



THE BOARD AND BATTEN

Newsletter of the Pacific Grove Heritage Society

October/November 1992

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Stone

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*The original curfew bell at the first fire station
circa 1890.*

Christmas At The Inns - December 8, 1992

Pacific Grove Curfew and Fire Bell

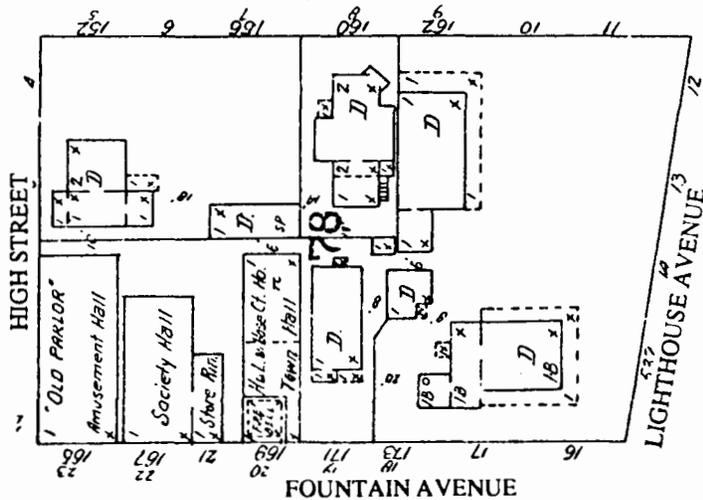
(includes research done by G. W. Robinson in 1979)

The first (and only) curfew bell was a gift from Dr. L. D. Stone of San Francisco, who had a summer cottage at 532 Lighthouse Ave. He bought the bell for 50 cents at an old church being torn down in San Francisco in 1884. It was said that he had it sent to Pacific Grove on a raft. He gave the bell to the city and it was first installed in 1885 in a small room at the fire station at 169 Fountain, coincidentally located behind Dr. Stone's residence (see map below).

Sometime between 1888 and 1892, a wobbly tower was erected on top of the fire station (see cover photo) and the bell was hung there. In 1894, the First Call Volunteer Fire Department "officially" bought the bell from the city for \$6.00.

The curfew bell was rung nightly at 8:00 p.m. (9:00 p.m. in the summer) as a signal for all children under 18 years of age to be home. It was rung again at 10:00 p.m. as a signal for all activities to stop and all lights to be extinguished. This was done from 1885 until 1912.

In September of 1912, the bell was moved to the then new fire station in the City Hall on the corner of Forest and Laurel. In 1939, the new fire whistle was installed and the bell was used for formal occasions only. On July 7, 1952, the bell was moved to the city corporation yard and stored. On June 30, 1953, the bell was moved to its present location at 600 Pine Street in front of the current Fire Station.



1897 Sanborn map

Historic Old Fire Bell Tops City Hall



The historic old fire bell topping Pacific Grove's modern city hall was originally bought for \$6, and was purchased in 1894, being moved to the present location in 1912. Before that time the firemen were called by a horn. The city has a volunteer department.

By July 2-12, A. C. Hirst, D. D. L. (one of the best of Freshholders) ...

1939 Herald photo

Letter From Pacific Grove Retreat

(As published in the December 20, 1886 issue of the *Del Monte WAVE*)

A New Year's greeting that would go forth from the Grove near Monterey, with appropriate meaning, seems wrought into the words that last summer were heard echoing through these woods, when Chautauqua hosts came hither in their glad pilgrimage:

*"All hail, all hail to the new;
The future lies like a world new-born,
All steeped in sunshine and mists of morn,
And arched with a cloudless blue—
All hail, all hail to the new.*

*"All things, all things are yours;
The spoils of nations, the arts sublime,
That arch the ages from oldest time,
The Word that for aye endures—
All things, all things are yours."*

The contents of the above stanzas seem to most fittingly express what is breathed now in the very atmosphere of this quiet Retreat, as on the borderland of a new year. While casting retrospective glances over the past, we gladly turn to mingle in the active enterprise realistic of the future prosperity.

