

# The Heritage Society of Pacific Grove NEWSLETTER

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

Volume 5, Issue 6

August 2005



## Steinbeck Lecture

*by Susan Shillinglaw, Center for Steinbeck Studies*

John Steinbeck's name may be more associated with Salinas than Pacific Grove, but the writing that he did while living in the family home on 10<sup>th</sup> Street laid the foundation for his later fame. The Heritage Society has invited Steinbeck scholar Susan Shillinglaw to give a talk on the life and work of our area's most famous writer for the third and final lecture of the Summer Lecture Series, Friday, August 26 at 7 pm, at the Pacific Grove's Middle School Performing Arts Center on Forest Ave. Admission free to Heritage Society members and \$5 to non-members.

Professor Shillinglaw in recent conversations calls Pacific Grove "Steinbeck's place of the heart." It was his second home as a child and his beloved house by the sea. He loved the simplicity of the family summer cottage, which came to represent, for him, a place that restored his soul. He returned repeatedly.



*John Steinbeck*

During the Great Depression, Pacific Grove was an ideal spot for an artist, or visionary: the town was quiet, inexpensive, often surprisingly progressive, and dry, banning alcohol consumption until 1969. Steinbeck needed to be alone to write; he needed silence; he needed the buffer to the world that he found in his wife Carol; he needed a familiar setting, a tiny workroom, friends and family close by, and a dog. These six years in Pacific Grove were his apprentice years, when he went from being an unknown writer with one book to his name, *Cup of Gold*, published to scant reviews in 1929, to an accomplished author with four acclaimed books.

Mark your calendars!

## Calendar

### AUGUST

#### STEINBECK LECTURE

Presented by

Scholar Susan Shillinglaw  
Friday, August 26, 7pm  
Pacific Grove Middle School

Members: FREE

Non-members: \$5

### SEPTEMBER

#### HERITAGE BIRDHOUSE

#### AUCTION KICK-OFF

Elmarie Dyke Park (garden of  
Chautauqua Hall)  
Sunday, September 18  
Noon to 4pm

### OCTOBER

#### HISTORIC HOME TOURS

Sunday, October 2  
10am to 4pm

#### HERITAGE BIRDHOUSE FINAL

#### AUCTION

In conjunction with  
the Historic Home Tours,  
visit Ketchum's Barn and other  
sponsor locations  
for the auction of  
"Heritage Houses – For The Birds."  
Sunday, October 2  
10am to 4pm

*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.*

# Build A Heritage House -- For The Birds

The Heritage Society of Pacific Grove announces the 1st Annual Heritage House for the Birds contest and silent auction.



Designers, architects, contractors, artists, craftspeople, and other creative individuals are encouraged to participate by designing and building unique birdhouses in a variety of categories including: Victorian, Craftsman/Julia Morgan Style, Cottage/Beach House, and Whimsical/Eclectic styles. Birdhouses will be judged by the public and placed on the auction block with proceeds to benefit the Heritage Society of Pacific Grove. All builders will receive public recognition, winning participants will receive award plaques, and the overall Best-of-Show winner will receive a Heritage Society Gift Basket.

To participate, builders may team with area businesses to sponsor individual birdhouses. Builders are encouraged to be creative. Entry forms and information can be downloaded at <http://www.pacificgrove.ws> Entry forms are also available at Pacific Grove Hardware, 400 Forest

Ave. and at the Heritage Society's Ketchem's Barn, at 605 Laurel St. on Saturdays, between 1-4 pm.

Birdhouses and entry forms must be completed and delivered to Ketchem's Barn, at 605 Laurel Ave., between 1-4pm on Saturday, September 10, 2005.

A special Heritage Houses for the Birds Public Presentation and Silent Auction will be held at Elmarie Dyke Park (next to Chautauqua Hall) on Sunday, September 18, from noon to 4pm. Visitors will have an opportunity to vote for their favorite birdhouse and bid in the auction to take one home. The bidding will continue through October 2, 2005 at sponsor/public locations.

