

History Lives Here

News and Activities of the Pajaro Valley Historical Association

November 2016

Christmas in the Azores: How One Pajaro Valley Family Celebrated

By Claudia Mize

PVHA volunteers have found at least 13 ethnicities living here in the Pajaro Valley. We would like to share the story of one Portuguese family.

The Azores Archipelago is formed of nine islands. My friend Abel Oliveira is from Pico and has lived in Watsonville for more than 40 years. He shared with me how his family celebrated Christmas in the Azores. He said first of all, there was no Santa Claus with

presents. Baby Jesus brought the children a gift and placed it under their pillow while they slept. The children did not get many presents at Christmas, and the ones they received were usually clothes, not toys. One year Abel's Godmother knitted him a vest. Another year, he received a harmonica from Baby Jesus — it was very special to him!

On Christmas Eve, his mother Evelina baked corn bread and prepared a delicious stew, called

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Holiday shopping at Ford's

Charles Ford Christmas circa 1852 – Ye olde Department Store: Photos, artifacts and documents about California's oldest department store founder are currently on display at the new Archive Building.



Plaids, Patterns and Prints

Come see our colorful clothing display in the Bockius-Orr House. This fall and winter features a riot of plaids, prints and patterns.

Preserving Our Valley's Historical Treasures With All Of Your Help

By Lou Arbanas

“Where did you get all of this stuff?” Was a comment recently directed to a volunteer at the archive. Without a moment’s hesitation the volunteer replied “All are donated materials. A collection accumulated over 76 years.”

The story, of course, goes much deeper as we are obligated by our mission statement to “preserve and share the history of the Pajaro Valley.” That is a tall order as all donations that are accepted must be catalogued, preserved and provenanced. There are photographs in many formats from the early days of photography through to today’s digital images. There are family diaries, paintings created by locals of scenes in the Pajaro Valley, published and unpublished literature on multiple and varied subjects in the Pajaro Valley...well you get my point. Some donors cannot bear to separate themselves from their treasures, but allow us to digitize images and diaries instead — which we are happy to do for them. We also have



Jeannette Crosetti and Rocky Franich look through some items he brought to the PVHA.

been collecting Oral Histories for more than 40 years.

This past summer has been very fruitful in that we have had relatives of Abbey Lord, a deceased well-known High School

teacher, donate her final belongings that have traveled from the Pajaro Valley all the way to Georgia and back. We have received information on materials that will be donated to us from North Carolina from the Estate of Bruce Zobel, who had a long history with his family in the Pajaro Valley. Locals, like Marilyn Hyde and Rocky Franich, brought in family collections of newspaper articles, slide presentations of the old Ford’s department store and much more. These are only a few samples of how materials arrive for preservation.

You, too, can join the many donors sharing your treasures of our Pajaro Valley history. It is very easy. If you have an item you would like to donate, you can take a picture of it with your cell phone and send it to us at our email address: info@pajarovalleyhistory.org, or call (831) 722.0305 for an appointment to properly accession your gift. Our accessioning committee will be thrilled to review and evaluate your proposed donation.

Archives Has A Visitor from Colorado

Susan Pellis from Greeley, CO, visited the PVHA in September. She was here to do research on “Watson” & “John Barnham.” Dave Ingersoll, an archive volunteer, helped Susan with her research here at the archive.

Susan had just completed a genealogical workup on the Moore and Lawry family names and was gracious enough to donate a copy for our archive.



Mike Monroe

PVHA Establishes Connection with Morgan Hill Historical Society

Mike Monroe, who is a member and volunteer at the Morgan Hill Historical Society, stopped by PVHA at the end of September looking for information on Hecker Pass. He had researched the Gilroy side and was now collecting information from the Watsonville area.

Kathy Sullivan, president of the Morgan Hill Historical Society, and Kathy Devine, their museum director, subsequently contacted PVHA to establish contact ties.

If you would like to contact them, please send an email to www.morganhillhistoricalsociety.org.

