



# THE BOARD AND BATTEN

Newsletter of the Pacific Grove Heritage Society

February / March 1992

## The Inside Stories

### ☞ Quilt Show Preview Party

Come enjoy the wine  
tasting and hors  
d'oeuvres

### ☞ Heritage Awards Presentation

May 14th, 7p.m.

### ☞ Textile Preservation Workshop

May 23rd, from 10:00  
a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

### ☞ Down the Piney Path

Apple Parin' at the  
Parlor

Petition to  
incorporate signed

Runaway bakery  
wagon!

## William "Bathhouse" Smith

In August of 1946, William S. Smith was 87 years old and lived at Mrs. Isa Camp's rest home in Pacific Grove. Mr. Smith is the man who built the beach we all now enjoy at Lover's Point. The following is taken from an interview with Mr. Smith by Ritch Lovejoy and published in *The Herald* in 1946.

Smith was born in San Juan in 1859. His father, James Bennet Smith, was the sixth sheriff of Monterey County, having been appointed in 1864, and later having served a second term in 1874-75. In the winter of 1864, the family moved to Monterey, and the father, along with Billy Bardin, bought out the grocery and mercantile business then belonging to Curtis and Conover in the brick building which later housed Winston Auto. The Smith and Bardin day books were a 'Who's Who' of Monterey County.

William S. Smith got title to the land at Lover's Point in 1904. The land was acquired from the Pacific Improvement Company, and it was specified in deed restrictions that no liquor would ever be sold there.

**23rd Annual Victorian Home Tour  
Sunday April 26, 1992**

(See inside for details)

At that time the Grove was still a Methodist camp meeting ground in the forest, and the beach was a pile of stones and cliffs of solid rock. Anyway, needless to say, when Smith bought his property, and the big church was built and the place had "become quite a town" with houses, and a fence around it which was shut at curfew, he had something big to buck. The laws of the town in those days were what we call "blue laws" these days, and what laws weren't written were definitely understood anyway. Nobody wanted a beach where people could go on Sunday. Smith said, "We don't go into all that anymore (1946) of course. I guess in those days I was a devil to them, and they gave me hell."

Despite plenty of opposition, Smith started to work. He blasted in the cove full of rocks where there was a little inlet, and where there had been a little rough board shed for dressing rooms with no appliances, he set up a bathhouse, bathing resort, and boat house.

During 1904 he put in salt water bathing rooms, and put a boathouse underneath. He bought a fleet of boats, including a 35 foot motor boat, two sailboats, some rowboats, and a fishing service boat. He kept blasting and clearing the cove in the winter to make more beach, and from June to September he opened the place to the public. He cut back the sea wall forty feet, and lengthened the beach for a considerable distance. With the rock he blasted loose, he built the stone wall and pier that still stands. The tides brought in the sand and made the beach beautiful, as it is today.

Up on the bank, where he owned 800 feet of property, he established the Japanese Tea Garden. He got in a Japanese architect, builders, gardeners and workmen, and installed the Sugano family to run the place. It was a great novelty, and a thing of considerable pride to Smith. In 1910, Smith sold his holdings to a Dr. Foster. (He was the father of long-time city attorney Reginald Foster.)

When asked where he went after he sold out, he said, "It would be a book. I went half over the world, and left Pacific Grove, which was then the only resort on the coast, never dreaming it would grow to its present size. I spent two years in Spain, 17 years in Mexico, five years in Cuba, some time in Italy, two years in San Domingo, and was a sugar plantation man in Haiti for two years during World War I. But one of my best memories is of the time there was a reception at my Pacific Grove tea garden for a young man, only about 16, who was a prince or had some high position in Japan. There were twenty present, and I was the only Occidental invited to the ceremony."

(Editor's note: Unfortunately, neither we nor Pat Hathaway have ever seen a photo of Mr. Smith. If you have one, or know of one, please contact the Heritage Society.)

## Quilt Show Preview Party

The Annual Quilt Show Preview Party, which marks the opening of the Quilt Show, will be held from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm on Friday evening, April 24, at Chautauqua Hall on the corner of 16th and Central. The ticket admission of \$7.50 includes wine tasting and hors d'oeuvres. Please call Marilyn Arioto at 649-8270 for tickets.

## Heritage Awards Presentation

Mark your calendars for Thursday evening, May 14 at 7:00 pm. In celebration of National Historic Preservation Week, your Heritage Society will present the Annual Heritage Awards Ceremony. As usual, we will also have a special slide/lecture presentation. Members will receive a special invitation in the mail prior to the event with all the details.

