

San Benito County Historical Society News

www.sbchistoricalsociety.org

498 Fifth Street, Hollister, CA 95023

Spring 2006

Message from the President:

Peter Sonné

2006 came to greet us by totally destroying the Dunneville Dance Hall at the Historical Park. Late Sunday evening of New Years weekend, the winds came in so strong, the building could not withstand them. The large false front was pushed out towards the Saloon, while the rest of the building fell to the north towards the school house. Only the floor and foundation were left intact.

I had just inspected the grand old structure that Friday evening and although the winds were blowing and the rain was starting to come down, all was dry inside and looked good. Our caretaker Bob called late Sunday evening and gave me the news. I could not believe what I was hearing but knew it was not going to look good, however, it was so late, dark, very wet and windy, I waited until early Monday morning to inspect the damage.

I was met at the site by board member Jim Thompson and his wife Theresa and together with caretaker Bob, we removed everything that we could possibly get out and put it in a dry place. Over the next several days board member Bill Martinie took over the task of cleanup, setting cleanup dates, inspecting what materials may or may not be salvageable and within a two week period, the site was pretty much cleaned up.

Glen Cole another SBCHS member was at the site just about every day for a month or better pulling nails, stacking lumber and doing general clean up. Orta Fence Company from San Juan came to our rescue by donating chain link fence and setting it up around the site for security. Joe Cain from Morgan Hill, a

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Antique Gas Engine, Tractor Show BBQ and 50th Birthday for SBCHS

June 10 & 11 will bring the Branch 3 Early Days Gas Engine and Tractor Association back to our Historical Park for the 3rd annual "Gas Up" at the Park. We will also be hosting our annual Tri Tip BBQ fund raiser on Saturday June 10 from Noon to 1:30 p.m.

We thought of no better way to celebrate the SBCHS 50th birthday than to have it while we have a crowd. Yes, we will be celebrating 50 years of a dream come true which was envisioned by Dick Hill, Fred LaSalle and Jack O'Donnell. So much has happened both at the Museum and Historical Park in those 50 years I know Jack is pleased and Dick and Fred would be as well. Come out for the day on Saturday or Sunday and watch many types of antique engines and tractors run, some reaching 100 years of age. Many of these rare and unusual pieces of equipment will be set up run or drive something, which always makes it an interesting show.

Stop by for a piece of birthday cake



and enjoy yourself. Sunday will bring the engine show again and we will have Hot Dogs and Hamburgers available for a suggested donation in case you get hungry. Our buildings will be open as well. A \$3.00 parking fee will be collected for the County Public Works Dept. The SBCHS receives no part of this fee. Call Peter Sonné at 831-277-3836 if you should have questions or if you would like to help with this fun event in some way.

The loss of one of our life time members

Richard (Dick) Hill

August 1, 1928 - February 5, 2006

Richard "Dick" Hill died surrounded by family after a short, unexpected illness. He and his wife, Patty, have lived in Eagle Lake, Maine for the last eight years but he was born in Modesto, CA to Bruce and Martha Hill. Shortly after he was born they moved to San Benito County where he spent almost his entire life becoming an active member of his community. He is survived by his

wife, Patty Flint Hill of Eagle Lake, ME and his children, Alan Hill of Fredricksburg, VA, Ron Hill of Theodosia, MO, Janice and her husband, Thom Wiseman of Walnut Grove, CA, Michael Hill of Alameda, CA, Matthew Hill of Vancouver, WA and Piper Graham of Chico, CA. He is also survived by his five grandchildren, Bryan, Katie and Hillary Wiseman, Aidan and Sullivan Graham. Dick was predeceased by his first wife, Katie Hill

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Monthly Meetings:

May 25: Board Meeting
6:30pm, Museum
May 31: General Meeting
7:00pm, Museum

June 10 & 11: Early Days Antique Tractor
and Gas Engine Show Historical Park at
Tres Pinos

June 22: Board Meeting, 6:30pm Museum

July 20: Board Meeting, 6:30pm Museum
July 26: General Meeting
7:00pm, Museum

Aug. 24: Board Meeting
6:30pm Museum

Sept. 15-17: National Civil War
Re-enactment, Historical Park at
Tres Pinos

Sept. 21: Board Meeting, 6:30pm, Museum
Sept. 27: General Meeting
7:00pm, Museum

Oct. 19: Board Meeting
6:30pm, Museum
Oct. 28 & 29: Mountain Man
Historical Park, Event free,
County Park collects \$3 for parking

