



# THE BOARD AND BATTEN

*Newsletter of the Pacific Grove Heritage Society*

February / March 1993

## The Inside Stories

### ☞ E. Cooke Smith

President of the  
Security State Bank in  
Pacific Grove for 53  
years

### ☞ Down The Piney Path

Young ladies go on  
daily tramps

Ghostly serenade

Home of Mr. Morgan  
Everts invaded

Choral Society  
meeting

### ☞ A Pacific Grove Pagoda

The only one of its  
kind on the Peninsula

### ☞ A Chinese Wedding

A grand time with  
transparencies, music  
and taper-burning

### ☞ News From *The Tide*

Weekly digest from  
the late 1930s and  
early 1940s.



1941 photo

*E. Cooke Smith, 1862-1946*

The Victorian Home Tour has been moved from April to October.  
It will be the Sunday following the Saturday Butterfly Parade.

## Bankers Association Pays Honor To E. Cooke Smith

(From P. G. Tide 5/23/41)

**E.** Cooke Smith, President of the Security State Bank, Pacific Grove, will be honored by the members of the California Bankers Association, now meeting in Pasadena for their 50th anniversary convention, Friday morning, (May 23), when they present him with a gold medalion in recognition of his 53 years of distinguished service to California Banking. This presentation will be part of an impressive ceremony in which 30 banking pioneers who have given 50 years or more active service to California banking will participate.

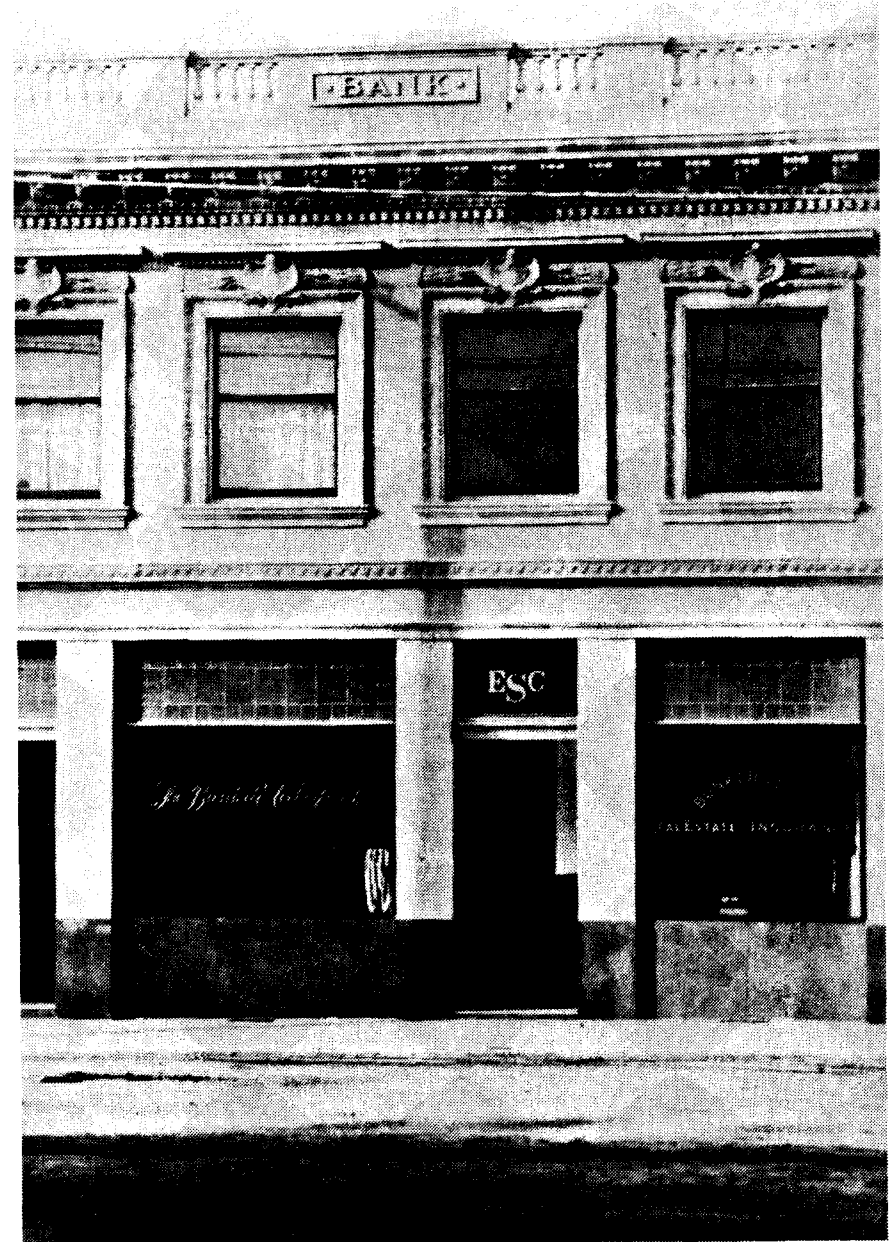
Mr. Smith has been president of the Security State Bank in Pacific Grove for 53 years. He organized the Bank of E. Cooke Smith in 1889. The name of this institution was later changed to Security State Bank. Among other positions, he was Pacific Grove's first city clerk.

