



# THE BOARD AND BATTEN

Newsletter of the Pacific Grove Heritage Society

December '91/January '92

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*B. A. Eardley (second from right) standing in front of his real estate office at 217 Grand in early 1888 with Mr. Appleton (far right). The Appleton-Eardley partnership was dissolved on October 16, 1888. Eardley worked alone for a short time before joining the Pacific Improvement Co. in 1889. More inside on B. A. Eardley.*

## B. A. Eardley

*(An historical and biographical record published by Guinn around 1900)*

The genial and popular superintendent of the Pacific Improvement Company's interests at Pacific Grove, is not indebted for his success in life to an indulgent early fortune or the backing of influential friends. Rather, his youth contained more of discouragement than inspiration, and from the age of fourteen necessity forestalled inclination in fashioning the trend of his abilities.

Born in Salt Lake City, Utah in 1860, while his family was journeying from the east to the west. He is a son of John R. Eardley, a native of England, and a bookkeeper by occupation. The elder Eardley lived for five years in Carson City, Nevada, and was there employed as bookkeeper in the office of the secretary of state. At times he filled similar positions in Gilroy, Hollister and Salinas, and in 1881 went to Anaconda, Montana, where he is still engaged in expert bookkeeping.

The attendance of B. A. Eardley at the public schools was interrupted at his fourteenth year, in order that he might prepare for self-support by learning the printer's trade, with the Hollister Enterprise. For four years he was associated with J. W. Leigh on the Salinas Democrat, and in 1881 went to Butt, Montana with the Inter-Mountain.

The following year, owing to failing health, he gave up his trade in favor of less confining work, and became identified with Caplice & McCune, railroad contractors and dealers in general merchandise, stationed at Walkerville. In 1887 he came to Pacific Grove on account of the health of his family, and soon after established the Pacific Grove Review, and in connection therewith engaged in real estate.

In the spring of 1889 he became associated with the firm whose interests he so well manages at the present time, a responsibility appreciated only by those to whom the extent of the company's undertakings is fully known. The company owns over seven thousand acres of land, and is irrigating and improving this whole section of the country, bringing their million barrels of water twenty-six miles from the Carmel river.

May 20, 1888, Mr. Eardley married Janet Robson, a native of Salinas, California, and they have one daughter, Alma. Mr. Eardley is an influential factor in general affairs in Pacific Grove, and has been one of the chief supporters and promoters of the town's various enterprises.

*continued on page 4*



*B. A. Eardley on 17 Mile Drive with his Chinese guard. Photo identified and donated by W.R. Holman in 1977.*

## B. A. Eardley

*continued from page 2*

At the time of its incorporation in 1889, he served a term as the first city clerk, and has since been a member of the city board of trustees, and active in the government of the town. He has been a notary public since 1891.

In fraternal circles he is widely and favorably known, and he is the owner of Robson Hall (584 1/2 Lighthouse), which is used as a meeting place for the various lodges. He is a member of Pacific Grove Lodge No. 331, F. & A. M., and as an Odd Fellow is a Past Noble Grand and member of the state grand lodge.

Although a Presbyterian in religious belief, he is liberal minded in the extreme, and in the absence of a church of that denomination, has cast his lines with the Methodist Episcopal Church, of which he is a member of the board of trustees, and president of the board; also been superintendent of the Sunday-school, and Bible class leader.

He is one of the substantial business men of the town of which he is an honored citizen, and his many fine personal attributes have made and retained hosts of friends.

Editor's Notes: In July of 1909, Eardley sold his property at the corner of Lighthouse and Forest to T. A. Work in what was reported as the most important real estate deal ever consummated in Pacific Grove. He died at the age of 65 at Bremerton, Washington, in April 1926. He is buried in the Pacific Grove cemetery. His widow, Janet, died at the age of 80 in 1938 in Seattle. If you wish to learn more about this interesting man, please see the local history files at the Pacific Grove Library.

