



# THE BOARD AND BATTEN

Newsletter of the Pacific Grove Heritage Society

June/July 1990

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## Where Have All The Dahlias Gone?

The 1916 classified business directory lists three Dahlia Gardens in Pacific Grove. One was listed at 118 Caledonia run by W. M. Hollenbeck. Another, called the Pacific Grove Dahlia Gardens, was located at the foot of 17th Street and managed by Dr. C. A. Foster. The third was called the Lovers' Point Dahlia Gardens and managed by Leslie Doolittle at Lovers' Point.

W. B. Huyck wrote at that time that one of the most attractive beauties of Pacific Grove was her dahlia gardens, annually attracting thousands of visitors from all over the world. He said it was the greatest industry of our fair city, with tubers of hundreds of varieties being shipped daily to all parts of the globe. He called Pacific Grove the Dahlia center of the entire western slope and said its citizens were proud of the fact that it was becoming known as the "Dahlia City".

At the Panama-Pacific International Exposition held in San Francisco in 1915, the Pacific Grove display, in the horticultural pavilion, was awarded the Gold Medal, the highest award. The coveted prize was won by the Lovers' Point Dahlia Gardens, in competition with exhibits from all parts of the country.

The

Heritage Society  
of Pacific Grove

P.O. Box 1007  
Pacific Grove, CA 93950

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## Dahlia Culture In Pacific Grove

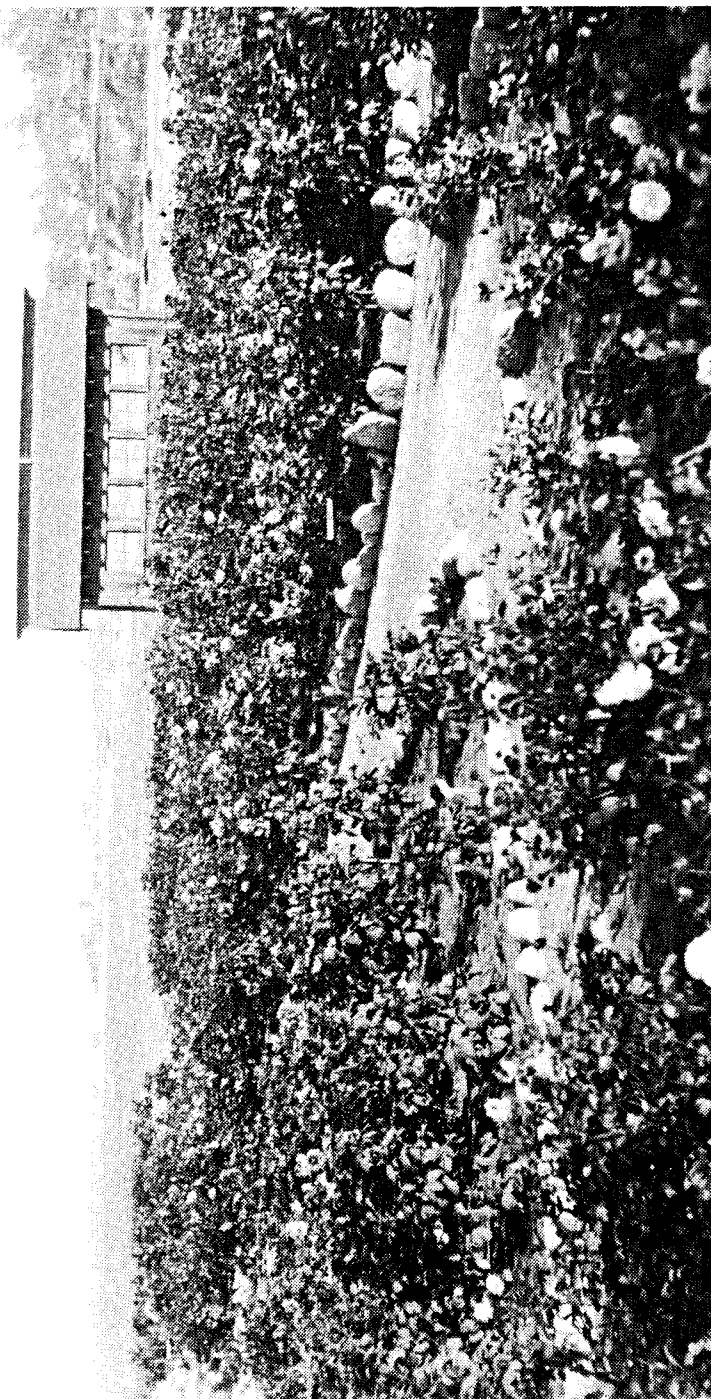
(Written by George Moser in the December 28, 1916 edition of the *Pacific Grove Progress*)