In addition to his banking activities, Mr. Smith has been liquidator of Western Pacific Mortgage & Guarantee Company and Western Group Securities Company for 17 years. He has played an important part in civic affairs in Pacific Grove, having been a member of the city council for 29 years, during part of which time he served as Chairman of The Board. He is president of the Pacific Grove Museum.

### More on E. Cooke Smith

When Mr. Smith founded his bank in 1889, he ran it from his real estate office in a small building at 569 Lighthouse. As the bank became more successful, he sold his real estate business to A. E. Bunker in 1897. In 1905, he demolished his small wooden bank and built his new bank, still standing on the corner of Lighthouse & Forest (see photo on next page). He rented out space to Mr. Bunker for his real estate office. His mother, Mrs. Celia Dickinson Smith, lived upstairs until her death at age 83 in 1918. Probably because of her son's real estate and banking connections, Mrs. Smith built and owned many homes in early Pacific Grove. You will notice her name, Mrs. C.D. Smith, on some of our plaques in town.

Mr. Smith was president of the Chamber of Commerce until he was elected to the City's Board of Trustees in 1913. He married Patricia Hardwick (known as Polly) of Olympia, Washington in 1917 and they made their home at 609 Gibson. In 1922, his bank became the Security State Bank and his building now houses the First Interstate Bank. He died in early 1946 at age 84. His granddaughter now lives in Olympia.



Bank of E. Cooke Smith at 569-571 Lighthouse built in 1905. Photo circa 1915. Now home of First Interstate Bank.