The pleasures attendant upon Christmastide just now center all thought in that one direction. Each day brings the sounds of the Christmas bells clearer and clearer to listening children, young and old. Lively preparations for the festival are being made here in the Grove. The children of the Methodist-Episcopal Sunday school, assisted by their various musical friends, are to give the Cantata "St. Nicholas" on Christmas eve—the Christmas tree and gifts duly arranged for in the scenes of the Cantata. Miss Woodward, Miss Crane and Mr. Crosby are in charge of the rehearsals, and there is promise of a delightful occasion to those who come hither for the Children's Festival.

The last entertainment announced was that which took place on Friday evening, Dec. 12, under the auspices of the Ladies' Social Union, to make a sale of articles for the benefit of the Library fund. Their organization is devoted exclusively to furthering the interests of the public library, and at their first annual meeting in November the reports indicated to what extent the work they had

inaugurated had advanced. A very pleasing program, consisting of vocal and instrumental music, readings and recitations, was listened to early in the evening, before the sale of the articles was entered upon. The ladies who graciously assisted in the entertainment were Mrs. C.L. Boyers, Mrs. Albert Heath, Mrs. Wm. Devine, Mrs. Taylor, Miss Lawrey and Miss Rose Healy. Rev. T.H. Sinex represented the Library Association and presided during the evening.

As the Christmas bells ring out clearer and clearer, and the sound becomes ever nearer and nearer, we hear another bell that has woven itself into the chime. We pause, listen, for the sound is unfamiliar in this lone pine forest— 'tis the sound of a wedding bell. The confirmation of the above facts was made known on December 14th, when the cards were issued announcing the marriage of Miss Louisa Van Volkinburgh and Mr. J. Fredric Feese, to be celebrated Christmas night at the residence of the bride's relatives, Mr. and Mrs. H.H. Tilton, on Carmel Avenue. The bride-elect has recently arrived from New York, and is, therefore, a comparative stranger. The groom, however, is a resident of the Grove, well known and highly regarded in the community.

The Pacific Improvement Company still continues to broaden the range of its improvements; many new driveways are being laid out, the Lighthouse Road receiving an addition in width. The parks that are highly ornamental to the avenue are located near the entrance to the Grove, in view of L.D. Stone's residence and that of the superintendent Mr. Johnson. The drive to Lake Majella, a lovely spot buried deep in the woods, about a mile and a half distant, is to be made particularly attractive; it is the favorite pleasure ground, and the white sand hills in close proximity excite general admiration.

The list of business houses is receiving a prominent addition in the erection of a building purposed to be for the locating of Wells Fargo Express Office, Post-office, and Exchange Bank. Citizens express great satisfaction at the prospect of having the necessities in banking business at last accommodated. With no bank in Monterey, great inconvenience has always been experienced, and especially at the time that the large assemblies gather here.

The new Episcopal Church to be erected in the Grove will doubtless be commenced early in the spring. Much interest in the undertaking is expressed both at home and abroad. The plans will soon be completed and in the hands of the rector in charge, Rev. J.F. Holmes.



View of Lighthouse Avenue, circa 1885. Notice the gate to the Retreat at Grand Avenue on the left side of the photo. Also notice the home of Dr. Stone at 532 Lighthouse at the corner of Fountain on the right side of the photo. This house is also on the map on page 2.

Among the recent arrivals is that of Major Ben C. Truman. To the readers of the WAVE he needs no introduction, and to the residents of the Grove his face will soon become pleasantly familiar. He was the favored and welcome guest of Mr. and Mrs. C.L. Boyers during his brief sojourn—the charming hospitality always extended by the host and hostess of the Boyers' cottage is too widely known to need our further comment. Major Truman was accompanied by Mr. Rudisill, the manager of the WAVE, who tarried some little time in our midst on "business ever intent," and before his departure had received fifty-five new subscribers—nearly all the homes in the Grove now get the WAVE. The people will do well to patronize it liberally, for through the agency of the WAVE, and the active interest displayed by its able manager, Pacific Grove's prosperity has materially advanced, and it will continue to be an important factor in its growth, as it starts forth in '87 enlarged in volume and widely increased in circulation; it will sing the praises of Pacific Grove to new and fresher melodies, and fairly and justly represent what it will claim for the future. One particularly attractive feature of the new volume of the WAVE is the serial story by Major Truman, entitled "Divorced on the Desert." There is always a peculiar fascination surrounding a story when the author dwells in our midst.

