



THE BOARD AND BATTEN

Newsletter of the Pacific Grove Heritage Society

August / September 1993

The Inside Stories

☞ Garage Vanishes

It's gone—completely
gone!

☞ 24th Annual Victorian Home Tour

Tickets are still only
ten dollars

☞ Down The Piney Path

Concert in the interest
of the Good Templars
Orphans Home

Masonic Order of
Knights Templar to
hold a reunion.

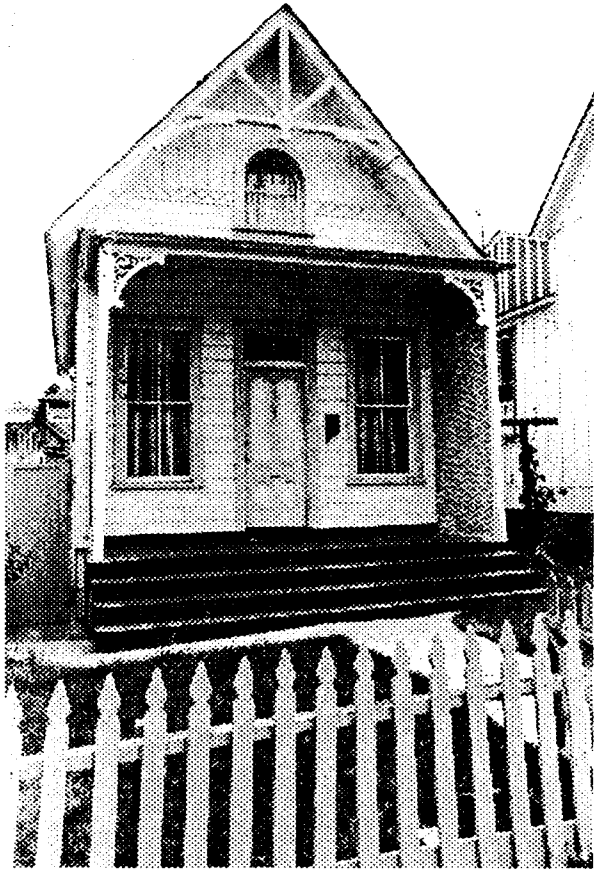
Prosperous season for
the Grove

☞ George F. Bodfish

Early Pioneer of
Pacific Grove

☞ News From *The Tide*

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



1988 Photo

137 16th Street was built in 1883 for Caroline Thornton. This is one of the homes featured on the 24th Annual Victorian Home Tour to be held on Sunday October 10, 1993. Please see inside for details.

Garage Vanishes With Poor Shack; Owner Hits Roof

Gee, look at this! Mrs. Anna Wilcoxen has lost a garage! She had a perfectly good garage and it's gone—completely gone! And she's got a lawyer about it. Mrs. Wilcoxen had a house at 218 Congress on which the city of Pacific Grove deeply frowned on as a menace to the health and safety of the community—in short, as a nuisance. One of the reasons for the city raising its eyebrows about this particular edifice was because it had been considerably mistreated by a fire some time ago and as a picturesque ruin it was an unsightly mess.

So, by order of the city council, City Manager Erwin Dames was instructed to notify Mrs. Wilcoxen that if she didn't remove the remains within 30 days, the city would send a couple of its trusty men down there and handle the job itself. Which moved Mrs. Wilcoxen to do something about it. She went into negotiations with a woman whose name, for obvious reasons, legal and libelous, we will delete, and transferred ownership of the ruins, or what wood and hinges could be salvaged from them, to said woman.

Now, according to a complaint Mrs. Wilcoxen makes to the city, whose business it is not at all, the ruins still remain in somewhat of a jumbled pile, but—and this was a consummation not devoutly wished by Mrs. Wilcoxen—a perfectly good garage, which stood on the next lot, also owned by her has vanished into thin air.

If we could have gotten this information up to the city manager at Sacramento, attending the conference of the League of Municipalities, he could have made an edifying speech to the assembled delegates about how a city takes a pot shot at a crow and gets a pheasant—at which it didn't even aim.

Editor's Note: The above article was written by W. K. Bassett for the November 17, 1941 issue of *The Pacific Grove Tide*.

