



THE BOARD AND BATTEN

Newsletter of the Pacific Grove Heritage Society

December 1990/January 1991

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establishes a
scholarship for Pacific
Grove High School
students

Plaque Number 400 Awarded

The Heritage Society of Pacific Grove recently awarded its 400th plaque to 642 Pine Avenue. The house was built in 1905 and the first owner was Eva B. McKenzie. The current owners, Jean Louis and Judith Forcina received their plaque on Saturday December 1, 1990 and immediately placed it in their front entrance window. Mr. & Mrs. Forcina have owned the house for the past fifteen years.

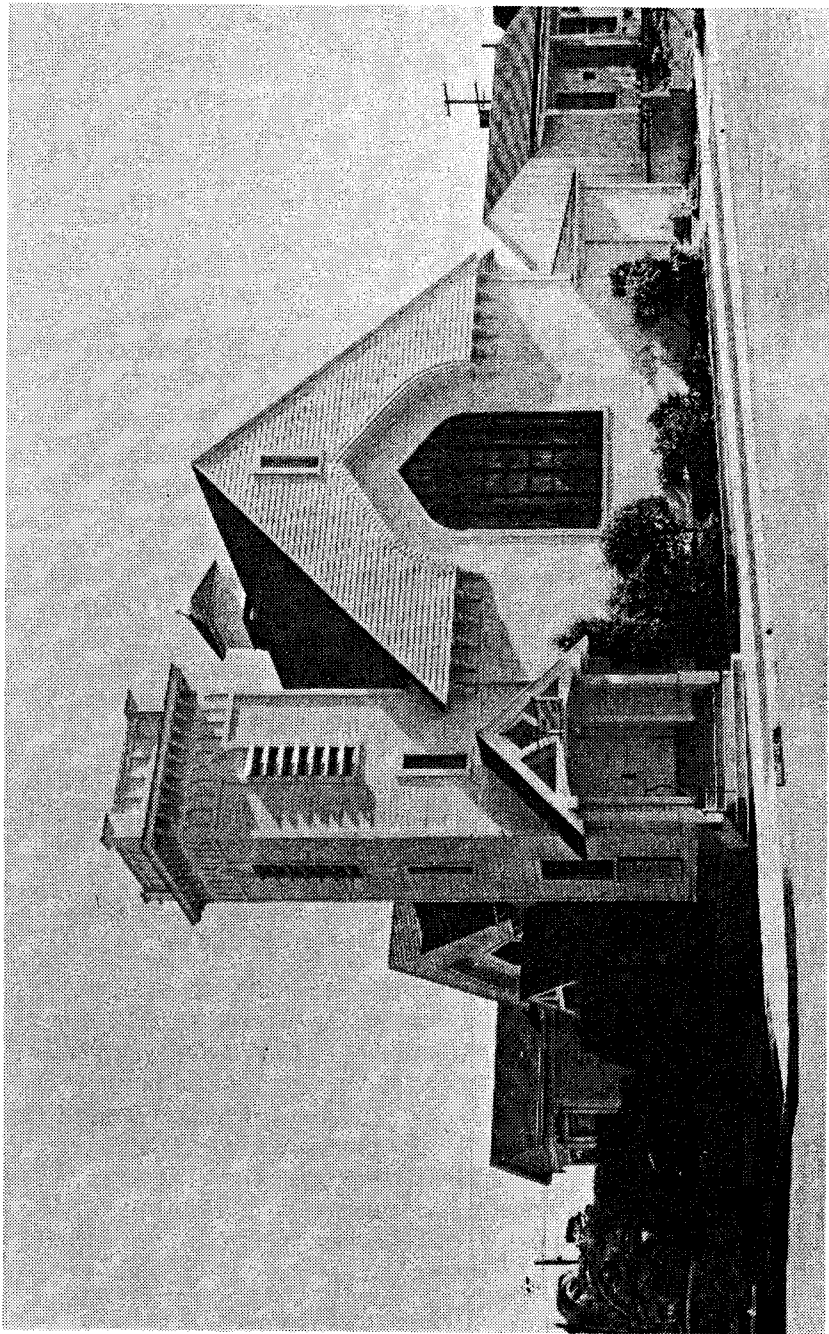
The first plaque was awarded in July 1978 to Kent & Joyce Cherry at 225 Central Avenue, built in 1884 for Judge/Senator Langford. It is still owned by Mr. & Mrs. Cherry and they run it as a Bed & Breakfast Inn called the Gatehouse Inn.

