



THE BOARD AND BATTEN

Newsletter of the Pacific Grove Heritage Society

June / July 1994

Calander of Events

☞ July 25-31

Feast of Lanterns

☞ October 8

Butterfly Parade

☞ October 9

25th Annual
Victorian Home Tour

☞ December 6

Christmas At The Inns



Superintendent J. O. Johnson in front of Pacific Grove Gate on Lighthouse at Grand, circa 1890.

**25th Annual Victorian Home Tour
Sunday October 9, 1994**

Pioneer Tells of Grove In 1880s

(As told by John R. Cummings in the Tribune of 12/20/32)

I came to Pacific Grove Retreat about 1885, when I was seven years old, and it is amusing to me to look back and see how the little church camp of that time has grown. In fact I think it has entirely outgrown the expectations of its founders.

The chapel as it was called, now used by the boy scouts as a gymnasium (Chautauqua Hall), was the church and school house combined. The little room on the west end was the school room. A Miss Kate Perry doled out knowledge and hickory stick to us kids. Later a Miss Fanny Lowe did the same thing.

The town consisted of a flock of white canvas tents all around the chapel which were taken down in the winter and stored in the chapel. The business district consisted of a grocery store about the size of a cigar box about where the west side door of Holman's is now. The post office was just next door, not any larger than J. B. Norton's grocery. Mr. J. O. Johnson was agent for the Pacific Improvement company of that time, postmaster, and general handyman for everything; he also had a livery stable which stood across Grand avenue between Fred Cope's and Gregory's present business concerns.

Johnson later built a big stable back to Laurel avenue. All passengers were hauled from Monterey by horse-drawn stages by "J. O." as everyone called him. The mail was distributed openly by "J. O." every evening. Everyone assembled in front of the P. O. to hear their name read out. A big sign, "Pacific Grove Retreat" (Please see cover photo) reached across the street from where Pease the druggist is now located (now Male Call) to the present site of Holman's.

We small boys made our money gathering pine cones and selling them to tent dwellers in the summer. They folded their tents like the Arabs in the winter and the camp was deserted until the Pacific Improvement company spread them again in the spring. South of Lighthouse avenue was forest. Everything except the livery stable was north of Lighthouse avenue. My dad bought a lot at about 209 19th street and everyone laughed at him for building away out in the forest. Henry Kent later bought "J. O.'s" livery stable and was the first city councilman elected when the town was incorporated.

An old lady, Mrs. McDougal, ran the first bath house, but I cannot say if she was related in any way to the present bathhouse owner.

Two Parks Named In 1932

(From February 5, 1932 issue of P. G. Tribune)

"Lucie A. Chase Park"

Mrs. Lucie A. Chase, venerable Pacific Grove resident, was honored by the city council last night when the city park on lower Seventeenth street was renamed "Lucie A. Chase Park" in token of her many civic benefactions.

Mayor Julia B. Platt declined to vote on the resolution changing the park's name. She pointed out afterwards that she was heartily in favor of according Mrs. Chase honor, but was firm in the belief that the council was naming the wrong park. "Mrs. Chase has done so much for the Civic Club that I believe the park around the clubhouse should be named for her," Mrs. Platt said.

The council declined to reconsider the matter, however, after Councilman B. A. Lee reported that Mrs. Chase had always been attached to "her dear little park" on Seventeenth street. Accordingly, from now on the city's little plot of ground, right across from the bath house, will be known as Lucie Chase Park. Mrs. Chase recently celebrated her eighty-ninth birthday, and is one of Pacific Grove's best-loved residents.

The naming of a park after her, particularly since the park happens to be one for which she has an exceptionally warm feeling in her heart, will be approved of by the community.

"George Washington Memorial Park"

Pacific Grove's Washington Bicentennial celebration February 22 will be featured by a huge parade through the business district, J. P. Pryor, chairman of the American Legion celebration committee, announced today.

All civic, patriotic and veterans' organizations on the peninsula were today invited to join the parade, which will start from Forest and Lighthouse avenues and proceed to the municipal park on the western outskirts of the city.

There the park will be formally dedicated as "George Washington Memorial Park" and a redwood tree will be planted in memory of the nation's great patriot.



View of Lovers' Point and beach, circa 1910. The large house on the right of photo was the MacDougall House, which was moved to 130 Grand in 1934.

Old MacDougall House Moved

(From the P.G. Tribune of Nov. 30, 1934)

Reminiscent of the primitive means of grinding grain in such countries as Mexico was the means of locomotion utilized last week by C. B. Hinckley in moving the erstwhile MacDougall residence from the now municipally-owned beach property to a lot at 130 Grand avenue.

