



THE BOARD AND BATTEN

Newsletter of the Pacific Grove Heritage Society

February / March 1995



Edward Berwick (1843 - 1934)

In this issue, we reprint an article written by Mr. Berwick for the December 23, 1932 issue of the Pacific Grove Tribune recalling the early days of the Grove.

Quilt Show Preview Party - April 7, 1995

Good Old Days and Quilt Show - April 8 & 9, 1995

Pioneer Recalls Early Days

❖ by Edward Berwick (in the 12/23/32 Tribune)

When in 1865 I first set foot in old Monterey, it consisted of some 100 houses with possibly 500 inhabitants. What in England would have been called the "lord of the manor" was a Scotchman, David Jacks, who had acquired 100,000 acres of land around Monterey, the then county seat. Included in the estate were the Aquajito, the Pescadero and the Pt. Pinos ranches.

Now a millionaire, he had known poverty, for, as a boy in Scotland he had worked for half a crown (60 cents) per month. Though a Presbyterian in creed (he kept a private chaplain of that persuasion) he was willing to help religionists of other denominations. IN 1875 he donated to a Methodist organization 80 acres of land as a camp ground. Thus the Pacific Grove Retreat Association became a reality.

Lots for tenting purposes, 30x60 feet, were surveyed in small blocks with narrow roadways. The average price was around \$50. In 1882 I gave \$185 for three waterfront lots. The association then borrowed \$30,000 from Jacks to put up eight or ten lodging houses and offices, mortgaging the tract to Jacks as security. As the association was unable to pay this when it became due, the tract reverted to Jacks, who continued the sale of lots until the Pacific Improvement company bought out the Pescadero and Pt. Pinos ranchos, including Jack's interest in Pacific Grove. Some \$30,000 was the alleged price for the whole 6000 acres.

Improvements were slow and residents innumerable for some years. One of the first private houses was built by an Oakland bookseller, Strickland by name. His "Magnolia Lodge" on Grand avenue, where he lived with his wife and daughter, still flourishes, a monument to the good work of Herman Prinz, a Monterey builder and former German ship contractor. (Please see photo on next page.) Another married couple, Davisons, lived the year through in a tent on Forest avenue. Al Pell would come out once a week and supply their creature comforts. Captain Goodall, the MacElroys, Hancocks, Harpers, MacDougalls, Joe Johnson, Lillian Furlong, were other early builders.

The first man to keep a store was J. B. Norton in 1881. Charles K. Tuttle started selling drugs on April 18, 1887. Thereafter came the Lloyds in the grocery business; Towle and Holman, dry goods pioneers; T. A. Work, Tuck, and Buck in hardware; Oliver, in meats; Galanar, in news. Notable housebuilders were Senator Langford, 24 years representing San Joaquin county and Miss Sarah M. Spooner, whose collections of paintings and curios have so large a place in the museum in Golden Gate park. Her house, remodelled out of all knowledge, is now the home of James Parke. Dr. Trimmer moved from Salinas and became our leading physician and bank president. Brandt of Spokane built the house long known as Pinehurst, afterwards the home of T. W. Cowan, a world-known apiarist and philanthropist.