Weather Signals

(From *P.G. Daily Review*: Jan. 2, 1908)

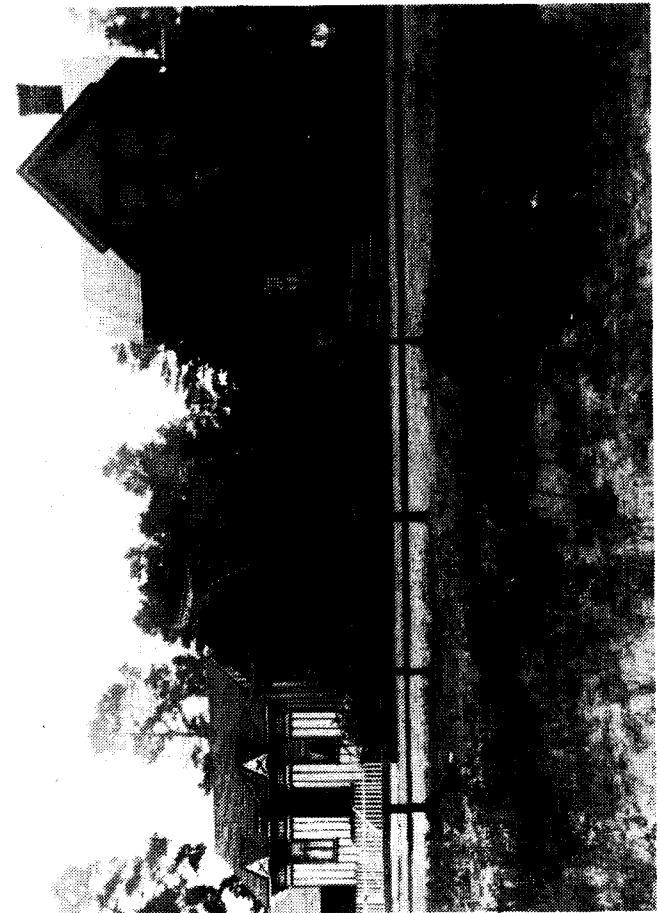
The meaning of the weather signals that fly daily from the postoffice building is as follows: White flag: Fair weather. Blue flag: Rain. Blue and white: Probable showers. White with black square: Cold wave. Black triangular flag above any flag: Warmer weather. Black triangular flag below any flag: Colder.

2

24th Annual Victorian Home Tour

This year's home tour will be held on Sunday, October 10. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend as we need and encourage your attendance. Tickets are still only ten dollars and can be purchased now, or on the day of the tour, at the Chamber of Commerce office at the corner of Forest and Central. Please call the Chamber office at 373-3304 for further information.

Some of the homes on the tour this year are: 137 16th (1883), 109 15th (1888), the pink house at 135 17th (1903), 441 Pine (1906) and 225 Lobos (1910). Other homes are still pending.



The house on the far left (109 15th) is on this year's tour. The house in the middle was 111 15th, but it was moved (between 1906 and 1914) to the other side of 109 15th and is now called 107 15th.

