

The Heritage Society of Pacific Grove NEWSLETTER

Dedicated to Maintaining the Beauty and Individuality of Pacific Grove

Volume 9, Issue 3

April 2009



New Barn Roof

by Steve Honegger



The Barn sports a beautiful new roof. (Photo by Tony Prock)

The Heritage Society Barn is sporting a brand new roof.

In 1981, the structure was converted to house the Society's records, artifacts, office and meeting room. At that time, the redwood shingles on its roof were replaced with cedar shingles. However, in the last few years, Barn guru/custodian/gardener Don Beals began picking up worn shingles and pieces of trim that had fallen on adjacent sidewalks and gardens. He also discovered the first leak since the conversion 28 years ago.

A new Class "A" fire rated cedar shingle roof was completed by Lang's Peninsula Roofing on February 20, just in time for a series of wet storms to hit. Copper flashing, stainless steel nails and sheathing, fascia, crown and hips of redwood were used.

The windows and front door that were installed in 1981 are currently being refurbished by Ken Hinshaw. Don and Frances Grate are digging in the garden.

Heritage Society members and supporters are urged to come and check out our spruced-up digs!

New Officers and Board Members Elected

by Darlene Billstrom

At the Annual Meeting of the Heritage Society in February, new officers were elected for 2009. Steve Honegger is the new President, Dennis Tarmina is Vice

Calendar

APRIL

2009 CALIFORNIA PRESERVATION
CONFERENCE

April 16-19

Palm Springs

MAY

NATIONAL PRESERVATION MONTH

HERITAGE SOCIETY ANNUAL
HERITAGE HOUSE AWARDS

Friday, May 8 at 7 p.m.

Pacific Grove Museum of Natural
History

JUNE

CONFERENCE OF CALIFORNIA
HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

June 25-28

Martinez

President, Barbara Lazarony is Secretary, and Don Beals is Treasurer. New board members Jeff Edmonds, Andrea Fernandez, Jim Hogan and Gretchen Leffler were also elected. In the days since that meeting I've had a chance to learn a bit about each one, which I'll share with you.

Jeff is no stranger to these pages, as he has written a multi-part series on remodeling his home on Congress. He is a much-in-demand contractor. I'm not sure where he gets the time to work on his own house, or join the Architectural Review Board and the Heritage Board. A newcomer to Pacific

Grove, Jeff has a respect for historic houses and talents as a contractor that are welcome additions to preservation in Pacific Grove.

No newcomer to the area, Andrea was born in Monterey, attended Santa Catalina, and became a nurse at CHOMP. She's proud of her family's three-generation fishing tradition. Fortunately for Pacific Grove, Andrea moved here twenty-seven years ago. Her main passions are restoring houses (her current home is her third restoration in PG) and collecting antiques.

Jim Hogan is also not a newcomer to Pacific Grove. He bought his home in 1987, but didn't move into Pacific Grove full time until after he renovated it in 2003. His home received a Heritage House award last year. Jim was educated in Southern California, spent thirty-five years in commercial finance, and retired in 2005. The Heritage Society will make good use of his skills.

Once again, the Heritage Society will reap the benefit of Gretchen's encyclopedic knowledge of historic houses in Pacific Grove. Off and on for nineteen years, Gretchen has volunteered at the Community Development Department researching historic houses. She is the expert on houses that have been relocated in PG. A graduate of Mills College in Oakland, she spent most of her professional career as a medical records administrator in Washington, D. C. We can't wait to put you to work, Gretchen.

We "old" board members welcome Jeff, Andrea, Jim, and Gretchen into our midst. We haven't warned them (yet) of how much work they're going to be doing.

Another Successful Annual Meeting

By Maryanne Spradling

The rainy weather did not deter members attending the Heritage Society's annual meeting at the Hopkins Marine Station on February 22. The big draw? A tour of the recent seismic retrofit and interior remodel of the Agassiz Laboratory, built in 1917.

Darlene Billstrom welcomed the crowd assembled in the Boatworks and introduced Dennis Tarmina, who gave a status report regarding the Point Pinos Lighthouse restoration plans. He explained that there will be many volunteer opportunities in the following years, because of the demands of the project.

The second speaker, a representative from Stanford University, presented a power point production of the renovation of the Agassiz Laboratory, along with before and after photos. This provided a very good picture of the scope of the project.

The tour of the Agassiz was a real highlight, where the pride of the Hopkins Marine Station staff was very apparent. Staffer Judy Thompson led the tour and answered attendees' questions.

The historic integrity of the Agassiz is intact. The only changes to the facade of the building include the ADA entrance and the omission of a couple windows that were sacrificed for the very important seismic retrofitting.

Kudos to Gretchen J. Flesher, AIA, the architect who was responsible for the fine work inside and out.

Thank you, Hopkins, for

sharing the Agassiz and for one of the most memorable and aesthetic annual meetings in the Heritage Society's recent history.



The Agassiz overlooks the "outdoor classroom," the tide pools at Hopkins.



Judy Thompson's office at the Agassiz Laboratory looks out at the bay and the Monterey Bay Aquarium.



The classroom's upgraded specimen cabinet. For years, the valuable collection was behind a plastic drop cloth.

How Many Minutes in Twenty Years?

After taking minutes at Heritage Society board meetings for 20 years, Carrol Patterson will finally have a well-deserved rest with the election of a new secretary this spring. Carrol served as secretary from 1989 to 2009, earning praise for her consistently accurate and thorough documentation of board discussions and decisions.

