

# The Heritage Society of Pacific Grove NEWSLETTER

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

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July 2006



## Summer Lecture Series

*by Ken Hinsbaw*



*Wayne Donaldson and his  
Futura House*

Wayne Donaldson will be the second speaker in this summer's Heritage Society lecture series. As Director of California's Office of Historic Preservation, Mr. Donaldson is a man on a mission. He wants this state to preserve significant buildings constructed after World War II.

From a seminal burger joint to signature modernist architectural statements, Donaldson wholeheartedly believes Californians must embrace the best that the second half of the 20th Century has contributed to the built environment. The Monterey Peninsula is blessed

with an abundance of these beautifully designed modern buildings. In fact, almost 300 of them have been identified in a survey conducted in 2003 by local architectural historians Kent Seavey and Rick Janick, architect Jerrold Lomax, and Monterey Museum board member Cindi Riebe.

Mr. Donaldson will highlight a number of these oftentimes controversial but always inspiring architect designed homes in his lecture as he explains why communities like ours must not carelessly demolish such architectural

treasures despite their relatively short histories.

Wayne Donaldson practices what he preaches. He recently rescued a 1968 flying saucer-shaped vacation home from demolition (above) and is currently restoring it to its 1960s glory. This rare, 520 square foot, Finnish-built Futuro home was featured in Playboy Magazine in 1970. At that time it boasted green shag wall-to-wall carpeting, naugahyde swivel pedestal seating, and curvy chrome and Formica furniture.

An architect from San Diego who has long been involved in historic preservation, Mr.

## Calendar

### JULY

July 21, 7:30 p.m.

Wayne Donaldson, State Historic Preservation Officer, presents

#### **"Historic Preservation"**

Pacific Grove Performing Arts Center  
835 Forest Avenue, PG

Members: Free (half year membership \$12 at the door)

Non-members: \$5

### AUGUST

August 25, 7:30 p.m.

Coastal Naturalist Milos Radakovich presents

#### **"History of Marine Biology on the Monterey Peninsula"**

Pacific Grove Performing Arts Center  
Members: Free

Donaldson has a well deserved statewide reputation as a critical thinker, imaginative problem solver, and engaging speaker. He was appointed head of the State Office of Historic Preservation by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger.

Mr. Donaldson's illustrated lecture will be supported by the Monterey Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, according to board member Dennis Hodgins. So come and open your minds to what is certain to be a thought-provoking and entertaining evening.

*By Ken Hinsbaw, with help from Jeff Becom and Sally Aberg*

*kenl@redshift.com*

# Heritage House Awards

During May, National Preservation Month, the Heritage Society celebrated preservation and restoration of our historic homes during an awards ceremony held on May 12. As usual, there was exemplary work that complemented the integrity of the featured heritage homes. Included among this year's recipients were houses both small and large, from a small 1920s stucco cottage to a two-story 1905 Folk Victorian built by John Muir's brother. This is undoubtedly one of the most celebrated events on the Heritage Society's calendar.

Linda Smith Bailey deftly organized the judges and produced the program, which consisted of a power point presentation of before and after exterior changes, and also of interior transformations. These labors of love deserve the respect and gratitude of neighbors and the entire community!

In addition to recognition of the homes, the Society also honored the work done by a number of generous individuals in repairing historic Chautauqua Hall.

Thank you to the city staff, to the judges, and to all who participated in the nomination process! Please watch for projects that are currently taking place that may be candidates for next year's awards ceremony.



*Addition/Renovation Bronze Plaque: 118 9th St.*



*Preservation/Restoration Bronze Plaque: 107 Forest Ave.*



*Preservation/Restoration Bronze Plaque: 119 Fountain Ave.*

## 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.

# Historic Home Resource Directory

*by Craig Riddell*

The third Edition of the Heritage Society of Pacific Grove's Historic Home Resource Directory is now available to owners of historic properties and other interested parties for a donation of \$150 to the Society. The Directory, which includes the names, addresses, and phone numbers of services, tradespeople, and professionals, is made available to owners of historic properties in an effort to help them restore, repair and maintain their property. This edition features updated information about each professional, including how long they've been in business, if they are licensed and/or insured, and what areas they specialize in. It also references local properties that serve as an example of their work. All recommended professionals, from architects to wallpaper installers, were sent a questionnaire authorizing their participation in the guide.

The Historic Home Resource Directory also features excerpts from the City of Pacific Grove's Historic Resource Ordinance in an effort to better inform owners of historic properties about the benefits and responsibilities of owning an historic property within the City. With over 1200 properties on the City's Historic Resource Inventory, the Society believes the updated guide will be a valuable resource for the City and its property owners.

The directories will be available at the Community Development Department, the Chamber of

Commerce, the Museum of Natural History, and the Heritage Society's headquarters at the historic Ketchum's Barn.

This Directory helps further the Heritage Society of Pacific Grove's goal to encourage restoration and preservation of Pacific Grove's historic buildings and educate the city's residents in the areas of local history and historic preservation.

For further information about the directory, contact Heritage Society board member, Craig Riddell, at 646-0351.



*The "Barn," home to the Pacific Grove Heritage Society*

## Volunteer Wanted for Photo Contest

Heritage Society Volunteer Donna Stewart is heading up an effort to involve the Pacific Grove High School photography class in a "Now and Then" photo contest scheduled for the 2006 Fall semester. The students will use the Tuttle Collection images and pair them up with contemporary shots. Teacher Matt Kelly is very enthusiastic about involving his students in this project which will immerse them in Pacific Grove history. Donna Stewart would like someone to help her work out the details of the contest. Please contact Donna at 646-8841.

