



# THE BOARD AND BATTEN

*Newsletter of the Pacific Grove Heritage Society*

June / July 1993

## The Inside Stories

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Accounts of Dr.  
Trimmer's warmth  
are legendary

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### ☞ Real Estate Sale at Pacific Grove

A more pleasant  
auction of lands never  
took place.

### ☞ News From *The Tide*

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



*Dr. O. S. Trimmer 1833 - 1915*

The Victorian Home Tour has been moved to October 10, 1993.  
It will be the Sunday following the Saturday Butterfly Parade.

## Dr. O. S. Trimmer

Circa 1890

Oliver S. Trimmer was born in New York in 1833 and moved with his parents to Ohio when he was two years old. He taught school until the age of twenty-five when he began the study of medicine. In 1859 he married his first wife in Ohio, and in 1864 he received his medical diploma from Ann Arbor Medical College. He and his wife had two children, but both died in early childhood. Dr. Trimmer went on to practice medicine for the next ten years in Pierpoint, Ohio.

In 1873, Dr. and Mrs. Trimmer moved to California, where they settled in Salinas. He practiced medicine there for almost 15 years. In 1888, they relocated to Pacific Grove and built a small cottage at the corner of 6th and Laurel, hoping to retire.

Soon, both became very active members of the community. Mrs. Trimmer was active in the Order of the Eastern Star as well as the Women's Civic Club and Dr. Trimmer resumed practice as a doctor and became active in civic affairs. He served as president of the Board of Trustees in 1890 and belonged to the Masons and the Odd Fellows. He was also president of the Bank of Pacific Grove and Vice-president of the Bank of Monterey. He persuaded the husband of his wife's niece, Charles K. Tuttle, to open a pharmacy in Pacific Grove. In fact, the first phone service in Pacific Grove was a line between Dr. Trimmer's office and Tuttle's pharmacy. Accounts of Dr. Trimmer's warmth are legendary. It was the normal practice for doctors to make house calls in those days, but in addition, Dr. Trimmer felt obliged to see even those who could not afford to pay. It was said he often sent a paying customer to another doctor while he went to serve a patient without means.

In 1893 he demolished (or moved) his little cottage at the corner of 6th and Laurel and built a mansion on the property which to this day is still referred to as Trimmer Hill. In December, 1907, Mrs. Trimmer died at the age of 74 after a six month illness. In June, 1909, Dr. Trimmer married Miss Mary Pierce Stuntz who had been keeping house for him since his first wife's death in 1907. Dr. Trimmer died on July 4, 1915.

Despite all the changes around it over the years, his large Queen Anne style home continues to stand out on the hill. An advertisement in the July 7, 1939 Tide welcomes the public to the opening of the new public dining room at Trimmer Hill. Noted apiarist, T. W. Cowan lived there for awhile. Generally speaking, the owners over the years have taken great care of this fine old home.



*Dr. & Mrs. Trimmer in front of their first home in Pacific Grove at the corner of 6th and Laurel.*

## Down The Piney Path

News of old Pacific Grove from the Monterey CALIFORNIAN  
(May / June 1876)