Photo circa 1895

3

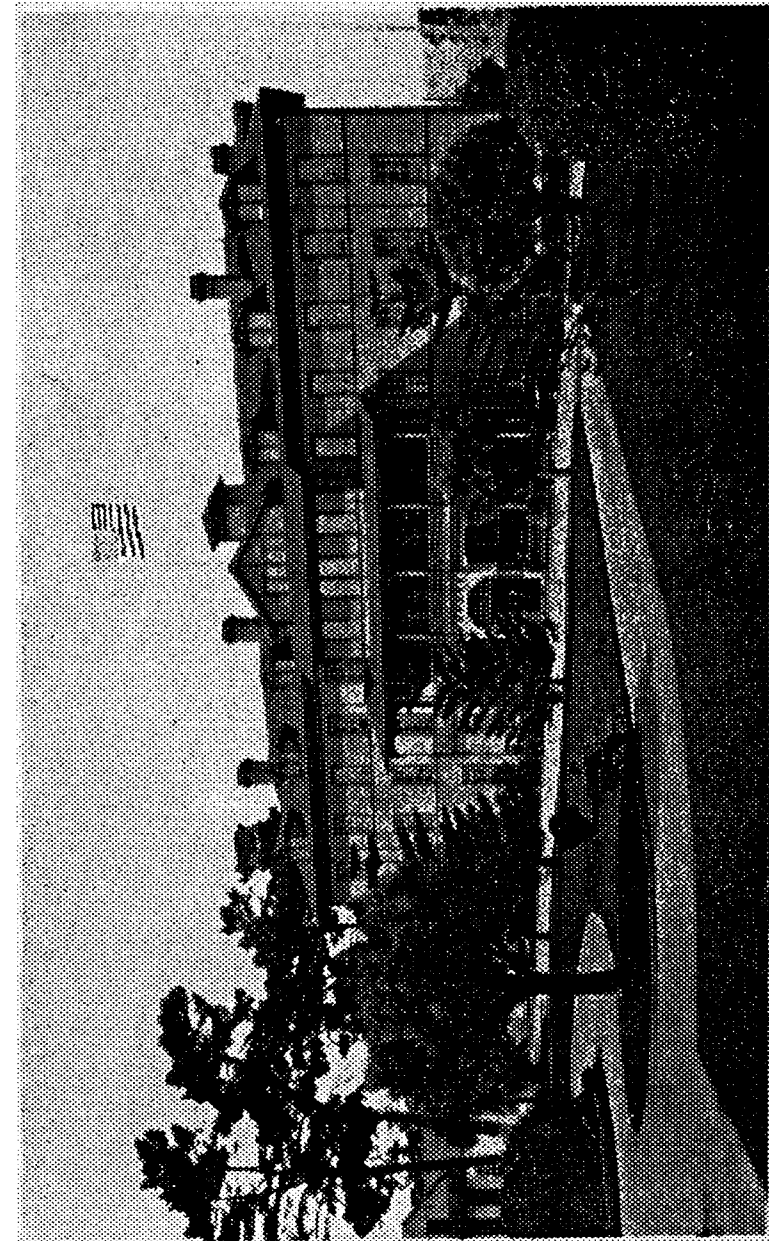
Down The Piney Path

News of old Pacific Grove from the Monterey ARGUS (Summer 1882)

◆ by E. C. Davis

- At Pacific Grove last Friday the following notice was posted in front of the office: "Concert tonight: Admission free. Children half price. Babies \$10." (The concert included four guitars, five pianos and was in the interest of the Good Templars Orphans Home.)
- The Pacific Coast Press Association will hold its annual gathering at the Pacific Grove Retreat this coming week.
- Mr. Johnson the superintendent, has had an extra well 20' x 10' dug this past week so there is not much danger of the water supply giving out.
- The Chautauqua Literary and Scientific Circle has adjourned.
- This has been a lively week at the Grove.
- About 150 members of the Masonic Order of Knights Templar are to arrive this evening on their way to Pacific Grove where they will hold a reunion.
- We understand the Carmel River below Sniveley's place is nearly dry.
- A chap staying at the Grove is strongly suspected of killing quail last week. At least he was found shooting "cotton tails" where rabbits are never seen.
- It is supposed the artesian well now boring at 1500 feet by the Pacific Improvement Co. will bring water from the Carmel River for the use of Del Monte and the Grove.
- This has been the most prosperous season for the Grove since it was first thrown open to visitors.

