

# The Heritage Society of Pacific Grove NEWSLETTER

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

Volume 6, Issue 3

April 2006



## Celebrate Spring on May 6<sup>th</sup>

*by Darlene Billstrom*

Spring will be here soon, and you can see it in all its glory on May 6th when you take in the Secret Gardens of Pacific Grove. Wander through at least eight gardens that you can never see just walking around town. Landscaper Guy Chaney will show off his beautiful garden, and Master Gardener Francis Grate has agreed, once again, to open her garden to you. Several of the gardens will be serving refreshments, and it's possible there will be a gift store at one of them.



Tickets are on sale at Tessuti Zoo (171 Forest Avenue,) Griggs Nursery (1021 David Avenue,) Pacific Grove Florist (217 Forest Avenue,) Miss Trawick's Garden (664 Lighthouse Avenue,) the Museum of Natural History Gift Shop (Central & Forest) or send a stamped, self-addressed envelope with your check to: Garden Tour, P.O. Box 1007, Pacific Grove, CA 93950. Members and in advance: \$12. Non-members or the day of: \$15. Unfortunately the gardens are not wheelchair accessible. Tickets will also be on sale at the Heritage Barn (Laurel and 17th Streets) on the day of the tour.

Don't miss this day to enjoy Pacific Grove at its finest. The gardens will be open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. It's an event that promises to be like afternoon tea in an English garden.



*432 Spruce, formerly honored at the Heritage House Awards*

## Heritage House Awards

Please join in the celebration of the efforts behind the historic facades of our community. On Friday evening, May 12, at 7 p.m. at the Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History, the Heritage Society will be honoring the homeowners, builders and architects who have placed preservation first on their agenda for their homes . . . and consequently for our community.

Homeowners will regale the audience with stories of daunting tasks that challenged heroic contractors and talented architects who contributed to finished products that we can all be proud of and appreciate for years to come. Awards will be given to homes that have been preserved or restored in an exemplary fashion, while retaining their original form and features. Also, homes that have been expanded in a manner that complements their historic integrity and environment will be awarded.

## Calendar

### THROUGH MAY

**COLLATERAL DAMAGE:**  
1906 Earthquake Exhibit  
PG Natural History Museum  
Forest and Central

**SAN FRANCISCO 1906  
EARTH QUAKE**  
100 Year Anniversary Retrospective  
at Legion of Honor and SFMOMA,  
San Francisco

### APRIL

**WILDFLOWER SHOW**  
April 14-16  
Museum of Natural History  
Forest and Central

**CALIFORNIA PRESERVATION  
CONFERENCE**  
April 20-22, 2006  
Sacramento, CA For information:  
415-495-0349

### MAY

**PG SECRET GARDEN TOUR**  
May 6, 10am – 4pm

**HERITAGE HOUSE AWARDS**  
May 12, 7pm  
PG Natural History Museum  
Free

In addition, there are commercial awards and new construction commendations.

It's an awards ceremony that ends too quickly. This year, the Heritage Society will be extending the celebration with refreshments served at the end of the awards ceremony.

# Artist William Adam's Home Reborn

by Ken Hinsbaw

You have probably noticed remodeling work being done on the white house at the corner of Central and 12th. A large sign on the front explains the intentions of the new owners and Heritage Society members, Linda and Joe Donofrio, to "rehabilitate the home while retaining its historic and architectural character."

The original owner of the home was the prominent early

throughout Europe, and survived several revolutions while living in Buenos Aires.

Professor Adam, as he was known, was a common sight outdoors on the Peninsula, surrounded by a group of aspiring plein air artists capturing the picturesque sights of our area. His work is best known for portraying "the lovely gentler aspects of California's natural beauty and especially his paintings of California gardens." His passing in 1931 was front page news in the Monterey Herald.

The rose-covered home he built in 1907 at 450 Central across from St. Mary's is a

the house is an addition done soon after the original home was built.

Recently put on the market by the neighboring Christian Church, the home was bought by Linda and Joe Donofrio. Linda reports that they were



William Adam's painting, *View from Lovers Point*

driving around looking at open houses on a Sunday. They made a wrong turn and noticed the neglected white home for the first time.

It was also open for inspection. It was love at first sight.

Linda and Joe are far from being novices. Some years back they remodeled another historic home at 412 16th, a

project that they describe as more modest than the William Adam House. Contractor Bob O'Neal and crew are hard at work gutting the inside after replacing the entire foundation. The outside will have only one small addition to the rear.

The Donofrios have spoken to the staff at the Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History about having a William Adam show this summer when their home is completed. What a perfect celebration for the rebirth of this charming cottage.

# Near-Demolition of 275 Spruce

by Ken Hinsbaw

The renovation project on Spruce got off to a rocky start when it appeared that the contractor removed more of the original home than had been approved.



275 Spruce, before

This project has been involved in two previous controversies. Back in 2004, the owner petitioned to have it removed from the inventory. The Historic Resources Committee rejected the petition on the grounds that the home still retained its integrity. This decision was appealed to the City Council, but was withdrawn at the last minute.

The second controversy had to do with the proposed guest house in the rear. The architect designed a structure that exceeded the lot coverage allowance. The Planning Commission approved this exception because of its attractive design. The proposal then returned to the ARB where some members objected because they thought there was no reason the size couldn't be reduced to meet zoning standards of that neighborhood.



