



THE BOARD AND BATTEN

Newsletter of the Pacific Grove Heritage Society

April/May 1993

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



1939 photo

Paul B. Norton—"Protector of the Butterflies"

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

Paul B. Norton

(From P. G. Tide 12/29/39)

The Protector of the Butterflies will probably be the name for which Paul B. (for Bruce) Norton goes down into the history of Pacific Grove. Paul was the author of the now nationally famous ordinance which makes it a misdemeanor to throw sticks and stones at the butterflies. He also was responsible for the production of Pacific Grove's famous windshield stickers.

Paul Norton was born in San Jose on Independence Day, July 4, 1876. He attended the training school of the San Jose Teacher's College and later a country school. He then attended the Oakland Technical School of Engineering. For more than 20 years he was traffic agent for the Southern Pacific railroad. When the merger with the Union Pacific took place, he became district passenger agent for that line in Fresno.

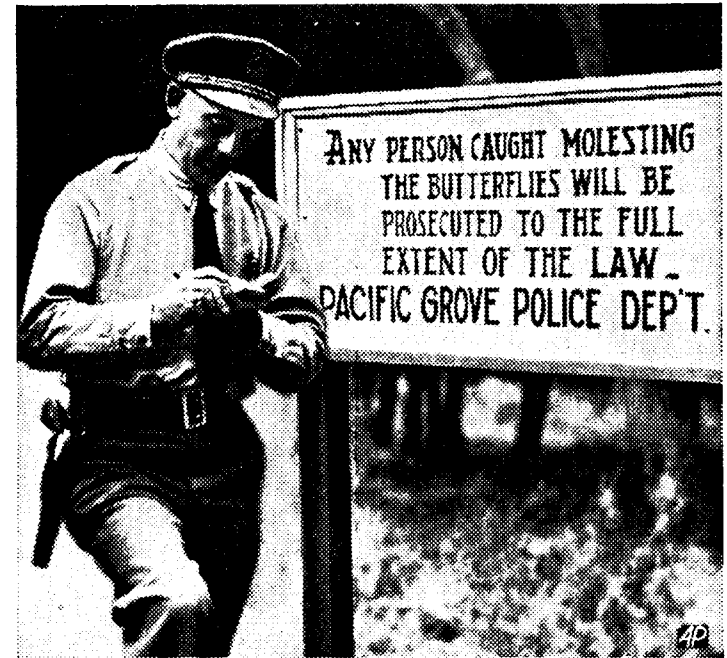
During the first World War, the railroads went under government control. Paul found his office in Fresno closed, the furniture being sent to a station in Pocatello, Idaho. He came to Pacific Grove, where he had purchased a cottage on Nineteenth Street to await instructions. Finally, Secretary of the Treasury W. G. McAdoo sent him a wire to report to Junction City, Kansas, and take charge of an office there. Paul's reply was forthright and characteristic: "I'd rather be a skunk in California than a rose in Kansas." He asked for and received a leave of absence. So far as he knows, it is still good.

Two years in the wholesale florist business in San Francisco netted Paul Norton a tidy fortune. He sold out and came to Pacific Grove to make his permanent residence. He has been the manager of the receiving and delivery department of the Holman department store for the past 15 years. He served two terms on the city council and has established a reputation for constructive work. He has long been a director of the Chamber of Commerce and has been one of the most faithful of local citizens in the matter of committee work. As a member of the Exchange Club for several years, he has reached fame for his regular weekly "horse-collar" reports. They are gems of humorous imagination gone wild.

Paul Norton has also carved a niche for himself as a layer of cornerstones, a deliverer of eulogies and a responder with thanks to official felicitations of all varieties. In other words, people have come to rely upon him to say the right thing at the right time. That's a monumental achievement.

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'Can't Catch A Butterfly' Says Law In This Town



The Law In Pacific Grove, Calif.

