



# THE BOARD AND BATTEN

*Newsletter of the Pacific Grove Heritage Society*

June / July 1995



*The old canon that sat for years on the lawn of the Museum of Natural History in Pacific Grove. This photo was in the October 9, 1942 issue of the Tide because the canon, along with the old fountain in Jewell Park, had just been donated to the scrap metal drive during World War II.*

## Future Events

- July 24 - 29: Feast of Lanterns
- August 6: Steinbeckian Croquet Tournament
- October 8: 26th Annual Victorian Home Tour
- October 14: Butterfly Parade
- December 5: Christmas At The Inns

## A Camping Trip To Pacific Grove

(Editor's note: The following is a portion of the recollections of Allen Harder of Madera. He wrote the story of his June 1924 trip from Madera to Pacific Grove for his grandchildren. He was kind enough to share it with us. He began with the trip from Madera, over the single-lane Pacheco Pass, stopping overnight in the front yards of farms along the way. We join him as he nears Monterey.)

As we neared Monterey we found no homes until we came to the Del Monte Hotel area. This was my first time to the Monterey area. We drove down the main street and saw many of the historic buildings. We got there quite early so we spent some time in the city of Monterey. Every once in a while we could smell a very foul odor in the air. We kids were anxious to see the ocean so we drove down to the Monterey wharf at Alvarado St. I was very disappointed as I could remember seeing the ocean in 1915 in San Francisco when my father and I went to the 1915 Panama Exposition. We went to the Cliff House and large waves were breaking onto the beach and rocks.

Here at Monterey the water was smooth as glass and no waves at all. We were standing on the wharf when we got a good whiff of the foul smell again. Near us was a man fixing the railing on the wharf and Aunt Mae asked him if he had smelled a strange smell. He stated he had not and went back to work. In a few minutes he came back and asked us if we lived in Monterey and we told him we were from Madera. He told us he knew, by us being from out of town, what foul odor we were smelling. He said it was the fish canneries in New Monterey and he pointed them out to us. He told us if we stayed a short time in the area we would begin to smell like that and we wouldn't notice the odor. What he said proved true.

From Monterey our road curved around the end of the Presidio grounds into New Monterey. Here the foul smell was really strong. They called it New Monterey but from the smell it had died. I was surprised that the buzzards were not circling over head. Kenneth said, "Aunt Mae, I think I'm going to get sick." Aunt Mae said, "Be quiet, Kenneth, you can't get sick till we get to camp." He didn't get sick! This led to a lot of teasing for Kenneth as every time we were out someplace when ever Kenneth complained we would tell him to wait till he got back to camp. We stopped at Holman's Department Store in Pacific Grove for some groceries. The reason I remember the name is because we did all of our trading there. It was a large store.

We continued on Lighthouse Ave. with Aunt Mae doing the driving. At Cedar we turned left and followed it to Maple St. where we turned right to Ruth Ct. and turned left again to Marino Pines St. where the owner of the campground lived. We were only a day late arriving at our destination. I believe Aunt Mae or Royce knew the way there before we left Madera although neither had ever been to Pacific Grove as we found it without hesitation. It wasn't found by chance as it was located in a residential area where seldom campgrounds are located.

<b>Holman's</b>	
<b>FOOD SPECIALS</b>	
<b>FOR FRIDAY AND SATURDAY</b>	
MILKON DOLLAR COFFEE— Unbleached Glass Jars	29c
PAN CRUST SHORTENING—3 lb. pails	51c
H O OATS—Large size	26c
Small size	12c
BUTTER—Dairymaid in cubes, lb.	38c
Bluebell, solid pack, lb.	36c
CANE SUGAR—10 lb. cloth sacks <small>Either G. A. H. or New Island</small>	49c
EGGS—Fresh locals, large size, doz.	25c
Medium size, doz.	23c
MILKS—All Standard Brands	
Tall tin, 2 for	13c
Small tins, 3 for	10c
SHREDDED WHEAT BISCUITS, 2 pkgs.	23c
GHIRARDELLI GROUND CHOCOLATE— lb. tin	26c
CROWN BRAND DAINY SALTED WAFERS—2 lb. carton	28c
<b>VEGETABLES</b>	
BUNCH VEGETABLES—2 bch.	5c
NO. 1 OREGON RUSSETT POTATOES— 10 lbs.	17c
25 lbs.	40c
ORANGES—Large size, 2 doz.	35c
Box	\$1.75
Small size doz.	10c
Box	\$2.00
LARGE IMPERIAL VALLEY GRAPE FRUIT—7 for	25c

Holman's newspaper ad from March 8, 1935.