## Gasperson Finds House!



Pat Hawthorne Collection

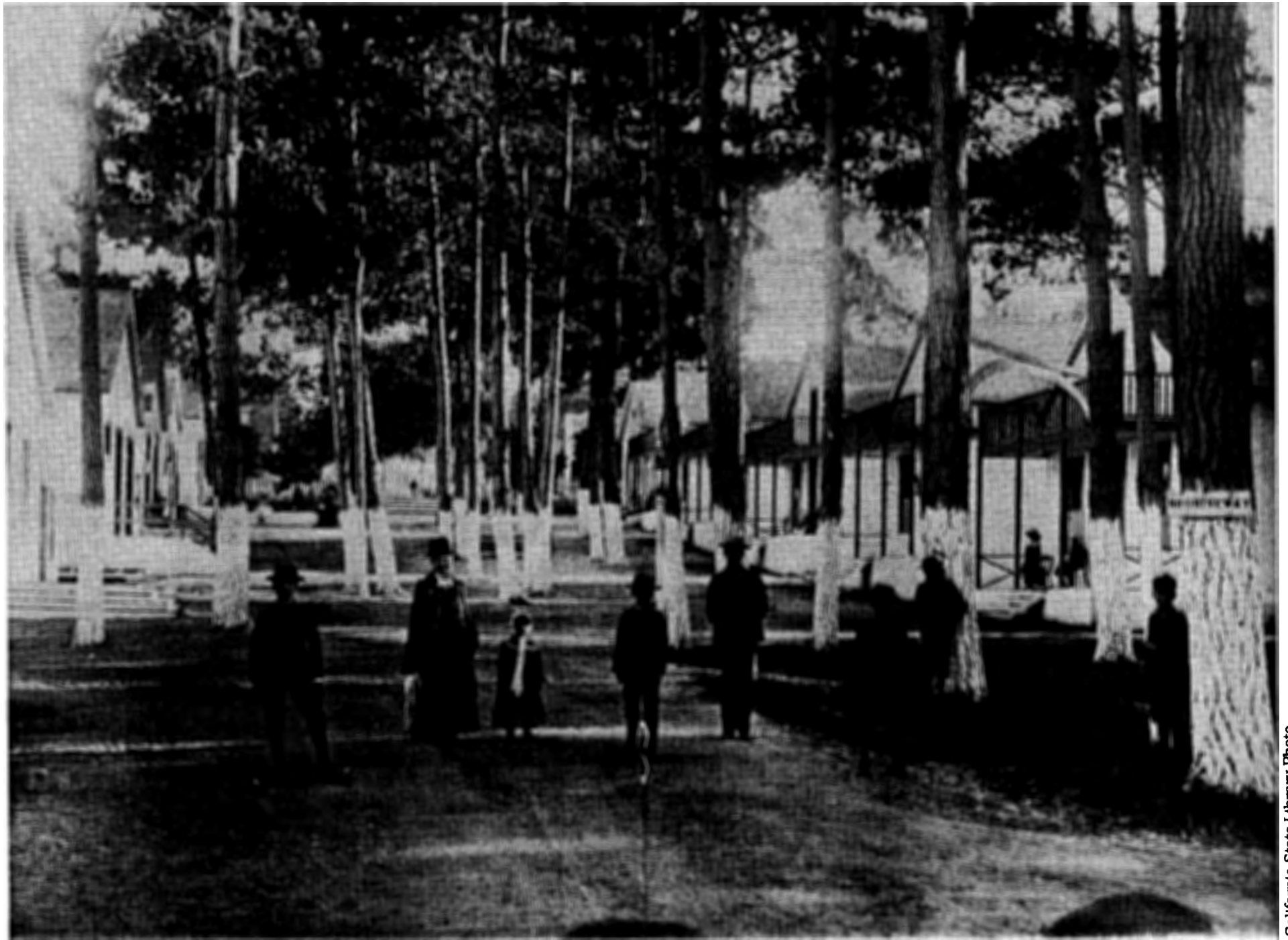
In our last issue, we published the above early undated photo of a house and asked for help in locating it. City Councilman and Heritage Society member Don Gasperson called (Thanks, Don) and said the house is located at 110 16th Street. He remembered fighting a small fire in the rear of the house many years ago. Coincidentally, the house was built by the Pacific Improvement Co. in 1903 and sold to Mrs. Janet Eardley in 1904. It remained in the Eardley family until at least 1926. It was used as a rental. Below is a current photo.