For additional information or an entry form call Craig Riddell at 831-646-0351 or fax your request to 643-0900.

## Chautauqua Years Exhibit

by Darlene Billstrom

This week I went and took a careful look at the exhibit, *The Chautauqua Years 1879-1926*, at the Museum of Natural History. It's a must see for Pacific Grove residents. The pictures are outstanding, most of them from the Tuttle Collection, which is a wonderful asset for the museum. Kudos to Esther Trosow, the curator of this remarkable exhibit.

My grandfather performed on the "Chautauqua Circuit," as he called it, in the early 1900s. So I was especially interested in the performers who came to Pacific Grove. Kate Douglas Wiggen came in 1886 to teach kindergarten training classes. She wrote *Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm*. Susan B. Anthony was here

on Woman's Day in 1896 (seems that day has disappeared). Those were two very familiar names. My grandfather and his violin never got to Pacific Grove (his circuit was on the East Coast), but that was how he met my grandmother.

Associated with this exhibit are lectures every Tuesday and Saturday until October 4. The Tuesday lectures are at 7:00 p.m. and the Saturday lectures are at 2:00 p.m. I've managed to take in one of the lectures: Neal Hotelling on *Was PG a PCD by PBC?*.



Tent on 17th Street, Photo courtesy of the Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History's Tuttle collection, c. 1885 #19.1-020-B



Public School, built 1891, where Robert Down now stands, Photo courtesy of the Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History's Tuttle collection, c.1900 #17.2-554-B

The exhibit covers the history of the Feast of Lanterns, which was started during the Chautauqua years and celebrates its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year.

There are so many interesting facts in this exhibit. I was amazed to discover that the Mammoth Stables at end of Grand Street could hold 100 horses and was one of the largest in California. Built in 1884, it burned to the ground in 1909.

It was a fascinating lecture on Pacific Grove (PG) as a planned community development (PCD) by the Pebble Beach Corporation (PBC). As Mr. Hotelling said, "it was and it wasn't." [a planned community]. You just had to be there to get the whole story. You can find out what lectures are scheduled in the future by visiting [www.pgmuseum.org](http://www.pgmuseum.org). I encourage you to do so.

# Picturesque Cottage Architecture

by Ken Hinsbaw

One of the more interesting architectural styles that you will find scat-

tered around our neighborhoods is the picturesque cottage style from the 1920s derived from European country designs. When the doughboys returned from the trenches of WWI they brought back not only the flu that killed millions of Americans, but fond memories of cozy cottages that they had seen in Great Britain, Belgium and France.



123 12th Street



115 1st Street



941 Jewel Avenue

Many of the cottages can be identified as "English" with half timbers or rolled eaves, while others are harder to identify -- more of an amalgam of styles, borrowing elements from other styles also popular during the 1920s. Most departed from earlier styles by having steep pitched roofs with very little overhang, minimal or no porches, arch top front doors. Others perhaps borrowed from the still popular bungalow style and have low sloping

roofs, and typically multi-paned casement windows. Asphalt shingles lent themselves to the rolled eaves, but a more "Continental" look might include tile for the roofing surface. The decorative use of sawed cedar shingles could be used in place of slate, as you can see at 941 Jewell.

# Dixon Presentation Launched Heritage Lecture Series to Rave Reviews

by Sally Aberg

Despite an attendance of nearly 350 people, you could have heard a pin drop in the Pacific Grove Performing Arts Center last month when Daniel and Dixie Dixon presented "Child of Giants," the first program in our Summer Lecture Series 2005.



Dixie and Daniel Dixon

The story of Daniel growing up as the son of two art world "giants," painter Maynard Dixon and fine art photographer Dorothea Lange, was an always fascinating, oftentimes poignant tale in and of itself. But the "story within the story" came from the audience members themselves, as one after another stood up to ask a question related to their own personal connection to Daniel's prestigious parents. In many cases, the important information they related to our speaker was as-yet unknown to him, potentially leaving room for some exciting additions to

Daniel's ever-evolving visual presentation in years to come.

