



THE BOARD AND BATTEN

Newsletter of the Pacific Grove Heritage Society

February / March 1994

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Their own nursery
business and more

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Circa 1930.

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Gathering up
whalebones on the
beach

Seals Seen Disporting

Camp Meeting June
15th

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Young Bess

Circa 1907

Quilt Show Preview Party - April 15
Good Old Days and Quilt Show - April 16, 17

Bessie Adelia Washburn Hazard

Bess was born in Loraine, Ohio on June 26, 1880. Her parents were John Henry & Aretta Washburn. John was a carpenter. Bess grew up and was educated in Ohio. In the early 1900s, Bess, her parents, and her brothers Orville and Walter, moved to California. They settled in Pacific Grove because John's aunts, the Bayless sisters, had settled here after first living in Seaside after moving from Ohio. The 1907 directory lists the Washburn family as renting the house at 520 Park. It also listed both Bess and Orville as being employees of the E. B. Lewis jewelry store on Lighthouse. In 1910, John Henry and his family bought the house and property at 410 Chestnut, where they would reside for many years.

Bess became a school teacher and taught at various locations within the county, including Corral de Tierra in 1916-17. Eventually she found herself teaching school in San Simeon, California in 1920.

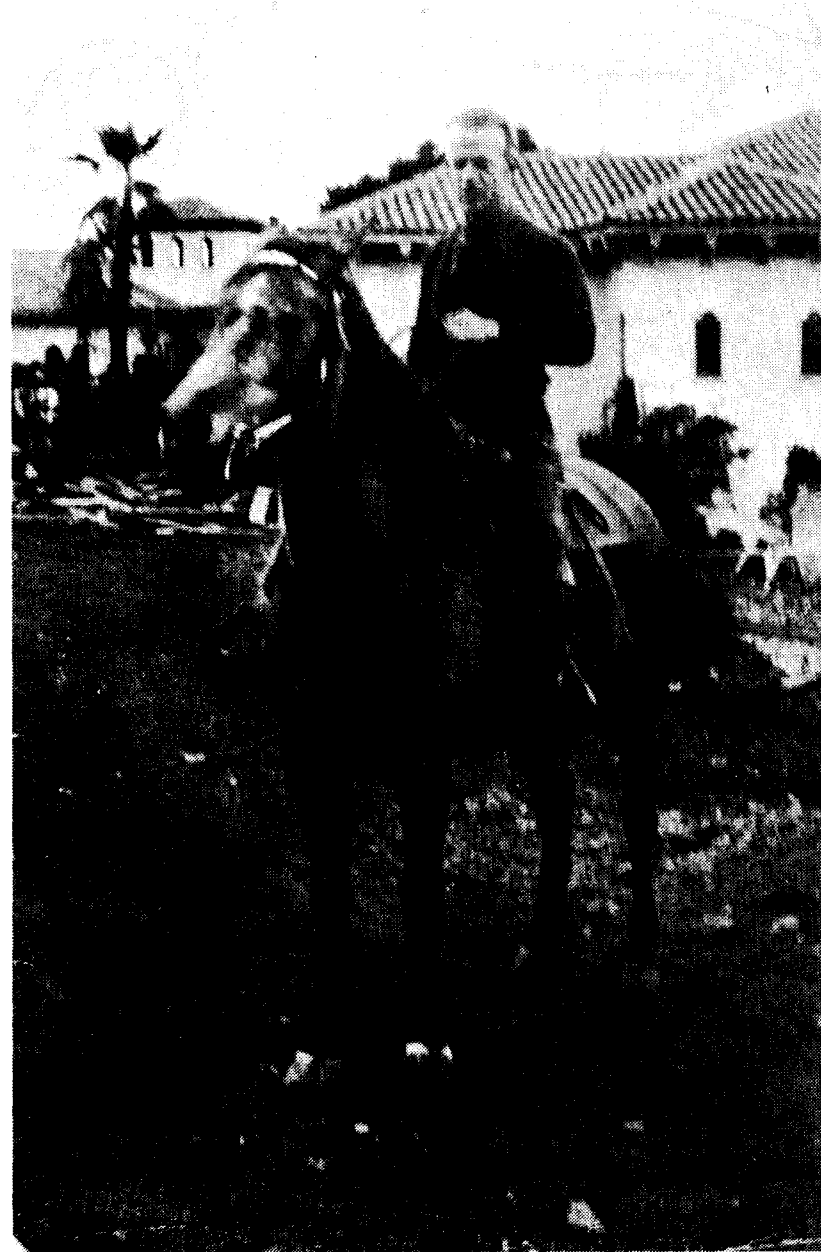
It was in San Simeon, that Bess met Hugh.