Pacific Grove has long been famous for her wealth of flowers. Where else can one find fuchsias, heliotropes, pelargoniums and other species, commonly known to the public as hot-house specimens only, growing in such riotous luxuriance, in the open ground, requiring practically no cultivation?

Now comes the dahlia, that long neglected flower, which we all remember in its primitive forms as seen in our grandmothers' gardens. The remarkable evolution of new forms and colorings, attained within the last few years, has placed this queen of flowers in the front rank. These countless varieties of the various types all reach their perfection of bloom in our wonderful coast climate.

One lady visitor, on first beholding the gardens at Lovers' Point, leaned against a post at the entrance for support, at the same time exclaiming, "Excuse me, but the sight of all those dahlias is really intoxicating." This may be an extreme case, but many of those less impressionable often visit the gardens many days in succession, finding among the hundreds of different varieties an inexhaustible field for admiration and delightful study. Even the members of the sterner sex are swept into the vortex. It is safe to say that there are more men who take a genuine interest in the dahlia than in any other flower. It may be said that the fancy of the men usually turns to the huge decorative and peony types and the more brilliant colorings. Love for the dahlia does not have to be cultivated. The most plebeian enjoys their charm along with the artist, who "raves" over the symphonies of yellows, reds, tans and mauves, pastel shades and sunset tints.

From a small beginning, dahlia culture in Pacific Grove has grown into an industry of prime importance. The plants, thanks to our remarkable climate, bloom continuously from June until November. The months of November and December find the tubers ready for the harvest. They are then lifted, the clumps separated and stored, awaiting the packing season beginning in January.



Dahlia Gardens at Lovers' Point and the "Lookout" built by the Women's Civic Club. Circa 1915.