Mr. L. D. Stone and family will occupy their cottage (532 Lighthouse) at the Grove over New Year's. Mr. & Mrs. Hyde, of San Francisco, have opened their lovely home on Forest (148 Forest, since moved to 2098 David Ave) and will remain for the holidays. This week Mr. Hyde purchased the Goodall cottage, (at 150 Forest) which adjoins his present site, for \$2,750.

On New Year's Day it is announced that the ladies of Pacific Grove intend quite generally to be at home to their friends. Those who will receive: Mrs. Dr. Sinex, Miss Woodward, Miss Boise, at the parsonage.; Mrs. Franklin Crane, Miss Crane, Miss Julia Herndon, Crane cottage; Miss Myra Gibson, Miss Edith Beach with Mrs. C.L. Boyers at the Boyers cottage; Mrs. Dr. C. L. Roe, at home; Mrs. M.E. Allison, at home; Mrs. Albert Heath, at home; Mrs. Everts, Miss Minnie Everts, Miss Fanny Low of Salinas, Goodall cottage; Miss Lawrey, Miss Lola Lawrey, Hollenbeck cottage.

Superintendent J.O. Johnson reports that the demand for building lots continues and sales are made every day. Mr. Johnson will enlarge his new cottage this winter by the erection of an additional wing.
R.

Others Saw Us Through Postcards



This card was sent to Miss Helen Baker in Salinas. The Pacific Grove postmark is July 20, 1905.

Down The Piney Path

News of old Pacific Grove from the Monterey Weekly ARGUS
(September-October 1886)

◆ by E. C. Davis

- The Seaside Drug Store at the Grove is preparing to close for the winter.
- The P. I. Company will soon commence the building of another story on the Grove Restaurant, to be fitted up into rooms for lodging purposes.
- The Museum at the Grove is now about completed.
- A large force of men were taken over to the Carmel side Thursday evening to fight a fire in the woods near Pescadero.
- J. Y. Lummis is building another cottage at the Grove for J. A. C. Gunter.
- There will be skating at the Grove rink tonight and probably for the last time before closing up for the winter.
- Next Saturday, at 10 o'clock, at the Grove, the stock of groceries, etc., in John Miller's old store will be sold at auction.
- At 12:40 last night an alarm was rung for what proved to be a fire in Chinatown. How it originated we could not learn, but a two-story building, used as a restaurant, and several smaller ones were destroyed.
- An encounter with a skunk ends a visit for a Montereyan at the Grove with a young lady and her mom.

Christmas At The Inns—Tuesday, December 8th

The 8th Annual Christmas At The Inns Tour will be held on Tuesday evening, December 8th from 6:30 to 9:30.

Tickets are still only \$10.00 each and should be purchased in advance at the Chamber of Commerce office at Forest & Central during normal business hours. The first seven tours were sellouts, so avoid disappointment and get your tickets now.

Call 373-3304 for more information. Proceeds are divided equally between the Heritage Society and the Art Center.

New Members

Monty & Ramona Reitz

Darby & Andrea Fuerst

Fran Sherman

Virginia Wright

Deborah Stark

Ronald & Leonie Graddy

Walt & Marian Jacobs and
Carl L. Barber

Share The Heritage With A Friend Annual Family Membership \$10.00

Members receive *The Board and Batten* newsletter of the Heritage Society of Pacific Grove.

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✉ Please return to The Pacific Grove Heritage Society
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*The
Heritage Society
of Pacific Grove*

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