

The Heritage Society of Pacific Grove NEWSLETTER

Dedicated to Maintaining the Beauty and Individuality of Pacific Grove

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November/December 2007



The Old Fashioned Christmas

by Darlene Billstrom



The beautiful inns decorated for Christmas will put you in the mood for that holiday shopping. On Tuesday, December 4, and Wednesday, December 5, the 23rd annual Christmas at the Inns celebration will be held from 6 – 9 p.m.

Twelve inns and the Asilomar Phoebe Hearst Social Hall will be decked out in that old-fashioned holiday splendor. On Tuesday night you'll be able to visit the Seven Gables Inn, The Martine Inn, The Pacific Grove Inn and Gosby House. On Wednesday night Green

Gables, Old St. Angela Inn, Old Monterey Inn (in Monterey) will be open for the tour. The Centrella Bed and Breakfast, The Inn at 213 Seventeen Mile Drive, Anton Inn, Jabberwock and Asilomar's Phoebe Hearst Social Hall will be open for viewing both Tuesday and Wednesday evenings.

Tickets, good for both evenings, are \$20 each and are available at the Chamber office at 548 Central Avenue, on the corner of Forest Avenue. Proceeds will benefit the Heritage Society of Pacific Grove and the Chamber.

For more information, contact the Chamber office at 373-3304 or visit the Chamber's website at www.pacificgrove.org. Comfortable shoes are recommended, and ladies are asked not to wear high heels.

Christmas at the Inns is part of Pacific Grove's schedule of holiday activities. The others include the Holiday Parade of Lights, featuring bands, floats and carolers, as well as an art walk around town to showcase the city's art galleries and Snow in the Park for children.

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Calendar

DECEMBER

CHRISTMAS AT THE INNS

Tuesday and Wednesday,
December 5-6, 6 – 9pm

Whistle Stop Grand Opening

by Ken Hinsbaw

Neighbors, friends and dignitaries gathered under perfect skies on a Saturday morning in late October to celebrate the grand opening of the Asilomar Whistle Stop. The Whistle Stop replica was built by Steve (the slave-driver) Honegger, Geoff (Mr. Craftsman) Welch, Ken (is it lunch time yet) Hinshaw and Dennis (just tell me what to do) Tarmina. The open railroad shelter is a copy of one that stood in the same location probably until the 1950s.

Mayor Cort thanked the Heritage Society for the interesting addition to the city, Ranger Roxanne Jacobus spoke of incorporating the Whistle Stop into the Asilomar interpretive history



walking tour, Henry Bender (above) from the Southern Pacific Historical & Technical Society, dressed as a Pullman conductor, presented Whistle Stop photos to the Heritage Society from the 1940s. Steve Honegger thanked those who contributed to the project: Ed Breathauer, Ted and Jan Rose, the Public Works Department, Mike Lang's Roofing, Kevin Spring, and Jerry Boyajian for the roof sign. Everybody thanked Steve for his patience and persistence.

Photo Contest

by Donna Stewart

The Pacific Grove Heritage Society's second annual Student Photography Contest was kicked off on October 1st with Kent Seavey's slide presentation to Matt Kelley's PG High School photography class. This year's competition theme, "Then and Now," focuses on the wide array of architectural styles that have created the backdrop of our town since the early 1880s. During the class presentation, Mr. Seavey—well-known archi-

tectural historian and author of Pacific Grove for the Images of America series—stressed just how privileged we Pagrovians are to have so many structures still remaining that contribute to our unique surroundings.

The Heritage Society's mission is to encourage restoration and preservation of Pacific Grove's historic buildings, educate residents about local history and historic preservation, instill pride in our community and its architectural resources, and maintain the beauty and individuality of Pacific Grove. In line with this mission, the photography contest hopes to help students better realize the

rich heritage of architecture in our community. By extension, all residents viewing the students' photographs can gain an even greater appreciation for the uniqueness of the "Last Home Town."

Our guest judges this year are Sharon Blaziek and Jeffrey Becom. We are delighted that Sharon, a long time photo enthusiast, is returning to the judges' table again this year. She has been a member (and past President) of the Padre Trails Camera Club for 20 years. She is an avid volunteer with our Museum of Natural History and a cherished docent for Friends of the Monarchs, having served as past president of the Museum Association and currently serving on the Museum Advisory Board and President of the Friends of the Monarchs.

We are also pleased to have Jeffrey Becom as our second guest judge this year. Jeffrey is nearing his third decade as a working photographer and painter with formal training as an architect. Utilizing traditional equipment and materials, he still prints using traditional wet darkroom techniques. With his partner Sally Aberg, Jeffrey has co-

authored two award-winning books, *Mediterranean Color* and *Maya Color: The Painted Villages of Mesoamerica*. Jeffrey is also the subject of an hour-long PBS/BBC documentary entitled "For the Colors, A Journey Through Italy." His next Monterey Peninsula exhibition is set for the Weston Gallery in Carmel from November 10 through January 6.

"Then and Now" judging is tentatively set to be completed in December with the photographs on display in downtown Pacific Grove during the first part of the new year. Confirmed exhibition dates will follow in a future issue of this newsletter.