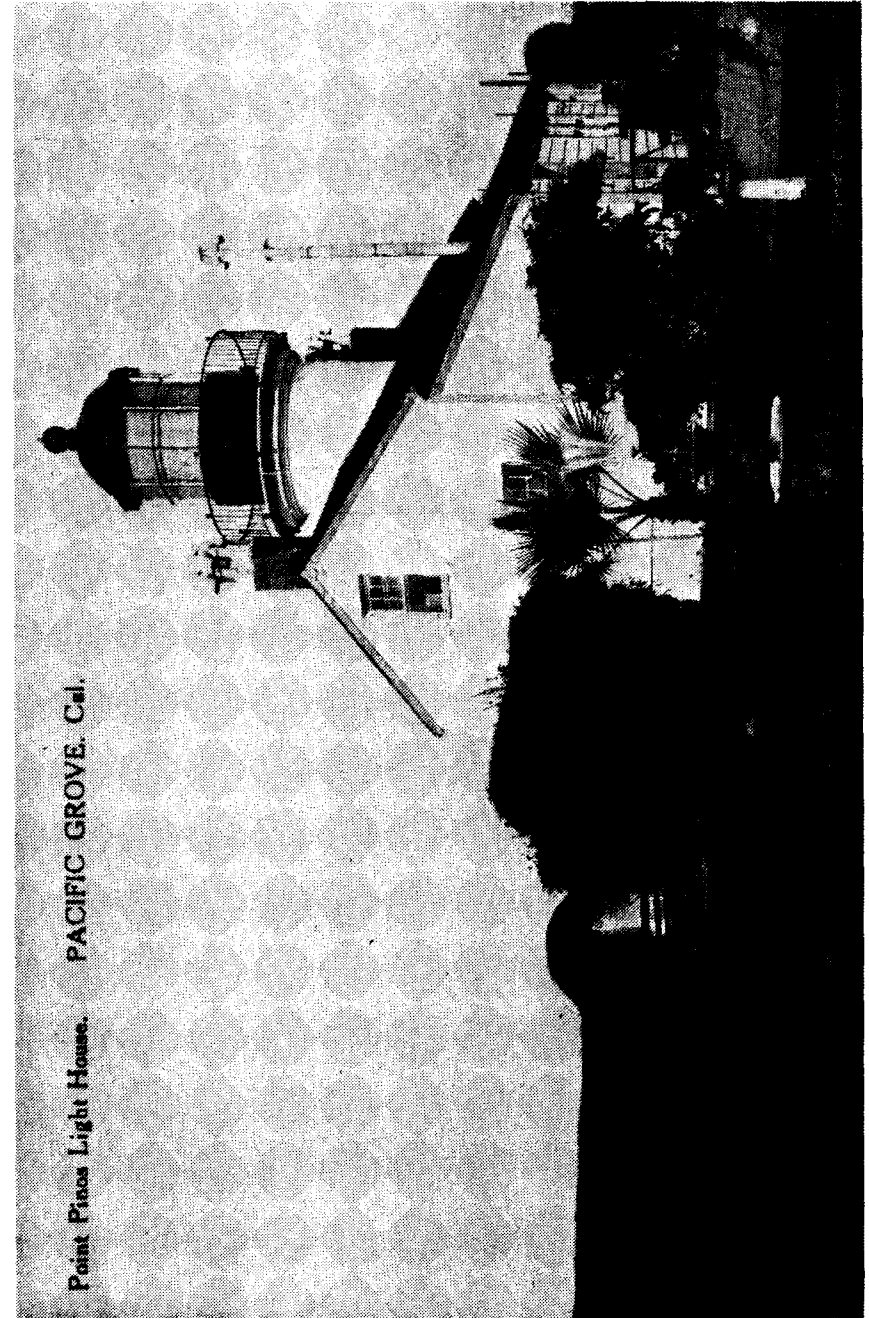
## Down The Piney Path

News from the Monterey ARGUS, March—April 1886

❖ by E. C. Davis

- + Captain Luce enjoyed the luxury of ripe strawberries from the vines he has under cultivation at the Pt Pinos Lighthouse. How is that for climatic conditions.
- + The young ladies of the Grove have organized an amateur pedestrian club and daily tramps are made to various interesting parts of the coast. Some of the "boys" (from town) are maneuvering to have the by-laws changed so as to admit big-footed members.
- + Since the organization of the singing school there is music in the air night and day.
- + The latest novelty in building is double housing, sometimes called "flats."
- + It is said a ghost and several shades were out serenading on a late rainy night. To shoot or not to shoot—so we went to popping corn.
- + The Chinese fishermen of Carmel are moving over to this side, bag and baggage.
- + Whew! but didn't it rain last night. But if anyone really wants to know how hard it did pour down, let them hunt up one of the seven young men who tramped out to the Grove and all around it looking for a rumored dance and then tramped back again through the rain. F.M. says his overcoat weighed about 150 pounds this morning.
- + J.O. Johnson, prop'r Pacific Grove Skating Rink. Dear Sir, Will you kindly permit your former patrons and fun-loving friends the privilege of a run on roller-skates next full moon, Sat. evening, the 17th Inst. Yours truly, R.G. Mitchell.
- + J. B. Norton has the outline of a grocery store to take his attention.
- + A large number of Grove people invaded the home of Mr. Morgan Everts, and finding him at home with his wife and daughter, made things lively till—well, time to go home. It was a good-bye call.
- + The Pacific Grove Choral Society met at the parlor of Mrs. Merrill Titemore Thursday evening and had a delightful "sing."