Hugh Dodson Hazard

Hugh was born in New Orleans in 1879. Nothing is known about his childhood or education, but prior to 1917, he was a member of the Texas Ranger Border Service. He was involved in several skirmishes along the Mexican border and received minor injuries. On August 8, 1917, Hugh enlisted in the army at Fort McDowell, California. He became a proficient pilot and was once wounded in battle while piloting his plane. In 1919, He was discharged as a Sergeant First Class from the army with travel pay to Fresno. His discharge papers listed his occupation as a draftsman.

He immediately became involved in the nursery business in Fresno, soon becoming a partner in the California Nursery Co. in Niles. In this capacity, he went to San Simeon to meet with W. R. Hearst regarding the landscaping for his ranch house, now known as Hearst Castle. Mr. Hearst was so impressed with Hugh that he asked him to name his own salary and stay at the property to oversee the complete landscaping at what he called "Camp Hearst." Hugh would work closely with Julia Morgan in the design and selection of all the plantings on the estate.

It was in San Simeon that Hugh met Bess.



Hugh "Hap" Hazard on a horse called "Dynamite" at San Simeon in 1920.

Hugh and Bess

After her teaching assignment was up in San Simeon, Bess moved back with her parents at 410 Chestnut in 1921. Hugh remained in San Simeon. It was at this time that Hugh began an ardent campaign of writing letters and sending telegrams to Bess in Pacific Grove. Initially, the letters were more of admiration and praise for the "good woman" Bess. Then suddenly he spoke of love. He left San Simeon, wanting to be closer to, now, his "dear" Bess, but ended up in the Oakland area finding a job as a columnist for the San Francisco Examiner. His letters continued.

In mid 1922, he was working as an assistant to the golf writer for the Examiner. But on December 16, 1922, he began his own series of weekly articles for the "amateur gardener" on the real estate pages of the Examiner. Soon afterwards, his editor sent him, with a list of questions, to interview Luther Burbank. Hugh was in awe of the great man and ended up just listening to him talk for hours. He asked no questions and took no notes, so he was fired. But his passion for flowers and botany flared.

Finding no work in the Oakland and Oroville areas, and missing and aching for his Bess, Hugh proposed to her on July 15, 1923 ... in a letter of course. He pleaded to marry her "at any time and at any place." At the age of 43, Bess accepted and they were married on August 7th, 1923 at the Methodist Church in Pacific Grove with the Rev. C. E. Irons officiating. (They were to have no children.) Hugh got a job with the Monterey Nursery and they lived in Monterey for a short time, then moved to 409 Chestnut, across the street from Bess's parents.

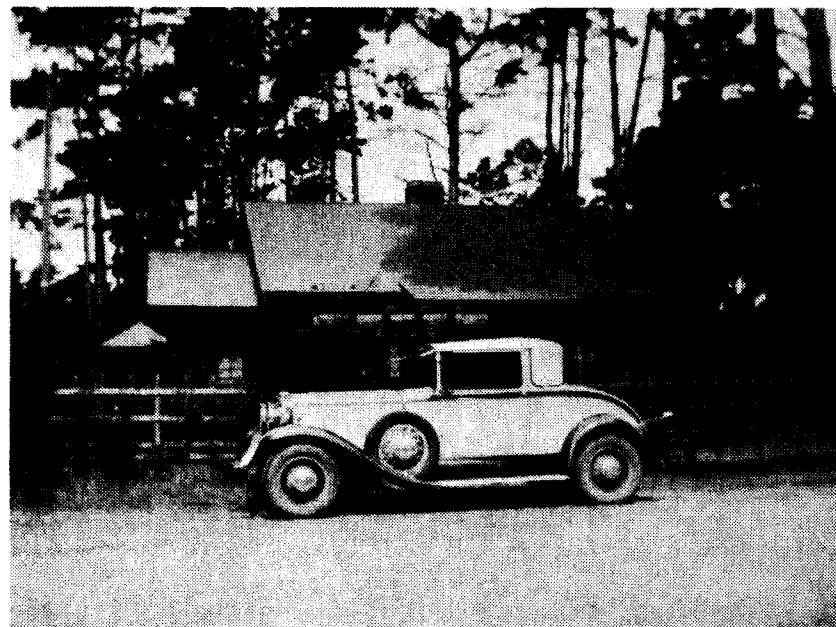
In 1925, Hugh and Bess began their own nursery business on the vacant lots owned by her parents at 414 Chestnut. When Bess's parents died, they moved into their house at 410 Chestnut. The business did all right for awhile, but their (Hugh's?) real love was in research. They began, working as a team, their quest for the "perfect, pure white" fuchsia. Their quest became known here and abroad, and their fame and the fame of their "little nursery" in Pacific Grove spread. For many years their business had license number 1, issued by the State Department of Agriculture. Hugh shipped all over the world and collected flower and seed catalogs from all over the world. He also invented a Fuchsia card game, but apparently never marketed it.