## Camping Trip (cont.)

Except for the house and lot at the corner of Marino Pines and Ruth Ct. and the lot behind it on Maple St. all of the rest of the block to Walnut St. was the campground, which had lots of pine trees, ten to twelve inches in diameter and some bushes that provided a little privacy for your camp. The owner of the camp ground had a house facing Marino Pines and next door to it on the corner was the only access to the camp ground. A man and a woman lived in the house and the women ran the camp ground. The man must have worked elsewhere as we only saw him a couple of times. I have no idea how old they were, to a 17 year old, a person 30 years old was tottering on the grave! There were two other campers on the lot so we had plenty of places to select our campsite. If the camp ground had a name I never saw it. *(Please see map on page 8.)*

At each campsite was an outdoor table and two benches and a water hydrant that was about waist high. We set up our tent and sheet iron camp stove. The restrooms were located in the middle of the campground, one for men and one for women. They had two toilets, one urinal, a wash basin and a shower. I don't know what furnishings the women's restroom had. Wood for the camp stove could be bought from the camp owner's house. We liked this site much better than Salinas as being in the pine trees reminded us so much of camping at Fish Camp. If you did not look toward Maple street that was lined with houses on the far side from the corner of Walnut to Cedar you would think you were miles from town. Had we known that we were within walking distance of the ocean they would have been unable to get us to help set up camp.

We stayed in camp that evening. That night Aunt Mae and Lyla slept together in the tent and the rest of us made one bed outside and slept there. When you sleep on the ground you make sure there are no pebbles or twigs under your canvas tarp for after you get to sleep the twigs grow into large limbs and pebbles into boulders! In the evening Aunt Mae had a long talk with the camp ground woman. I assume she was getting information about the points of interest. Before turning in we talked about our trip over here and Royce said he had never taken a trip this far before without having tire trouble. I guess we were really lucky!

The next morning we had breakfast, straightened up the camp, made a big lunch to take with us and filled the canvas water bag and took off to see the sights. We left all of our stuff at camp as nobody would bother anything. Aunt Mae, Lyla and Royce were in the front seat and Stanley, Kenneth and I in the back. It was rather uncomfortable in the back as we had no seat to sit on having left it in Madera, but this caused no problem. We turned left onto Walnut St., down hill to Sunset where we turned right and continued down hill. Just a short distance we passed a gateway with a toll house that was the entrance to the Seventeen Mile drive and then crossed the tracks of the Southern Pacific RR. A short distance up the track to our right was the Asilomar passenger depot. The Southern Pacific railroad tracks

