

The Heritage Society of Pacific Grove NEWSLETTER

Dedicated to Maintaining the Beauty and Individuality of Pacific Grove

Volume 6, Issue 5

June 2006



Summer Lecture Series

by Sally Aberg



June Lecture: Hippie History of Pagrovia

Unearth your Earth Shoes, brush off your bell-bottoms, and locate your love beads! The Heritage Society's Seventh Annual Summer Lecture Series gets underway on Friday evening, June 23, with the "Hippie History of Pagrovia." Our speaker will be local writer and photographer

*Staff and friends outside
Tillie Gort's Coffee House
on Central Avenue in Pacific
Grove, 1972.*

© John McCleary

John McCleary, self-proclaimed "aging hippie" and an authority on the era that questioned authority. McCleary is author of *The Hippie Dictionary* (edited by his wife, Joan Jeffers McCleary, and published by Ten Speed Press in 2002.) This 700 page cultural encyclopedia of the 1960s and 1970s contains over 6,000 entries on the "free

spirits," counter culture movements and creativity that distinguished these turbulent times—everything from ecology, civil rights, free love, and anti-war protests to the key figures of psychedelia, music, and art. As John tells his story, he became a hippie at the Monterey Pop Festival on June 17, 1967, after watching Janis Joplin sing "Ball And Chain." This set him on a journey around the globe to visit and photograph hippie centers and communes from Amsterdam, London, and

Calendar

JUNE

ASILOMAR STATE BEACH AND CONFERENCE GROUNDS 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

June 29, 12 :15pm
Crocker Dining Hall,
Seascape Room for lunch
RSVP by June 10th at
(831) 372-4076

THROUGH AUGUST

7th ANNUAL SUMMER LECTURE SERIES

PG Performing Arts Center
Members: Free (half year
membership \$10 at
the door)
Non-members: \$5

June 23, 7:30pm
Jon McCleary, author of *The Hippie
Dictionary*, presents
"Hippie History of Pagrovia"

July 21, 7:30pm
Wayne Donaldson, State Historic
Preservation Officer,
presents
"Historic Preservation"

August 25, 7:30pm
Coastal Naturalist Milos Radakovich
presents
**"History of Marine Biology on
the Monterey Peninsula"**

India to Greenwich Village, Big Sur, and San Francisco's Haight-Ashbury. He participated in countless demonstrations of the day and spent time backstage with The Doors, Jimi Hendrix, The Stones, and Tina Turner as a

music industry photographer. He designed twelve of the famous posters of the era and produced *The People's Book*, a photographic view of the counter culture. McCleary's illustrated talk for the Heritage Society will specifically focus on the flourishing of Flower Power in Pacific Grove and New Monterey. Come find out who put "groovy" into Pacific Grove. Discover how Tillie Gort's Coffee House got its name and where the other centers of local hippiedom thrived. Learn what Don Muscle, Randy McKindry, and Father Charlie contributed to the local scene. If Café Balthazar, 812 Cannery Row, the original KAZU, long-haired beach volleyball, the Downtown Community Garden, The Granary Market, the Topless Beach Controversy, Sign Parties (as in "astrological" signs), The Oz Restaurant, the Halfway House Bar, and Sunday gatherings on Grand Avenue ring any bells (or even just hazy memories) for you, or if you've only just heard about these high times in the Grove and along its fringes, this event is not to be missed! To make this June 23rd lecture more of a "happening," we encourage audience members to dig perhaps not so deeply into their closets and come adorned with flowers in their hair and attired in the garb of the Psychedelic Sixties for a far-out but informal fashion show of sorts. And after McCleary gives his slide presentation, he will call on anyone who wishes to tell a brief story from his or her own hippie days here on the Monterey Peninsula. For those wishing to remain anonymous, feel free to write

See Lectures on back page

Another Historic Home Demolished

by Ken Hinsbaw

The simple one story historic home at 156 13th behind Hambrooks Auction Studio, which oper-



156 13th Illegally demolished in mid April.

ated as a pet grooming business, is gone. This illegal demolition took place sometime in the middle of April. The local architectural firm



156 13th all that is left after being red tagged for demolition.

hired by the owner to redesign the home, removed itself from the project during the design phase because of concerns about "communication." The owner was acting as his own contractor and designer had received permits

to remodel the home with an addition.