Plaques are presented without charge to homes in Pacific Grove built in 1910 or earlier which still retain their original style and character. The plaque must be requested by the owner. The long-standing committee responsible for creating the plaques consists of Steve Honegger, David Stocker, Vanessa Bredthauer, Lowell Battcher, Alex Rodriguez and Adam Weiland.

**22nd Annual Victorian Home Tour
Sunday April 21, 1991**

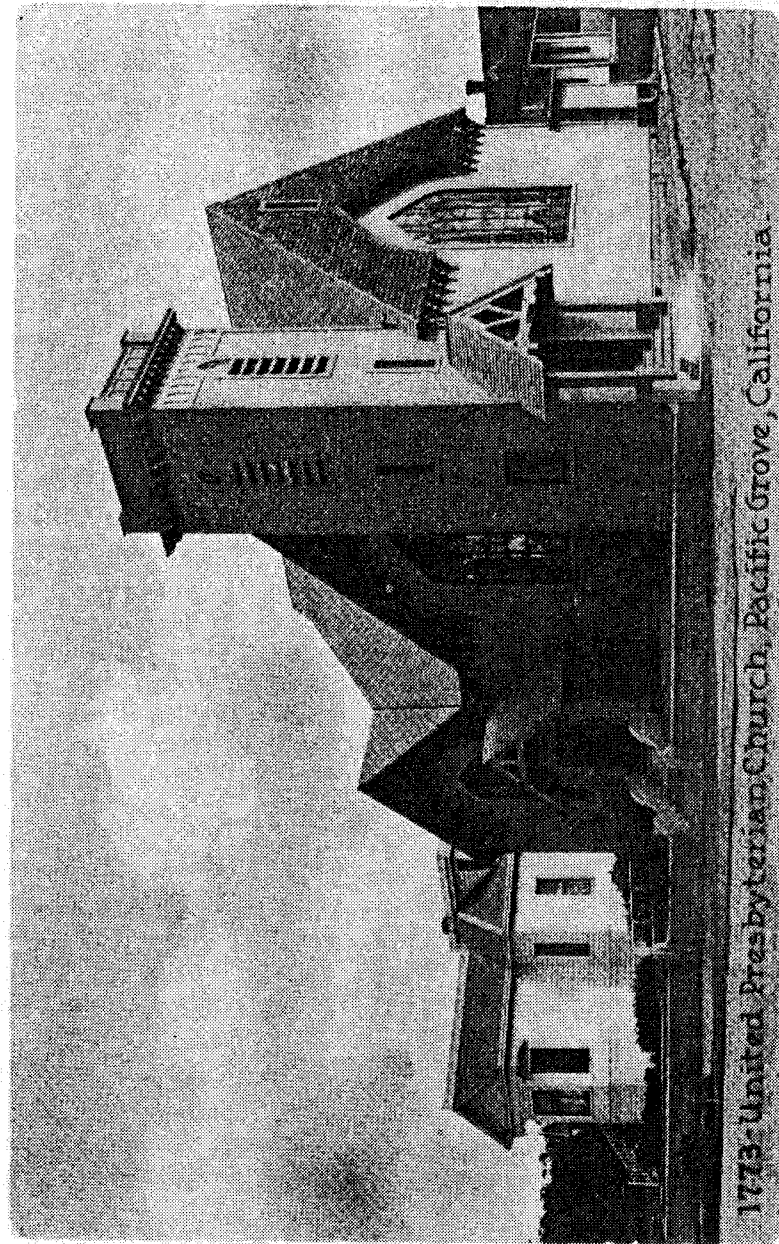
(Details in next issue)

Others Saw Us Through Postcards



Freeman Photo - 1930s

Built as the United Presbyterian Church sometime between 1905 and 1914, it later became the First Pentecostal Church. The structure was demolished in the 1960s.



The house on left was 541 Pine and the house on the right was 405 Grand.

The Pacific Grove Academy (1891-1896)

❖ by E. C. Davis

In the late 19th Century, the Methodist Church was identified with education and had established the promising University of the Pacific in Northern California. Before this became firmly established on its present campus near Stockton, there was a Napa branch and an embryonic branch at Pacific Grove.

Pacific Grove was planned as a Methodist Retreat but slowly became a tourist resort, then a town. A town needed a school and the Retreat Association provided a public grade school. As time went on, the need for a high school became acute.

To solve the problem, the Retreat Association considered an "Academy", an institution to "fit pupils for the university." There would be a small tuition and there would be business and technical training. Vocational training was all the rage in this era. It might be added that the University of the Pacific began as a preparatory school; Stanford University planned for such a program.