Nov. 23: Board Meeting
6:30pm, Museum
Nov. 29: General/year-end meeting
7:00pm, Museum

Dec. NO MEETINGS

2005

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Peter Sonne'
Vise President	Mark Rianda
Treasurer	Marcella Pansera
Secretary	Janet Brians
Directors	Janie Lausten Delbert Doty Bill Heiderich Denny Madigan Wolfgang Leitenberger
Volunteers	Earlene McCabe Anne Winn Lisa Truskowski Norman Dike Verona Flint Mario Ghiorzi Sharleen Van Rooy Bill Martinie Wes Leiser Patty Forbes Helen Barnes

Mountain Men at the park, visited us in April



Museum hours

The museum is open to the public every Saturday and Sunday, free of charge. The hours are 1 p.m. till 3 p.m. Contact number is 831-635-0335, email: www.sbhistoricalsociety.org.

The Historical Park and Village is open daily from dawn till dusk, located at 8300 Airline Hwy. Tres Pinos. For information contact any board member or the Museum. For information on using the Park contact Public Works at 831-637-4170.

Honeysuckle Donation to Saloon

The Dassel family once again, came forward with yet another wonderful addition to our old Saloon (Cottage Bar) with a very large cutting of the original Honeysuckle which was planted by Steve Kalin in the 1880s on the original site of the building at the corner of San Felipe and Wright Road. Lydia Dassel came out to the park with helper Juan to plant the cutting in front of the Saloon this past February. It looks just great and will grow to frame in the wonderful front area of the building. The Saloon project is completed, all wall papered with period paper and painted inside and out.

Movement has begun to place artifacts inside. This process will continue until we have interpreted the structure completely. Come out and take a look and bring a picnic. Thanks Lydia for your time and help.

Eagle Scout Project

Eagle Scout Blake Cromar did a fantastic job installing information post in various areas of the Historical Park, which will enable us to attach information sheet to which will explain to visitors what they are seeing such as the Sullivan House or what a particular piece of equipment is and what it was used for. Blake was responsible for putting together plans, work crews, coming up with fund raising activities to purchase materials and finally the construction. Blake, job well done and many thanks. We have several Eagle Scout projects at the park in the past several years and at this point in time, we have at least two others on the runway. We also have had several 4-H and Girl Scout projects as well. Sandra Green and the Union 4-H installed irrigation planted flower bulbs around the school house last year and is now in full bloom".

It is always fun to get the kids involved.

Volunteers

Many thanks to Verona Flint and Wes Leiser for their continued efforts in preparing the Research Room for the public. Anne Winn has also assisted with the organization of the Research Room. Also thanks to Helen Barnes for her work with the newspaper files in the Kitchen Area.

Patty Forbes donated many hours in obtaining the Grant Challenge Amount to meet our goal for the Endowment Fund.

Quilt Drawing

It is that time of year again for our quilt drawing. This will be our 27th Annual Quilt drawing. As one of our fundraisers for the year we will be selling quilt tickets for the beautiful quilt made by Virginia Costa from Los Banos.

This year's lovely machined piece "Trip Around the World" quilt is made with approximately a 4-inch square design and is queen size. It was machined quilted by the Barbin's. The squares are a very colorful floral design. The binding and finishing touches were completed by a very dedicated board member.

This is one of the Societies major fundraisers and the tickets remain \$ 1.00 each or 6 for \$ 5.00. Please support the Museum upkeep and maintenance at the Historical Village when you purchase your tickets. The drawing will be on October 29th, 2006 at the Historical Park at 3:00 PM. We appreciate your continued support and wish you luck. Thank you for taking the time to assist with our fundraisers. You need not be present to win.

Carpenter Shop

Once electric is installed in the Carpenter and Blacksmith shops sometime this summer, we will be able to use our equipment to make repairs and fabricate pieces for the buildings as well as offer 4-H, Boy and Girl Scout projects. We are always looking for good hand tools to use in these shops. If you have something in mind call Peter Sonn  at 831-277-3836

San Benito County Historical Society needs your help

The Historical Society's mission statement calls for us to collect and preserve items pertaining to the history of San Benito County. We seek to promote an interest in, and appreciation of, the county's past by providing displays, programs, and events that offer educational opportunities and experiences.