This total demolition (only the floor was left) is particularly disconcerting because it follows close on the heels of the possibly illegal partial demolition of 275 Spruce that was covered in the April issue of the Newsletter.

The penalties for illegal demolition of historic structures are ruled on by the City Council. They have been notably "soft" in the past.

Warnings have been given in several disassembly cases. The most past Councils have fined a perpetrator has been \$20,000. This isn't exactly pocket change, but in today's heated real estate market that may not enough to deter a developer when remodeled homes are selling for one million plus.

The preservation ordinance gives the City Council wide latitude in its decisions in this area. The council can fine the owner up to the cost of a replacement of the historic home, and limit the development of the property to the size of the demolished home for a period of five years. The Heritage Board will discuss this issue at its May meeting.

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The Heritage Society of Pacific Grove: 31 Years Old

by Bob Davis

On Sunday, November 2, 1975, residents were invited to the Pacific Grove Community Center to attend "the first meeting of... a citizen's group dedicated to the recording of Pacific Grove's historical background and the preservation of its important architectural structures."

The meeting was chaired by Dr. David Mills, a local pediatrician who is generally recognized as having been the founder of the Society. It was he who introduced the four speakers on the program: Pacific Grove Mayor Robert Quinn; Richard Little, a local attorney interested in historic preservation; Elmarie Dyke, a former City Council member, local radio program hostess, head of the Feast of Lanterns and Chair of the Art Center-sponsored Victorian Homes Tour; and Kent Seavey, at that time the Historical Coordinator for the County of Monterey. Discussion followed and refreshments were served. Attendees were invited to become members of the Society for which the annual dues were \$5.00. Dorothy Kildall was to be called for further information.

Although November 2, 1975, was the date of the first public meeting, the notion of

a local Heritage Society was conceived at least a year before that by Dr. Mills. Earlier in 1975, a group of Pacific Grove residents, several of whom had children who were patients of Dr. Mills, got together at Dr. Mills' invitation to discuss the possibility of forming an organization focusing on the history of Pacific Grove and its preservation. There was also talk of undertaking a survey of the historic homes of Pacific Grove in connection with the nation's Bi-Centennial. It was this group that came up with the name of the organization and its original statement of purpose.

The first meeting of the Heritage Society of Pacific Grove for which minutes are available, was held on February 2, 1976, in the Community Room of the Central Christian Church. At that meeting, officers and a Board of Directors were approved by consensus of the 22 members present. David Mills was named President; Jim Russell, Vice-President; Kathy Martine, Secretary; and Nora Flatley, Treasurer. Nancy Hauk, Wilda Northrop, and Dorothy Kildall were designated Members-at-Large. Five Committee Chairs were appointed: Lowell Northrop, Preservation and Restoration; Kevin Howe, Historical Research; John Olkoski, Membership; Jeanne Mills, Fund Raising; and Wendy Howe, Publicity. The Treasurer reported a balance of \$513.86, of which \$195.00 came from the dues paid by 39 members and an additional \$403.14 from sale of a Victorian Heritage Homes Calendars first published in 1975.

So by 1976, the Heritage Society had a name, officers, a board of directors, members, a

balance on the treasury books, and a source of income other than dues. The rest, as they say, is history--some of it to be explored later in this series.

The author is grateful to Don Beals, currently Treasurer of the Heritage Society, for making available the original Minutes and publications of the Society and to the members who shared their memories of the time when it was all starting.

