

The Heritage Society of Pacific Grove NEWSLETTER

Dedicated to Maintaining the Beauty and Individuality of Pacific Grove

Volume 4, Issue 2

March, 2004



Finishing Touches

by Ken Hinsbaw



You have undoubtedly noticed the major restoration project that has taken shape at 190 Central over the past year. This neglected Greek Revival mansion went on the market two years ago and was bought, sight unseen, by Dr. Donald Davis, a retired anesthesiologist whose practice had been in Atlanta. Dr. Davis was drawn to Pacific Grove because he felt such a strong sense of community; he is the third doctor to own the home.

The magnificent home is all but finished with every detail carefully attended to. Historic photos of the home that yielded valuable information were found in Pat Hathaway's

collection. The inappropriate addition on First St. has been torn off, and the original second floor French doors and picture window, that had been removed, have been replaced. All windows have been rebuilt, original doors and hardware have been renewed, original hardwood floors and the stairway and banister have been retained and refurbished. The bathrooms have been redone with marble tile and fancy nickel fixtures. The kitchen is a gourmet cook's dream, with every convenience combined with traditional cabinetry. (We must get this home on the Home Tour!)

Dr. Davis is enjoying getting

to know his neighbors and being a part of our community. He is planning an active second career of volunteer service. He would like to give credit to the following people for contributing to the success of this project:

- Kent Seavey, architectural historian
- Jim Ream, master carpenter and PG resident
- Leonardo's Cabinetry, Gilroy
- Randy Randazzo General contractor
- Steve Moses and Sean Callahan, both painting contractors
- Pat Hathaway, California Views Historic Photos, Monterey

Calendar

APRIL

GOOD OLD DAYS

April 3-4, 2004

QUILT SHOW

April 3-4, 2004

WILDFLOWER SHOW

April 16-18, 2004

MAY

SECRET GARDEN TOUR

Cancelled due to no gardens

HERITAGE HOUSE AWARDS

May 7, 2004

7:00 p.m.

Museum of Natural History

Forest & Central Avenues

FREE

All opinions expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official positions of the Board of Directors, but are meant to stimulate interest in and discussion of preservation issues.

Sponsor the Newsletter Thank You!

Bob Davis,
Frances Grate,
and Anonymous,
"Highway 68"
already have

Get Ready for the State Conference

by Ken Hinsbaw

I need a really good reason to leave our quiet corner of the world. This year's California Preservation Foundation conference offers more than enough to pull me out of my comfortable nest and venture to the Big City north of us, the one with hills, bridges, cable cars, and people with strange hair. Over the last 10 years San Francisco has opened the decommissioned Presidio, creating an oasis of forest and scattered historic military buildings. The conference will be centered at the Presidio and several study sessions and tours will focus on the reuse and preservation of this fabulous resource. The San Francisco area offers a treasure trove for tours, from the historic estate of Filoli to the exploration of the preserved WWII S.F. shipyard worker housing neighborhood of Dogpatch.

Get involved, attend the annual conference of the California Preservation Foundation.

There are always Preservation 101 sessions perfect for the neophyte and advanced sessions designed for the professionals, with many tours and presentations that will captivate anyone interested in preservation.

WHAT: California Preservation Foundation Conference, sponsored by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the National Parks Service, and others.

WHERE: Presidio of San Francisco

WHEN: Wednesday April 28 to Saturday May 1, 2004

CONTACT: for information and registration: www.californiapreservation.org

Preservation Loses a Friend

by Ken Hinsbaw

I am sad to see the early retirement of Judy MacClelland from the City's Planning Department. She is one person I have come to rely on for getting the straight scoop. The information she gave was not always to my liking, but it was always delivered with a dose of diplomacy and undeniable clarity.



Judy MacClelland

I believe my experience was typical of the many who she had dealings with. The longer I knew her, the more I respected her and the work she has done for preservation. She helped to craft positive changes when the political atmosphere allowed it, and recognized when the times weren't right for strengthening preservation.

She has been at the center of writing the General Plan for the City, the guiding document that lays down the goals of the

town. The Historic Resources portion of this plan calls out for the protection of our singular collection of homes and buildings. She was also part of the team that developed the Architectural Review Design Guidelines, the essential booklet in constant use by the ARB to guide them in their decisions.

