unless you indicate otherwise.)



Peggy Teague — Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow

The headline for this article reflects the title given to our Society's first publications published by the Folklore Committee in the mid-1970s. One of the founders of that committee, **Peggy Teague**, passed away recently and her presence will be both missed and remembered. I will remember the half dozen trips I made to visit her, up the winding road to her house overlooking San Luis Obispo. After each trip, I drove away with fifty, sixty, sometimes a hundred books and magazines that she donated to our new library – nearly five hundred in all. The subjects of the books and magazines reflected her love of community, county, state, and country. The books also reflected her years as an educator, in schools, on Indian reservations, and as an active member of the South County Historical Society. I will also remember how excited she was when I offered her a ride to our annual BBQ last summer.

Wanda Porter wrote of her memories, "I was saddened when a few months ago my second grade teacher, Peggy Wall Teague, emailed me that she had terminal lung cancer. We had become email buddies and friends after we found each other again at a South County Historical Society Annual Charter Day BBQ. Her emails were humorous and zany, even when she wrote the sad news that she didn't have much time left. And now that she is gone, I will miss our hot fudge sundae lunches and our visits to the bookstore. I will miss sharing my poems and stories with her and the books and information she'd share on whatever topic I was researching. And I will miss my friend and old teacher's loving encouragement. Peggy Wall Teague influenced the life of many young people and also one not so young. She will not be forgotten."

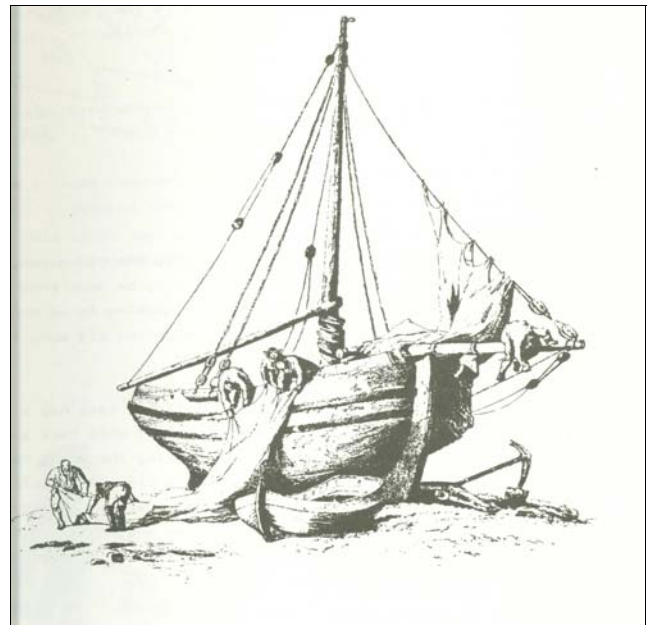
Jean Hubbard remembers Peggy as a tenacious researcher – how on one occasion she was handed a torn and tattered manuscript, a personal diary. Peggy immediately went to work – "like a bloodhound, finding out who wrote it, who the people were in the diary, and then interviewing them. The Pozo Diary became our best selling issue of *Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow*. She was one of a kind – we can only try to take her place."

Peggy's love of history was shared by her husband, **Arnold**. In their honor, the Society has named its new oral history project after them. It will be housed in our Paulding House Museum, coordinated by **Linda Kime**. We need your help in gathering family stories for future generations.

We also need to involve people of all ages in our Society's mission. For example, in this issue, we are including an article on the Pismo Pier by **Troy Vine** who wrote it for an English course at Hancock College. As the Society moves forward with our new projects, let's remember the love of history expressed by Peggy Teague. Peggy once wrote an article about the Pozo Diary entitled "Flotsam and Jetsam," defined in the introduction as "goods swept overboard from a wrecked ship or thrown overboard to lighten the load; found floating in the sea or upon the beach."

Peggy continued, "Have you ever walked the beach after a wild, winter storm? When the sea had ceased its boiling, when the snarling waves had heaved their heavy burden of flotsam and jetsam upon the sands, did you ever go beach combing? Did you ever go treasure hunting? Do you recall that half-suppressed feeling of excitement, that perhaps, just maybe, you might discover some treasure from this hodge-podge upon the beach? Was that glint – a glass fishing float, or just a jettisoned, burned out light bulb? Did you leave that odd-shaped bottle unlooked at, lest it contained some mysterious message? Might there be something clinging to that half-buried crate? Were there any treasures amidst this pile of seaweed, plastic, tree roots, coconut husks and trash. You wonder.

