

# The Heritage Society of Pacific Grove NEWSLETTER

*Dedicated to Maintaining the Beauty and Individuality of Pacific Grove*

Volume 4, Issue 7

September 2004



## Historic Home Tour

*by Darlene Billstrom*



*Toad Hall, 150 19th Street*

You won't want to miss the Heritage Society's 35th annual Historic Home Tour on Sunday, October 3rd, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. There are a number of wonderful homes for you to see, including the newly restored house at 101 1st Street designed by Julia Morgan and now owned by Polly Moore and Stuart Builder. Polly Moore and her architect, Gretchen Flesher, and Steve Travaille will also be describing the joys and pitfalls of this remarkable restoration at the Art Center on that same day. They will have two sessions, one at 12 noon and the other at 2 p.m.

In addition to the homes,

the Lighthouse, the Heritage Barn (where free homemade ice cream courtesy of Don Beals will be available), the Pacific Grove Art Center, Chautauqua Hall, and the Mayflower Church will be available for viewing.

The Mayflower Church is going to sell a boxed *Tea to Go* to help keep you bursting with energy as you go from house to house. The teatime treat will include tea, tea sweets and tea sandwiches for \$5.00. You can enjoy this boxed treat on the Mayflower grounds or take it with you. Proceeds from the sale of these treats will go to the restoration of the Church's beautiful stained glass windows.

Docents are always needed. If you would like to be a docent this year, contact Sandy Goldring at 373-2988.

Mark your calendar and tell your friends. This will be a home tour to remember.

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*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.*

## Victorian Dinner

Thursday, September 30, 2004

The Olde Bath House

6:30 p.m. Cocktails

7:00 p.m. Dinner

Members: \$75.00

Non-Members: \$85.00

Contact Carrol Patterson,  
Heritage Society of Pacific  
Grove Secretary for reserva-  
tions and tickets: 375-6123

Mail checks to: Heritage Society  
of Pacific Grove, PO Box 1007,  
Pacific Grove, CA 93950

## Artists In Chautauqua

Over twenty local artists will have their creations for sale during the Historic Home Tour on Sunday, October 3. This is a good place to do your early Christmas shopping! Items will include jewelry, hand made beads, hand painted silk scarves, knitted caps and clothing for children, hand made chess boards, photography, and ornaments.

Among the local painters who will have their work for sale are Bill Stone, Shirley Holt, Marie Perkins, and Bill Clausen.

Hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. the day of the home tour. There is no admission charge, and the event is open to the public.

# Julia Morgan Would Be Pleased

by Gary Sprader



Entry of the restored Julia Morgan with contractor Mark Travaille



Dining room with redwood beams, ceilings and walls

And you will, too, when you visit this house during the Historic Home Tour on October 3. This house, located at 104 First Street in Pacific Grove, was designed by noted architect Julia Morgan and constructed by local builder Michael Murphy in 1914. The house suffered years of neglect until it was purchased recently by Polly Moore and Stuart Builder. I have visited the house several times in the last year and a half and the transformation has been remarkable.

Recent progress has been made inside

the house. All the walls and ceilings are redwood. All the redwood downstairs has been sanded smooth and finished except for one bedroom, which has wallpaper applied over the redwood. The

upstairs bedrooms have been painted or wallpapered. The Douglas fir floors have also been refinished. The kitchen was gutted because it had been poorly remodeled in the past, which resulted in serious structural problems. The new kitchen fits the character of the house and is very functional.

Contactor Mark Travaille told me that this was the perfect project with the perfect owners and the perfect architect (Gretchen Flesher). I would add that it also

had the perfect contractor. Mark told me that when the owner was considering different color schemes, he would go out and buy quarts of paint and paint a wall with them to see how it looked. He ended up buying over 50 quarts of paint before the colors were finalized. All the details in the house received this much attention. This effort shows in the end result. This is the best preservation project I have ever seen. Be sure to visit it during the Home Tour.