A patient plodding old Dobbin paced a weary number of revolutions to draw the house slowly but firmly along the street. Actual moving commenced Monday, and the house was on its new site Wednesday afternoon. Though Mr. Hinckley is cognizant of more modern means of moving, he finds the pre-motor method jars the house very little and minimizes the amount of damage from vibration.

New owner of the residence is Mrs. Anna Wilcoxon. Although she bid unsuccessfully when the property was offered by the city for sale, she later purchased it from the successful bidder.

A story of sentiment lies in the acquisition of the residence by Mrs. Wilcoxon for it was built more than 30 years ago by Burgess Wilcoxon and first occupied by the latter's daughter, Mrs. Charles Smith. On frequent visits to her sister-in-law, Mrs. Wilcoxon developed a fondness for the house which she has never outgrown.

Following Mrs. Smith, Dr. and Mrs. Clarendon A. Foster occupied the house for a number of years while they operated the bath house. Subsequently it became the residence of Mrs. Mattie MacDougall, and still later anathema to the citizens of the town, who wished the dilapidated buildings of the property might be razed. Mrs. Wilcoxon plans extensive remodeling and improvement of the house.

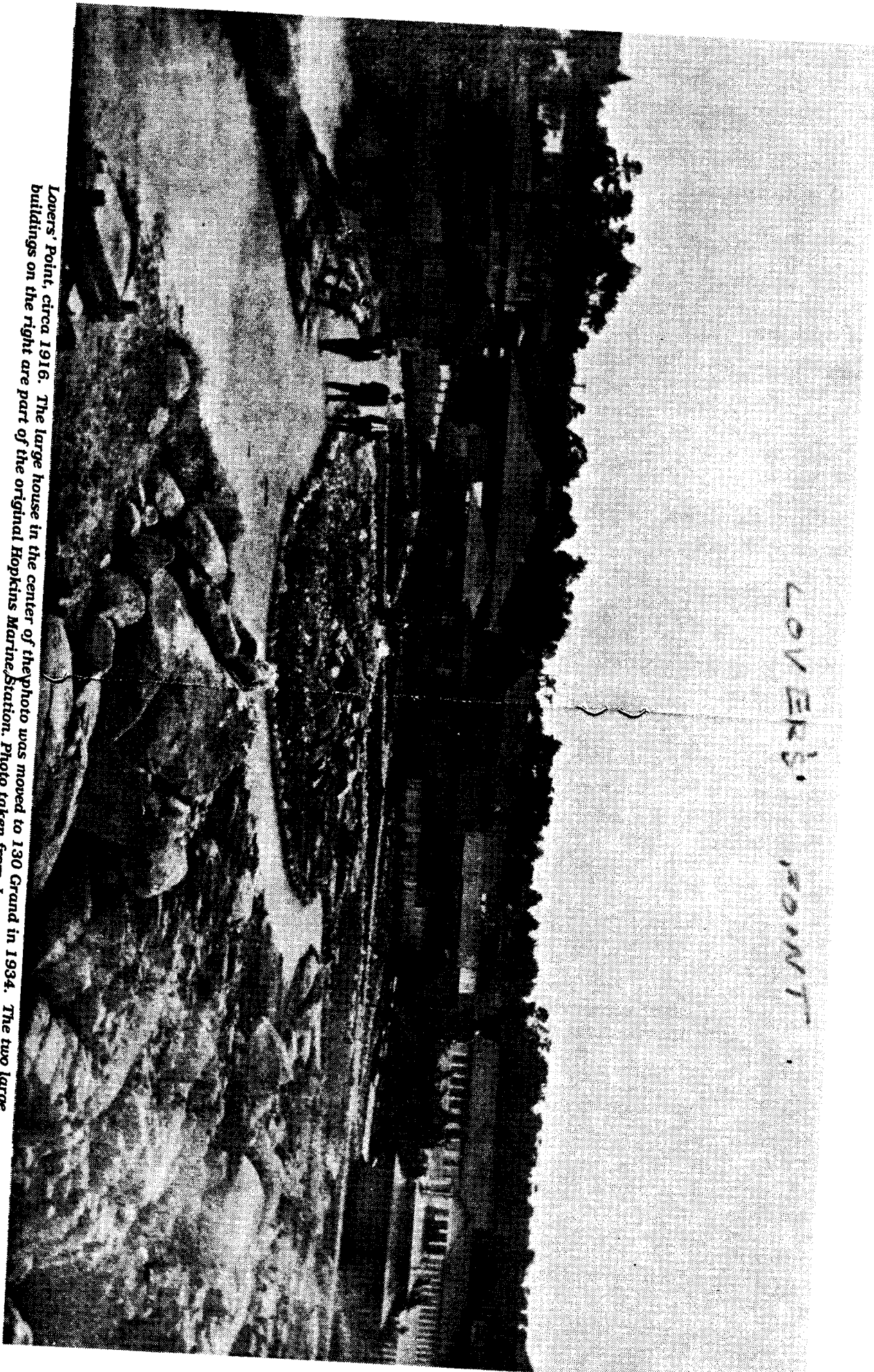
Almost No Lawyer In Town

(From the P.G. Tribune of Nov. 16, 1934)

Pacific Grove will not be without a lawyer when Anthony Brazil, the town's only attorney, takes over the office of district attorney, to which he was elected November 6, it was learned yesterday.