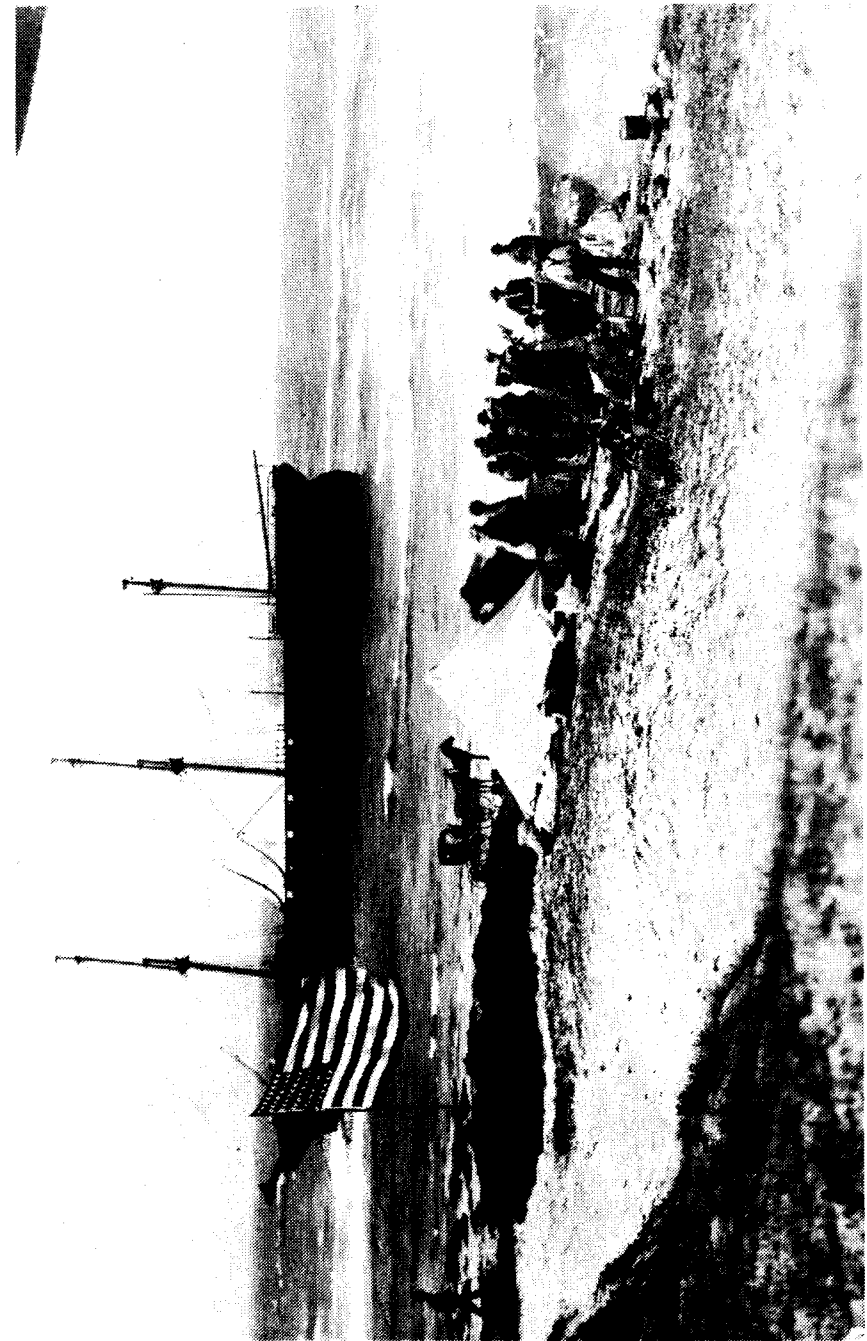
❖ by E. C. Davis

- + Twenty teams of campers passed through town towards Little Town and Pacific Grove in the week.
- + The Second Annual Camp Meeting is to open at Pacific Grove. Last year the weather was very unpromising, owing to the lateness of the season. The Association has contracted to carry their passengers by the Goodall, Nelson and Perkins splendid and capacious steamer "CONSTANTINE" which leaves San Francisco at 8 o'clock and arrives at Monterey before sundown. Stage may also be taken from Salinas. Clergymen and their families are boarded at half price. The fogs of last year are not expected in the ordinary course of events.
- + The Monterey CALIFORNIAN calls for a repeal of the no wines, or beer at the Pacific Grove Retreat. Attention is called to the fact that a camp meeting is for sinners. "The visitors at the restaurant pay 4 bits for a meal, for which elsewhere two bits would be dear."
- + A goodly number of campers are dwelling in Pacific Grove in tents. The camp meeting will close the 28th but the grounds will be kept open for visitors throughout the summer.
- + We are assured by many San Franciscans that if a good hotel were built at Pacific Grove, the whole city would visit us, and the speculation be a financial success.