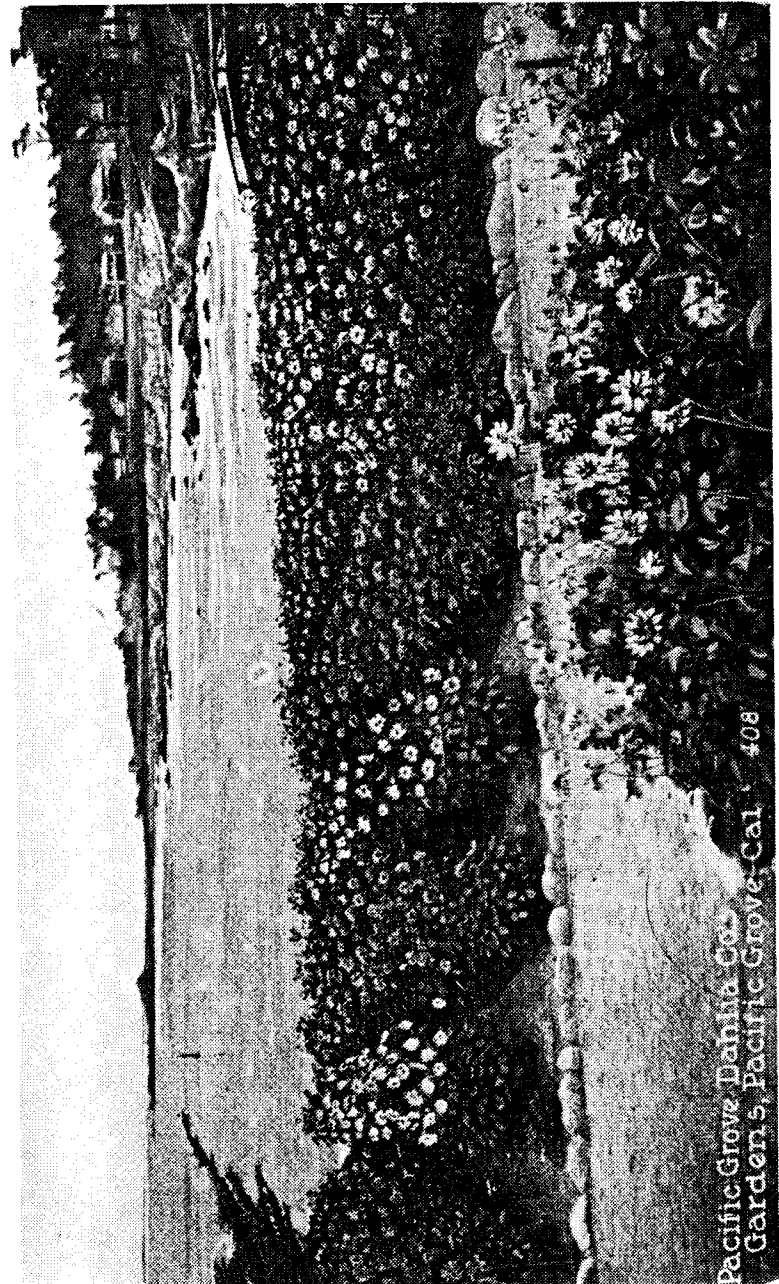
## Down The Piney Path

News from the Pacific Grove Review: September 24, 1904.

❖ By E.C. Davis

- We are informed that there is enough lumber on the beach near the Light House to build two or three homes, if it were of suitable dimensions. It was thrown from the wrecked steamer "Northland" and floated ashore.
- A Danish colony is about to settle in New Monterey. Several lots were purchased recently by a Dane from Nebraska who will build at once, and several other families are to follow in the Spring, all of whom will build houses immediately on their arrival.
- A pack animal from the Mammoth Stables fell over a cliff a distance of thirty feet, striking upon its head, then rolled over and fell twenty feet further. The hunters to Big Sur thought the animal would have to be shot, but they dressed the animal's injuries and with difficulty got him upon the trail again. He has not since shown any signs of being the worse for his unfortunate experience.
- Mariposa Hall in New Monterey, which has been the commissary for the 9th Cavalry, has been leased as a furniture store.
- The Coalinga Oil and Transportation Company is pushing their new pier out into the bay quite rapidly.
- For a healthful dessert, try sea moss farina at Sowell's.
- Mrs. C. S. Fackenthal on Laurel Avenue raises and hatches butterflies. She knows the food they like and gathers it for them.
- The name of the military base at Monterey has been changed from Ord Barracks to the Presidio of Monterey. The word Presidio is Spanish and means garrison or camp.
- Notice to water consumers— Please take note that no irrigation is allowed between the hours of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; 8 p.m. - 6 a.m. Street sprinkling is positively prohibited.

## Others Saw Us Through Postcards



Pacific Grove, Bahía de  
Garden, Pacific Grove, Cal. 408

Ruth Brace of 223 Fountain sent this postcard to Jeannette Gould in Capitola on August 2, 1922.



*View of Ocean View Boulevard at foot of Grand Avenue in 1911. Building in center is Julia Platt's home, now a Bed & Breakfast Inn.*

## Preservation Week And 1990 Heritage Awards

The Heritage Society of Pacific Grove announced the recipients of the 1990 Heritage Awards at its annual Historic Preservation Week program and awards presentation. As part of its efforts to encourage the preservation of Pacific Grove's architectural heritage, the Society's Heritage Awards program singles out for recognition owners of older buildings who restore or make major improvements on their properties. An award is also given for new buildings which retain the integrity of the surrounding neighborhood.