Judy wasn't just someone who knew the rules, she was passionate about preservation. She will be missed by everyone who cares for our town.

Annual Meeting Focused on Books

by Gary Sprader

The Heritage Society Annual meeting was held Sunday, February 22, 2004, at 2 pm in the PG museum of Natural History. Heritage Society president Paul Finnegan promptly called the meeting to order and announced that if anyone was there for the paleontology lecture, it was next week. Several people got and left. I guess some people like dinosaurs more than old houses, but their seats were quickly filled by the overflow crowd.

Paul introduced the Heritage Society board of directors, and vice-president Darlene Billstrom introduced the volunteers who work on this newsletter. An election was held which resulted in current board members Paul Finnegan, Don Beals, Jeanie Anton, and Jan & Ted Rose being reelected. Betty

Aickelin and Peggy Schmidt were added to the board of directors. The first speakers were Jeanne McCombs and Dennis Copeland of the Monterey Public Library. They are the authors of the book, *A Monterey Album, Life By The Bay*. This is a book of historic photographs and related stories which document Monterey history. The photographs are from the private collections of individuals. People brought their scrapbooks and old photos to the Monterey Library where they were scanned and the related stories recorded. This project resulted in 2,000 photographs recorded, but only 200 could be used in the book. The authors decided that all photos in the book should include people, and then picked the best photos that fit into these categories:

- At work.
- All dressed up.
- Community service
- Just friends
- Good times
- Home and Family
- Monterey celebrates
- Getting around
- Kid stuff
- By the bay

The authors showed slides of several photos from each of these categories. Our Heritage Society is sponsoring the same type of book about Pacific Grove by the same publisher to be released in 2005. Kent Seavey has been hired as the author of this book. Kent told the audience about his ideas for the book, the details of which are covered in a separate article in this newsletter.

The last speaker was Hannah Clayborn from Arcadia Publications, the publisher of the books being discussed. She explained how Arcadia publishes books about small

geographic areas using small print runs to make this profitable. They also have distribution agreements with many chain bookstores. Hannah answered several questions and the meeting was concluded.

Pacific Grove: The Presence of The Past

by Gary Sprader

This is the working title of the book Kent Seavey is writing for the Heritage Society to be published by Arcadia Publications in Summer 2005. Kent explained at the annual meeting that he wants to tell a story using images, and there are many voids in Pacific Grove's history for which no photographs exist.

We are asking that if you have any old photos of Pacific Grove, that you allow Kent to look at them and possibly make copies. Copies will be made at the meeting so the photos will not leave your possession. Kent is an architectural historian and an expert on local history. You might learn some information about your photos as well as make a contribution to the book. Please call (831) 372-2898 and leave a message for Kent to contact you. This is the P. G. Heritage Society number. Kent is looking for good black & white images relating to the following subjects for the publication:

- American Can Co., early interiors with workers and exteriors from the 1940s, 50s
- Asilomar, particularly images of the young women at play or interiors.
- Boy & Girl Scouts, early shots inside and out.
- Butterfly Parade, early photos from the 1950s
- California Conservation Corps, women working
- Chautauqua, early images, speakers, tent interiors, programs, etc.
- Del Monte Military Academy, group shots, sports, parades, etc.
- Early Businesses, 19th & 20th century, interiors, delivery trucks, etc.
- Feast of Lanterns, 19th century images, 1930s, 1950s
- Holman's Dept. Store, Interiors, 1920s, 30s, 40s, 50s, 60s
- Monarch Butterflies, early images of trees with people 1900-1960
- P.G. Fire Dept., early equipment, stations, fires
- P.G. Laundry, interiors with workers
- P.G. Music Society, early concerts
- P.G. Police, early uniforms, autos P.D. interiors 1920s/30s/40s
- P.G. Post Office, 1903 on Forest Ave. before changes.
- P.G. Sponsored Sports, early
- Roque courts and tournaments
- Tennis Courts, early ones at Berwick Park, and later.

- Twilight Baseball League, WWII
- Women's Civic Club, planting Dahlia gardens, events, etc.
- People: Wm. Adam, Elmarie Dyke, O.S. Trimmer, Julia Platt, Edward Berwick, Bing Crosby, Teddy Roosevelt, Steinbeck & Ricketts in the Grove.

