



THE BOARD AND BATTEN

Newsletter of the Pacific Grove Heritage Society

December 1992 / January 1993

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Rev. F. F. Jewell, D.D.
1831 - 1899

The Victorian Home Tour has been moved from April to October.
It will be the Sunday following the Saturday Butterfly Parade.

Gone But Not Forgotten—Jewell Cottage

(This article is from the December 10, 1954 issue of the Pacific Grove Tribune.)

One of the oldest homes of early Yankee settlers on the Peninsula stands all but forgotten in Pacific Grove. As history goes, the "Jewell Cottage" (please see centerfold photo) isn't really very old—it was built in 1879, but in California history its 75 years cover most of an era. Few houses, except for Mexican adobes, are older than that on this part of the peninsula.

The gingerbread board and bat abode was started originally as a summer cottage by Dr. F. F. Jewell, one of the leaders of the Methodist campground in Pacific Grove. Dr. Jewell then bought the lumber, stained glass windows and ornate doors of a Methodist Church that had been torn down in San Francisco, packed everything on a raft and floated it down to P.G. In the years that followed, Dr. Jewell enlarged his cottage to a 14-room mansion with these building materials, and evidences of the dismantled church are just as visible today in the home as they were then. There are ornate arches, windows of small colored sectional panes, and elaborate gingerbread decorations. These ornamentations are in curious contrast to the Puritan simplicity of its rooms. Walls and ceilings are plain board. A Franklin-type stove heats the parlor.

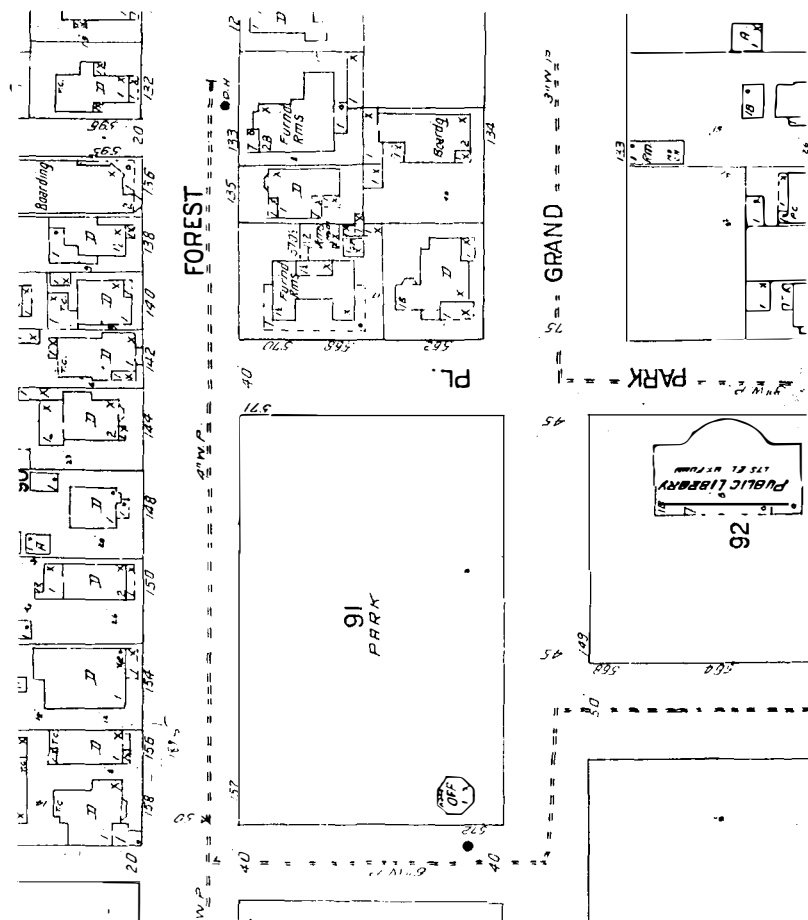
Our civilization, in its preoccupation with "progress," sometimes shows little respect for its own personal history. There have been repeated cries of "firetrap" and periodic suggestions that the Jewell Cottage at 570 Park Place be condemned.

These cries are abhorrent to Mrs. De Wilton Thompson, a little old lady who was born near San Diego three years before the Jewell Cottage, her home for the last thirty-five years, was built. "Sometimes", says Mrs. Thompson, "I can hear more than they think from the street when I sit in the parlor, and I've heard them say, 'Why don't they condemn this firetrap?' If I had more courage, I would go out and tell them that the house needs only painting, but I don't have the courage." More than anything else, Mrs. Thompson would like to make the Jewell Cottage "look nice and neat" again. But she has no other income than her old-age pension. There is not enough money left for paint, nor for someone to rehabilitate the old house thoroughly, a job for which the frail widow lacks strength.

Mrs. Thompson's parents, Dr. James H. Clark, a physician, and his wife, bought the home in 1919 after it had been vacant for about three years. The Clarks died in the early 30's. Mrs. Thompson now lets out part of the house to an old friend, Mrs. Ruby Doane, and her daughter, Miss Alice Doane, and thus doesn't have to be all alone.