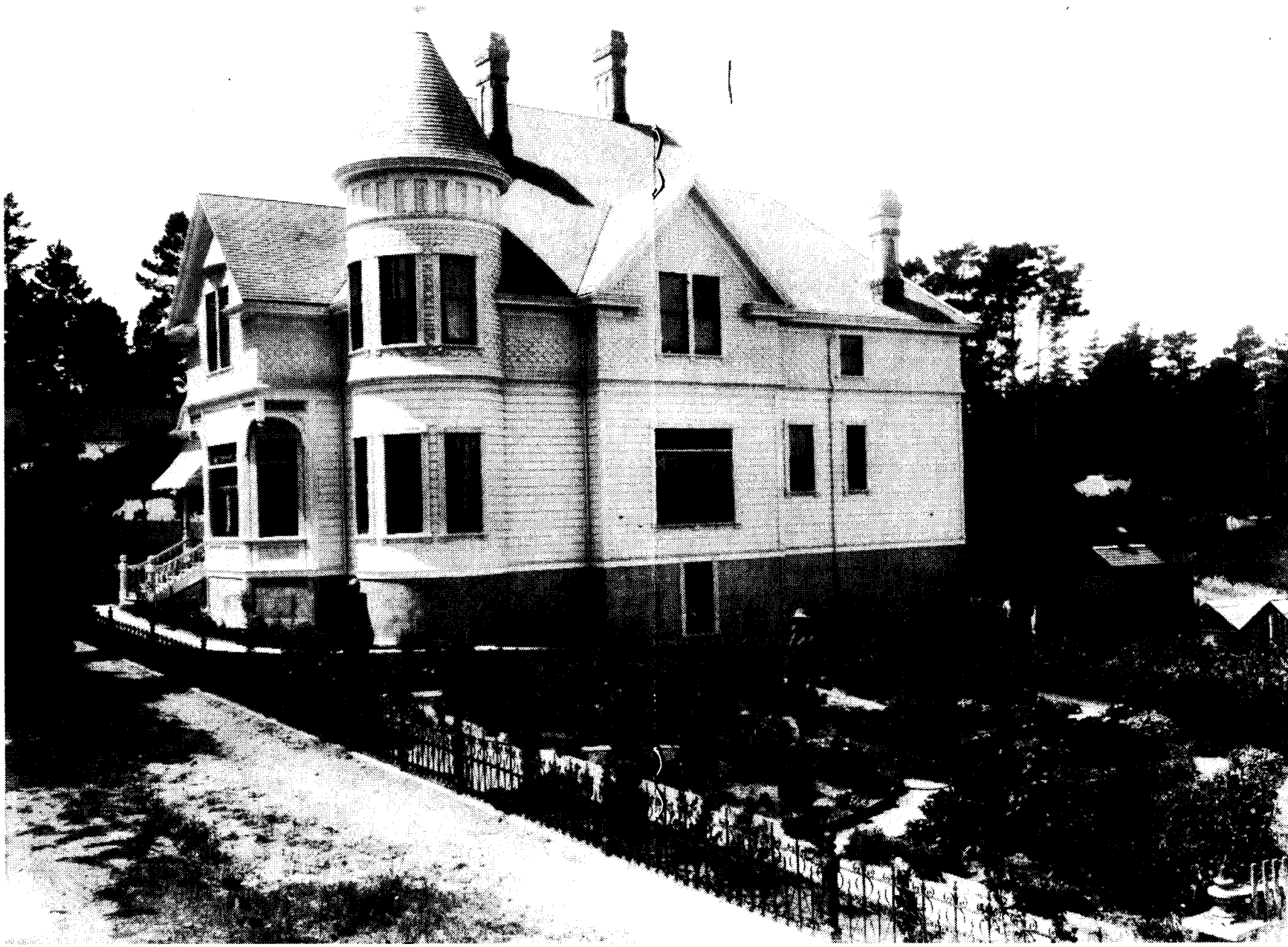
Editor's note: The above is among the earliest accounts of happenings in Pacific Grove available on microfilm. Regarding tents, all of the Pacific Improvement Company's tents had six-foot walls; were made of heavy duck; had painted floors, doors swung on hinges and were provided with lock and key. Many of them had a boarded wainscot. Each tent was furnished with a stove, one bedstead, spring bed top mattress, blankets, pillow cases, teapot table, wash stand and basin, and two chairs.

