



THE BOARD AND BATTEN

Newsletter of the Pacific Grove Heritage Society

April/May 1990

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not so new an idea

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Chinese arrested for
drying squid, \$7.50 a
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30-foot shark...

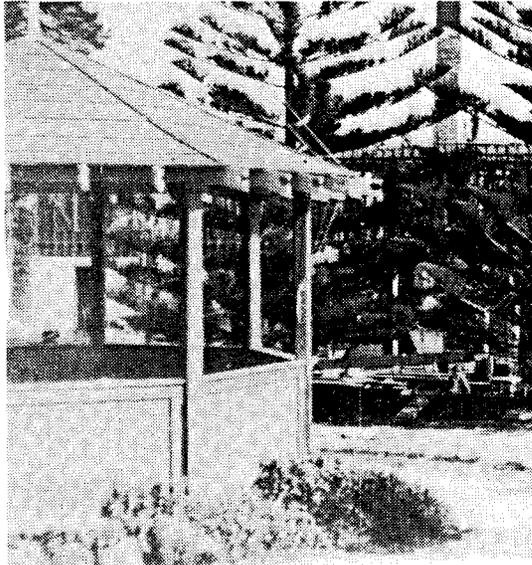
☞ Thank You!

Many thank-yous in
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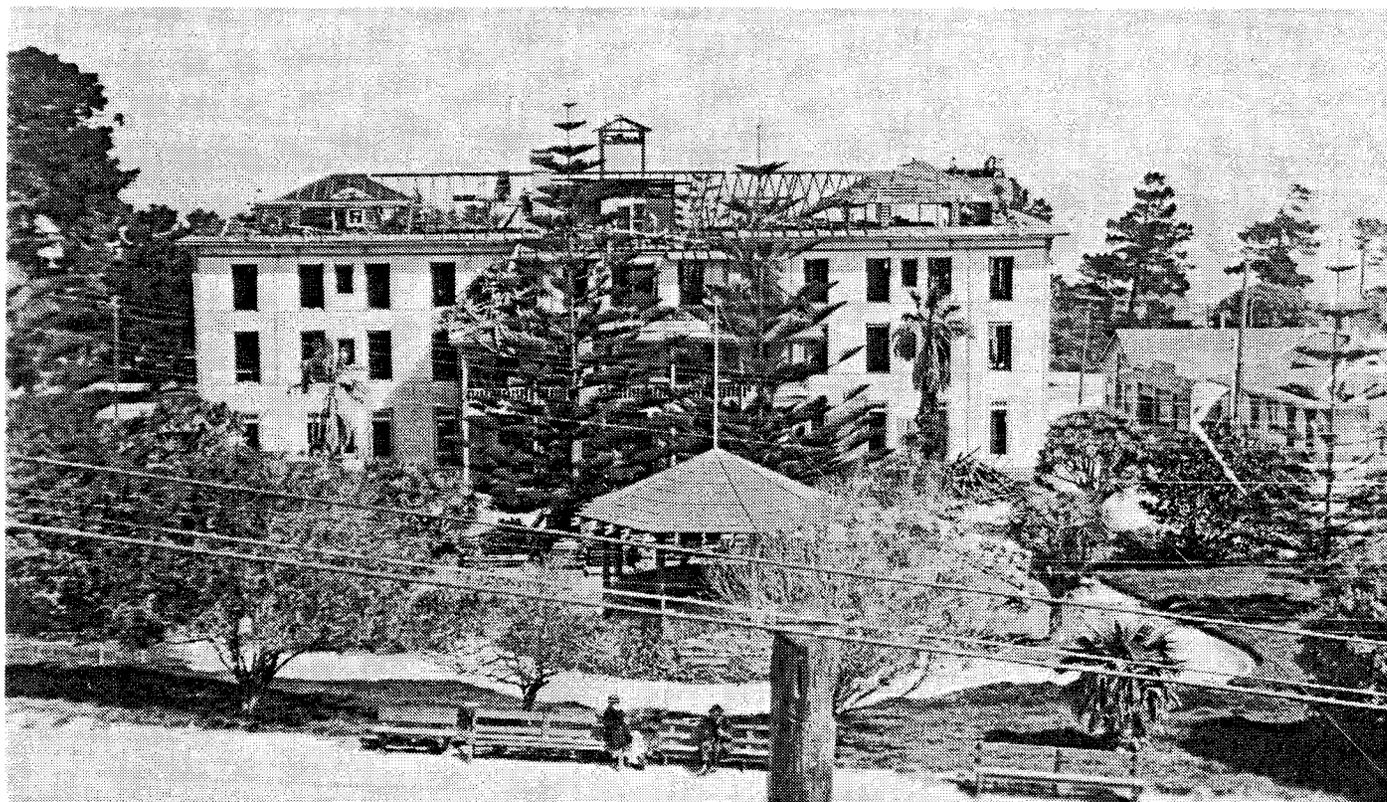
Pat Hathaway Collection