## Renovation in Action

*by Ken Hinsbaw*

Some remarkable changes are beginning to take place at 125 15th Street. Work has just started on a complete remodeling project for the home. The toxic asbestos shingles have been removed, exposing the original wooden shingles. This layer will be removed by the time you read this, and new cedar shingles will eventually be applied. The property now boasts a south side garden on land purchased from the owner of the parking lot next door. The simple lines of the house are enhanced by the slight Japanese uplift of the roof at the eave line.

*kenl@redshift.com*

## Homeless Heritage

*by Bob Davis*

The Heritage Society of Pacific Grove was homeless for the first five years of its life. Although it had a Pacific Grove Post Office Box starting in 1976, a telephone number beginning in 1978, and a desk and storage space in architect Ted Larson's office as of July 1979, it had neither a permanent meeting place nor a building to call home until 1980/81.

Meetings of the Board of Directors were held in the homes of board members on a rotating basis. According to the minutes of the Society, during the first five years board meetings were held in the homes of David Mills, Lowell and Wilda Northrop, Jim and Jill Russell, Kevin and Wendy Howe, Jan Dunlap, Marilyn Gustafson, Ed Laurance, Evelyn Butner, Lois DeFord, Ron Copley, Don Beals, Bill and Linda Schneider, Lila Staples, Marilyn Arioto, Bill Parsons, Steve Honegger and Sirrah Harris. Members of those early boards recalled that it was not unusual for Dr. Mills—the founder of the Society, its first President, and a pediatrician—to be called out of board meetings to tend to a sick

child. Sometimes he made it back in time to adjourn the meeting to refreshments.

The General Meetings of the Heritage Society, held twice a year and open to the public, were held in the Community Room of the Christian Church on Central Avenue.

The Heritage Society got its first telephone and an "answering device" in June of 1978, with 372-2898 assigned as its number, the same number it has today. Placement of the instrument itself was another problem. Frank Keillor agreed to install the first phone "at his place," according to the minutes. By February of 1979, the telephone was located in the home of then President Lois DeFord.

That all changed in 1980 when the City of Pacific Grove

purchased Lots 1 and 3, Block 40, of the Second Addition to Pacific Grove. That purchase included a barn at 605 Laurel Avenue, which the City subsequently leased to the Heritage Society of Pacific Grove, the Heritage Society agreeing to bear the costs of restoring the Barn. The Barn, not yet restored, hosted its first Open House on August 24, 1980. A year later after the restoration it held a formal opening.

The Heritage Society finally had a home. But that is yet another story—that of Ketchum's, Ketcham's, or is it Ketchem's Barn? —is still to be told.

The author expresses his appreciation to Don Beals who made the original records of the Heritage Society available and to the members who shared their memories.



*125 15th St. Asbestos shingles have been removed to reveal the original wooden shingles*

# New Members

Pauline Larson  
Misty & Bella Sherman  
Joe and Betty Spradling

Memberships: **1407**  
Members: 883

# Asilomar Whistle-Stop Project

by Steve Honegger

The Asilomar "Whistle-Stop" project began in May of 2003. Ranger Roxanne Jacobus, former historian of the Asilomar State Park, suggested its duplication to the Heritage Society. A weekly coffee group of Ken Hinshaw, Geoff Welch, Dan Cort, Dennis Tarmina and I decided, with the blessings of the Heritage Society, to take on the project of reconstructing this slice of Pacific Grove's past. Research ensued including a trip in March of 2004 to the Southern Pacific buildings



*The Southern Pacific Railroad built the whistle-stop in 1911, formerly located at Sinex and Crocker, which served the Asilomar YWCA summer campers.*

*Photo, c. 1917, California State Parks*

in Fremont and Santa Clara to examine/study construction materials, colors, signage, dimensions, details, etc., of these restored buildings.

The Shelter Shed (our whistle-stop) was a standard Southern Pacific Greek Cross design built in 1911. Its walls crossed at 90-degree angles, in the shape of a Greek cross, forming the back of the seats. The shelter was "retired" in 1964 (we assume demolished).

In March 2006, after one-and-a-half years of calls and letters to the Union Pacific representatives, along with the help of members Ted and Jan Rose, we finally received a signed, three-year beautification

lease with permission to construct the shelter. The Heritage Society must assume liability and maintenance of the approximately 34,000 square feet located between Dennet and Crocker, and Sinex and the tall pine trees at the north end.

In anticipation of the long process and numerous agency approvals needed, I made a scaled model of the stop from redwood removed from Chautauqua Hall during floor renovations. Member and architect Ed Bredthauer completed the site plan and drawings, which were submitted for use permit and Architectural Review approval on March 28, 2006. Coastal

## Newsletter Staff

*Editor*

Maryanne Spradling

*Typesetting*

A Volunteer

*Contributing Editors*

Ken Hinshaw

Craig Riddell

Steve Honneger

Bob Davis

Send your submissions to:

Maryanne Spradling

The Heritage Society

of Pacific Grove

P.O. Box 1007

Pacific Grove, CA 93950

Commission approval will also be necessary.

We plan to build the structure in the exact location of construction in 1911. It will be constructed using the same species, dimensions and millings of the original stop. The only differences will be structural upgrades required by current code. Interpretive signage, old train schedules and an "Asilomar" roof sign will enhance the historical significance of the shelter.

Send your submissions to:  
Maryanne Spradling  
The Heritage Society  
of Pacific Grove  
P.O. Box 1007  
Pacific Grove, CA 93950



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