Reginald Foster, of Los Angeles, will succeed Brazil in Pacific Grove. Foster was graduated from Pacific Grove high school in 1919, and later attended the University of California and University of Southern California. His parents, who formerly lived in this city, left here several years ago for Los Angeles, where young Foster had been practicing law.

LOVERS' POINT



Lovers' Point, circa 1916. The large house in the center of the photo was moved to 130 Grand in 1934. The two large buildings on the right are part of the original Hopkins Marine Station. Photo taken from Japanese Tea Garden.

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Down The Piney Path

News of old Pacific Grove from the Salinas Index (June 1887)

◆ by E. C. Davis

- ✦ It is said the P. I. Company is going to lay off another addition to Pacific Grove of 1400 lots and will have a grand excursion from San Francisco and an auction of lots next month.
- ✦ There are several row boats in the bay here now. Parties go out daily.
- ✦ The coverings are on all the tent frames. It is quite a settlement within itself.
- ✦ The Episcopal Church is progressing finely. The organ, which is a very fine one, is donated, also the carpeting for the entire church.
- ✦ The avenues through the Grove are kept in fine condition, being sprinkled twice a day.
- ✦ Horses and cattle are not allowed to stray loose here any longer, which is quite gratifying to the Grove residents.
- ✦ A party of thirty ladies and gentlemen walked out to the Sand Hills last Wednesday evening.
- ✦ It would be a good thing if the Pound ordinance included chickens as they are an intolerable nuisance in some parts of the Grove.
- ✦ The yards are kept busy now supplying lumber to the Grove, where an unusual amount of building is going on.
- ✦ The weather is lovely and the Grove is rapidly filling up with visitors.
- ✦ There are three milk wagons that deliver milk twice a day at five cents a quart.
- ✦ Houses that rented from \$10 to \$12 per month during the winter are now renting for \$40 to \$50.
- ✦ Fresh vegetables can be obtained from the numerous wagons that go around daily for very reasonable rates.
- ✦ A fishing party went to the Little Sur last week and caught about 500 trout.
- ✦ The tide was unusually high last Sunday. Nearly everybody went down to view the magnificent spectacle.

Belle Peck Hill

An Early Monterey County Journalist

◆ by E. C. Davis

Learning what was going on in Pacific Grove one hundred and ten years ago means turning to local newspapers, available on microfilm. The Monterey papers carried half columns on early Pacific Grove, but the files are incomplete. Luckily the Salinas newspapers are helpful in this, as they printed news notes garnered from all the little communities of Monterey County, including Pacific Grove. The Grove coverage was better than most, probably because the wife of the editor and publisher had various relatives living there. She always had space to mention the fact that Miss Lola B. Lowrey (of Pacific Grove) gave weekly music lessons at Salinas. Lola Lowrey was a cousin. This was Belle (born Isabelle Amelia Peck) an energetic journalist. She not only collected and edited news notes from all over the county, but set the type by hand and when Linotype appeared, became an expert at it. She could run the presses if necessary.