Peggy connects this beach experience to gathering local history, "People, too, seem to leave behind pieces and bits, flotsam and jetsam of their lives. When we, the folklorists, uncover, pry, prod and poke amidst the material we've collected, it is with the same feeling of half-suppressed excitement. Dare we leave unread that faded letter – this old diary? In this hodge-podge collection of tapes, letters, art, photos, articles and old newspapers, might there be some special treasure? We wonder."





Looking Forward

By Jane Line, President

Jane Fesler Delgadillo has graciously offered to allow me to re-use her research material on the St. Barnabas Episcopal Church in Arroyo Grande. Jane did her research in 2001 to commemorate the Centennial of one of South County's early churches.

St. Barnabas' History: A Century of Ministry, 1901 - 2001

St. Barnabas Episcopal Church parishioners have had three buildings over their first 100+ years. However, the first recorded service the Church was held on Easter Sunday, 1901, in the Masonic Hall in Arroyo Grande. Bishop Nichols, the second Bishop of California, and Archdeacon John A. Emery later visited Arroyo Grande and the name St. Barnabas was given to the mission on September 1, 1901.



The Phoenix twins at the first baptizal service in 1901.

The Phoenix twins, Dorothy and Bernice, were among the infants and children baptized in September of the same year at the celebration of St. Barnabas becoming a mission. These two little blond girls were the aunts of member Norma Harloe.

R.W. Sanford, owner of Tar Springs Ranch, donated two lots on the corner of Mason and Poole Street in the Village of Arroyo Grande. The first vestry accepted a proposal submitted by B.F. Stewart on December 12, 1901, to build a small church for a total of \$689. The church building was constructed primarily of redwood and was completed in January, 1902. The first service was held January 19, 1902, with 74 parishioners present. Pioneer family names such as Poole, Mason, Paulding, Clevenger, Dodd and others are reflected in

church records and photos. This early church building served its congregation well for almost fifty years, and many of our SCHS members were baptized in this first structure. It was sold to the Roman Catholic parish who moved the structure to Oceano where it stands today.



First Church, corner of Mason and Poole Street



Early parishioners posing in front of the first church.



First Church, Standing in Oceano

Ground breaking for the second St. Barnabas Episcopal Church building took place in the spring of 1949, on the corner of Grand Avenue and Barnett Street. In 1950, work began to move an Army chapel from Camp San Luis to the new location. The move was completed in June, 1950. Over time classrooms, a parish hall and a kitchen were added. This facility

served the congregation of St. Barnabas until 1990 when it was sold.

The official ground breaking ceremony for the third church building was held on November 12, 1989. While this new structure was being built, services were held in the local Seventh Day Adventist Church. The first service was held at 301 Trinity Avenue on December 9, 1990. The Sunday School addition was completed during the summer of 1991. This structure serves the community today and sits on a hilltop on the east side of southbound 101 on the southern end of Arroyo Grande



Second Church, corner of Grand Avenue and Barnett Street





You are Cordially Invited

First Annual
Christmas Party

South County Historical Society's
Historic Hall

128 Bridge Street
Village of Arroyo Grande

Sunday, December 12
4 – 8 PM



Museums Curator
-Jan Scott

DISCOVERIES

My long journey this year was spent in many museums, finding answers to questions long unanswered and new explanations for artifacts we thought we understood.

When our website first went up, our webmaster, Vivian Krug, asked for mysteries, artifacts whose purpose was unknown to us. The first thing I thought of was this syringe. No one had ever been able to figure it out. It looks like any other syringe except for one important detail, the end of the plunger inside the tube is wrapped in very fine thread, somewhat like embroidery thread. How could it be used as a syringe when the cotton thread would get wet? Vivian put the picture on the web site and asked if anyone knew what it was. No one ever has.

While visiting the National Civil War Museum in Harrisburg, PA (if you ever get a chance, go see it. It is a wonderful and fascinating place), I was walking along a cabinet filled with doctors' field equipment, saws and knives, and lo and behold, there were three of these syringes sitting there. They were used to push powders into infected ears. Okay, it's not a thrilling resolution, but one that has haunted us and can now be put to rest.



At a small museum called The Printery in a small town in Ontario, Canada, I found reproduction "matrices," the little metal forms that filled with lead to create the print for the Linotype machine. They are slightly smaller in depth than the real ones, but give a good idea of what they looked like, something we've never had. They'll be available to see at the Barn soon.