Ten by twelve tents have heating stoves and cook stoves with cooking utensils and a kitchen table. Renters must provide their own knives, forks and spoons. Persons wishing more than one bed in a tent will be charged extra, at the rate of \$1 per week or \$3 per month for a double bed and bedding. Soiled linen must be returned to the office, and clean linen will be given out in its place. Sanitary regulations will be strictly enforced. Persons renting tents will not be allowed to sublet them to others.

## Others Saw Us Through Postcards



Postmarked May 3, 1909. Sent to Mabel Holmes in Sacramento.  
Dear Mabel, This is the ship that went ashore at Moss Beach. It is not off yet. Will try and get it off at high tide at new moon.



*Second home of Dr. Trimmer at 230 6th Street, corner of Laurel. Built in 1893 and still standing, although the gardens and carriage house are gone.*

Circa 1900

6

7

## Great Sale of Real Estate at Pacific Grove

*(From the July 1887 issue of the Del Monte Wave)*

The auction sale of residence lots at Pacific Grove, on June 28, 29, 30, under the management of S. W. Fergusson, with C. C. Thayer as auctioneer, proved a great success. The announcement of the sale attracted a large crowd, and the bidding was lively and spirited each day of the sale. The weather was charming all through, and there was a general expression of surprise at the marked indications of prosperity in and about the Grove. The sale was conducted with entire satisfaction on the part of all, and the very fair manner in which everything in connection with the auction was transacted, elicited the entire confidence of the bidders. A more pleasant auction of lands never took place.

A charming spot in the Grove was chosen for the sale, and in front of a platform was arranged several rows of seats and all present were supplied with a complete lithograph map of the entire survey of the Grove, indicating each lot and all the streets and avenues. Mr. Fergusson showed his peculiar adaptability to arrange and manage so large and important a sale, while his auctioneer, Mr. Thayer, was perfect master of the situation and seemed as active and keen to catch a bid at the close of the sale on the evening of the third day, as he was at the beginning of the auction. Mr. L. D. Norton, the Company's surveyor, who had surveyed the entire Grove and is thoroughly familiar with every foot of ground in it, was present during the entire sale and occupied a seat on the platform, and was ready to answer any questions as to the location of the lots, avenues, etc. Mr. C. L. Boyers, Superintendent of the Grove, was also in attendance and did all in his power to accommodate purchasers, and make the sale pleasant.

Not a single misunderstanding occurred during the entire sale. While the bidding was spirited, there was no excitement whatever, and ladies were as active in bidding as gentlemen. The character of the persons who were in attendance inspired confidence and assured success, and while the prices generally were higher than had been anticipated, it appeared at the close of the sale that each individual purchaser felt satisfied that he or she had the best bargain. In one instance where a lady purchased an entire block, the same day she sold at an advance of \$250.

As before stated in the Wave, the Company's lots in the original grounds as well as in the first and second additions, had been well exhausted, and a third addition was surveyed to be placed on the market. The great demand for certain locations in the new addition, suggested a public sale, so that all would be fairly treated, and this sale is recognized as a fair standard from which to fix the actual value of real estate at Pacific Grove.

Editor's note: 45 blocks were sold a lot at a time for a total of \$111,000.

