



AGENDA SUMMARY
HISTORICAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING
FRIDAY, MARCH 11, 2016
10:00 A.M.
CITY HALL - 2ND FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
300 EAST BRANCH STREET, ARROYO GRANDE

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ROLL CALL

3. FLAG SALUTE

4. AGENDA REVIEW:

The Committee may revise the order of items depending on public interest and/or agenda overload (inadequate time per item).

5. COMMUNITY COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS:

This public comment period is an invitation to members of the community to present issues, thoughts, or suggestions. Comments should be limited to those matters that are within the jurisdiction of the Historical Resources Committee. The Brown Act restricts the Committee from taking formal action on matters not published on the agenda.

6. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:

Correspondence or supplemental information for the Historical Resources Committee received after Agenda preparation. In compliance with the Brown Act, the Committee will not take action on correspondence relating to items that are not listed on the Agenda, but may schedule such matters for discussion or hearing as part of future agenda consideration.

7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

7.a. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Recommended Action: It is recommended the Historical Resources Committee approve the minutes of the December 11, 2015 meeting.

Documents: [HRC 07.a. 12-11-15 Draft Minutes.pdf](#)

8. REGULAR BUSINESS:

8.a. HISTORICAL RESOURCE SURVEYS

9. NEW BUSINESS:

9.a. CONSIDERATION OF PROCEEDING WITH AN APPLICATION FOR THE DESIGNATION OF A HISTORIC RESOURCE

Recommended Action: It is recommended that the Historical Resources Committee review provided materials and provide direction to staff whether or not to proceed with an application for the designation of the Methodist Campground as a local historic resource.

Documents: [HRC 09.a. HRD Methodist Campground.pdf](#)

10. DISCUSSION ITEMS

11. COMMITTEE COMMUNICATIONS:

Correspondence/Comments as presented by the Historical Resources Committee.

12. STAFF COMMUNICATIONS:

Correspondence/Comments as presented by staff.

13. ADJOURNMENT

All staff reports or other written documentation, including any supplemental material distributed to a majority of the Historical Resources Committee within 72 hours of a regular meeting, relating to each item of business on the agenda are available for public inspection during regular business hours in the Community Development Department, 300 E. Branch Street, Arroyo Grande. If requested, the agenda shall be made available in appropriate alternative formats to persons with a disability, as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act. To make a request for disability-related modification or accommodation, contact the Legislative and Information Services Department at 805-473-5414 as soon as possible and at least 48 hours prior to the meeting date.

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ACTION MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF THE HISTORICAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2015

1. CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Allen called the Historical Resources Committee to order at 10:03 a.m.

2. ROLL CALL

HRC Members: Committee Members Chuck Fellows, Norma Harloe, and Vice Chair Vincent Allen were present. Shirley Gibson and Chair Bill Hart were absent.

City Staff Present: Associate Planner Matt Downing was present.

3. FLAG SALUTE

Committee Member Fellows led the flag salute.

4. AGENDA REVIEW

None.

5. COMMUNITY COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

None.

6. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

None.

7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Due to lack of a quorum of members present from the September 18, 2015 meeting, consideration of minutes from that meeting were continued to the January meeting.

8. REGULAR BUSINESS

8.a. HISTORICAL RESOURCE SURVEYS

There were no updates on the historic resource surveys.

9. NEW BUSINESS

9.a. CONSIDERATION OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT TO THE COMMUNITY SERVICE GRANT PANEL

Associate Planner Downing provided the staff report for the project.

The Committee asked questions regarding the Grant Panel.

Chuck Fellows made a motion, seconded by Vincent Allen, to appoint Bill Hart to serve on the Community Service Grant Panel, with Shirley Gibson as the alternate, subject to their acceptance of those positions.

The motion passed on a 3-0 voice vote, with Shirley Gibson and Bill Hart absent.

10. DISCUSSION ITEMS

None.

11. COMMITTEE COMMUNICATIONS

Chuck Fellows provided an update on the proposed Branch Street Hotel project

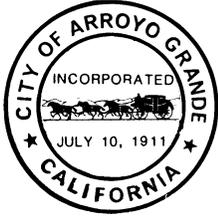
12. STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

Staff provided an update on the transition of staff liaisons and discussed meeting procedures for the Committee.

13. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:22 am to a regular meeting on January 8, 2015.

Prepared by: Matt Downing, Associate Planner
(Approved at HRC Mtg. _____)



MEMORANDUM

TO: HISTORICAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

FROM: MATTHEW DOWNING, ASSOCIATE PLANNER

SUBJECT: CONSIDERATION OF PROCEEDING WITH AN APPLICATION FOR THE DESIGNATION OF A HISTORIC RESOURCE; LOCATION - 250 WESLEY STREET (METHODIST CAMPGROUND)

DATE: MARCH 11, 2016

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Historical Resources Committee (HRC) review information on the Methodist Campground property and provide direction on the initiation of the historic resource designation application process.

BACKGROUND:

Location



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CONSIDERATION OF COMPLETION OF HISTORICAL RESOURCE DESIGNATION
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On February 9, 2016, Chair Hart provided information to the City regarding the history of the Methodist Campground property, requesting the historic resource designation process be initiated. The Methodist Campground property has a long tradition in the City, as can be discerned from the large amount of information provided (Attachment 1). John F. Beckett is the name largely associated with the Campground property, having donated more than fifteen (15) acres for the development of the ground and the Tabernacle, which will be 120 years old next year. The Campground was the host of many revivals in the following years. The property was also the site of chautauquas, which was an adult education movement started in the 1880s in New York. These events drew many locals and visitors, helping to shape the community in early years. A consensus of the HRC is required to formally begin the historic resource designation process.

ANALYSIS OF ISSUES:

The purpose of the Minor Use Permit-Historic Resource Designation is to promote the City's general welfare by providing for the identification, protections, enhancement, perpetuation and use of improvements, building, structures, signs, features, sites, places and areas within the City that reflect special elements of the City's historical, architectural, archaeological, cultural or aesthetic heritage. The goals of this protection are to encourage public knowledge, understanding, appreciation, and use of the City's past, enhance the visual character of the City, and protect property values, among others.

The HRC is authorized to make recommendations to the Community Development Director on Historic Resource Designation applications if the historic resource meets any one (1) of eight (8) criteria. These criteria include:

1. It is the site of a significant local, county, state or national historic event;
2. It is strongly identified with a person who, or an organization, which significantly contributed to the culture, history or development of the community of Arroyo Grande, the county of San Luis Obispo, the state of California or the United States;
3. It is a particularly good example of a period of history or architectural style and a structure of significant character, interest or value as part of the development, heritage or cultural characteristics of the city, county, state or nation;
4. It is one of the best or few remaining examples in the area possessing distinguishable characteristics of an architectural type or specimen;
5. It is a notable work of an architect or master builder whose individual works have significantly influenced the development of the city, county, state or nation;
6. It embodies elements of architectural design, detail, materials or craftsmanship that represent a significant architectural innovation;

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7. It has a unique location or singular physical characteristic representing an established and familiar visual feature of a district, community, county, state or nation; or
8. The structure or location is located in a geographically definable area possessing a concentration of historic resources that visually contribute to each other and are unified aesthetically.

The HRC may initiate the designation of a historic resource. The process of designation includes notification of the property owner and all interested parties that the designation process is being considered. The Community Development Director is authorized to approve an application for Historic Resource Designation unless the property owner does not consent to the application for a proposed designation. In such cases, a public hearing by the Planning Commission is scheduled. The City Council will operate in an appellate role, if necessary.

ATTACHMENT:

1. Historical information regarding the Methodist Campground property

lifestyle

Tabernacle celebrating centennial

The Tabernacle, the grand old lady of the Methodist Camp, is celebrating her 100th birthday.

She has presided over the campgrounds at the end of Wesley Avenue in Arroyo Grande, for those 100 years. The woodpeckers have at times left her in tatters, taking 15 feet off the center pole on her roof, but a new dress, actually several coats of paint, has always restored her spirits.

Today, she is better looking than she was in the summer of 1897, when she was dedicated on Sunday, Aug. 1.

J.F. Beckett, who owned a large acreage back of the Methodist Episcopal Church, built in 1887, at 124 West Branch St., (now Amanda's Interiors) was encouraging the Methodist Conference to establish their grounds here.

He did considerable grading and had offered his grounds, free of charge, for the annual campmeeting the Methodist held each summer. This was the favored way for increasing church membership. Now he was willing to give 15 acres to the church. When the conference accepted, the local church promised to give in work and money to the value of \$1,000.

Chautauqua was to precede the revival meetings. In 1874, in Chautauqua, New York, a Methodist minister, Dr. John Vincent, and wealthy industrialist, Lewis Miller, the father of Mrs. Thomas Edison, started a Sunday School encampment to train teachers.

For added interest, he held lectures on culture, philosophy and had humorous and worthwhile entertainment. Camp Arroyo Grande also taught Epworth League Methods.

By July 17, 1897, the 12-sided

tabernacle was nearing completion. The windows and doors were being installed and the floor leveled, ready for sawdust. Members of the church were busy clearing the grounds to receive tents. The ravine, where it ran down in back of the Catholic Church, was being worked on; this would quickly become "Lover's Lane."

ECHOES
BY JEAN
HUBBARD



"At one point, the minister, the Rev. A.M. Ogborn, was helping to clear the brush and rocks when he encountered poison oak. Sunday, his eyes had swollen shut and he was unable to preach.

On Aug. 1, 1897, the grand old lady and the surrounding grounds were dedicated. Everyone had helped; they far exceeded their promise of a \$1,000 in work and money; the church had also purchased 15 additional acres.

A special orchestra played for the dedication, and when Mr. Cattoir played a cornet solo, accompanied by Miss Laura Duncan, the enthusiastic applause was so great that the minister felt called upon the quiet the crowd. "The concert," said the newspaper, "was a genuine success in every respect."

The camp association furnished tent frames with wood floors that campers could slip a canvas frame over or you could bring your own tent. Some summers, the youth slept out under the stars with a canvas separating boys and girls.

Since afternoons were always free

with trips to the beach and elsewhere, many a sand crab and pine cone found its way into the girls' beds mysteriously. Loren Ballagh and Clair Gibson remembered that camp was always good for a romance or two each summer.

The evening lectures were well attended, with the Pacific Coast Railway running special cars to bring people from San Luis Obispo and points south. The charge for the evening was 50 cents for the season; \$1 for a family, or just 15 cents a single admission. The evening Chautauqua entertainment brought top talent to the camp.

In the early years, there was a boarding tent on the grounds that furnished meals in 1900, for 25 cents a single meal or 16 2/3 cents if you ate there all week. Later, a kitchen and dining hall were built. Camping privileges were free. Hay for your horses, in any quantity, cost \$5 to \$6 a ton. Straw was free.

For those doing their own cooking, plenty of fresh vegetables and fruit were available.

Coming to Camp Arroyo Grande was looked forward to by several hundred people every summer.

This Aug. 1 and 2, Camp Arroyo Grande will celebrate this grand old lady's birthday. The community is invited to share in this celebration. If you have never seen the camp, this is your opportunity. Wesley Ave. (next to Bank of America) will lead you back to the Tabernacle grounds.

Friday evening's entertainment will be preceded by a hotdog/hamburger dinner at 5. Saturday's fun begins at 10 a.m. with chicken barbecue at noon and entertainment all afternoon. Come and help us celebrate some of Arroyo Grande's rich historical heritage.

2007 - 110 years old

HISTORICAL RECORD OF LOCAL M. E. CHURCH

Compiled by Rev. C. W. F. Nelson

In September number of the Sunday School Teachers Journal it tells of a professor who at a banquet, in order to interest a young lady who sat next to him, asked her if she was interested in history. "Oh, no," she replied, "I think it best to let bygones be bygones." And I venture to say there is many a pupil in our schools that feels the same way. So it is with some trepidation that I venture to interest you in what we call history.

What is history?

The papers a few years ago quoted Henry Ford as saying that history was "bunk." I looked in the dictionary to find the meaning of the word "bunk" but it is a late slang word that seems not yet to have found its way into the Standard Dictionary.

It may be possibly a contraction of the word "buncombe" which means bragadocio, or from the word "bunco" which means to cheat, either of which might apply to some history, as it is written.

Bishop McConell recently quoted some prominent man as saying that "history is junk." That also may apply to some history.

The Standard Dictionary gives a more dignified definition, it says, "a systematic record of past events."

Whether my sketch is entitled to any or all of these definitions, I leave you to judge.

The compiler of history is compelled to draw his material from other peoples records which may be more or less incorrect and is likely to be colored by the opinions of the recorder.

The sources from which I have drawn the items of this sketch are mostly from the Pastors Record Books of Church membership and personal memory of myself and a few who have been with us through a part of this time. Lack of full records, uncertainty of memory, and necessity for brevity compel us to leave out much that might be of interest to us and also must account for any mistaken of the historian.

From a brief sketch found in the old Church Record book, in the hand writing of Rev. F. S. Woodcock, I glean some facts.

The first Methodist class in Arroyo Grande was organized by Rev. J. B. Green, in connection with the San Luis Obispo charge, in the year 1878, the next year it was attached to the Santa Maria charge and so continued until September 1, 1884. During that period the church was served by the following pastors: J. B. Green, J. A. McMillen, I. M. Leihy, Horace Holdridge and Charles Leach. Daniel Cobb was Presiding Elder for at least three years of that time. I wish to say this of Daniel Cobb. He was an enthusiastic, daring frontiersman who spent the earlier years of his ministry in Minnesota in preempting that state for Methodism, and he brought to this conference the same enthusiasm and organizing ability and daring. The 1st of September, 1884, the Methodists of this town and environments requested to be set off as an independent charge, and as I see the names of the charter members it thrills me to think of the faith and daring of that little band who were the foundation of this local church, and in vivid imagination I can see and hear Dr. Cobb as he helped to inspire and sanction that action. (Permit a personal reference. I think of Dr. Cobb as my Conference father, as it was he who recommended my transfer from the Wisconsin conference to the Southern California conference, and gave me my first appointment, Hueneme, which was another of his carving and organizing.

The annual Conference of 1884 met at old Fort St. M. E. church, Los Angeles, September 18. Bishop Foss presiding. At that session Dr. Cobb presented his recommendations for the forming of the new charges, and they were sanctioned by the bishop. And here is where we begin our independent history. H. J. Crall, a local pastor,

(later he developed a throat difficulty which caused him to discontinue preaching and this is the last I knew of his life plans.) So he stands at the head of the list of pastors and served one year. So it may be proper to include as charter members those who were received and recorded in the church during that year and entered in his hand writing as I have no other definite source of information.

The names of these charter members are worthy of a place in this sketch. They are as follows:

Austin Abbott, Mrs. Harriet Abbott, J. F. Beckett, Mrs. J. F. Beckett, Mrs. Susan Bickmore, B. F. Brock, Mrs. Josephine Brock, Miss E. M. Day, J. J. Fritzsinger, M. E. Fritzsinger, Thos. Hodges, Mrs. Sarah E. Hodges, Mrs. Sarah E. Kyte, Mary E. Long, L. F. Meacham, Mrs. Bell Meacham, R. S. Potter, Mrs. Elizabeth Potter, E. L. Paulding, T. Seely, Mrs. M. J. Seely, W. M. VanGundy, Mrs. Nancy VanGundy, Mrs. Mary E. Washburn. These 24 are those who were in full connection.

The following fourteen were on the list of probationers and we will class them among the charter members:

Mrs. Anna Ahalt, Samuel Bickmore, Monroe Forkner, Amy Hodges, Rose Hodges, Harvey Hodges, Rosaline Love, A. H. Lawrence, G. A. Lawrence, Abbie I. Meacham, Mamie Meacham, Robert E. Pritchett, Mrs. Nancy R. Pritchett, Anna VanGundy.

The larger portion of this group have joined the "church triumphant," and so far as I can learn those still with us on the shores of time are: E. L. Paulding who joined the Adventist church; Mrs. Elizabeth Potter of Glendora and probably her sister, Miss E. M. Day, also of those who were probationers; Amy Hodges of Los Angeles, Harvey Hodges of Visalia, Abbie I. (Meacham) Seely and Mamie (Meacham) Lewis of Arroyo Grande.

The sketch from which I obtain some of these facts states that brother Crall had a good revival meeting; which doubtless contributed to this list which we recorded as charter members. Brother Crall also contracted for the lots on which the church and parsonage now stands. The trustees

giving their personal note for \$400.

The Conference of 1885 sent as pastor, Rev. F. S. Woodcock. During the first year of his pastorate the parsonage of four rooms was built at a cost of \$450, and the Ladies' Aid Society put in \$86 worth of furniture. During his second year the church was built at a cost of \$2,500. The building was completed September 9, 1887. The whole property was estimated to have cost \$3,200. A noble daring and achievement considering their small number and their financing of this enterprise may be of interest. With lots on which to build was a debt of \$400. Subscription to the amount of \$1,517, donation from the Church Extension Society of \$250., and a loan from the same of \$500, payable in annual installments of \$100 with interest. On the day of dedication there was about \$1,000 debt unprovided for which amount was subscribed at that service. The dedication was October 2, 1887, the first Sunday of my pastorate. Brother Woodcock had remained here to plan for assist through the service and put the financial affairs

in shape. Rev. Henry Cox who was pastor of San Luis Obispo preached and conducted the dedicatory service.

At the Conference of 1887. C. W. F. Nelson was appointed pastor. (From now on for a little while I must write in the "first person" not in the "singular number" nor the "editorial we" but the "first person plural," for I wish to say, that no pastor ever had a more loyal, sympathetic, loving, faithful generous, co-operating congregation than this to which I was sent, and we could not have accomplished what we did but for that full manifestation of those traits.) This little eulogy in which I have indulged in neither "junk," "bunk" nor "buncoor," "bucumbe," but as the dry goods salesman would say, "Genuine goods all wool and a yard wide."

What was the situation we had to meet? The parsonage was a comfortable little home for two, but when the new pastor came with a family of four children it was seen that it was necessary to enlarge the housing. In spite of the fact of heavy church building expense they immediately made a two-room addition to the parsonage at an expense of \$100, this added to their already heavy obligations.

This is the situation that we met. A new church and a comfortable parsonage, uncollected subscriptions of about \$1,350, bills to be paid that were supposed to be covered by the subscriptions, debt to the church extension society \$500, debt on parsonage \$100, shrinkage on subscription about \$300. (It is due the church to say that most of that shrinkage was due to two outside parties who found it easier to subscribe than to pay, one to make a great show to promote a real estate boom, he skipped the neighborhood and I never saw him, the other a poor drinking sot whom I later buried in a drungard's grave.)

This left us with a debt of about \$950 unprovided for.

We met the obligations as they came due with the exception of the last \$100 to the Church Extension Society on which we got an extension of one year in order that we might make improvements on the parsonage which we did to the amount of \$200. This constitutes our building enterprise for the five years of our co-operation.

We were in special revival services on several occasions. First, with the aid of Rev. G. L. Cole, a member of our Conference, at the close of which we organized the Young People's Methodist Alliance. One of the first special organizations of the Methodist church, which had its beginning a few years previous at the camp meeting at Des Plains, Ill.

A few years later when the Epworth League was organized and authorized by our General Conference we took out a charter in that. This is the origin of our organization of our Epworth League in this church. We had one union service with the Presbyterians under the leadership of Rev. McClurken the evangelist. Later we had Mrs. Hebus with us and the fifth year both Mr. and Mrs. Hemus were with us again. Two camp meetings were held the first one at Newsom's Springs at which nearly every preacher from Santa Barbara to San Miguel were with us and the second camp meeting we held was in Ketchum's grove at which there was a large attendance from surrounding charges. With the aid of these special helpers we were enabled to add to our membership so that the records show that during the five years there were received 109 full members and 113 probationers.

During the first year of our pastorate, Nipomo, which was included in our work, desired to be a separate charge with their own preacher. So the Presiding Elder, Rev. S. G. Blanchard obtained a supply, Rev. W. H. B. Urch, and so about 12 or 14 of our members were transferred to that church. At this point I will give in chronological order the names of those who have served as pastors.

H. J. Crall from Sept. 1, 1884 to Sept. 1885—1 year.

F. S. Woodcock from Sept. 1, 1885 to Sept. 1887—2 years.

C. W. F. Nelson from Sept. 1, 1887 to Sept. 1892—5 years.

A. M. Ogoberne from Sept. 1, 1892 to Sept. 1895—3 years.

C. H. Larwence from Sept. 1, 1895 to Sept. 1898—3 years.

W. B. Bell from Sept. 1, 1898 to Sept. 1900—2 years.

J. R. Ross from Sept. 1, 1900 to Sept. 1901—1 year.

F. A. Ziegler from Sept. 1, 1901 to Sept. 1902—1 year.

S. S. Sampson from Sept. 1, 1902 to Sept. 1910—8 years.

V. H. Brink from Sept. 1, 1910 to Sept. 1911—1 year.

C. H. M. Sutherland from Sept. 1, 1911 to Sept. 1912—1 year.

J. M. Gortner from Sept. 1, 1912 to Sept. 1915—3 years.

S. J. Lindsey from Sept. 1, 1915 to Sept. 1917—2 years.

D. K. Burnham from Sept. 1, 1917 to Sept. 1920—3 years.

A. C. Welch from Sept. 1, 1920 to April 1920—7 months.

J. V. Bennett from May 1921 to Sept. 1922—1 year and 5 months.

Carl M. Ross from Oct. 1922 to Sept. 1923—1 year.

F. R. Johnson from Oct. 1923 to Oct. 1926—3 years.

H. B. McFarland from Oct. 1926 to Oct. 1927—1 year.

G. W. Richmire from Oct. 1927 to Oct. 1929—2 years.

Paul Lomax from Oct. 1929 to July 1931—1 year and 9 months.

E. J. Bradner from July 1931 to Oct. 1934—3 years.

H. B. Sellers from July 1934—the present incumbent.

Thus during the 50 years twenty-two pastors have served this local church. The following have served as Presiding Elders or District Superintendents, W. A. Knighten, Daniel Cobb, Wm. Nixon, S. G. Blanchard, J. B. Holloway, E. W. Caswell, T. C. Miller, A. B. Green, H. W. Peck, John Oliver, E. J. Inwood, A. J. Hughs, W. C. Loomis and W. A. Betts, thirteen in all.

So far as I have been able to ascertain the following have passed on to their reward. Pastors, F. S. Woodcock, A. M. Ogoborn, C. H. Lawrence, A. C. Welch, D. S., W. A. Knights, Daniel Cobb, Wm. Nixon, S. G. Blanchard, J. B. Holloway, E. W. Caswell, T. C. Miller, J. B. Green and H. W. Peck.

The widows of former ministers who are still living are: Mrs. F. S. Woodcock, Mrs. A. M. Ogoborne, Mrs. A. C. Welch and Mrs. S. G. Blanchard.

To give detailed account of each pastorate is impossible for lack of records. But this I will say, each pastor has to his credit a goodly number of members and probationers received during his pastorate. The record of church membership as reported to each annual conference beginning with brother Crall, which was 32 full members, and ranging from that to 160 which is the highest that I can find in the records. It has ranged up and down between those amounts until the latest record which is 150. Deaths and removals have kept our increase and average number between those figures. As near as I can find out and compile the record there have been fully 1,000 people who have had membership or official connection in the work of this church.

This of course does not include the thousands who have here heard the word of "good tidings" nor those who have here given themselves to God and have joined churches elsewhere. Who but God can measure the influence that has gone out from this place?

We can only refer in brief to some of the special things that have been in connection with this work. During the first year of brother Lawrence's pastorate, 1896, there was held a camp meeting in a grove in a canyon north of town, and the following year, 1897, the enterprise of the establishing of the camp ground and tabernacle on the hill was inaugurated. J. F. Beckett gave about 15 acres of land and with the aid of adjoining charges the grounds were improved and the tabernacle built and paid for and later about as much more land was purchased and more extended improvements made. And with the exception of about five years there have been camp meeting and Epworth League assemblies held.

Just here I wish to state that great credit is due brother Bradner for reviving what for a time seemed a dead enterprise.

How much these meetings have contributed to the upbuilding of this local church is hard to estimate. One thing is a fact the local church has had a large part of the work and expense and are deserving of the credit with the extra burden which has been laid upon the local pastors.

During the pastorate of S. S. Sampson the side room of this original church was built, thus adding very much to our working convenience, also during his pastorate the parsonage was overhauled and remodeled, nearly doubling its capacity and adding much to its convenience and comfort. This involved some debt and necessitated a loan.

Here I wish to give credit and honor to one of the members of our church whom I had the pleasure of receiving into the church, Edward T. Hughs, an old Welsh miner, retired after years of prospecting and accumulating some savings. A single man, quiet and reserved in his manner, generous with financial help, but few knew of his gifts. So quiet and almost hermit like in his life that few knew him. He loaned the money to meet the debt on the parsonage, and all he asked was that the church treasurer should give him credit on the books for the interest as his contribution to the church. When his health began to fail and he felt that he ought to be in the hospital for final care, he called brother Sampson, and myself to his home and there gave to brother Sampson the note on the back of which was written: "In the event of my death this note is not to be collected." Signed, EDWARD T. HUGHS.

He went to the hospital and but a short time later God took him home. When you look at the house on the hill back of the church occasionally think of it as a monument to Edward T. Hughs.

With the increase and introduction of modern methods of church work, the workers felt the need of more room and began to talk of a social hall, which talk reached the stage of action during the pastorate of A. C. Welch. Ground was broken and work begun. But soon for reasons considered adequate brother Welch requested to be relieved from the pastorate and J. V. Bennett was engaged to supply the pulpit. During his pastorate the present social hall was built and inclosed so that it could be used. The policy of the church was not to go in debt. So the inside finishing and outside painting has been

wrought in stages, largely by the energies of the Ladies Aid Society. Later improvements of various nature have been made from time to time until our latest which we may classify as a luxury. The fireplace. For this we must give large credit to our wizard. (The dictionary definition of that word is "wonder worker.") Thus our plant stands today, free of debt, an equipment of which we need not be ashamed.

For several years past Oceano has been connected with Arroyo Grande in pastoral supervision. I have not the date of the construction of the church building, but a small class has heroically kept the work going. During the past three years under the pastorate of brother Bradner, the work has taken on new life until they have reached the dignity of a "Community Church," yet, still under the pastoral care of the Arroyo Grande pastor.

A very substantial addition has been made to the church building to accommodate the growing Sunday school. The value of the addition is estimated at \$750. Brother Bradner and the congregation give great credit, and justly, to Mrs. E. E. McWilliams, for years of superintendent of the Sunday school, as the growth of the S. S. under her management and enthusiasm made

the addition necessary.

She was not permitted to see the completion of this work, as for many months she lay a sufferer and received her crown some months before the dedication of the addition. A tablet to her memory is placed on the wall and the building is considered her monument.

God only knows what the little band of 16 charter members may accomplish in the years to come.

A few other compliations may be of interest. There have gone out of our church three into the ministry: J. A. McKenzie, Albert, Ore and Jmes Smyrr. Into Y. M. C. A. work one: George Runyon.

Women who have prepared for and entered into special church work, eight: Ada Thomas, Stella Adwine, Mrs. E. (Broom) Mason, Ada (Whitlock) Fobes, Lucille (Hickson) Peterson, Florence (Nixon) Peterson, Elsie Gibson, Elizabeth (Nelson) Douglass.

Women who have become ministers wives: Nora (Benjamin) McKenzie, Florence (Hickson) Peterson and Kathlene (Gibson) Sampson.

Wives of Y. M. C. A. workers, Lorena (Haskins) Douglas and Lorena (Dowell) Rushforth. Not all of these are at present in the special work for which they took training.

There may be other whom we might name in these lists but this is as far as I have found record. Even if we had the records, time would fail us to tell of the many who have gone out from these altars of consecration to take their places in the building of the Kingdom.

We feel warranted in saying that considering our numbers, financial conditions and the territory which we count as our field, few churches can make a better showing.

In closing this fragmentary sketch I trust that it may not be considered either "bunk," "buncumb," "bunco" nor "junk." And while it may be "bygones" and may be passed as "bygones" by most of you, I find as I have reviewed the past 50 years it is to me a very present and pleasant memory.

In the great Home-Coming if we shall be permitted to look into God's great "Book of Remembrance," we will find an immense record of interesting history that will give us great pleasure to study.

With this brief backward look let us "thank God and take courage," and not wholly "forget the things that are behind," yet, "looking forth to those things which are before" let us with faith take our part in the next 50 years of conflict and victory for the Kingdom of Christ, hoping that it may soon be said that "the Kingdoms of this earth have become the kingdoms of our Lord and his Christ."

Who is our inspiration and leader?

"'Tis Jesus the first and the last

Who's Spirit will guide us safe home,

We'll praise him for all that is past

And trust him for all that's to come."

Purely Personal.

Chas. Crannell left Wednesday for Alare.

Miss Eleanor Wiggs left this morning for her home in Santa Cruz.

W. J. Smith will leave next Tuesday for the San Joaquin valley where, it is said, he will accept a position on the valley road.

Charley Flagg was severely hurt last Sunday afternoon. He was coming home from the beach when his horse fell with him in such a way as to hurt him quite badly. He was brought home by his companions and is now doing well.

R. B. Musick and family have moved out to the Huasua for the benefit of Miss Marguerite and Wirt, who, owing to lung trouble of a serious nature find the coast climate very trying. They have been for some time out at Avenales.

Mrs. N. M. Wittenberg of the upper Arroyo Grande, who has been confined closely at home for a year with some serious trouble of the right knee, has so far improved lately as to be out quite often. She came to town Wednesday and was the guest of Mrs. M. R. Swall all Thursday evening. Her friends now hope she is on the way to permanent and entire recovery.

Miss Maud Grieb visited her sister, Mrs. W. W. Stowe of Santa Maria last week. We understand that Miss Maud has decided not to accept the position offered her at San Diego through President Jordan of Stanford, but will take a much needed rest after her four years of hard study.

Jesse Putnam went to Avenales Monday with medicine from Dr. Paulding for Miss Marguerite Musick. He returned Tuesday with the word that the young lady was quite ill with pneumonia. Wirt was better and had come over to Lane's on the Huasua. Mr. Musick came in yesterday and reported both invalids better.

THE ARROYO GRANDE HERALD

PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY.

S. CLEVENGER, Editor and Proprietor.

Saturday, - June, 26, 1897.

Some More Social Occurrences.

Wednesday Colonel Harper Corps went visiting in a body again, as they are very prone to do. This time the victim on whom they inflicted themselves was Mrs. Thos. McGuire of the mill cottage. At 10:30 a. m. quite a little procession left G. A. R. Hall, the leading vehicle carrying such a load as to cause one astonished observer to remark to the owner of said vehicle, (whom the driver succeeded in dodging.) "Have you turned your buggy into an omnibus?" but it stood the strain and all arrived safely to be welcomed cordially by Mrs. McGuire, who is a beloved member and a most delightful lady to visit. Several members were already there and immediately all were very much at home.

As the noon hour approached, these self-invited guests produced various parcels, packages and boxes, very suggestive of things that were good to eat and it wasn't long before the repast was spread in the dining room and very attractive the table looked. The host and two other gentlemen who had kept close together for mutual protection up to this time were seated as guests of honor at the first table when they suddenly seemed to lose all fear and feel very content. Will Bond, brother of the hostess, and who was met by the procession on his way to town, (as he drew his team to one side and gave them the road he looked at though he would take to the woods if the hill wasn't so steep at that spot.) returned in time to take the head of the second table and dine with the cooks and waiters. He was received gladly as it was feared his courage would fail and he would remain in hiding till the coast was clear, but then, that isn't Will Bond, and he was there.

After dinner all gathered in the parlor and an impromptu program was given. Mrs. Carman read from the W. R. C. Budget, the monthly paper of the Corps. "The W. R. C. Alphabet," Mrs. W. C. Phillips gave in a happy manner a comic recitation, Mr. Bond, sang accompanying himself on the piano, Mrs. Dieffenbacher gave a recitation, and Mrs. McGuire played and sang, all of which was very pleasant.

Mrs. Fred Branch, who is a near neighbor of the McGuires, here appeared and invited the company up to her house. The invitation was accepted of course, and a very pleasant hour was passed with Mrs. Branch at her pretty home.

It was quite late when the visitors at last made up their minds that they really had to go home and they said good-bye to Mrs. McGuire and Mrs. Branch with a strong inclination to return some not far off day and enjoy it all over again.

Wednesday the Sunday School of the C. P. church, their teachers and friends, picniced in the willows at Oceano. The youngsters enjoyed every minute of the long day and held high revel in the white sand, on the beach, by the creek and in the shade of the willows.

Wednesday was the sixth anniversary of the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Amos Henry and the day was observed by a family picnic at the beach.

Friday a merry crowd loaded themselves into Mr. Beckett's fine new 'bus, a recent purchase, and took their way to that sylvan spot, Sycamore Springs, where a barbecue and a happy time generally was enjoyed. The Beckett, Robison, Blaine and Jones families and several others made up the party. Of course they didn't all go in that 'bus but they came very near doing it.

Robbed at Guadalupe.

One Edward Edrington has been apprehended at Santa Barbara charged with the robbery of H. H. Johnson of Guadalupe, the well-known cheese maker. Johnson has been in the habit of secret-

ing a sufficient amount of money around his residence in odd places to pay his running expenses for his extensive dairy. Edrington had worked for Mr. Johnson for about three months and during this time a box of calla lillies was being used as a safe deposit for surplus coin. The unsuspecting box stood outside near the kitchen door and was about the last place anyone would have looked for \$300. But Edrington evidently knew better and on the 8th of this month he departed and along with him it is charged went the \$300. He went to Lompoc and Santa Barbara and along the line of his travels he let out a stream of silver dollars in riotous living that led to suspicion and caused his arrest. His preliminary examination will take place today before Justice Crane.

A Good Woman Laid to Rest.

On Tuesday evening at about nine o'clock Mrs. Sarah D. Conrad passed from this earthly life and left a large number of relations to mourn her loss. Grandma Conrad as she was familiarly known to her intimate friends and relatives, was born in Forsyth county, North Carolina, in the year 1812, and was married to Ephraim Conrad in 1836, seven children was the result of the union, five still living. They moved to California in 1864. Grandma and Grandpa Conrad lived together in the marriage relation 61 years. She was a consistent member of the church for nearly 70 years. She died at the advanced age of 85 years and five months. Funeral services were held at the Presbyterian church attended by a large concourse of people.

A Little Shake Up.

Quite a hard shock of earthquake was felt by our citizens shortly after noon last Sunday. The disturbance centered around Salinas, where buildings were cracked and more or less damage was done. It has been several years since so severe a shock was felt on this coast.

THE Carpinteria Courier proudly asserts that the Carpinteria valley will "raise more truck, more children and more of everything to the square foot than any other section of the country." It is a confoundedly good thing for the Courier that it didn't mention anything about pretty babies, big pumpkins or prolific beans, potatoes and "sich" or it would have received a slap over the ears that would have curbed its bragging spirit.

New Camping Resort.

A new camping resort is coming into prominence. It is located on the Hasbrouck ranch and is known as Cold Springs. Mrs. Dr. Paulding and daughter, Miss Truesdale, Mrs. Wm. Laughlin and daughter, and the families of Alex. and Wm. King are now sojourning there. Monday H. C. Haskin and family will move out and in a day or two the family of Dr. O. P. Paulding of Santa Maria will join the group at Cold Springs.

At the M. E. Encampment Grounds.

Work commenced on the big tabernacle at the M. E. Encampment Grounds on Monday morning. The foundation and frame is now being erected and in a few days a very good idea of the immense structure can be had. Mr. Terry is general superintendent and on Thursday he had eight men working under him. About all the lumber is now on the ground and the construction will be rushed from now on. Since our last visit a great deal of work has been done in grading. The roadway is completed all except a little filling in at this end. The footpath running down by the church is completed and affords an easy grade into the grounds.

Almost a Conflagration.

Thursday afternoon our town had a narrow escape from a disastrous conflagration. Smoke was seen issuing from the kitchen department of the Ryan Hotel and the alarm was given none too soon. A fire had started in the kitchen directly under the ventilator flue. Another minute and the whole interior of the kitchen would have been in flames and the fire would have eaten through the flue walls and had access to the eaves of the roof where it could not have been subdued. Some very quick work was done by those who first reached the spot and the fire was put out before any great amount of damage was done. There was a strong wind at the time and the burning of the Ryan Hotel would have been followed by the destruction of most of the business portion of town.

A Painful Accident.

Mrs. Hover, who resides about two miles north of town in the Verde canyon, met with a very painful accident the other day. She was sewing near a table from which she dropped a large pair of shears. Involuntarily she grabbed to catch them as they fell and the sharp points struck her in the palm and went entirely through her hand.

— The high tides now prevailing have thrown up a bank of sand at the mouth of the Arroyo and has connected Oceano and Grover by a veritable inland sea.

Purely Personal.

W. J. Smith left last Tuesday for Hanford.

J. W. Lewis took down the goods for his new store at Pismo on Thursday.

Will Conrad leaves this morning on a trip to Ventura. He goes by steamer.

THE ARROYO GRANDE HERALD

PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY.

S. CLEVENGER, Editor and Proprietor.

Saturday, - August, 7, 1897

At the Encampment Grounds.

The convention closed with its crown-feature—the concert—on Monday evening. The chorus of over thirty boys had excellent training under Prof. Jones and the part of the program prepared by them was most excellent.

Henry and Mrs. Holcomb of Paso Robles were the soloists, and were quite popular to the occasion. It was the latter's appearance before an Arroyo Grande audience and she made a lasting impression with her pure, sweet voice. The Sonnette Orchestra called forth an encore (that was promptly suppressed) on the air's solo. The concert was a genuine success in every respect.

On Sunday Dr. White, assisted by the aiding Elder T. C. Miller and Rev. J. Henry dedicated the Tabernacle and grounds. In the financial statement it appeared that the citizens of Arroyo Grande had donated in money and labor something over \$1300 and that there was still due about \$300. That amount was promptly raised before the meeting closed.

Accidentally Shot.

On Sunday afternoon last three small boys concluded they would go rabbit hunting at Mr. Shinn's place southwest of town. They were Arthur G. Shinn, George Wright and Lester Sorn. They had not proceeded far when they surrounded a bush, scared out a rabbit and George Wright, who carried the gun, shot it. Arthur Shinn was in range of the falling shot and received them in his left arm and shoulder and at least one bullet entered the inside corner of his right eye. The boy was hastily brought to town and Dr. Knowlton dislodged most of the shot from his arm and shoulder and then sent him to Dr. E. A. Deal, the oculist at San Luis, who we learn has a faint hope of saving the boy's right eye.

Arthur is only twelve years old but he bears his pains with philosophical nerve and was up to town Thursday to have his wounds treated. The rabbits will have a wide and free range on the Shinn ranch hereafter if the positive orders of Mr. and Mrs. Granville Shinn are obeyed.

Soft Water Struck.

Wood & son have been sinking a well on J. W. Gilliam's place south of the creek and at a depth of 114 feet they struck a fine stream of soft water that comes within twenty feet of the surface. At fifty feet down they encountered a bed of clay and continued in that material until they struck the water. Mr. Gilliam is jubilant over his good luck and it will prove quite a source of revenue to him. This is the first soft water that has been struck in town.

— A team of four horses belonging to a Portuguese became frightened and ran away last Saturday, making a bee line up Branch street for the creamery. About a mile out of town they ran over a cart driven by a lady and completely demolished it. Fortunately the lady was not injured. The horses were caught just beyond Mr. Fouch's place and some broken harness was the only damage the rig sustained.

— The reported burglary of the boarding tent at the Camp grounds and the loss of a watch and \$20 has been cleared up. The lady in charge had hidden the articles away and in the excitement of the meeting forgot about it. When she had time to think she remembered placing them in a certain drawer and they were found there. We are sorry to say that the manner in which to HERALD was denounced for reporting the truth cannot be so happily explained.

Purely Personal.

Guy Eddy and Gay Parsons leave today for Berkeley.

Mrs. Wm. Terry and children are visiting relatives at Cambria.

Mrs. W. T. Clevenger left last Monday for San Jose to visit a sick brother.

Masters Acie and Azra Porter leave next Monday to enter the Santa Clara College.

Miss Marguerite Musick left for the Huasna Thursday where she will be the guest of Mrs. Jones for an indefinite length of time.

Mrs. S. Clevenger and Porter and Bessie Robison joined the campers at Camp Comfort Wednesday and will remain two or three weeks.

A. Brieger was down from San Luis yesterday contracting for beans. He is packing up his large stock of groceries and intends leaving for Juneau in about two weeks.

— Report comes from Osu Flaco that Anton Sousa let his four horse team run off the grade into the lake and all of the horses were drowned. This sounds like the echo of an accident that occurred there last year.

On a Lecturing Tour.

Mrs. Harriet Thomas left Thursday for Santa Barbara and Los Angeles. At the former city she will make her debut as a lecturer. For several months past Mrs. Thomas has been studying with the Suspecta Medicine Co. which occupies the whole of the fourth floor in the Emporium building at San Francisco, and now she will tour the southern portion of the State in their interest, lecturing to women only. Mrs. Thomas' old friends here will be pleased so hear of her success.

BORN.

LIVERMORE—At Arroyo Grande Calif, August 4th, 1897, to Mr. and Mrs. Warren Livermore, a son.

GREGORY—At Arroyo Grande, Aug. 1st, 1897, to Mr. and Mrs. Dan Gregory, a daughter.

A Hard Day.

"Yes," said the politician wearily, "I have had a pretty hard time of it."

"Have you had much to do?"

"No. There wasn't anything for me to do. I was before an investigating committee all day, and my youngest son has been asking questions concerning theology all the evening."—Washington Star.

THE ARROYO GRANDE HERALD

PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY.

S. CLEVENGER, Editor and Proprietor.

Saturday, - July, 31, 1897

THE Klondyke is a phenomenal country—its gold is all on ice waiting for the intruding miners,

WE wonder if some of the Klondyke stories will wash as easily and yield as pure metal as its gravel beds?

THE tide rises and falls 23 feet at Dyea. What is the matter of rigging a hawser and making the tide heave the supplies over Chilcoot pass?

ARRANGEMENTS have been completed for the colonization of the 700 acres of the lands acquired by Mr. Spreckels in the Salinas Valley, under direct supervision of the Salvation Army. The land will be divided into 10-acre beet farms and Mr. Spreckels agrees to take all the beets raised at a stipulated price and gives the farmers from eight to ten years to pay for the land.

Heft at the Encampment Grounds.

On Wednesday evening last a theft of gold watch and about twenty dollars in money made at the boarding tent on the E. Encampment Grounds. The watch the property of Mrs. Morris and the money was the amount that had been paid in for meals. Mrs. Morris had charge of the boarding tent and on the night of the robbery left the watch and money in the tent and attended Prof. White's lecture in the Tabernacle, about a hundred yards distant. During her absence some one entered the boarding tent and stole the watch and money.

A Frightened Wretch.

A couple of months ago Joe Draper, who lives on the Huasna, gave shelter to a paralytic named Reynolds whom he allowed to do chores for his board. Joe has been absent from home with Thos. Steele's thresher for the past month and on Wednesday last he was sent for post haste. It appears that Reynolds the night before had dared to enter Mrs. Draper's room and had acted in such a manner as to badly frighten that lady. The next morning he drew a rifle on Mrs. Draper but she was brave enough to knock the gun to one side and after a long struggle gained possession of the weapon. Reynolds then fled to the hills and Mrs. Draper sent for her husband. Joe hunted for the man through the hills all Wednesday night but could not find him. He now has the officers on his trail. If he is caught it will go hard with him.

WORKED RIGHT ALONG.—The temperature the past week has been up past the 100 mark and it has been warm enough to satisfy the most grilled taste. Notwithstanding the torrid wave, work has continued right along in the fields.—San Miguel Messenger.

WOULD SINK AWAY.—If war were declared tomorrow, in ten days there would not be a gold dollar in sight. And if there was much danger abroad there wouldn't be any owners of gold dollars in sight. Both would sink away, yet these are the influences that are controlling this government today—Santa Paula Sentinel.

A WASTE OF ENERGY.—"How the Easterners would envy us could they but experience some of this delightful weather," gushed the Fresno Republican last Wednesday, and the head of the column showed the temperature to be 119. It's no use; the Republican's efforts to convince its readers that Fresno is preferable to Hades are a waste of energy.—Madera Mercury.

GONE FROM AMONG US.

Death of Wirt Musick Last Saturday Evening.

Last Sunday morning early the sorrowful news, so long dreaded by those who knew and loved him, was brought to town that Wirt Musick was dead. He died on the Arroyo Seco where he had been for six weeks or two months. Previous to that he was at the Avenales for a while but came over to the Huasna where he was joined by his family as it was best for him to be away from the coast. A brave fight was made to save the poor boy from death, but quick consumption from which there seems to be no rescue, claimed Wirt and last Saturday evening at 8 o'clock, quietly and gently and conscious to the last, he fell asleep in this world and all his pain was stilled and his poor racked body was at rest. For several days he had seemed some better and Saturday when his father and mother realized a change had come and the end was very near it was too late to send for his sisters, Miss Mary and Miss Emma, who had been stopping at the home place in town for several weeks, so they were not present at the last. Wirt's illness began just eight months ago and was the result of an attack of la grippe while working on the Advance at Templeton, and which rapidly developed into consumption and quenched his young life just as he had reached manhood with life and all its infinite possibilities before him. For more than two years Wirt was with the HERALD and in that time a liking that deepened into genuine affection because of his true, worth and manly character, resulted from the close association. He was born at the Musick ranch, now part of the Hasbronck property, twenty years ago the 10th of last

MAR 12. 1887.

Notice to Builders.

NOTICE is hereby given that the Board of Trustees of the M. E. Church of Arroyo Grande will receive sealed bids until April 1st for the building of a church at Arroyo Grande according to plans and specifications now on file with Rev. F. S. Woodcock of said place. The Board reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

By order of the board.
J. V. BECKEFLI, President

Aug 31 - 1922

...the ...
...the ...
...the ...

510 Tribune

10/2/1878

First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande

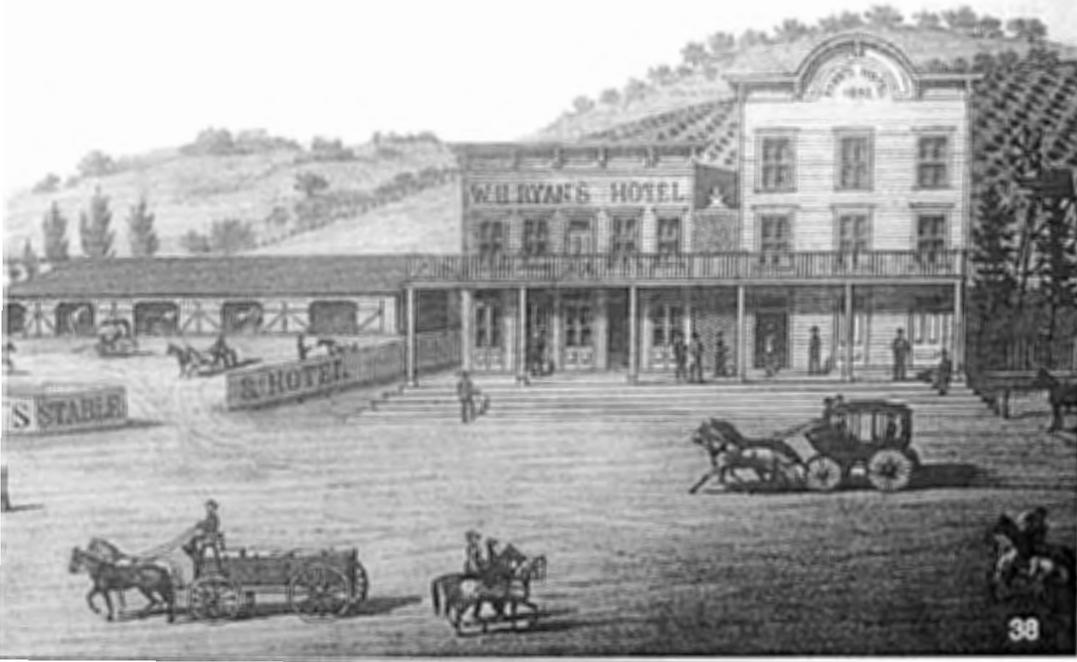
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The First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande Celebrates 125 Years of Ministry

Rock founded, Christ centered, Faith sustained



Services were held in the Good Samaritan Hall prior to the church being built. It is visible halfway down the street in this 1890's photo.



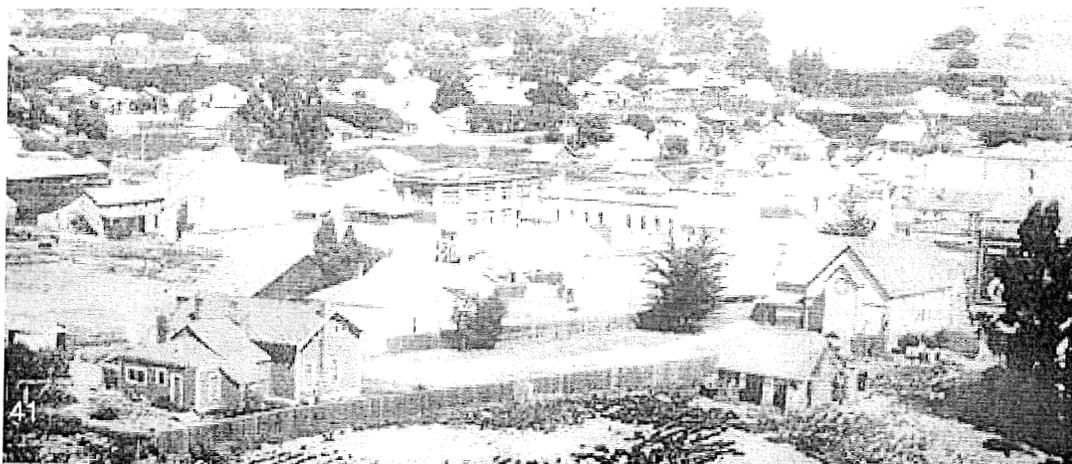
During the year that Bro. Crall was here, he held a revival Meeting and contracted for the lots on which the church and parsonage were built near this downtown scene; the trustees gave their personal note for \$400.



At the Annual Conference held in Santa Barbara on Sept. 10 to 12th, 1885, Rev. P. S. Woodcock was appointed preacher in charge. "He was a tall slender man past middle age," said Harvey Hodges. Pictured is Arroyo Grande circa 1883.



Immediately after his arrival a comfortable parsonage was built at a cost of \$350. \$86 worth of furniture was procured by the Ladies Aide Society. They also paid \$100 on the pastors salary and aided with the note payments on the lot.



When a vigilante group hung the Hemmi boy and his father because the 15-year-old Julias had shot Mr. Walker, a neighbor, Rev. Woodcock delivered an eloquent impressive sermon entirely upholding the people in punishing the murder of so good and honorable a man as Mr. Walker.



Here are two related shepherds of the spiritual flock. Standing on the left is Rev. J. Preuitt, Presbyterian, and seated is Mr. McGlurkin, church unknown.



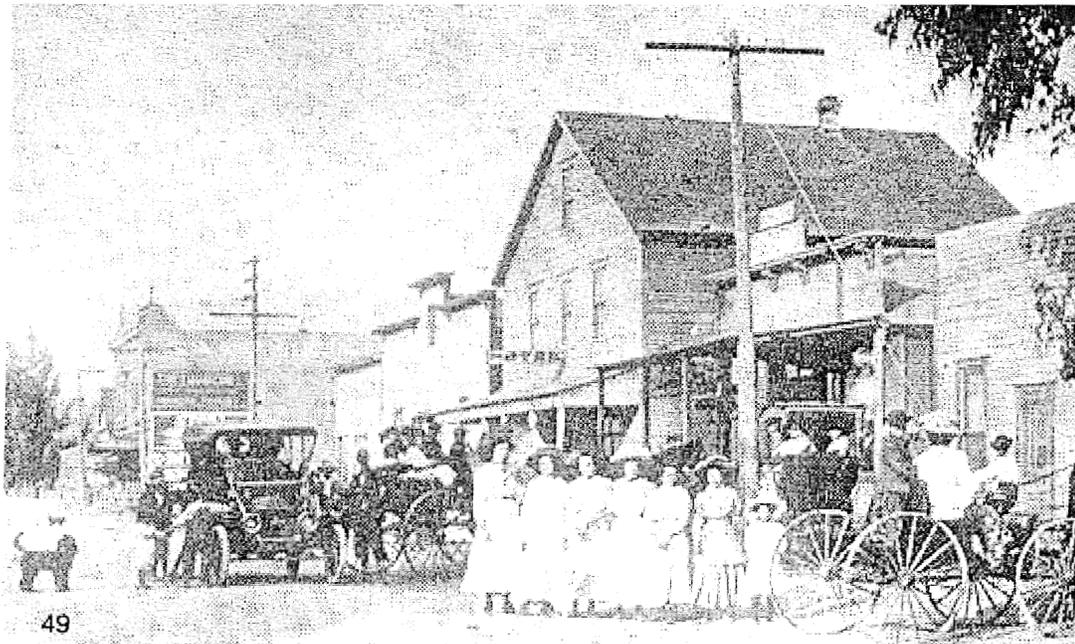
The parsonage was a comfortable home for two but Nelson's family was four so two more rooms were added at an expense of \$100 as you see in this old photo. Rev. Nelson often sang tenor part in duets, said Hodges, "The best music we ever had."



In those early years a Union Service was held with the Presbyterian Church (they'd been going strong since 1876). Evening services were lighted on one occasion with homemade candles set in potatoe holders. Their unashamed display of emotions would embarrass a twentieth century gathering raised on less heady, more rational, religious fare. They were a generation of youth accustomed to calling one another "brother" and "sister".



Two camp meetings were held. The first one at Newsome Springs at which wrote Rev. Nelson, nearly every preacher from Santa Barbara to San Miguel was with us. The second meeting was in Ketchum's grove (near the present High School campus) at which there was a large attendance.



To begin with, Nipomo was included with Arroyo Grande and the minister did double duty. In 1888, the membership had reached 160 and Nipomo asked to be made a separate charge with their own minister. This took 10 or 12 members away.



Harvey Hodges wrote of his memories for the 50th Celebration: "The hitching racks were back of the church", he wrote. There were no electric lights or automobiles in Arroyo Grande. Many of the people came to the church on foot while others came in carts, buggies or wagons, the most numerous of which were spring.



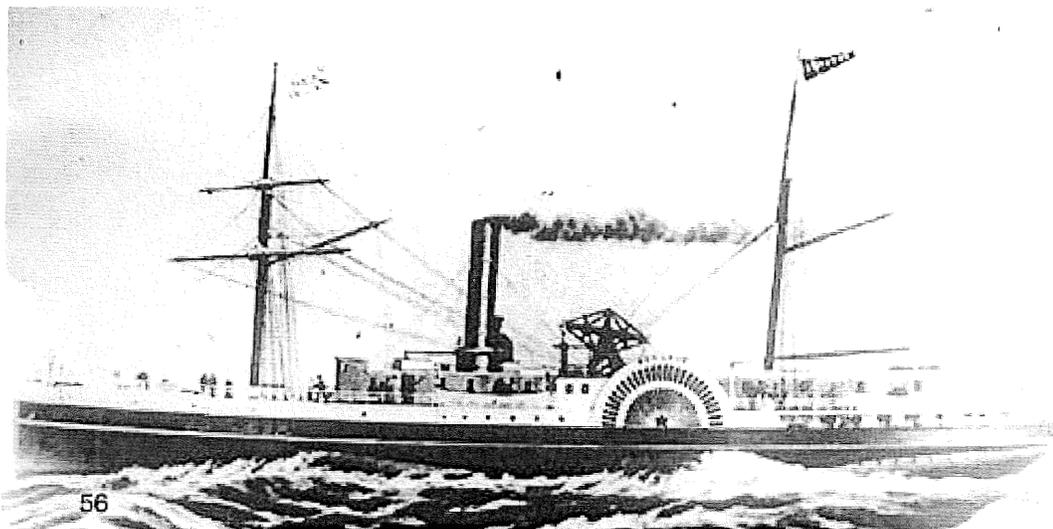
Wagons were equipped with two seats, lap robes and whale bone whips and the motive power was the farm team. He remembered that someone stole all the robes and whips one night, and months later they were found under the church.



We are fortunate in having another first hand account of how it was in those early years: H. W. Simpkins came to Arroyo Grande to teach school. He later became editor of a Palo Alto Newspaper. After visiting here, he wrote of that early time. "In April 1888, I alighted, dustcovered and alone from the puffing little narrow guage train from the south."



His trip had taken him one day by stage through Gaviota Pass, shown here where he stayed overnight before boarding the PCR [Pacific Coast Railroad]. He said that getting to Arroyo Grande from the outside world was like prenetrating some vast maze whose hedges were mountain ranges and streams.



And on the water side by steamer stopping at Port Harford. Simpkin thought everything new and crude.



Measurably cut off from the outside world, this community was a microcosm in itself whose main bridge to Macedonia was the marketing of the annual bean crop, the chief agricultural product of the valley.

IV. ALPHABETICAL RECORD OF

X. H. — The last names of the members must be first written (for example, AMES, HENRY). Under the heading "State in Life," write "S" if the person is single, "M" if Married, "W" if Widowed.

NAMES	STATE IN LIFE	WHEN RECEIVED	HOW RECEIVED
X July, Lincoln			
110 July, John			
120 July, David		1885 Oct.	By letter
114 July, Abbie L.		1885 June 21	From parents
X Simon			
X John			
X Elizabeth			
X Simon			

According to our records, he joined the church on November 24, 1889 (bottom entry). While here he met

and married a young lady whose home is where the sweet pea seed farm is, just where the road crosses the creek. She was and Abbott.

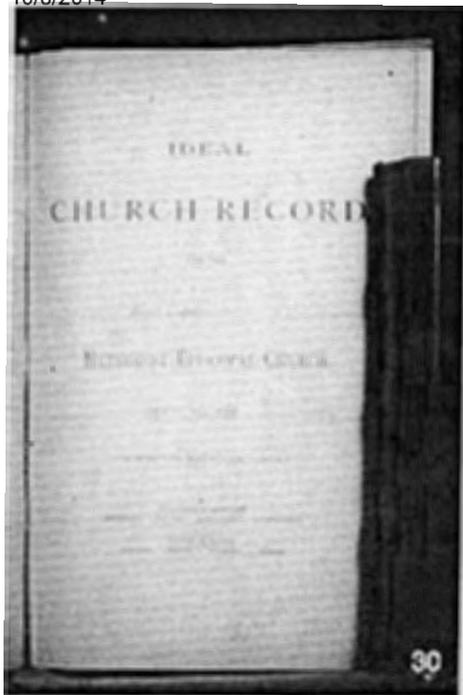


Mr. Abbott was an earlier seed grower than Mr. Routzhan whose fields are shown here. These fields are where the Fukuharas farm.

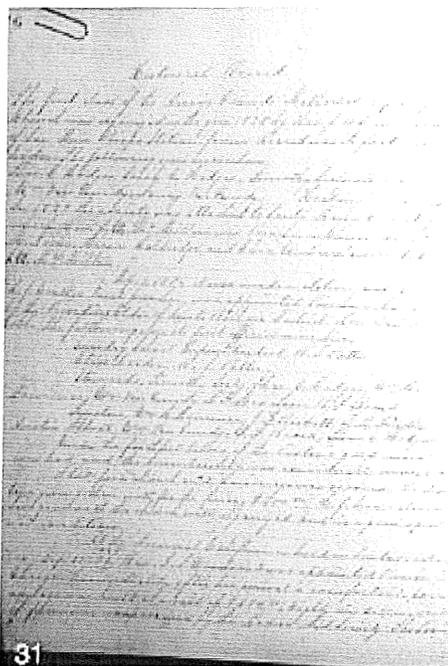
1880 - 1889

Text by Jean Hubbard

In 1878 the first Methodist organizing was done in Arroyo Grande. Officially Sept. 1884 a request was sent to the Conference asking to be made an independent charge. Later that month, H. J. Crall was appointed first pastor. A throat problem forced him to quit after one year.



Three old record books record for us the joys and sorrows of some of those 105 years. Rosters of members, their arrival and departure, baptisms, marriages and deaths.



On page 176 of the oldest book, in F.S. Woodcock's fine script, is recorded some of the early history.



There were 24 charter members: Austin Abbott, Mrs. Harriet Abbott, and Mr. & Mrs. John F. Beckett. John, pictured here, was a real estate developer. Everyone laughed when he said that one day the city would reach the ocean.





Charles Wesley Fletcher Nelson came here October 1, 1887 and served five years as pastor.



Construction started in 1886 on the Methodist Church building and was completed Sept. 9, 1887. Total cost for the building was estimated at \$2500; and the entire church and parsonage property had been put together for about \$3200.



Rev. Nelson is perhaps better remembered for his retirement years when he lived here with his daughter, Mrs. W. T. (Nettie) Whitlock. Another daughter also married a Whitlock. He ran a small store and helped around the church. He is easily picked out in pictures because he wore a black skull cap to keep his bald head warm. He brought his own fresh flowers each Sunday, often supplied. Always sat near the front because he was deaf.



This valley, midway between San Francisco and Los Angeles could be reached on the land side by stage and PCR [Pacific Coast Railroad].



I came, continues Simkins, a tinderfoot from the east, in the first blush of the enthusiasm of youth, to teach school. Seventy dollars a month was vast wealth to a young man who had cobwebs in his purse. He taught four years at Oak Park, Black Lake, and Santa Manuela.



Besides teaching he carried the survey chain for the transit man who ran the line from the public road which ran from the newly erected Coffee Rice house down through the sand dunes and along the marsh to the ocean.

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San Luis Obispo June 23 1887.

I do hereby Certify that I have examined
the title to the Loh in the Town of
Arroyo Grande San Luis Obispo County
California, described in the Mortgage
from J F Beckett and others to The
Board of Church Extension of the
Methodist Episcopal Church, this
day filed for Record in the office
of the County Recorder of the said
County of San Luis Obispo - and find
that on July 28th 1885 the title to said
Loh was in one J M Pich, free and
clear of incumbrance - That on said
day the said Pich conveyed, by a
Grant begun and later amended in
Concomitance (expenses) of \$375-
the said Loh to "J F Beckett D M
Frydley Thomas E Hodges Austin Abbott
Ray S Potter Justices of the M E Church of
Arroyo Grande in said County and State
and to their successors in office"
and that since said date the said
Grantee has not sold or incumbered
the said property.

W D W. W. W.

San Luis Obispo June 23rd 1887.

A J Kyneth Esq
Orleans, La.

Dear Sir,

Mr J V N Young one of
the Trustees of the Methodist Church
of Arroyo Grande has consulted me with
regard to the title to the Church Lot at
Arroyo Grande and the Mortgage this day
recorded by the Trusting to the Church
~~Trusting~~ Extension Board of said Church.
One of the requirements noted on your papers
is that the Trusting are to furnish an "Ab-
stract of title". The lot in question is a
part of the Rancho Pismo, a large Mex-
ican Grant, an Abstract of the title to
which would be very voluminous and
very expensive - costing some three
or four hundred dollars. I am attorney
for a Savings Bank that has an Abstract
of the title to this Rancho, and which
has made a number of loans on
different parts of the Rancho, which
some years ago was subdivided and

Sold in lots. - The title to the Rancho has
been passed on by the attorney of a number
of Savings Banks and by the attorney of
persons who purchased subdivisions
of the Rancho. I enclose my criticisms
upon the title to this lot and have
suggested to Mr. Young not to go to
the expense of having an Abstract
made as the cost would be out of
all proportion to the loan - and
that under the circumstances I thought
that the Board of Church Extension would
deserve the requirement for an Abstract.

Yours truly
W. D. Noble
Att'y at Law

To the Secretary of the
Methodist Episcopal Church
Extension Board

FREDENCKSHURE BERR in bottles
now ready, at the S. T. Exchange.

The camp meeting at Arroyo Grande closed last Monday, resulting in something over 30 conversions and 28 accessions to the church. Considering the press business the attendance was good. Citizens of the vicinity deserve thanks for their hospitality and good behavior.

of Real
 Estate
 not required
 described
 on the
 request
 on the
 account with
 and
 Political
 account to
 Estate
 (A. B. M.)
 year of sale
 amount 1897
 17
 amount

2.40
 6.14
 9.21
 1.54
 \$16.89

for each year since said sales whether assessed
 or not with interest on said taxes and the
 penalties thereon from the first day of July of
 the respective years next after said taxes were
 levied, to the day of redemption, at seven per
 cent per annum. Witness my hand

(Seal)

officed at San Luis Obispo this 14th
 day of August 1897 E. A. Spangenberg
 County Auditor By S. M. Sindley, Deputy,
 Office of the County Treasurer, County of San Luis Obispo.
 Received of A. B. Ricketts Redemptioner, Sixteen
 and 7/10 Dollars, in lawful money of the United
 States, upon redemption of the within described
 real estate, under the provisions of Section three
 thousand eight hundred and seventy of
 the Political Code, as amended April 1, 1897.
 Witness my hand this 14th day of August 1897
 E. L. Warner County Treasurer.

Received of A. B. Ricketts Redemptioner a copy
 of the within estimate, certificate and receipt
 this 14th day of August 1897 E. A. Spangenberg
 County Auditor, By S. M. Sindley Deputy.
 Filed for record at request of E. A. Rogers August
 14th A. D. 1897 at 3 o'clock P. M.
 J. S. Seidler
 Recorder.

Spangenberg
 State
 going
 estimate
 real
 partition
 Co. the
 each
 amount
 in State
 portion
 amount
 bonds

- 1) SEE
- 2) NEXT
- 3) PAGE
- 4) FOR
- 5) DETAIL
- 6)
- 7)
- 8)
- 9)
- 10)
- 11)
- 12)
- 13)
- 14)

J. P. Beckett et al
 vs
 Arroyo Grande M. Church
 and
 Dennis B. Beckett of Arroyo Grande Cali-
 fornia the parties of the first part and the
 Arroyo Grande M. Church (in opposition)
 articles of Dissolution of which were filed
 in the office of the Secretary of State of the
 State of California on February 25th 1886. Cons-
 tant thereafter a certain and three party of
 the record of the State of California.

This Indenture, made
 this 25th day of
 June in the year of our
 Lord one thousand eight
 hundred and ninety seven between J. P. Beckett
 and Dennis B. Beckett of Arroyo Grande Cali-
 fornia the parties of the first part and the
 Arroyo Grande M. Church (in opposition)
 articles of Dissolution of which were filed
 in the office of the Secretary of State of the
 State of California on February 25th 1886. Cons-
 tant thereafter a certain and three party of
 the record of the State of California.

15) of the sum of One Dollar, Lawful Money of the
 16) United States of America, to them in hand
 17) paid by the said party of the second part,
 18) the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged,
 19) have granted, bargained and sold, conveyed
 20) and confirmed, and by these presents do
 21) grant, bargain and sell, convey and confirm,
 22) unto the said party of the second part, and
 23) to its successors and assigns forever, all that
 24) certain lot, piece or parcel of land situated,
 25) lying and being in the town of Arroyo
 26) Grande County of San Luis Obispo State of
 27) California, and bounded and particularly
 28) described as follows, to wit: Commencing at
 29) a stake set S. 57 1/2° E. 30 feet from S. 75° of Harris
 30) survey of the ranches Corral de Piedra Pismo
 31) and Bola de Chemical, according to a map
 32) entitled "Map of the Resubdivisions of a
 33) part of the Rancho Corral de Piedra Pismo
 34) and Bola de Chemical, San Luis Obispo Co
 35) Calif. the property of C. M. Staley Esq surveyed
 36) by C. C. Harris November 1885," and running
 37) thence North 81 1/4° E. 690 feet to a stake;
 38) thence S. 8 3/4° E. 450 feet; thence S. 81 1/4° W. 100 feet;
 39) thence S. 8 3/4° E. 420 feet; thence N. 81 1/4° E. 50 feet;
 40) thence S. 8 3/4° E. 106 1/2 feet to line of land of
 41) M. H. Ayers; thence S. 58 1/4° W. 15 feet to corner of
 42) lot owned by Mrs. Ann Rice; thence S. 58 1/4° E.
 43) 182 7/10 feet along Westerly line of lands of said
 44) Mrs. Rice; thence S. 57 3/4° W. 347 1/2 feet along
 45) Westerly line of lands of Mrs. J. L. Eddy, W. E.
 46) Church lot, lot of Henry Ross, lot of Mrs.
 47) Montgomery, and land of J. A. De Kett; thence
 48) N. 8 1/4° W. 157 3/10 feet; thence S. 81 1/4° E. 50 feet; thence
 49) N. 8 3/4° W. 500 feet; thence S. 81 1/4° W. 100 feet; thence
 50) N. 8 3/4° W. 450 feet to the place of beginning;
 51) and containing about 5 acres of land, also a
 52) right of way for road purposes, more or
 53) less as shown on the map above referred to.

SEE
 NEXT
 PAGE
 FOR
 DETAIL

55) corner of above described tract, and running
 56) thence N 87° E 461 7/8 feet to the Western line of
 57) Branch Street in said town, thence Easterly
 58) along said Western line of Branch Street 70
 59) feet, thence N 87 1/2° W in a direct line 80 feet
 60) more or less to the line of lot of land first
 61) above described. The above property to be held
 62) by said grantee corporation, in trust for the
 63) use and benefit of the members of the
 64) Methodist Episcopal Church, of San Luis
 65) Obispo, Santa Barbara, Ventura, Santa Kings,
 66) Butte and Fresno Counties, as a religious,
 67) educational and pleasure resort. Together with
 68) all and singular the tenements, heredita-
 69) ments and appurtenances therunto belong-
 70) ing, or in anywise appertaining, and the
 71) reversion and reversions, remainder and
 72) remainders, rents, issues and profits thereof.

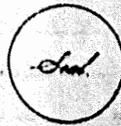
73) To have and to hold, all and singular the
 74) said premises, together with the appurtenances,
 75) unto the said party of the second part, and
 76) to the successors and assigns forever provided
 77) however, that should said property for any
 78) reason cease to be used for the purposes here-
 79) inbefore set forth, then and in that case
 80) the title to said property shall immediately
 81) revert to the grantors above named, together
 82) with all improvements thereon. In witness
 83) whereof the said parties of the first part
 84) have hereunto set their hands and seals,
 85) the day and year first above written.
 86) J. B. Beckett (Seal) Maria B. Beckett (Seal)
 87) Signed, Sealed and Delivered in the Pres-
 88) ence of O. W. Pence

SEE 75
 NEXT 77
 PAGE 78
 FOR 79
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 DETAIL
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State of California }
 County of Santa Luis Obispo }
 I, O. W. Pence, Notary Public for said County and State,
 do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the original of the within and contained therein.

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born, personally appeared J. B. Beckett and
Dorwin B. Beckett known to me to be the
persons described in whose names are
subscribed to, and who executed the within
instrument, and they acknowledged to me
that they executed the same. Witness
my hand and official seal, the day
and year above written. A. M. Powell
Notary Public, in and for said County and
State. Filed for Record at the Request of
O. L. Warner August 16th A. D. 1897, at 30 minutes
past 9 o'clock, A. M.



J. F. Fiedler
Recorder

END

Jesse Wilhoit
vs
E. W. Clark
This Indenture, Made this 14th
day of August in the year of our
Lord one thousand eight hundred
and ninety seven Between
Jesse Wilhoit of San Luis Obispo County,
California the party of the first part, and
E. W. Clark of San Luis Obispo County, Califor-
nia the party of the second part, It is rec-
orded that the said party of the first part,
for and in consideration of the sum of
Five Hundred Dollars, Sold to him in hand
paid by the said party of the second part,
the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged,
has granted, bargained and sold, conveyed
and confirmed, and by these presents does
grant, bargain and sell, convey and confirm,
unto the said party of the second part, and
to his heirs and assigns forever, all those
certain lot, pieces or parcels of land situate,
lying and being in the County of San
Luis Obispo State of California, which land
and particularly described as follows, to wit:
1st Beginning in the South East corner of
Lot No. 1 of the 1st Block of the
Township of San Luis Obispo

END

made by
Office of
County,
marked
342 feet
my own
thence
degree
to S. 78 1/2
S. 83, the
B. 6, then
of 755.00
N. 57. 30
degree
feet to do
between
Said stry
2220 feet
10 feet on
line and
above des
Tees an
subdivise
and La L
2nd Pa
line of
Ranchos
made by
in the
Luis Obis
beginning
from the
S. 307 of
N. 7. E. 2
quarterly
of land
and as m
of made a
6.52 Acres
D. W. Warner

Book 34 Page 467

1) J. F. Beckett ET AL | This indenture made
2) to | this seventeenth day of
3) Arroyo Grande M E Church | June in the year of our
4) | Lord one thousand eight
5) hundred and ninety seven between J. F. Beckett
6) and Isouria B. Beckett of Arroyo Grande Cali-
7) fornia the parties of the first part and the
8) Arroyo Grande M E Church (a corporation,
9) articles of incorporation of which were filed
10) in the office of the Secretary of State, of the
11) State of California of Febuary 5th 1886 (in
12) trust as hereinafter mentioned) the party of
13) the second part witness that the said
14) parties of the first for a financial consideration

Book 34 Page 468

15) of the sum of one dollar, lawful money of the
16) United States of America, to them in hand
17) paid by the said party of the second party
18) the receipt where of is here by acknowledged
19) have granted, bargained and sold, conveyed
20) and confirmed by these presents do

21) grant, bargain and sell, convey and confirm,
22) unto the said party of the second part and
23) to it's successors and assign forever all that
24) certain lot, piece or parcel of land situates
25) lying and being in the town of Arroyo
26) Grande County of San Luis Obispo State of
27) California, and bounded and particularly
28) described as follows, to wit: " Commencing at
29) a stake set S 59 ½° E 30 feet from S 75 of Harris
30) survey of the Ranchos Corral de Piedra Pismo
31) and Bolsa de Chemisal, according to a map
32) entitled "Map of the resubdivison of a
33) part of the Ranchos Corral De Piedro Pismo
34) and Bolsa De Chemisal, San Luis Obispo Co
35) Calif. The property of E W Steele, Esq., surveyed
36) by R. R. Harris November 1885 and surveying
37) thence North 81 ¼° E 690 feet to a stake;
38) thence S 8 ¾° E 450 feet; thence S 81 ¼° E 100 feet;
39) thence4 S 8 ¾ E 420 feet thence N 81 ¼ E 50 feet;
40) thence S 8 ¾° E 106 4/10 feet to line of land of
41) W H Ryan; thence S 58 ¼° W 15 feet to corner of
42) Lot owned by Mrs. Dan Rice; thence S 58 ¼° W
43) 182 9/10 feet along westerly line of lands of said
44) Mrs. Rice; thence S 57 ¾° W 349 3/10 feet along
45) Westerly line of lands of Mrs J. L. Eddy, M E

- 46) Church lot, lot of Henry Bosse, lot of Mrs
47) Montgomery, and land of J. A. Beckett. thence
48) N 8 ¾° W 189 2/10 feet; thence S 81 ¼° W 50 feet;
thence
49) N 8 ¾° W 550 feet; thence S 81 ¼ W 100 feet; thence
50) N 8 ¾ W 450 feet to the place of beginning
51) and containing about 15 acres of land. Also a
52) right of way for road purposes over a
53) strip of land 70 feet said described as fol-
54) lows: Commencing at the most southerly

Book 34 Page 469

- 55) corner of above described tract, and running
56) thence S 8 ¾° E 41 feet to the westerly line of
57) Branch Street in said town, thence easterly
58) along said westerly line of Branch Street 70
59) Feet: thence N 8 ¾° W in a direct line 80 feet
60) more or less to the line of lot of land first
61) above described." The above property to be held
62) by said grantee corporation, in trust for the
63) use and benefit of the members of the
64) Methodist Episcopal Church of San Luis
65) Obispo, Santa Barbara, Ventura, Kerns, Kings,
66) Tulare and Fresno Counties, as a religious,
67) educational and pleasure resort together with
68) all and singular the tenements, heredita-

69) ments and appurtenances thereunto belong-
70) ing or in anywise appertaining, and the
71) reversion and reversions, remainder and
72) remainders, rents issues and profits thereof,
73) To Have and to Hold all and singular the
74) said premises together with the appurtenances
75) unto the said party of the second part and
76) to it's successors and assigns forever provided
77) however, that should said property for any
78) reason cease to be used for the purposes here-
79) in before set forth, then and in that case
80) the title to said property shall immediately
81) revert to the grantors above named, together
82) with all improvements thereon. In Witness
83) Whereof, the said parties of the first part
84) have hereunto, set their hands and seals,
85) the day and year first above written.
86) J. F. Beckett (seal) Isouria B Beckett (seal)
87) Signed sealed and delivered in the pres-
88) ence of O. M. Pence.
89) State of California on this 17th day
90) County of San Luis Obispo June in the
91) Year one thousand eight hundred and
92) Ninety seven before Me O. M. Pence Notary
93) Public and for said county and state
94) Residing there in and duly commissioned and

ADD -
CASH

- 95) Sworn, personally appeared J. F. Beckett and
96) Isouria B Beckett known to me to be the
97) Persons described in whose names are
98) Subscribed to, and who executed the within
99) Instrument, and they acknowledged to me
100) That they executed the pasher witness
101) My hand and official seal, the day
102) And year above written. O. M. Perse
103) Notary Public in and for said County and
104) State. Filed for Record at the Request of
105) O.L. Warner August 16th A.D. 1897, at 30 min
106) Past 9 o'clock. A.M.
107) (J F Fiedler) ← (Signature)
108) Recorder

422

19 SEPT 1910

J. P. Beckett
TO

Arroyo Grande M. E.
Church

THIS INSTRUMENT, Made this Sixteenth day of September A. D. 1910
BETWEEN J. P. Beckett of Arroyo Grande San Luis Obispo Co. Cal.,

the party of the first part, and The Arroyo Grande Methodist
Episcopal Church, (a corporation, the articles of incorporation

of which were filed in the office of the Secretary of State of the State of California on
Feb. 1st, 1888) in trust as hereinafter mentioned, the party of the second part, WITNESS-

ETH: That the said party of the first part, for and in consideration of the sum of Ten
(10.00) Dollars, Gold coin of the United States of America, to them in hand paid by the
said party of the second part, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, has granted,
bargained and sold, conveyed and confirmed, and by these presents does grant, bargain,
and sell, convey and confirm, unto the said party of the second part, and to its heirs
and assigns forever, all that certain lot, piece or parcel of land situate, lying and
being at Arroyo Grande, County of San Luis Obispo, State of California, and bounded and
particularly described as follows, to wit:

Beginning at post "S 75" at the west corner of lot 28 of Harris' Resubdivisions of part
of the Rancho Jerral de Piedra, El Pismo, and Bolsa de Chemical, the property of E. W.
Steele, made in 1885, and running thence along old fence on westerly line of the said
Lot 28,

- (1).- N. 28° 32' E. 216.3 ft. to point in center line produced of a 50 ft. road running
N. 54° 40' E, and from which point a stake in the northerly line of the said road bears
N. 28° 32' E. 56.7 ft. distant; thence on the center line of 50 ft. road,
- (2).- N. 54° 40' E. 428.1 ft. to point from which an iron post bears N. 22° 03' W. 25.7 ft.
distant, and an iron post bears S. 81° 15' W. 55.9 ft. dist:-
- (3).- N. 81° 15' E. 324.1 ft. to point from which an iron post on east side of road bears
N. 81° 15' E. 25 ft. distant, and an iron post bears N. 38° 16' E. 55.55 ft. distant:-
- (4).- S. 8° 45' E. 1025 ft. to an iron post from which an iron post bears N. 29° 45' E.
40.1 ft. distant:- thence leaving center line of road,
- (5).- S. 29° 45' W. 80.6 ft. to an iron post:-
- (6).- S. 53° 55' W. 56.6 ft. to an iron post:-
- (7).- S. 8° 00' E. 60.6 ft. to stake on northerly side of a road 70 ft. wide:- thence
running along the northerly side of the said road,
- (8).- S. 80° 17' W. 150 feet:- thence crossing said road,
- (9).- S. 9° 25' E. 176.6 ft. to stake in northerly line of land of W. H. Ryan:- thence
running along an old fence the general course of which is S. 57° W.,
- (10).- S. 57° 00' W. 526.9 ft. to stake:-
- (11).- N. 9° 44' W. 188.6 ft. to stake:-
- (12).- S. 81° 24' W. 250 ft. to point in center of 50 ft. road from which an iron post
bears S. 81° 24' W. 25 ft. distant:- thence on center line of the last named road,
- (13).- N. 8° 49' E. 354.7 ft. to point in west line of Lot 29 of the Harris' Resubdivisions
herein before named from which a stake at the intersection of the west line of road with
the said lot line bears S. 28° 32' W. 41.2 ft. distant:- thence along old fence on the
said lot line,
- (14).- N. 28° 32' E. 204.9 ft. to point of beginning, the tract described being a part
of Lots 26, 28, and 29 of the said Harris' Resubdivisions, comprising that certain tract
conveyed by J. P. and Isouria Beckett to the party of the second part by deed dated
June 17th, 1887, and recorded at page 487 of Vol. 34 of Deeds, San Luis Obispo County
Records, with adjoining lands, and containing 29.03 acres, more or less. Together with
a right of way for road purposes along all the roads described and mentioned on the west,
north, east, and south sides in the foregoing description, and with a right of way for
road purposes 70 ft. wide lying and extending along the easterly side of a line extending

HURCH
INCORPORATED
886

E 467
R 34

ROAD
SEWERS

(sic

27.05 ACRES
29.03 ACRES

bears N. 81° 15' E. 25 ft. distant and an iron post bears N. 36° 15' E. 35.35 ft. distant;

(sic) (4).-- S. 8° 45' E. 1025 ft. to an iron post from which from which an iron post bears N. 29° 45' E. 40.1 ft. distant;- thence leaving center line of road.

(5).--S. 29° 45' W. 30.6 ft. to an iron post;

(6).--S. 52° 55' W. 56.6 ft. to an iron post;

(7).--S. 8° 00' E. 60.6 ft. to stake on northerly side of a road 70 ft. wide;- thence running along the northerly side of the said road,

(8).--S. 80° 17' W. 150 ft.:- thence crossing said road,

(9).--S. 9° 23' E. 176.6 ft. to stake in northerly line of land of W. H. Ryan;- thence running along an old fence the general course of which is S. 57° W.

(10).--S. 57° 00' W. 526.9 ft. to stake;-

(11).--N. 9° 44' W. 188.6 ft. to stake;-

(12).--S. 81° 24' W. 250. ft. to point in center of 50 ft. road from which an iron post bears S. 81° 24' W. 25 ft. distant;- thence on center line of the last named road.

(sic) (13).--N. 8° 49' W. 854.7 ft. to point in west line of Lot 29 of the Harris' Resubdivisions herein before named from which a stake at the intersection of the west line of road with the said lot line bears S. 28° 32' W. 41.2 ft. distant;- thence along old fence on the said lot line;

(14).-- N. 204.9 ft. to point of beginning, the tract described being a part of Lots 26, 28, and 29 of the said Harris' Resubdivisions, comprising that certain tract conveyed by J. F. and Isouria Bockett to the party of the second part (party of the first part in this conveyance) by deed dated June 17th 1897, and recorded at page 467 of Vol. 34 of Deeds, San Luis Obispo County Records, with adjoining lands, and containing 29.03 acres, more or less. Together with a right of way for road purposes along all the roads described and mentioned on the west, north, east, and south sides in the foregoing description, and with a right of way for road purposes 70 ft. wide lying and extending along the easterly side of a line extending from the stake at the termination of the 10th course as given in the foregoing description S. 8° 45' E. 461.8 ft. to the northerly line of Branch Street in the Town of Arroyo Grande, California. Also - Commencing at a stake set S. 59 1/2° E. 30 feet from S. 75 of Harris' survey of the Rancho Corral de Piedra, Pismo and Bolon de Chemical according to a map entitled "Map of the Resubdivisions of a part of the Rancho Corral de Piedra, Pismo, and Bolon de Chemical, San Luis Obispo County, California, the property of E. W. Steele, Esq., surveyed by R. R. Harris, November, 1885", and running

(sic) thence North 81 8/4° W. 690 feet to a stake; Thence S. 8 3/4° E. 450 feet; Thence S. 81 1/4° W. 100 feet; Thence S. 8 3/4° E. 420 feet; Thence N. 81 1/4° E. 50 feet; Thence S. 8 3/4° E. 106 4/10 feet to line of land of W.H. Ryan; Thence S. 58 1/4° W. 15 feet to corner of lot owned by Mrs. Dan Rice; Thence S. 58 1/4° W. 182 9/10 feet along westerly line of lands of said Mrs. Rice; Thence S. 57 3/4° W. 349 3/10 feet along westerly line of lands of Mrs. J. L. Eddy, N. E. Church lot, lot of Henry Boase, lot of Mrs. Montgomery, and land of J. F. Bockett; Thence N. 8 3/4° W. 189 2/10 feet; Thence S. 81 1/4° W. 50 feet; Thence N. 8 3/4° W. 550 feet; Thence S. 81 1/4° W. 100 feet; Thence N. 8 3/4° W. 450 feet to the place of beginning and containing about 15 acres of land; also a right of way for road purposes over a strip of land 70 feet wide described as follows:- Commencing at the most southerly corner of above described tract and running thence S. 8 3/4° E. 461 8/10 feet to the westerly line of Branch Street in said town; Thence easterly along said westerly line of Branch Street 70 feet; Thence N. 8 3/4° W. in a direct line 480 feet more or less to the line of lot of land first above described. The above property is to be held by said grantee

PRIOR DEED
REFERENCE
29, 03

ORIGINAL
MENTIONED
15 A

TO BE HELD BY GRANTEE

County, described as a whole as follows:—

"Beginning at the most Westerly corner of said Lot 28, said corner being designated '875' on the map herein referred to; thence North 29° 25' East along the Northwest line of said Lot 206.12 feet to a point in the center line of a 50-foot road as said road existed on November 4, 1910; thence along said center line North 54° 40' East 428.1 feet, North 81° East 394.1 feet, and South 8 3/4° East 1025 feet; thence leaving said center line South 29° 45' West 80.6 feet, South 52° 55' West 56.6 feet, South 8° East 60.6 feet, South 80° 17' West 150 feet, and South 9° 23' East 176 feet to the Southeast line of said Lot 28; thence along the Southeast line of said Lots 28 and 29 South 58 1/2° West 526.9 feet to a stake, thence leaving said Southeast line North 9° 44' West 188.6 feet, South 81° 24' West 250 feet to a point in the center of a 50-foot road as said road existed on November 4, 1910; thence along center of said road North 8° 49' West 854.7 feet to the Northwest line of said Lot 29; thence along the Northwest line of said Lot 29 North 29° 25' East to the point of beginning."

SUBJECT TO: Covenants, conditions, restrictions, reservations, rights, and rights of way, of record against said property.

CERTIFICATE

I, C. L. PALMER, the duly elected, qualified and acting Secretary of the Board of Directors of the COAST SIDE CAMPMEETING ASSOCIATION OF THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, a corporation, duly organized and existing under and by virtue of the laws of the State of California, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of a resolution, in writing, duly adopted at a meeting of the Board of Directors of said corporation, duly called and held at San Luis Obispo, the 5th day of April, 1946, a quorum being present and voting in the affirmative. I further certify that this resolution is still in full force and effect.

Dated, at San Luis Obispo, California, this 29th day of May, 1946.

C. L. Palmer
Secretary of the Board of Directors
of the Coast Side Campmeeting
Association of The Methodist
Episcopal Church, a corporation.

Subscribed and sworn to before me, A Notary Public, this 29th day of May, 1946.

SEAL

Ralph C. Kennedy
Ralph C. Kennedy
Notary Public, in and for the county of
San Luis Obispo, State of California.
My commission expires 4-19-1948

GRANT DEED

(Corporation)

COAST SIDE CAMPMEETING ASSOCIATION OF THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, a Corporation, duly organized and existing under and by virtue of the laws of the State of California, and having its principal place of operation in the City of San Luis Obispo, County of San Luis Obispo, State of California, FOR AND IN CONSIDERATION of TEN DOLLARS (\$10.00), and other good and valuable consideration, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, does hereby GRANT AND CONVEY to the SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA-ARIZONA CONFERENCE CAMP COMMISSION OF THE METHODIST CHURCH, a non-profit corporation, duly organized and existing under and by virtue of the laws of the State of California, and having its principal place of operation in the City of Los Angeles, County of Los Angeles, State of California, all that real property situate, lying and being in the County of San Luis Obispo, State of California, and described as follows:

All those portions of Lots 26, 28 and 29 of the Resubdivision of part of the Ranchos Corral de Piedra, Pismo and Bolsa de Chemisal, surveyed by R. R. Harris in November 1885, in the City of Arroyo Grande, County of San Luis Obispo, State of California, according to map filed for record November 24, 1886, in the office of the County Recorder of said

FOR

BY

74,726,248 59,733,604 34,618

HOME COMPANY SEARCH PEOPLE SEARCH SERVICE/PRODUCT SEARCH TRADEMARK SEARCH ADDRESS SEARCH PHONEBOOK SEARCH



COAST SIDE CAMPMEETING ASSOCIATION OF THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Write Review Claim Upgrade

California Secretary Of State Business Registration · Updated 8/30/2015

Arrest Records: 2 Secrets

instantcheckmate.com

Enter Name and State, then Access Full Background Checks Instantly!

Coast Side Campmeeting Association Of The Methodist Episcopal Church is a California Domestic Corporation filed on February 28, 1913. The company's filing status is listed as Suspended and its File Number is C0072365.

G+ 4.1k Tweet Like 23K

Public Records—Check Now

Inheritance Delayed?

Ink Cartridges - \$2.95

Company Information

Company Name: COAST SIDE CAMPMEETING ASSOCIATION OF THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
File Number: C0072365
Filing State: California (CA)
Filing Status: Suspended
Filing Date: February 28, 1913
Company Age: 103 Years
Business Category: Churches

Title Search with Liens

Official site for Title Search. Find liens, judgments, mortgages.

Company Contacts

This company has not listed any contacts yet.



Public Records Are Posted Online For Anyone to Access

Site reveals 'sensitive' arrest records, address history, traffic tickets, phone numbers and more.

Instant Checkmate

[View Your File >](#)

Reviews

DFC 5 1962

5th & 6th DEED

RECORDERS OFFICE
SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

5388

VOL 1228 PAGE 256

SPACE ABOVE THIS LINE FOR RECORDER'S USE

PLACE INTERNAL REVENUE STAMPS IN THIS SPACE

Corporation Quitclaim Deed

Affix I. R. S. \$.....

400A 3-57

THIS FORM FURNISHED BY TITLE INSURANCE AND TRUST COMPANY

FOR A VALUABLE CONSIDERATION, receipt of which is hereby acknowledged,
**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA- ARIZONA CONFERENCE CAMP COMMISSION OF THE
 METHODIST CHURCH**
 a corporation organized under the laws of the state of **California,**
 hereby REMISES, RELEASES AND QUITCLAIMS to **ALBERT A. SPIERLING and
 L. JEAN SPIERLING,** as joint tenants,

the following described real property in the state of California, county of **San Luis Obispo,**
 That portion of Lot 29 of the resubdivision of the Rancho Corral
 de Piedra-Pismo and Bolsa de Chemisal, in the City of Arroyo Grande,
 County of San Luis Obispo, State of California, as surveyed by R. R.
 Harris, November 1885, according to the map thereof recorded
 November 24, 1886, in Book A, Page 63 of Maps in the office of the
 County Recorder of said County, described as follows:

Beginning at S.75 on the Northwesterly line of Lot 29; thence along
 the Northwesterly line of said Lot 29 South 29° 22' West, 140.08 feet
 to the true point of beginning; thence continuing along said North-
 westerly line of said Lot 29 South 29° 22' West, 161.18 feet to a
 point; thence along the Northeasterly line of the land conveyed to the
 City of Arroyo Grande by deed recorded in Book 211, page 263, Official
 Records, South 26° 06' East 335.37 feet; Thence North 6° 49' West
 446.92 feet to the true point of beginning.

In Witness Whereof, said corporation has caused its corporate name and seal to be affixed hereto and
 this instrument to be executed by its..... President and..... Secretary
 thereunto duly authorized.

Dated: December 5, 1962

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
 COUNTY OF } SS.
 LOS ANGELES

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA-ARIZONA CONFERENCE
 CAMP COMMISSION OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

By *W. Vickrey Dougherty* President
 By *James E. Dinkel* Secretary

On December 5, 1962
 before me, the undersigned, a Notary Public in
 and for said County and State, personally appeared
W. Vickrey Dougherty
 known to me to be the..... President, and
James E. Dinkel
 known to me to be the..... Secretary of
 the corporation that executed the within instrument, and
 known to me to be the persons who executed the within
 instrument on behalf of the corporation therein named, and
 acknowledged to me that such corporation executed the
 within instrument pursuant to its by-laws or a resolution
 of its board of directors.

Elizabeth C. Hill
 Notary Public in and for said County and State
 My Commission Expires March 20, 1964

WHEN RECORDED MAIL TO
Albert A. Spierling
Box 399
Arroyo Grande

Title Order No.
 Escrow or Loan No.

SPACE BELOW FOR RECORDER'S USE ONLY

Document No. **5388**
 RECORDED AT REQUEST OF
Elizabeth C. Hill
 AT 10:15 AM. PAST 11:30 AM.
 VOL 1228, O.R. P. 256
 SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY, CAL.

MAR 1 - 1963

Mary C. Hamlin
 County Recorder
 In *Elizabeth C. Hill* Deputy
 Fee \$..... Indexed

DEC 1 1981

RECORDING REQUESTED BY

12/01/814437 1

5.00 RF
5.00 TITL

RECORDING REQUESTED BY:
Title Insurance and Trust Co.

AND WHEN RECORDED MAIL TO

Pacific and Southwest Annual
[Conference, United Methodist]
Church

Name
Street Address
City & State
P.O. Box 6006
472 East Colorado Blvd.
Pasadena, CA 91109
Attn: Dr. Lambert W. All

MAIL TAX STATEMENTS TO

Name
Street Address
City & State
Pacific and Southwest Annual
Conference, United Methodist
Church
P.O. Box 6006
472 East Colorado Blvd.
Pasadena, CA 91109
Attn: Dr. Lambert W. All

DOC. NO. 55904
OFFICIAL RECORDS
SAN LUIS OBISPO CO., CAL.
DEC 1 1981
WILLIAM E. ZIMARIK
COUNTY RECORDER
TIME 8:00 AM

SPACE ABOVE THIS LINE FOR RECORDER'S USE

Individual Grant Deed

THIS FORM FURNISHED BY TICOR TITLE INSURERS

A.P.N. 7-011-22

135035-AA

GO 1823 PNT1 CA (8-74)

The undersigned grantor(s) declare(s):
Documentary transfer tax is \$ NO TAX DUE - CONSIDERATION LESS THAN \$100.
() computed on full value of property conveyed, or
() computed on full value less value of liens and encumbrances remaining at time of sale.
() Unincorporated area: (X) City of Arroyo Grande, and

FOR ~~ANY VALUABLE CONSIDERATION~~ love and affection,
ALBERT A. SPIERLING and JEAN SPIERLING, who acquired title as
ALBERT A. SPIERLING and JEAN SPIERLING, husband and wife as joint
tenants,
hereby GRANT(S) to

PACIFIC AND SOUTHWEST ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH, a California nonprofit religious benefit corporation
the following described real property in the
County of SAN LUIS OBISPO, State of California:

All that certain real property described
in "Exhibit A," attached hereto and
incorporated by reference herein.

Dated November 23, 1981

Albert A. Spierling
Albert A. Spierling

STATE OF CALIFORNIA }
COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO } ss.

On November 23, 1981 before me, the under-
signed, a Notary Public in and for said State, personally appeared
ALBERT A. SPIERLING
and JEAN SPIERLING

Jean Spierling
Jean Spierling

_____ known to me
to be the person se whose name are subscribed to the within
instrument and acknowledged that they executed the same.
WITNESS my hand and official seal.



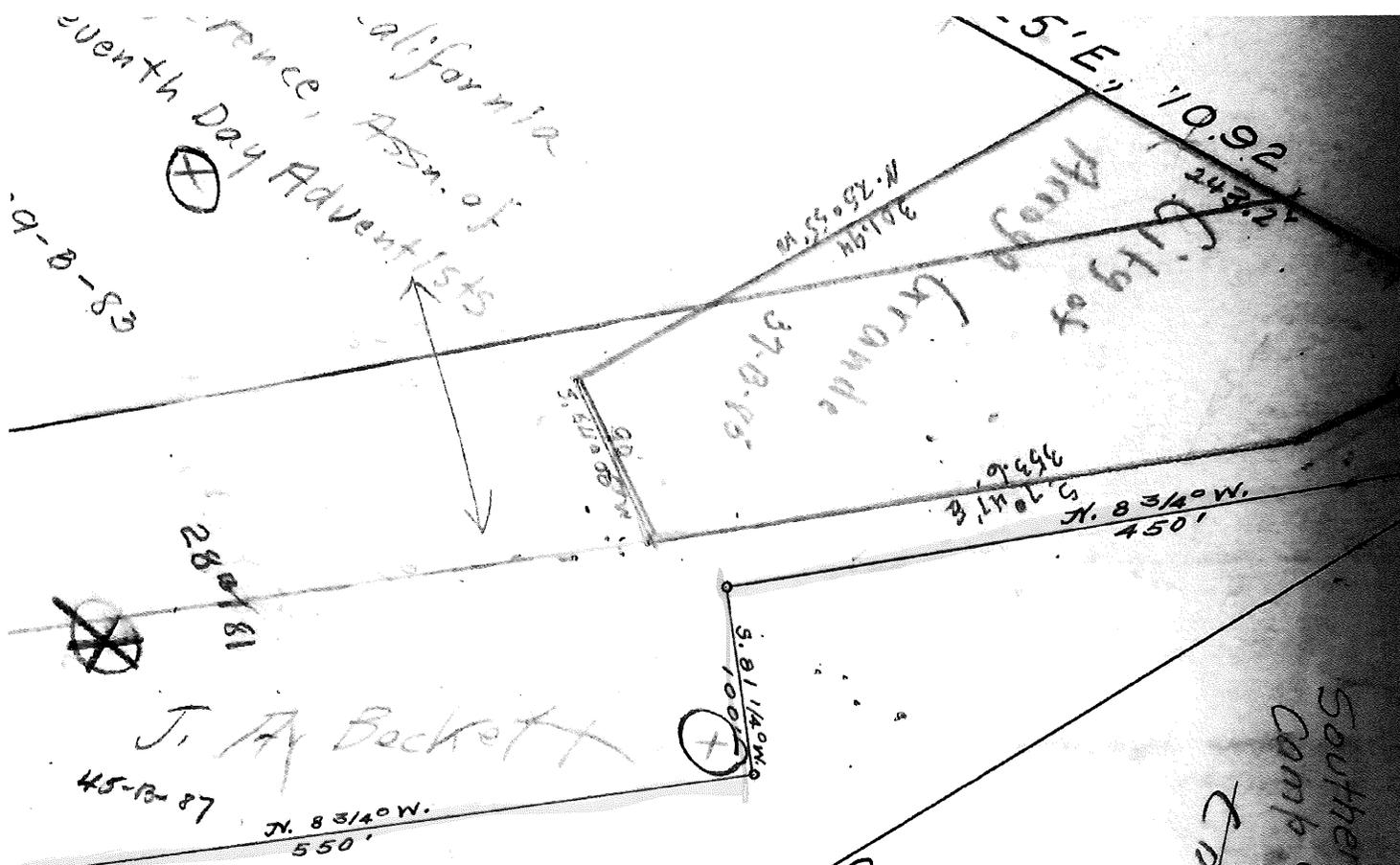
Signature *Marie Childers*

(This area for official notarial seal)

Title Order No. _____ Escrow or Loan No. _____

MAIL TAX STATEMENTS AS DIRECTED ABOVE

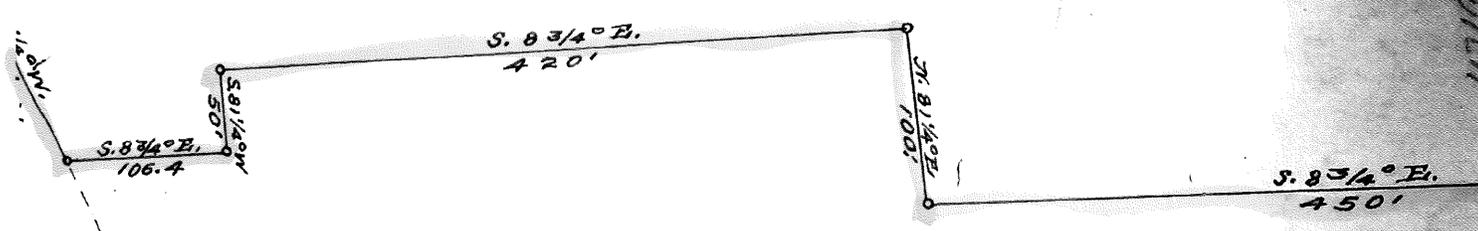
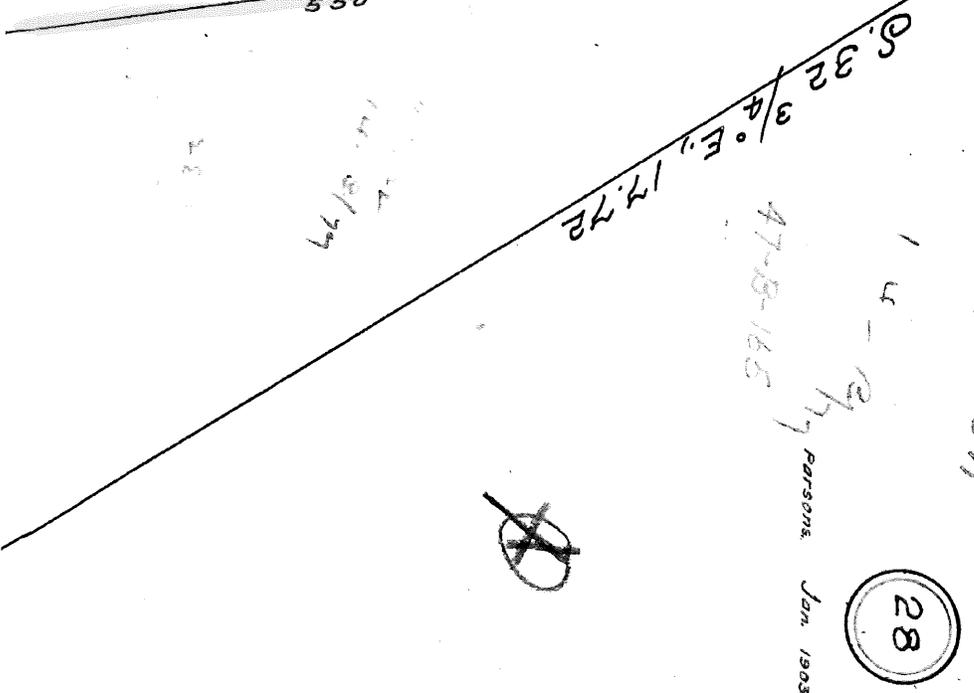
VOL 2372 PAGE 751



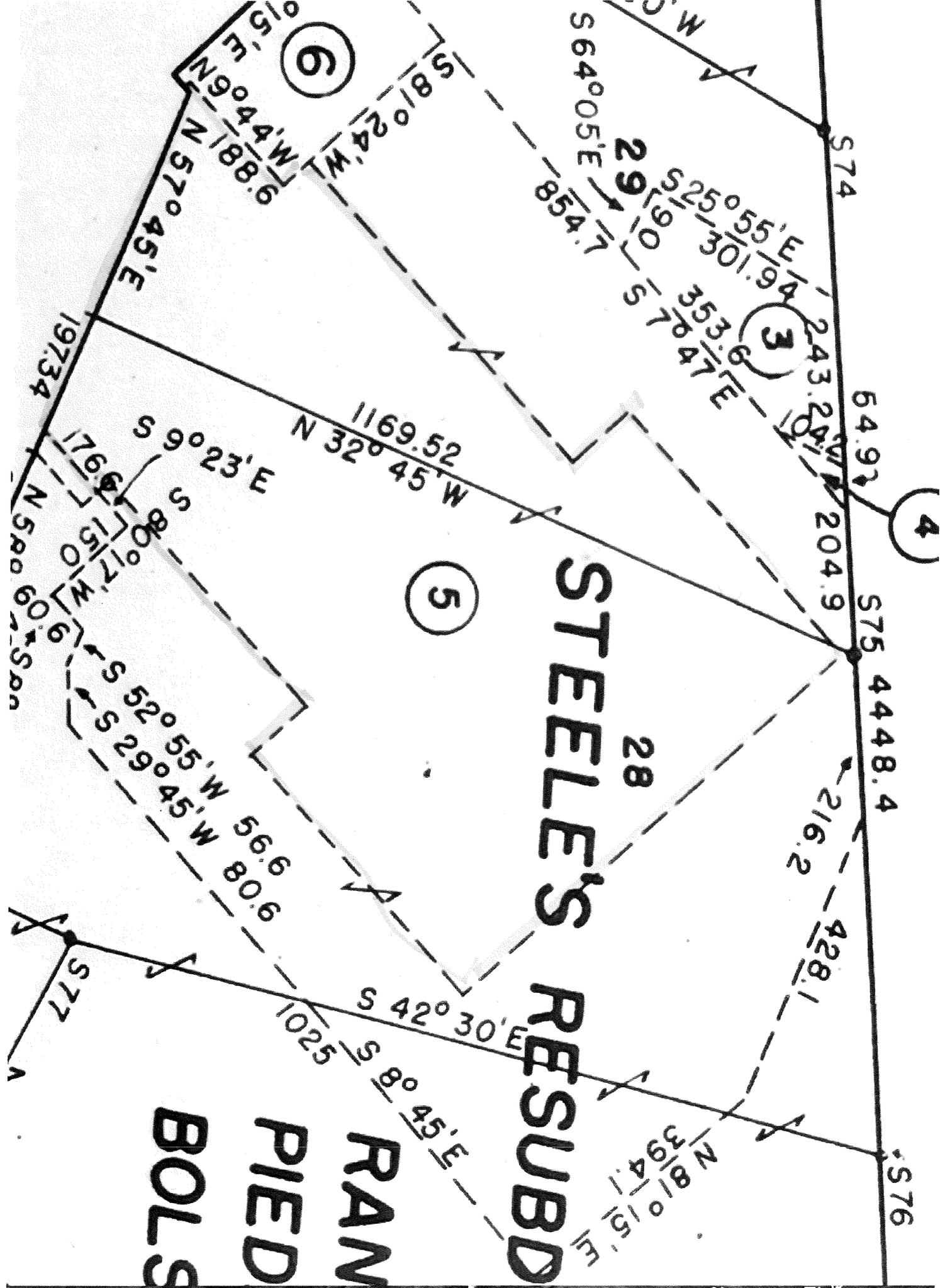
Southern Calif - Arizona Conference
Camp Commission of Methodist Church

East Side

Camp Meeting Assn



1903 MAR 2 MORE DETAIL
END HERE



4

3

5

6

STEELE'S RESUBD

28

RAM
PIED
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S75 4448.4

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29

S64°05'E

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S250°55'E

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S190°

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S250°55'E

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N 32° 45' W

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S 90° 23' E

176.6

S 150°

150.7

S 520° 55' W

56.6

S 290° 45' W

80.6

S 42° 30' E

1025

S 80° 45' E

394.5

N 81° 0' 5" E

394.5

S 81° 24' W

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N 90° 44' W

188.6

N 570° 45' E

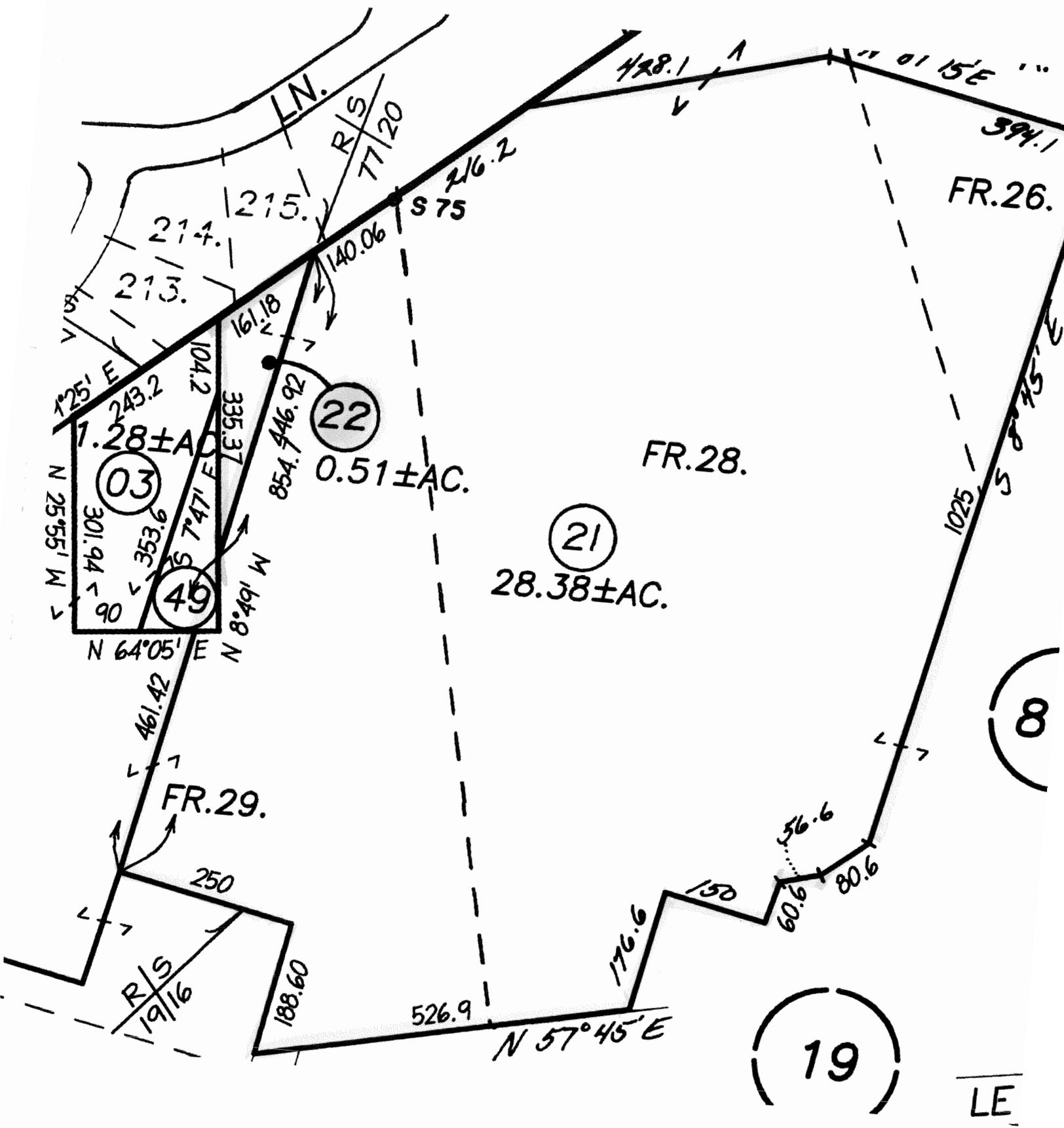
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S 580° 60' W

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S77





\$841K

\$767K

\$1.26M

\$925K

\$1.02M

\$850K

\$1.01M

\$1.28M

\$1.32M

\$928K

\$738K

\$1.36M

\$1.35M

\$858K

\$866K

\$1.2M

\$923K

\$917K

\$785K

\$770K

Mercedes Ln

Miller Way

Map





\$1.26M

\$767K

\$841K

\$71K

Wesley St

\$923K

\$91

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\$873K

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\$724K

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\$785K

\$782K

\$84

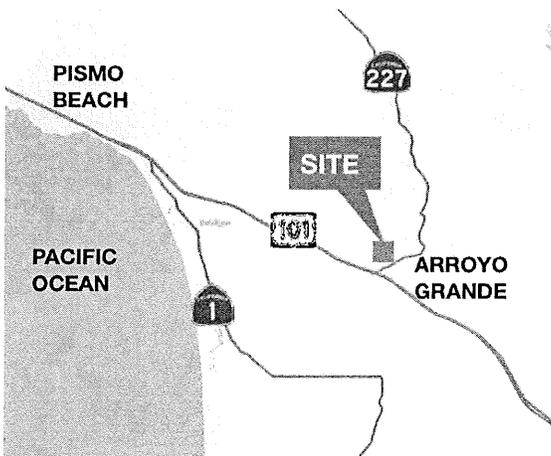
\$84



Map



For Sale



±29.45 acre Church Camp

Property consists of multiple structures and cabins totaling approximately ±14,320 SF of improvements

Public Facility zoning

Centrally located in Arroyo Grande

Sale Price: Negotiable

kiddermathews.com

Contact

Eric Knowles
858.369.3017
eknowles@kiddermathews.com
LIC #00944210

Robert Fletcher
858.369.3034
rfletcher@kiddermathews.com
LIC #01706060

Overview

Kidder Mathews, as exclusive advisor, is pleased to present an opportunity to acquire a prime property the heart of the central coast of California in Arroyo Grande,

Camp Arroyo Grande, situated on a ±29 acre site, is located in Arroyo Grande, California, in San Luis Obispo County. Located next to the downtown district, the site benefits from excellent location and proximity to services, including shopping and the area's major medical center. The site has excellent access to Highway 101 and is walking distance to the popular Village of Arroyo Grande.

The site is well positioned to provide a host of alternative uses, including; churches, lodges, senior or women's center, public or private school or sporting complex to name a few.

Traffic Counts & Demographics

The average daily traffic count at East Branch and East Grand Avenue is 19,864.

2015 DEMOGRAPHICS			
	1 Mile	3 Miles	5 Miles
Total Population	6,808	44,633	54,036
Median Household Income	\$76,578	\$56,367	\$57,873
Median Home Value	\$556,893	\$446,571	\$460,947

Source: CoStar

Property Highlights

Large, ±29.45 gross acre campus facility

APN: 007-011-021 and 007-011-022

±14,300 square feet of cabins, lodge, dining facilities and accommodates up to 110

Private rooms

Laundry facilities

Recreation room

Tabernacle

Outdoor picnic and playground area

Solar heated swimming pool

Expansive garden area, walkways, and mature landscaping

Safe and secure campus in a stable, well maintained residential, mixed-use neighborhood with exterior perimeter fencing

Excellent central coastal location

Short walk to the quaint Village of Arroyo Grande

Minutes to regional shopping and medical center

Easy access to Pacific Coast Highway



For Sale

Arroyo Grande Overview

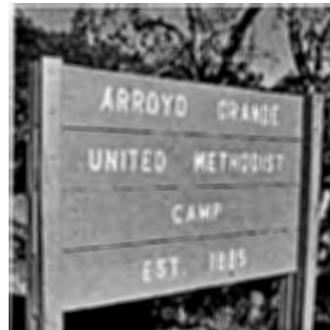
Arroyo Grande, California, in San Luis Obispo County, is 14 miles northwest of Santa Maria, California (center to center) and 121 miles southwest of Fresno, California. The city benefits from easy access to the nearby cities and towns with which it shares the San Luis Obispo - Atascadero - Paso Robles metropolitan area. Situated halfway between Los Angeles and San Francisco, and the year-round Mediterranean and mild climate provide the ideal environment for taking advantage of the vintage California atmosphere. Arroyo Grande offers award-winning wines, family-friendly festivals, summertime concerts and a proximity to open spaces great for hiking, biking, boating, and camping.

Two miles east of the Pacific Ocean in beautiful California and surrounded by farms, flower fields, and wineries, Arroyo Grande features a distinct village character and a vibrant downtown shopping and dining district.

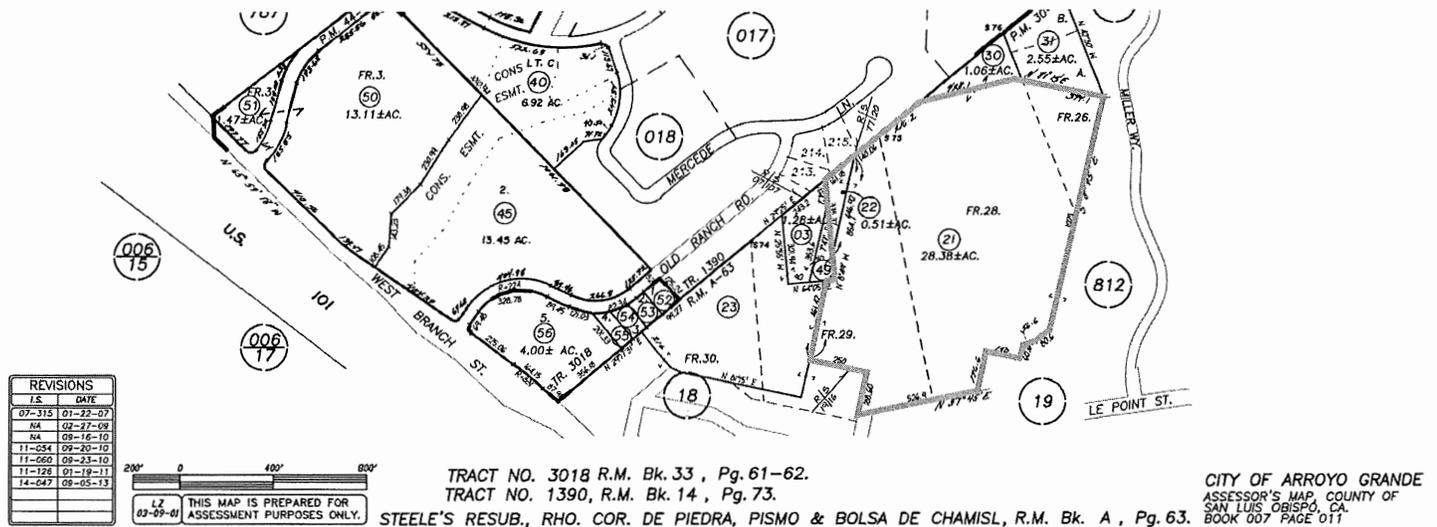
The summer months are naturally air conditioned by ocean breezes with occasional light fog, and the winters offer delightful and refreshing crispness. The winter sunsets are fabulous!

- The unemployment rate in Arroyo Grande is 5.20 percent (U.S. Avg. is 6.30%). Recent job growth is positive. Arroyo Grande jobs have increased by 0.23 percent. Compared to the rest of the country, Arroyo Grande's cost of living is 75.60% higher than the U.S. average.
- The city is 5.67 square miles at an elevation of 80 feet, with a population as of 2014, of 17,284 people. Since 2000, it has had a population growth of 10.70 percent.
- Average commute time is 20 minutes. The national average is 25 minutes.
- The median home cost in Arroyo Grande is \$535,000. Home appreciation the last year has been 12.60 percent.
- Arroyo Grande public schools spend \$10,543 per student. The average school expenditure in the U.S. is \$12,435. There are about 21.4 students per teacher in Arroyo Grande.

Arroyo Grande experienced rapid growth in the 1970s and 1980s, partially due to the expansion of the wastewater treatment plant, under an EPA Clean Water Grant, that removed a growth constraint. This federal grant program required preparation of an Environmental Impact Report, which document provided much of the initial environmental database for Arroyo Grande. Arroyo Grande is located in a coastal ecosystem within the California Floristic Province, and the native habitats include coast live oak woodland, central coastal scrub, willow and mixed riparian along Arroyo Grande Creek and numerous tributaries, native bunch-grass grassland, coastal prairie, dunes and intertidal zone, and non-native and agricultural areas.



Tax Map



Request for Proposal

The proposed sale of Camp Arroyo Grande site being offered on an unpriced basis with an all-cash closing. The Buyer should distinguish itself by addressing the following:

Price

- Stipulate total price
- Indicate intended use

Deposits

- Initial Deposit of at least \$100,000 at execution of the Purchase and Sale Agreement
- Indicate timing and amounts of additional deposits

Contingencies

- Indicate all Buyer contingencies and length of contingency period

Contact

Eric Knowles
 858.369.3017
 eknowles@kiddermathews.com
 LIC #00944210

Robert Fletcher
 858.369.3034
 rfletcher@kiddermathews.com
 LIC #01706060

Conditions to Closing

- Specify all conditions necessary to trigger closing

Escrow Closing Date

- Specify

Note: Seller prefers to close at the earliest possible date, but in no event later than December 15, 2017

Project Schedule / Entitlement Timeline (if any)

- Provide your projected entitlement timeline with your offer to purchase

Title and Escrow

- First American Title Company, La Jolla Office

"Its part of a 15 year refurbishing plan to change the camp into a first class retreat facility for families and youth and to be upgraded for the 21st Century", Tallant concluded.

In the last 10 years the AGFUMC members have donated over \$16,000 to the project, leading five other local Methodist churches in raising funds. The camp is supervised by the California Pacific Methodist Conference which donated \$50,000 to the building fund drive.

The 15 year plan calls for four more new cabins, the replacement of an existing lodge and enlargement of the dining hall facility. The camp has a swimming pool, campfire pit, chapel, lodges, camp managers home, and of course the famous 4000 sq. foot, 12 sided Tabernacle which is included in upgrades in the master plan.

For those interested in the Camp Arroyo Grande project, contact Tina Moore (481-6674) the Camp Liaison for our church. Those wishing to donate to the building fund for the additional four cabins may do so. Checks should be made out to: " CAL-PAC Conference" with Camp AG Building Fund in the memo. You can give checks directly to Tina or mail to Camp Arroyo Grande, 250 Wesley St., Arroyo Grande CA. 93420 – Attention: Steve Tallant.



.com

Camp Arroyo Grande has aged, but not the appeal



DECEMBER 19, 2005 12:00 AM • KARIN HILL/STAFF WRITER

The campers have come and gone through the years, and the town around it has grown immensely, but very little has changed at the historic Camp Arroyo Grande since it opened in 1885.

Located right next to the bustling Village, just a block up the street from the Bank of America at the West Branch Street and Traffic Way intersection, the 29-acre retreat has been a treasured escape for many people over the

decades. Because of its proximity to the busy main street, many drivers have zipped right by the entrance to the secret hideaway on Wesley Street without even knowing it was there. But those who do know it, know it well.

I run into people every year who come back and have stories from the 1940s, C said camp manager Steve Tallant. I've met couples that came to summer camp here 30 years ago, and they're married and have children now. C

Established in 1885 by the first Methodist church in Arroyo Grande, then located at 124 W. Branch St., the camp primarily served as a gathering place for church members to have fellowship. It was just a short walk uphill from the main church building.

In 1897, the church built a tabernacle at the center of the grounds. It is the original building on the site, said Tallant.

The tabernacle was the gathering place for the Methodist churches here on the Central Coast to hear the circuit rider when he was making his trek through the area, C he said.

Other structures have their own historical value. After World War II, several cabins were purchased at a surplus auction from Camp San Luis Obispo. Out of the nine that were moved to the camp, six are still left today.

For many years, the church held sunrise services at Easter, but those came to an end when neighborhoods around the property were built up with houses in the 1970s, Tallant said.

Also over the years, the number of Methodists who visit the camp has been decreasing and the number of outside groups has increased.

Our Methodist usage is about 6 percent of our annual income, C said Tallant.

The logo for TimesPressRecorder.com is displayed in a dark rectangular box with white text.

Camp Arroyo Grande starting project: Two new cabins planned

OCTOBER 01, 2008 5:00 PM • BY MIKE HODGSON/ASSOCIATE EDITOR

About 60 to 70 people turned out Saturday to hold a groundbreaking ceremony for two new cabins at the 29-acre UMC Camp Arroyo Grande, located on a hillside overlooking the Village.

In addition to a ceremonial turning of the soil, the event included a thank-you barbecue for all those who have already donated funds to the project, said Steve Tallant, camp manager.

Construction is expected to begin within four weeks on the cabins, the first of four new cabins planned for the camp that provides facilities for all kinds of nonprofit organizations and even family reunions, Tallant said.

The new cabins will replace existing cabins that were purchased from Camp San Luis Obispo at a surplus auction.

“Our goal is to complete them by the summer of 2009,” Tallant said of the two new cabins, noting they will be constructed primarily through all-volunteer labor.

Each cabin will sleep 12 people and include two showers, two restrooms and three vanities, Tallant said.

The estimated cost for all six cabins is \$350,000. Since starting its fundraising campaign two years ago, the camp has raised \$170,000 — about enough to build the two cabins and cover the design costs, permits and fees.

“So we’re about halfway there,” Tallant said. “Many different community organizations have donated to (the campaign), along with various individuals and local Methodist Churches.”

The next fundraiser for the camp is a St. Patrick’s Day pancake breakfast next March, but in the meantime, anyone interested in making a tax-deductible donation to the project can contact Tallant at 709-2119.

Camp Arroyo Grande, established in 1885 on Wesley Street, is supervised by the Board of Camping and Retreat Ministries for the California-Pacific Annual Methodist Conference.

mhodgson@timespressrecorder.com

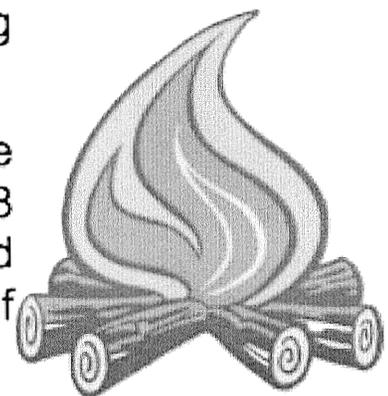
CAMP ARROYO GRANDE TO BREAK GROUND

Music, a free BBQ, a Methodist Bishop and Superintendent, local officials and those who supported the project will gather for a joyous celebration in Camp Arroyo Grande on Saturday, September 27, at 4 PM. The groundbreaking ceremonies are scheduled for that date, and will mark the end of a two year fund raising campaign to replace aging cabins and start a long waited updating of the facility.

The renovation of the camp is part of a 10 -15 year master plan to convert the facility into a first-class camping and conference center. The camp was established in 1885 and will have served the Central Coast for 123 years. The famous 12-sided Tabernacle building is still serving campers since it was completed in 1897 and has served the camp for 111 years.

The camp today is a modern facility and has a swimming pool, dining hall, three lodges, chapel, campfire pit and campers cabins. There are also hook-ups for 8 RV's. The current camp capacity is 110. The camp is open to all community and family groups. It is used by schools and youth organizations as well as churches of many denominations.

A Capital Fund Campaign was started in 2006 to begin the renovation. The goal was to raise \$200,000 to lay the foundations for six new cabins and to build two of the six. The campaign reported in July that a total of \$158,704 had been raised to date. The camp is managed and supervised by The Board of Camping and Outdoor Retreat Ministries of the California-Pacific Conference of the Methodist Church. Site Managers are Steve and Debbie Tallant.



**CAMP
NEWS**

Interested in making a donation? - Contact Val McClure, Building and Site Committee Member.



Construction Underway at Camp AG

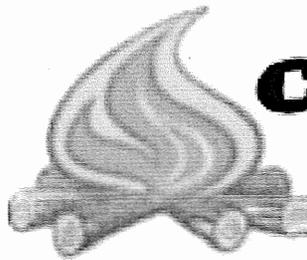
The bulldozers finally started major earth moving on Monday, July 13th 2009 at Arroyo Grande Methodist Camp (see *photo*). This is all in preparation for the building of one or two new cabins that has been planned since 2006. The site for the new buildings is on the north east corner of the camp on the road going up to the campfire pit. Steve Tallant, camp manager has been overseeing the preparations of the site which included all new water, electrical, sewer and drain lines. The moving of a huge amount of earth will

clear the pads for the new cabin construction.

The \$180,000 project began collecting funds in 2006 and received a \$50,000 grant from the California Methodist Conference to help get the project started. Under the leadership of Val McClure, the camp's Site Committee ran a three year campaign to raise funds for the project.

Bill Weitkamp, Tina Moore and Tom Egan from the AGFUMC also serve on the Site Committee and have been active in helping to raise project funds. The retired Pastor of the Arroyo Grande Church, Bob Underwood, has been working shoulder to shoulder with the camp manager to help prepare the site. The Arroyo Grande Methodist Church has donated \$15,000 to the project. Five other Methodist Churches have also participated in the project as well as many clubs and businesses in the Five Cities area.

The project is the first step in a 15-20 year project to renovate the 29 acre facility into a first class camp and conference center. Current facilities include six cabins, three lodges, a live-in caretakers home, dining hall and kitchen, and the famous Tabernacle. Other amenities include a solar heated swimming pool, child play area, chapel, campfire pit and picnic tables. There are also eight hook-ups for RV's on the site. Reservations can be made for non-profit groups or family use by calling Steve or Debbie Tallant at 489-4139 who will direct you through the registration process. Over 100 groups and families use the facility yearly.

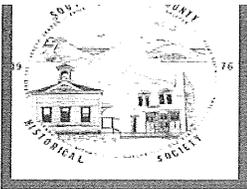
**CAMP
NEWS**

Camp AG Builds 2nd Unit

Under the supervision of Camp Manager Steve Tallant and his trusted crew of volunteers, the second unit of six new cabins is now in place and will go into use September 1st, 2011. "The construction of the 2nd cabin was much easier", Tallant said, "as all the connections for utilities were put into place during the first cabin construction."

Thousand of volunteer hours have been spent in the construction of the first two units. Some of the volunteers are our former pastor Bob Underwood, Tom Egan, the camp staff, and even Steve's mother and dad. A good deal of the building materials were furnished at a lower cost to camp by the local merchants and some material even donated. This made it possible to build the two units within the \$180,000 budget that was set by the funding drive over the past six years. The funds are now almost depleted.

The beautiful new units sleep 14 campers each and have double bathroom facilities and carpeted floors.



Heritage Press

Volume 11, No 5

May 2007



You are Invited!!

The 31st Annual

Charter Day BBQ

Sunday, June 10

12 - 4 PM

at the historical

Methodist Church Campground

250 Wesley Street

Village of Arroyo Grande

The Campground Cooks will serve us a fine BBQ meal in the Dining Hall.

RSVP by June 5 to: Gus and Rossi Berger, 481-9379

or email at gusrossi1@aol.com

Mail payment of \$12. per person to: M/M Berger, 2505 Basin St.,
Oceano, CA 93445

Note: New Hours for the
**Pat Loomis
 History Library &
 Resource Center
 At Ruby's House**

Tue-Fri
 1:00 pm until 5:00 pm
 Or by appointment

HISTORIC HALL
Saturday, May 19
First Exhibit Opening
1:00 -5:00 pm

Exhibits on photographer, Dorothea Lange; Civilian Conservation Corp., (CCC), & Abalone Harvesting in SLO County.
 IOOF Building, 128 Bridge St., A.G.
 (Full details follow on page four)

2006 Strawberry Cook-Off
Winners Cookbook

Prize winning Recipes
 Available for purchase
 \$10.00 at Heritage House
 Purchase proceeds benefit SCHS efforts.

June 7-8, 14-15, 21-22, 28-29
 Data Entry Workshops 1:00 pm
 Ruby's House

“Perhaps the most delightful friendships are those in which there is much agreement, much disputation, and yet more personal liking.”
 — George Eliot

Directors and Committees

- President.....Jane Line.....481-6510**
 Programs Craig Rock
- Ways & Means– First VP.....Jim Dickens.....481-0540**
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 Tour Bus Coordinator Joe Swigert
 Antique Show & Sale Doug LeSage
 Events Coordinator..... Doug LeSage & Shelly Cochran
- Membership—2nd VP...Michael & Colleen Drees.....489-0295**
 Sunshine..... Ethel M. Gilliland...473-0175
- Recording Secretary**
- Corresponding Secretary..Edie Juck.....773-4689**
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- Publicity.....Vivian Krug.....458-3321**
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- Paulding History House Curator...Chuck Fellows.....481-3464**
 Paulding Committee..... Jean Hubbard
- Museums Curator.....Jan Scott.....481-4435**
 Assistant Curator..... Joe Swigert
 Heritage House..... Joe Swigert
 Santa Manuela Schoolhouse..... Kathleen Sullivan
 The Barn..... Orville Schultz
 Archives..... Ross Kongable
 Library & Resource Center..... Craig Rock
- Property Management...Charles Porter.....929-1014**
 Vehicles.....Chet Thomas
 Gardening—Heritage House.....Barbara LeSage
 Gardening—Santa Manuela Schoolhouse..... Juan Jazo
 Gardening—Ruby's House..... Juan Jazo
- Docent Leader (Acting).....Stephanie Cochran**
 Docent Supervisor..... Joe Swigert
 Heritage House Coordinator..... Jeanne Frederick
 Paulding House Coordinator..... Dee Trybom
 Santa Manuela School Coordinator Kathleen Sullivan
 Barn..... Joe Swigert
 Student Tours..... Norma Harloe
- Information Systems (Acting).....Dick Jackson**
 Heritage Press Newsletter.....Editor.....Bee Hodges
- ParliamentarianKathleen Sullivan489-8195**
- Society Information473-5077**
- Heritage House481-4126
 Paulding History House473-3231
 Santa Manuela School489-8745
 The Barn489-8745
 Historic Hall489-8114
 Ruby's House489-8282

Website— www.SouthCountyHistory.Org



“Early Days and Today—The Methodist Campground, a popular recreation spot for adults and youth groups, is seen here as it appears today, and (inset) as it appeared when first established in the late 1890’s. The original 15-acre site has been expanded to 30 acres, with various recreational facilities.” (Text & photo (c.1990’s) from Jean Hubbard’s column *“Echoes”* and reprinted below entitled, *“Tabernacle Celebrating Centennial”*, from SCHS archives, as printed in Five Cities Times-Press-Recorder, Arroyo Grande, Ca., July, 1997, recording the Centennial birthday and the history of the Tabernacle, in the Methodist Camp)

“The Tabernacle, the grand old lady of the Methodist Camp, is celebrating her 100th birthday. She has presided over the campgrounds at the end of Wesley Avenue in Arroyo Grande, for those 100 years. The woodpeckers have at times left her in tatters, taking 15 feet off the center pole on her roof, but a new dress, actually several coats of paint, has always restored her spirits. Today she is better looking than she was in the summer of 1897, when she was dedicated on Sunday, August 1.

J.F. Beckett, who owned a large acreage back of the Methodist Episcopal Church, built in 1887, at 124 West Branch St., (now Amanda’s Interiors) was encouraging the Methodist Conference to establish their grounds here. He did considerable grading and had offered his grounds, free of charge, for the annual camp meeting the Methodist held each summer. This was the favored way for increasing church membership. Now he was willing to give 15 acres to the church. When the conference accepted, the local church promised to give in work and money to the value of \$1,000.

Chatauqua was to precede the revival meetings. In 1874, in Chatauqua, N.Y., a Methodist minister, Dr. John Vincent, and wealthy industrialist, Lewis Miller, the father of Mrs. Thomas Edison, started a Sunday School encampment to train teachers. For added interest, he held lectures on culture, philosophy and had humorous and worthwhile entertainment. Camp Arroyo Grande also taught Epworth League Methods.

By July 17, 1894, the 12-sided tabernacle was nearing completion. The windows and doors were being installed and the floor leveled, ready for sawdust. Members of the church were busy clearing the grounds to receive tents. The ravine, where it ran down in back of the Catholic Church, was being worked on; this would quickly become “Lover’s Lane”. At one point, the minister, the Rev. A.M. Ogborn, was helping to clear the brush and rocks when he encountered poison oak. Sunday, his eyes had swollen shut and he was unable to preach.

On Aug. 1, 1897, the grand old lady and surrounding grounds were dedicated. Everyone had helped; they far exceeded their promise of \$1,000. In work and money; the church had also

purchased 15 additional acres. A special orchestra played for the dedication, and when Mr. Cattoir played a cornet solo, accompanied by Miss Laura Duncan, the enthusiastic applause was so great that the minister felt called upon [to] quiet the crowd. The concert...was a genuine success in every respect.

The camp association furnished tent frames with wood floors that campers could slip a canvas frame over or you could bring your own tent. Some summers, the youth slept out under the stars with a canvas separating boys and girls. Since afternoons were always free with trips to the beach and elsewhere, many a sand crab and pine cone found its way into the girls’ beds mysteriously. Loren Ballagh and Clair Gibson remembered that camp was always good for a romance or two each summer.

The evening lectures were well attended, with the Pacific Coast Rail-way (sic) running special cars to bring people from San Luis Obispo and points south. The charge for the evening was 50 cents for the season; \$1 for a family, or just 15 cents a single admission. The evening Chatauqua entertainment brought top talent to the camp.

In the early years, there was a boarding tent on the grounds that furnished meals in 1900, for 25 cents a single meal or 16 2/3 cents if you ate there all week. Later, a kitchen and dining hall were built. Camping privileges were free. Hay for your horses, in any quantity, cost \$5 to \$6 a ton. Straw was free. For those doing their own cooking, plenty of fresh vegetables and fruit were available. Coming to Camp Arroyo Grande was looked forward to by several hundred people every summer.

This Aug 1 and 2, Camp Arroyo Grande will celebrate this grand old lady’s birthday. The community is invited to share in this celebration. If you have never seen the camp, this is your opportunity. Wesley Ave., (next to Bank of America) will lead you back to the Tabernacle grounds. Friday evening’s entertainment will be preceded by a hotdog/hamburger dinner at 5. Saturday’s fun begins at 10 a.m. with chicken barbecue at noon and entertainment all afternoon. Come and help us celebrate some of Arroyo Grande’s rich historical heritage.”

— “Echoes”, Jean Hubbard



**Summer Schedule of Exhibits,
Speakers, and Films at the IOOF Hall**
 Fridays and Saturdays only, 1 PM – 5 PM
128 Bridge St., Arroyo Grande
Free Admission
Contact Craig Rock for more information, 489-8282
Website: SouthCountyHistory.org

May 19 – June 16

EXHIBITS

The CCC – Civilian Conservation Corps
The Photography of Dorothea Lange
Abalone Harvesting in San Luis Obispo County

FILMS

Surviving the Dust Bowl, 55 minutes
Shown hourly on Saturdays May 19, 26, June 2, 9, 16
Civilian Conservation Corps, 60 minutes
Shown hourly on Fridays May 25, June 1, 8, 15

June 23 – July 21

EXHIBITS

Architecture in SLO County
Mexican Migrant Workers
Abalone Harvesting in San Luis Obispo County

FILMS

Grapes of Wrath, 129 min.
Shown at 1:15 PM and 3:15 PM, Saturdays June 23,
July 7, 14, 21
The Battle Over Citizen Kane, 2 hours
Shown at 1 PM and 3 PM,
Fridays, June 29, July 6, 13, 20

July 28 – August 25

EXHIBITS

Japanese American Internment Camps
Japanese American Children in Internment Camps
Fishermen in San Luis Obispo County

FILMS

Remembering Manzanar, 22 min.
Fridays and Saturdays, July 28 – August 22,
continuous showings
(Check website for possible speaker event during this time span.)

September 1 – September 22

EXHIBITS

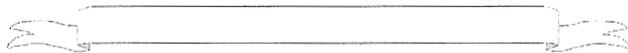
Santa Barbara's Film Industry
Hollywood in the 1920s
Disney Studios

FILMS

Modern Marvels: Walt Disney World, 100 minutes
Shown at 1:15 and 3:15, Saturdays, September 1, 8, 15, 22
History of Motion Pictures
2 hours 15 min.
Shown at 1:30 only, Fridays,
September 7, 14, 21

Opening September 29

The History of Avila



Special Event

Saturday, June 30 at 1:30 PM
An Afternoon with **John Koepf**,
one of the last abalone divers of Avila,
speaking on the
**Rise and Fall of the Abalone
Industry in Avila
and The Central Coast.** John is a
former Port San Luis Harbor
Commissioner (1988-1996)



SOUTH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

134 S. Mason St., Arroyo Grande, Ca 93420

(805) 473-5077

www.southcountyhistory.org



Call for Volunteers:

SCHS is completely run by volunteers like you and me, and we have lots of projects and committees that can use your help. If you have an interest in preserving and sharing history, come join us in the fun! We are looking for volunteers in the following areas:

- Museum Docent (conciierge, tours, sharing local history)
- Events (concert concession stand, Antique Show, festivals)
- Museum Care (dusting, sweeping, loving care)
- Property/Building Care (handyman, honey-do's, gardening)
- Curator Assistant (visual media/artifact & archive processing, & care)
- Librarian Assistant (shelving books, visitor research)
- Exhibit Committee (putting it altogether)
- Folklore Committee (collecting oral histories)
- Book Committee (reading manuscripts, word processing)
- Technology (computer care, digital photography)
- Administration (general office, clerical, banking)

If any of these areas interest you, please check the box, complete this form & return it to the above address, or call 473-5077 if you have any questions.

Name _____ Date _____

Phone Number _____ email _____

Thank you! We appreciate your interest and willingness to get involved.

A Little Bit about Abalones in Pismo

In keeping with the theme of the Abalone Exhibit at the Historic Hall, I want to share with you a snippet about abalones in Pismo. In the late 1950s, when my family came here, clams were still abundant on Pismo State Beach. Abalone could still be found on the shoreline rocks in Shell Beach and at what we then called Pirates Cove. Abalone latched themselves to the rocky outcroppings that were ordinarily submerged by the rising and falling surf. When the tide was out, occasional abalones could be found and pried off with a tire iron.

Abalone could get pretty big, compared to clams. An abalone then was easily over seven inches across and bigger. Removed from the shell and sliced in fairly thin disks, the abalone 'steaks' were then pounded on the cutting board to tenderize them. A little seasoning, breading and a hot pan – mmm, my mouth waters just remembering how good fresh abalone tasted!

There are a few old photos in circulation that attest to the abalones in Pismo. The old Shell Café was so named for the abalone and clam shells decorating the exterior. Another, shown here, is the Pismo Beach highway sign embedded with shells, that I always referred to as the Clam Tower until one day I got a good copy of the picture and looked at it up close. Those are abalone shells! I now refer to this picture as the Abalone Tower. It was located on Price Street near Oceanview and Hinds.



Photo from Effie McDermott Archives, Pismo Beach, CA

By Effie McDermott, June 2007

Effie McDermott is curator of the SCHS Pismo Beach Collection, and is President of Friends of Price House.

She can be reached at 773-4854 or emcdermott@kcbx.net

You can receive the Price Historical Park newsletter by joining Friends of Price House, P.O. Box 1418, Pismo Beach, CA 93448-1418. Enclose \$25 dues. The park is open the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month, from noon to three except holidays. When the new road is complete, we will be on Rancho Pismo Drive, off Highland Drive.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Robert & Stephanie Cochran—459-7483

2451 Beach St, Oceano 93445

* (Change of Address)

Sam Cotton

1139 Palm Ct., Arroyo Grande

Rod & Lorrie Curb—782-0228

745 Prickly Pear Way, Arroyo Grande

Cindy Hansen—489-0204

3775 Santa Manuela Rd., Arroyo Grande

John & Mary Hjalmarson—481-4509

536 Via La Barranta, Arroyo Grande

Pete Kelley

P.O. Box 237, Avila Beach, Ca 93424

Linda & Jeff Kime—489-1837

1133 Corbett Canyon Rd., Arroyo Grande

Diane Maiorano—544-8740

660 Pismo St., San Luis Obispo, Ca 93401

James & Sharon Moore

211 Allen St., Arroyo Grande

Jan Nylund—474-0576

924 High View Dr., Arroyo Grande

Elaine & Ronald Parrent

897 Oak Park Blvd., PMB 164, Pismo Beach

Toni Pelletier—489-5100

115 E. Branch, Arroyo Grande

Patricia Price—550-4098

138 Whiteley St., Arroyo Grande

Sunny Putnam

107 Calle Corea, Shell Beach, CA 93449

Nancy & Manny Silva—922-5757

P.O. Box 7739, Santa Maria, CA 93456

B'Ann Smith—489-1559

548 Crown Hill, Arroyo Grande

Julie Stow

934 25th St., SE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52403

Scott Stow & Kai Wu

461 Beverly Dr., Walnut, CA 91789

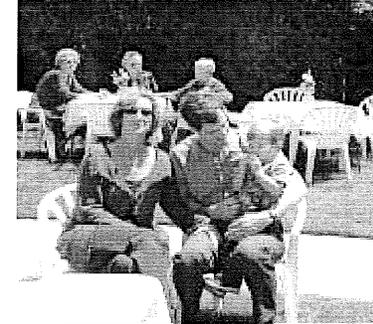
Carolyn & Peter Thom—489-1433

501 Gularte Rd., Arroyo Grande

An armful of floral Bouquets to:
 Barbara LeSage and her Committee for the
 stunning and remarkable garden setting we had for
 our "Oppor-tun-a-Tea" and America in Bloom events.



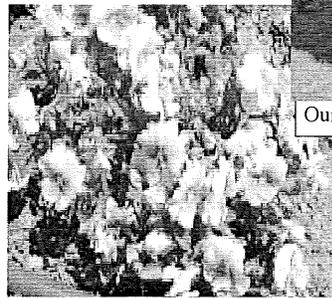
L. to R. Colleen Drees, Linda Fellows,
 Shelly Cochran, Stephanie Cochran,
 (Chair). Luncheon and
 "Oppor-tun-a-Tea"



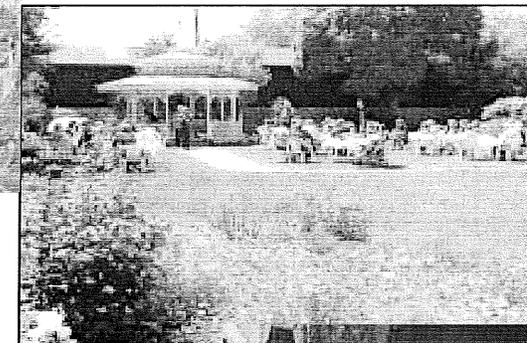
Ft. Kelly & Greg Steinberger and
 son, Gabriel, 2 .



Our snowball bush at Ruby's House in Spring finery.



L to R: Berneda & Nina Bryan & Beth Garner



Left: Jan Scott, Museums Curator; Jane Line, SCHS
 President on the right with Stephanie Cochran, Luncheon
 & "Oppor-tun-a-Tea" Chair.
 J.L. Note: Stephanie Cochran's White Sage tea &
 Lavender lemonade were the hit of the day.

**PATRONS OF THE
 SOUTH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

**PATRICIA LOOMIS
 KIRK SCOTT
 CAROL HIZEY
 HOWARD LOUIS
 MIKE GILLESPIE
 OSTY INSURANCE
 CHRISTINE HARVEY
 MIKE FAIRBROTHER
 MARTIN & JANE LINE
 BILL & CHERYL MILLER
 SOUTH COUNTY REALTY
 HOWARD & AILEEN MANKINS
 DOC BURNSTEIN'S ICE CREAM LAB
 SUSAN BRANCH 'HEART OF THE HOME'**



PATTERNS OF THE PAST
Tidbits, Tribulations, and Tools for Survival
By Beatrice Hodges and Berneda Cochran



An informative book in our Patricia Loomis Library *The New Deal and the West*, authored by Richard Lowitt, ... describes efforts undertaken by the Bureau of Reclamation and the New Deal in Chapter five, "...by the end of the New Deal, much had been accomplished in the Inland Empire and throughout the West. About 20 million acres were irrigated and these lands provided almost all the opportunities for close settlement in rural areas beyond the hundredth meridian. In 1940 John C. Page, Commissioner of the Bureau of Reclamation, believed his agency was 'approximately at the halfway point in the development of the West by irrigation...' But more important, conservation was no longer a slogan; it was a national policy applicable...to both the Great Plains and the Inland Empire. About 80,000 farmers of the irrigated West [had] depended for a large portion of their cash income, during the New Deal upon the Federal government, which through tariffs and Bureau of Reclamation projects helped promote the related refining complex and migratory labor situation in the beet fields. For ...small farmers in the Inland Empire and along its borders the Bureau of Reclamation through its numerous projects provided the basis for their homes, their livelihood, and their future hopes.

Boulder Dam, as it was called throughout the New Deal, was the first major federal project ...cost[ing] \$114 million and providing jobs for thousands of itinerant workers, [who] working three shifts, completed the project ahead of schedule. The Parker Dam was another project 155 miles below Boulder Dam, along with the Colorado-Big Thompson Project, calling for diversion of 300,000 acre-feet annually with the aid of a 13-mile tunnel and extensive reservoirs, and was one of the largest irrigation projects in the West. Elsewhere other major projects included the Fort Peck Dam, and the Casper-Alcova project which purpose was the use of the North Platte River providing irrigation for croplands, and estimated to carve 1,000 farms from sage brush and cactus dotted range land. Fort Peck Dam

stretches across the Missouri a distance of 3.68 miles and is about [a] half mile wide at its base.

Throughout the New Deal years, average annual expenditures of the agency totaled \$52 million, prior to 1933 the figure was \$8.9 million.**

Many other projects are covered in depth in this chapter, which makes for interesting reading on this subject.

*Excerpt by Bee Hodges from *The New Deal and the West*, Richard Lowitt, University of Oklahoma Press, Norman & London, 1984, pages 81-99.

Ed. Note: Lowitt's Bibliographical Notes in *The New Deal and the West* list more sources covering the "plight of agricultural workers... among the better studies which discuss the tense situations that developed in the 1930's are Cary McWilliams, *Factories in the Field*, (Boston: Little, Brown & Co., 1939) ; *Bitter Harvest: a History of California Farm Workers, 1870-1941* (Ithaca, N.Y. : Cornell University Press, 1981); *Unwanted Mexican Americans in the Great Depression* (Tucson: University of Arizona Press, 1974) which explores the plight of over 400,000 people who (although 60% were legal American citizens) were deported from Southern California as their labor was no longer needed owing to the arrival of migratory families from the Dust Bowl and other depressed agricultural areas. D.H. Dinwoodie, "Deportation: The Immigration Service and the Chicano Labor Movement in the 1930's," *New Mexico Historical Review* 52 (1977) complements Hoffman's study. *Boxcar In the Sand* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1957) reflects a different perspective. John Steinbeck, "Their Blood is Strong," published as a pamphlet in 1938, reprinted in Warren French, ed., *A Companion to "The Grapes of Wrath"* (New York: Viking Press, 1963) is an excellent incisive essay on migratory labor that appeared a year before the author's famous novel. Robert de Roos, *The Thirsty Land: The Story of the Central Valley Project* (Stanford, Calif.: Stanford Univ. Press, 1948) is a more general account, [and] one that provides a basic introduction to the project and its problems.**

** Above literary sources quoted from pages 275 and 276 of Lowitt Notes.

"After a decade of frenzied stock market speculation, the bubble burst. On October 24, 1929, "Black Thursday" came the first great crash on Wall Street, followed by a series of secondary shocks, and then a long, sickening slide toward a national depression. The market took its worst beating on October 29. The effect rippled away from New York deep in to the hinterlands of the country, shutting down banks and putting companies out of business, until twenty million Americans found themselves unemployed, about 16 per cent of the entire U.S. population. The 1930's saw horrendous working conditions in the California fields. The depression coincided with a severe drought in the Great Plains states, which baked the overworked soil into a giant "dust bowl." White farmers from those regions, especially Oklahoma, loaded their possessions into jalopies and fled to California, hoping to serve as migrant farm workers, crowding into squalid shacks in private labor camps where they were treated almost like slaves. Most Chinese were able to avoid these up-

heavals in rural California. By the 1930's they were largely concentrated in major cities, usually in their own...segregated neighborhoods and ...largely self-sufficient. This is not to say, however, that they did not feel the impact of the depression. As growing numbers of white Americans were thrown out of work, there was less money to pay for services the Chinese provided, such as restaurant dining or laundry. As money grew tighter, Chinese families, like millions of white families, had to make do with less. 'I remember wearing sneakers with holes in them,' Lillian Louie said of her New York Chinatown childhood. She would patch the shoes with cardboard and not tell her parents. 'We didn't want to bother them, you know, they had enough to do. They worked so hard.' As the decade progressed, the United States passed emergency legislation to combat the effects of the Great Depression. When Franklin D. Roosevelt entered the White House in 1933, he inaugurated, under an agenda known as the New Deal, a flurry of federal programs to regulate banks, initiate public projects, and put the unemployed to work. (cont'd. pg. 9)

Some programs benefited ethnic Chinese by giving them government jobs and financial assistance. By 1935, 18 percent of the Chinese in San Francisco were receiving government aid. The number was lower than for the general American population (22 percent), because many Chinese refused to participate in these programs, scorning them as charity. 'During the Depression, I'd see these people taking canned goods [home] from school,' recalled Mark Wong, an American-born Chinese in San Francisco. 'And my dad refused. He told me simply, 'You're not going to bring back any canned goods back here, period.' I think the pride of the Chinese is very strong. We're not going to accept food from anybody even to feed ourselves, even when we're eating less.'****

*** Excerpt by Bee Hodges from The Chinese in America, Iris Chang, Penguin Books, 2004.

"During the Depression and Dust Bowl years, many [prairie] farmers...couldn't pay their taxes and lost their farms. Janet Martin, 98, remembers it well. "It was terrible. The drought lasted 10 years. And grasshoppers. So many grasshoppers. The air was full of them. My Uncle John had 18 quarters of land. And you put all the seed out and paid the hired man and bought the gas for the tractor. You put in a lot of money. And got no return. Of 18 quarters, he saved just 7. One section he had to sell for taxes for \$2,800. A whole section. I felt awful bad. We had no money. We couldn't save it. Yep, those were the years." [And on the same page] "Gebhart Bauer feels

1934 was the worst year...It just blew, and the dust got so bad you'd have to put lamps on to see inside the house. It got that bad. God, it was awful. We planted trees on the farm that year and carried water by hand. A 5-gallon bucket in each hole. Otherwise the tree woulda died right there. A lot of the windbreaks you see nowadays got planted then. And you can still see mounds in the fields where dust buried an old fence line.

[The locusts] were big fellows, with black in their wings. They flew almost like little sparrows. Alfalfa fields that had a little growth on them—maybe 6, 8 inches—when those grasshoppers finished, it was eaten right down to the ground. Nothing left."*****

****Above briefly excerpted by Bee Hodges from Trees, Why Do You Wait?, America's Changing Rural Culture, Richard Critchfield, Island Press, Washington, D.C., 1991, pages 56 & 57.

Why do you listen, trees?
 Why do you wait?
 Why do you fumble at the breeze—
 Gesticulate
 With hopeless fluttering hands—
 Stare down the vanished road beyond the gate
 That now no longer stands?
 Why do you wait?
 Trees—
 Why do you listen, trees?

—Archibald MacLeish,, (*New and Collected Poems, 1917-1982*,

*****Ibid.

In keeping with the Great Depression Exhibit opening at the IOOF Historic Hall I found a few recipes from that time period. Biscuits and gravy were an inexpensive way to stretch a meal and could accompany breakfast or dinner.

Baking Powder Biscuits

2 C. Flour, sifted
 ½ C. Shortening
 ½ tsp. Salt
 2 tsp. Baking powder
 Cold water. Cut shortening into flour with two knives or a crust mixer. (It is important that hands touch the mixture as little as possible.) Add salt and baking powder and continue until thoroughly mixed. Add ice-cold water little by little, mixing with an implement until proper consistency is reached. Handling as little as possible, spread out for cutting into biscuit size and place in greased pan. Top each biscuit with a dab of butter or swab with milk to insure a good rich brown. Bake at 350°-400° 12 to 15 minutes, depending on your oven.

Pan Gravy (Also called Country Gravy by many)

After cooking meat, such as bacon or whatever, remove meat from skillet. To the drippings, add 2 T. flour and stir until flour is brown. Add milk slowly, stirring constantly. Add meat or serve over biscuits or separately.

Excerpted by **Berneda Cochran** from "One Mother's Favorite Recipes with Historical Anecdotes of the Depression & WW11 Eras", Compiled by Phyllis Pennebaker Gross, available in the Patricia Loomis Library.

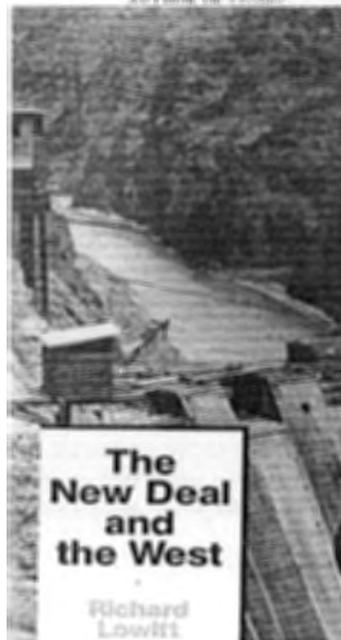
The material in the column this month comes from our Patricia Loomis History Library and Resource Center. Please visit the Library, there are wonderful books there to read covering numerous subjects in the West, and of course, material on our South County pioneers and issues.

TREES, WHY DO YOU WAIT?

America's Changing Rural Culture



Richard Critchfield



The New Deal and the West

Richard Lowitt



The Chinese in America

Ed. Note: The three books quoted in "Patterns of the Past", and available in the Patricia Loomis Library.



From the Desk of Vivian Krug



Arroyo Grande in Bloom Committee Members America in Bloom Judges at Heritage Garden luncheon. From L to R, Kevin Rocha, Jim Bergman, Kristen Barneich, Bob Lund, Diane Clasen (judge from America in Bloom) Marlene Robinson, Mary Giambalvo, Jane Line, Vivian Krug, Karen Franck, Jim Corfield (judge from American in Bloom), Judith Bean, Linda Shephard, Tom Parsons.

In The News

Arroyo Grande in Bloom Recently the Historical Society has received a significant amount of press regarding our involvement with the Arroyo Grande in Bloom project here in the City.

Arroyo Grande in Bloom is the local organization formed with members from many local businesses, individuals and organizations such as the Historical Society to compete in the National America in Bloom Competition as well as to participate in the ongoing efforts to beautify, enhance as well as preserve the historical heritage of Arroyo Grande.

One of the eight criteria for the America in Bloom competition is "Heritage" which falls directly into the hands of the Historical Society.

Many of our Historical Society Members have been involved with both the Arroyo Grande in Bloom Committee as well as the committees formed by the Historical Society to participate in the competition and preparation for the visiting judges.

(Right—photo of the winning Huffine garden)

Arroyo Grande was the first city of the year in the United States to be judged by the America in Bloom judges. Judges Diane Clasen and Jim Corfield arrived in Arroyo Grande on Sunday, May 6th. On Monday and Tuesday they toured the entire city from our city's parks to individual resident's homes. One of their stops was at the home of Society members **Ken and Carolyn Huffine**, whose garden was one of the winners of the of "Arroyo Grande in Bloom's honors of "Garden of Distinction".



On Monday, the judges along with members of the Arroyo Grande in Bloom Committee, Historical Society in Bloom Volunteers, Village Improvement Association, and City Council and Staff, were treated to a Garden Luncheon hosted by the Historical Society and the Arroyo Grande Parks and Recreation Department.

In made to order weather and after everyone had a chance to finish mingling and had enjoyed a feast made for kings, the judges were given a tour of the Historical Society Museums and Heritage Square. **Jan Scott** led the judges on a tour which began in the Heritage House, to the Barn and ending with the School House.



"I thought I had reached heaven", southwestern Ohio's Diane Clasen said upon arrival in Arroyo Grande to local reporter, Josh Petray. Diane Clasen noted that she didn't feel far from home in Arroyo Grande, coming from a small town, Mason, Ohio, which had a population of 5,000 in 1980 and currently has approximately 25,000.

The judges left on the morning of the 9th and headed for the second city to be judged: Forest Park, Ohio. Arroyo Grande is competing against Forest Park, Ohio, Frankfort, Indiana and RedWing, Minnesota.

When the judges arrived back to their homes in the southwest, we received the following note from them: *"Individually and collectively, your efforts to pull together Arroyo Grande's many rich programs are to be complimented. Beyond that, we sincerely appreciate your warm hospitality and friendly reception during our brief visit. Keep up the good work. We'd love to see you all again!"* Diane Clasen and Jim Corfield.

(continued on next page)

Society Meetings

The Board meets on the
3rd Wednesday
Members are Welcome

Join us at the Charter Day
Barbeque, June 10th, 12-4 p.m.

There will be **no** General Meeting,
June, July & August.

**Board Meeting resumes on
August 15, 2007**

"Thank You All!"

We thank "Men in Motion" Jim Miller, Daryl Flood, Chuck Bowles, Phil Maggio, Eddie Miner, Carrol Pruett, and Tony Wood for their donation for 'Gorilla Grass' for museum gardens. Men in Motion walk weekly and meet at Andreini's for coffee.

We give more thanks to Barbara Vinson for her donation for purchase of gorilla grass, as well.

And, special thanks go to Doug LeSage, Ken Leonard, Don Gullickson, and Bill Smith for installation of the new fountain donated by Ethel Gilliland. (Thanks to OSH, too!)

"Worker Bees"

Ken and Carolyn Huffine, Barbara and Doug Vinson, Ken & Linda Leonard, Tom Cooney, Lisa LeSage, & Juan, Doug & Ken for repairing the picket fence.

Thank you for all your hard work and efforts!

PO Box 633
Arroyo Grande
CA 93421



Non-Profit Org
US Postage Paid
Arroyo Grande
CA 93421
PERMIT 15

United Methodist Men's Camp

May 22, 2010

The United Methodist Men of the Arroyo Grande UMC put in some hours at the Methodist Camp today...

Thank you to Gary Hughes for the photos!









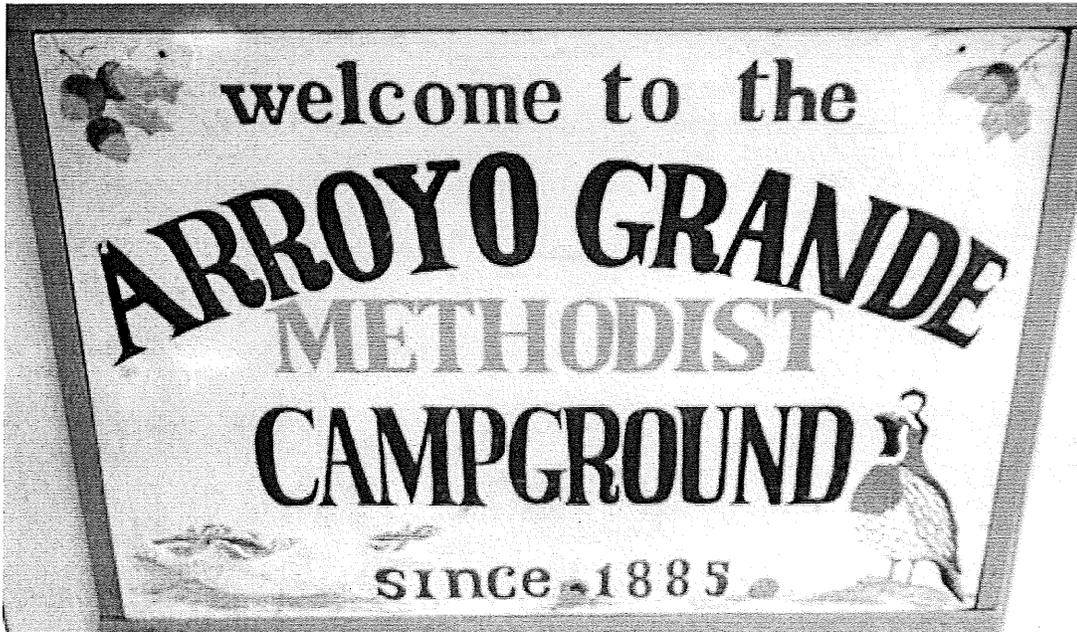


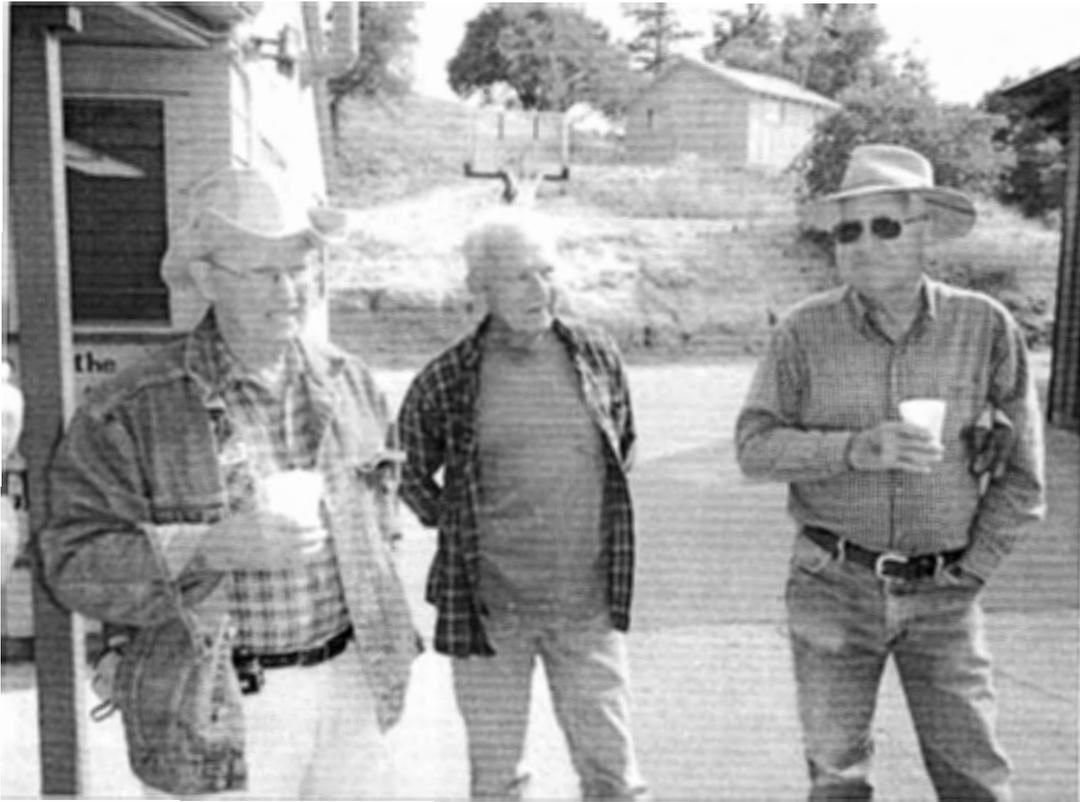


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United Methodist Men's Work Party at the Camp

May 14, 2011

Thanks to Gary Hughes for the photos.







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Homecoming Herald

“Rock Founded, Christ Centered, Faith Sustained”

First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande

August 2009

125th Anniversary Homecoming Dinner

Saturday, September 19th is almost here! And what a wonderful evening is planned! We will gather at the *South County Regional Center, 800 West Branch Street, Arroyo Grande* to renew old acquaintances, learn more about the history of our church and enjoy a wonderful meal together. Social hour and entertainment will begin at 4 PM followed at 5 PM by a lovely steak dinner. The program, including brief remarks by our Bishop and District Superintendent, city and county dignitaries, and the showing of a video will follow at approximately 6 PM.

Many of our former pastors and associate pastors including William (Bill) Black, Alan (Al) Gorsline, (Kenneth) Ken Criswell, Ehrhardt Lang, Bob Underwood, and Son Hye Kim have replied that they will be present for both the dinner and the Celebration Service on Sunday. In addition we will be privileged to have Bishop Mary Ann Swensen and District Superintendent Catie Coots with us for both events. Many former members including Bill and Tina Ballagh and Judy Atwood have also replied that they will be in attendance.

Jamie Foster has been named the Master of Ceremonies for the evening. Entertainment will be provided by Jim and Mary Johnson. Heidi Carpentier, Jamie Foster, and Sean Lehman have put their creative talents to work to produce a variety of audio visuals for our viewing pleasure and to assist us in reflecting on our church's history. Jean Hubbard, our church historian, will be accepting reservations for the book she has compiled, *Arroyo Grande United Methodist Church: 125 Years in Ministry*. Additionally, Mike Coho has reproduced recordings made by the Chancel Choir over the years and will be taking orders for the CD.

If you have not yet made a reservation for this extraordinary event, do so immediately by calling the church office at 481-2692. The absolute deadline for reservations is September 10th. If you previously made a reservation but now find you will not be able to attend, please call the church office so that your reservation can be given to someone on the waiting list.

Pat and Larry Wiemers, and Bette Mankins and Cyn-dee Rohla have been working very diligently to make this a memorable event for all. They have been assisted by many members of our congregation.

Thank you to all who helped put this evening together!!

You Can Help!

If you have wanted to help with the 125th Anniversary Celebration Homecoming Dinner but weren't exactly sure how, here are some areas we are in need of your help!

1. Bake a cake for the dinner. Cake mix and frosting mix can be picked up on September 13th and returned to the Regional Center by 4 PM on the 18th.
1. Help set up the tables and chairs Friday, September 18th.
2. Be a server for the dinner.
3. Help clean up after dinner that evening, September 19th.
4. Provide transportation for someone.

Sign-up sheets will be available in Criswell Hall beginning September 6th if you would like to volunteer.



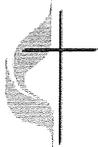
Celebration Sunday, September 20, 2009

*“Rock Founded, Christ Centered,
Faith Sustained”*

We have used this year of celebrations of our 125th anniversary to rededicate our lives to Christ through a deeper fellowship with members of our congregation and through outreach to the community. The finale of our celebration will be our **Celebration Sunday Service**. This will be a combined service with all attending at **10:30 AM**.

The morning’s message will be presented by the Rev. Mary Ann Swenson, our California – Pacific Conference Bishop. Our District Superintendent, Catie Coots, will bring greetings from the Santa Barbara District. Judy Atwood, our Covenant Missionary, (daughter of Bob Atwood) will bring us words from the mission field. Many of our former pastors will join Rev. David Burgeson and Rev. J. Harold Headrick in the worship service.

The Chancel Choir, the Lord’s Crew Praise Team, and the Grande Ringers Bell Choir will all participate in the morning’s service. Don McGuire’s “Anniversary March and Song” will be performed along with other selections. The service will be followed by the ringing of the church bells. The first note will be struck by Doug Ballagh, who, as a young boy, was the final bell of the service at the “old church” in the village before moving to our “new” location at 275 N. Halcyon. The second note will be rung by our Bishop. Others will then be invited to ring the bell, hopefully ringing a total of 125 times!



Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

The people of The United Methodist Church®

Evensong Service

On **Sunday, September 13th at 3:00 p.m.** (please note the time correction!) there will be a very special service in a very special location! Julie Walters and Jamie Foster, in coordination with Pastor David, have compiled an afternoon of music and meditation that will be held in the “Old Methodist Church” located in the Arroyo Grande Village, and now known as the Harvest Church. Our choir will be returning to rehearsals earlier than normal in order to prepare for this program. Pastor David will have a short meditation to accompany the choir and congregational singing.

The 125th Anniversary Committee has included this service in the overall plan of events to commemorate the fact that this was the original location of our First United Methodist Church in Arroyo Grande. We are sure that you will be enriched by this service and also enjoy a “peek back in history”. We look forward to your attendance at this service.

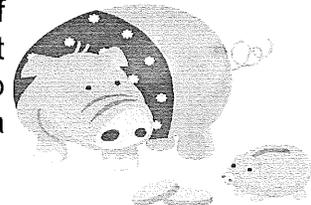


Farewell to the Homecoming Herald!

We have enjoyed having this special addition to our monthly newsletter but it is time to say *Adieu!* This publication was part of our year-long celebration for UMC of AG’s 125th anniversary. Thank you to all who contributed to its content; YOU made it special!!



Many thanks to all who so generously “fed the pig” this past year! Our last “Feed the Pig” Sunday, August 9th you donated over **\$1550!!!** WOW! This will be of great help in defraying the costs of our many activities in the ongoing celebration of the 125th Anniversary of the founding of the United Methodist Church in Arroyo Grande. She is now a very happy Miss Piggy!

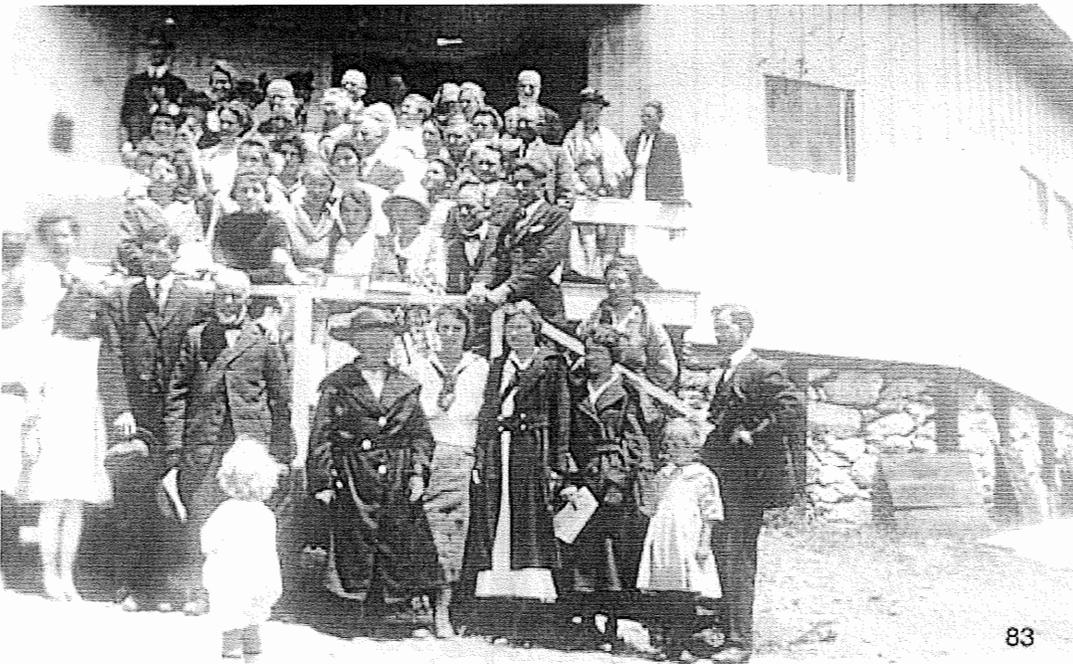


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The First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande Celebrates 125 Years of Ministry

Rock founded, Christ centered, Faith sustained



The tabernacle flourished during this time. One can hear the call: "Everyone out to have your picture taken". Rev. Nelson and the elder Whitlocks can be identified by their white hair. The small girl in the foreground is Virginia Sampson, daughter of S. S. Sampson. Also in the pictures are Olivia Butterfield, Rev. Burnham, Paul Lomax and Dr. E. J. Inwood. In another view, Virginia found something more interesting.



In an interview, Mrs. F. S. Whitlock (Nettie Nelson) and Miss Fanny Hodges said: "whole families came in wagons and buggies and the association put up tent frames for the campers." An early flyer offered meals at 25 cents or by the week at 19 cents. However, some families preferred to do their own cooking. Hay could be purchased for the horses.



Several families from the Long Beach District built cabins as did Rev. Sampson and Mr. and Mrs. Black because she was in a wheel chair. These were near the dining hall, down where the swimming pool is today. The Association erected a permanent tent frame that a canvas cover could be slipped over. In this postal mailed in 1911 some can be seen on the left of the stairs.



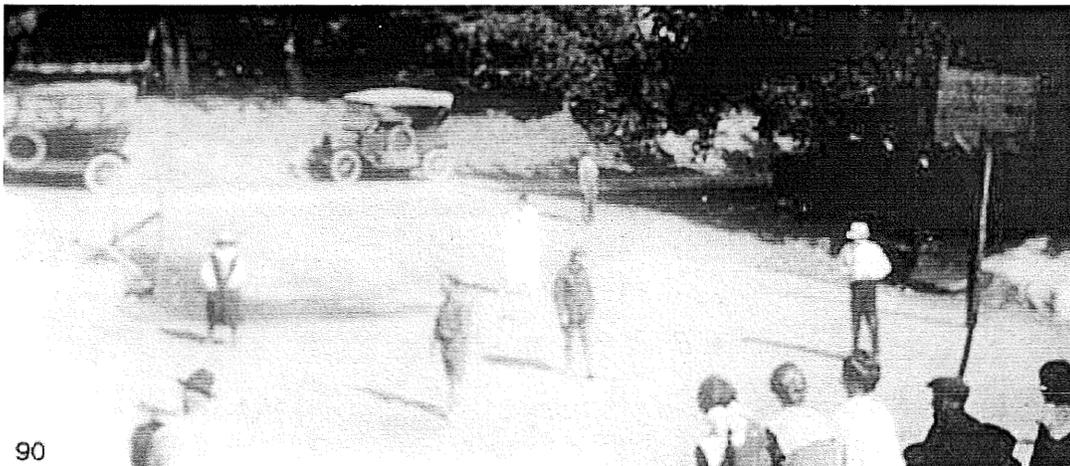
The driveway to the camp was along side the church and than up along the side of the canyon. But there was a secluded path at the bottom of the ravine - Lovers Lane.



Dr. George Warner, who was Superintendent, poses with the kiddies. Arroyo was very proud of the VIPs the Tabernacle attracted.



Dr. E. J. Inwood was District Superintendent when this picture was taken at an Epworth League Institute.



The basketball court was a favorite place. Here Dr. Warner joins the young people. Clair Gibson and Loren Ballagh remember this area being one of their annual spring cleaning jobs in preparation for the Camp season.



At the Tabernacle, other campground activities included foot racing.



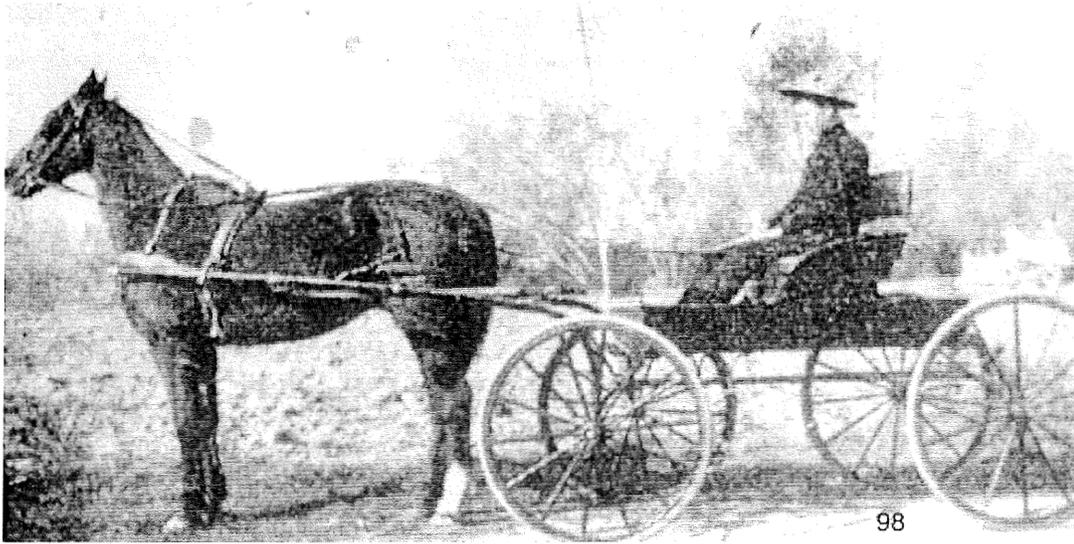
This is Mrs. Butterfield's 1919 Class in Epworth League Methods.



The meetings always provided special music and drama in the old chautauqua spirit. There was always preaching in the old fashion way.



As part of the Nation's Bicentennial Celebration, a special day was held July 4, 1975 at the Campgrounds. From left: Pastor Al Gorsline and son, Dave, join some oldtimers who remember their childhood spent enjoying the Campgrounds. Leland Ballagh, Ann Schultz Marguis, Enid Doty Keeler, Edith Halett Bishop, Ruth Dixon Loomis, Wilma Cook Dixon, and Gladyce Jones Truesdale.



Back then, getting to church on time or anywhere for that matter was an exercise in patience and sometimes futility. The horse and buggy would get you there sometime.



Then came the car.



This is the Women's Bible Class, about 1912 to 1915. Front row: Mrs's Schulenberg, Gibson, the minister's wife, Mrs Gortner, Smith Thompson. Second Row: Burgan, Harden, Finley, ?, Howell, Keeler, Ganoung, Stevenson. Back Row: Parish, Ahlf, Meacham, Beeson, Hodges, Withrow, Brown, Ross. Going back to our lineup of ministers, there was no picture available of J. W. Gortner who came here in 1912 and was asked to leave in 1915. Mrs. Gortner, the third lady in the front row, was a shouter. They held meetings in the tabernacle that disturbed people clear down in the village. Evelyn Dirkes remembered her. She'd lean up against one of the pillars in the tabernacle and really howl. Evelyn and sister Enid would dive under their grandmother's shawl and stay there until she quit. Finally a group of citizens asked that something be done. The Bishop came and told them to quiet down. So they left here and went down to Hollywood or at least Los Angeles and started their own church. They all seemed to be involved in tent meetings. When the Gortner's son Gordon had a son Marjoe, they had him preaching at 6 & 7 years old. At 8 he was performing marriages. In recent years he has been on TV talk shows denouncing the exploitation of children by religious groups. He is in films and once in a while I notice he is in a film on television.



1900 - 1919

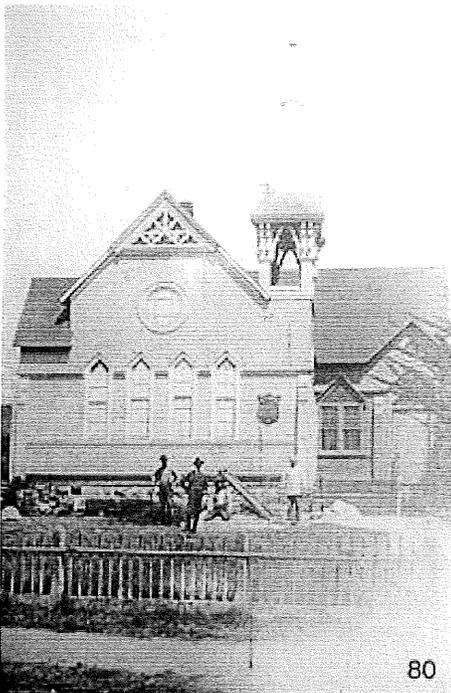
Text by Jean Hubbard

July 27 1907
 Dear Brother
 I place in your hands
 my resignation as of
 Local Preacher in the
 W. E. Church on account
 of Old age & Infirmitly
 I earnestly thank all of
 you for your kindness to
 me and especially
 Bro Sampson who
 as always been true and
 helpful I trust we
 shall all meet in glory
 78 Edwin Whitlock

This scrap of trivia, perhaps, is a lovely piece of memorabilia in which in his own hand writing Edwin Whitlock declines for reasons of age and health to accept the fulltime charge.



In 1902 came S. S. Sampson, he stayed eight years. When he left he said he had "reached the bottom of the sermon barrel". In his earlier years he had been the regional circuit preacher in the Creston area.



During Rev. Sampson's pastorate the side room of the original church was added and the parsonage remodeled. A loan for the parsonage was supplied by Edward T. Hughs, a retired Welch miner. Hughs fell ill and called the pastor to his home where he gave him the note, on the back of which was written, "In the event of my death this note is not to be collected". In the words of the church historian, "God took him Home" and the debt was cancelled.





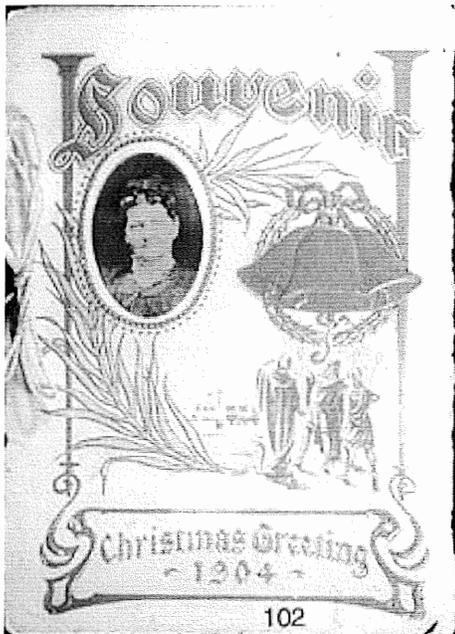
Special trains brought people from out of town, as far north as Shandon and south to Lompoc.



The minister appointed to Arroyo Grande in 1910 was Vincent Hunter Brink, pictured here. He was followed in 1911 by C. H. M. Sutherland.



Here Ency Bakeman experiences frustration. According to church records, Ency Bakeman married Queenie C. Kelly on June 19, 1912, with the Rev Sutherland officiating. That was a few years after this 1908 picture.



This charming Christmas Greeting of 1904 pictures Mrs. L. H. Campbell, teacher, and the class roll (below) listing names of many of the early members of the church.

METHODIST EPISCOPAL

Sunday School

CLASS No. 8.

ORROYO GRANDE, CAL.

MRS. L. H. CAMPBELL, Teacher.

Class Roll

Mrs. Browning	Mrs. Bair
Mrs. Brewer	Mrs. Bruce
Mrs. M. E. Bair	Mr. E. Cunningham
Mrs. Carney	Mrs. Withrow
Mrs. N. Withrow	Mrs. C. A. Foss
Mrs. Gibson	Mrs. Harding
Mrs. S. E. Hodges	Mrs. J. V. N. Young
Mrs. M. Myres	Mrs. J. Marden
Mrs. Parrish	Mrs. Phillips
Mrs. L. Philbric	Mrs. Lyons
Mrs. E. O. Brown	Mrs. J. G. Stevenson
Mrs. A. Shin	Mrs. Steward
Mrs. M. E. Smith	Mrs. Sampson
Mrs. Hart	Mrs. E. L. Warner
Mrs. Brisco	Mrs. Parkison
Mrs. McClure	Mrs. Thompson
Mrs. MacKinzie	Mrs. Hulett
Mrs. C. W. F. Nelson	Supt.
B. S. Sampson	Pastor.

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In 1917, De Kalb Burnham was pastor. Meetings were held in Huasna for a time. Mrs. Burnham and two children are buried here. Paul 12 — Scarlet Fever 1917, Mary 17 - 1921, Mrs. Burnham 1926. He had a model T he painted red. When someone asked why red? he said, "I go out visiting my people all the time and I want them to be able to see me far enough away so they can put the chicken on in plenty of time."



Another family who contributed greatly to the church work and its cause was the Gibsons. This is a picture of the elder Gibsons on their 50th Wedding Anniversary in 1919. Their son, Joseph, was the second generation banker.



The church and church school meant a great deal to Joseph and Blanche Gibson. When an additional class room was needed, he gave the money and helped build the room. Joseph, with his son, Clair, and the Ballagh boys, Loren and Clarence laid the sewer line from the campgrounds to Branch Street. They also built the amphitheatre and the cross. And we could go on and on.

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The First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande Celebrates 125 Years of Ministry

Rock founded, Christ centered, Faith sustained



Services were held in the Good Samaritan Hall prior to the church being built. It is visible halfway down the street in this 1890's photo.



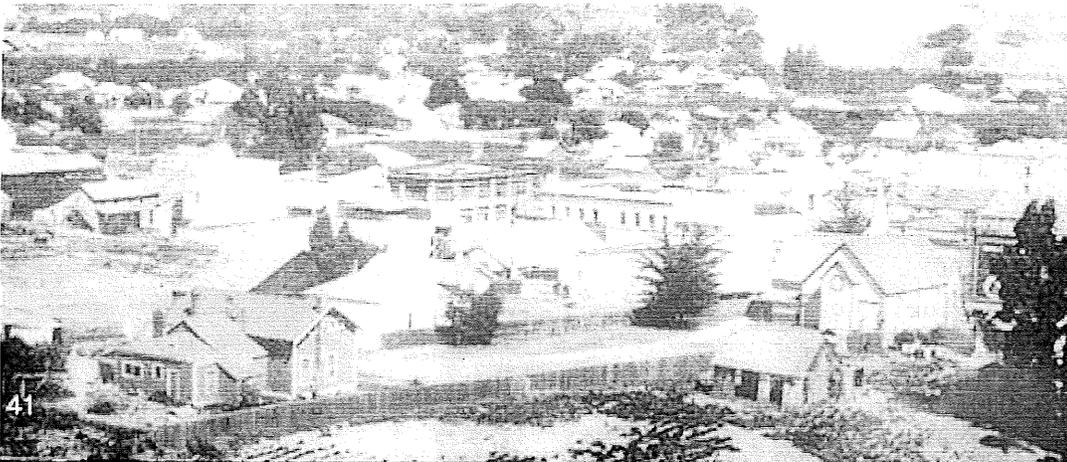
During the year that Bro. Crall was here, he held a revival Meeting and contracted for the lots on which the church and parsonage were built near this downtown scene; the trustees gave their personal note for \$400.



At the Annual Conference held in Santa Barbara on Sept. 10 to 12th, 1885, Rev. P. S. Woodcock was appointed preacher in charge. "He was a tall slender man past middle age," said Harvey Hodges. Pictured is Arroyo Grande circa 1883.



Immediately after his arrival a comfortable parsonage was built at a cost of \$350. \$86 worth of furniture was procured by the Ladies Aide Society. They also paid \$100 on the pastors salary and aided with the note payments on the lot.



When a vigilante group hung the Hemmi boy and his father because the 15-year-old Julias had shot Mr. Walker, a neighbor, Rev. Woodcock delivered an eloquent impressive sermon entirely upholding the people in punishing the murder of so good and honorable a man as Mr. Walker.



Here are two related shepherds of the spiritual flock. Standing on the left is Rev. J. Preuitt, Presbyterian, and seated is Mr. McGlurkin, church unknown.



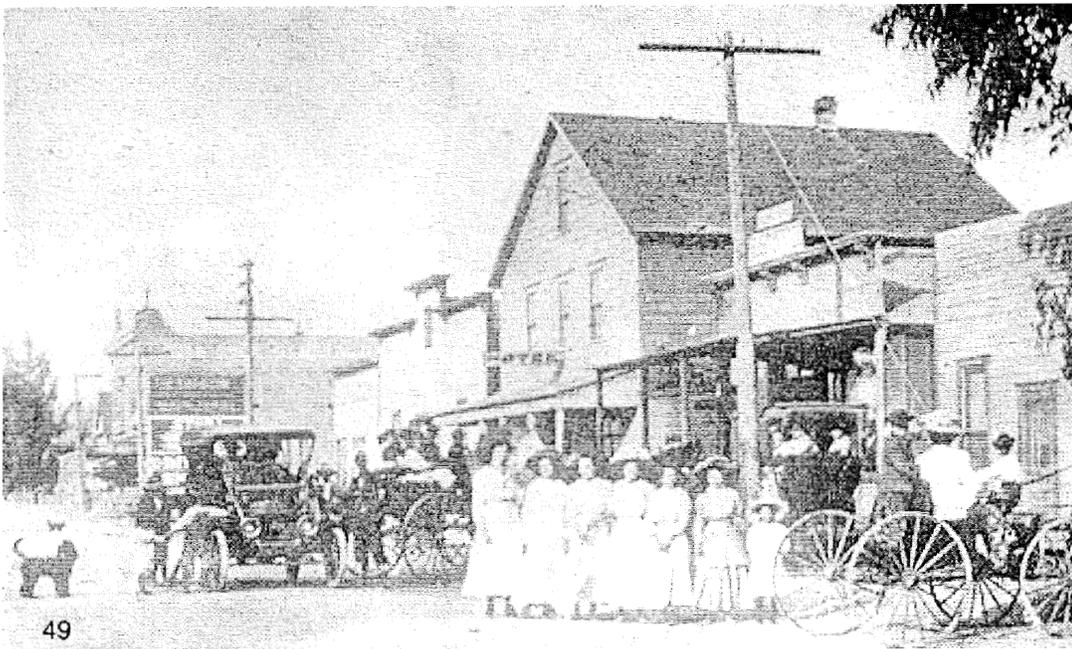
The parsonage was a comfortable home for two but Nelson's family was four so two more rooms were added at an expense of \$100 as you see in this old photo. Rev. Nelson often sang tenor part in duets, said Hodges, "The best music we ever had."



In those early years a Union Service was held with the Presbyterian Church (they'd been going strong since 1876). Evening services were lighted on one occasion with homemade candles set in potatoe holders. Their unashamed display of emotions would embarrass a twentieth century gathering raised on less heady, more rational, religious fare. They were a generation of youth accustomed to calling one another "brother" and "sister".



Two camp meetings were held. The first one at Newsome Springs at which wrote Rev. Nelson, nearly every preacher from Santa Barbara to San Miguel was with us. The second meeting was in Ketchum's grove (near the present High School campus) at which there was a large attendance.



To begin with, Nipomo was included with Arroyo Grande and the minister did double duty. In 1888, the membership had reached 160 and Nipomo asked to be made a separate charge with their own minister. This took 10 or 12 members away.



Harvey Hodges wrote of his memories for the 50th Celebration: "The hitching racks were back of the church", he wrote. There were no electric lights or automobiles in Arroyo Grande. Many of the people came to the church on foot while others came in carts, buggies or wagons, the most numerous of which were spring.



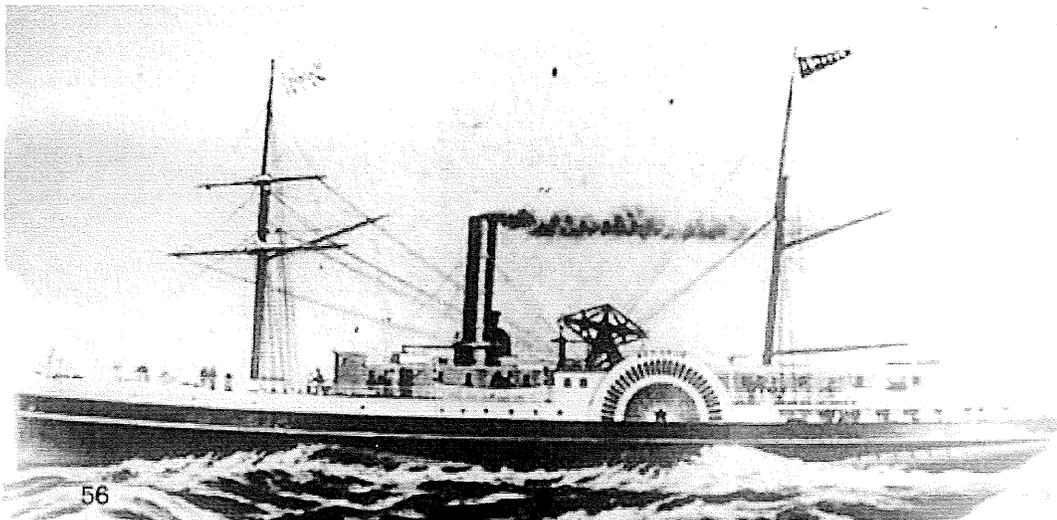
Wagons were equipped with two seats, lap robes and whale bone whips and the motive power was the farm team. He remembered that someone stole all the robes and whips one night, and months later they were found under the church.



We are fortunate in having another first hand account of how it was in those early years: H. W. Simpkins came to Arroyo Grande to teach school. He later became editor of a Palo Alto Newspaper. After visiting here, he wrote of that early time. "In April 1888, I alighted, dustcovered and alone from the puffing little narrow guage train from the south."



His trip had taken him one day by stage through Gaviota Pass, shown here where he stayed overnight before boarding the PCR [Pacific Coast Railroad]. He said that getting to Arroyo Grande from the outside world was like prenatrating some vast maze whose hedges were mountain ranges and streams.



And on the water side by steamer stopping at Port Harford. Simpkin thought everything new and crude.



Measurably cut off from the outside world, this community was a microcosm in itself whose main bridge to Macedonia was the marketing of the annual bean crop, the chief agricultural product of the valley.

IV. ALPHABETICAL RECORD OF

N. B.—The last names of the members must be first written (for example, AMOS, HENRY). Under the heading "State in Life," write "S" if the person is single, "M" if Married, "W" if Widowed.

NAMES	STATE IN LIFE	WHEN RECEIVED	HOW RECEIVED
✓ Ledy, Simon C.			
119 Ledy, B. W.			
121 Shirley, J. W.		1875 Oct.	By letter
122 Ledy, Abbie L.		1875 June 21	From parents
X Simmons, C. W.			
X Shepard			
X Shepard			
X Simmons, J. W.			

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According to our records, he joined the church on November 24, 1889 (bottom entry). While here he met and married a young lady whose home is where the sweet pea seed farm is, just where the road crosses the creek. She was and Abbott.

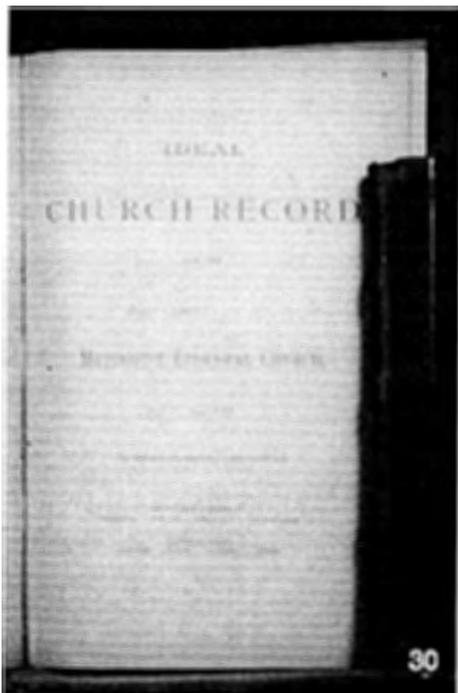


Mr. Abbott was an earlier seed grower than Mr. Routzhan whose fields are shown here. These fields are where the Fukuharas farm.

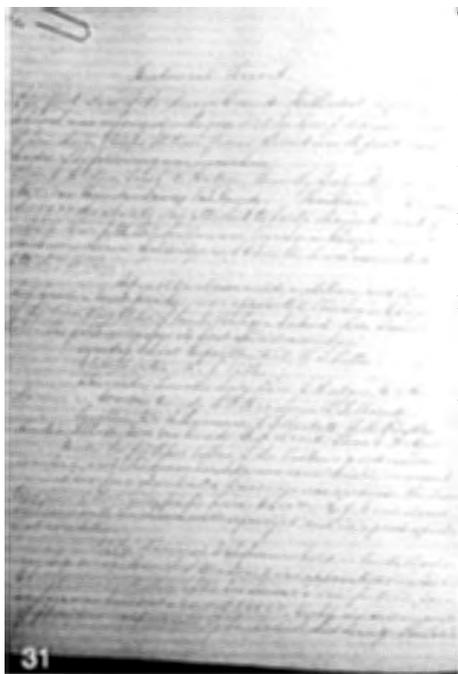
1880 - 1889

Text by Jean Hubbard

In 1878 the first Methodist organizing was done in Arroyo Grande. Officially Sept. 1884 a request was sent to the Conference asking to be made an independent charge. Later that month, H. J. Crall was appointed first pastor. A throat problem forced him to quit after one year.



Three old record books record for us the joys and sorrows of some of those 105 years. Rosters of members, their arrival and departure, baptisms, marriages and deaths.



On page 176 of the oldest book, in F.S. Woodcock's fine script, is recorded some of the early history.



There were 24 charter members: Austin Abbott, Mrs. Harriet Abbott, and Mr. & Mrs. John F. Beckett. John, pictured here, was a real estate developer. Everyone laughed when he said that one day the city would reach the ocean.





Charles Wesley Fletcher Nelson came here October 1, 1887 and served five years as pastor.



Construction started in 1886 on the Methodist Church building and was completed Sept. 9, 1887. Total cost for the building was estimated at \$2500; and the entire church and parsonage property had been put together for about \$3200.



Rev. Nelson is perhaps better remembered for his retirement years when he lived here with his daughter, Mrs. W. T. (Nettie) Whitlock. Another daughter also married a Whitlock. He ran a small store and helped around the church. He is easily picked out in pictures because he wore a black skull cap to keep his bald head warm. He brought his own fresh flowers each Sunday, often supplied. Always sat near the front because he was deaf.



This valley, midway between San Francisco and Los Angeles could be reached on the land side by stage and PCR [Pacific Coast Railroad].



I came, continues Simkins, a tinderfoot from the east, in the first blush of the enthusiasm of youth, to teach school. Seventy dollars a month was vast wealth to a young man who had cobwebs in his purse. He taught four years at Oak Park, Black Lake, and Santa Manuela.



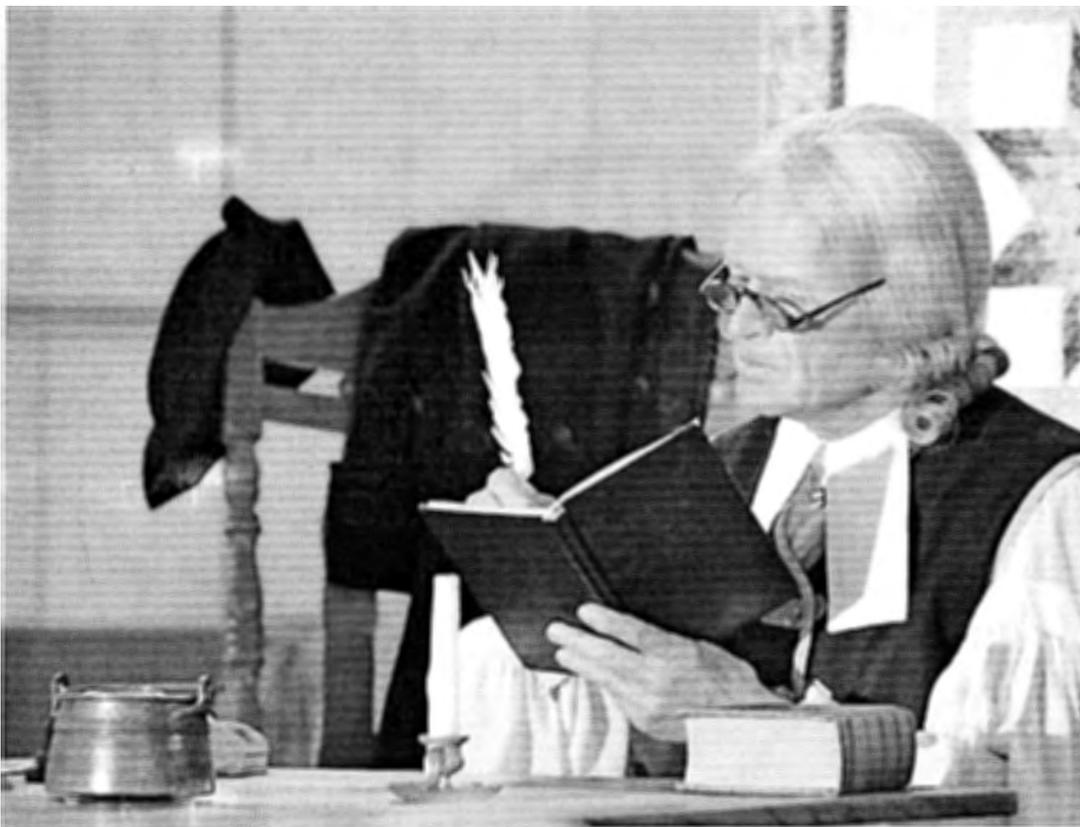
Besides teaching he carried the survey chain for the transit man who ran the line from the public road which ran from the newly erected Coffee Rice house down through the sand dunes and along the marsh to the ocean.

First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande

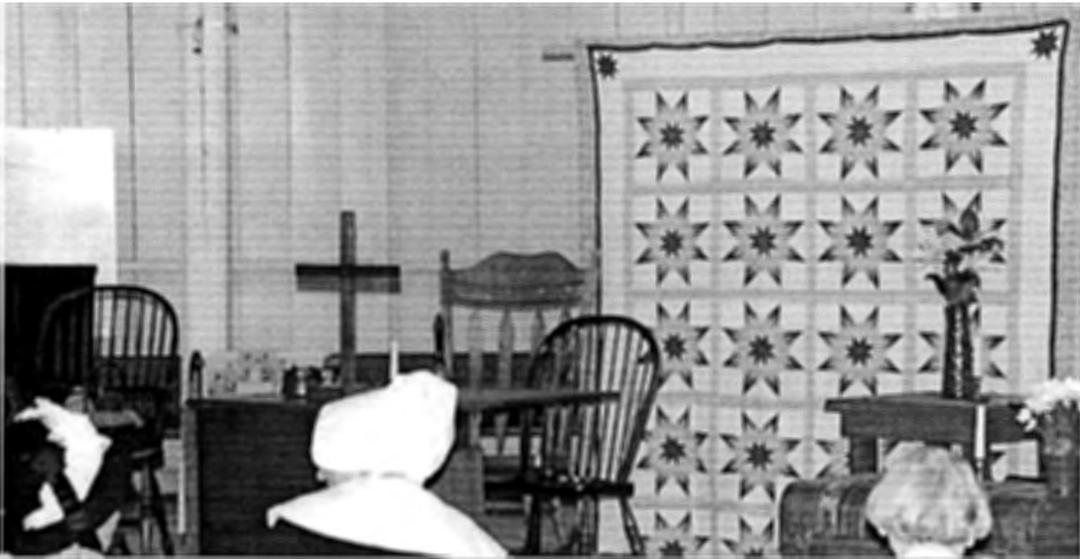
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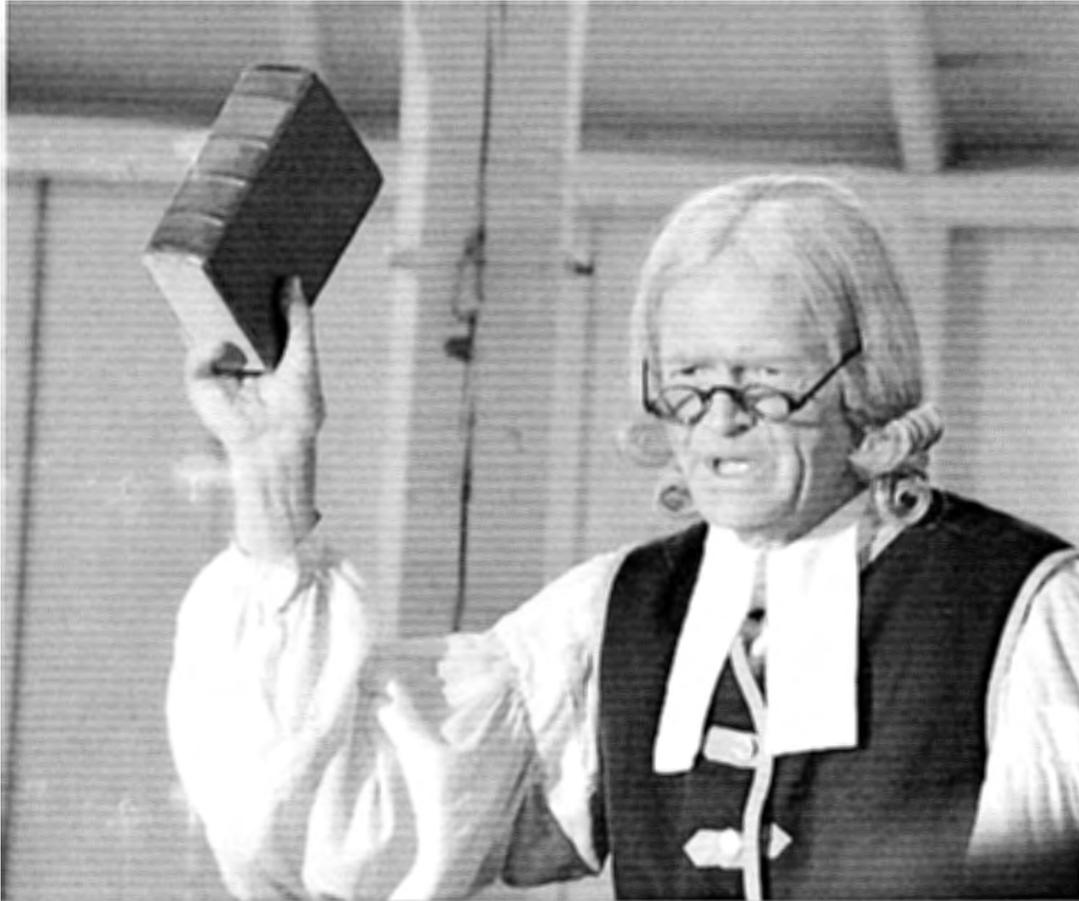


Roger Nelson portrayed John Wesley, "The Man from Aldersgate".













Larry (and Pat) chair the 125th Anniversary Celebration Committee.



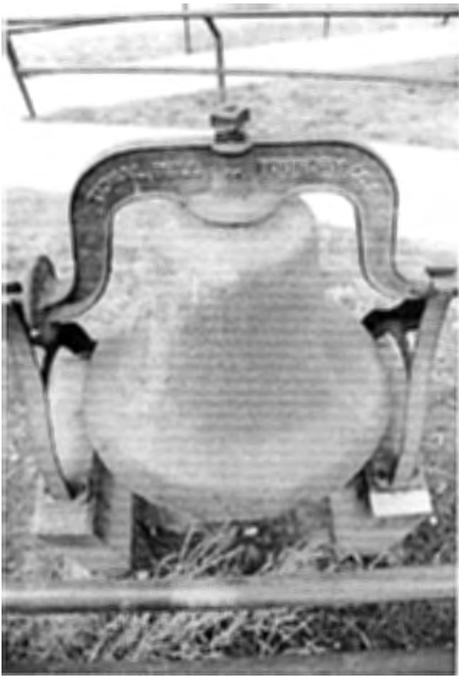
Sunday Morning Worship at the Tabernacle with John Wesley

May 31, 2009
One service at 10:45am

We had an "old fashioned" worship service at the Tabernacle at Camp AG. Back in 1884 our church met here when we first began as a church and as a community. We worshiped in 1880's fashion including costumes and in keeping with the hymns and liturgy of the era.

We welcomed a very special guest to this service, John Wesley, "The Man from Aldersgate", portrayed by Roger Nelson. [Roger's website.](#)







Thanks to Val and his team for pulling this off!

Pictured at left, the choir sang Stainer's "God So Loved the World".



The ceiling of the over-100-year-old tabernacle at the Arroyo Grande Methodist Camp. See the picture of the tabernacle at the very top of this page. See the [1890s history page](#).



Pastor David.



Julie led the hymn singing:
Love Divine, All Loves Excelling
Sweet, Sweet Spirit
Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling
Blest Be The Tie That Binds



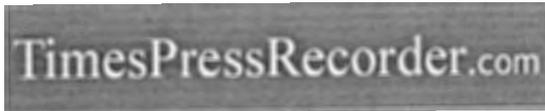


Awards for the best costumes from the period went to the ladies pictured above and at left.

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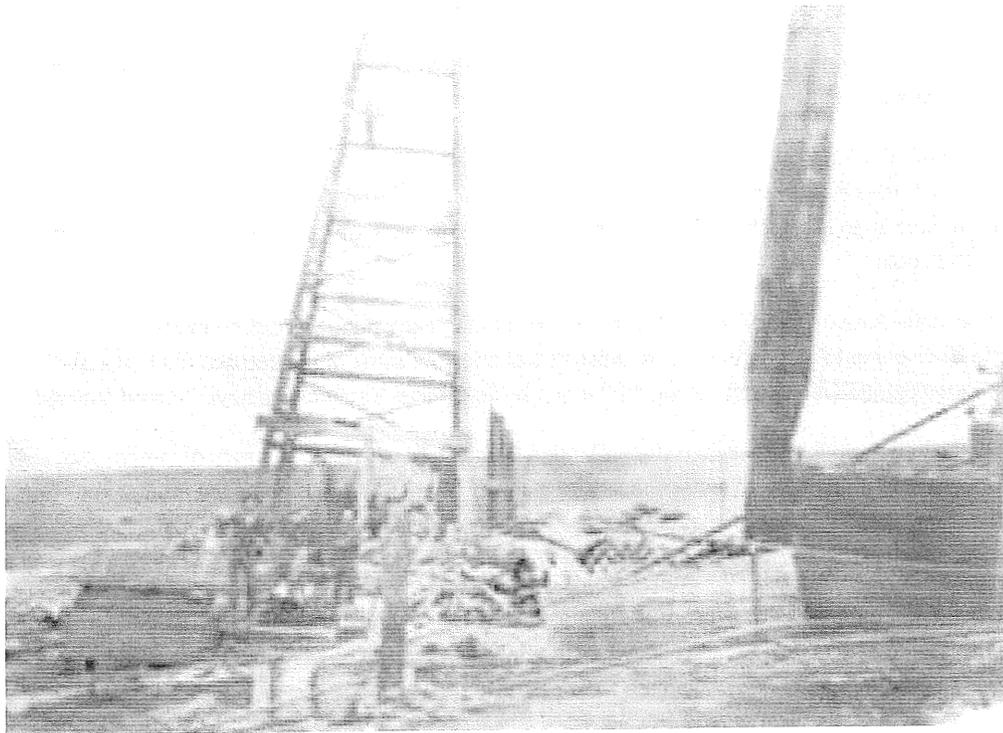
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Turning 100



(0) Comments

The 'black gold' rush brought 30 companies to the South County

By Jean Hubbard Contributing Columnist

Editor's note: This year, several of the South County's landmarks and traditional industries are turning 100 years old, including the oil industry. This look at black gold's origins marks the eighth in an occasional series.

The presence of "black gold" in California was recorded by the very earliest explorers.

Juan Cabrillo, a Portuguese sailing under the Spanish flag in 1543, noted the use of tar or asphaltum by the Indians to waterproof their canoes. He profited by the knowledge and caulked two of his own ships while in the Santa Barbara Channel.

Somewhat later, in 1775, an explorer visiting Mission San Luis Obispo de Tolosa said there were as many as eight springs of bitumen nearby and that the Chumash Indians used it to waterproof their plank canoes and water jugs.

Franks and Lambert in "Early California Oil" said that in addition to the tar pits, the Indians gathered lumps of bitumen from the beaches, where it accumulated naturally from the many submarine seeps off the California coast. "Pismu" was one of the Chumash words for the tar accumulating at Pismo Beach.

In 1792, George Vancouver of the British Navy recorded observing a huge slick off the coast of Santa Barbara: "According to Vancouver, the oil was so thick that the entire sea took on an iridescent hue."

During the Spanish period in California, although the Spaniards utilized oil to some extent, they put their energies and time toward converting the natives to Christianity and preventing the Russians from colonizing Northern California and becoming wealthy from sea otter fur trade.

Even after Mexico took over, the Mexicans also ignored the great possibilities of both black and yellow gold. They, however, are said to have used oil to light some of the mission lamps.

Even after the American conquest, little use was made of this sticky resource other than to grease their cart axles as they looked around for gold. The bandit Joaquin Murieta made his headquarters in the Kettleman Hills, raiding for gold while, ironically, beneath the hoofs of his horses lay billions in black gold.

Here in the Arroyo Grande Valley, the occupants of the Santa Manuela Rancho made some use of the oil resource to lubricate the great water wheel and take some of the screech out of the all-wooden caretta wheels, but mining the tar on the Tar Springs Rancho was never a great success.

The first attempt, the late local historian Madge Ditmas tells us, was a young Frenchman who labored hard and long with just a shovel and blasting powder, trying to make the money to pay off the family debt in France. When failure stared him in the face, he climbed on one of his empty containers and, with a rope around his neck, ended it all.

When Frank Branch Jr. was given Tar Springs as his part of the rancho, he explored the possibilities, but it wasn't until 1881, when the Pacific Coast Railway wound its way across the lower valley, that he began mining the tar in earnest.

The small railway carried the tar to Port Harford, where it was loaded onto steamers and eventually paved the streets of San Francisco. But getting the tar to the railroad in Arroyo Grande was the killer, and he too lost everything.

When the pioneers began moving in after Branch laid out the town in 1867 and the children's inheritance had been satisfied, Branch began selling off land. In the 1870s, a number of men explored the evidence of oil resources, but little was done. J.F. Beckett at one time paved sidewalks with oil-based materials, but they weren't stable on hot days.

In the late 1800s and early 1900s, the oil companies we know today were just forming, as were numerous other companies organized for short periods of time. Union Oil, Standard Oil of California and Richfield Reem were here, as were some with more romantic names -- Mohawk, Tiber, Pinal and those that took the names of their founders. More than 30 companies operated here in the decades bracketing 1900.

One man active in the Huasna Valley was Harkness, the husband of Sally Sparks. The Huasna Land Grant had been given to Isaac Sparks by the Mexican government in 1843. When he died, he

divided the rancho between his three daughters. Porter and Harloe ranched, but Harkness was into real estate and oil exploration.

Franks and Lambert wrote, "As early as 1898, oil men began drilling near the natural oil seeps along the Huasna River and its tributaries in southern San Luis Obispo County." Thirty-one wells had been drilled in what was called the Huasna Area before 1942, and there is still interest.

One hundred years ago, everyone was looking forward to making a lot of money from black gold. Each new company issued lovely embossed certificates that sold for 10 cents to several dollars and represented a lot of hope.

Perhaps Mrs. T.O. Thompson said it best when she talked to her friend Mrs. Clara Paulding. She was depressed -- the first flush of joy in the prospect of an oil well was gone. She said they didn't know whether they were four feet from a million dollars or a million feet from four dollars.

Jean Hubbard is a South County historian who periodically writes about the way things were and how they came to be as they are in the Five Cities area.

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J F. BECKETT, a real-estate dealer of Arroyo Grande, was born in Polk County, Iowa, in 1847. In 1852 the entire family removed to Oregon and in 1859 to California. Del Norte, Humboldt and Sonoma counties were their home in rapid succession, the Senior Beckett being engaged in agricultural pursuits at these various places. In 1869 the subject of this sketch came to San Luis Obispo city, striking out in the world for himself, and for fifteen years was engaged in teaching school, spending his winter vacations in planting and cultivating nursery stock. Thus he was in fact the pioneer nursery man of the county. Although he had taught school in Arroyo Grande as early as 1878, he did not make the place his home until 1880. He was School Superintendent of the county from 1880 to 1883; was also President of the Agricultural Association for one year, being the immedi-

Association for one year, being the immediate successor of E. W. Steele, who was the first president of the Association. Since 1883 Mr. Beckett has been engaged in real-estate business in Arroyo Grande; and no man in that section has a better knowledge of the wealth and resources of that great valley. It is through his courtesy that the publishers of this work are enabled to give an accurate and full description of the valley and its environs. He is the owner of one of the most important bituminous rock mines in the county near Steele's Station; also of another fine bituminous rock mine adjoining the town of Arroyo Grande. In company with others, Mr. Beckett bought 200 acres of this land some time ago, of E. W. Steele and others. Most

of this property now belongs to Mr. Beckett. Among the important real-estate transactions which Mr. Beckett has successfully negotiated are to be mentioned the Steele subdivision of the Corral de Piedra tract, and the Tallyho ranch of Mr. Vachell. He has a large and increasing business, owns steam water works in the town and is now preparing to pave the streets with bituminous rock.