Return of the Wood Windows

by Ken Hinsbaw



Long time residents of PG Tom and Lori Rolander downsized to their new digs on Laurel and Granite. Master Craftsman Mike Torre has replaced the inappropriate aluminum windows with beautiful all wood double hung Kolbe and Kolbe models. What an improvement!

Last Chance!

by Ken Hinsbaw

The last copy of the second edition of our booklet the "Historic Home Resource

Guide" was snapped up about a year ago. Ex-board member Kathleen O'Brien is just now finishing up the job of updating this helpful guide for homeowners. The book is a listing of people and services that our members have found especially competent and helpful in maintaining and remodeling their older homes. There is still time to nominate someone, but you must act soon. E-mail Kathleen at Kathleen@bappynet.com

Do It Yourself Research

by Ken Hinsbaw

Are you interested in researching your own home? Our wonderful library has a collection that will allow you to look up your historic home in order to find out when it was built, to get the name of the early owner, and to see what its footprint looked like. The reference section has a three volume work by local archeologist Don Howard that traces the early title of homes in most of the neighborhoods. Don Howard has contributed mightily to local history with 25 books and booklets on the region. The first book "Old PG Retreat Business" focuses on the downtown commercial district. You will find it is filled with pictures of interesting characters and sketches from our early history as well as the property information. The second and third books "Rancho to Retreat" (979.476 How) are the most useful in researching your home. Good Luck on your search!

Please mail Heritage House nominations by March 15, 2004 to:

The Roses, Heritage House Awards

179 Pacific Avenue

Pacific Grove, CA, 93950

Or email: tedjanrose@webtv.net

Carmel's Flanders Mansion

by Maryanne Spradling

The National Trust for Historic Preservation and the Flanders Foundation co-sponsored a preservation lecture, "Protecting the Irreplaceable," on February 28. Melanie Billig, president of the Flanders Foundation, explained that the objective of their foundation is to keep the Flanders Mansion in the public domain, rather than allowing the city to sell it to offset short-term budget issues. Also, through grants, corporate gifts and personal donations, the foundation wants to improve electrical and plumbing systems as well as the roof. They want to restore the mansion "for the benefit and enjoyment of the public now and in the future."

Built in the 1920s, the Flanders Mansion is in the middle of Carmel's 33-acre Mission Trail Nature Preserve,

where the Padres traveled from the Carmel Mission to Monterey. The length of the trail runs from the corner of Crespi Ave. and Mountain View to Rio Road right across from the Mission, with glimpses of Carmel Bay along the way. Situated in the midst of the nature reserve, the mansion offers great potential as a cultural center or a museum.

Holly Fiala, Western Regional Director of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, gave an orientation of the objectives



of the NTHP, which in a nutshell is saving historic places, ideally accessible to the public. She emphasized partnerships with other communities and organizations, and increasing public awareness. She also made it abundantly clear that the NTHP is available, willing and able to assist with these objectives.

Mike Buhler, Legal Consultant/Advisor for the NTHP, further detailed how he looks at the Flanders Mansion, weighing challenges and opportunities. The greatest challenge is the fact that it might be sold; secondly, capital needs for long-term maintenance and mitigations for traffic. However, Buhler felt that the opportunities the mansion held for Carmel far outweighed the challenges.

The number one opportunity is that the mansion is situated in the middle of a nature preserve and is currently publicly held. With a dose of optimism, he provided models of other cities' historical "saves," among which is the Haas-Lilienthal House in San Francisco and a Frank Lloyd Wright home in Oak Park, Illinois. Through innovative partnerships, tax incentives and fund-raising, saving Flanders Mansion for the public is possible. It will take public awareness, involvement and commitment.

In this newsletter's small way of working as partners in preservation, we will be updating the status of the

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Flanders Mansion in subsequent issues. In the meantime, the trail is open to the public. Starting in April look for GO listings in the Herald, in which guided tours of the trail will be offered, embellished with historical lore. Or, call 626-3826 for information on the trail, the mansion and what you might do to help. It takes all of us. www.flandersfoundation.org

Send your submissions to:
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