Finally after 18 years, they introduced the "Bride," the first all-white fuchsia. In September 1943, the U.S. Patent Office issued patent number 452,146, the first ever for a fuchsia.

Unfortunately, it proved too successful. The demand was too great and they could not grow enough at their nursery. The weather was inconsistent and some entire crops were less than perfect as a pinkish tint would appear. The plant was delicate and hard to ship. Legal problems arose with his exclusive distributor, his old partner from the California Nursery in Niles. And Bess became sick.

Although not officially closing the nursery, Hugh went to work for W.R. Holman and ran the nursery department for years in the annex behind the building. He became a familiar site walking back and forth between Holman's and his home on Chestnut. He continued his letter writing to Bess via daily notes whenever he left the house. Hugh also did some free-lance landscape design work for selected clients on the Peninsula.

Bess died on July 5, 1960. Hugh missed his dear "Otherfellow" and his health and activities began to decline. The nursery became overgrown and unkempt. Hugh took ill on December 31, 1965 and was rushed to Salinas Hospital. He died on February 5, 1966. He was buried at Golden Gate National Cemetery in San Bruno. His work continues to flourish at Hearst Castle and some of his plants continue to flourish in Pacific Grove.



"Edgewood" 1936, near Washington Park. "One of our hangin' out places in P.G. My Bess could and did drive that thing 90 miles per hour on way to Yosemite. 90 m.p.h. No foolin'."



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Looking west on unpaved Gibson near intersection with Congress, circa 1912. House at near left is 701 Congress (1909) and house across the street is 702 Congress.