Often, when Mrs. Thompson sits in her parlor, surrounded by family pictures and relics, someone knocks at the door and asks to be shown through the old house. And, sometimes, Mrs. Thompson, through her carefully drawn curtains, spots an artist sitting in Jewell Park across the way painting a picture of her home.

(Editor's note: Jewell Cottage was demolished in the 1960s.)



Location of Jewell Cottage at 570 Park Place, at the corner of Forest.

Pacific Grove Will Lose Less If The Defense Boom Breaks

(Editor's note: This is an editorial from the August 1, 1941 issue of the Pacific Grove Tide.)

It's hard to believe, but it was just a year ago that the Fort Ord construction project got under way and the Monterey Peninsula awoke to what a defense boom could mean. What a whale of a difference in a few short months .. and the end is not yet.

The alarming thought comes from the fact that a national emergency brought all this about. When the emergency is over, will it all disappear the same way it came? After a period of the sacrifices of war, the people always tend to neglect the military establishment of the nation. What happens if the Fort Ord garrison is reduced to but a small contingent?

Judging by the experiences of the first year, Pacific Grove is less affected by the Fort Ord emergency than any other Monterey Peninsula community. Our town has taken the whole thing more conservatively, and consequently should have less adverse reaction if and when an adjustment must be made.

This situation is not altogether our fault. Because of its religious background and reputation, because of its lack of industrial development and because of the fact that it has no commercial sale of liquor, Pacific Grove through the years has attracted a class of people and type of development which does not make it a natural center of the sort of social life generally associated with large army establishments. By and large, this situation is an advantage.

Pacific Grove is a delightful place in which to live for any family with small children. For that reason there are a number of officers' families residing here, although not so many as have gone to Carmel and Monterey. The high rents now prevailing here have kept the non-commissioned officers away.

Pacific Grove has benefited from the military establishment in the fact that all rentable houses now are rented, many of them at unusual prices. Property owners are now getting unexpected income from their investments here. A year ago, it seemed that every house in town was for sale. Now there are few.

This town has benefited in that local carpenters, plumbers and other building tradesmen now have plenty of work at high wages. Pacific Grove seems to have attracted artisans for many years.

When building is good, our people prosper. When it is poor, our town feels the effects severely.

Pacific Grove has benefited by a large amount of new home construction. This has been brought about by the increased scale of rents. Many local people have found it cheaper to own a home, through FHA payments, than to pay rent. There has been little speculative building ... for which we probably can be thankful.

We have escaped the rush to build new bars, cocktail lounges and honky-tonks. Stores catering particularly to military trade have not been established here. Commercial amusement places catering to the soldiers have not located in Pacific Grove. If the army were ordered away tomorrow, our business district would experience a falling-off in patronage, but there would be no establishments automatically closing because they had put all their eggs in the military basket.

Viewing the situation as it stands, Pacific Grove would follow the part of wisdom if this community continued to be more of an interested and cooperative spectator than an active participant.

Looking For Quilts

The Quilt Show is scheduled for April 17th and 18th during Good Old Days weekend. We welcome any quilt which is in relatively good condition and has not been shown before in our quilt show.

If you have one or more quilts you would like to enter in the show, either made by you or made by someone else, bring it (them) to one of the Quilt Preview sessions at Chautauqua Hall on the corner of 16th and Central to be held on:

Thursday March 11, 1993 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.

Saturday March 13, 1993 1:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m.

The purpose of the preview sessions is to gather historical data on the quilts and record the size and color in order to plan how they will be displayed. If you have any questions please call Bobbie Hall at 375-7641.



Built in 1879, demolished in the 1960s, Jewell Cottage remains one of our most asked about buildings.

1954 photo

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Down The Piney Path

News from the Salinas Weekly INDEX—January-March 1887

❖ by E. C. Davis

- + A block of 20 lots belonging to the P.I Co. have been decided upon for the school site.
- + The Grove is unusually full of visitors, who have come to spend the winter in that charming spot.
- + A special post office has been established in Pacific Grove, with R.G. Mitchell as postmaster.
- + Miss Alice Crane, of Pacific Grove, has been appointed authorized examiner in California for the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston.
- + Quite a large party from Minneapolis, Minn. are sojourning at Pacific Grove.
- + The P.I. Co. has again found it necessary to extend the limits of the Grove from 1,000 to 1,400 lots.
- + The lumber for the new hotel at Pacific Grove is arriving daily. The building will be 100 by 142 feet, three stories high and provided with an elevator.
- + The Toro mountain is yet wearing his snowy night cap.
- + The Grove public school will open Monday with Miss Phillips of Trinity County as teacher.
- + A drug store is discovered to be selling whiskey; an affidavit is presented to Superintendent Johnson concerning this "wolf in sheep's clothing."
- + Miss Lola Lawrey of Pacific Grove has established a music class at Salinas and will be over to give lessons on piano and organ.
- + The carpenters at the new hotel are all union men and refuse to have their work done at the Chinese laundry.
- + There are more than 21 cottages in construction in Pacific Grove.
- + Chautauqua is said to be an Indian word meaning a bag tied in the middle. That is the shape of Lake Chautauqua, New York.