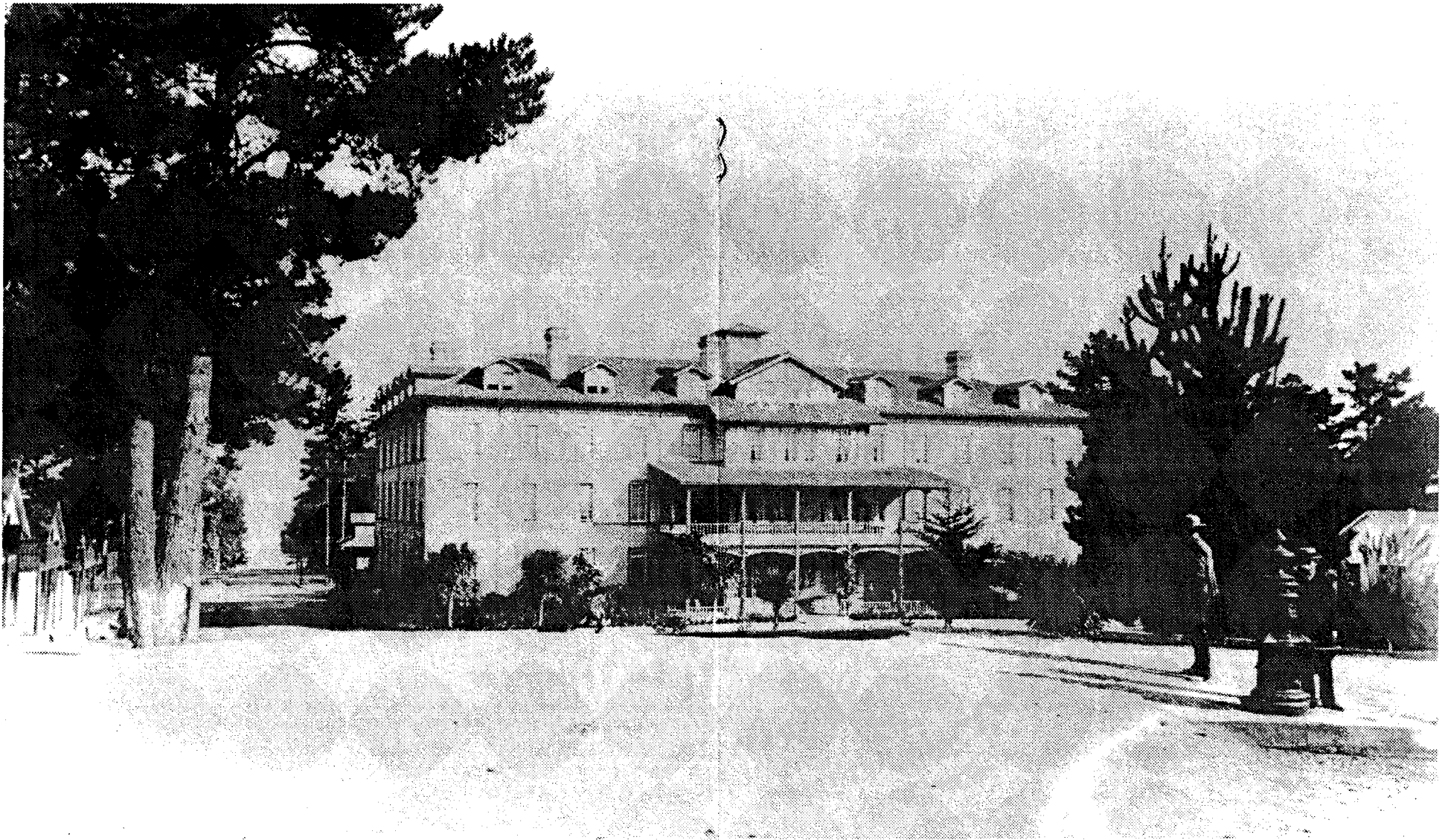
ran fairly close to the shore line from the Del Monte area to the sand company plant near the entrance to the Seventeen Mile Drive. There was a passenger depot for the Hotel Del Monte, Monterey, Pacific Grove (Lover's Point) and Asilomar. Most of the freight traffic was from the sand company and fish canneries. Just beyond the railroad tracks we left the pine forest and emerged onto the sand dunes where we had a clear view of the ocean. Now that I was 17 years old it seemed more wonderful and exciting than when I last saw it in San Francisco when I was 8 years old. To our left was a long white beach with the waves rolling onto it and to our right the waves were crashing high in the air against the rocks. We were all fascinated by the spectacle! Looking back we could see the sand processing plant with its conveyors and drag lines, that was loading sacks and gondola cars with sand to be shipped out. They left a level plain where the dunes had been worked.