## Textile Preservation Workshop

Monterey Public Library will sponsor a Textile Preservation Workshop on Saturday, May 23, from 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., in the Library Community Room. The Library is located at 625 Pacific Street in Monterey. Join experts from Monterey History and Art Association's Costume Gallery for a discussion of textile antiquities, which will focus particularly on textile heirlooms found in typical homes - linens, quilts, wedding dresses, etc. Each workshop participant will bring one textile item from home to share with the group for discussion and to receive expert advice on the proper use, cleaning, repair and storage of it. If you've ever wondered whether Grandma's wedding gown should be on a hanger, in a dry cleaner's bag or in a box ... here's your chance to find out! Class size is limited to 25, so sign up early. Enrollment is free and pre-registration is required. Please call 646-3930.

## Membership Dues

Membership dues are still only \$10.00 a year for a family membership, which includes a subscription to the Board and Batten. Dues are only \$7.00 a year for senior households (you decide if you are a senior). If you haven't paid your invoice yet, please do so in the near future. For all of you that have paid, including those that sent in an extra donation, thank you very much.

## 23rd Annual Victorian Home Tour

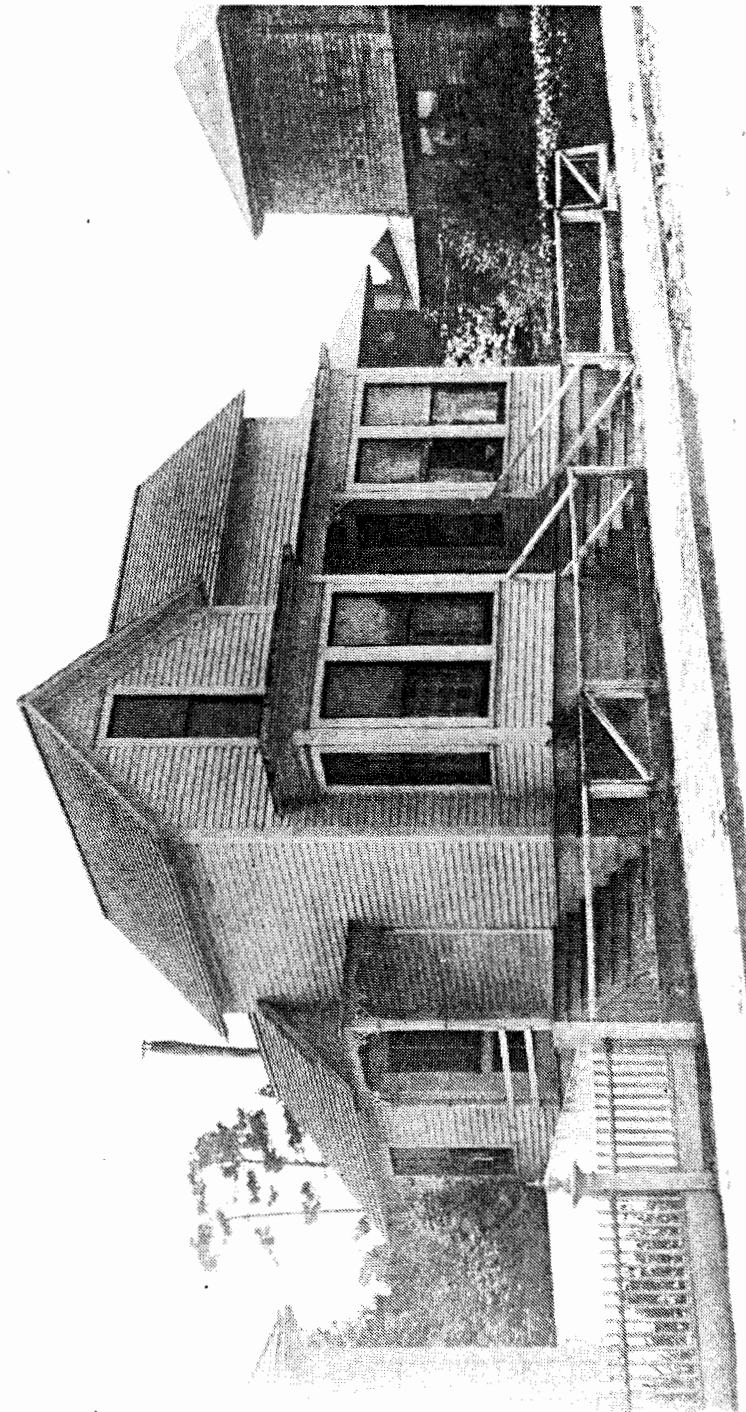
This year's home tour will be held on Sunday, April 26. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend. We need and encourage your attendance. Seven of the homes have never been on the tour before. Tickets are still only ten dollars and can be purchased NOW at the Chamber of Commerce office at the corner of Forest and Central during normal business hours. You can also buy them there on the day of the tour. Please call 373-3304 for further information. The tour buildings are as follows:

Address	Built	First Owner
169 Pacific	1903	Lizzie McKee
217 Park	1909	Mrs. N. P. Hook
236 Cypress	1904	Mary Hunt / Ida Grimes
132 Forest	1990	Mr. & Mrs. Richard James
145 Carmel	1888	R. F. J. Mills
664 Laurel	1886	B. Barber
718 Grove	1902	H. C. Buffum
120 Fountain	1883	Paris Kilburn
612 Central	1889	Centrella Hotel
104 5th	1888	Green Gables Inn
255 Ocean View	1925	Martine Inn
Central & 14th	1910	Mayflower Church

### Pic Tours

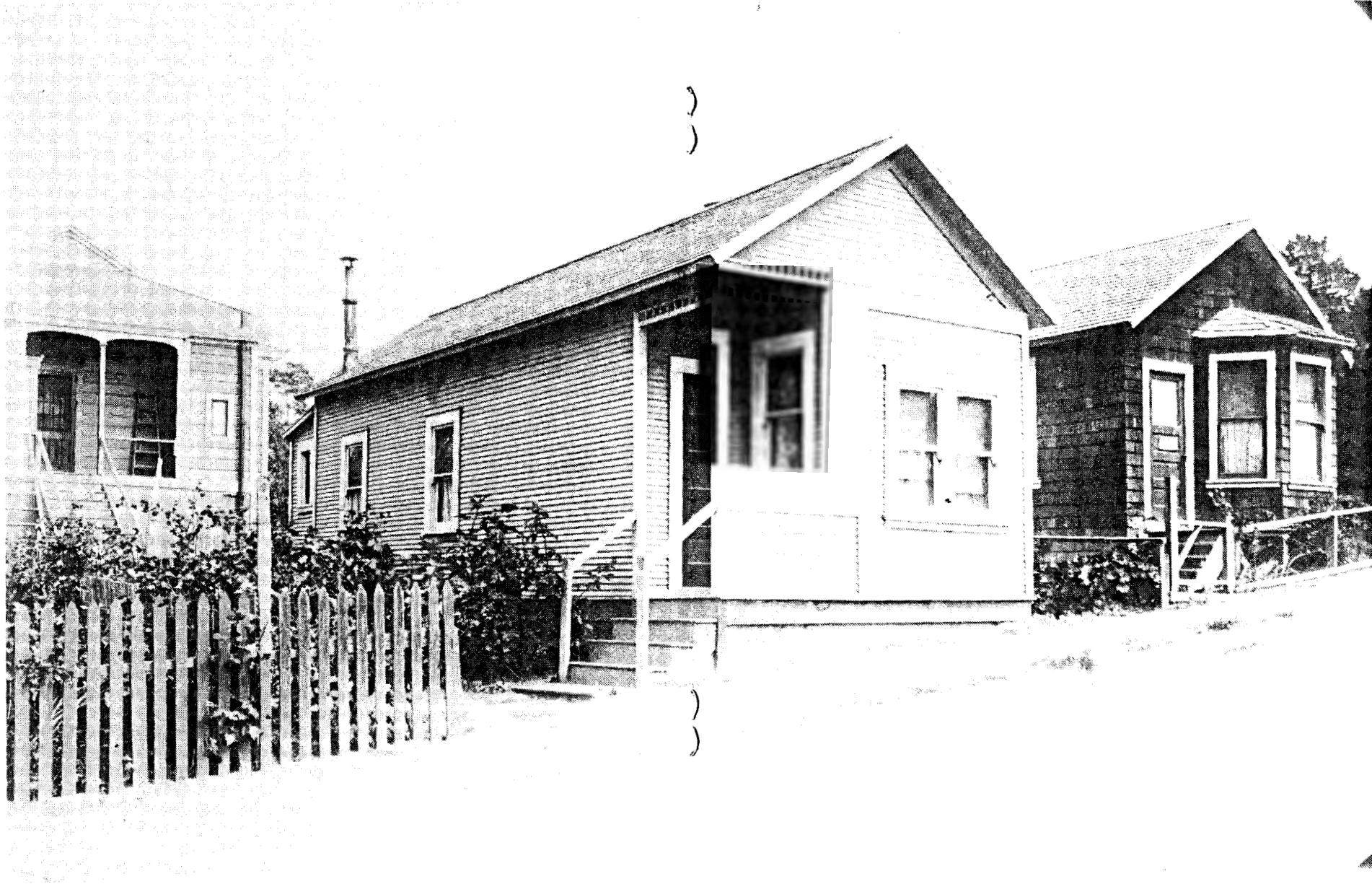
Look for Heritage Society member Tad Burness's column "Pic Tours" in the Real Estate section of *The Herald* on Saturdays. He often features homes from Pacific Grove.

