



Old Gilroy City Hall - 1905

THE SOCIETY PAGE

Newsletter of the Gilroy Historical Society

June 2023

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GILROY MUSEUM

195 5th Street • Gilroy, CA 95020
(408) 846-0446

HOURS:

Tuesdays and Thursdays
10AM - 4PM

First and Second Saturdays
10AM - 2PM

Email the museum at:
Gilroy.Museum@cityofgilroy.org

Presenting: The New Miller Red Barn



INAUGURATE THE MILLER RED BARN

Join us at the Ranch Site of Christmas Hill Park

7049 Miller Avenue

FOR OUR ANNUAL MEETING AND LUNCH

SUNDAY, JUNE 25TH AT 12 NOON

The culmination of several years of restoring this historic barn is an exciting moment! It was built by Henry Miller in 1891 and is now on the National Register of Historic Places. Because it's still a barn, after all, we thought a box lunch from Café 152 would be a good way to celebrate. However, capacity is limited to 49 people according to the fire marshal and it is first come, first served. So get your reservation in right away by sending your check for \$30 to the Society at P.O. Box 1621, Gilroy, CA 95021 (by June 19 at the latest).

GILROY HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

www.gilroyhistoricalsociety.org (Follow the link on our website to reach our Facebook page)

Connie Rogers, <i>President</i>	Jrogers@garlic.com	(408) 842-8494
Joanie M. Lewis, <i>Vice President and Heritage Films</i>	JoanieMLewis@charter.net	(408) 842-8698
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Karen Pedigo, <i>Education Chair</i>	karenpedigo10@aol.com	(408) 499-7460
Dave Matuszak, <i>Outreach</i>	dmatuszak2@aol.com	(408) 781-0497

Board meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month at 10 AM at the Museum, or an alternate outdoor location (due to Covid). Let us know if you would like to attend to share ideas.

MUSEUM GIFT SHOP

846-0446 ♦ gilroy.museum@ci.gilroy.ca.us

The following items are for sale with the proceeds going to benefit the Museum.

GHS Historical Footage DVD	\$ 5.00
GHS Gilroy 1950 DVD (55 mins.)	\$ 5.00
GHS Gilroy Museum Tour DVD	\$ 12.00
GHS Oral Histories DVD	\$ 10.00
Old City Hall Collector Spoon	\$ 1.00
Walking Tour Booklets	\$ 1.00
Packet Historical Homes Notecards	\$ 10.00
Single Historical Homes Notecards	\$ 1.00
Postcards	\$ 1.00
Souvenir Pencil	\$.25
Gilroy Museum Mouse Pad	\$ 10.00
Historic Home Prints by R. McGinnis	\$ 10.00/15.00
Tote Bags	\$ 5.00
Juan Bautista De Anza Booklet	\$ 5.00
<i>A Country Doctor in the Valley of Hearts Delight</i> by E. Barratt ...	\$ 5.00
<i>A Hundred Years of the Gilroy Hot Springs</i> by I. Sanderson	\$ 25.00
<i>John Gilroy</i> by Truda Cooling Nelson	\$ 15.00
<i>Gilroy's Old City Hall</i> by Woollacott, Pursell and Myer	\$ 5.00
<i>Images of Gilroy</i> by Claudia Salewske	\$ 20.00
<i>San Martin Then and Now</i> by D. Brodsky	\$ 20.00
Christmas Ornament (Globe)	\$ 10.00
Christmas Ornament (Ceramic)	\$ 10.00



"We're sorry that Amazon has discontinued their Smile program."



Proceeds from Sales Directly Support the Gilroy Museum.

SOCIETY NEWS...

DUES ARE DUE ON JULY 1

Yes, our annual dues are due. About half of you are Life Members and are paid up. Some of you have paid recently, which we appreciate. To find out if you need to renew, just check your address label and look at the date after your name. Then use the form on the back of this newsletter and submit it with your check in the enclosed envelope. Please include your email address because we now have the ability to send our occasional breaking news or updates!

