

# The Heritage Society of Pacific Grove NEWSLETTER

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

Volume 7, Issue 7

September 2007



## 38th Annual Historic Home Tour

*by Darlene Billstrom*



*187 Ocean View, one of the Heritage House Award winners of 2007, will be on the Historic Home Tour on October 7.*

This year's Historic Home Tour promises to be a fantastic event. Of the eight historic homes, five have received Heritage House Awards. The Margaret Tennant house was one of first houses to receive a Heritage House Award and still retains its livability and wonderful historic character. Three of the houses were built before 1900. The youngest house was built in 1924. It is a rare opportunity to view these special homes, one that should not be missed.

All of the houses have been remodeled and provide a great

opportunity to see how these historic homes have been made adaptable to our 2007 standards, yet still retain their charming, historic character. Each house has its own individual style and quiriness, there is even a house that is both a residence and a commercial establishment.

In addition to the eight homes, the Point Pinos Lighthouse, Phoebe Hearst Social Hall at Asilomar, Mayflower Presbyterian Church, St. Mary's By-the-Sea Episcopal Church and Chautauqua Hall will be open

for touring. The Mayflower will be featuring organ music and a tour.

Mark your calendars: Sunday, October 7, 2007. The tour begins at 10m for all but St. Mary's Church and the Mayflower Church. They will only be accessible from about 1pm, due to their church services. The tour ends at 4pm. Tickets are \$20 and are available at the Chamber of Commerce located at the corner of Forest and Central Avenues.

Shoe coverings will be provided, no high heels, please; or you may remove your shoes

## Calendar

### SEPTEMBER

#### HERITAGE BIRDHOUSES

Premiere Presentation and Bidding  
Elmarie Dyke Park, next to  
Chautauqua Hall  
Sunday, September 16, noon to  
4pm

### OCTOBER

#### HISTORIC HOME TOUR

Sunday, October 7  
10am to 4pm

#### HERITAGE BIRDHOUSES FINAL AUCTION

Elmarie Dyke Park, next to  
Chautauqua Hall  
Sunday, October 7  
10am to 4pm  
Silent auction ends at 2:45

#### ARTISTS IN CHAUTAUQUA

Chautauqua Hall (Central and 16<sup>th</sup>)  
Sunday, October 7  
10am to 4pm

#### WHISTLE STOP DEDICATION

Sinex Ave. between Asilomar and  
17 Mile Dr.  
On the Rec Trail  
Saturday, October 20 at 10am

while touring the homes. Historic properties that retain their original architectural features may not be accessible to all. If you have special access needs, please call 373-3304.

The Historic Home Tour is sponsored by the Heritage Society of Pacific Grove, Pacific Grove Chamber of Commerce and the Pacific Grove Art Center.



Many of the outstanding birdhouses have been designed to duplicate well-known, historical homes or businesses. There are also some other categories in this competition that welcome less-than-traditional birdhouses, such as this Asilomar Beach driftwood birdhouse.

## Birdhouses: Initial Bidding

The Heritage Houses for the Birds Contest & Fundraiser “kick-off” silent auction will be held at Elmarie Dyke Park (next to Chautauqua Hall) on Sunday, September 16, from noon to 4pm. Vote for your favorite birdhouse and bid in the auction to take one home. The bidding will continue through October 7, 2007, at sponsor/public locations. Adult and youth winners will be announced on October 7 at Elmarie Dyke Park during the annual Historic Home Tour, where the birdhouses will be on final display for final bids.

Join in on this fun fall project to benefit the heritage Society! Entry forms are available at the Wild Bird Center of Monterey, PG Hardware, Tides, Tessuti Zoo, Ms. Trawicks, and the Works, in Pacific Grove. Deadline for entries is Saturday, September 8, 2007.

For additional information or an entry form, call Craig

or Rebecca Riddell at 831-646-0351 or fax your request to 643-0900.

## Artists in Chautauqua 2007

by Jeanie Anton

The sixth annual presentation of Artists in Chautauqua will coincide with this year’s Historic Home Tour ... and also with the final bids and auction of Heritage Houses -- For the Birds.