Holiday Closure at the PVHA

The Pajaro Valley Historical Association will be closed for the Thanksgiving holiday from Nov. 18 to Nov. 28 and will return on

Nov. 29, open from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. For Christmas and New Year’s, the PVHA will be closed from Dec. 16 through Jan. 2.

Eccentric Woman Injured As Auto Runs Into Buggy

(This article was in the Register-Pajaronian,-- circa 1910)

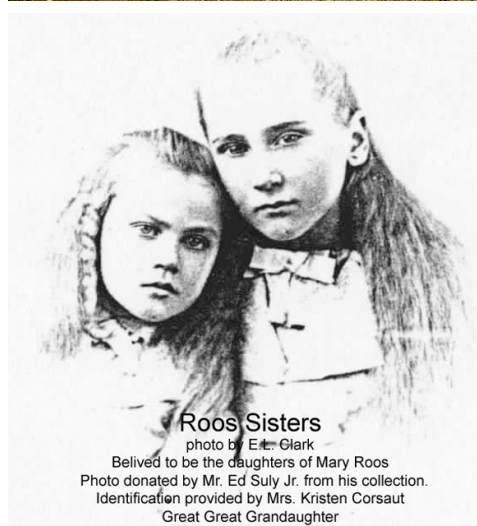
Familiar Vehicle on S.C. Highway is Destroyed

A picturesque spectacle enacted here since many old time residents of Watsonville were children, is no more — at least in its quaint entirety — for the march of the times yesterday caught up with Mary Roos, eccentric centenarian resident of Larkin Valley, who last night was in the Watsonville Hospital with several broken ribs, cuts, and bruises, and the buggy of ancient vintage in which she was wont to travel between this city and her home in Larkin Valley was reduced to kindling wood in a crash with an automobile three miles north of Watsonville on the Watsonville-Santa Cruz highway.

The destruction was complete. Officer Eldon Day of the California highway patrol, found the old woman, who claims to have been a Civil War nurse, unconscious amid the ruins of the ancient buggy, the latter shattered to the semblance of a jigsaw puzzle, and its cargo scattered about ... for a considerable distance.

Rescued From Wreck

The aged woman, who claims to have passed her 100th birthday, was picked up, her clothing tattered and torn, from the wreckage and rushed to the hospital where Dr. H. G. Watters administered treatment. Her injuries ... were described as not dangerous, although she suffered considerable



shock due to her advanced age.

The accident occurred about 6:30 p.m. when an automobile driven by D.O. Lincoln of Santa Cruz ... came up behind her and crashed into the rear of the buggy. The woman was driving with one wheel on the shoulder of the road, according to her cus-

tom, and the automobile caught the buggy on one corner, virtually lifting it in the air.

The buggy collapsed and the fragments showered down ... with a clatter that could be heard for a quarter of a mile. The harness broke under the impact, freeing the horse from the buggy, and the animal also well advanced in age and indifferent in tribulations, laid down on the road motionless. It was at first supposed the animal was dead, but a slap on his flank brought him suddenly to life, and jumping up he ran at full speed to seek refuge in a neighboring orchard.

Found Lantern

Officer Day ... found a broken lantern in the wreckage, and concluded the aged woman had probably complied with the law and was carrying the light on the buggy. It was believed the light was obscured by the load of boxes, food stuffs, hay and other paraphernalia with which the buggy was loaded.