UNVEILING OF THE SOUTHERN PACIFIC MURAL PLAQUE

MEMORIES OF THE DAYLIGHT

by Gary Plomp

Treasured memories abound, especially for older people who witnessed the glory days of steam locomotives. A number of Gilroy residents fondly recall that historic era as the famous Southern Pacific's Coast Rail Line between San Francisco and Los Angeles passed through the heart of the town. Today locomotive #4449 can be seen at the Portland Museum of Rail History.

The famed Northern type steam locomotive #4449 depicted on the 5th Street Coffee House mural was built for the Southern Pacific Railroad by the Lima Locomotive Works in 1941. It is one of 50 GS-4s (Golden State) built especially for the Daylight trains and is resplendent in scarlet, orange and black colors. Engine #4449 is the lone survivor and is still operational and based in Portland, Oregon. The locomotive burns oil, not coal and has a 300-psi boiler pressure.

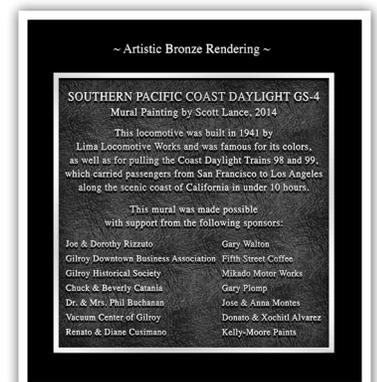
Though the Coast Daylight did not stop in Gilroy, it evokes fond memories of the residents watching the spectacle of its run through town pulling 12 Daylight painted passenger rail cars twice a day, Southbound in the morning and Northbound in the evening on its 10-hour journey between San Francisco and Los Angeles. Often the locomotive was assigned to pull the mail train which did stop in many communities along the Coast Route including Gilroy. Operating at night, it was nicknamed "Sad Sam."

Locomotive #4449 was retired in 1957 and donated to the City of Portland where it languished until 1974 when it was chosen to pull the American Freedom Train to commemorate the nation's 200th Birthday. Fully restored to operating condition it pulled the historic train on an 18-month, 35,000-mile cross country journey containing many historic artifacts and stopping at many communities including Gilroy. In April of 1977, it returned to Portland and was kept in operational condition. Since then it has appeared at the Rail Fair in Sacramento, made numerous excursions and starred in several films, including Tough Guys.



Editor's Note: Gary Plomp is a local railroad buff who furnished the specifications for this accurate mural, painted by Scott Lance in 2014. He was our honored guest and speaker at the unveiling of the beautiful new bronze plaque.

The new bronze plaque unveiled by Connie Rogers & Gary Plomp on May 27.



~ Artistic Bronze Rendering ~

SOUTHERN PACIFIC COAST DAYLIGHT GS-4
Mural Painting by Scott Lance, 2014

This locomotive was built in 1941 by Lima Locomotive Works and was famous for its colors, as well as for pulling the Coast Daylight Trains 98 and 99, which carried passengers from San Francisco to Los Angeles along the scenic coast of California in under 10 hours.

This mural was made possible with support from the following sponsors:

Joe & Dorothy Rizzato	Gary Walton
Gilroy Downtown Business Association	Fifth Street Coffee
Gilroy Historical Society	Mikado Motor Works
Chuck & Beverly Catania	Gary Plomp
Dr. & Mrs. Paul Buchanan	Jose & Anna Montes
Vacuum Center of Gilroy	Donato & Xochitl Alvarez
Renato & Diane Custumano	Kelly-Moore Paints



MILLER RED BARN TIMELINE OF REHABILITATION PROGRESS



Before restoration.

In **2013**, the City made the decision to demolish the Barn. The public became concerned, and a movement began to preserve and rehabilitate it.

Feb. 2014 – City Council reaffirms demolition order, but gives ad hoc committee one year to show barn is historic. First meeting of MRB Committee. Subcommittees formed.

May 2014 – **Gilroy Foundation** becomes fiscal sponsor, allowing donations.

