

The Society Page

October 2014

Join STEVE YVASKA and Society Members at Old City Hall
Hall
12 noon on Saturday, November 1st



Do you have a treasure and not know it? Is that favorite thing your grandmother left you actually rare and worth a fortune? Now you can find out! Steven Wayne Yvaska, perhaps best known for his long-running column "The Seasoned Collector" which appears exclusively in the San Jose Mercury News and other Media News papers, will join us for lunch at Old City Hall on Saturday, November 1st, and give us those answers! He'll give a short presentation and then evaluate our items. It will be fun to hear his comments!

Originally from Boston, Yvaska graduated Cum Laude with his Bachelor's degree from Syracuse University. Later he got his Masters degree in Environmental Arts, also at Syracuse. Yvaska has studied with many experts. Over the past 25 years, Yvaska has taught classes on antiques and collectibles through the Adult Education Department in the City of Morgan Hill and for the city of San Jose Parks & Recreation Department, and has also presented lectures at several colleges and universities.

Reserve now, as seating is limited. Choices are: Chicken Club Croissant, Old City Hall House Burger, Calamari Steak Sandwich (each served with your choice of Cole Slaw or Fries); House Taco Salad with Chicken or Steak; Fish & Chips with Cole Slaw; or Pasta Primavera, served with house salad and garlic bread. All lunches include iced tea, lemonade or coffee. RSVP with your selection by October 20th to Linda White at (408) 847-2861 or linda104@charter.net. Mail your check for \$25 per person (which entitles you to bring one item to be evaluated) to PO Box 1621, Gilroy, CA 95021.

MILLER RED BARN COMMITTEE REPORT Submitted by Miller Red Barn Committee



The Miller Red Barn Committee has been accepted under the non-profit umbrella of the Gilroy Foundation, our Fiscal Sponsor and financial advisor. That means that all money earned by or donated to the Miller Red Barn effort is tax-exempt.

On June 26th we held a very successful first fundraiser, a Barn Raisin' BBQ, at the Gilroy Demonstration Garden. The decor was attractive, the food delicious and the silent and live auctions enhanced our bank account considerably. Scott Lance even contributed several signed prints of his painting of "our" barn, which sold for good prices.

In April, we were able to examine the interior of the Barn with an architectural engineer and a photographer. They reported that the Barn, as it was built, was in quite reasonable shape for reconditioning. It was established that the roof needs replacement panels and screening at other places to exclude cats, bats, and pigeons, and stop further contamination with animal droppings.

The wood in the main framing of the barn seems to be in excellent condition. The structure, while built to minimal standards, is not weak and doesn't lean. Further assessment will establish how to reinforce the interior to make it usable for activities. Over time, with repair and rehabilitation, the barn will become viable once more.

Two committee members are researching the Miller and Lux business papers at the Bancroft Library at Berkeley. They found a statement of insurance coverage in 1915 for the Glen Ranch, which is the historic name for the Christmas Hill property. The most valuable item listed was a barn, valued at \$1000, quite a sum for that era! We are convinced that it is our Barn that was covered. Henry Miller died in 1916, so whatever was insured was in place before Miller died. The search for more evidence continues.

In the meantime, we are learning more and more about Henry Miller and his place in Gilroy's history, which we would like to share as time and space allows. The committee is developing ideas for ways the barn could be used for community benefit. We have taken field trips to the Watsonville Agricultural History Center and Prusch Park in San Jose. We want to turn the Miller Red Barn into an historic asset in which Gilroy can take pride.

If you would like to help the Miller Red Barn Committee, please find us on Facebook at [Facebook.com/savemillerredbarn](https://www.facebook.com/savemillerredbarn) or email us at savemillerredbarn@gmail.com

HISTORIC WILLSON HOUSE FOR SALE



This special home at 1980 Pacheco Pass Road was built by brick maker Horace Willson in 1859. It boasts 3 stories, 3 baths and 5 bedrooms..... 3000 square feet on over three acres of land. The property also includes a triplex, a duplex and a cottage, koi pond and many fruit and nut trees. The asking price is \$1,980,000. For details go to www.beresuenc.org/homesforsale.htm. Realtor Tom McDaniel at 408-310-0887 at Century 21 Alpha is showing the Willson house.

GILROY YAMATO HOT SPRINGS Henry W. Coe State Park "WATERS THROUGH HISTORY" Saturday, October 18, 2014, 9:00 am to 4:30 pm

- Gilroy Yamato Hot Springs had fresh, mineral and effervescent water
- Enjoy docent and staff tours, displays, children's activities, entertainment, and water stories and tips
- Cost for the event is \$15.00 per person/under 12 free with adult
- Bring a picnic & friends (pack-in/pack-out); parking on site
- For reservations call (408) 314-7185 or email info@GilroyYamatoHotSprings.org
- All proceeds go to GYHS protection & restoration efforts
- Please carpool. Limited parking will be available.
- Call (408) 314-4185 to request special accommodation

Directions: travel east on Leavesley Road, turn left on New Avenue, right on Roop Road, veer left onto Gilroy Hot Springs Road, cross the big green bridge and continue to end of road.

GYHS is a subgroup of the Pine Ridge Association, the official volunteer organization for Henry W. Coe State Park, and a qualified 501(c)(3) not for profit public benefit corporation.

WE WILL MISS JACK STURLA - 1919 TO 2014



Jack lived a long and full life on his family farm on Holsclaw Road. Independent, active and engaged until the very end, Jack made friends wherever he went and was always ready for a get-together. Except for time away at college, work at the 1939 World's Fair on Treasure Island, and service during WW II, Jack spent his entire life in Gilroy. He was valued for his knowledge of local history and was a volunteer at our Museum for the past year. Jack's ancestors were among the first settlers in San Ysidro. His grandfather Angelo's name is on more than one parcel on our 1876 map of the area.

During WW II Jack was a First Lieutenant in the Army Air Corps. He married Dorothy Nagle in 1948, a bond that lasted until her death in 2011. Their three children are David, Juliann and Holly. David and Mary live in Gilroy and their daughter Victoria continued the family love of history by working briefly at the Gilroy Museum a few years ago.

Jack had many careers..... prune farmer, farm manager for Pieters-Wheeler Seeds and manager of the former Gavilan Water District. He loved growing fruits and vegetables, was an avid hunter and conservationist, and a proud 4th generation Californian with a passion for the outdoors and natural history. Jack was a fifty year member of the Underwood Duck Club and also belonged to the Pine Ridge Association, the Elks Lodge, the American Legion and, of course, the Gilroy Historical Society. We remember Jack for his wonderful stories and anecdotes about our heritage.

THANK YOU TO OUR FAITHFUL GARLIC FESTIVAL VOLUNTEERS!

Once again we sold art posters in the mercantile tent and conducted the People's Choice Art Award and had fun doing it. We should find out about our earnings soon. These funds help with basic Society expenses for the Society Page, postage and programs. Special thanks go to Barbara Biafore for again recruiting and scheduling.

Volunteers included Chris Wheeler, Barbara Biafore, Kathy Laursen, Grace Narvaez, Eileen Cavallaro, Carmen Hanson, Angelo Benassi, Maureen Hunter, Phyllis Armenta, Marsha Bodnar, Cynthia Doromal, Edith Edde, Claudia Salewske, Mike Salewske, Nita Mitchell, Connie Rogers, and Jim Rogers.

COMMUNITY FESTIVAL AT ARTEAGA'S FOOD CENTER

We will join several other non-profits at Arteaga's Food Center, 6906 Chestnut Street on Saturday, November 8th, from 11:30 am to 3:30 pm. The event is free to the public. Along with the networking opportunity there will be fun activities including music and raffles. Arteaga's will also donate 10% of sales back to the participating organizations.

Any baked goods, tortilla goods, meat, fish, or poultry from the butcher shop, produce, or items from the deli can all benefit the Society. Pre-paid orders for Thanksgiving or Christmas also qualify. At checkout, you will be given an extra copy of your receipt which you must turn in to our booth. That's all there is to it! They do not accept personal checks, so bring your cash, credit or debit card. And don't forget your grocery list!