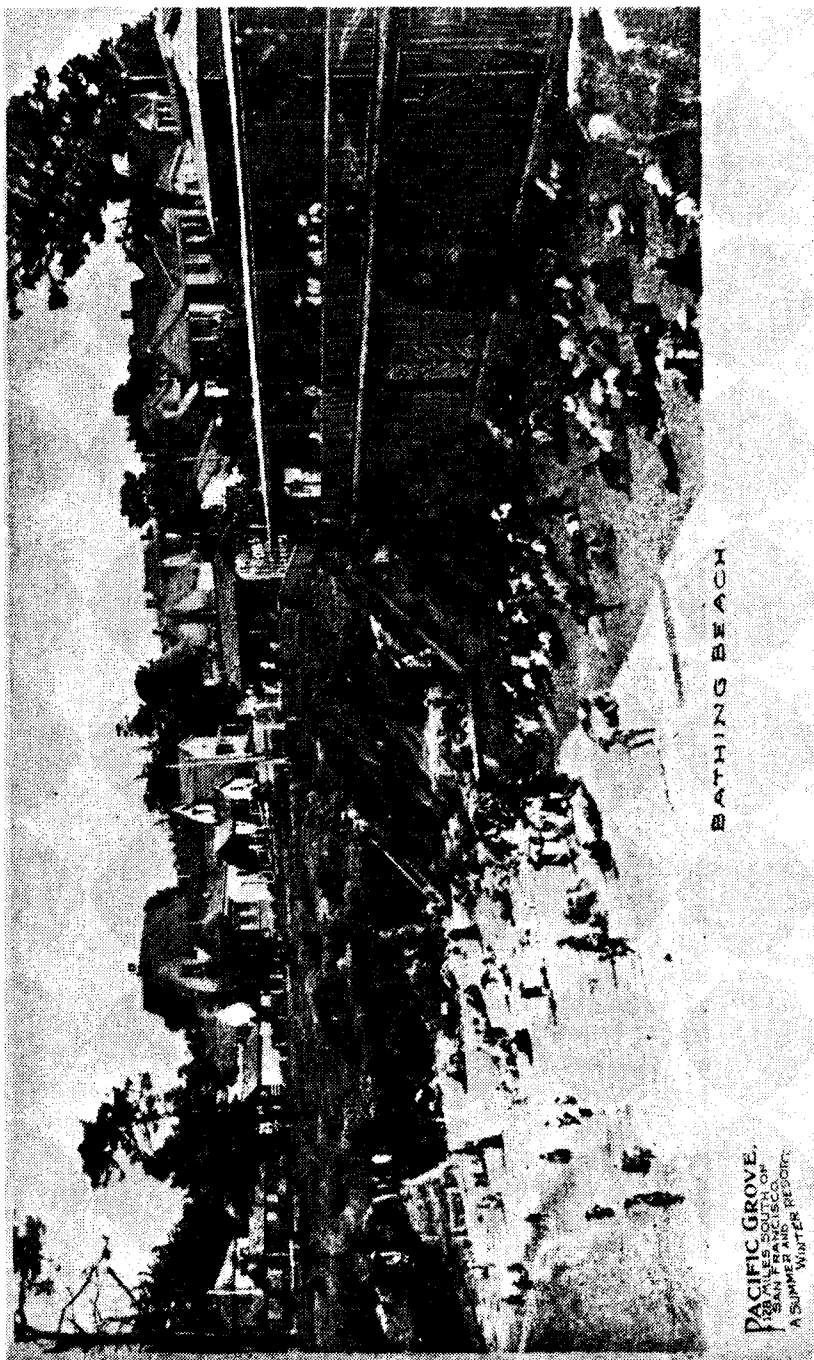
Belle was the granddaughter of Judge Dickinson, who with his entire family, including Belle's mother Lucy (aged twelve), started across the Plains in 1846. Until Dickinson decided to go his own way, they were part of the Donner Party. They were more fortunate than that party, but the group suffered a great deal of ravenous hunger as a portion of their supplies had to be abandoned.

Belle's father, Charles S. Peck, went to the gold fields and was living in Stockton when Belle was born in 1851. She was married to William J. Hill in 1873 by not less a person than Governor Burnett, a personal friend of her husband. William had a newspaper in Idaho Territory at that time, but sold it and went to Salinas, where he was elected State Senator in 1880. Later he was to spend two terms as Mayor of Salinas and postmaster. William J. Hill, known as Old Hill from his Indian fighting days, published the paper between 1876 and 1909. They had one son who became an engineer and Salinas councilman.

Belle wrote and managed the paper but had time for other matters, such as raising horses at Buena Vista. She was called one of the best equestriennes of the state. In one of her husband's campaigns she rode horseback preceding a brass band. She was also an artist in watercolors and oils and sang solos at her church.

It is through her interests and abilities that we can glean a few facts about Pacific Grove before its first newspaper appeared. She did more than a little in preserving the early history of Monterey County.

(Editor's note: Belle died in December 1928.)



Published by the Albertype Co. of Brooklyn, New York prior to 1900.

Scholarship Awarded

The Heritage Society is pleased to announce the selection of Cara Ricketson as recipient of the Philoma Goldsworthy Scholarship for 1994. The \$500 cash scholarship is awarded annually to a Pacific Grove graduating high school senior who has maintained an outstanding record of academic achievement and whose personal interests or career goals are consistent with the Heritage Society's objectives regarding the preservation of Pacific Grove's cultural heritage. The scholarship was founded in Goldsworthy's honor in 1990 to recognize her contribution to the collection and preservation of historical information about Pacific Grove.

Ricketson graduated from Pacific Grove High School in June with a 4.32 GPA and plans to attend the University of California at Berkeley. In her application essay, Cara noted that she is a member of the third generation of her family to be raised in Pacific Grove, and that pictures of her parents dressed in their Monarch Butterfly wings during their march in the Butterfly Parade hang next to photos of herself participating in the annual event. Cara also wrote that the combination of Pacific Grove's unique cultural heritage and natural beauty have inspired her to pursue a career in marine sciences and hopefully return to reside in her home town of Pacific Grove.

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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