1992 Photo

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*Pacific Improvement Company cottages on Grand Avenue down from the Retreat Gate. Fence slightly visible in background. Trees were whitewashed so visitors didn't go bump in the night. Photo circa 1887.*

## Down The Piney Path

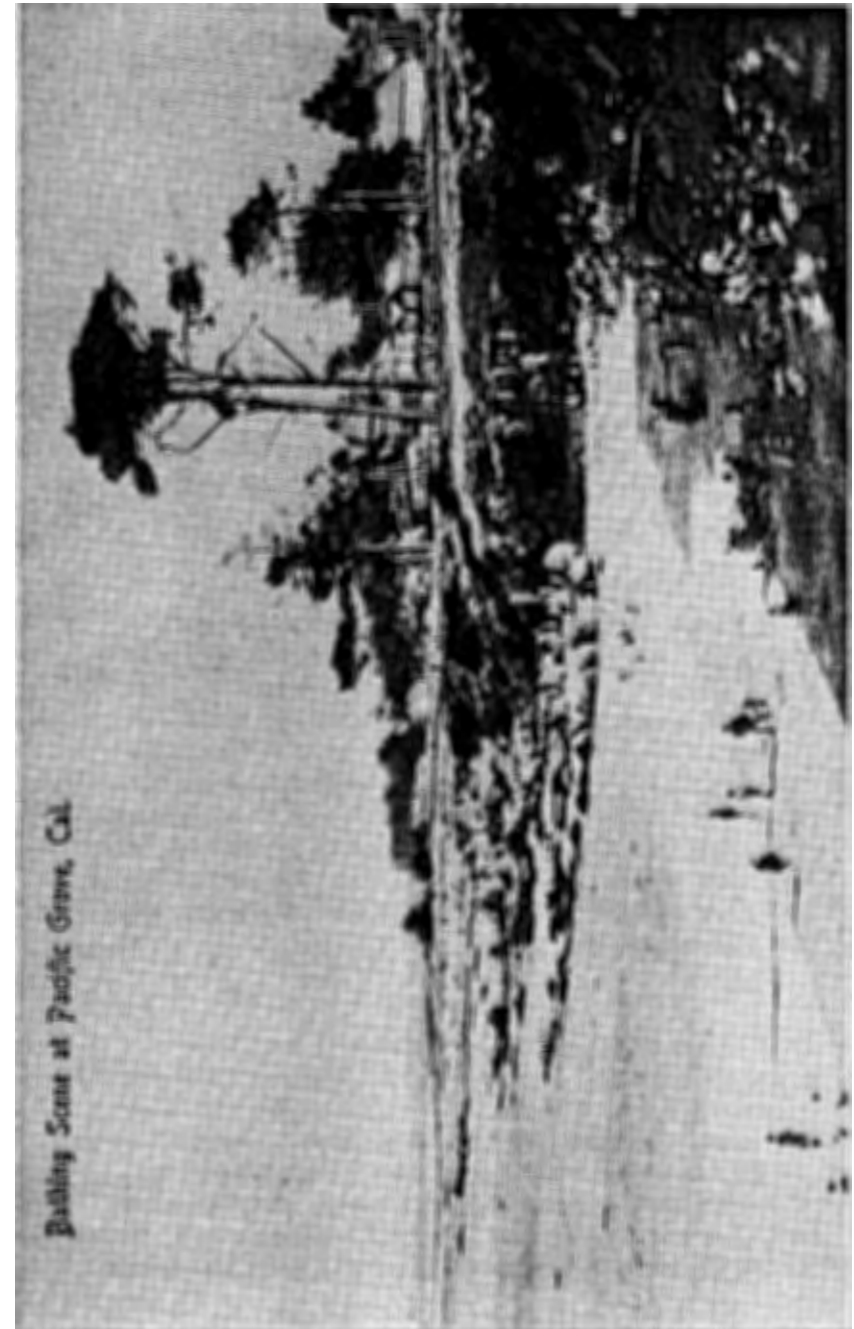
*News of old Pacific Grove from the Monterey Weekly Cypress  
(January - February 1889)*