The new kitchen in the restored Julia Morgan house

## Who worked on the Julia Morgan House?

### Contractor and crew

- Travaille Brothers and Others - Mark Travaille, Contractor. David Travaille, Foreman. David Avalos, Crew. Romero Avalos, Crew. Romeo Avalos, Crew.

- Masonry •Peter Eichorn
- Replacement Windows, Cabinets, Doors •Rich Lugo, Sunset Cabinets and Mill, Pacific Grove

- Copper Work •Bohn Heating and Sheet Metal, Pacific Grove
- Tile Work •David Kazansky, Carmel

- Wallpaper Hanger •John Sculley, Pacific Grove

- Painting, Interior Sanding •MW Painting

- Landscape Design •Katy Travaille, Pacific Grove

- Metalwork •Nautilus Forge & Metal Works, Carmel



Birchwood

## Arts and Crafts Friezes

by MaryAnne Spradling

The finishing touches to the interior of the Julia Morgan house have main-

tained the Arts & Crafts theme to perfection. Of particular note are the friezes in the dining room and living room with landscape/floral designs, produced by Bradbury and Bradbury. They create exemplary silkscreen friezes and borders with complementing wallpaper of various designs and colors imbued with a lumines-

cent sunset quality. Largely influenced by the Victorian and Arts & Crafts architecture, the friezes chosen for this home are harmonious with the integrity of the period.

To see more of Bradbury and Bradbury, visit their website at [www.bradbury.com](http://www.bradbury.com) where you can order a catalog or place an order.



Fir Tree

# Homeowner Appeals Historic Status

(Opinion)

by Ken Hinsbaw

This just in at newsletter deadline time. The owners of 617 Granite (see accompanying story) have appealed the HRC decision of August 11th to add their home to Pacific Grove's historic inventory. The Committee majority felt it should be added because it was built before the cutoff date and it retained its original integrity, despite the replacement of the original wooden window sash with metal counterparts. The homeowners argued that the window changes, along with a small addition to the rear, had destroyed the integrity of the small stucco cottage. They further argued that meeting just the integrity criteria is not a high enough standard, and that it did not meet any of the 10 other possible criteria.

The documentation presented by the City staff showed the footprint to be unchanged from 1926, although there was some conjecture about whether the eve brackets on the front were part of the original design. The vote was 4-2, with the minority (Yarborough and Houser) arguing that the simple stucco home did not have any features and lacked the integrity to be on the list.

Well now, if you categorized all of our 1270 historic homes there probably would be at least a hundred that have stucco exteriors. In the past

there has been a prejudice against plaster. In the 1970's, when the original historic survey was done, stucco homes that otherwise met the requirement for inclusion were routinely left off the inventory by the ill-informed volunteers. It was thought at that time that if the home was stucco, it must have been a wood-sided home originally and spoiled by being stuccoed over. It is true that there are some notable examples of this; however, most of the old homes that have stucco exteriors were built that way. It is my opinion that the regard for stucco has changed over the past three decades. Some of our finest homes have stucco finishes. The Chase Mansion on Ocean View is one example. Some of our homes that have been "stuccoed over" are highly admired, such as the Martine Inn and the Holman House.

As far as the home being too plain and simple and not having any features, plaster exterior is a feature! The low pitched gable roof is a feature common in bungalow design! If we start to remove homes because they are of simple design we will imperil a good portion of the inventory. Pacific Grove was not a particularly wealthy community during its early years. That fact and the religious atmosphere encouraged modesty of design. Most of the older homes of our neighborhoods reflect this. Neighborhood preservation is the approach chosen by our community as opposed to saving just landmarks.

The integrity argument: I think there is some confusion about what this means and how it is applied. In the past the HRC has used "integrity of design" in the large sense. How

do additions affect the overall design? Has the siding material been changed? The HRC minority seems to be trying to redefine integrity. They seem to want to rate the quality of the design, with simple homes being rated lower in quality.

In the reasons for the appeal the homeowners argue that the procedure for requiring HRC review is flawed and unfair. The ordinance requires that only the HRC or the homeowner can request a review of their home's historic status, but it has been common practice to require this review when a property comes up for remodel so that the design can be properly assessed. The



617 Granite St.

existing procedure makes sense but needs to be supported by the ordinance.

