

The Heritage Society of Pacific Grove NEWSLETTER

Dedicated to Maintaining the Beauty and Individuality of Pacific Grove

Volume 8, Issue 7

November/December 2008



Christmas at the Inns

by Betty Aickelin



Pacific Grove Inn

A wonderful way to get into the holiday spirit is to take the tour of our inns decorated in their holiday splendor. Come celebrate the start of the season with us on Tuesday and Wednesday, December 2nd and 3rd for the Christmas at the Inns Tour. Docents will be at each location, where you will enjoy live entertainment and refreshments.

Each of the inns participating this year has an abundance of history. The youngest was built 79 years ago and the oldest is 122!

Tuesday, December 2nd you can take pleasure in visiting: Seven Gables Inn (1886); The Martine Inn (1899); Pacific Grove Inn (1904); Gosby House (1888); Centrella Bed &

Breakfast (1889); Inn at 213 17 Mile Drive (1928); Jabberwock (1911) and Asilomar's Phoebe Hearst Social Hall - designed by Julia Morgan, where construction began January 1913 and was completed for the YWCA opening conference in July 1913.

Wednesday, December 3rd you will enjoy: Green Gables Inn (1888); Old St. Angela Inn

Calendar

DECEMBER

CHRISTMAS AT THE INNS

Tuesday and Wednesday,
December 2 and 3, 6-9pm

HOLIDAY PARADE OF LIGHTS

Lighthouse Ave. Thursday,
December 4

(1910) and Old Monterey Inn (1929). The Centrella Bed & Breakfast Inn at 213 17 Mile Drive, Asilomar's Phoebe Hearst Social Hall and Jabberwock will be presented both nights.

Comfortable shoes are recommended, and ladies are requested not to wear high heels.

Tickets for the two-evening event can be purchased beginning October 24th at the Pacific Grove Chamber of Commerce at 584 Central Ave.: \$20 for adults and \$10 for children 18 and younger. Call the Chamber at (831) 373-3304 for additional information.

Support the
Heritage Society
Thank You!

Historic Home Tour: Thank You

by Barbara Lazarony

The Heritage Society, the Chamber of Commerce and the Art Center would like to extend a "Thank You!" to everyone who made the 39th Annual Pacific Grove Historic Home Tour such a success! We'd first like to remember all of those people who came before us, who originally built homes and buildings in a pine forest near the sea. To the home owners, writers, printers, florist and docents of today—we couldn't have created such an informative and joy filled day without you. And thank you most of all to our tour attendees; we are gratified by your ongoing interest in the history and beauty of the treasured historic homes and structures in Pacific Grove.

Mark your calendars now for the 40th Annual Historic Home Tour on October 4, 2009, as we continue to enjoy the fruits of generations past and present.



When eating a fruit, think of the person who planted the tree - Vietnamese Proverb



On October 4, during the dedication of the Swan Boat at Lover's Point, Mayor Dan Cort participated in the celebration.

Swan Boat

by Bob Davis

Rescued from a field in Carmel Valley, two swan heads have been restored to the Pacific Grove shoreline where they grace a replica of the glass-bottomed swan boats that introduced thousands of residents and visitors to the under sea wonders of the Monterey Bay. Their new home was dedicated on October 4, 2008, the culmination of a Pacific Grove Heritage Society project which began in 1995 when William Smith offered the Society an original boat which he had stored for a number of years.

When the original boat proved to be too fragile to be restored, the Heritage Society raised the money to pay for construction of a scaled-down replica of one of the original boats by boat builders Frank Siino, Tom Fordham and Gary Goulart of Monterey Bay Boatworks. The replica steel boat was named the "Margruss" in honor of Margaret and Russell Sprague who operated the glass-bottomed boats at

Lovers Point cove for many years.

It was christened on June 10, 1997, and set out on its one and only voyage in the Lovers Point cove with passengers Christie Martine Miller and Esther Trowsow of the Heritage Society, Mayor Sandy Koffman, Frank Siino of the Monterey Boat Works and Gary Goulart who provided the rowing power. After that maiden—and final—voyage, the Swan Boat went back into storage at the City Yard until 2008 when it was hauled by truck to its present home and installed beside the Recreation Trail overlooking Lovers Point Cove where its predecessors had sailed more than 100 years before.

For the next 10 years, the Heritage Society sought a permanent home for its boat. On October 6, 2004, the City Council approved the Lovers Point location. John Miller, then City Recreation Director, guided the project through the yearlong approval process. Ted and Jan Rose spearheaded a renewed drive to raise the money to bring the boat home. Architect Joseph Rock drew

up the plans. Steve Honegger contracted with suppliers and supervised the work of builders, masons, contractors and craftsmen, many of whom either donated their work or provided materials and services at cost. Some 50 craftsmen contributed their skills; 140 other individuals and businesses gave money, \$25,035.75 in all, to bring the Swan Boat home. Thanks to a true community effort, another piece of Pacific Grove's history has been restored.

Steve Honegger, John Miller and Don Beals contributed the information that made this article possible.

Heritage Tourism: How to Succeed

by Maryanne Spradling

The Association of Monterey Preservationists held a forum at the Maritime Museum about Heritage Tourism on September 19.

The keynote speakers Cheryl Hardgrove from St. Simon, Georgia, and Donovan Rypkema from Chicago came to share stories, present facts and encourage communities with historic roots how our cities can improve our economies by positioning and pitching our historic assets to tourists.

Among the benefits of attracting Heritage Tourists is visitors tend to stay longer and spend more. 81% of American travelers are considered to be Heritage Tourists, who visit historic sites, with a desire to

see the real thing. And we have plenty of that on the Peninsula!

The Victorian houses of Pacific Grove, the historic lighthouse, Chautauqua Hall and Julia Morgan's Asilomar provide authenticity.

It's all here – what more can we do to attract this market and get repeat visitors?

Ms. Hardgrove listed the National Trust's five principals.

1. Collaborate. Market your town along with other communities that have historic assets.

2. Find the "fit" between community and tourism. What events/attractions/improvements for the residents attract the tourists and vice versa. Where is the best place for a Visitors' Center, so the downtown will benefit?

3. Make a site come alive. Connect people to a place, i.e. Mrs. Fish at the Light house. Self guided walking tours.

4. Authenticity and quality. Offer the real thing versus Las Vegas' make believe worlds.

5. Preserve and protect resources. The Historic Resources Committee and the Heritage Society is very fortunate to have the support collectively of our various committees and preservation minded citizens. And preserve local traditions.

We have a historic and scenic gem in Pacific Grove. How can we improve our Heritage Tourism appeal? We already have the authenticity. Members' ideas are welcomed and encouraged.

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.

225 Congress Renovation Part Four

by Jeff Edmonds

Part Four of a five part series, Jeff gives our readers a crash course in renovating "this old house." Take the learning curve out of your next project by reading Jeff's sage advice.

Drywall & Painting: We are using all Kelly-Moore paints, from their charts. We did not see the need to use "odor free" paints, as the house was unoccupied and would have plenty of time to dry out before we moved in. We used all high quality latex paints, but we did use oil based primers. We used drywall to cover all new and renovated walls, and a drywall "float" texture to cover all the old walls and patches. The new texture is mild, but reminiscent of the original plaster texture.



Doors: We are fortunate to have all the original, five-panel doors and original hardware from 1904! Several of the doors were re-used, cut down and re-hung to fit our new locations. All these original doors are solid, old-growth redwood. They will now be adjusted and re-hung, to be used another

100 years. These are mortise locks, and the ceramic and glass knobs are original.

Kitchen Cabinets: We wanted to be thrifty with cabinets and, if we had time, I would have built them all. However, this project had to be move-in ready in four months, so cabinets were purchased. We were ready to buy IKEA off the shelf, assemble-yourself cabinets, but we found a local supplier that could come close to matching the IKEA costs, especially when you factor in freight and assembly of the cabinets. We bought Aristokraft cabinets, which have solid thermofoil doors that don't warp and are repainted. We added extra costs to use dovetail maple drawers, and to have self-closing hardware installed on all the drawers. The Aristokraft cabinets cost \$4900.00, delivered and assembled, as opposed to IKEA, which cost \$2938.00 plus freight (estimated \$500) and assembly (estimated \$850). I have used IKEA quite successfully in recent projects on the Monterey Peninsula. They are well made, very well engineered and stylish as well.

Countertops & Backsplash: We decided that honed, Carrera



Marble would be a great look for our kitchen countertops. When we priced the cost of the work, including slab, labor to fabricate and edge, and then installation, it turned out to be costly, approximately \$4000. We eliminated the 1+1/2" edging work, and used the 3/4" edge,

the same thickness as the slab is made. This brought the price down to \$3000. We covered the plywood edging, which is seen below the slab, with wood trimwork, which we ordered with the cabinets in the same finish. Carrera marble is not an easy material to maintain. It can stain, scratch and is breakable! We really love the classic look of the material and purchased the material honed rather than polished to reduce the shiny glare. We sealed the material carefully with a very good marble sealer, and will continue to seal it. We really wanted this look, so we will endure the inconvenience and continue to maintain the slab as we enjoy its good looks.



The backsplash is subway tile, with a rope detail. This is a classic material and look and is quite affordable.

Newsletter Editor

by Maryanne Spradling

Our request for a new editor of the Heritage Society's newsletter has been answered by a very experienced and qualified editor, Jean Prock. In our next issue, we will introduce you to Jean and her background in publishing.

Darlene Billstrom and I will continue to be support editorial staff, contributing articles and ideas, and Lowell Northrup will continue to be the designer. We look forward to working with Jean in the months and years to come. Welcome Jean!

New Members

Spencer Stillman
 William Salmon
 Justus and Brigitte Grate
 and their children,
 Therese and Robert Grate
 Margaret Peterson
 Dixie Layne
 Philip & Jodi Bitter
 J. Michael & Betty Sproule

Membership Count:
1202

Houses for the Birds Final Auction

On October 5, the Heritage Society's biggest fund raiser, Heritage Houses for the Birds, held its final silent auction in Elmarie Dyke Park, next to Chautauqua Hall. The bird-



Steve Honegger won "People's Choice" for his *Home Tweet Home* birdhouse.

houses attracted many bidders and birdhouse fanciers, with a final fundraising amount of \$3000 being raised. Thank you to the birdhouse builders and the buyers!

Steve Honegger took home "People's Choice" for his *Home Tweet Home* cabin; Sharon Fagan won "Best of Show" for *Stone Haven*; Maryanne Spradling's *Driftwood Perch* took "Best Natural" birdhouse; Alex Quinn won

"Best PG Vernacular" for *Surf's Up*; Ray Magsalay earned "Best Whimsical" birdhouse; Steve Honegger also took home "Best Historical" birdhouse; Mayor Dan Cort selected Mario Mancini's 50s style travel trailer birdhouse *On the Road* as "The Mayor's Choice Award"; and Sharon's *Stone Haven* was deemed the "Best Assessed Value" by Monterey County Assessor, Stephen Vagnini.

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