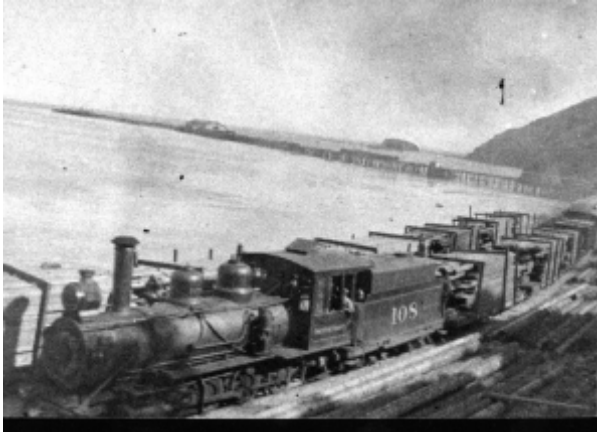
And, in a dairy farm area of Ontario, I saw a wooden rake, with wooden teeth. We have such a thing hanging in the Barn on one of our main doors. I had always been troubled by the idea that it was used for farming. Our soil is so rocky and rugged, it was hard to imagine anyone making much progress using such a thing. In a dairy museum I learned that wooden-tined rakes were used for separating the whey from the curd and to break up the curd when processing milk. New signage at the Barn will reflect this other more likely use of the rake in our community that depended so heavily on its dairies.

So we move forward, learning as we go. And the syringe can finally rest in peace.

Railroad Weekend at the South County Historical Society

IOOF Historic Hall on December 8 & 9

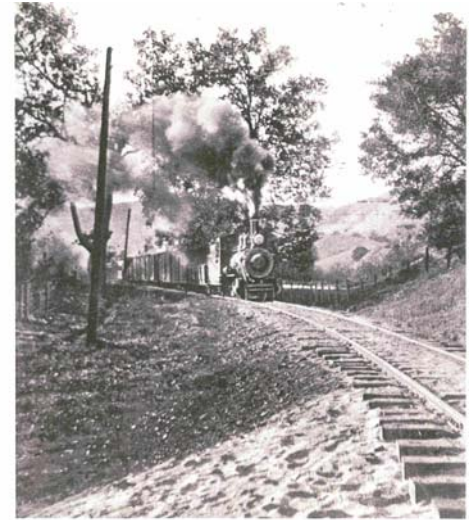
A special Railroad Weekend is being held on December 8th & 9th in the Village of Arroyo Grande. The SLO Model Railroad Association and the South County Historical Society will sponsor this family event at the IOOF Historic Hall at 128 Bridge Street. The activities will take place within the current exhibit which features the History of Avila Beach and includes numerous railroad photos and display items. The events are free and will offer running model trains, festive holiday decorations, children's storytelling and short railroad related history lectures for the adults. This will be the perfect weekend for children, families and train enthusiasts to visit the recently refurbished IOOF Historic Hall.



The San Luis Obispo Model Railroad Association is showcasing several model displays including running trains throughout the existing Avila exhibit. Specific trains to be featured will be: a Lionel (O Scale) "Polar Express" train; an LGB Christmas themed train; a small N Scale modular layout and several On30 models depicting the era of the Pacific Coast Railway. Doc Burnstein's Ice Cream Lab will also be displaying some of their Village Railroad rolling stock that runs throughout the year in their shop in the Village.

The Historical Society will have the building and exhibit area all dressed up for the holidays. The weekend fun will include early afternoon storytelling for the kids by several local dignitaries, educators and librarians. Story themes, of course, will be surrounding trains, history and the holidays. (See list of storytellers and times at bottom of this page.)

Kids will also be able to watch the movie, Polar Express, and the first 300 youngsters will receive wooden train whistles compliments of **Doc Burnstein's!** The older train enthusiasts will be offered lectures and treats, too. **Loren Nicholson** will give brief talks both days at 2:30 pm on the railroad in Avila and its connection to the historic Pacific Coast Railway. Loren is a noted historian, author and creator of the Avila exhibit. Signed copies of his book "Rails Across the Ranchos", as well as words of wisdom, will be available both days from Mr. Nicholson. As a special late afternoon treat for the adults, the Wood Winery will be offering a complimentary tasting of one of its selected wines each day at 3:00 pm. The winery's new tasting room just opened next to the IOOF Hall.