From 10am to 4pm on Sunday, October 7, there will be 20 local artists in Chautauqua Hall. Popular local watercolorists with work for sale will include Bill Stone and Shirley Holt, both of Pacific Grove. Mary Masten of Big Sur will bring more of her glass jewelry and gift items. PG resident Gratia Plante will sell her delightful fabric creatures. Barbara Francis will be there with her very unique and lovely

jewelry. And Randy Reinstedt will bring his interesting books on local history. Other artists participating include more painters, photographers, and potters. There will be something to interest everyone.

This is a good time to shop for special gifts for the holiday season.

There is no admission fee for this event.



Among the artists’ offerings in Chautauqua Hall will be Mary Masten’s red fused-glass pendant with gold wire and beads (top), as well as Barbara Francis’ jewelry (bottom).

## 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.

# Our Esteemed Old House

by Neil Granoien

For the past 11 years, Peggy and I have lived in the house at 712 Pine Avenue. Notice that I’m careful not to say “our house.” Over the years, several people have stopped by to say that they either lived in the house or they had a relative who did. Through these contacts, we learned that there was once a pull-chain toilet inside and a Model-T garage in the back corner of the lot.

The other day, a man from Iowa City, Iowa, stopped by and said he had something we might be interested in. He told us that his great-grandfather had built the place. He was very excited when he saw the name Charles S. Harris on the historical plaque, saying, “Yup, that’s him!” He pulled a picture from an envelope. The picture showed a man he identified as Charles Harris’s father on the front porch. This was a treasure I could not let slip by. I asked to borrow the picture, and he graciously agreed. I ran inside to scan it.

This is now the earliest picture we have of the house, probably dating not too long after 1905, the year the house was built. The 1907 city directory lists Charles S. Harris as a resident, along with Miss Edna V. Harris, public stenographer, and the Honorable Jonathan S. Harris, presumably the man in the picture. In this same directory, Charles Harris is listed as the proprietor of C.S. Harris, Real Estate and Insurance, located at 592 Lighthouse, where Miss

Harris was employed.

An old house is indeed a treasure, even with all the repairs and upkeep. It offers a

window into the past and a link among the people who have shared it.

*The Newsletter would like to*

*invite anyone else who has an interesting story to tell about their Esteemed Old House. This will be a continuing series.*

# Oral Histories

*by Darlene Billsrom*

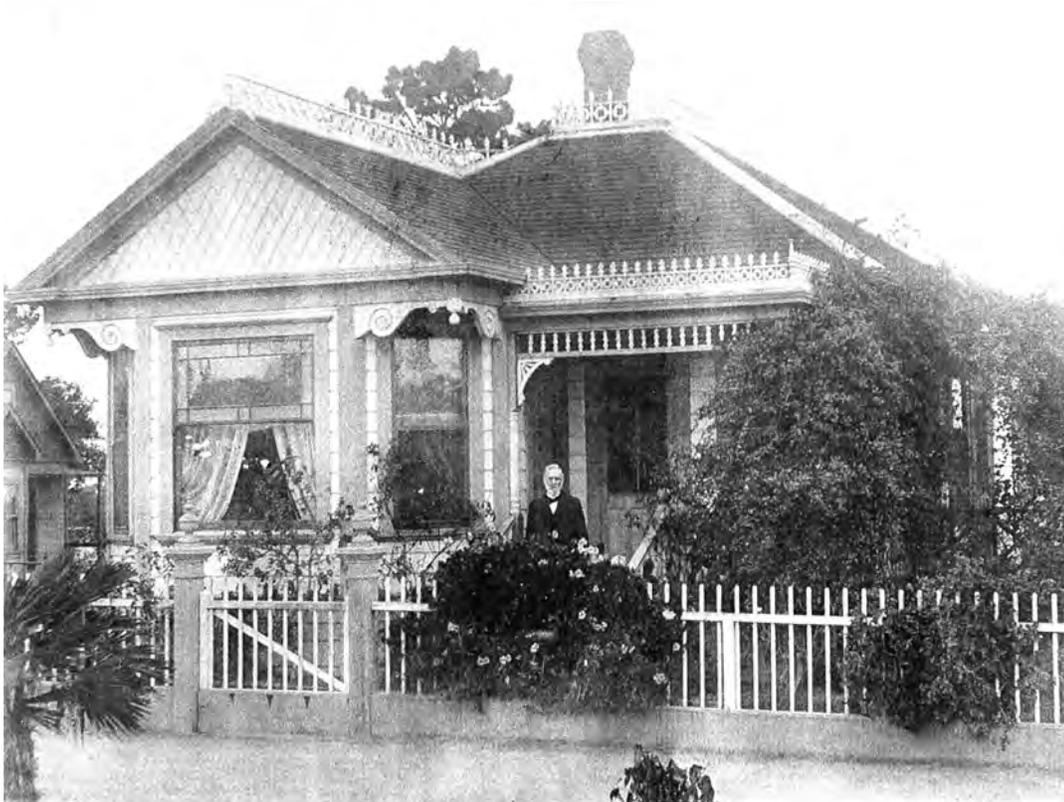
Pacific Grove is fortunate to have many long-time residents with wonderful stories to tell about early Pacific Grove and the Monterey Peninsula. The Heritage Society is eager to record these stories for posterity; but we have a challenge. We are in need of someone to take on this project. We need a chairperson to head our Oral Histories.