We loved the rocky area the best as many unknown creatures could be found there. Thousands of crabs, about two inches long, scurried over the rocks. They were really hard to catch. We didn't know what they were but the shore was strewn with empty abalone shells. We found some sticks that were purple and about one inch long that looked like policeman's billy clubs. Another thing that was attached to a rock looked like a large cucumber with a great many little white fingers spread out on the end. When you touched the fingers they all folded up and it looked like a horse's rear end.

We kids were almost too excited to eat our lunch and when Aunt Mae announced we were going back to camp we begged to stay and finally consented when she said she had something important to tell us at camp. It was now late afternoon. When we got back Aunt Mae put on a pot of potatoes to boil for our supper. She then told us that she was taking Royce and Lyla to the church to get married and for me to keep the potatoes boiling till they got back. We thought just because Royce and Lyla were getting married was no reason why we could not have stayed at the ocean as we could have walked back and we knew the way.

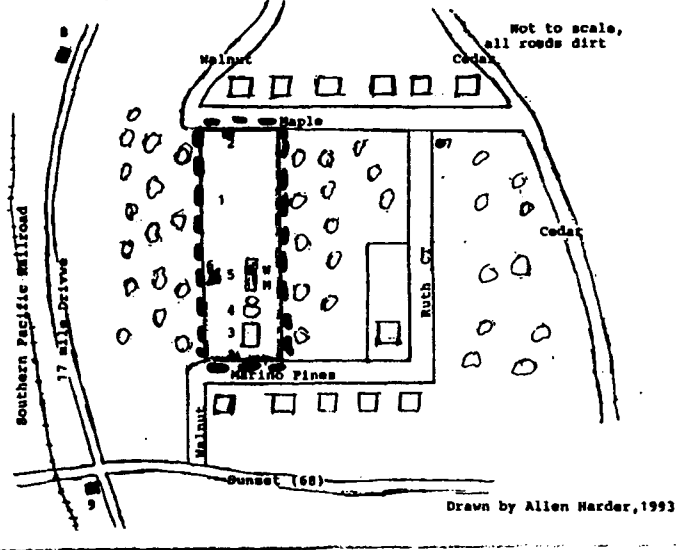
A full three hours later Aunt Mae and the bride and groom arrived back in camp. The potatoes that I had kept boiling vigorously all this time, had been reduced to potato soup. This did not bother Aunt Mae. She added some seasoning and other ingredients and served it at the wedding feast on Wednesday, June 18, 1924. Our vacation now became a Honeymoon Vacation! That night Royce and Lyla slept in the tent and Aunt Mae slept outside in our bed.

We were up bright and early the next morning, anxious to get to the ocean. Aunt Mae made a lunch as we filled the canvas water bag as there was no drinking water there. We didn't take the car as it would just be a bother and we planned to stay all day. We took a tin bucket along to carry all our treasures found on the beach. Royce and Lyla said they were still tired from the day before and after they rested some they would come down and meet us. They must have really been tired as they never did show up!



Early view (circa 1895) of the Pacific Grove Hotel, aka the El Carmelo, which was located until around 1918 on the site of the Holman department store. The cottages on the left on Grand avenue were part of the hotel. The five foot high fountain on the right (not to be confused with a different fountain later located in Jewell Park) stood on the N.E. corner of Lighthouse and Grand. It was intricately decorated with metal fish, frogs and other animals. On the street side, half way up, was a large trough for horses. On the opposite, or sidewalk side, higher up, was the spigot for humans. Lowest down was a smaller bowl for passing dogs. Kitty-corner across from the fountain was Tom Cope's hardware store. His delivery wagon and old white horse were tethered in front by a block of concrete. It was said that on hot days the horse would drag his wagon and tether across to the fountain, have a good drink, then struggle back to his own corner.

- PACIFIC GROVE CAMPGROUND - 1924
- 1 - Outlined in [ ] covered four lots, unfenced
  - 2 - Entrance to Campground from Maple and Marino Pines
  - 3 - Campground owner's home
  - 4 - Large Oak tree. May have been two trees or one with two trunks.
  - 5 - Bath house, Shower, toilet & wash basin. W-Women, M-Men.
  - 6 - Our camp. Some camps were over property line to the left.
  - 7 - Electric pole Aunt Mae ran into.
  - 8 - Place where we sorted flower bulbs.
  - 9 - Gate house to 17 Mile Drive.
- Ⓛ - Small pine trees up to 12 inches in diameter



## Names

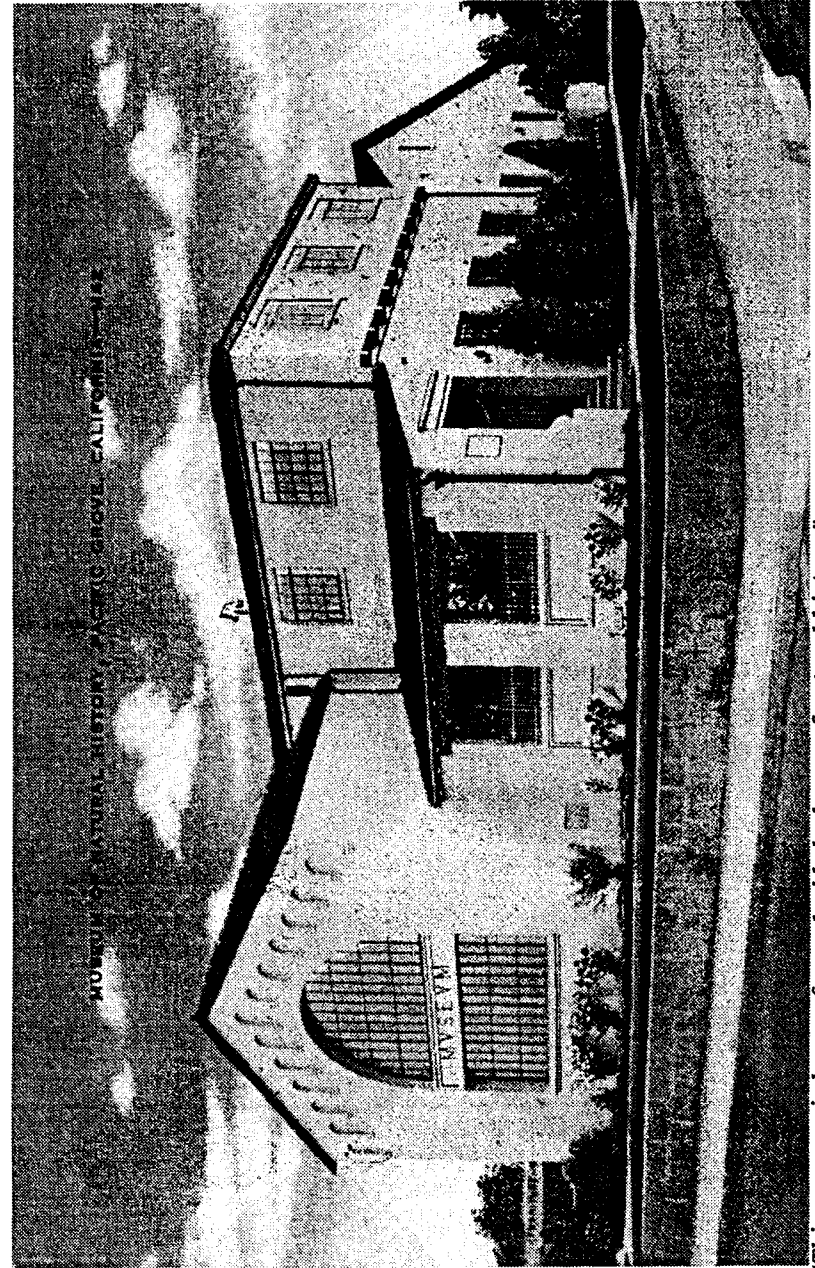
One of our members called to say that her grandmother's name was misspelled in part 1 of the Civic Club article. We had it spelled "Olmstead" instead of "Olmsted". The original newspaper piece had it spelled "Olmstead". Newspapers, as well as the tax records, often misspelled names in the early days. The City Directory of 1907 lists both an "Olmstead" and an "Olmsted" family.

## Steinbeckian Croquet Tournament - August 6, 1995

The 50th anniversary of John Steinbeck's "Cannery Row" is celebrated with walking tours of Pacific Grove and a croquet tournament, a benefit for the Heritage Society. Participation in the croquet tournament, to be held in Berwick Park at 2:00 pm on **Sunday August 6, 1995**, is \$20-\$25. Viewing is free, of course, if you just want to come and watch - and we hope you will. Please call 375-4559 for information and/or registration.

## Others Saw Us Through Postcards

Postcard published by Bell Magazine Agency, Pacific Grove.



"This museum is known far and wide by lovers of natural history."

## Down the Piney Path

News of old Pacific Grove from the Monterey Gazette July 1905

❖ by E. C. Davis

- ◆ Miss Julia Platt has secured a large number of signatures to present on a petition to the City in favor of purchasing a portion of Lover's point.
- ◆ Ng Pon Chew, San Francisco newspaperman, gives a speech on the Russo-Japanese War.
- ◆ Dr. Culver Hartzell, the geologist, will be a speaker at Chautauqua.
- ◆ Mr. and Mrs. Will E. Wright are getting their camping wagon ready for their annual trip down the coast.
- ◆ Good dried peaches and pears 10 cents a pound at Aggeler's.
- ◆ A large tent city is planned for the Salvation Army annual encampment in August.
- ◆ Dr. Tuttle has a handsome new electric sign over the door of his drug store.
- ◆ Bargain: Two houses, five rooms each, furnished; three lots: all for \$1500. W. B. Filcher.
- ◆ A visitor complains about the loss of pines along the shore from the days of 1890. He blames the P.I. Company.
- ◆ Lanterns are sold for 60 cents a dozen: "It is desired that all illumination be general."
- ◆ A Chautauqua field day is held at Moss Beach. About 400 were present.
- ◆ An "old fashion" spelling match is held.
- ◆ High school students help string lanterns.
- ◆ Professor Henri Fairweather leads the Assembly grand chorus of 500 voices at the closing Chautauqua ceremony.
- ◆ Mr. Justice of Oklahoma is in the Grove with plans to establish a business college here.
- ◆ Members of the Chautauqua Assembly of 1905 and previous years march from Grand Avenue to the Assembly Hall. Seventeen members of the year-round reading program are presently enrolled but only four were present to receive diplomas.

## Jewell Park Drinking Fountain

(From the March 6, 1926 issue of the Pacific Grove Tribune)

Pacific Grove has a drinking fountain, a rather ornate one, in little Jewell Park, across the street from the library. There is something ironic about that. The passing pedestrian who reads the plaque: "Presented to the city of Pacific Grove by Henry D Cogswell - 1899 - Rev. F. F. Jewell, D.D., Sup't." may never suspect the story behind it.

Who was Henry Cogswell? His first appearance in California was in 1849 when he opened the first dentist's office in San Francisco, on Montgomery street. His financial success was fabulous, for in those days men not only dug for gold, they wanted the world to know they had it, and what better way than to display gold teeth? Many a healthy ivory molar did Cogswell extract to make room for a luminous one of shiny metal. The more gold teeth, the more gold to Cogswell. Presently he retired. His hobby, strangely enough in that boisterous town of early San Francisco, was prohibition. Cogswell became the first active prohibitionist in the city.

He created a fund for the erection of water fountains. He stipulated that for every 100 saloons he would build a drinking fountain. Seven were erected in San Francisco, and several in other towns of northern California, including San Jose and Pacific Grove. How the original terms could have been manipulated to permit one to be placed here seems a mystery. One hundred saloons? With nary a one, Pacific Grove rated a Cogswell fountain.

(Editor's note: This fountain remained in Jewell Park until 1942 when it was donated to the WWII scrap drive. A photo may be seen in the Dec '92/Jan '93 issue of the Board and Batten.)

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

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