July, 2015 – Letter to City Council asking for approval to clean out barn & repair roof. **Margaret Aron** finds tiny news article confirming that Henry Miller built the barn in 1891.

September, 2015 – Interior of barn inspected in detail. **Carol DeSantis** submits application for National Register status to California State Office of Historic Preservation. The Gilroy Historical Society supports the efforts of the Miller Red Barn Committee to preserve this historic barn for adaptive reuse. The Committee proved that the barn was built in 1891 by Henry Miller, one of Gilroy's most prominent citizens, famous as the Cattle King and owner of most of the land on the west side of Gilroy. The barn was used initially to store fruit and in 1905 was leased to the California Wine Association.

October, 2015 – Presentation to City Parks & Recreation Commission. City proposes drafting a Memorandum of Understanding.

April, 2016 – MOU draft presented to Parks and Recreation Commission. Barn clean-up held on April 30th with help from **MG Construction haz-mat crew** and **volunteer help from South Valley Community Church**.

May, 2016 - MOU accepted by City Council and demolition order rescinded!

July 28, 2016 – Formal review and approval of National Register application in Sacramento.

Followed by 7 more years of applying for grants from the County three times, re-roofing the barn, leveling the barn and replacing some of the structural and roof members, pouring a foundation, getting electrical service, holding fundraisers and on and on and on..... Later this summer interior displays will be installed featuring Gilroy's agricultural history. **Al Gagliardi's** vast collection of prune box ends featuring the names of so many local growers will occupy one wall.

End result: A million-dollar historic barn and asset of the City of Gilroy. How will it be used to benefit recreation, tourism and agriculture? That is up to all of us! Great credit for completion of this gargantuan project belongs to the **Miller Red Barn Association members, Gary Walton, Richard and Patti Perino and many others.** They deserve special recognition and THANK YOU!



Pouring New Concrete around the Barn.



Many supporters beginning fundraising.



Sporting a new roof.



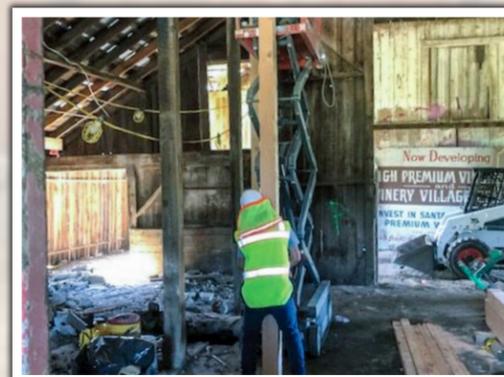
Cleaning out the barn, with many helpers.



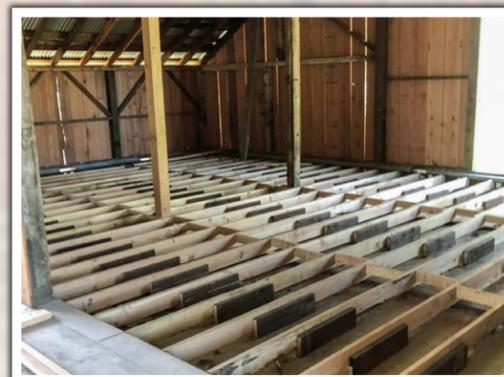
New Redwood Board and Batt siding and doors installed.



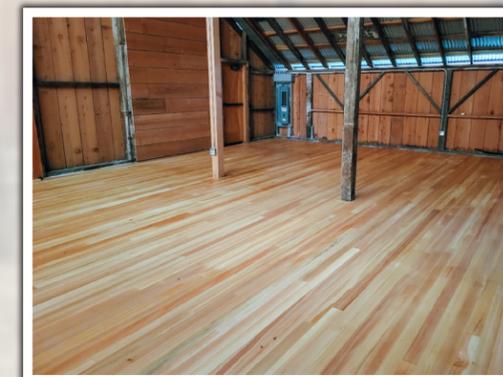
Hazmat crew cleaning out the Miller Red Barn.



Lifting the barn for a new foundation.



Completed underfloor framing for North end.