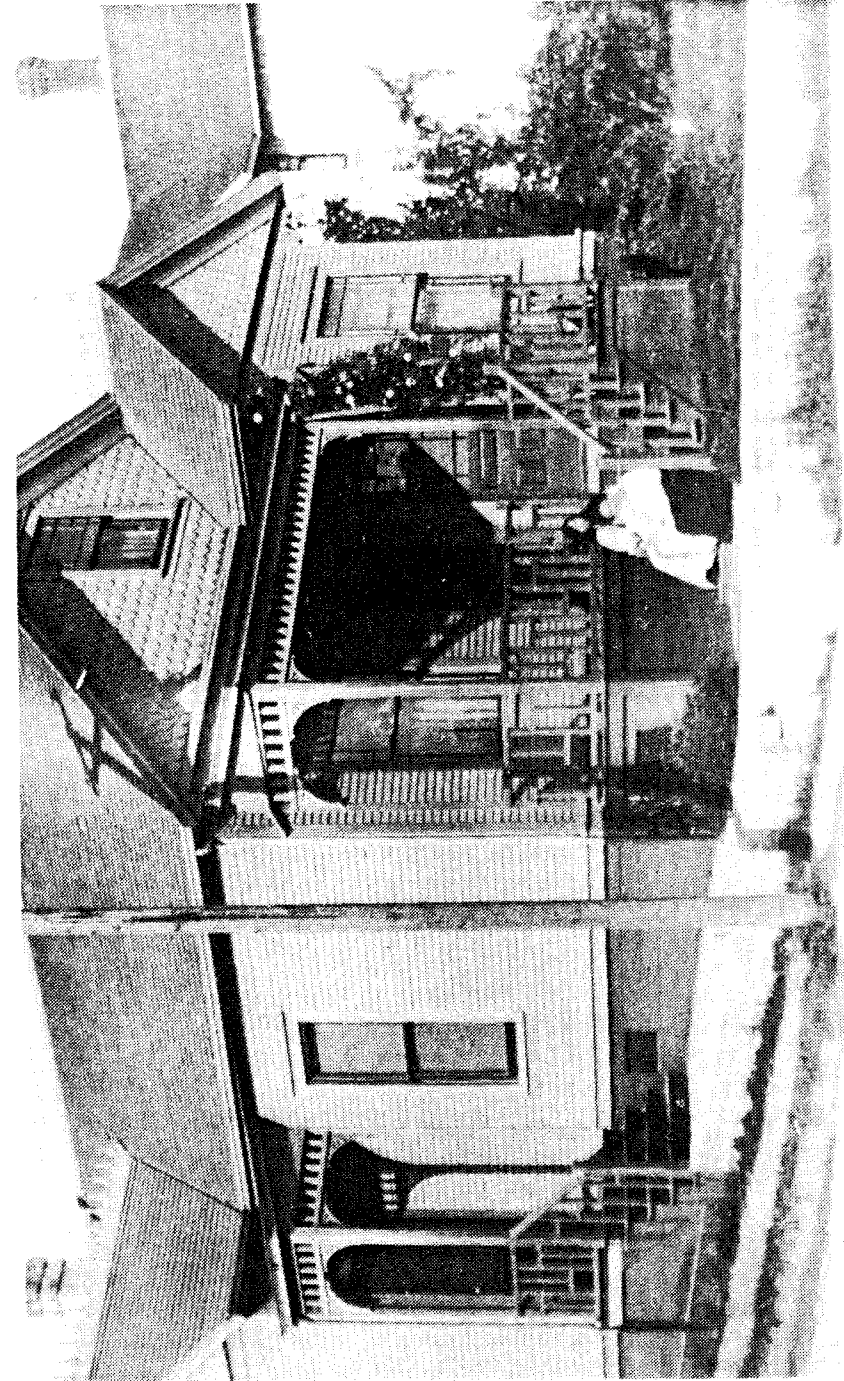
The Heritage House Award for restoration carried out in an exemplary manner went to the home located at 314 Walnut Street, owned by Ted Hermanson and Dan Malone. The Heritage Design Award went to the building addition to the Pasta Mia Restaurant at 481 Lighthouse Avenue (see below), designed by Bredthauer and Curran Associates. Letters of Commendation for property improvements were given to residences located at 207 18th Street, 211 Locust Street, 138 Forest Avenue, 712 Pine, 783 Lighthouse, and for the commercial building located at 301 Forest Avenue.