Photo circa 1905

Harriet Norris Caig standing by the fountain donated to Pacific Grove. This Victorian fountain, with drinking troughs for the animals at the bottom and for people in the center, stood in what is now called Jewell Park from the late 1890s until 1942 when it was given up for scrap metal to aid in the war effort.

Jewell Park Drinking Fountain

(From the March 6, 1926 issue of the Pacific Grove Tribune)

Pacific Grove has a drinking fountain, a rather ornate one, in little Jewell Park, across the street from the library. There is something ironic about that. The passing pedestrian who reads the plaque: "Presented to the city of Pacific Grove by Henry D Cogswell - 1899 - Rev. F. F. Jewell, D.D., Sup't." may never suspect the story behind it.

Who was Henry Cogswell? His first appearance in California was in 1849 when he opened the first dentist's office in San Francisco, on Montgomery street. His financial success was fabulous, for in those days men not only dug for gold, they wanted the world to know they had it, and what better way than to display gold teeth? Many a healthy ivory molar did Cogswell extract to make room for a luminous one of shiny metal. The more gold teeth, the more gold to Cogswell. Presently he retired. His hobby, strangely enough in that boisterous town of early San Francisco, was prohibition. Cogswell became the first active prohibitionist in the city.

He created a fund for the erection of water fountains. He stipulated that for every 100 saloons he would build a drinking fountain. Seven were erected in San Francisco, and several in other towns of northern California, including San Jose and Pacific Grove. How the original terms could have been manipulated to permit one to be placed here seems a mystery. One hundred saloons? With nary a one, Pacific Grove rated a Cogswell fountain.

(Editor's note: This fountain remained in Jewell Park until 1942 when it was donated to the WWII scrap drive. A photo may be seen in the Dec '92/Jan '93 issue of the Board and Batten.)

E+E June 20, 1992

Education Outreach Program

At its November 11 meeting, the Heritage Society Board voted unanimously to continue funding the Society's Education Outreach program, which brings local history programs into the Pacific Grove elementary and middle schools. Now in its fifth year, the program reaches over 900 school children each year with information about the origins of Pacific Grove, its unique buildings and landmarks and the value of historic preservation.

Last year, historian Kent Seavey visited grades 1-5 at Forest Grove and Robert Down Schools to discuss the work of architect Julia Morgan and show slides of the Morgan-designed buildings at Asilomar. Seavey also makes two annual visits to Lila Staples' Middle School art class for a special unit dealing with Victorian architecture. Next year, the program may be expanded to include a community planning workshop for students at Pacific Grove High School.

The response from the teachers and administrators has been extremely positive, but most rewarding has been the enthusiastic reception Mr. Seavey has received from the school children, who now say, "Oh, I remember when you were here last year," and recall details of the previous year's presentation. This year's school visits will be held during May, timed to coincide with National Historic Preservation Week.

For additional information about the Heritage Society's Education Outreach, please contact Program Coordinator, Jeanne McCombs at 375-4520.

Spring Lecture Series

Monterey Public Library's Spring Lecture Series is offering two programs of interest to Heritage Society members:

Thursday, February 25 at 7:00 p.m. – "MONTEREY'S LIVING HISTORY". Historian Kent Seavey will narrate a slide presentation on the history of Monterey, with special emphasis on the fascinating local landmarks and buildings which bring us into day-to-day contact with Monterey's historic past.

Thursday, March 25 at 7:00 p.m. – "JULIA MORGAN: THE WOMAN; THE ARCHITECT". Celebrate "Women's History Month" with Sara Holmes Boutelle, professor of art and architecture, author of Julia Morgan, Architect, who has spent over 15 years researching, writing and lecturing about the groundbreaking architect. Ms. Boutelle will present slides of Morgan's important commissions, including several Bay Area projects, the chief buildings at Asilomar and Hearst Castle.

Both programs will be held in the Library Community Room, 625 Pacific Street, Monterey. Admission is free, but seating reservations are required. Please call 646-3930.

Poetry Corner

11/23/06 P.G. Daily Review

Little Beds of Flowers
Little Coats of Paint
Make a Pleasant Cottage
Out of One That Ain't!

New Members

Jean Marie Ackermann Ph.D.	Kevin & Raedee Kahl
Ms. Eloy Rogers	Lynne Yates-Carter
Dorothy Mack Eberhardt	Mrs. Cam Puget
Dr. & Mrs. Trevor Glenn	Doug & Jane Roberts
Harold & Dorothy Junge	Janet Loewen & Pam Matheson

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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Heritage Society
of Pacific Grove*

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