New Doug Fir flooring in North end.



Staining the stamped concrete floor.

OUR BOWLATHON WAS A SMASHING SUCCESS

By Linda White

Our 12th Annual Bowlathon, which took place at Morgan Hill Bowl on Saturday, April 22, 2023, was a huge success! Not only did we have the largest number of participants ever (including many first timers) they brought us our highest ever one-year profit!! Entry fees, pledges, and ticket sales totaled \$9811. After expenses we are left with \$9208.61, which enables us to continue our Oral History Film Program.

As in years past, **Margene Peterson** collected the most money in pledges while her sister **Maureen Hughes** collected the most individual donors. We thanked them with gift cards for Old City Hall. Great raffle prizes allow us to reward our participants. Many thanks to **Old City Hall, Raleys/Nob Hill, Royal Nails, Home Depot, Bozzo's 76 Service, Westside Grill, Gavilan Golf Course, Tristan's Cookies, House of Bagels, Straw Hat Pizza, Tempo Kitchen and Bar, Milo's Meat Shop, Brew City Burgers, Costco, Mama Mia's, Chama Nativa, the Gilroy Museum,** and members **Joanie Lewis, Joanne Fierro, and Linda White** for their donations.

High score awards went to Leon Haygood and Tawnie Grider for High Series, and Darren Newton and Margene Peterson for High Game. Allen Yeager and Linda White shot 2nd High Series while Pat Vickroy scored 2nd High Game for the men and Bess Yoshikawa, Joanne Fierro, and Karen Leavitt tied for the women. **None of this would be possible without all the participants, donors, sponsors as well as Morgan Hill Bowl for providing the venue.** *We can't wait to do it all again next year!*

IN LIEU OF OUR ARCHITECTURAL AWARDS

Although we decided not to give our traditional Architectural Awards this year, we do want to call out two notable examples of rescued homes. These two neighbors on opposite sides of Church Street have both undergone extensive rehabilitation in the past year. We commend their owners for the upgrades!



7550 Church St. now has become an attractive duplex, apparently for rent.



7551 Church Street has been restored outside and remodeled inside. It is now for sale. Check the real estate listings!

PRESERVATION ALLIANCE AWARDS NIGHT

The County Historic Heritage Commission and partners History San Jose and the Preservation Action Council sponsored their second annual awards night on May 19th. **Dave Matuszak** nominated **Connie Rogers** and the Society's Architectural Awards program. Connie was unable to attend the event held at History San Jose so **Vice-President Joanie Lewis** accepted the award on behalf of the Society. Many Society members have worked on the awards program since its inception in 2011.



Randy Lewis, Joanie Lewis and Dave Matuszak enjoying the presentation.

Kathleen Hodgdon, a member who was very proud of her recently purchased historic home, initiated the program. Her committee developed categories and criteria. Our aim was to give credit to the person responsible for restoring or maintaining their historic building. We hoped to inspire additional owners to upgrade and improve their historic buildings, including downtown commercial buildings. Since 2011 we have given awards to over 100 buildings and believe we have achieved our goal!



Joanie Lewis reading the acceptance speech. She is flanked by Tere Johnson of the County Historic Heritage Commission and Mark Turner, MC of the awards night.

MUSEUM NEWS...

VOLUNTEERS: THE MUSEUM'S MOST TREASURED HELPERS!

By Susan Voss, Museum Manager



Gilroy Museum volunteers really are the answer to accomplishing meaningful progress at the Museum. Whether they are cataloging new artifacts, helping to assemble a new cabinet or display, organizing original documents, or giving school tours, the jobs aren't accomplished without their help. This year the Museum has been fortunate to partner with De Anza-Foothill Colleges' Humanities Mellon Scholars program. This unique program allows students to volunteer in their areas of interest while being paid for their time through the program. Humanities students can explore careers, gain work experience, and earn money for college all at the same time. If students meet the academic requirements, they can transfer to designated colleges and may receive further scholarship assistance.

