



Old Gilroy City Hall - 1905

THE SOCIETY PAGE

Newsletter of the Gilroy Historical Society

October 2020

In This Issue

Museum Re-Opening



The Pine House



2020 Architectural Award Winners



Museum News



Miller Red Barn Progress



Society News

GILROY MUSEUM

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

HOURS:

To Be Decided

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

OUR MUSEUM WILL RE-OPEN SOON...



Enjoy the beautiful banners donated by Young Signs and recently hung on our entrance! In spite of Covid-19 we are celebrating our 150th year. Inside you will find a special 150 exhibit and a brand-new Amah Mutsun exhibit. Our new managers, **Susan Voss** and **Joe Robinson**

have been working since mid-August preparing for your visit. The Museum will re-open as soon as our volunteers feel comfortable working inside, following the usual Covid protocols. We even have special Museum masks for our volunteers!

*Don't forget to checkout Gilroy's
2020 Architectural Award Winners!*

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</i>	JoanieMLewis@charter.net	(408) 842-8698
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Roberta Hughan	RHughan@garlic.com	(408) 842-5375
Dave Matuszak	dmatuszak2@aol.com	(408) 842-0681
Lucy Solórzano		(408) 607-7722

Board meetings are held on the 1st Wednesday of the month at the Museum, 195 Fifth St., 1:00 p.m.

Members are always welcome to attend or share ideas with the board.

MUSEUM GIFT SHOP

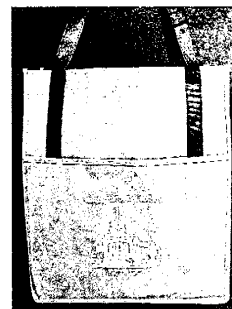
846-0446 ♦ gilroy.museum@ci.gilroy.ca.us

Hours: Tues / Thurs 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

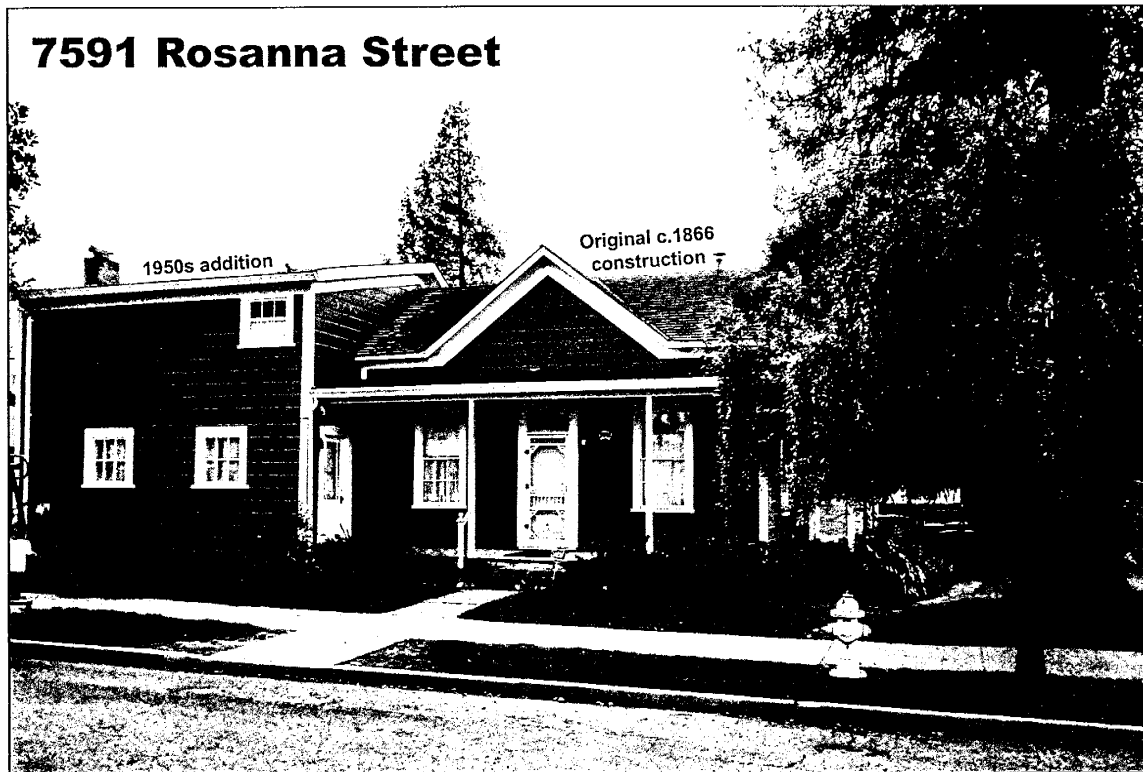
The following items are for sale
with the proceeds going to benefit the Museum.