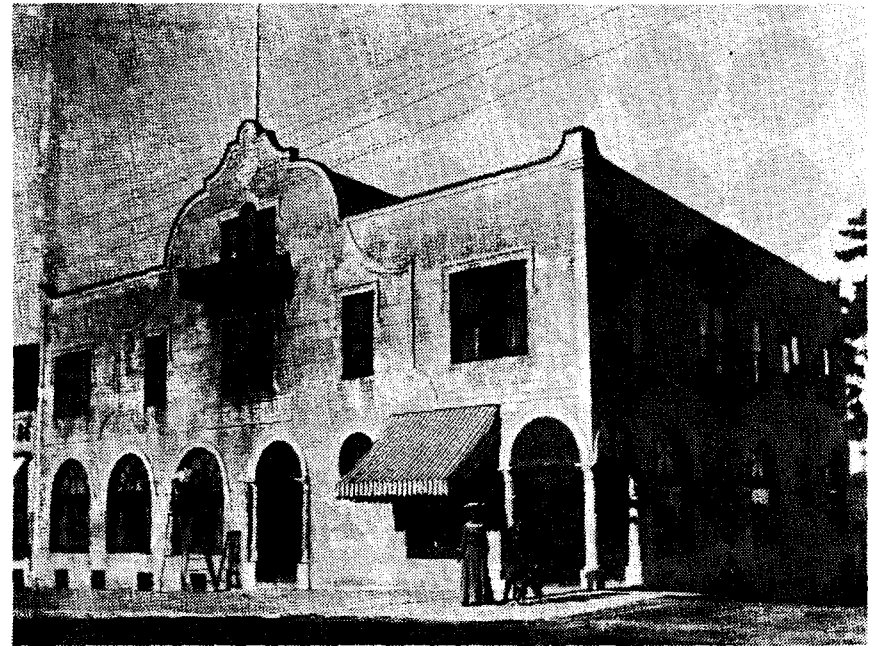
(Continued)

Cultural and Educational Activities

The Club did not limit its activities to civic improvements and fundraising. Early on Club meetings occasionally included talks on the foreign travels of members, and the Club joined the Monterey Civic Club to hear a guest speaker on "household economies." In 1908, the cultural section of one meeting offered members' papers on the history of American authors and their works as well as a piano solo. At another 1908 meeting, the current events section featured a vocal solo, a paper on the Red Cross anti-tuberculosis campaign, another on the destruction of forests, and excerpts from Carrie Chapman Catt's address before the Women's International Suffrage Alliance. In 1909, the Club decided to form seven sections: history and landmarks, art, music, education, current events, literature, and forestry. Throughout the year, each section presented a program after the business portion of the meeting. Thus, after debating garbage, street lights, and parks, the women directed their attention to the history of dance from early Grecian history, the art of Whistler, a discussion of Longfellow, a talk and exhibition by local artists Leslie Boronda and William Adam, and a paper urging the formation of a reading club.

The early members of the Women's Civic Club made varied and important contributions to the public spaces and social circles of Pacific Grove.

Courtesy of Pat Hathaway



The Winston Restaurant and Rooming House soon after its opening in 1904. This building is still there at the corner of Lighthouse and 16th.

Down the Piney Path

News from old Pacific Grove from the Salinas Weekly Index March / April 1887

❖ by E. C. Davis

- ◆ On Thursday evening last a party of ladies and gentlemen enjoyed a delightful ride to Cypress Point, leaving at 7 o'clock and returning at half past twelve. Coffee and sandwiches were indulged in by the light of two enormous bonfires.
- ◆ The ground is being cleared for an Episcopal church.
- ◆ The Pacific Grove post office will be opened as a regular government office on the first of April.
- ◆ Work on the new Pacific Grove hotel, El Carmelo, is progressing rapidly. The elevator will be put into position, being the first in Monterey County.
- ◆ A singing club called the Young Ladies Choral Union has been organized.
- ◆ Mrs. Virgin is having a fine residence built at the corner of Forest Avenue and Orange (now Union) Street. It will cost in the neighborhood of \$2,000. (Please see center fold photo.)
- ◆ Isaac Rudsill, of the Del Monte Wave, is now at the Grove.
- ◆ Ben Barber has planted 400 orange trees on his place here. (Editor's note: Ben's house was at 664 Laurel.)
- ◆ Dr. O. S. Trimmer, of Salinas, has purchased the Drug Store, which has heretofore been run by Dr. Heintz. The Grove people rejoice at the change, regarding it as assurance that the establishment will no longer be conducted as a clandestine whisky saloon.
- ◆ The inhabitants of the Grove were so wrapped up in slumber that they did not know of the burning at the Del Monte until 10 o'clock in the morning.