The Dance Hall was a fixture at the Four Corners in north San Benito County in the late 19th century and most of the 20th century. In the 1992 it was moved to the San Benito County Historical and Recreational Park at Tres Pinos. Here it had come to serve again as a dance hall as well as a gathering site for various organizations and community events such as grade school, 4-H, Boy and Girl Scout activities.



Due to the storm on January, the Dance Hall was demolished.



HELP US REBUILD A PIECE OF HISTORY BY RESTORING THE DANCE HALL

SEND DONATIONS TO:

SAN BENITO COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

498 Fifth Street

HOLLISTER, CA 95023

www.sbhistoricalsociety.org

(831) 635-0335

DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE — TAX ID #94-2861560

Check out what's new on our Web Site at www.sbhistoricalsociety.org

Many Thanks to Wolfgang Leitenberger

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SBCHS MEMBERSHIP FORM

498 FIFTH STREET, HOLLISTER, CA 95023

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

JUNIOR: \$3 INDIVIDUAL: \$20 FAMILY \$30

PREMIER: \$50 – includes 2 BBQ tickets.

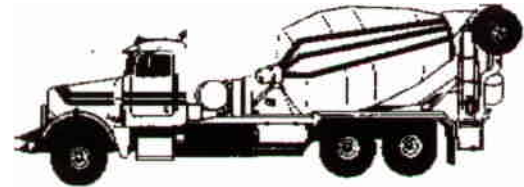
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Message *Continued from page 1*

structural engineer came to our call for help as well and is working on rebuilding plans for us.

We have set up a donation fund account with the help of San Benito Bank and work is already under way with the assistance of Juan Rodriguez from San Juan for fund raising. The Historical Society is working very hard to see to it that we can rebuild this historic structure. With the help of Joe Cain, the engineer, we can rebuild this structure and make improvements structurally speaking while keeping it as correct as we can. However, the board members can only move so fast with very limited funds and what available time most of us have. It does get frustrating sometimes when we have ideas and know what needs to be done, but reality dictates a different pace weather we like it or not. If we are to continue with this and other projects, then we need to do it correctly and lead the path in San Benito County and set a standard by which all other non profits gage from.

We always need money, extra hands and supplies. We are moving ahead with the Dance Hall project as well as the completion of repainting and reproofing of the Sullivan House, repainting and patching the roof of the School House, running electricity to the Carpenter and Blacksmith shops and so on. Everything else must continue as well. We are a non profit and we can offer our form for contributions for tax purposes. So we ask you, our membership to step forward and help rebuild a wonderful piece of history which your children's children will enjoy years from now. Please see our web site for continue updates on this project as well as information of other goings on with the SBCHS. If you have questions or an interest helping with this or other projects, call me at 831-277-3836.

Peter Sonn e
President of SBCHS

Endowment Contributors

We are so grateful for the positive response from so many members and community businesses. We appreciate your support and generosity.

Robert and Janet Brians

Kris Nolan

Vince Brigantino with
"Denice & Felice"

Jack O'Donnell

Phil Fortino with "Fortino's"

Frances Palmtag

Susan Young with
"MH Engineering"

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Kathy Z. Johnson

Marcella and Joseph Pansera

John and Timberly King

Delbert Doty

Janie Lausten & Jerry Murphy

A & N Plumbing

Lucretia Anne Portman

Donations were also received in
memory of Susan Carreiro

Martha Moses

*Again, we thank one and all for
your donations.*

Hill *Continued from page 1*

in 1987, with whom he had five children. He will be remembered as a life-long rancher, a lover of history and a steward of the land. He was extremely dedicated to his family, his community and his church and will be dearly missed by all that knew him. The preservation of San Benito's history was very important to Dick. He spent over 40 years in the Historical Society and much of his time help-

ing make the Historical Park a possibility. Those who wish to contribute somehow in his memory may make a donation to the "Dance Hall Project" at the Historical Park, c/o San Benito County Historical Society, 498 5th Street, Hollister, CA 95023. Funeral services were held at the Mountain View Bible Church in Eagle Lake, Maine on Feb. 11, 2006 Services provided by: Local arrangements through Black Cooper Sander Funeral Home