Others Saw Us Through Postcards

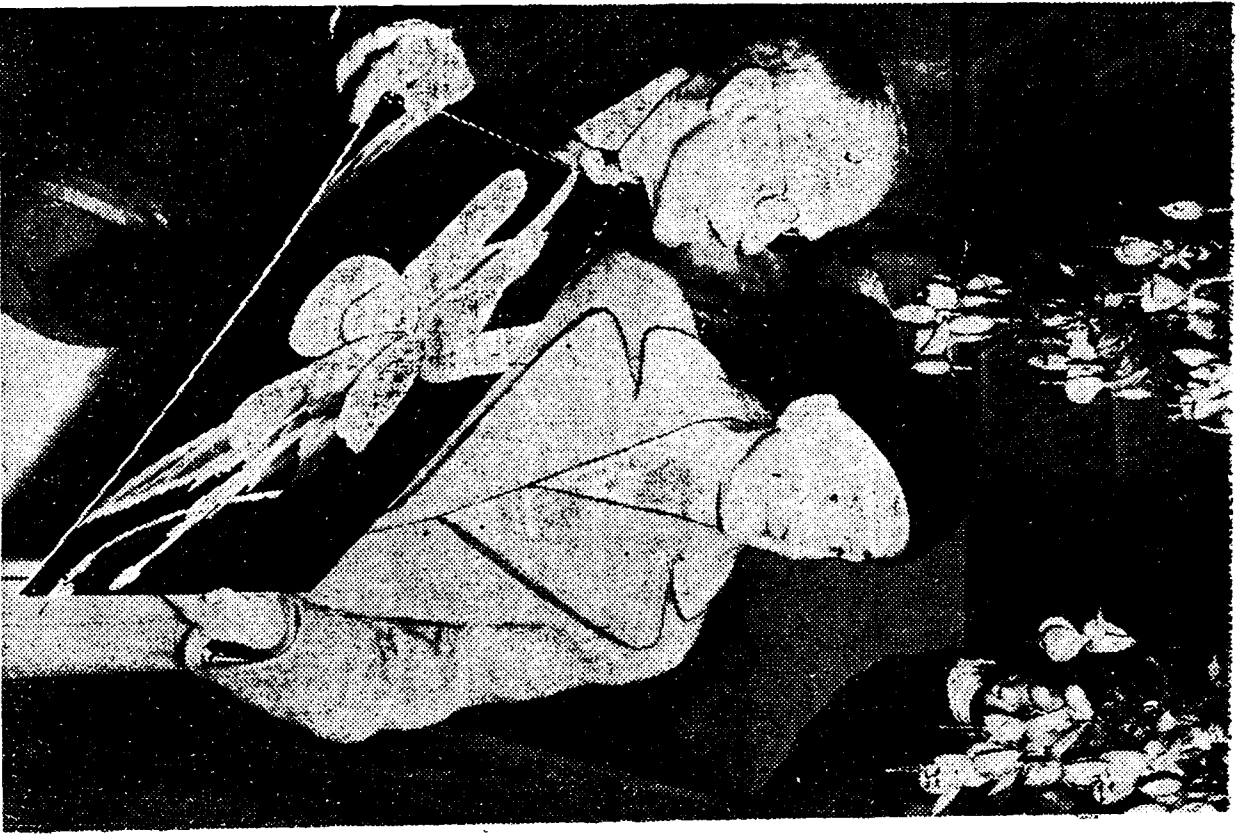
Fuchsias - I 1/16 West

SPECIES - HYBRIDS - CROSS-BREEDS
 BIGENERS - VARIETIES -
 Hazard & Hazard,
 Specialists
 414-416 Chestnut St.,
 PACIFIC GROVE,
 CALIFORNIA.

LARGEST COLLECTION OF
 FUCHSIAS IN THE
 WORLD.

PLEASE FOLLOW ARROW → to the FUCHSIA GARDENS.

Postcard drawn by Hugh Hazard to mail to those customers wishing to visit him. Circa 1930.



Hugh and Bessie Hazard are showing a picture of their newly developed all-white fuchsia, "The Bride" prior to the California Spring Garden Show in Lakeside Park.

1943 Newspaper Photo

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Down The Piney Path

News of old Pacific Grove from the Monterey Californian
(January - May 1878)

❖ by E. C. Davis

- Parties from San Francisco have been gathering up whalebones on the beach at and near this place for two weeks past for shipment. We have not, as yet, been able to ascertain the purpose for which they are collected, but bid them good-speed in their work, as it is the only cleaning up we have seen in a long time, and we are glad to see them taken out of sight. (Ed. Bones used to be burned for charcoal.)
- A cottage was divided into rooms and furnished at the Pacific Grove last week, as a lodging house, opposite the restaurant.
- We hear it repeated that Dr. Davis, of Salinas City, has taken the contract to run the restaurant, this year, at the Pacific Grove Retreat.
- Large numbers of seals may be seen disporting themselves along the foam-crested waves along the shore by Pacific Grove.
- The U.S. lighthouse steamer Shubrick visits Pt. Pinos. This was the lighthouse inspector on his regular tour of inspection.
- The Pacific Grove Retreat is to open May 15.
- A Camp Meeting is to be held at Pacific Grove Retreat starting June 15th and will last two weeks.
- Mr. Johnson of Salinas plans a rifle gallery and horse-operated swing for Pacific Grove this summer.

Good Old Days in April

Pacific Grove's Good Old Days celebration kicks off with the Quilt Show Preview Party the evening of Friday, April 15 from 7 to 9 p.m. at Chautauqua Hall and goes on through the weekend with a parade Saturday morning, Crafts Faire on Lighthouse Avenue, and the Quilt Show at Chautauqua Hall both Saturday and Sunday.

The Preview Party and Quilt Show are Heritage Society fundraising events. They are interesting, fun and worth your time and money to support. We look forward to seeing you there. Tickets will be available at the door.

Calendar of Events - 1994

- April 15: Quilt Show Preview Party
- April 16,17: Quilt Show
- April 16,17: Good Old Days Celebration downtown
- May 12: Preservation Week Home Awards
- July 25-31: Feast of Lanterns
- October 8: Butterfly Parade
- October 9: 25th Annual Victorian Home Tour
- December 6: Christmas At The Inns.

Election of Officers - 1994

At our annual general membership meeting on February 9, the following new members were elected to the Board: Bob Gunn, Lucinda Jaconette, Christie Martine, Patrick Price, John Renz, and Pam Verduin. At the regular Board meeting, Geoff Welch was elected President, succeeding Irene Tope. Thanks Irene. Pat Harr was elected Vice President and Don Beals and Carrol Patterson continue as Treasurer and Secretary. The full Board is listed on the last page.

New Members

Lars Randolph

Nancy Stabler

Ned Fleming

Bill & Jamie McCampbell

Sarah J. Diehl & J. Clay Moltz

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: _____

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State: _____

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Phone: _____

✉ Please return to The Pacific Grove Heritage Society
Box 1007 ❖ Pacific Grove, CA 93950 ❖ Telephone 372-2898

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Pacific Grove, CA 93950

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(408) 372-2898
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