After the awards presentation, Kent Seavey, noted Preservation Consultant, gave a slide presentation on the early history and architecture of Pacific Grove. This was the same presentation that the Heritage Society contracted with Kent to give to each elementary school class in Pacific Grove. It was very well received by the audience (and by the students!). It is the Society's goal to create an awareness among young people of Pacific Grove's unique architectural heritage and to teach them to value buildings as cultural artifacts.



Jeanne McCombs Photo

481 1/2 Lighthouse, 1990 Heritage Design Award Winner



"Doctor & Topsy" on a Sunday morning in 1909 on their porch steps at 481 Lighthouse. The house was built in 1893 for Lizzie Merritt.

## Charm Of Gingerbread Houses

<i>It's a source of delight to vary the route</i>	<i>Now, 100 years later, the village</i>
<i>Each time I drive to Pacific Grove,</i>	<i>Is a picture of preservation,</i>
<i>With no two houses alike presenting</i>	<i>With tourists driving slowly by</i>
<i>A tapestry like Grandma Moses wove.</i>	<i>Pointing out in admiration,</i>
<i>Originally built for religious folk</i>	<i>The little plaques that date and honor</i>
<i>As temporary revival shelter;</i>	<i>The owner of long ago;</i>
<i>Small lots and single wall,</i>	<i>I feel that each has history</i>
<i>Construction was helter skelter</i>	<i>Though no one has told me so.</i>
<i>At first, but as time went by</i>	<i>Today, so many tracts are built alike,</i>
<i>With houses single file,</i>	<i>I'm proud as punch to own,</i>
<i>Streets were paved, flowers planted</i>	<i>A little house – that's one of a kind;</i>
<i>The newly built took on style.</i>	<i>So I will know when I am home.</i>

(Note: Written by Whitney Latham Lechich in honor of her mother Ella Cox Latham, R.N.)

## The Feast Of Little Lanterns

(As reported in the Monterey American on Friday, June 13, 1913)

The Girls' Glee Club of the Pacific Grove High School will present the charming operetta, "The Feast of the Little Lanterns", at the High School June 14. The operetta deals with a Chinese legend, in which it says that an ancestral estate cannot pass to the heirs unless there is more than one living child in the family, but reverts to the royal domain. "Princess Chan", sung by Lois Salsman, tells how she and her sister and her brother were playing in the woods together and became separated and she has never been able to trace them.

The "Feast of Little Lanterns" has arrived, which is the time when she should inherit the estate, but since she is the only living child, she is about to lose her lovely home. Her little Chinese friends and her maid Wee Ling and governess On Long are sympathizing with her when a little Japanese juggler maid, Mai Ku, appears with some other Japanese. They sing and giggle and do tricks for the princess, and she is charmed. After a time it is discovered that the little juggler maid is the long lost sister, and happiness is restored to the two sisters. Every girl in the Glee Club has a special part and the opera will abound in catchy melodies. Sing Lo is played by Philoma Goldsworthy and Sing Hi is played by her sister Edna. Elmarie Hurlbert plays the part of Yum Yum. The proceeds will be used to swell the music fund.

## Philoma Goldsworthy Scholarship

The Heritage Society is pleased and proud to announce that it has established the "Pacific Grove Heritage Society Philoma Goldsworthy Scholarship" to be awarded annually to a Pacific Grove High School senior entering college to study either Architecture, History, Preservation or related fields.

In 1991 the scholarship will be for \$500 in cash. This award is being established as a permanent reminder of Philoma's continued belief in and outstanding support of the Heritage Society since its founding in 1976.

### New Members

Patrick & Gayle Price	Bill & Jane Bowles
Mr. & Mrs. James R. McKee	Gladys R. Thompson
Judy Thompson	Barbara Locke

### 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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