Proctor Home Celebrates 100 Years

by Lillian Wright

There is a house on the corner of Congress and Laurel Avenue in Pacific Grove which sits above street level. A river rock wall runs along two sides of the property. Ivy grows down over the wall on the Laurel Avenue side and around the corner to meet the white picket gate. The name on the Heritage Society Plaque is Mary Luella Proctor, dated 1907.

John W. Proctor, born in Nova Scotia in 1857, and Mary Luella (Clark) Proctor, born in Oregon in 1859, were married in Spokane, Washington on December 25, 1890. They came to Pacific Grove in 1904.



Kent Seavey with Matt Kelly's photography class.



John W. Proctor is described in the Monterey County Historical and Biographical Record as being skilled in architecture as well as an efficient contractor “engaged in erecting structures artistic in appearance and substantial in workmanship.” In a partnership with George Quentel, Mr. Proctor drew the plans for the buildings they constructed throughout Monterey County. Their contracts included buildings erected by T. A. Work as well as elegant residences in Pacific Grove for J. P. Pryor, Judge Pell, Miss Platt, Balch and Neighbor. The time frame would suggest that Proctor built his own home on Congress Avenue.

Mrs. Proctor was a native of

Oregon. Her mother crossed the plains to Oregon in 1847 in an ox-drawn wagon. Her father, Reverend Nelson Clark, was a Methodist Episcopal minister and Oregon pioneer in 1851.

The 1907 Pacific Grove Directory lists J. W. Proctor as a building contractor, and the 1916 Directory adds the title City Trustee. By 1922 the Directory lists Mrs. L. Proctor as a widow.

John W. Proctor died in 1918 and Mary Luella Proctor stayed on in their Congress Avenue residence until her death in 1923. Their burial sites are side by side in El Carmelo Cemetery in Pacific Grove. No record of them having children has been discovered.



Thankyou volunteers!

Heritage Society members Claudia Sawyer, Janet Cohen and Darlene Billstrom are shown here smiling during the Historic Home Tour, which had 10 historic homes, the Mayflower Church, St. Mary’s By-the-Sea, the Lighthouse, Chautauqua Hall, Ketcham’s Barn, Phoebe Hearst Social Hall at Asilomar Conference Center and over 80 docents participating. Thank you so much to everyone who worked on the event from the Heritage Society, the Pacific Grove Art Center, the Chamber of Commerce and all of the docents. The Pacific Grove Floral Company donated beautiful flowers to each home including the home hosting the homeowner’s brunch. Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula donated the hundreds of shoe coverings to protect the homes. The weather was perfect and the turn out was the largest in the past ten years. We wish to give a special thank you to the homeowners, Meredith and Steve Johanson, Michael and Ann Mulvihill, Debbie and Dean Young, Wilda and Lowell Northrop, Xi Zhao-Wilson and Brien Wilson, Barbara and David Lazarony, Joyce and Joseph Weiss, Paula Olsson and Richard Saunders, and Lori and Robert Kohn who graciously opened their homes for the tour.

Oral Histories Project

by Marilyn Beck

When I read the Heritage Society September newsletter, I was excited to see the article by Darlene Billstrom asking for someone to be a chairperson for an oral histories project. I have lived in Pacific Grove for 40 years, have a strong interest in oral history, have some experience with it and was looking for a new way to be involved in Pacific Grove life.



Marilyn Beck, Oral History Coordinator

So I volunteered to chair this project. I learned that the previous recorded histories were burned on CDs by Lowell Northrop, and that they are available at the Heritage Society and the Pacific Grove

Library. I have checked out some from the library and learned a lot, not only about the people and life of a previous time, but also about earlier technology.

I am proposing that we do our oral histories with digital camcorders, thereby getting voice and video on the most current technology, DVDs. I am now learning more about the many facets of this project. Hadassah Contreras has volunteered to help.

And we need your help. We need a prioritized list of people you think should be interviewed for this project. Please email me at outbeck@juno.com or call at 372-6860 with your ideas. If you have any equipment or knowledge that might be helpful, please do not hesitate to contact me. This is *our* project. This is *our* heritage.

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.



City Hall's addition in foreground.

Ten Commandments of Preservation

by Ken Hinsbaw

Pacific Grove has its own Preservation Ordinance, which has served our city well and has generally been respected by builders and owners. The ordinance is currently getting some revisions to bolster its legal standing.

One of the guiding lights for many city's wishing to preserve their historic buildings is the 121 pages of the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards*, which

can be boiled down to ten commandments of preservation. I have taken the liberty of further condensing and paraphrasing.

- 1) Historic use of a building is always encouraged, but if put into new use, changes should be minimized.
- 2) Maintain the historic character of a building.
- 3) Do not add features that conflict with the original design.
- 4) Changes to a property that have acquired historic significance, in their own right, should be retained.
- 5) Distinctive features, materials and construction techniques should be preserved.
- 6) Repair rather than replace historic features when possible.
- 7) Use the gentle methods of stripping paint.
- 8) Archeological resources

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must be protected.
 9) New additions or exterior alterations must not destroy historic materials and features. The new will be differentiated from the old and will be compatible with historical materials, features, size, scale, proportion and massing to protect the building's integrity.
 10) New additions shall be constructed so that the historic building would not be damaged if the new work was removed.

Send your submissions to:
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