## 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.)*

### Pork Chops Float Ashore

Pacific Grove's street department had a new job this week when a big hog floated ashore at the local beach. They had to find enough wood to build a fire to burn the carcass, not an easy task considering the weather we have had. City officials presumed that the hog had fallen into the Salinas River at high water and had been washed into the bay. (2/28/41).

### Wells Gets New Safe, Whole Town Looks On

Richard E. Wells, local jeweler, got a safe yesterday, and it was a big one. Thanks to that event, the town got a lot of amusement. The safe is the one formerly used at the post office, when that institution was located on Forest Avenue. The safe was moved from there, down Forest to Lighthouse, across Pacific Grove's busiest intersection and to the Wells establishment at 549 1/2 Lighthouse.

Supervising the moving, while the natives looked on and offered advice, was W. J. Follette, president of the Monterey chamber of commerce. He appeared in person, instructing his crew of movers, who grunted and groaned when the going was tough. It was a flair for entertainment, no doubt, that prompted Bill to bring his crew over to do the job in the busiest part of the day. (7/25/41).

### Doll House Fire Brings Original Code Signal Use.

A fire in a doll house and wood shed at the Roy M. Wright residence, 312 Cypress avenue, resulted in the first code alarm on Pacific Grove's new fire whistle at 10:45 o'clock last night. Damage amounted to about \$50 on the former fire chief's premises. (7/25/41)

### Cornelius Culp Gets Some Tires For That Dodge!

One of Pacific Grove's most familiar and most remarkable automobiles is that Dodge Brothers roadster driven by Cornelius Culp, Pacific Grove's repair man and bicycle shop proprietor. It was manufactured back there in those dim, dark ages before the Chrysler came into being and the Dodge became a member of the Chrysler line.

Now the historic car is even more remarkable. For it received the first two new tires allowed by the Pacific Grove tire rationing board. It seems that tires in stock for cars of "obsolete models" are available without restriction, apparently as long as they last. The only other tires issued by the local board thus far have been to Richard Parks, who comes in the same classification.

Thus far, no new tires have been issued to any Pacific Grove motorists as none has been able as yet to qualify for government approval. Applications may be left with Loren Smith, member of the board, at the Bank of America. The board meets each Monday evening in the directors' room at the public museum. Other board members are B. A. Lee and Mrs. Gladys Dean. (1/30/42).



1980 photo

On the left is Edna Goldsworthy Sefton, who died a few years ago. On the right is Philoma Goldsworthy, who died on June 24, 1993 at the age of 98.

When our friend and charter member of the Heritage Society, Philoma Goldsworthy, died in June, it brought to mind an editorial written by Bill Gould for the Tide back in 1940. He wrote it for Daniel Leary, but I'm borrowing some of his words as they are appropriate here.

Every community, particularly one of the size of Pacific Grove, has a certain group of old-time residents who are regarded as representative of the town's past, people who have been around long enough to be taken for granted. These are the ones for whom the former resident always looks when he returns for a visit. The old town would not look the same without them. And it wouldn't be the same either.

In June, Pacific Grove lost such a citizen, and Pacific Grove will never be the same again. It is something like when men cut down a tree. It may have been growing somewhat infirm and there may be one or several young trees planted in its place, but when it comes down, there is a blank space in the sky and the view is never quite the same. Pacific Grove is not very old as cities go, and the old-timers who are passing now are the last of those who can remember the city in its infancy. They are the ones who helped give it its original character and direction. Soon there will be none except those who have built upon the foundation of others.

The Heritage Society, and the community, honor and remember Philoma Goldsworthy, a friendly woman who knew and loved her home town for a long time.



Geoff Weich photo

Heritage Society Board member Lynne Harter presents the Heritage Society's Philoma Goldsworthy Scholarship check for \$500 to Michael A. Loomis of 827 2nd Street in Pacific Grove. Michael graduated with a 4.06 GPA and will be attending Santa Clara.

## New Members

Daniel & Sandi Lewtschuk

Mrs. Ruth McCampbell

### 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: \_\_\_\_\_

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