Good Old Days In April

Pacific Grove's Good Old Days celebration kicks off with the Quilt Show Preview Party on Friday evening, April 7, from 7 to 9 p.m. at Chautauqua Hall (16th & Central) and goes through the weekend with the Crafts Faire on Lighthouse avenue and the Quilt Show at Chautauqua Hall on both Saturday and Sunday.

The Preview Party and the Quilt Show are Heritage Society fundraising events. They are interesting, fun and worth your time and money to support. We look forward to seeing you there.

Tickets will be available at the door.

Berwick Decides To Stay Home

❖ (P. G. Tribune - Feb. 3, 1931)

Edward Berwick, one of Monterey Peninsula's foremost pioneers, ex-mayor of Pacific Grove, and successful advocate of the United States' "parcel's post" system, has discovered that he isn't a real American, after all, technically speaking.

Recently, Mr. Berwick, who, on January 25, celebrated his 88th birthday and 66th year as a resident of California, decided to revisit the scenes of his youth and to spend a few months of well-earned leisure in travelling through Italy and other parts of southern Europe.

But it seems the trip is impossible - because the passport was refused by the Federal authorities in Washington D.C., who pointed out that since Mr. Berwick's naturalization papers were destroyed some sixty years ago in the big fire in Salinas, and since the then presiding judge and all officials of the Salinas courthouse are no longer living, there exists no legal proof that Pacific Grove's ex-mayor is an American citizen, and passports with full promise of a safe return, can be issued only to American citizens.

So, Mr. Berwick isn't going to Europe.

Berwick Aids Grove Needy

❖ (P. G. Tribune - Jan. 26, 1932)

Yesterday Mr. Edward Berwick, one of Pacific Grove's foremost residents, celebrated his 89th birthday by donating to the Woman's Relief association 500 loaves of bread, which was supplemented by an additional 25 loaves from L. A. Beaver of the Tip Top Bake Shop, which did the baking

Berwick to Speak on Radio Program Today

❖ (P. G. Tribune - Nov. 10, 1933)

Edward Berwick of Pacific Grove, still going strong at the age of 90 and proud of his years, will speak over KFRC at 3:45 this afternoon (Friday). "Never Again" will be the subject of his talk, with the World War Armistice as the background for his comment. Berwick describes the address as a continuation of a lecture he gave to the California Chautauqua in 1885 (48 years ago). Berwick, a distinguished pacifist, has addressed hundreds of thousands of people in past years on the folly of war.

(Editor's note: Berwick died less than three months later on Feb. 2, 1934 at the age of 91.)



1890s view looking up Forest avenue. The prominent house on the right with the people out in front was built for Mrs. S. A. Virgin in 1887/88 at 136 Forest. The house was used as both a private residence and boarding house over the years. The house is still there with its front corner now enclosed.

Early Years of the Pacific Grove Woman's Civic Club (1903-1910)

(The Pacific Grove newspapers from 1897-1910 provided the primary source of information for this article.)