For example, there was the woman who now lives in a Carmel Valley cabin. She said her front door displays Maynard Dixon's famous signature, apparently inscribed by the artist when he rented her little house one summer. Daniel invited himself out to see and photograph it for himself, and his invitation was accepted. There was also the gentleman from Big Sur who wanted more details about Maynard's trek through Big Sur in the late 1800s, told through a journal Dixon kept of this rugged travel that was published at that time. Daniel knew nothing about this, so the man promised to supply him with a copy of the story. There was a woman who, as a young girl, lived near the Dixons. Like Maynard did for his own son, he drew her illustrations when telling her a story—pictures she certainly now wishes she had kept! And finally, there was the couple who showed up that night with an original Maynard Dixon painting to show Daniel, much to his delight.

The Heritage Society of Pacific Grove is immensely grateful to the Dixons for their splendid presentation—truly not a lecture, just as Daniel had promised, but an act of memory, with a few additional pieces of his family history filled in that very night, right before our eyes.

*Editor's note: This well attended lecture garnered 20-plus new members to the Heritage Society. Thanks to Sally Aberg and Ken Hinsbaw for your fine work on this lecture series and on the good press!*

# New Members

Don & Irene Slaiter  
 Holly & Steven Cousins  
 Lisa Watson & Mary Barker  
 Rebecca Bishop  
 Thomas Carr  
 David Day  
 Diane Carver  
 Susan & Mark Farina  
 Frasca Family  
 Roger & Lani Fremier  
 Alice & Charles Gibilterra  
 Richard & Connie Gray  
 Paul & Alice Gutierrez  
 Julia Harvey  
 Sally Higgins  
 Nancy Huguenard  
 Jan Jett  
 Barbara Joachim  
 Barbara B. Johnson  
 Jean Kane  
 Alexis Krostue  
 Chunyi & Jeff McIver  
 Jeff Norman  
 Sally Peterson  
 Marina Romani  
 Bob & Sharon Sadler  
 Bill & Joan Smith  
 Mary K. Smith  
 Jil Johnson & Joe Storelli  
 Mick Vernon  
 Celia Weiss  
 Ed Whitworth  
 Karla & Marvin Wolf  
 Daniel & Dixie Dixon  
 Michelle & Frank Knight

Membership Count:  
**1238**

# Tuttle Collection at the Museum

by Darlene Billstrom

The Museum of Natural History has recently made the Tuttle Collection available for all you history and photographic buffs. The 594 glass-plate negatives depicting people, places, and vistas of Victorian-era Pacific Grove have been scanned and are made available for viewing at the Pacific Grove Public Library. They have been printed and organized into loose-leaf binders. You may also view this fine collection online at <http://www.pgmuseum.org/Tuttle/index~1.htm> The Museum staff will produce prints from high-resolution scans for a fee starting at \$20.00 for an 8 1/2" x 11".

Most of the images were taken by Charles K. Tuttle (1859–1939), Pacific Grove's

pharmacist from 1887 to the late 1930s. He served for many years on the city's board of trustees, and nine years on the school board. He married Emily Young, niece do Dr. O.S. Trimmer. Of their three children, Floyd, Gladys, and Winnifred, it was Winnie who became the town's first telephone operator and followed in her father's footsteps to become the first woman pharmacist in Pacific Grove. Rumor has it that when the picture of Winnie at the switchboard was taken there were only two phones in town: Dr. Trimmer's and the pharmacy's.

All reproductions must be applied for at the Museum. The *Print Request Form, License for Use of Reproductions & Application for Permission to Publish/Reproduce* form, and *Conditions of Use* form are available at the Museum, or you may print them from their web site at <http://www.pgmuseum.org/Tuttle/use~1.htm>.

I can promise you many enjoyable hours of browsing through these fine photographs.

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Sponsor the Newsletter

**Thank You!**

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