

The Heritage Society of Pacific Grove NEWSLETTER

Dedicated to Maintaining the Beauty and Individuality of Pacific Grove

Volume 9, Issue 2

March 2009



President's Report

by Darlene Billstrom, Outgoing Board President

As I recount the many events and projects of the Heritage Society, I am once again struck by their number and variety, and by the many hardworking folks who volunteer their time.

I hope you've taken a walk down to Lovers Point to see the Swan Boat replica. This major project was completed in 2008, although it was started long ago. The Society is justly proud of this reminder of Pacific Grove's history.

The Home Awards in May at the Museum was a huge success, helped along by the High School Photo Contest. If you missed this event last year, the same combination will be at the Museum this May; see the Calendar for date and time.

October's beautiful weather helped the Historic Home Tour, the Heritage Houses for the Birds, and the Artists in Chautauqua raised funds for the Heritage Society and provided fun for Pacific Grove residents and visitors.

The year ended with Christmas at the Inns. This is a wonderful event each year and gets everyone into the holiday spirit.

Recording and photographic equipment was purchased for the Oral History Committee. Their first interview is scheduled to occur this month.

Some board members got

busy and started to clean, sort, and classify the many artifacts and research materials at the Barn. Our Plaque Committee continued to produce green plaques. Our Research Committee sure could use some help. Anyone interested in research?

Hope you noticed we have a new newsletter editor. The newsletter continues to be published on a timely basis, and we're working on getting the "Board and Batten" back on schedule. We still have the "Pacific Grove Images of America" book for sale at the Barn, in case you don't have a copy.

We've created a Lighthouse Preservation and Restoration Committee. Some of its members have been working for the restoration of the lighthouse for some time.

The Barn has a new roof, with wood shingles in keeping with the historic nature of the structure.

I've enjoyed being your president for the last two years and am ready to hand the gavel over to my successor. I think the coming year will see a tighter relationship with the Community Development Department at the City and, of course, continuing all our worthwhile projects. Don't forget to volunteer...we need YOU!

High School Photo Contest – Then and Now

By Donna Stewart

This year's high school photo contest is underway with the students from Mr. Matt Kelly's photography class. This year we are focusing on our Centennial Homes for 2009 and 2010. The students are assisting the Heritage Society in documenting the homes as well as submitting their choices for the competition. The photographs will be on display at the Museum of Natural History starting the first of May.

Contest judges this year are Jeff Becom and Sharon Blaziek. Winners will be announced at the Historical House Awards ceremony. Please plan to join us this year to congratulate the winners of our photo contest and the Historical House Awards honorees, and to celebrate the wonderful rich architectural history of Pacific Grove.

Calendar

APRIL

GOOD OLD DAYS

Saturday and Sunday, April 4-5
Downtown Pacific Grove

2009 CALIFORNIA PRESERVATION CONFERENCE

April 16-19
Palm Springs

MAY

HERITAGE SOCIETY ANNUAL HERITAGE HOUSE AWARDS

Friday, May 8, at 7 p.m.
Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History

Visit Our Booth at "Good Old Days"

Be sure to visit the Heritage Society booth at Pacific Grove's annual "Good Old Days" weekend on April 4 and 5. As always, our booth will be set up on Lighthouse Avenue near the Bank of America. On display will be some historic treasures from the Society's collection.

"Pictures are the things that draw people," notes board member Don Beals, "so we'll be exhibiting lots of

photos. The most popular is the panoramic view of Pacific Grove.”

Information about Heritage Society programs and activities will also be available, and volunteers will be there to answer questions.

2009 California Preservation Conference

by Maryanne Spradling

Preservation takes the stage in Palm Springs this year at the 34th Annual California Preservation Conference, from Thursday, April 16 to Sunday, April 19. This year's theme is “The Culture of Leisure—Rethinking the California Dream.”

From 1920s Hollywood-mogul desert retreats to early cutting-edge modernist design, there will be plenty of excursions sure to treat the eye. The four-day conference includes over sixty workshops, tours and events, such as Implementing CEQA for Historic Resources, Romantic Spirit in Spanish Colonial Revival, Desert Playground of Pools and Leisure, and Adapting to Green in Leisure and Tourism.

This conference has traditionally been very popular among city and county planners, architects, community leaders, historians and local preservationists.

For more information regarding registration, hotels and volunteer opportunities, please call (415) 495-0349 or logon to www.californiapreservation.org.



Heritage House Awards

We will convene once again this spring for the Heritage House Awards. This annual ceremony celebrates our historic houses and honors intrepid homeowners who have recently made renovations or built additions that complement the historic integrity of their homes (such as the one at 217 Chestnut, above). The High School Photo Contest entries will also be displayed at the event and the winners will be announced.

Please plan to join us for a fun and interesting evening on Friday, May DATE at 7 p.m. at the Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History.

“Pieces of History” in Airport Display

Items from the Pacific Grove Heritage Society collection are currently on display in “Pieces of History,” an exhibit of local historic artifacts at the Monterey Airport. The show, mounted by the Art at the Airport project, includes pieces from public archives and private collections in Monterey County.

On loan from the Society are such diverse objects as a fragment of a wooden swan head from an original Lovers Point glass-bottomed boat, a decorative spire from the old Methodist Church, a clothes brush and a cash receipt box from Holman's Department Store, and a clock that was described in a 1910 issue of the Del Monte Weekly as “a handsome timepiece.” Visitors to the show will also see an antique name quilt that was made as a fundraiser by the Ladies' Aid Society of the PG Methodist Church.

Other intriguing items in the exhibit are a women's bathing suit that was available for rental by swimmers at the

Pacific Grove Bathhouse in the early 1900s, and a pair of knee pants given by Holman's Department Store to the mother of Lewis Fitzsimmons in celebration of his birth in 1916. The store sent a pair of little trousers to every new baby boy in town, with a note congratulating the parents and expressing the hope that the child would “always remember that he got his first pair of pants from Holman's.” (History does not record whether baby girls received any gifts.)

“Pieces of History” will run through July 31 at the Monterey Airport. The exhibit is free, and should be well worth a trip out there to see it.



Happy Birthday to the Lighthouse

The Lighthouse celebrated its 154th birthday on February 1. Docents were on hand for the event, along with Emily Fish, the lighthouse keeper from the turn of the twentieth century (portrayed by Eleanor Morrice). Mrs. Fish regaled visitors with stories of her stewardship of the lighthouse from 1893 to 1914.



Families Enjoy "Fun Day"

Family Fun Day, hosted by the Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History on January 31, drew hundreds of people. The Heritage Society provided an interesting exhibit of photos of the Point Pinos Lighthouse, as well as a "Pin a Light on the Lighthouse" activity that proved popular with the youngsters.

Architect Jim McCord Speaks at Board Meeting

by Donna Stewart

Pacific Grove architect Jim McCord was an invited guest speaker at the February meeting of the Heritage Society Board of Directors. He discussed some of his concerns about the city's adoption of *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation* in the Historic Preservation Ordinance.

The purpose of the ordinance is to help preserve the historical architecture and ambience of Pacific Grove. McCord feels *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards* were intended to apply to very important historic buildings and may be too stringent and restrictive for local needs. He said their application could over-regulate such matters as remodeling and additions to private houses, lead frustrated property owners to defer necessary maintenance or attempt unauthorized construction, and have a "chilling effect on housing stock."

"We need something other than a strict interpretation of *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards* to meet the needs of homes on PG's historic list," McCord noted.

The Heritage Society has been active in promoting the Historic Preservation Ordinance.

New Members

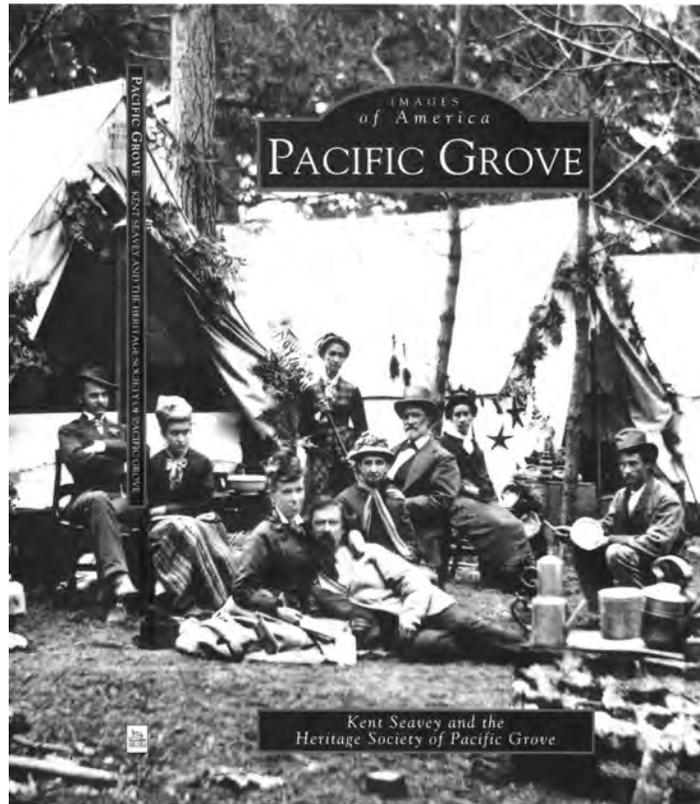
Bill and Chary George
Kathy Hall
Nancy McDowell
Dan Myers
Marianne Powers
Lorraine Vogt

Membership Count:
1117

Support the
Heritage Society

Thank You!

Paul Finnegan
Bill Whitney
already have



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.

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.

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