❖ by Sarah J. Diehl

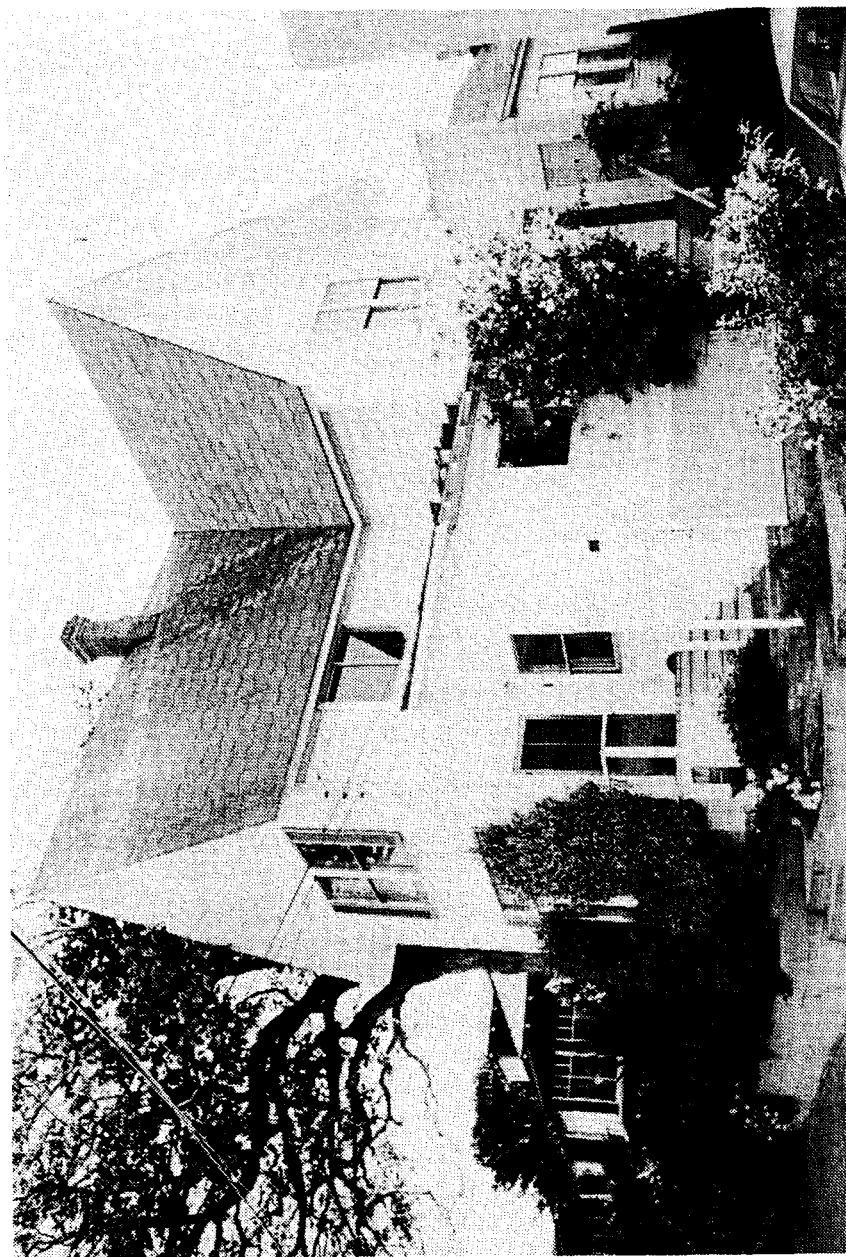
(This is part 2 of 2. Part 1 was in our last issue)

Fundraising

The Club found many unique and entertaining ways to raise the thousands of dollars needed to fund their projects. For one of its first fundraising projects in 1903, the Club sold lunches at a May Day picnic, complete with May pole, games, and sports, held in back of Mariposa Hall. The Club also held a May queen election with votes sold for .05 cents at local drugstores. The results of the balloting were front page news for a month. Miss Emma Dawson triumphed with 714 votes, and the Club raised \$75.

The Club regularly held bake sales at local candy and grocery stores, including Aggeler's, Williams' and Sheppa & Baldwin. At the opening of the Winston Restaurant and Rooming House in 1904, the Club managed the ice cream department and received all the profits. Teas and dinners were other favorite fundraisers. In 1907, the Club gave a New England dinner at the bath house, and in 1908 the Club prepared a chicken dinner on election day in the T.A. Work building (.40 cents bought chicken pie, mashed potatoes, beans, pie, tomatoes, relish and coffee.) Also in 1908, the Club gave a colonial tea that featured piano duets, songs, recitations, and members gowned in old-style New England costumes. In 1909, the Club put its cooking expertise into the sale of 500 cookbooks to raise money for its clubhouse.