◆ by E.C. Davis

- Chinese New Year was celebrated at the Grove by JimJim. He enlivened things by firing off several bunches of fire crackers.
- W. F. Cole, missing Grovite, presumed drowned when his skiff overturned down the coast, is seen riding a white mule bare-backed into Monterey stables.
- Work on the roads in the Grove and around the drive is progressing rapidly. By next summer we will have some of the best roads in the state.
- The Grove school is progressing nicely. The primary department is taught by Miss Stella Gosby, who seems to give good satisfaction.
- Jacinto Feliz was yesterday arrested by Constable Pinto for breaking down the gate of the pound at Pacific Grove and liberating some cattle of his.
- R. Mitchell entertained a progressive euchre party on Wednesday evening last.
- Mr. John Paddleford of Iowa has purchased two beautiful lots on Pine Avenue and will build a cozy cottage thereon.
- Miss Fitts of the Grove Kindergarten has returned from her visit to San Jose and will re-open her school next Wednesday.
- The people of the Grove contemplate building a new bridge on Pine Avenue near the school house. The improvement is much needed.
- Dr. Otis Gibson, founder of the Chinese Mission (at Chinatown) and a great worker in behalf of Chinese Christianization, died at his home in San Francisco Friday.
- The Pacific Grove Hook and Ladder and Hose Company #1 had a drill Thursday night.
- A new French restaurant has been started on Forest Avenue.
- We are having the finest weather of the season just now. Some people have an idea that we will have an earthquake in this section but we hope they are mistaken.

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## Others Saw Us Through Postcards



Sent. by Shirley, to Mrs. Grace DePul in Jackson, Amador County on August 12, 1907. Postcard donated by John Hughes.

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## Contractor News From *The Herald*

- 1929 - M.J. Murphy is building a \$2500 residence at 416 Nineteenth street in Pacific Grove. It is 32 by 23 overall and will have five rooms. The roof is composition, the floors hardwood. There is one fireplace and the walls are plaster inside. Murphy is both owner and builder.
- 1929 - On the northwest corner of Willow street and Pine avenue in Pacific Grove, Newman and Halstead, the peninsula contractors, are doing some work for T.A. Work Jr. A permit to build a 24 by 24 foot one story dwelling with a concrete foundation, and a shingle roof, has been granted by the Grove building inspector. There will be pine floors, three rooms and a bath, a fireplace in the living room. The finish will be rustic outside and plaster inside. Two thousand dollars is the estimated cost.
- 1929 - J. H. Clark, the Pacific Grove contractor, has just completed a home at the corner of Seventh and Gibson streets, which is hailed as a little masterpiece. There are two bedrooms, a large living room, dining room, bath, kitchen and alcove entrance. The color of the walls outside is reddish. On a triangular lot the house is specially designed to meet its peculiar needs and its angles in no way conflict with the shape of the lot. There is of course a fine fireplace in the living room. Like the rest of the house, that room is finished in white plaster, spaded. The floor is hardwood.
- 1931 - Two homes (411 and 415 Park street) were started recently in the M. J. Murphy, Inc. block in Pacific Grove, bounded by Nineteenth, Park, Spruce and Pine streets. One house is being built for Mrs. Rose Ruotolo and the other will be built to be sold later. Both homes are of the Spanish type and each has five rooms, two bedrooms, living room, dining room, kitchen and bathroom, as well as basements. No subcontracts have been let to date.



*Business card donated by Jean Littlepage. C. K. Johnston was her great-uncle.*

### New Members

Mary Finnegan

Robert & Jean Williams

### 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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City: \_\_\_\_\_  
State: \_\_\_\_\_  
Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

✂ Please return to The Pacific Grove Heritage Society

*The  
Heritage Society  
of Pacific Grove*

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