When ordering from Amazon use
smile.amazon.com,
and they will send the
Gilroy Historical Society a tiny
percentage of your purchase!

- \$ 5.00 Gilroy's Old City Hall book by Chuck Myer
- \$ 5.00 Juan Bautista de Anza Trail book
- \$ 5.00 Old City Hall Lapel Pin
- \$ 5.00 Reusable Bags blue bags with Old City Hall logo (15" x 12" x 9")
- \$ 5.00 DVD #1 includes Gymkhana, National Guard Camp at San Luis Obispo, Armistice Day Parade and 1911 GHS Championship Team
- \$ 5.00 DVD #2: Life in Gilroy 1950 a professionally made 50-minute film
- \$ 10.00 Mouse Pad with photo of Gilroy Museum
- \$ 10.00 Note Cards package of 8 with 4 different line drawings of historic homes
- \$ 12.00 Gilroy Museum DVD history of Gilroy's growth and development
- \$ 20.00 San Martin, Then and Now book by Donna Brodsky
- \$ 20.00 Views of Morgan Hill book by Ian Sanders
- \$ 20.00 A Country Doctor in the Valley of Hearts Delight: The Life and Times of Pioneer Gilroy Physician and Mayor, Heverland R. Chesbro, MD book by Elizabeth Barratt
- \$ 23.98 Gilroy, Images of America book autographed by author Claudia Salewske (includes tax)
- \$ 23.98 Wineries of Santa Clara Valley, Images of America book by Bev Stevehjem
- \$ 25.00 Mineral Springs of Santa Clara County book by Ian Sanders
- \$ 25.00 100 Years of Gilroy Hot Springs picture book by Ian Sanders and Michael Brookman



THE PINE HOUSE



*One of the most historic houses in Gilroy wants a new loving owner.
Here's the story as told by the Pine's daughter Liz Musal.....*

For 158 years old, this house at the corner of 4th and Rosanna Streets has aged gracefully -- with a little help from that family that has lived within it and loved it for the past 70 years. Built by tobacco grower J.D. Culp around 1866, the residence at 7591 Rosanna Street began as a single-floor family home. It is described as a "Pioneer-style" home, though architecturally it is closer to early Folk Victorian or even Queen Anne style, with its wrap-around, columned porch, its simple cross-gable roofline and plain lines. The State of California describes it as "one of the two or three oldest homes in Gilroy."

In 1870, the house passed to Alvin Gilman, and passed to John Harrison from 1873 until his estate was settled in 1879, when it passed to the Gilroy Benevolent Society to house the poor. It was sold to George and Edith Wolmerhausen in 1935, and passed to its most recent owners, Kendall and Lillian Pine, in 1950.

It would stay with the Pines and their children for 70 years. The Pines renovated the home and added the southern addition, a two-story structure with a basement, living room and bedrooms upstairs, to accommodate their two children, Tim and Elizabeth, who have charge of the home today following Kendall and Lillian's passing.

During the renovation, the Pines discovered Culp's original license to make and dispense tobacco products, dated May 1870. The license, which was buried between the original lime and horsehair plaster and the laths on the outer wall of the house, covered by glass (the laths were replaced; the house appears as it originally did with horizontal lathing, while the addition has matching, if vertical, redwood battens).

The original house was primarily made from redwood harvested from the Santa Cruz Mountains.

The Pines' dedication to maintaining the historic building's original character while maintaining it can best be summed up by what Lillian told the Gilroy Dispatch in a 1972 article. "I would like to see older buildings and homes restored and preserved," she said. "You can't live in an old home unless you keep it in good shape." The Pine family hopes to find a buyer for their home that will appreciate its historic value and enjoy making wonderful memories as their family has done for the past 70 years. If you are interested in owning this historic home, contact Tim Pine at tim.pine@me.com.

2020 ARCHITECT



139 SECOND STREET

This beautiful Craftsman bungalow, probably built in the 1920s, has a classic double gable façade supported by triangular brackets. Two large pillars anchor the front porch. Tripartite windows, narrow clapboard siding and an attractive color combination complete the picture.



7540 CHURCH STREET

This neoclassical home was built about 1868, before Gilroy became a City, and retains its charm today. John Rhinehart built this finely detailed residence, an example of neoclassical residential architecture. Multi-paned windows flank the front door while finials adorn the gables.



7631 CHURCH STREET

This trim little Craftsman bungalow was probably built in the 1920s. The tripartite window, the original front door and the double gables facing the street confirm that the owner has restored most of the characteristic features of this simple popular style.



7363 MONTEREY STREET

This 1921 hotel was designed by Binder and Curtis in the Neoclassical style and built by William Radtke. Many features reflect a classic influence, such as the dentils above a row of architraved windows on the second floor. The decorated arch of the main entrance calls attention to the significance of this beautiful building. The recent restoration of this distinctive anchor on Monterey Street is a gift to the community.



711 FIFTH STREET

This handsome two-story Tudor building contains four apartments. It was one of several Tudor style homes built by the Howson Brothers in the 1920s. The steeply pitched roofline and half-timbering are classic Tudor features. Notice how the roofline extends to form a cut out arched vehicle entrance to the rear of the house.

ARCHITECTURAL AWARDS

are shown. We planned to have it at the Neon Exchange last June, postponed until September, and finally decided the Covid rules would just not permit it. Let's hope for next year! Here are the winners who will each receive a certificate and 8 x 10 photo of their home or building. Photo credits, **Phill Laursen** for Architectural Awards.



7571 CARMEL STREET

The Howson Brothers built this attractive Tudor style house in the 1920s, along with several others in the neighborhood. The steep gables, half-timbering accented by new paint and arched entry on the right confirm this classic appearance. It is obvious that the owners have taken much pride in their historic home.



450 THIRD STREET

This single gable variation of the California bungalow has abbreviated porch columns but exhibits the characteristic tripartite front window and triangular roof brackets. The porch railing and cut outs on the ends of the fascia boards show attention to detail. This modest home has lovely landscaping and attractive paint which merit recognition.



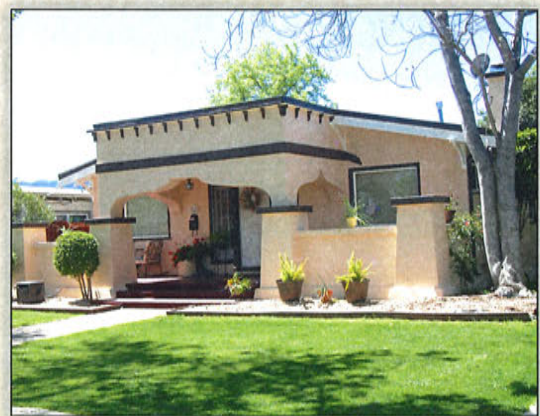
595 FIFTH STREET

This California bungalow was built by William Radtke in 1925 for Victor Oddie, his bookkeeper. The covered porch is enhanced by arches. The arches and tri-partite windows provide the major design elements of this single-story stucco home which is kept in beautiful condition.



8441 TARYN LANE

The relocation of this beautiful home from Church Street to Taryn Lane testifies to the quality of its architecture. It is an unusual example of the Colonial Revival style, with Tuscan columns supporting a curved pediment, flanked by trellises over the porch. The symmetrical windows and small dormers are a hallmark of this formal style.



7641 HANNA STREET

This 1928 Craftsman bungalow has a very unusual front porch, decorated with carved entry portals and small brackets near the roofline. Four elephantine columns flank the porch which spans the width of the house. Distinctive features include the unique chimney cap. This home illustrates the infinite variety possible for bungalows, a predominant style in its era.

MUSEUM NEWS

Although mandatory closure lasted from mid-March to mid-August when our new employees, Susan Voss and Joe Robinson, were allowed to begin working inside, a few things did get accomplished:

Joe Robinson initiated his Saturday morning **Gilroy History Program** streaming from the Museum via Twitch. The first one was held on Sept. 11th, with guests Phill Laursen and Kathy Chavez. Joe plans to hold this program on Saturday mornings at 10 AM. It is an outreach service of the Museum with discussion of new acquisitions and guests on a variety participation via phone or chat and hopes you will tune in! See the topics and learn how to access it by visiting our Facebook page at [Gilroyhistoricalsociety.org](https://www.facebook.com/gilroyhistoricalsociety.org). You can also just tune in any Saturday at 10 AM by going to this link: https://www.twitch.tv/gilroy_museum.

Our former President, **Al Gagliardi**, donated a unique fire bucket from the early 1900s. It is bright red and cone-shaped. Al says the shape prevented men from sitting on it, but probably it was also for easier to empty!

Edith Edde refurbished the cushions on the reference room chairs. Thank you!

Jack Alexander has compiled a **new book titled BeGe Earthmovers**. It tells the story of Albert Gurries, a tomato farmer, and his friend, Jim Bussert, who owned the Gilroy Welding Works, and how they implemented Gurries' vision for using hydraulics to level land for farmers. This was a very important company in Gilroy from the 1920s to the 1950s. It is available at the Museum for \$7.00 or you can order through our website and have it mailed to you for \$10 including tax & postage.

MILLER RED BARN PROGRESS

by Joe Robinson

Situated on the Ranch side of Christmas Hill Park, by a clutch of redwoods and palms, stands a large red barn built well over a century ago by Henry Miller (the "Cattle King"). The Miller Red Barn Association (MRBA), which formed at first to preserve the barn structure, is now overseeing its restoration into a visitable, mixed-use space, while carefully preserving its historical integrity. In the future, the barn will host exhibits and interpretive boards that convey the history of Gilroy through the lens of land use and agriculture.

Gilroy is traditionally a farming town and has retained much of its productive land and bucolic charm. The barn, surrounded by spacious fields, and set against the southernmost spur of the Santa Cruz Mountains, stands as a symbol of this shared heritage.

The barn has been lifted, straightened, and strengthened. A new concrete foundation is nearly finished. The electrical wiring will be updated, and the siding fixed and painted. Here are some excellent photos of the significant work that is being done, funded mostly by two generous grants awarded by the Santa Clara Board of Supervisors, to resurrect Henry Miller's barn and dedicate it to the use and enjoyment of the larger Gilroy community. For details and photos, please visit their website at: <https://themillerredbarn.org/gallery/reconstruction-has-begun/>

SOCIETY NEWS

THANK YOU to all our members who renewed their membership near July 1st. And special thanks to several Life Members who gave a donation! We hope this will remind others to renew.

Three cheers for **local attorney Mark Good!** His pro bono service of writing a demand letter enabled the Society to regain ownership of our domain names, GilroyHistoricalSociety.org and also .com and .net. We tried to solve this problem ourselves, but it took an intellectual property attorney to make it happen. This will enable us to do much more with our website.

Our board has met a few times, socially distanced and wearing masks, in Joanie's back yard. We were very disappointed at having to cancel our Annual Meeting and presentation of our Architectural Awards, planned twice to happen at the Neon Exchange. But we've been busy planning ahead for next year and hoping we can gather then.

150th celebration planning continues. Guest Bob Weaver gave our board a report on the plan to install an El Camino Bell at the Monterey St. end of the Paseo downtown. It will also have a plaque commemorating Gilroy's location as a crossroads. Bob also asked for ideas and donations of materials for the City's time capsule. It will be stored at City Hall and opened in 50 years. Send your ideas to bob@weaverphotography.com

County Historic Grant Progress – These next two projects are being made possible with funding from the successful grant applications we were awarded last year.

Filming of seven seniors for our **2020 oral history film** took place at the end of July. Subjects include Herman Garcia, Eddie Sanchez, Anita Sciutto, Elizabeth Barratt, Barbara Drewitz, Carol Peters and Viola Carr. We have rescheduled the Premiere for April 11th, 2021.

Believe it or not, the **John Gilroy booklet** is at the Printing Spot! We are grateful to **Truda Cooling Nelson** who wrote this biographical thesis for her Master's Degree at San Jose State and also to Santa Clara County for the historic grant that will pay for the printing of 200 copies. Phill Laursen has devoted countless hours converting this typed manuscript into an engaging booklet with maps and illustrations.

New Tudor Walking Tour – We have been continuing our monthly historic walking tours since outdoor museums are allowed. Thanks to information from Ron Howson, his sisters and cousin, we now know more about the Tudor style homes on Carmel, Princeville and Fifth Streets built by the Howson Brothers in the 1920s. Twenty people (masked and distanced) attended this experimental tour on September 5th.

How do you like to hear from us? We are trying to modernize and upgrade our ways of reaching you! Would you like to receive this newsletter via email? Or do you prefer a hardcopy? How about receiving intermittent emails with late breaking news and more timely topics? Or a monthly email? Please let us know by emailing Connie Rogers, jrogers@garlic.com.

GILROY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Date _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone _____ E-Mail _____

- Individual **\$35**
- Senior **\$25**
- Family **\$50**
- Business/Corporate **\$500**
- Life **\$500**

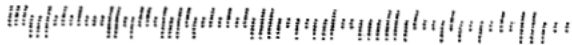
MAIL TO:

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

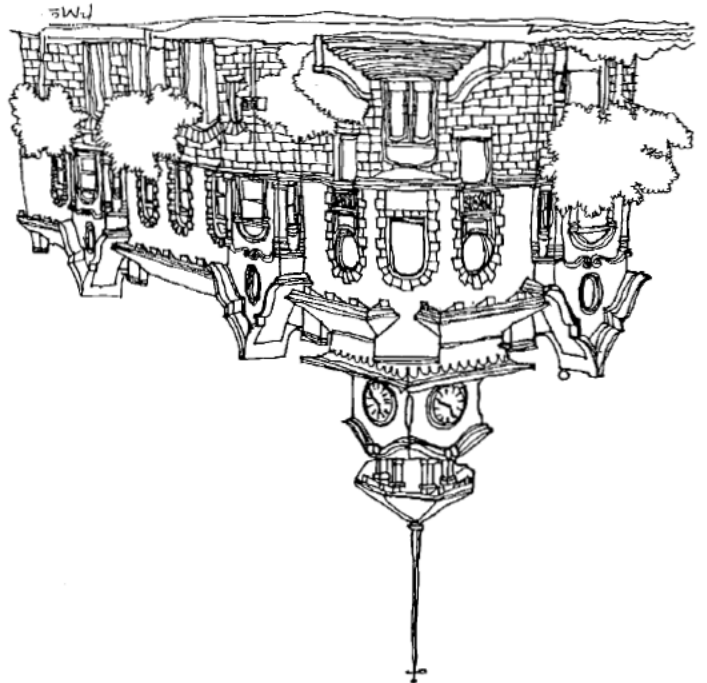
...Honoring the integrity of Gilroy Community History

Your membership or gift membership includes a subscription to *The Society Page*.

Thank You for your Membership!



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Old Gilroy City Hall (1905)



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