145 Carmel - Featured on 1992 Victorian Home Tour



An early view of 145 Carmel, built in 1888. House on the far right is 151 Carmel, now undergoing some restoration of its own.

Can you help us locate any of these houses?



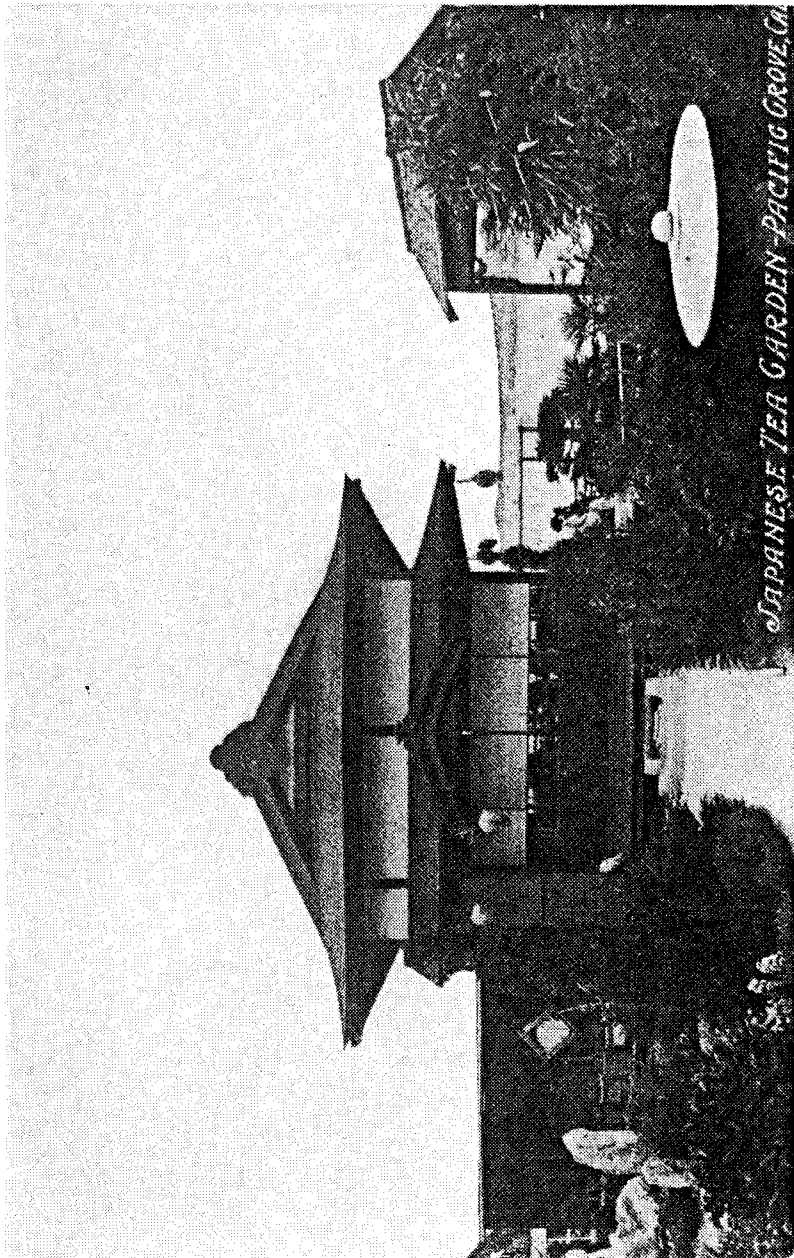
*This photo was probably taken between 1905 and 1910. We have been unable to locate them through our normal sources. If you know where these houses are (or were!), please call us at 372-2898 and leave a message. Or drop us a line at P.O. Box 1007 in Pacific Grove. Thanks.*

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## Others Saw Us Through Postcards

Donated by John Hughes



On the "Road of a Thousand Wonders". Published by Cardinell-Vincent Co., San Francisco.