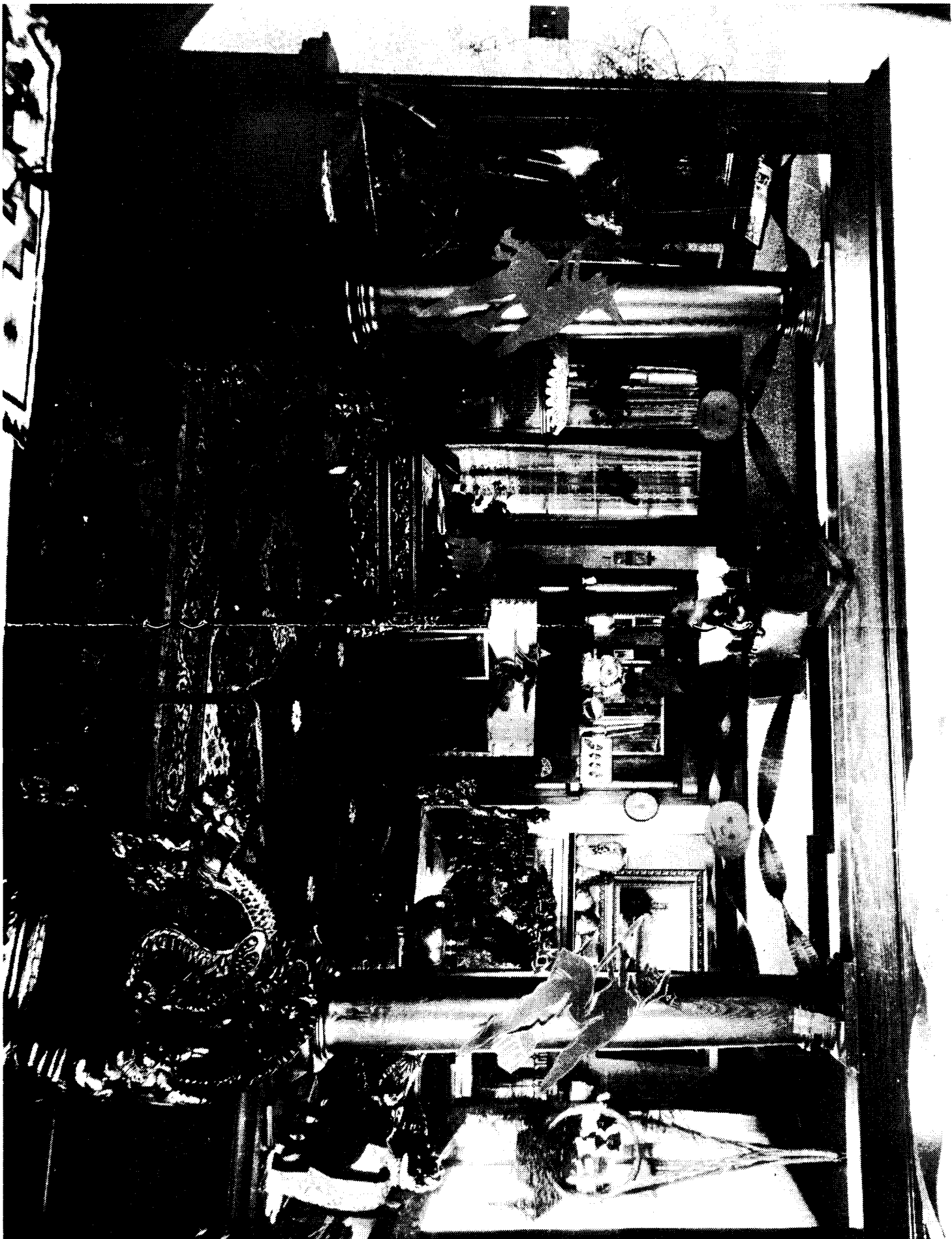
## Others Saw Us Through Postcards



Early "hand colored" postcard published by the Culp Brothers of Pacific Grove.