Others Saw Us Through Postcards



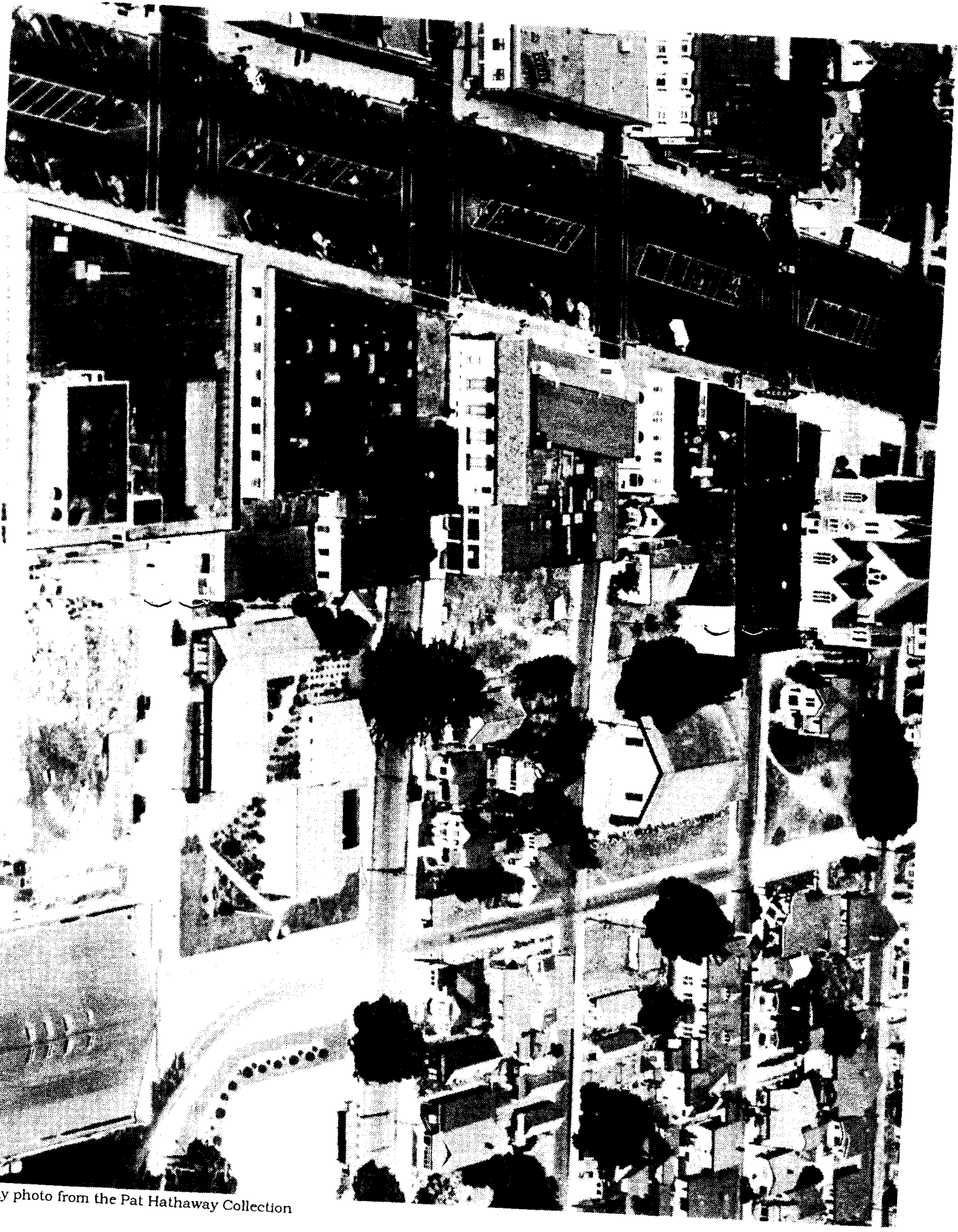
El Carmelo Hotel, Pacific Grove, California.

WRITTEN BY REV. W. W. W. 5/5

Circa 1906. Postcard purchased but never mailed. The card is in color and shows the hotel painted in light brown with a dark brown trim. Flag appears to have been added later. It doesn't look natural.

6

Have some fun with this aerial view of a portion of downtown Pacific Grove. Notice all the changes since the photo was taken on August 9, 1937.



McKay photo from the Pat Hathaway Collection

7

George F. Bodfish, Early Pioneer of Pacific Grove

George Fenwick Bodfish was born on February 1, 1859 in San Jose. He was the son of George Homer Bodfish of Barnstable, Mass., and a California pioneer of 1849. Mr. Bodfish was a descendent of the first puritan settlers of Massachusetts and on his mother's side of Cecilius Calvert, who founded the state of Maryland and was first to establish political and religious freedom in America.

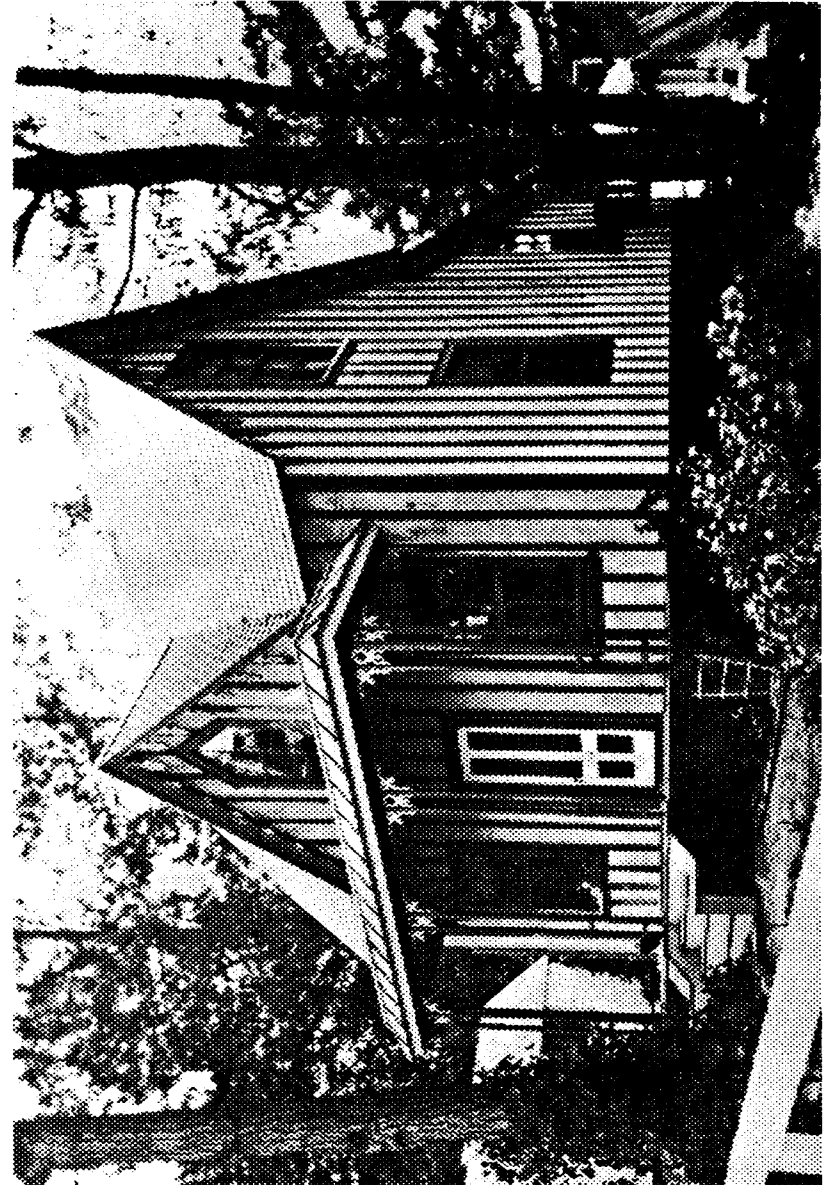
At an early age, he came to Monterey. For some time he was the assistant keeper of the Pt. Pinos Lighthouse, a position which he resigned in favor of his half-brother, Allen Luce. He was associated with David Jacks and the old Bodfish residence, called Loma Alta, was one of the first to rise on the present Mesa tract in Monterey. In 1884, Mr. Bodfish married Brenda Rose Praigg, daughter of the Hon. James Bryce Praigg of Carrollton. Mrs. Bodfish was long among the social and civic leaders of the peninsula. They had four children, two boys and two girls.

For many years he had the entire 17 Mile Drive area for cattle range and also owned the famous Brenda vineyard at Malaga near Fresno. Twice offered the state senatorial nomination by the Republican party in Monterey, he refused to give up his cattle business here. He was an expert marksman and widely famed as a hunter. Among his first employees were John Work and T. A. Work. In 1900, he purchased the house at 128 Forest and took up permanent residence in Pacific Grove. In September of 1906, he purchased the hay, wood, coal and feed business of the J. C. Anthony Company at the corner of Forest and Laurel avenues. According to the September 6, 1906 edition of the Daily Review: "He will give his personal attention to the buying of supplies for his business, and by giving his patrons the benefit of prompt delivery and supplying them with the best the market affords he will no doubt build up a large business."

Growing interested in mining he gave up large land holdings and became a mining engineer investing heavily in gold mines in which he made and lost several fortunes.

Toward the end of his life, he settled in Sacramento. While visiting in San Francisco, he died suddenly from a heart attack on a Saturday afternoon in September of 1940. Funeral services were held at the Dorney funeral home in Monterey and interment was in the family plot at the Monterey Catholic cemetery.

With true pioneer spirit, he fought to the end of his life to recover his losses, according to members of his family. A hardy man, he retained all his physical and mental faculties to a remarkable degree. He was noted for his courtesy and consideration of others.



Although built in 1882 for William Baker, this house was widely known as the "Bodfish" house. It was located at 128 Forest until at least 1943. It is now gone.

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.)

Heaviest Traffic in History Here

Pacific Grove had one of its biggest traffic jams in history last Tuesday. Throughout the day, hundreds of automobiles threaded painfully up and down Lighthouse avenue and residents gawked and wondered why all the activity all of a sudden in this otherwise quiet and peaceful city. Congestion was greatest around Holman's department store, and a look at the long lines in front of the building explained the heavy traffic of the day. Nylons! (9/06/46).

Fuchsia Selected Official Flower of Pacific Grove

Although all three peninsula cities have been mulling over the matter for some time, it took Pacific Grove to become the first to choose an official flower. By an ordinance passed by the Grove city council recently, the fuchsia was selected for the role. The fuchsia is grown in profusion by Grove residents, and one flower garden here—that of Mrs. Lawrence Lyons at 929 Fountain—boasts the largest collection of fuchsias in the world. (9/06/46).

18 Greyhound Buses Now Operated Daily From Pacific Grove

Under new and improved Greyhound bus service, 18 buses now operate daily to and from Pacific Grove, according to the announcement by W. F. Ackerman, vice-president of Greyhound lines. "This is only one step in our plans to provide more frequent and dependable bus service in this area, and other improvements are scheduled as new buses become available," said Mr. Ackerman. (2/08/46).

Steinbeck's Wife Secures Divorce From P. G. Writer

Mrs. Carol Henning Steinbeck was granted an interlocutory decree of divorce from John Steinbeck, noted local writer, by Superior Judge H. G. Jorgensen yesterday. She gave "other women" as the cause. Under a property settlement, Mrs. Steinbeck receives \$111,992.10 in cash and another \$100,000 in securities. Her husband retains title to their home on Eleventh street here and to the books which have made him famous.

Mrs. Steinbeck was represented by Attorney Webster Street of Monterey. The corroborating witness was Dr. Edward Ricketts, local marine biologist and friend of the Steinbecks for many years.

The Steinbecks were married January 12, 1930. For a number of years they were in straightened financial circumstances and Steinbeck at one time was on relief in this city. He rose to fame on publication of his "Tortilla Flat." Previously, it is said that his wife had done much to support them both, she being a writer and poetess. (3/13/42).

Horsin' Around

Saddle Horse's Antics (P.G. Review—Feb. 5, 1907)

A saddle horse hitched to the barber pole in front of Ben Norton's shop on Forest avenue Monday afternoon suddenly conceived the idea of making away with the red, white and blue sign. Lifting it bodily, the animal with a wild leap landed it over the shaft of a light wagon in front of the market next door, arousing the indignation of the harnessed horse, and for a minute or so it seemed evident that there would be a lively mix-up with a double run-away.

Al Stalter, who was in the near vicinity ran to the rescue and cutting the rope saved the situation. The animal which was responsible for the excitement belonged to Dick Sargent of Monterey who was in town with his brother Ross Sargent.

New Members

I. G. H. Construction
Ron & Joan Near

Mary Jane Meredith
Marilyn Vassallo

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: _____

City: _____

State: _____

Zip: _____

Phone: _____

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

*The
Heritage Society
of Pacific Grove*

P.O. Box 1007
Pacific Grove, CA 93950

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

Permit No. 30
Pacific Grove,
CA 93950

Board of Directors

President: Irene Tope
Vice President: Geoff Welch
Treasurer: Don Beals
Secretary: Carrol Patterson

Marilyn Arioto Katy & Tim Cadigan
Bob Dease Bill Edeen
Bobbie Hall Patrick Harr
Lynne Harter Elizabeth Moore
Muriel Pyburn Adam Weiland

The Board and Batten Staff

Adam Weiland
Colin Gough
Richard K. Price
Typesetting courtesy of Pro-Log
Corporation

The Barn

Laurel & 17th
(408) 372-2898
Hours
Sat. 1-4 p.m.

 NATIONAL TRUST
MEMBER
ORGANIZATION