Not all of the Club's fundraising activities centered on food. In 1905, the Club raised \$40 from a "hop" at Scoble Hall, and in 1909 they sold tickets to a benefit at the BonBon theater. In 1908, the newspaper reported that a big crowd attended the Club's two-day international street fair. The fair, repeated in later years, featured Dutch, Turkish, Japanese, Spanish, Egyptian, and Southern booths, an Indian wigwam, a basket maker, a fancy work booth, a baby show, and a candy and lemonade booth. In 1910, the Club raised money through an auction, automobile rides, fruit and doll sales, and several "open" meetings, where guests were charged .10 cents to attend a meeting that included educational and musical programs. Also in 1910, the Club held an "experience social" that required each lady to give one dollar earned in some unusual manner. Unfortunately, the newspaper did not report how each guest's dollar was earned. While the Club worked to improve the town's public spaces, it also provided social occasions and entertainment.



110 Grand, called "Magnolia Lodge", was built in 1882 for William Strickland and his family. They lived there until 1896, when the Dysart family bought the house.

1978 file photo

Pioneer Recalls Early Days

(Continued)

When in the late 1870s Pacific Grove was really a camping ground, its season was very short. It virtually began and ended in July when a train load of good people from San Jose and Sacramento came to attend the Chautauqua Literary and Scientific Circle. Professor Josiah Keep of Mills College said its initials, C.L.S.C., stood for "Come Love Sit Closer." Lectures and more lectures were the order of the day. Many eminent names were on its programs: Dr. Vincent, Champ Clark, John Ivey, etc. My turn came in 1885, my subject being "World Federation." For some years I had taken much interest in the matter of world peace. Among my correspondents were Victor Hugo and John Bright. Subsequent to my lecture I organized the Pacific coast branch of the International Arbitration and Peace association. My lecture was also published in a San Francisco paper of state-wide circulation. It brought me a very pleasant letter of approval from Rutherford B. Hayes.

It may be remembered that Hayes, while president of the United States, visited Monterey, accompanied by Mrs. Hayes and General William Tecumseh Sherman. Honoring General Sherman, "Marching Through Georgia" was sung by a quartet composed of Miss Hattie Sargent, Miss Katarina Dauglada, W. Crosbie and myself as bass.

Much water has passed under bridges since that day. If you can now believe it, in my early knowledge of Monterey there was not even one school house in the city. School was "kept" in the old army barracks, known as the quartel, now destroyed. There was also a nunnery and two gaols. Pacific Grove, on the other hand, built its schools before its gaol.

But church buildings in Pacific Grove came slowly. The first sermon I heard preached in Pacific Grove was delivered by Dr. Sinex from an open preaching stand near the spot now filled by the library. The next step was Sunday service in a small assembly hall, rainy weather not inviting out-door listeners. Then the hall now the gathering place for our boy scouts (now called Chautauqua Hall) was built as an undenominational place of worship and assembly hall. In the morning Methodists held service; in the afternoon, the Episcopalians. The latter, under Rev. Holmes as leader and Mrs. Page and Helen Reed as cash-providers, erected the pretty church, St. Mary's-by-the-Sea. It was modelled after a British church in Bath. The present Methodist church (since demolished) was built by the aid of the Pacific Improvement company and others as a combined assembly hall and place of worship.

(Editor's note: Mr. Berwick was 89 years old when he wrote the above.)

Calendar of Events - 1995

April 7:	Quilt Show Preview Party
April 8,9:	Quilt Show and Good Old Days downtown
May 18:	Preservation Week Home Awards
July 24-29:	Feast of Lanterns
October 8:	26th Annual Victorian Home Tour
October 14:	Butterfly Parade
December 5:	Christmas At The Inns

Annual General Membership Meeting

At our annual general membership on February 21, Jeanie Abel was elected to the Board of Directors. Patrick Harr and Patrick Price stepped down at the end of their terms. We thank them for their time and effort on behalf of the Heritage Society.

New Members

George F. Davis	Annie Little
Glenn D. Williams	Nancy Iverson
Snick Farkas & Esther Trosow	Laurie Web
Sandy & Dan Koffman	

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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