The project entails finding residents who are willing to tell their stories, recording those stories, and then transcribing them for permanent retention in our archives. Of course, the entire project cannot be done by one person; we need a volunteer to chair this project, and others to make it a success.

The Heritage Board believes this is a worthwhile project that has been ignored far too long. We are concerned that with each passing day we are losing valuable stories. In the recent past, our oral histories were recorded on tape, which Lowell Northrop has transferred to CDs. It would be wonderful if these CDs could also be transcribed for a permanent, paper archive. One of the persons interviewed on these CDs was Mr. Holman.

I hope I've tempted you to get involved in this interesting project. If so, please call me at 375-8448 or e-mail me at [billstrm@pacbell.net](mailto:billstrm@pacbell.net).

*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.*



*The Honorable Jonathan S. Harris, 712 Pine St., c.1905*



*712 Pine Ave. Today*

# New Members

David & Talli von Sunder  
 Murphy Robins  
 Darryl & Jean Donnelly  
 Man Yi  
 DelNan Morgan  
 Pam Foreman  
 John & Sara Bienvenu  
 Nancy Simas

Members: **1270**



*The Dedication Ceremony for the Asilomar Whistle Stop, located on the rec trail between Evergreen and Asilomar, will take place on October 20, 2007. More detailed information is forthcoming in the October newsletter.*

# Hear Historic Organ on Historic Home Tour

The original pipe organ in Mayflower Presbyterian Church was built circa 1911 by the Murray M. Harris Organ Company (MMH) of Los Angeles. MMH was the Rolls-

Royce of organ builders circa 1896 to 1914, also known as Los Angeles Art Organ Company.

Pacific Grove had two MMH organs: Mayflower and the organ that was originally in First Methodist-Episcopal Church. The latter organ was massively rebuilt and changed and, at least in-part, remains in the church to this day.

The 1911 organ was destroyed when the original Mayflower Church burned in 1912. By the time the new church was built,

the MMH name had been changed to the California Organ Company. In 1916, the California Organ Company built an organ that was very similar to the original organ that burned.

In the 1950s, local organist and part-time organ-builder, Robert Hopkins, rebuilt some of the organ, but it is essentially as it was when it was built in 1916.

The Mayflower organ is what is known as an "orchestral organ" meaning it has voices that tend to imitate those voices heard in

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the orchestra. The Mayflower organ is the oldest pipe organ in Monterey County, and has 605 pipes from its 10-ranks of pipes.

During the Historic Home Tour on October 7, the organ will be played 15 minutes on the hour starting at 1pm, with a "behind the scenes" tour of the organ immediately following.

Send your submissions to:  
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**THE HERITAGE SOCIETY OF PACIFIC GROVE**



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