Since January, the Museum has benefited from two hardworking Humanities Mellon Scholars. **Ayumu Ueda** spent January through March putting in 12 hours a week at the Museum while he carried a full course load at De Anza College. Born in Los Angeles, Ayumu was raised in Japan and is fluent in both Japanese and English. He is majoring in computer science and data analysis and hopes to go into business after college. While at the Museum, he quickly mastered our Past Perfect database software, and cataloged over 350 new artifacts! At the end of March, he left to continue his studies. The other volunteers and I have enjoyed his excellent work ethic, his impeccable manners, and his wonderful contribution to the Gilroy Museum. Thank you Ayumu!



Ayumu Ueda – DeAnza student and Mellon Scholar.



Carlos Murillo, Gavilan student and Mellon Scholar at DeAnza.

In April, **Carlos Murillo** became our second Humanities Mellon Scholar at the Gilroy Museum. Carlos is a Gilroy resident and a Gavilan, Foothill-De Anza College student. His college major is history, and while he hasn't decided on a career, his time at the Museum gives him practical experience in a field open to history scholars. Even before he became a Humanities Mellon Scholar, Carlos had been volunteering at the Museum for almost a year. Now he puts in about eight hours each week cataloging new artifacts and helping to develop written policy standards for artifact and archival storage. When he isn't at the college or the Museum, he can be found at his part-time job as a machinist for Destiny Tool in Morgan Hill. After a summer break, Carlos intends to continue with the program, and the Museum will be well served by his efforts! The Gilroy Museum's participation in the Humanities Mellon Scholars program has afforded two young men invaluable work experience. Their efforts have kept the

Museum's new artifact cataloging up-to-date, and it has freed up other volunteers to address our ongoing audit of Museum objects. The Gilroy Museum hopes to continue working with and benefiting from the Humanities Mellon Scholar program, but we are also seeking additional volunteers from the community. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Susan Voss at the Gilroy Museum. Help us to tell Gilroy's story and preserve its rich and varied heritage! (408-846-0446)

COMING UP SOON

GARLIC CITY CAR SHOW on Saturday, June 17th from 10 AM 4 PM in Downtown Gilroy

We plan to be there with our beautiful new blue 10x10 tent with our logo on it. Drop by and visit us there!

GILROY RODEO on Sunday, August 13th – we had so much fun last year that we're going to be there again with our display of photos from our first rodeo, the Gilroy Gymkhana. Casey Tibbs and his horse Warpaint (formerly on Hall's Western Wear) will be there too!

ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE PAST YEAR

- Had a display table at the Gilroy Rodeo thanks to **Ellen Marden**.
- Supported more restoration of Old St. Mary Cemetery thanks to **Dave Peoples & Mike Hughes**.
- Held our 11th and 12th successful Bowlathon fundraisers thanks to **Linda White**.
- Presented our 6th oral history film thanks to **Joanie Lewis** and **152 West Productions**.
- Received an award at the Preservation Month Celebration at History San Jose.
- Conducted nine monthly walking tours introducing residents to Gilroy history.
- Co-sponsored author **Bill Briggs** with the Gilroy Library.
- Placed a beautiful bronze plaque naming the Museum Research Room in honor of **Claudia Kendall Salewske**.
- Pulled our bright red antique hose cart in the Veterans Day Parade, thanks to **Dave Matuszak, Brian Martini, Sarah and John Kelly**.
- Honored our Museum Volunteers with a festive Christmas lunch.
- Received grants from the **Gilroy Foundation**, the **Gilroy Garlic Festival**. Were supported by many generous donors.
- Supported our Gilroy Museum by funding a half-time manager, **Susan Voss**.
- Placed a beautiful bronze plaque at the Southern Pacific mural on Fifth Street.

GILROY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Gilroy, CA 95021

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Old Gilroy City Hall (1905)

Thank You for your Membership!

*...Honoring the integrity of Gilroy Community History
Your membership or gift membership includes a subscription to The Society Page.*

Gilroy Historical Society, P.O. Box 1621, Gilroy, CA 95021-1621

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_____ Date _____

**GILROY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP**