

History Lives Here



November 2018

Christmas Traditions of Two Local Croatian Families

By Claudia Mize

Family traditions during the holidays are treasured memories, passed from generation to generation. A family tradition that Cathy Moresco Schimpler enjoyed was going to midnight mass on Christmas Eve and then going to a friend's house where everyone gathered until around 3 a.m. to celebrate the Christmas season and the end of Advent. One year, the host had a whole barbecued baby pig set up on a block.

Everyone cut slices of meat off the pig and made sandwiches. Midnight snacks were usually simple because on Christmas day, the families still prepared their Christmas dinners. Gifts were opened on Christmas day. Cathy's mother told her that when she was a girl, she was happy to get an orange and some walnuts at Christmas. Money was scarce and the Christmas holiday meant spending time with your family.

Tony Scurich said his family went to mass in the afternoon on the day before Christmas. (The church had scheduled earlier mass times by then.) On Christmas Eve, all the aunts, uncles, and cousins would congregate at his maternal grandparents' house. Everyone would bring platters of goodies including pastries, cheeses and meats. After dinner they would exchange gifts that were placed under the tree.

On Christmas morning, the immediate family opened their gifts at



Tony Scurich, local insurance broker and long standing active board member of PVHA



Cathy Moresco Schimpler, long standing board member now retired of PVHA

home. A Croatian tradition that his family continued was for his dad to take Tony and his brother to visit homes of relatives and friends on Christmas day. They would take some food and visit for awhile then go to the next home. His mom and sister would stay home and prepare more food for family and friends' that dropped by on Christmas day. Visits with family and friends always included prosciutto.

The family tradition of making prosciutto every year started with Tony's great grandfather. When Tony was 5 years old, his dad took over the prosciutto making and taught Tony and his brother

Mike. They have a room dedicated just for preparing the pork. Tony and Mike continue this tradition with help from their mom, wife, kids and other family members. The whole process takes over a year. In December, they purchase whole pork legs with the skin still on. These are put in a vat with salt. They are pulled out and re-salted 3 or 4 times. Then the legs are pressed and formed and the salt washed off.

Next they are wrapped in netting, hung in the smokehouse and smoked for 2 to 3 weeks. After smoking, the pork legs are hung for a year. Then the pork legs are hung in the preparation room for a couple of months. Finally, it is time for Tony and his mom to slice and vacuum seal the finished product. Some prosciutto is kept for family, and friends, some given as gifts.

to build the very special "Archives Building" that includes an additional residence that provides supplemental income to the association's budget.

With Volunteers Leading the Way, We've Come A Long, Long Way



Chuck Allen
Board President

The year is racing by and it is hard to believe we are now in the last quarter of 2018. As the current Pajaro Valley Historical Association Board President, I am humbled to be able to be a part of such an important organization that has done, is doing and will continue doing so much to help preserve the rich history of people and places within our Pajaro Valley.

Almost a decade ago, the leadership of our Historical Association engaged in planning and executing a major funding campaign that has successfully purchased the adjacent property that has made it possible

to build the very special "Archives Building" that includes an additional residence that provides supplemental income to the association's budget.

It is important to recognize and thank our dedicated volunteer staff that donates hundreds of volunteer hours each month. Those volunteers make it possible for our entire set of historic preservation activities and services within the archive building, the Bockius-Orr Home Museum, the annex buildings and the beauti-

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fully maintained grounds at 332 East Beach Street possible.

The all volunteer archive staff is receiving many inquiries each month for family history and community research. Our professional volunteers staff has and is working tirelessly to provide a vast amount of Pajaro Valley History to Association Members, the public, school students, local government representatives and even university researchers.

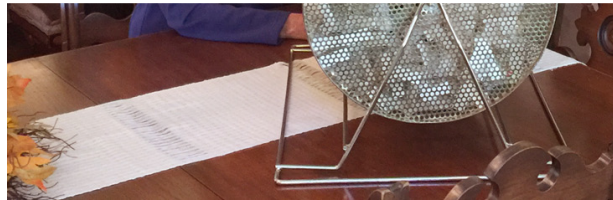
I am proud to report that our membership is growing, which is directly the result of the success of the community capital campaign that has created and made it possible for the Pajaro Valley to have such a "state of the art" historical facility.

I would like to encourage each reader to remember how significant each person is to the legacy of each family within our valley, and to remember how important family oral history reports are to our oral history library. As it has been stated so long ago, "We will never know where we are going, if we do not remember where we have been."

Please make an appointment to participate in the very special experiences that are on display at the archives and museum.



4th ANNUAL MAIL IN RAFFLE \$12,645



- The Winners are:
1. Theo Weidsma – Case of Premium Wine
 2. Julia Batz – Napa Wine Train Tour
 3. Mimi Crumpton – Golf Flight B
 4. Ed Kelly Jr. IV – Dinning Out
 5. Dominik & Martha Muzzi – Big Creek Hard Hat Tour
 6. Mary Siefke – Capitola Beach Suites/Shaddowbrook
 7. Jean & Ed Kelly – Golf Flight A



PVHA Will Be Closed for Holidays

The Pajaro Valley Historical Association will be taking some breaks during the holiday season.

The PVHA will be closed for the Thanksgiving Holiday beginning Nov. 16 to Nov. 26. In December, the PVHA will be closed from Dec. 14 through Jan. 2.

Have a wonderful holiday season.

You are Cordially Invited To Attend

Pajaro Valley Historical Association's

Annual Membership/Business Meeting

Sunday, January 13th, 10 AM

Light Refreshments provided - Reservation Appreciated

Borina Archive Building, 320A E. Beach St., Watsonville Ca

RSVP (831) 722-0305 or info@pajarovalleyhistory.org

100 Years Ago, WWI and the Spanish Flu Epidemic Ruled the Headlines

By Susan Jacobs – Lou Arbanas

In an article written for the Register-Pajaronian by Ed Slusser in 1938, we “learned that in WWI the selective draft called hundreds of residents of the city and surrounding communities to the colors. The draft law was passed May 18, 1917 and Nation – wide registration began on June 5. A local board of three citizens was set up to pass on claims for exemptions.

The first registration called men between the ages of 21 and 31. Another registration was called in September of 1918 for men between the ages of 31 and 45. However a serious outbreak of influenza (Spanish Flu pandemic) struck after 200 men of that classification who would have been sent to training camps from Santa Cruz County became ill.

Records indicated that 5,353 men total registered in Santa Cruz County, and 3,462 were enlisted for service. The registration showed 612 native-born Italians, 431 Austrians, and 391 Japanese. 531 residents of the county were finally inducted into service by the local board and 220 were enlisted as volunteers. These volunteers included Watsonville’s company L and the naval reserves of Santa Cruz.

Of those who actually saw service about 65 died, either mowed down by German bullets, or victims of disease – chiefly influenza. During the worst of the influenza epidemic here public meetings were barred by order of the city council. Theatres were dark, and the civic auditorium was turned into a hospital with cots ranged into long rows. Scores of Red Cross nurses and volunteers were enlisted from the community. Citizens gave freely of blankets, pillow cases, towels and other necessities of which there was grave shortage.

A sewing room was set up in the Let-



Company L marching down West Beach St. (formerly Third St.) to the Train Station at Walker St. on their way to join General Pershing the commander of the American Expeditionary Forces on the Western Front in World War I, 1917–18. – 6/23/1916)



Ross Eric Gibson Collectio

County Health Commissioner S.A. Palmer, center, and the staff of his Pacific Avenue pharmacy.

tunich building where women sewed for soldiers and also made clothing for destitute Belgians.

To prevent the spread of influenza all

citizens were required to wear gauze masks in public and to be caught without one was cause for arrest. This influenza scare lasted for several months.”

PVHA Invited to Castro Adobe State Historic Park event on Nov. 17

By Lou Arbanas

Our friends at the Castro Adobe have asked us to share with you their event on Nov. 17th Saturday 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The location is the Castro Adobe State Historic Park at 184 Old Adobe Road Watsonville.

The event will be an Open House and History Sharing Day. History buffs, Pajaro Valley locals and Castro family descendants are invited to visit the new State Historic Park and share historic photos and memories. Staff will be on hand to scan images for the park’s

archive and interpretation. They are also interested in hearing stories about the Castro Adobe and families that have resided there.

If you are not able to attend that day, but still want to contribute, please contact Friends at (831) 429-1840

Tea for 'Ethel B' and 'Ollie N'

By Gayle Ivanovich

These two unusual cups and saucers in our Christmas collection bear the names of two longtime PVHA members, Mrs. Ollie Niebling (Pajaro Valley Bakery) and Mrs. Ethel Cornell Baumgardner. "Ethel B" was born on Dec. 1, 1905 on her father's ranch on Green Valley Road. Her father, Harry Cornell, was a member of the first Watsonville High School graduating class in 1892.

Ethel graduated from Watsonville Union High School in 1927, and shortly thereafter married popular local dentist Dr. Earl W. Baumgardner (who died in 1951). Ethel received her teaching credential from San Jose Normal School (now SJ State University) three years later, and taught third grade for 10 years at Mintie White Elementary School. She then taught 20 years at Moreland Notre Dame Academy before retiring in 1975.

Ethel did much community service for friends and neighbors. She was a Red Cross volunteer during World War II at Fort Ord. This artistic, outgoing lady always wore flamboyant fashions and huge earrings, which pleased her many



Ethel Baumgardner

students and friends throughout her life. She was extremely proud of her beautiful flower garden and rose-colored home on Palm Avenue. She walked to work and gardened every day. In later life, she gave ballroom dance demonstrations with her dance partner, which proved quite popular with the public.

She played bridge every week, and supported the PVHA, the First Christian Church, the American Legion Auxiliary, and the Retired Teachers' Association (among other organizations). She did Watsonville proud! Look for more about Ollie Niebling in an upcoming edition of the newsletter.

Pajaro Valley Historical Association
Cordially Invites You
to a

Bright Holiday Tea



Sunday, December 2nd, 2018 ~ 1pm-4pm

*332 East Beach St.
Watsonville, California*

*Bockius-Orr House
and
Borina Archive*

Everyone welcome ~ Donations gratefully accepted

art by Mimi Crumpton

Items of Note

As of Aug 14, 2018

Memorials

Lee Riordan

- Katharine Riordan

Ruth Fowle Covey

- Katharine Riordan

Virginia E. Rosewall

- William and Cloy Codiga

Dr. Henrique Mayorga Nestler

- William and Cloy Codiga

Patrick Carey

- John and Judy Eiskamp

Jim Rector

- Melanie Kett Wirtanen

Jane Borg

- Mary Altier
- Ed and Sharon Bystran
- William and Glendawyn Doyle
- Mary Eves
- Drs. Philip and Diane Gilman : In Honor of Jane Borgs Work
- Bette Ludden

Beulah Rider

- Dick and Joan Rider

Memberships

Renewed as of Aug. 14th

- Margaret Bloom
- David and Frances Delfino
- Ron and Connie Deller
- Drs. Philip and Diane Gilman
- Jere Ann Hall
- Stella Jagich
- Roseann Kalich
- KBK Insurance Agency(John Kane)

- John and Frances McGrath Kovarik

- Victor and Nancy Lewis

- Dennis and Laura Osmer

- Susan Pelis

- Katharine Riordan

- Les and Joyce Roth

- James Scurich

Memberships Renewed in September

- Jack And Marilyn Clifton

- Lynn Clough

- Joe Costa

- Catherine Coward

- John and Judy Eiskamp

- Lisa Eiskamp

- Doris Goon

- Mas and Marcia Hashimoto

- Ralph and Susan Jacobs

- Bob Katz and Leola Lapides

- Jo Marie Lake

- Robert and Janey Leonardich

- Bill and Tanya Passey

- Greg and Suke Pavlovich

- Diane Robey

- Mary Siefke

- Harry and Clarice Wiggins

- Melanie Kett Wirtanen

Memberships Renewed in October

- Karen Bachan

- Claire Etienne (Hauer Apple Ranch)

- Mary Eves

- Guy George and Teri Wempe

- Richard Gurnee

- Jeff and Karen Kane

- Bonnie Hawley (Friends of SC State Parks)

- Bill Hagins

- Shirley Kane

- Patricia Lester

- Elizabeth Ludden

- Donna Manfre

- Clint and Karen Miller

- Julie Oliver (C&N Tractors

- Linda K. Pavlovich

- Margaret Osborn Pilgram

- Ricardo Rocha (RV's Computers)

- Mark and Karen Sambrailo

- Billie Jean Sorensen

- Gino Stefanini

- Helen Ukestad

- Lee and Mary Vaage

New Members

- Sandra Lee

- Matthew McCluney

- Ken and Diane McElroy

- Mark and Carol Pista

New Volunteers

- Bruce R Burnett

- Maria Faria Burnett

- Margaret Amrhein

Donations General Use

- Watsonville Woman's Club Foundation
- Bachan Family Trust
- Rucka, O'Boyle, Lombardo & McKenna

Capital Improvement

- Greg and Carmen Caput

In Honor of Diane Porter Cooley's 90th Birthday

- Ed and Jean Kelly

Bea Drobach

- Willam and Cloy Codiga

Joanne Lynch

- Chuck and Ramona Allen

Attention Young Pajaro Valley Historians: Start Your Projects

By Claudia Mize

Attention young people from 16 to 25: It's time to start preparing your project. The deadline is April 25, 2019.

The Young Historian Award (\$500) is offered to an individual or group making a significant contribution to the history of the Pajaro Valley.

Call the PVHA office (831-722-0305) or look on our website (pajarovalleyhistory.org) for more information.



YOUNG HISTORIAN AWARD

AGES 16 - 25



A prize of \$500 to the winning project

(Research paper, video, volunteer work, performance, art piece, etc.)

Enhancing the history of the Pajaro Valley

Application deadline: April 25, 2019

For information, please visit our website at:

www.pajarovalleyhistory.org

or call 831-722-0305

Sponsored by the Pajaro Valley Historical Association
The Young Historian Award is made possible by a donor fund
administered by the Community Foundation of Santa Cruz County.

PAJARO VALLEY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION
P.O. Box 623
WATSONVILLE, CA 95077

Preserving the History
of the Greater Pajaro Valley

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The Pajaro Valley Historical Association is a **nonprofit** public benefit corporation organized under the California Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation Law for charitable purposes. Donations to the Pajaro Valley Historical Association are **tax deductible** within the meaning of Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. **Tax ID 94-1663161**

Want to join now or need to renew? We'd love to have you become a member of PVHA

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Please Make Checks Payable to "PVHA"
PO BOX 623 Watsonville CA 95077

Or join via our website at www.pajarovalleyhistory.org (Visa or Mastercard)

New Member Renewal Membership Expiration Date _____

Donor \$50 Supporter \$100 Benefactor \$250 Patron \$500 Corporate \$ _____

Other Donation \$ _____ to be used for _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone: _____ Total Enclosed: _____

Email: _____

(We are updating our database and would like to include your email address please)

All contributions are tax deductible within the meaning of
Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code — Tax ID 94-1663161

Thank You!

**Ways to
Donate**

- Become a Member
- Upgrade your Membership Level
- Make a general donation to the PVHA
- Make a donation to our endowment funds: The Historic Preservation Fund or Archive Fund, both established at The Community Foundation