Pacific Grove's Carnegie Library

by Lillian Wright

The Pacific Grove Library is just a block up the hill from Monterey Bay. It sits across a narrow street from a grass-covered city park that boasts a number of the Grove's trees along with a wooden gazebo. Jewell Park's grassy patch serves the library's younger patrons as a release valve from the pressures of contained exuberance and the use of "inside voices" while within the library. A few scattered benches serve the park's other visitors.

The library building began with a Carnegie grant. And the Pacific Improvement Company donated the lot on Central Avenue between Grand and Fountain avenues. McDougall Brothers designed the original Mission-style building (which has since been expanded) to house the collection of the Pacific Grove Library Association dating from 1886. Construction costs

exceeded the \$10,000 grant, but the difference was obtained through taxation. Construction was completed in 1908 by Henry Chivers and the Granite Rock Company.

In order to obtain a Carnegie grant, a community was required to submit an application. Most applications were granted, but required the community to furnish a suitable site and to agree to provide a sum equal to 10% of the grant



Photo of original PG library: Pacific Grove's Carnegie Library, designed by the McDougall Brothers and built in 1908.



Photo of Monterey library: Monterey's Carnegie Library, designed by W.H. Weeks and built in 1911.

annually for maintenance. Other requirements were conformance to suggested standards for the interior space. While exterior architectural style was largely left to the discretion of the community, a plain and dignified exterior was essential.

Our Pacific Grove Library is one of the 142 Carnegie Libraries built within the state of California between 1902 and 1921. It is now one of only 37 buildings still in continuous use as a public library. The remainder have been put to other community uses, three are vacant, and unfortunately approximately 57 have been demolished.

The Carnegie Library at 425 Van Buren Street in Monterey, designed by William H. Weeks, is an example of a building that retains its original appearance, although it has been converted to academic use as the office of the president of the Monterey Institute of International Studies. Those of us who live on the Monterey Peninsula have yet another reason to be grateful. We are privileged to live within a few miles of two fine examples of the remaining Carnegie Libraries existing in California.

How about taking a pleasant walk from the PG Library down Grand Avenue to pick up the trail along the coast to Monterey and then up the hill to Van Buren Street to view the Monterey building?

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.

Images of America: Pacific Grove

Books are available for \$20.00 from 1 – 4 pm 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.

Filing Cabinet Needed

The Heritage Society is in need of a three to four drawer letter-size file cabinet. Please contact Carrol Patterson at 375-6123 if you have one to donate.

Sponsor the Newsletter

Thank You!

Bob Davis,
Frances Grate,
and Anonymous,
“Highway 68”
already have

Lectures Cont'd

out your story and hand it in at the door to be read aloud. McCleary will conclude the evening by signing copies of his book, *The Hippie Dictionary*.

In the Heritage Society's on-going efforts to add to our historical reference files, we are putting out an urgent call!

Please help us increase Pacific Grove's archives for these two special decades in its history by sharing your “local hippie” photographs and memorabilia. To contribute, please call the Heritage Society Barn at 831/372-2898 or contact John as soon as possible at 831/375-4497 or by emailing him at: hippiedictionary@comcast.net. To make certain you retain your treasured memories, we can arrange to scan your snapshots for our files and then return the originals to you.

July and August Lectures

Our other two summer lectures promise to be equally engaging. On July 21 the Heritage Society hosts Wayne Donaldson, State Historic Preservation Officer, speaking on historic preservation in California, with special notes on our local efforts in this realm. Then on August 25 we welcome Milos Radakovich to the podium. Coastal naturalist and program director of Bay Net here on the Monterey Peninsula, Radakovich will present a history of local marine biology, including the beginnings of the Hopkins Marine Laboratory, the Monterey Bay Aquarium, and MBARI. Doc Ricketts and John Steinbeck are sure to figure into the stories and slides that night. All three events begin at 7:30 pm in the Pacific Grove Performing Arts Center, 835

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Forest Avenue between Hillcrest and Sinex. Each lecture is free to Heritage Society members (half-year membership just \$10 at the door) and \$5 for all others.

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