AP Feature Service

PACIFIC GROVE, Calif. — This town has enacted a law with real teeth in it—just to protect butterflies. If you molest the migratory beauties here, you are liable to fine or imprisonment.

As far back as people remember, the butterflies have swarmed here by the millions every autumn and stayed until spring. Scientists who have studied the phenomenon vouch for the fact that they always arrive at 4 in the afternoon and always go to the same small grove of trees near the seaside resort of Asilomar.

The date of arrival varies. Old timers are certain that the butterflies know when they face a severe winter and come early. This year they arrived late.

"We're trying to trace their movements through reports by amateur radio operators," says David Visel of Asilomar. "It seems

pretty certain that they summer in the northwest and in Canada."

Dr. John Adams Comstock, former director of the Southwest museum, identifies them as "Monarchs" and says they are the only truly migratory butterflies in North America.

They produce several generations a year, and the brood that finds its way to the traditional "butterfly trees" at Asilomar is an entirely different one from that which fluttered north the previous spring.

—sj— (Jan. 19, 1940)

Famous AP photo seen 'round the world in early 1940

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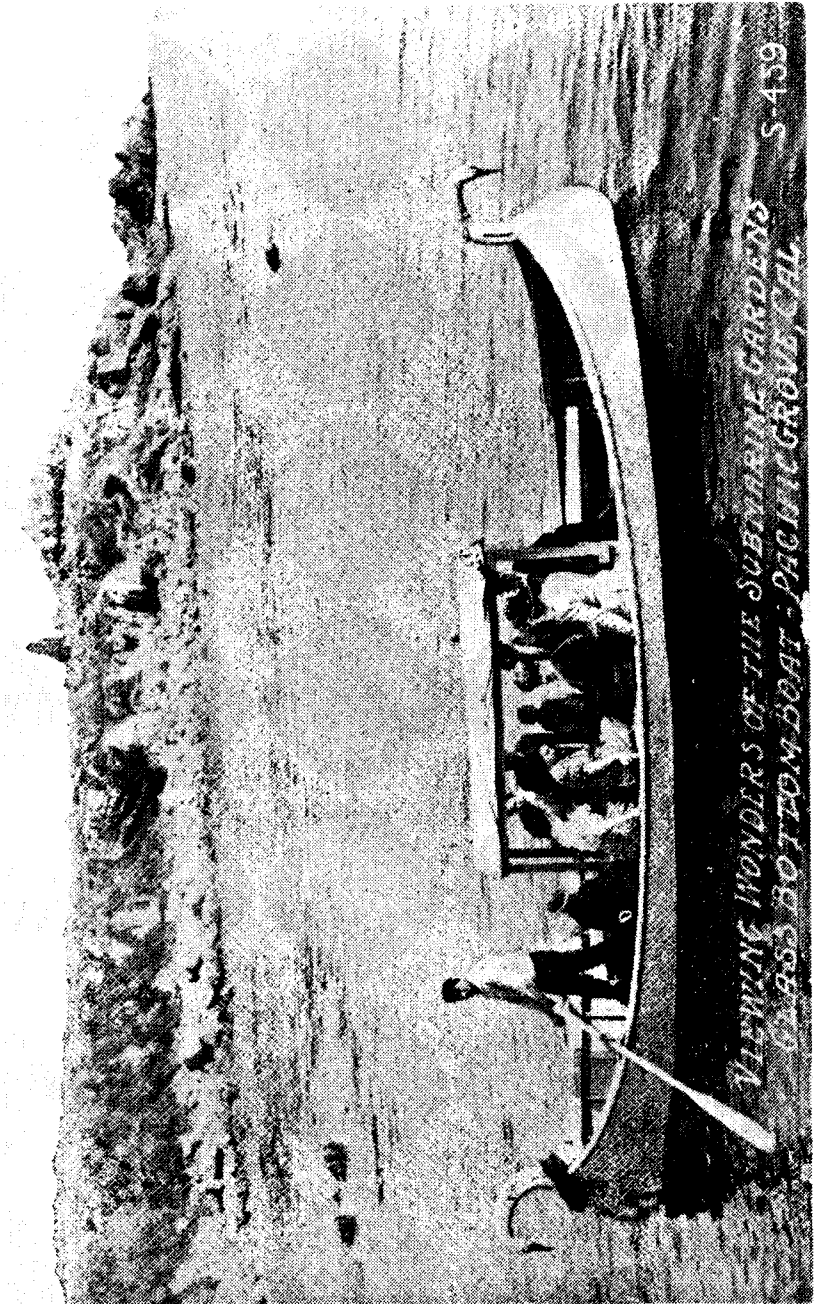
Down The Piney Path