450 Central: Renovation work began in February

20th Century artist William Adam. Born in England of Scottish descent, he went to sea at 18 after being trained as a clerk, but he found business "irksome," so he studied art and traveled. He is said to have lived in the Egyptian desert with Arabs (sketching Cairo and the pyramids), painted

familiar sight. Though run-down, its distinctive diamond-paned and arch-top windows, as well as the unusual horizontal siding, set it apart from its more modest brethren. Evidence in the attic indicates that the eastern portion of

Historic structures that are being remodeled are limited in the amount of historic material that can be demolished. This limit is an attempt to encourage the retention of as much of the “historic fabric” (siding, windows, porches) as possible. The contractor demolished all but the front 12 feet of the house. The building inspector red-tagged the old house portion of the project. The project is under review, and if it is determined that too much of the home was demolished, then the project will likely go

back before the Architectural Review Board to deal with the situation.

faceted preservation challenges before us. By finding common ground, many seemingly diverse organizations have the potential to both accomplish their individual goals and to contribute to the preservation of the cultural heritage that we all share and seek to retain.”

There are sessions from “Small Town Main Streets — Balancing Growth and Preservation” (sounds especially suited for PG) to “Your ‘Field of Dreams’: So You’ve Preserved It... Will They Come?” All in all, there are 17 sessions on a broad variety of subjects, eight workshops, and eight tours. The tours at the Conference are always interesting. I’d love to do the “Alkali Flat Victorians” and the “Central City Bike Tour.”

Preservationists shouldn’t miss this important Conference. You can register on-line at: [www.californiapreservation.org/calendar.html](http://www.californiapreservation.org/calendar.html)



275 Spruce, after

back before the Architectural Review Board to deal with the situation.

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## Finding Common Ground

by Darlene Billstrom

The California Preservation Foundation’s 31st Annual Conference will be held April 20-22 at the Sheraton Grand Hotel & Sacramento Conference Center. This year’s theme is Finding Common Ground. “As historic preservation changes and expands, so too must our ability to think creatively, strengthen our associations, and forge new collaborations to address the multi-



Photo: Gino Creglia, courtesy of CA State Parks

Among the tours offered at the California Preservation Foundation’s conference in Sacramento is a tour of the 1856 Leland Stanford Mansion. Following a 14-year, \$22 million restoration and rehabilitation, the 19,000 square foot mansion is now open to the public.



California Views: The Pat Hathaway Collection



California Views: The Pat Hathaway Collection

## PG Museum’s Earthquake Exhibit

by Maryanne Spradling

As two prominent San Francisco museums are recognizing the 100-year anniversary of the great quake, so is our Natural History Museum. The exhibit, entitled *Collateral Damage*, tells a story in pictures (largely contributed by Pat Hathaway) of how Monterey and San Benito counties also suffered from the quake’s wrath.

The Spreckels Sugar Company Plant (top), built in 1899, was damaged in the quake, but rebuilt and continued operations until 1982. Once again, the structure was damaged in 1989 by the Loma Prieta. And finally due to safety issues, what had become such a fixture in the fields of Spreckels, the grand building was demolished in 1992.

The exhibit features many photos of Holister, which seemed to be one of the hardest hit of the communities, as well as a ten-foot drop on a road near the Salinas River and a fault line (bottom). It’s a reminder that earthquakes are a part of living in California and the faults connect us all.

# New Members

Robert Grant  
Jim & Kathy Turley  
Jack & Beverly Irvine  
Art Ring

Membership Count:  
**1028**

## Images of America: Pacific Grove

Books are available for \$20.00 from 1 – 4pm every Saturday at the Heritage Society Barn (the price includes the sales tax). For those who live out of town, send a check for \$23.00 to the Heritage Society of Pacific Grove, and we will mail the book to you.

## Correction

In our review of the Heritage Society's annual meeting, we had thanked the The Red House Café for their generous contributions to our honored members. But we called it the Little Red House. Excuse us!

# International Arts and Crafts:

## William Morris to Frank Lloyd Wright

San Francisco's recently renovated De Young Museum is hosting more than 300 examples of the Arts and Crafts Movement dating from 1880 to 1945. Organized by London's Victoria and Albert Museum, this exhibit looks at the movement with an international perspective, tracing the movement from its British origins to its interpretation and development in the US, Europe, Scandinavia, and Japan.

The objects on view have been drawn from private and public collections all over the world. They include textiles, stained glass, furniture, ceramics, metalwork, jewelry, books, architecture, photography, paintings and sculpture.

The Arts and Crafts Movement celebrated the simpler forms of traditional



*This furnishing fabric with stylized lotus blossoms was designed by Charles Harrison Townsend in 1896. He is also credited for designing some of the most important Arts & Crafts buildings in Britain.*

decorative arts and valued the art of hand craftsmanship, while distancing itself from the industrial revolution's mass production and inappropriate ornamentation.

This feast for the eyes can be complemented by some of California's earliest

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architectural examples of the Arts and Crafts Movement. It can be appreciated in the work of Charles and Henry Greene of Pasadena, Bernard Maybeck of San Francisco, or Julia Morgan's outstanding buildings at Asilomar in Pacific Grove. In fact, the early-1900s Craftsman bungalow is a popular style throughout California, which can also be seen throughout Pacific Grove.

The exhibition will be at the De Young Museum through June 18. Call 866-912-6326 for tickets and information.

Send your submissions to:  
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