"I attended one board meeting to start," Carrol remembers, "and before I knew it, I was the secretary. I didn't realize it would be such a big job, but I had a good time doing it."

Over the years, following the complex conversations at meetings and capturing key points became second nature to Carrol. In addition to recording meeting minutes, she put together the meeting agendas, took care of documents for various Heritage Society events, and developed the yearly program and activities sheets distributed at Annual Meetings.

Carrol reflects that the board has changed its emphasis over the years, but has always been a congenial group. "I've enjoyed serving as secretary very much," she notes, "but it's time to give someone else the opportunity." Carrol will continue to be active in the Society, helping with projects and activities. "Everyone needs to participate to the extent they can," she reminds Heritage Society members.

Thank you, Carrol, for your dedication and your valuable service!



Actor Kevin Hanstick, portraying lighthouse keeper Charles Layton, accepts the donation from Questers Jean Strumbo and Terri Scott.

Questers Step Up Support for Lighthouse

by Ken Hinshaw

The Adobe branch of Questers International has generously pledged \$2,000 for floor refinishing at the Point Pinos lighthouse. This service organization is responsible for the lion's share of the antique furnishings and interior work at the lighthouse.

The 154th birthday party for the venerable landmark on February 1 featured period actors and refreshments. Kevin Hanstick, portraying early lighthouse keeper Charles Layton, gratefully accepted the Questers' donation at the celebration.

Heritage House Awards 2009 Coming

by Maryanne Spradling

Remember the date: Friday, May 8 at 7 p.m. at the Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History. Join the Heritage Society in celebrating the preservation and successful alterations of our historic homes. Also admire architectural photos by Pacific Grove High School photography students.

Oral History Project Seeks Movie Editor

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 has initiated an effort to preserve these stories for posterity. Our Oral History Project involves finding residents willing to tell their stories, recording those stories, and transcribing them for permanent retention in our archives.

This is an important and worthwhile endeavor that has been neglected for too long. With each passing day, we are losing valuable information. The Heritage Society is looking for a volunteer to edit films of old-timers telling their stories. If you have film-editing skills and would like to take part in this fascinating project, please call the Heritage Society Barn at 372-2898 and leave your name and phone number. A member of the Oral History Project Committee will contact you with more information.

The Story Behind the Plaques

Everyone has seen the green wooden plaques that distinguish many older homes in Pacific Grove. Each plaque indicates the name of the original owner of the house and the year it was built or first assessed. Since 1978, the Heritage Society has been giving plaques free of charge to homes that meet certain criteria.

To qualify for a plaque, a home must have been built no later than 1926, as verified by its inclusion on the 1926 Sanborn map of Pacific Grove. The actual date of construction may be researched at the Heritage Society Barn where, in addition to the map, tax and assessment records are kept that go back many decades. Records are also maintained of all the plaques ever issued. Anyone interested in obtaining a plaque may contact the Heritage Society to obtain research instructions and application forms.

Contrary to popular opinion, having a plaque does not mean a home cannot be remodeled or expanded. However, a home that has been remodeled in a way that is not in harmony with its original structure may not qualify for a plaque.

The handsome plaques are created by a team of Heritage Society members. Steve Honegger cuts and sands the all-heart redwood, Vanessa Bredthauer stencils the information on the blanks, Lowell Battcher does the routing, and Jerry Boyajian paints the green background. Steve also applies the sealer, paints the yellow lettering and puts on several coats of varnish. The process is truly a labor of love.

All homes in Pacific Grove are special, but the homes with plaques are especially special.

Next Month

Find out in next month's issue of the Heritage Society Newsletter why so many women's names are on the plaques.



Early postcard of Pt. Pinos from Steve Honegger's collection, circa 1930.

Lighthouse Garden Includes Mystery

by Ken Hinsbaw

Our local garden experts Vern Yaden and Frances Grate have pitched in to help create a detailed plan for landscaping the lighthouse. They have been pouring over archival pictures furnished by our Museum of Natural History (available at their website).

Many plants and their locations have been identified

from these interesting photos taken between 1890 and 1940. The possibility of reestablishing the decorative dahlia garden is being discussed. Recommendations in the plan will need to be vetted at several levels and finally approved by the city council and the Coastal Commission.

The garden design will create interpretive opportunities; displays will be designed to illustrate the variety of plants used over time and the story of why they were used and where they originated. Two "signature" trees will be prominent, the pine of Point Pinos and the Monterey cypress. The cypresses will be replanted

Newsletter Staff
Editor
 Jean Prock
Typesetting
 A Volunteer
Contributing Editors
 Darlene Billstrom
 Ken Hinshaw
 Steve Honegger
 Maryanne Spradling

Send your submissions to:
 Jean Prock
 The Heritage Society
 of Pacific Grove
 P.O. Box 1007
 Pacific Grove, CA 93950
www.pacificgroveheritage.org
heritagesocietypg@montereybay.com

in missing spaces in the 500-foot oval surrounding the lighthouse, to be maintained as a low hedge, and the Monterey pines will be planted in the outlying areas.

There is a mystery object in the old pictures that has left all involved wondering. It appears on the lawn near the old fountain. If you think you know what it is, please contact us.

Nonprofit Org.
 U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
 Permit No. 30
 Pacific Grove,
 CA 93950

THE HERITAGE
 SOCIETY
 OF
 PACIFIC GROVE
 P.O. Box 1007
 Pacific Grove, CA 93950