News from the Monterey Weekly ARGUS - May 1886

❖ by E. C. Davis

- The grounds have been thoroughly cleaned up and this week the numerous tent frames belonging to the Company have been covered with canvas in readiness for the annual influx of summer visitors.
- About this time of year is the beginning of what is known to the Chinese fishermen as the "squid season." When the fishing is good, acres of ground around Chinatown will be plastered with this fish.
- The P. I. Company has a force at work filling in and repairing the road to the Grove.
- On Friday at 9:30 a.m. the Ladies Social Union met in the Parlor for an old-fashioned quilting. The sterner sex appeared at 6:30 with 25 cents and did justice to the loaded tables, the strawberries and cream being the first of the season. There was a delegation from Del Monte. The ladies report some forty dollars in the treasury.
- J. O. Johnson gives notice that the Grove Skating Rink will be open this evening.
- There is a plan for a bell tower on one corner of the fire house and a new bell on the hose-cart.
- Fred May has added a bay window to his house and John Gray is luxuriating in a wing.
- Dame rumor says a wedding in high life is soon to occur in Pacific Grove.
- The grass is so high on Dr. Saxe's lot that rabbits get lost.
- The Choral Society had a sing at Mrs. Titemore's Thursday.
- Commencing Monday, a fine four-horse coach will be run daily (Sunday excepted) between Pacific Grove Retreat and Hotel Del Monte. Will call at the bath house, hotels and post office for passengers.

Others Saw Us Through Postcards



Turn of the century postcard with the famous glass bottom boat.



Early undated photo of original, and still unknown, location of the house now at 110 7th Street (see right). House was moved from above location and re-located and remodeled on the lot at 110 7th. If you have any more info on this house, please let us know.



Feminine Columnist Pities Butterflies

(from the 8/22/41 issue of the P. G. Tribune)

Florence McGehee, a columnist for the Woodland Democrat, had much to say about Pacific Grove and the famous Monarch butterflies of this city in a recent issue of her column: "Excuse My Glove." Her remarks follow:

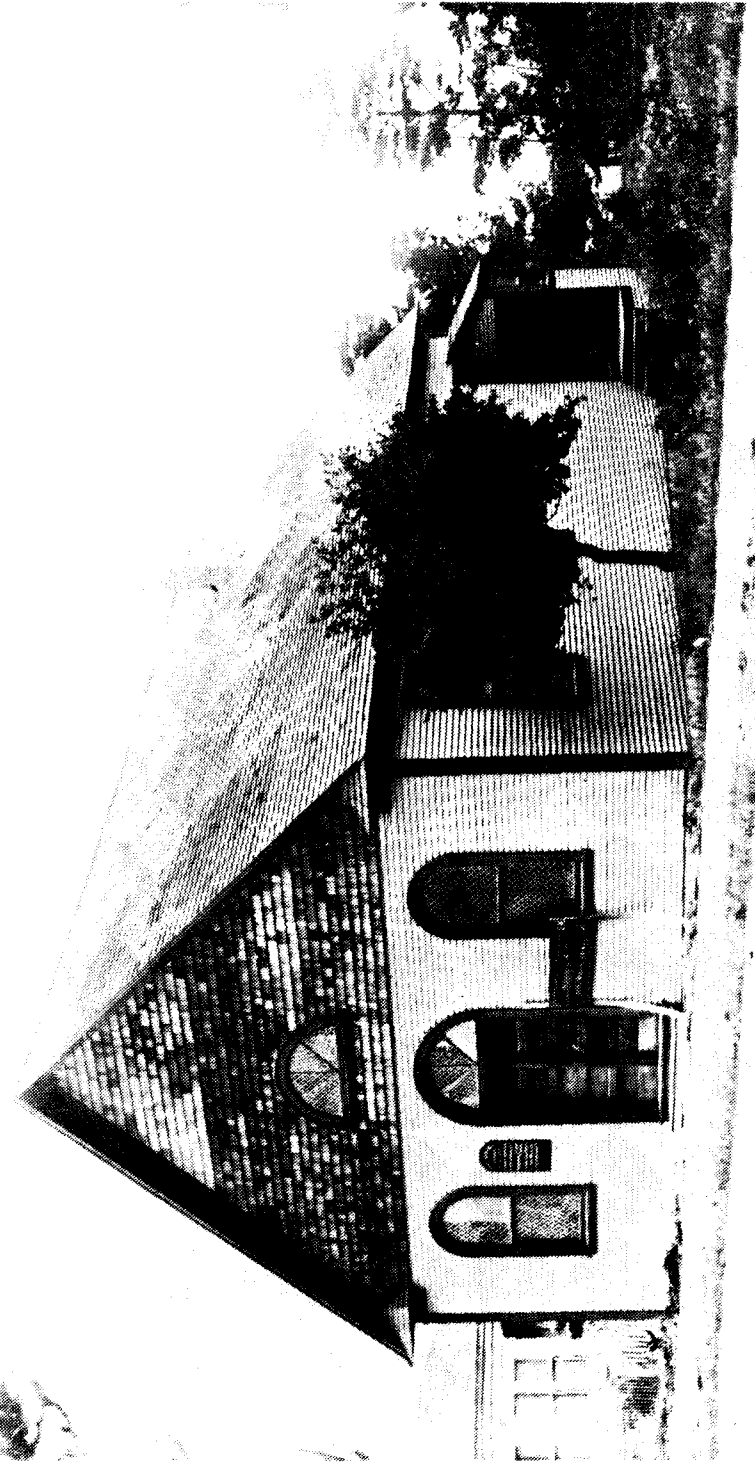
The city of Pacific Grove, we are told, has a strange law. There's a \$500 fine for "molesting a butterfly." We know nothing of what is behind all of this but merely reading that there IS such a law brings to mind all manner of quaint pictures, chief of which is that of the wronged butterfly hailing a chap into court with an indignant, "He chased me, your honor!"

It seems to us that such a case imposes a great many legal difficulties, a great many intricacies at least, they occur to the lay mind at once. How difficult for a butterfly to prove that it has been "molested!" How does the prosecutor go about getting witnesses to the misdemeanor itself as well as character witnesses for both the molester and for the butterfly? And whose testimony takes precedence over whose? We'd hate to take the stand as much as we'd hate to be the district attorney in such a courtroom scene. He'd be a pretty poor stick, wouldn't he, the chap who'd go about annoying butterflies? He might much better employ his time, we cannot help but think sternly. In the words of Mrs. Isadore Isenberg, "He ain't got what he should do."

There are only three types of folk, so far as we know, who are interested in the movements of butterflies: children, scientists and the mentally incapacitated. It occurs to us that the law would do well to be lenient with any one of these. But no, that \$500 thing shows they're not foolin'. You monkey with a butterfly and you take the rap.

We begin to believe now that the strange expression at which we have all grinned, "Butterflies in my stomach," may have been originated, not in fun, but in intense agony by some fellow who has swallowed the evidence. Is there discrimination there in the piney woods by the sea? Do moths get molested and butterflies not? Moths are notorious villains. Are they protected in their villainy along with their more colorful cousins? Speculation could go on indefinitely in the bug and insect kingdom but so far as we are able to find out, it is only the butterfly that is thus offered the security of the beaches and the forests.