The Results Of Our Second Annual Raffle Fundraiser

By Claudia Mize



This year's fundraiser was a big success! We raised \$10,000 dollars that will go to our operating fund. The drawing was held on Sept. 30. The winners and the prizes they chose are listed below:

1st name drawn: Ed & Jean Kelly — dinner at the Bockius-Orr House (Donated by PVHA)

2nd name drawn: John and Joyce Franzman — Two nights at Monterey Portola Hotel & Spa plus \$100 gift certificate for dining (Donated by Portola Hotel & Spa and Dominic & Martha Muzzi)

3rd name drawn: Gerry Martin — Two night stay at Yosemite View Lodge (Donated by the Fischer Family)

4th name drawn: John Espinoza — Three night stay at a cozy North Lake Tahoe Cabin (Donated by Gino Stefanini & Kathleen Moore)

Items of Note

Memorials

Arnold Brunetti: Garden Fund

Nancy Buoy
John Mello
Glenn A Kramer

Anna Marie LeGette

John and Antoinette Lukrich

James Washington

Allen and Betty Bjur

Fred Willoughby

Melanie Kett Wirtanen

Doris and Delmar Brown

Melanie Kett Wirtanen

Muriel and Peter Hauer

Claire Etienne

Ted Maddock

Melanie Kett Wirtanen

In Honor of Mark Wilcox & B.C.S. Construction

John and Beth Boles

Gerry Martin

Allan Alexander

New Members

Susan E. Pelis
Glenn A. Kramer
The Valley of Hearts Delight Inc.
Mike Monroe

Renewed Memberships

In May

Tom and Patty Stepovich

In September

Bill and Glendawyn Doyle
Mas and Marcia Hashimoto
Tom and GeriAnne Simmons
Jo Marie Lake
Bob Wall

John and Clara Radin
Doris Goon
Bill Hagins
Marguerite Bloom
Bonnie Bamburg
Ricardo Rocha RV's Computers
Charles and Margaret Pilgrim
Mary L. Siefke
Eugene and Shirley Friend
Catherine Coward
Bill and Tanya Passey
Dr. Steven and Kristin Sigmar
Smith

In October

Clarice and Harry Wiggins
Ralph and Susan Jacobs
Patricia Novakovich
Guy George and Teri Wempe
Joan Lane
Marie Devery
Bill and Karen Bachan
Philip and Diana Gilman III
Mark and Karen Sambrailo
Carl and Fran Dobler
Philip and Susan Avril Schnieder
Jeff and Karen Kane

Lynn Clough
Billie Jean Sorensen
Melanie Kett Wirtanen
James Scurich
Frank and Nancy Remde
Helen Harness
Claire Etienne
John Mello

In November

Anthony and Betty Bobeda
Caroline Rodgers
Helen Ukestad

Donations General Use

Hal and Dottie Hyde
Frank and Nancy Remde
Bill and Karen Bachan

Research

Susan E. Pelis

Oral History

Donald and Diane Cooley



You are cordially Invited



to an

Old Fashioned Christmas Tea



Sunday, December 4th ~ 1pm-4pm

332 East Beach St.

Watsonville, California

Rockius-Orr House

and

Borina Archive



Everyone welcome ~ Donations gratefully accepted

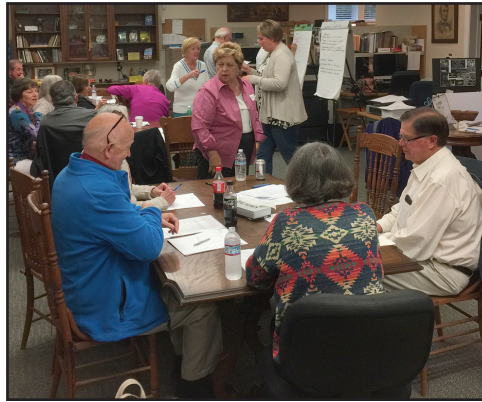


PVHA Strategic Planning Meeting Names Top Seven Priorities

By Judy Doering Neilson

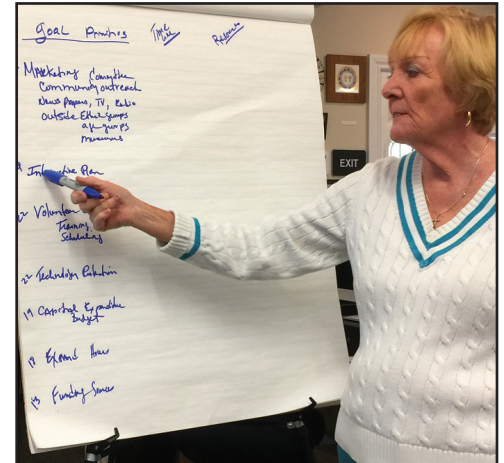
On Sept. 30, nine board members and nine volunteers met in the archive to review our Mission Statement and to discuss the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT Analysis) that PVHA faces as we move forward. The SWOT Analysis is used as a tool to facilitate goal setting and develop strategies to accomplish these goals.