## Down the Piney Path

News of old Pacific Grove from the Monterey WEEKLY CYPRESS  
(March - April 1889)

❖ by E. C. Davis

- ❑ Our genial druggist is wearing a very pleasant smile on his face since he is called papa.
- ❑ Miss Strome, our popular dressmaker, arrived at the Grove last week and is putting on an addition to her house (702 Grove - now gone).
- ❑ The Apple Parin' entertainment at the Parlor last evening was a grand success. During the intermissions of the songs, Helen Rockaway amused the audience with her Komikal Konversashuns. The room was well filled and the proceeds of \$20 went to the benefit of the public library.
- ❑ T. W. Cook has gravelled his sidewalk on Grand Avenue.
- ❑ H. E. Kent has been rushed of business as of late. He has just brought a number of fine horses from pasture fields near Hollister and is ready for Spring business.
- ❑ A party of young lady artists have taken the Jewell cottage for about six weeks.
- ❑ No better evidence of prosperity in the Grove can be pointed out than to refer to the new and handsome cottage built by Mr. & Mrs. Beigle containing seventeen rooms, including exquisitely furnished double parlors. It will be called Centrella Cottage (Now called the Centrella Hotel).
- ❑ David Jacks is having his houses cleaned and painted ready for a busy summer.
- ❑ E.C. Smith, our new and "live" real estate man is sporting the finest rig in the Grove, he having purchased J.F. Sarber's outfit.
- ❑ The Carmelo river is brimful and unfordable.
- ❑ Lots are changing hands rapidly.
- ❑ The tin roof has been put on the Hollenbeck building this week.
- ❑ Houses are springing up all over the Grove.
- ❑ The sea has been wild during the late storm and slight seers that were not wide awake had a gentle reminder in the way of a ducking.

- A petition to incorporate Pacific Grove is being signed. Hurrah for the City of Pacific Grove! Monday the people of the Grove celebrated the Governor's signing of the bill of disincorporation of Monterey by a bonfire and the firing of cannon.
- The horse hitched to Berg's bakery wagon took a notion to run away last Saturday and came near running over Mrs. C.D. Smith on Lighthouse Avenue.
- The Ladies' Aid Society raised \$28.50 at their entertainment provided by the San Francisco sketch club mandolin orchestra.
- In order to accommodate the crowds that gather around the post office at mail time, the front of the building has been altered and swinging doors put in.
- The surveyors have pitched their tent near the bath house and are now at work on the railroad.
- The McCormicks are wed at St. Mary's church.



Early photo of the Jewell Cottage, built in 1882 on the corner of Forest and Park. It was demolished in the 1960s.

## Election of Officers

Bob Dease was elected President of the Heritage Society at the February 19th Board of Directors meeting held at the Barn. Other officers elected were Irene Tope as Vice President, Don Beals as Treasurer and Carrol Patterson as Secretary. New Board members elected at the annual general membership meeting were Patrick Harr, Patricia Lewis, Doris Vance, and Geoff Welch. Incumbents reelected to another three year term were Marilyn Arioto, Bob Dease, and Don Beals. Dave Korhonen and Jeanne McCombs stepped down from the Board and were thanked for their years of service. The complete Board of Directors is listed on the last page.

## Board Meeting Change

Future Board meetings will be held on the SECOND Wednesday of each month at 7:00 pm in the Barn. The change was made so as to not conflict with City Council meetings. Members are welcome to attend.

## New Members

Theodora Gross Anderson  
 Sybil-Frances Kimbrig  
 Pat Lewis

Nicki McMahan  
 Pamela Sciarrino  
 Mr. & Mrs. Wilfred Tosh

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

*The  
Heritage Society  
of Pacific Grove*

P.O. Box 1007  
Pacific Grove, CA 93950

**Board of Directors**

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Treasurer: Don Beals  
Secretary: Carrol Patterson

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Sirrah Harris Lynne Harter  
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**The Barn**

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