The best outcome would be for the City Council to rule on the inclusion of the home on the grounds that its original integrity is still intact and ask the Planning Dept. to study possible changes to the ordinance reflecting the existing procedures.

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## Give Us Your Ideas

Our lecture series has offered speakers on a wide range of subjects. We are always on the lookout for new ideas for the future. We welcome your feedback and

ideas for future lectures. We also need administrative help with the details of the series. Contact us at the e-mail address below. We have attempted to attract dynamic professionals, specialists in history, architecture, and art history, and memorabilia collecting.

The misnamed "Antique Road Show," the first event of this year's Summer Lecture Series, elicited the biggest response of our lectures this summer. There will be a separate event in the coming year focused on collecting. We had good crowd for the second lecture on Greene and Greene, but a small turnout for the Getty Institute Lecture on Iran. Perhaps the weak turnout was a reflection of the subject that was too exotic for the Lecture Series. We invite everyone's critique.

Ideas being considered for next year are: 1) a lecture on that truly eccentric architect Bernard Maybeck, 2) life with photographer Dorothea Lang and artist Maynard Dixon, suggested by Sally Aberg, and 3) Steinbeck specialist Susan Shillinglaw, suggested by Neal Hotelling.

We are hoping to move the Lecture Series to the newly refurbished Middle School Auditorium next summer.

Our thanks to those who helped make the series possible: our president and ever friendly master of ceremonies, Paul Finnegan; Don Beals; Muriel Pyburn; Peggy Schmidt; Jan and Ted Rose; Rebecca and Craig Riddell; as well as my lovely wife who is always there to listen. Special thanks to Sally Aberg. We depend on her for wise council and PR. She knows who to call to get things done.

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# Regional Preservation News

by Ken Hinsbaw

From time to time I would like to give readers a brief update on the preservation doings in other parts of our County:

The Architectural Heritage Association, a breakaway group of the Monterey County Historical Society, has won some major state recognition battles in an effort to save the old jail building in Salinas. The interesting architectural details and importance of Cesar Chavez's incarceration have not been covered in any detail by the papers.

A group in Carmel is trying to raise the TOT, among other things, to provide funds that would allow the City to keep the Flanders Mansion in public hands.

You probably read in the Herald that the Navy School has a new commander, one who is more preservation minded. He has called for preservation

proposals for the oldest parts of the Del Monte Hotel that were up for demolition.

The Monterey Historical Preservation Committee (the official City committee) is wrestling with a controversy concerning the exterior colors of the Greene mansion (the old Consuelo's restaurant). Local architectural historian Kent Seavey is arguing that the unique Moorish revival design calls for colors that were uniquely appropriate, and not the monochromatic choice of the owner. The building apparently is to be the future home of the archives of that painter of light, Thomas Kinkade.

The regional preservation group AMAP (Alliance of Monterey Area Preservationists) will hold an open meeting for new members at the PG Natural History Museum Wed. Sept. 29th at 7:00 pm. The AMAP Board is proposing a grant of \$4000 for exploratory work on the mural discovered behind a false wall in the Bali dining room at the Old Del Monte Hotel during remodeling.

We invite readers' feedback  
[Kbinsba2@aol.com](mailto:Kbinsba2@aol.com)

## People Places

Muriel Pyburn, our Membership Chairperson, has been involved in so many local organizations that we could dedicate a whole issue of the newsletter to her contributions. Her involvement includes hosting



Muriel Pyburn

KAZU's Senior Variety Hour for eight years, working more than 2000 hours at the Cooper Molera adobe, membership on the advisory panel to the MPC Gentrain program, and membership on the Friends of the Library and the Old Monterey Preservation Society Boards. She told her late friend and Herald reporter Bonnie Gartshore, "The boards

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and committees I'm a part of are not making great decisions involving millions of dollars, but they do contribute to the quality of the community. They're bunches of people who get together with ideas and dreams and do something about them." We are fortunate indeed to have this generous hardworking woman in our community.

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