The following is a listing of our seven top priorities: Marketing/Community Outreach: Develop an Interpretive Plan; Establish a Volunteer Coordinator position; Ensure that all of our technology and databases are secure; Develop a capital budget to project capital improvement needs and funding sources; Expand hours to include some



weekends; Review our funding sources and look for new ways to raise needed funds.

PVHA welcomes all new volunteers, members and visitors. If you are interested in being a part of our team, please visit us



or give us a call. (831) 722-0305 www.pajarovalleyhistory.org • E-mail: info@pajarovalleyhistory.org

AZORES

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“molha” (in Portuguese) that they would eat on Christmas Day. All the homes in the Azores had chimneys, and Abel even now remembers the aromas of the molha and corn bread drifting from the chimneys when walking home from midnight mass on Christmas Eve.

Abel’s mother made their clothes, and his dad made their sandals from cowhide. For a special treat at Christmas, the family went to buy new shoes. Abel’s family was considered poor, but they owned their home and had a few cattle, chickens, sheep, goats and a pig. As was the custom, children started 1st grade at seven years old and attended school for only four years, then



graduated from 4th grade. The children were then considered adults and could attend college, or go to work. When Abel graduated, he helped his dad in the fields. At 4 a.m. each morning, he walked an hour to the field where he fed the animals and milked the two cows. Then he walked home carrying two wooden containers of milk, tied together with ropes and slung across his back.

Abel dreamed of going to the United States. In January 1972, his dad Pedro brought Abel, then 15, and his older sister to Watsonville where they stayed with his Uncle Tomas Lopes in a one bedroom house on 909 Lincoln Street. Pedro went back to the Azores because his wife was pregnant. Abel’s dad, mom and three siblings returned in 1974, and the family moved to a house on North Drive. Abel got his wish to travel; however, now he says there are times when he would like to go back to the Azores and enjoy the slower pace and peacefulness.

Abel and his wife Filomena met in Watsonville in 1974, fell in love and married in 1978. She was also born in the Azores on the island of Terceira. They celebrate Christmas with their three sons, two daughters-in-law, three grandchildren, and their extensive family, many of them also from the Azores. Abel’s mom Evelina still makes their favorite — molha and cornbread — to share at Christmas.

PORTUGUESE CORN BREAD

6 cups regular flour
2 packages active dry yeast
2 cups lukewarm water
1 t. sugar

Dissolve yeast in ½ cup lukewarm water and one teaspoon sugar; let it sit for 5 minutes or until it doubles. Place regular flour in a large bowl, add yeast and 2 cups of warm water, mix and knead for about 5 minutes. Cover and let it rise until

1 tablespoon salt
2 cups water
2 cups white corn meal flour

it doubles in bulk. Bring 2 cups water and salt to boil. Pour boiling water over corn meal flour and mix very fast. Cool. Make a well in the yeast mixture and add corn meal, knead until dough is smooth, about 10 minutes.

Cover with a cloth and a blanket, let it rise until double in bulk. Grease a 4 cup bowl, sprinkle with regular flour, place one third of dough in the bowl, turn and shake bowl until dough is smooth. Pour dough in a greased oven-proof pie plate. Do the same with the other 2 parts of the dough. Bake in a preheated 450° oven for about 45 – 50 minutes. Remove from the oven and place loaves on a wet cloth and cover. The crusts will be soft. Makes 3 loaves.