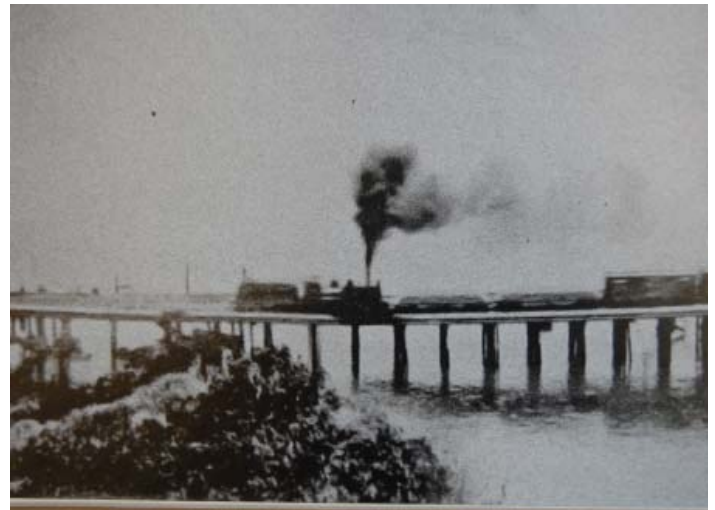
Railroad Weekend Schedule of Events

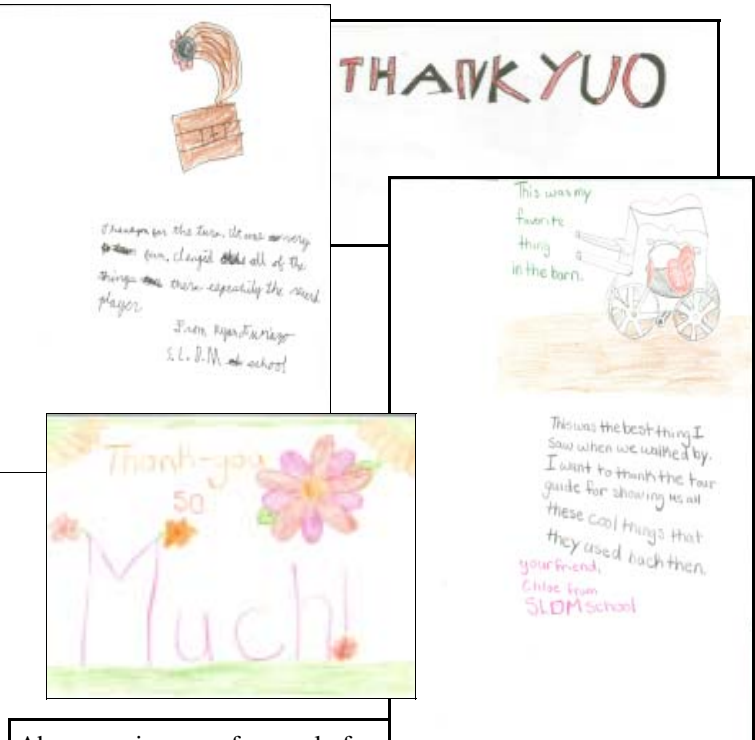
Saturday, December 8th (11:00 am - 5:00 pm)

- 11:30 – **Storyteller Rebecca Nadel**, Children's Librarian from the Arroyo Grande Library
- 12:30 - **Storyteller Chuck Burns**, well known elementary school teacher, co-founder of Burnardo'z Ice Cream Plant, and creator of the Village Railroad which still runs daily at Doc Burnstein's
- 1:30 – **Storyteller Jane Line**, President of the South County Historical Society
- 2:30 – **Author and Historian Loren Nicholson**

Sunday, December 9th (1:00 pm - 5:00 pm)

- 1:30 – **Storyteller Jane Line**, President of the South County Historical Society
- 2:30 – **Author and Historian Loren Nicholson**
- 3:30 – **Storyteller Lia Kalpakoff**, Docent Santa Manuela Schoolhouse and retired Jr. High School Teacher





Above are images of several of the students' hand drawn and lettered personal thank you notes sent to our "Dear Docents" to express the students' appreciation for the time the Docents spent showing the students from Mrs. Cindy Hubbard's 5th grade class at St. Louis de Montfort School.

**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'
SANDRA WORSHAM
PAT PHELAN**

**PO Box 633
Arroyo Grande
CA 93421**



Non-Profit Org
US Postage Paid
Arroyo Grande
CA 93421
PERMIT 15