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*Early undated photo of a parlor all decorated for Halloween. Perhaps it is your house!*



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C. B. Clark photo from the Pat Hathaway Collection

## A Pacific Grove Pagoda

*(from the 1/14/54 issue of the P. G. Tribune)*

The building, as far as we know the only one of its kind on the Peninsula, is huddled at the edge of the sand dunes near Asilomar. Its official address is 1501 Pico.

The pagoda was built in China, copy of a Peiping tea house, and brought to San Francisco for the 1915 exposition by a Dr. Hanna. This gentleman, an old China hand, loved the Peninsula. After the exposition, he moved the pagoda to the dunes. When Mrs. Richard Adams bought the house in 1951, she added a room and some authentic Chinese carvings, including a door frame from an old Joss House in early Placerville.

There is an upstairs master bedroom. From a balcony surrounding the bedroom, a bridge leads to the nearest sand dune. Downstairs is a living room with an octagonal window and fine fireplace, a kitchen, and a sort of dining room which sometimes used as a bedroom. The bathroom is upstairs. There is an outdoor fireplace done in oriental style.

## A Chinese Wedding

*(from the Monterey Californian of Jan. 22, 1878)*

A Chinese wedding took place last Friday afternoon at Chinatown. We were not there, but our reporter was, and he gave us a high old statement of their proceedings. After failing to effect an entrance into the room where the preliminary ceremonies were to take place, the door of which was strongly guarded by Amado Herrera, the Constable, our reporter obtained an empty box and stood on it for an hour. A priest was there looking like old Confucius. The bride was there, dressed in scarlet with a large fan, constantly held in front of her face, that none might view her angelic features. The groom was there also, dressed in sky blue. Reporter was unable, not having an interpreter along, to give all the details. After their preliminaries were concluded, the bride was taken into the next room, by the Chinese priest, in company with many Chinese onlookers and then and there married. The Chinese groom was also taken to an adjacent house across the street, and went through a lot of ceremonies, with the priest, and was declared duly married to the aforesaid Chinese woman. That's all. But hold! While all this was going on, about a dozen Mongolian cooks were busy at work, cooking a sumptuous repast for this fellow and his bride, consisting of birds and bird's eggs, chickens, ducks, fish, Chinese mysteries, etc. Our reporter states that there was also a grand time at night with transparencies, music and taper-burning. Also, that Herrera got away with five chickens, four ducks and nine bowls of rice during the banqueting.

1954 photo



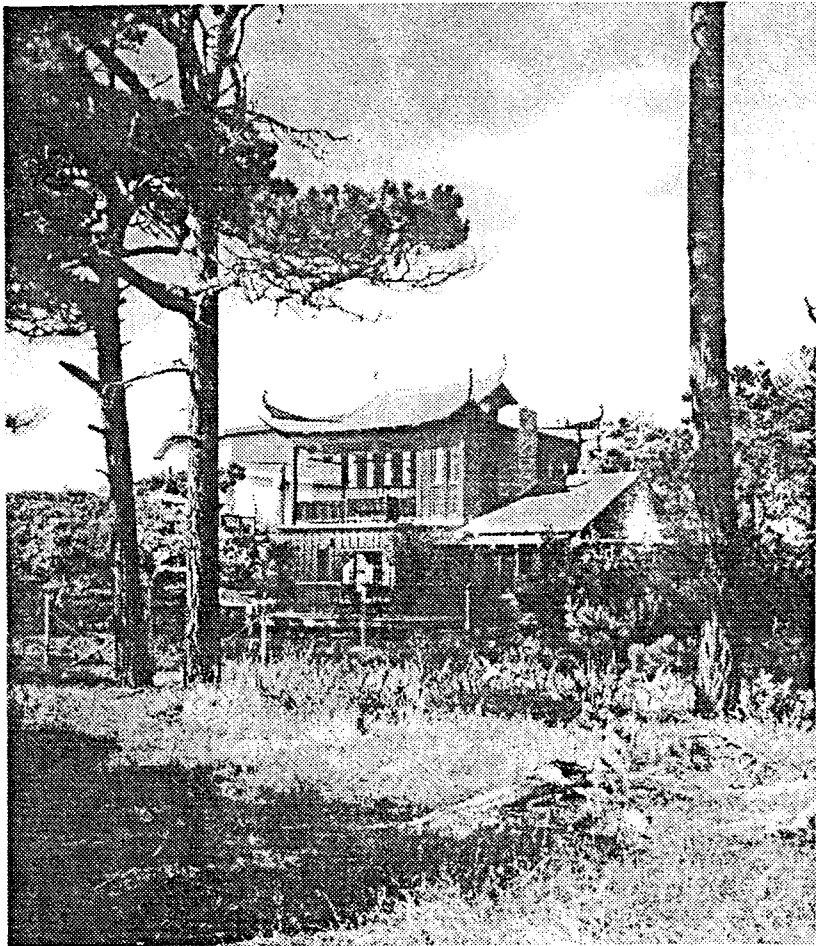
Old Chinese pagoda at 1501 Pico.



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December 2001/January 2002



Courtesy of Alex Irving

1982 photo of 1501 Pico.

The house is painted a bright red in the original photo.

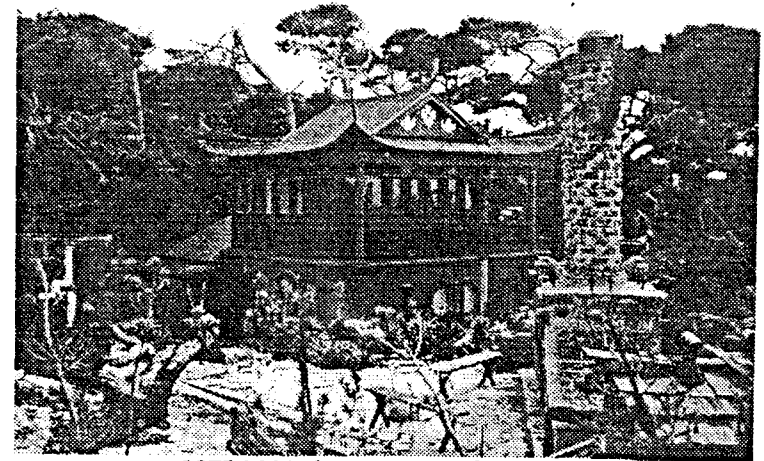
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## A Pacific Grove Pagoda

Contrary to local legend, unwittingly perpetuated by me in a 1993 Board and Batten, this house was not built in China, was not part of the 1915 Exposition in San Francisco, and did not come to Pacific Grove in a barge! The following information is from a letter sent to Alan Peel by Alex Irving of Laguna Beach back in 1997. Mr. Irving's wife, Winnie, was a cousin of Helen Hanna, the daughter of the first owner, Dr. Bert Hanna.

Mr. Irving writes: "In 1927-1928 my wife (Winnie) took a year off between high school and entering the University of Nebraska. This was so she could spend that time with her cousin Helen. Helen lived in Oakland with her parents, Dr. Bert Hanna and his wife (also named) Winnie. Each Friday afternoon the family left Oakland to come to Pacific Grove to the Chinese Tea House. Dr. Hanna had spent some years in the Orient and wanted an authentic tea house. He got the plans and had a contractor build the outer shell (probably around 1925/1926), intending to finish the interior on weekends. The building was to be a guest house with the main dwelling to be up near the road. Dr. Hanna died before he was able to finish.

My first visit was about 1940. At that time Winnie Hanna and her son Bob lived there. My wife and I stayed there a couple of days, and continued to visit them for several years. I remember there was a ladder on the wall that took one up to the second level. Bob and I slept up there and the ladies slept on the ground floor. My wife remembered the long drive down from Oakland in a touring car with side curtains in the winter. In 1927 that was quite a drive! She also remembered Asilomar under construction. Sometimes soldiers from Fort Ord would break in while the Hannas were home in Oakland. As my wife Winnie is now gone, I am likely the only one that knows the story, and thought it would be good to jot some of it down."



1975-1980 photo courtesy of Alex Irving.

## News From The Tide

(The Tide was a weekly digest of news concerning Pacific Grove, Monterey and Carmel published in the late 1930s and early 1940s.)

### What Street Vanishes

What Street, Pacific Grove's "Believe it or not" oddity is no more. This week the city council enacted an ordinance changing its name to "Ridge Road". The street is one block long and enters Lighthouse avenue at the Mikel cottage court. What Street originally achieved its name when Del Monte Properties Company offered the Pacific Grove Acres tract for sale. Company officials neglected to provide it with a name. The engineer preparing the final maps, seeking to call their attention to it, wrote, "What street?" on the map. The map was sent to the county recorder's office without further examination and "What street?" became "What Street." (5/5/39)

### City Employees Must Be Good Citizens

Mayor Ernest K. Bramblett announced at Wednesday's meeting of the city council that he has completed an investigation into the status of municipal employees in regard to citizenship. He reported that five had not registered to vote, two of those that were registered failed to vote in the recent election and two are not citizens, but now have taken out their first naturalization papers. The mayor mentioned no names. (5/5/39)

### Council To Permit Pin-Ball Games

Pacific Grove today has a number of pin-ball machines in operation in various downtown business establishments. There are more to be installed soon. Permission to operate the games was granted Fraklyn Miller, representing a Monterey amusement concern, by the city council on Wednesday night. A license fee of \$3.00 per machine was inserted in the new ordinance code. Miller paid his fees this morning. Miller was asked by Mayor Bramblett whether any gambling is connected with the machines. He was assured by Miller that each will bear a notice informing the public that the game is for amusement only and that no cash, premiums or prizes will be awarded. Pin-ball games are not to be played by minors. Mayor Bramblett warned that if any gambling is found to be connected with the pin-ball machines, the apparatus will be confiscated. Pin-ball machines have been in operation in neighboring cities for a long time. These are the first for Pacific Grove. (12/6/40)

### Historic House To Change Hands After Many Years

Recorded in the court house at Salinas this week was the sale of the historic Harper home on Fifteenth Street (137 15th), near Central Avenue. The new purchasers are Mr. & Mrs. Walter C. Klinkle. The home was sold by Sinclair O. Harper, prominent United States government engineer, who was the first white child to be born in Pacific Grove, this same house being the scene of his birth. He is an uncle of J. Harold Harper, member of the city council. (11/28/41)

(Editor's note: This house was either moved or demolished as there is now a parking lot at this location.)

## Election Of Officers

Irene Tope was elected President of the Heritage Society at the February 10th Board of Directors meeting held at the Barn. Other officers elected were Geoff Welch as Vice President, Don Beals as Treasurer and Carrol Patterson as Secretary. New Board members elected at the annual general membership meeting were Bobbie Hall, Bill Edeen, Elizabeth Moore and Tim & Kathy Cadigan. Incumbent Carrol Patterson was reelected to another three year term. Sirrah Harris, Patricia Lewis, Doris Vance, Kathie Taylor and Lee Purcell stepped down from the Board and were thanked for their service. In special recognition of his more than 12 years of service, Sirrah Harris was named a Director Emeritus. The complete Board of Directors is listed on the last page.

## New Members

Kathy & Tim Cadigan  
Lloyd Day  
Myron & Betsy Deibel  
Leigh Gray  
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Gutshall  
Colleen Farrell Johnson  
Mrs. Allene Miller  
Elizabeth H. Moore

Lisa & Scott Nickerson  
Robert O'Neill  
Bill & Linda Sabo  
Martin & Deborah Schopp  
Billy Shannon  
Greg & Stacey Vasey  
Pam Verduin  
Len & Shirley Williams

## 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.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_  
State: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Lynne Harter Elizabeth Moore  
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