There was talk of the Academy as part of the University of the Pacific and that was how it was seen when it opened in April of 1891. Pacific Grove residents were familiar with the sight of the founders of the University of the Pacific; two of them retired to Pacific Grove, the Rev. T. H. Sinex and the Rev. F. F. Jewell. Judge Briggs, a permanent resident, was the brother of another founder, Rev. M. C. Briggs. Each had a streets named after him in Pacific Grove.

A large room (see center fold) in the enormous new Methodist Church was assigned to the Academy and teachers obtained.

Possibly the Academy could have developed into something permanent if financial problems hadn't beset the University of the Pacific at this time. The Grove Academy fell by the wayside, as did the branch at Napa and by 1896 the Academy was no more. Little is known about it, although a leaflet exists describing it. The leaflet is undated, but was probably issued in 1894 and lists the faculty and tuition.

The Pacific Grove REVIEW, a non-sectarian weekly newspaper, gives a few words of information concerning the Academy from time to time.

Nothing was said of its demise, though several months after it ceased to exist, the REVIEW reported that the Academy room at the Church had been given to the Epworth League and that there would be a reading room there in the evenings.

The beginnings of the Academy were more auspicious. In June of 1892, it was announced in the REVIEW that between 75 and 100 students were enrolled. Later in the year, evening classes were announced in bookkeeping, arithmetic and business law. At the same time, the REVIEW stated that 60 students were enrolled for the fall term, and that the Academy was looking for a building of its own. In 1893, the REVIEW reported that a large number of students were enrolled in the business courses. In December 1893, 30 to 40 students were said to be enrolled. In June of 1895, the semester was declared by the REVIEW to be a success, as there was no room to accommodate more students. At that time the Retreat Association was considering putting up a building for the Academy.

In January of 1896, the Academy opened "with an increased number of students" and then, suddenly, the Academy ceased to exist. At about this time, the Retreat Association decided to organize a public high school, with a room in the grade school as its own.

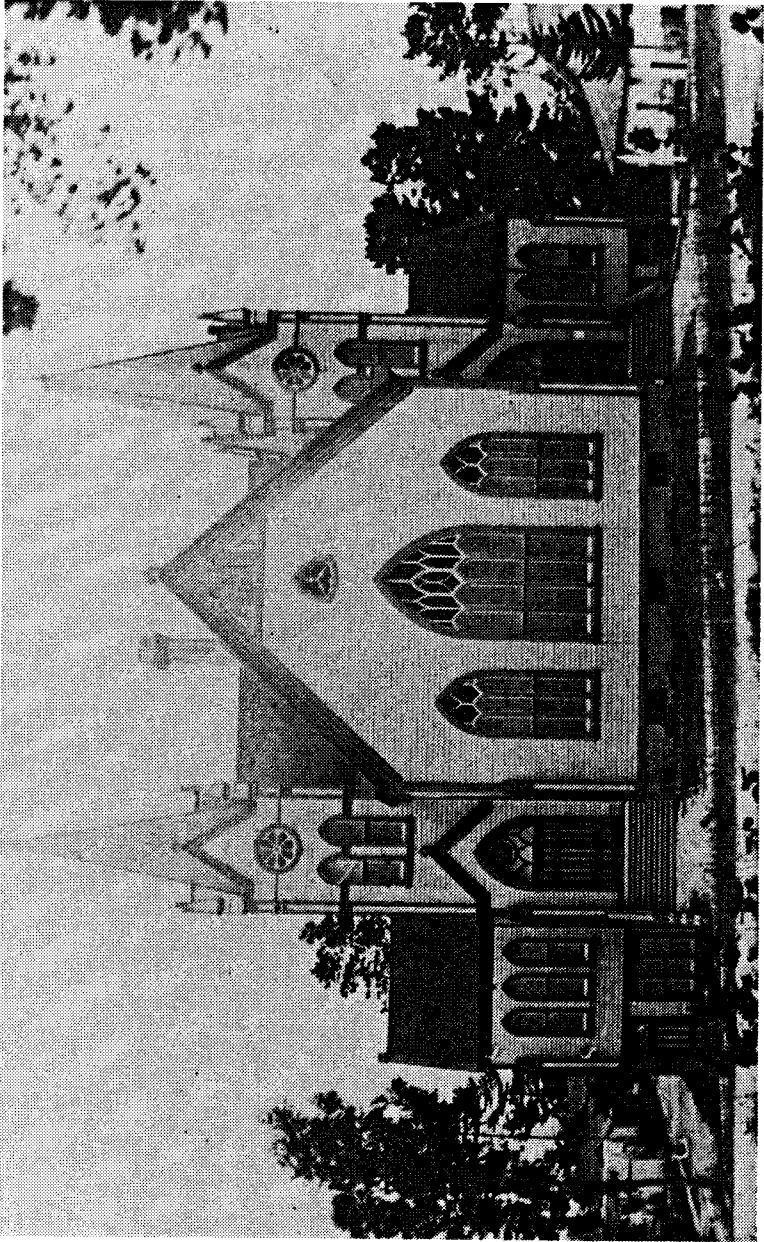
One of the Faculty of the Academy was Professor Joseph K. Oliver, aged 30, previously an art instructor at Kansas Normal College. He took an offered position at the Academy and came with his brother John Horner Oliver, who was principal. They were from Pennsylvania and born the same year. Whether they were twins or quickly on each other's heels we do not know. Joseph K. Oliver was to become a Monterey Peninsula personality. He opened an art and curio shop in Monterey in 1895 which became well known. He was a civic leader as well as a painter and photographer.

John Oliver, whose educational background is summarized in the aforementioned leaflet, had qualities quite different from those of his brother. At the time Joseph opened his curio shop, John rented an orchard to do "horticultural experiments." He and his wife left for Kentucky when the Academy closed, but returned to Monterey county a year later. In 1898 he helped reorganize the county government. A year after that he left for Los Angeles and nothing more was heard of him.

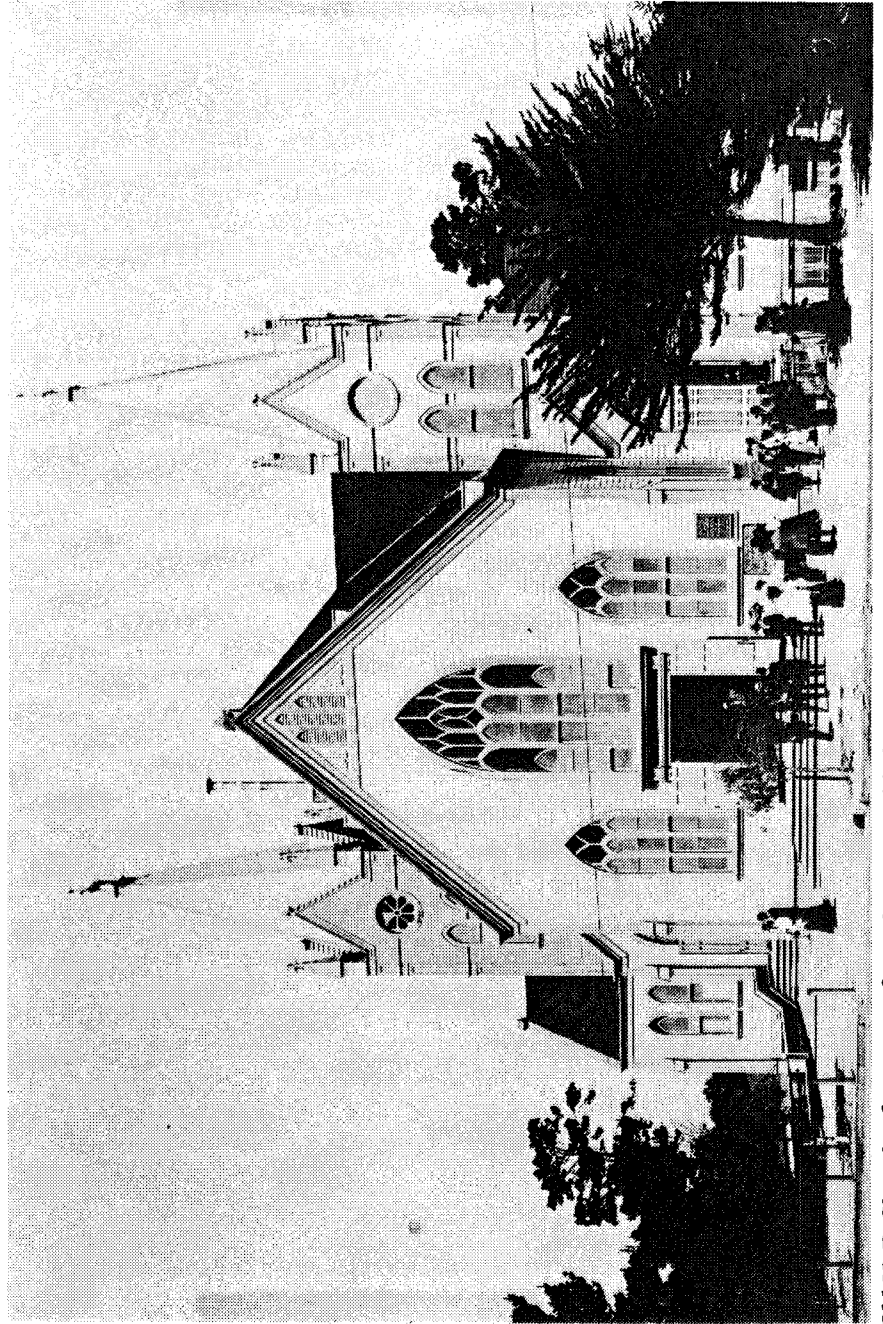
(Editor's note: The Pacific Grove Academy should not be confused with the Military Academy which was located for awhile on what is now the Dively property.)



Basement room at the old M. E. Church where the Academy first held its classes. After the Academy closed, the room was used by the Epworth league.



Old M. E. Church on Lighthouse between 17th & 18th, where the Academy held its classes in the basement. Photo taken around 1890, soon after construction was completed.



Old M. E. Church after center front door was added around 1900.

DOWN THE PINEY PATH

News of Pacific Grove from the Monterey WEEKLY CYPRESS (January 1889)

❖ by E.C. Davis

- A petition is being signed for the early extension of the railway line to the Grove. Of course, everybody signed it.
- Water is still being poured into the great reservoir. On Thursday it contained 30,000,000 gallons.
- An effort is being made to have a bridge constructed across the gulch on Pine Avenue.
- Mr. Crosby has received a barrel of York State apples and is busy distributing them among his friends.
- Miss Norton, a teacher employed by the State Normal School (San Jose State University) spent a few days at her residence in Pacific Grove preparatory to leaving for Florida, where she will visit relatives.
- A shooting match was planned between an expert rifle shot from Austria and a noted marksman from Italy but the meet was postponed due to weather.
- Roads between Monterey and Pacific Grove are being fixed.
- Mrs. Hollenbeck will shortly begin the erection of a business block to meet the increasing demand of trade.

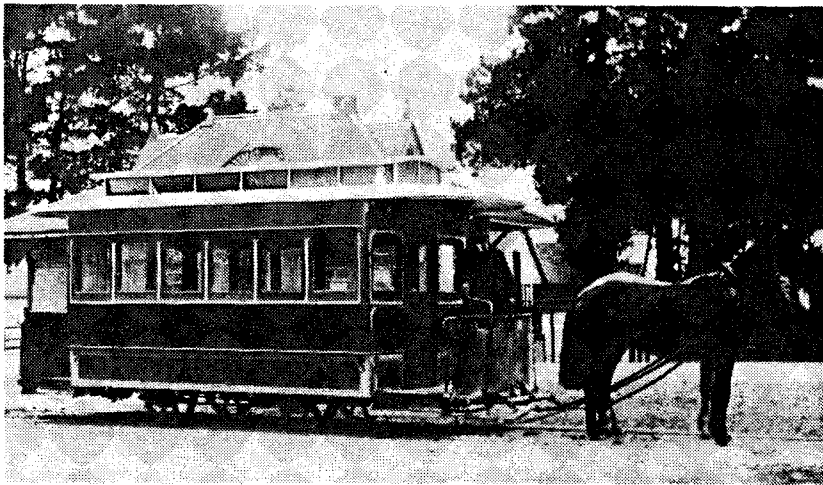


Photo taken in 1890, soon after the railway line was extended to Pacific Grove.

Scholarship News

Applications are now being taken for the Philoma Goldsworthy Scholarship. The Heritage Society recently established this scholarship for the purpose of promoting an interest in local history and historic preservation among high school students. The \$500 cash scholarship will be awarded to a qualified Pacific Grove High School senior in May 1991.

Information about applying for the scholarship is available from the Pacific Grove High School Counseling Office, or by writing the Heritage Society at P.O. Box 1007 in Pacific Grove.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Heritage Society Board Member Bob Dease on his appointment to the Architectural Review Board. Congratulations also to former Board Member David Stocker on his appointment to the Planning Commission.

New Members

Mr. & Mrs. Ervin Kruse
Gene & Thelma Ellison

Louise Cowen Fichter

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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*The
Heritage Society
of Pacific Grove*

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