Pacific Grove must have its reasons, for sensible folk live there. But to the outsider who is passing by so fast he has not time to learn about these quaintnesses, it sounds a little like that strict law against shooting whales from the highways.



Original home in Pacific Grove for the First Baptist Church at 246 Laurel. Built between 1905 and 1914, it was demolished in 1967 and replaced by the new church now there. House to the left is 230 4th Street, built in 1888.

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.)

War Deprives P.G. of Pleasure Boats

Pacific Grove will have no row boats, glass bottom boats or other craft operating at the beach this summer. Regulations of the federal government prohibit it. The city council this week voted to refund N. R. Sprague the money he had paid for the boating concession this year. Action was taken on receipt of a letter from his son, Russell, who is leaving for service as a building tradesman on a government base in the Pacific. (2/20/40)

Old Fire Truck Becomes Frisky With New Tires

Having run for 19 years on its original solid tires, the older of Pacific Grove's two fire engines is now equipped with pneumatic tires and will soon have a larger steering wheel. The engine was purchased in 1920 and these are the first changes made on it. The new tires make the truck easier to handle and also lessen the wear and tear on it. The wider surface of the tires makes it possible for the engine to be driven on soft ground where the smaller tires would have sunk into the earth. (12/29/39)

City Will Remove Unsightly Court

The unsightly and unused tennis court in Berwick Park, on Ocean View Avenue at the foot of Monterey Avenue, will be abandoned by the city, the Council voted Wednesday night. The money in the budget for its improvement has been transferred to the Civilian Defense fund. Abandonment of the court came upon recommendation by the city Planning Commission. (4/8/42)

Fountain Avenue Becomes a Boulevard

Fountain avenue was designated a "boulevard" by the city Council Wednesday. City Manager Erwin Dames was instructed to install "Stop" signs at all four approaches to the Fountain and Pine avenue intersection. (10/20/39)

Police Discover Still Operating Here

It's like finding the proverbial ham sandwich at the B'nai B'rith picnic. Wednesday, Chief of Police H. S. "Mike" Stalter and state liquor control officers raided the house at 144 Tenth Street and discovered, of all things, a "moonshine" still! And this in Pacific Grove, the last of the "bone dry" towns in California.

The resident, who confessed to operating the still, was in bed when the officers arrived. He was transferred from his bedroom to the city jail. His equipment, including a quantity of liquor, brown sugar, etc., was confiscated. It will be destroyed by the officers. The apparatus was of small capacity, but had been operating "off and on" for about three years in a specially constructed room, with walls designed to prevent escaping odors. (2/28/41)

1993 Heritage Awards

On May 13th the Heritage Society announced the recipients of the 1993 Heritage Awards at its annual Historic Preservation Week program. Geoff Welch, chair of the awards committee, presided over the program held at the historic Mayflower Church. A newly designed, bronze plaque was unveiled as the new Heritage House award.

The Heritage House Award was given to 126 16th, owned by Jean Anton. Bredthauer / Curran & Associates was the architect and Steve Honegger was the contractor. A Letter of Commendation went to 1204 Miles, owned by Mr. & Mrs. Eric Miller. Eric Miller was the architect and Joe DaSilva was the contractor. A Letter of Commendation was also awarded to 310 Lighthouse, owned by Kent & Marie Seavey. Ted Larson was the architect and Ken Adams and Dave Yamamoto were the contractors. After the awards presentation, Adam Weiland, Heritage Society Research Director, gave a slide presentation featuring many of the Society's collection of photos.

New Members

Mrs. Betty Farrar	Frank & Jody Mazzi
Mr. & Mrs. Richard W. Gamble	Maria Kelly & Jim Miller
Wayne P. Jones	Louise Stocks
Thomas & Katherine Maris	

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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