Circa 1916

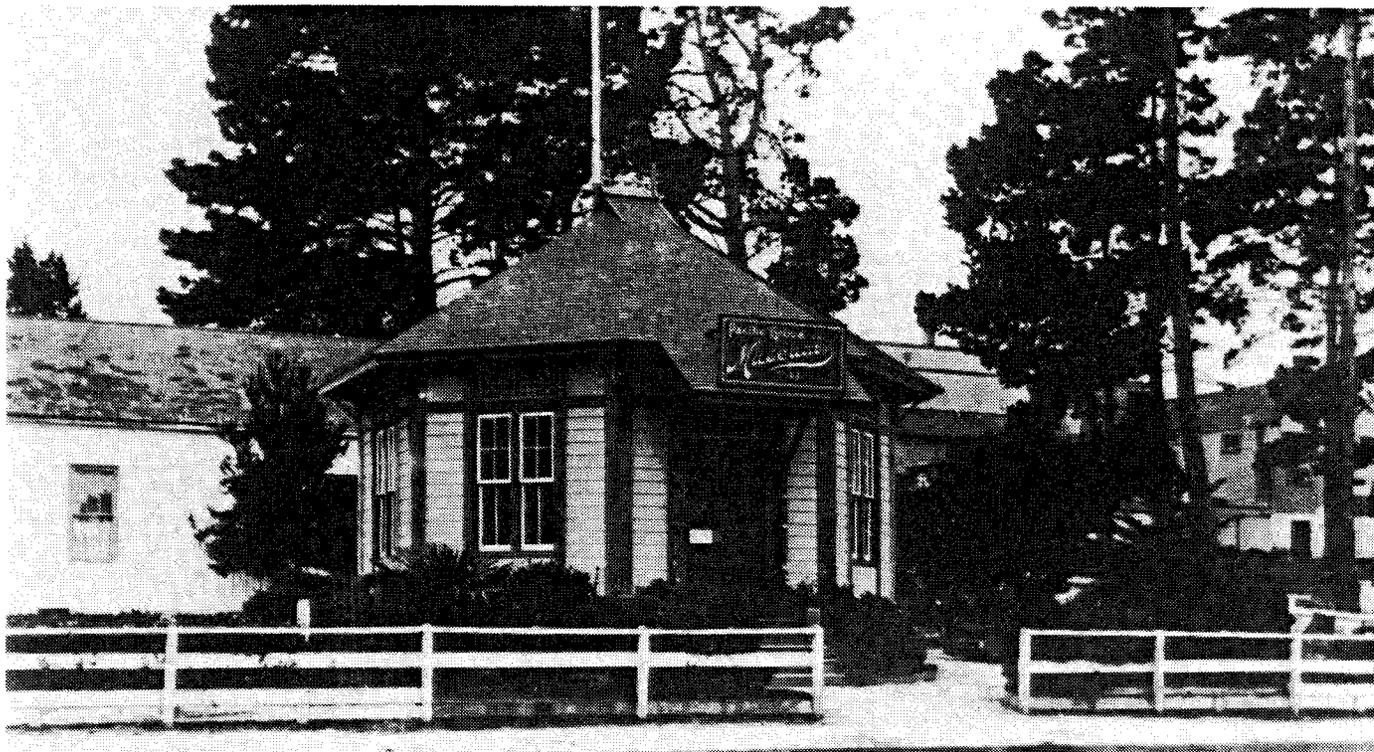
The Octagonal Building

The wonderful gazebo recently placed in Jewell Park by the Kiwanis Club is not the first such shaped building in that area. The above octagonal shaped building was located behind the old Pacific Grove Hotel between 1896 and 1916. Gentlemen enjoyed their after dinner cigars here. The first Museum building was similarly shaped, as was an early Chamber of Commerce building. Were they all one and the same? Maybe...or maybe not.

Circa 1916



Another view of the octagonal building behind the old Pacific Grove Hotel. Notice that the hotel is in the process of being dismantled in 1916.



The first Museum building located on the present Museum site. The sign reads "Pacific Grove Museum".

Remembering...

(From a letter written to us by Nellie Jane Ryder)

How it warmed my fond memories to learn Ken and Doris Petro were awarded a *Heritage House Award* in 1989 for exemplary restoration of 288 Central!

My paternal aunt (Mrs. Charles B. Polhemus, nee Ryder) owned 288 and she and my father's families spent many long summers in "the Grove" away from the heat of San Jose at the turn of the century. I have a large wood and leather domed trunk with a tag reading "The Grove" on it.

When my aunt died, she left the house and all its wonderful Victorian beds, tables and dressers to Miss Edith Gordon, an orphan she had raised from early childhood. "Aunt Dede", a single lady, "took in boarders" from Hopkins Marine Station.

In the summer, when things were slower, my brother, sister, and I were invited to each spend a week or two at 288. Such a vacation every child should have!

Each meal from hot breakfast muffins to huckleberry pie...berries hand picked by us or purchased at 17 Mile Drive Market in mason jars...was served on Blue Willow ware, cloth placemats and linen napkins (in personal silver rings), and crystal glasses...with finger bowls, if necessary.

We never tired of the novelty of watching headless legs and feet go by the ground level windows. The sight completely devastated our table manners which were strictly enforced by Aunt Dede.

The boarders were charming and often "walked the rails" with us to Lovers' Point Beach or along the coast to discover starfish, hermit crabs and other myriad of life forms so new to us. Dixie Lee Ray, later to be head of the Atomic Energy Commission and serve as Governor of Washington state, was one of our favorite boarders, living at 288 for longer than most.

Our room was always over the garage and the sounds and smells were strange and wonderful. Waking on Sunday mornings, the cacaphony of church bells along Central were the only sounds that could drown out the waves below.

We would walk down the very dense path to the sea. Always a spooky, fast trip because one would never know when the Green Gables houseman would be out. He never spoke, and I'm sure he thought children were terribly out of place— and order— scampering by his protectorate.

The train was a highlight. The engineer tooting and waving and running over our pennies that we would lay on the tracks.

Mrs. Tennant lived next door, across the open space next to the rockery. We always had to "call" and be totally enveloped in her arms and endure the "my babies, my babies" effusive greetings before we could scamper to the sea.

She took a particular liking to my brother, George, and together they dug up many of her pink lady bulbs for him to sell beside the curb. Five cents each, ten cents if he delivered and planted. He earned more than enough to purchase the newest treat— - Eskimo Pies— at the stand by the beach.

Aunt Dede never had a car, so we walked everywhere...to Holman's to marvel at the overhead money carriers and down to Lighthouse Curve to watch the Cavalry and their beautiful horses in the Fourth of July parades.

We climbed and hid in the cupola, got untold sand grains in the footed tub, dried our starfish in the back yard and giggled when various persons, "in their cups", would bang on the front door, thinking 288 was also a church on the street of churches.

Aunt Dede was very active in St. Mary's parish and did her long hours at the Lighthouse watching for enemy aircraft during WWII.

The restoration is gracious and lovely...Aunt Dede would be proud.

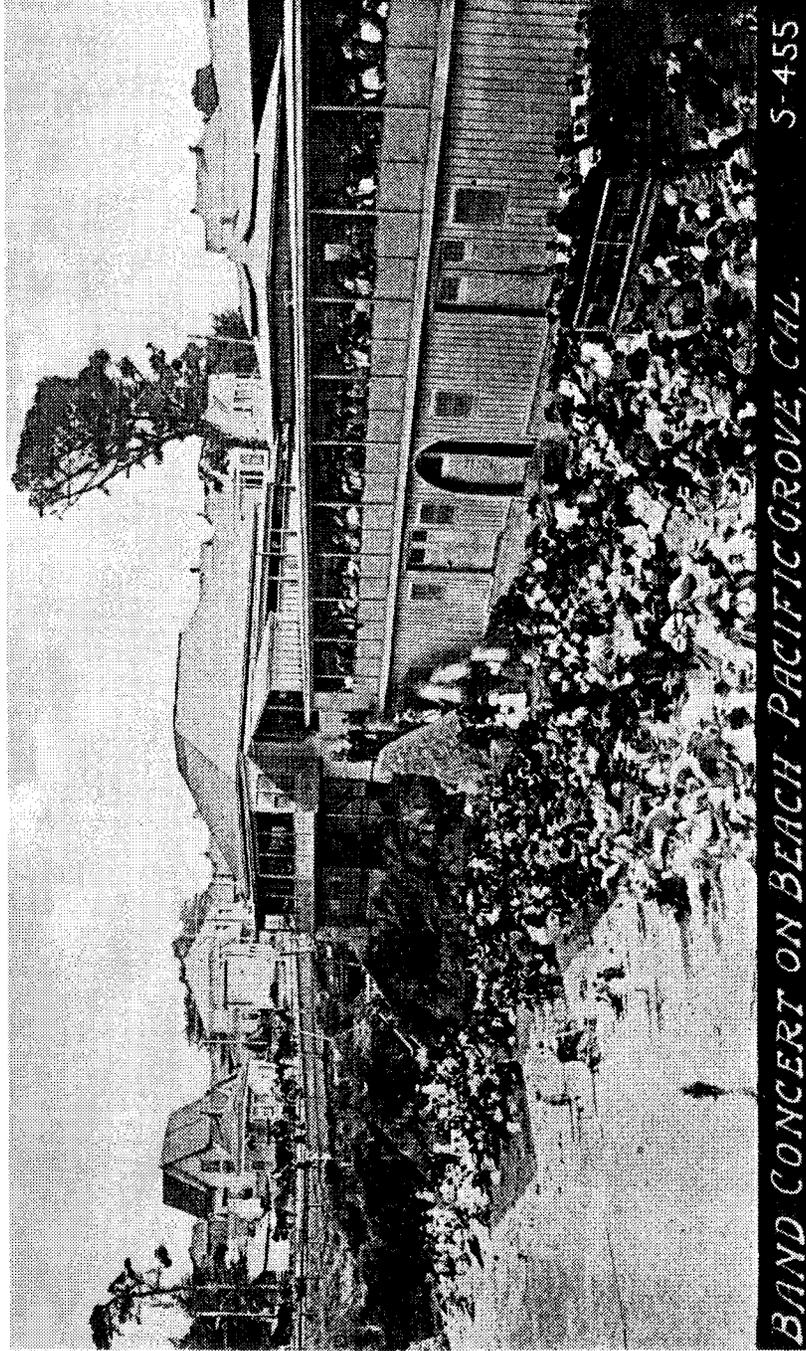
(Editor's note: The June/July 1989 issue has a photo of 288 Central.)

*Thanks to everyone involved with the
Victorian Home Tour, Quilt Show and
Good Old Days!*

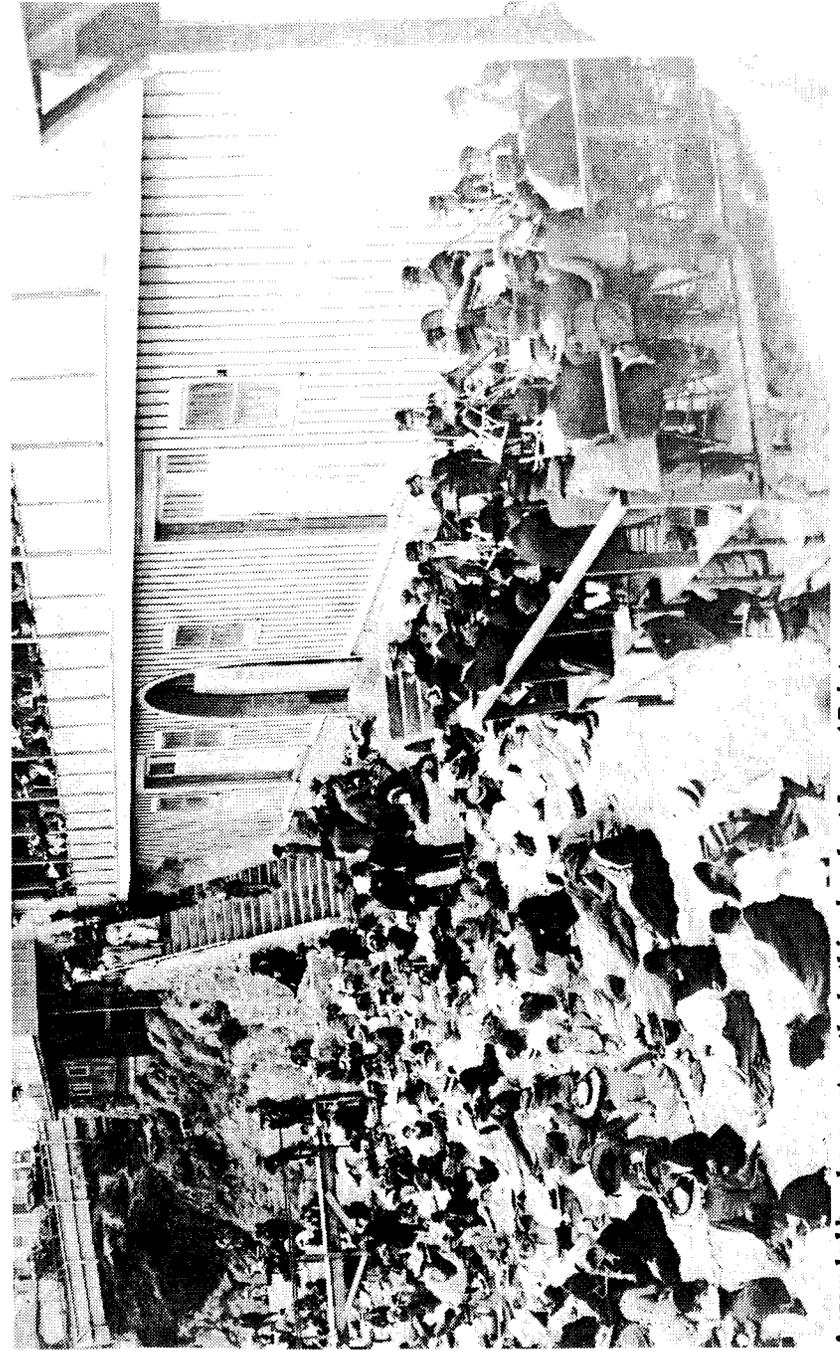
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Others Saw Us Through Postcards

Circa 1911



Circa 1911



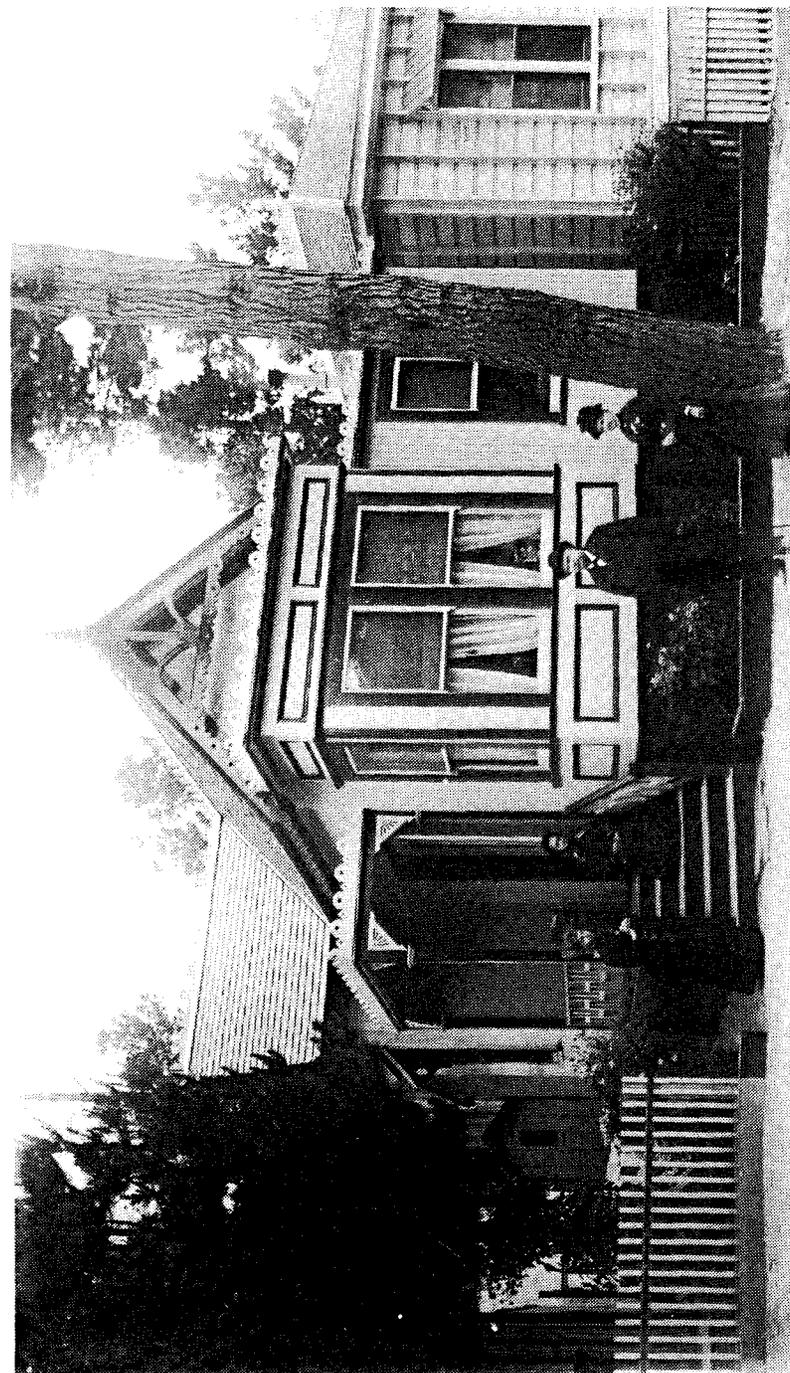
Down The Piney Path

News from the Pacific Grove REVIEW: July 1904.

❖ by E.C. Davis

- A fisherman from San Francisco caught 32 salmon the other day. The largest weighed 27 pounds.
- Sale of cake and needlework at St. Mary's Guild July 7th. Admission free.
- There is to be a game of baseball here on the Fourth of July between Monterey and 15th Infantry clubs.
- District Attorney Treat was over from Salinas on Wednesday to prosecute the 16 Chinese under arrest for maintaining a nuisance at Chinatown for drying squid.
- The Chautauqua Assembly opens July 11th. It will include the Chafin Jubilee Singers and many other attractions.
- Please settle your accounts at Wright's Hardware Store.
- A souvenir will be given with each dish of ice cream at the Woman's Exchange on the Fourth of July.
- While in Santa Cruz a few days since, W.B. Filcher learned that tents with two beds and no accommodations for cooking but with electric lights are renting for \$7.50 per week. At those rates it would pay Pacific Grove people to put in electric lights for renters.
- W.H. Varien, better known to the local fraternity as "old red shirt" made a score of 315 out of 325 at San Francisco, a performance that breaks all known records.
- The elegant new bath house at the bathing beach is now open to the public, and hot salt and surf baths may be had by all who desire.
- A thirty foot basking shark was killed by Japanese fishermen a few days since and is now on exhibit at the bath house in Pacific Grove.

Tuttle Photo



Doctor Sinex in front of his home at 142 Forest Avenue circa 1890.

So Many People To Thank

The Victorian Home Tour / Quilt Show / Good Old Days weekend was a wonderful success blessed by perfect weather. Of course, none of it would have been possible without the help of our many volunteers, laboring while giving up a portion of their weekend and missing out on some of the festivities. Often we miss telling someone how important their work was to us, but we never take it for granted. **We Appreciate Your Help!**

I know I will probably miss someone now, but I will try to pass on some special thanks. Marilyn wanted me to be sure and thank everyone who brought in goodies for the Quilt Show Preview Party. As usual it was a visual and gastronomic treat. Many of you also brought in goodies for the Tea Room, and Bruna thanks you. Bobbie wants to thank all of you who helped with the hanging and guarding of the quilts, especially Don Beals and Ed Bredthauer for their extra help and patience. Kathie thanks all who took their turn at the Heritage Society booth on Lighthouse. The visibility helps us a lot.

Adam wants to thank the homeowners for sharing their homes with us on the tour and Connie wants to thank the Hostesses and Hosts...all 103 of them! Especially the Head Hostesses and Hosts: Dean & Joanna Chapman, Mollie Decker, Lyn Bovey, Irene Hammond, Nadine Annand, Flo Peckham, Doris Vance, Virginia Bush, Meg Manus, Louise Bidwell, Denise Banta and Sarah Sheere. Thanks to Bob Doerr for the balloons, helium and ribbons. Thanks to Shirley and her kids for Sunday morning. And thanks to Pacific Grove Florist for the lovely flower arrangements.

Why Is Preservation Important?

I call it Reason #176, although the words come from a letter written by Suzanne H. Crowhurst Lennard and Henry L. Lennard, organizers of the *International Making Cities Livable Conference* recently held in Carmel.

Playwright Peter Shaffer (of "Amadeus" fame) called the sense of identification with one's place a "communal eye". Through this eye, residents retain a vision of the unique architectural characteristics that give places identity and meaning. Architecture embodies the city's memory. When a building is destroyed, then the memories that each individual has in connection with that building can no longer be passed on. If too much of a city's architectural heritage is destroyed, then the communal memories fade.

New Members

Guy & Linda Chaney
LTC Abel & Mrs. Potts
William Brian Miller

Sherry Pastor
Mona Santos
Don Bussey

Colonel Jacob Fordney Kreps

We have been asked to help find information on Colonel Kreps. He graduated from West Point in 1883. He died in Pacific Grove on June 10, 1939. He may have lived in Carmel and not in Pacific Grove. If you have any information on Colonel Kreps, please send it to:

The Pacific Grove Heritage Society
P.O. Box 1007
Pacific Grove, CA 93950

Share The Heritage With A Friend Annual Family Membership \$10.00

Members receive *The Board and Batten* newsletter of the Heritage Society of Pacific Grove.

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*The
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of Pacific Grove*

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