

The Society Page

March 2015

WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH THE MILLER RED BARN?



Find out with us on
Saturday, March 21, at 2:00 p.m.
Gilroy Library, 350 West Sixth Street

Learn what has been discovered about the history of the Miller Red Barn on the Ranch Site at Christmas Hill Park. It will surprise you! The MRB Committee will present a Power Point about their efforts so far. The committee members will hold an open forum with YOU about your ideas and suggestions for the future of this historic barn. How can we use it to benefit Gilroy residents and visitors? Can it be similar to Prusch Park in San Jose? The Watsonville Ag History Museum? Partner with FFA, F-H, Farm Bureau, Winery Association, Welcome Center? What are the next steps to take?

Members, friends and the public are invited. Light refreshments will be served.

BOWL-A-THON COMING UP!

Our 5th Annual Bowlathon in support of the Museum Endowment Fund is all set for March 14th, at 2:00 p.m. at Gilroy Bowl. This has become one of our major fundraisers and is lots of fun for those who have participated. Thanks to some very generous donors, we are able to give out some great prizes, not to mention delicious snacks while we bowl. Best of all, you don't need to be a regular bowler to take part, just open to a fun afternoon. Entry fee is only \$25. If you miss the March 2nd deadline, contact **Connie Rogers** (408-842-8494, jrogers@garlic.com) or **Linda White** (408-847-2861, linda104@charter.net) to see if we can still fit you in. If you aren't up to bowling, how about sponsoring someone else?

GILROY CONNECTIONS ARE RENEWED

Recently, **Estella Hoey's** niece, Sharon, and Sharon's daughter, LeAnn visited Gilroy. Although they both are native Californians, Sharon now lives in Alaska and LeAnn in New Mexico. Sharon and LeAnn spent time in Gilroy as children and adults. They all really enjoyed having the chance to reacquaint with family and ancestors at Mrs. Hoey's home and at the Gilroy Museum. The family posed beside the exhibit of of Electa Ousley, who came to Gilroy in 1854 with her husband Samuel. They claimed 600 acres just east of the present Gilroy Golf Course. **Estella Hoey** lives in the two-story home the Ousely Family built in 1872 that still stands today.



February 3, 2015, at the Museum. Left to right: Estella Hoey, niece LeAnn (Sharon's daughter), Sharon, and Marjorie (Estella's daughter).



Sunday, February 1, 2015. Left to right: Marjorie, Sharon, Estella Hoey, Abigail (baby), Clara, and LeAnn.

Standing around the statue of Thomas Rea and Electa Ousley are four generations of Electa's descendants: **Mrs. Edward J. Hoey (Estella)**, her daughter, Marjorie Siverson, her nieces Sharon and LeAnn, and granddaughter Clara with baby Abigail. The picture was taken when Sharon visited from Alaska, her daughter, LeAnn, from New Mexico, and Clara and Abigail from France.

2014 MUSEUM ENDOWMENT FUND DONORS

We are eternally grateful to these generous donors who have helped us build the Gilroy Museum Endowment Fund with the Gilroy Foundation. You are our heroes!

HELP US SOLVE A MYSTERY!

Mark Sanchez has asked for our help in identifying the lovely ladies in this photo. It appeared in a Spanish language magazine called *El Excentrico* about 1951. Mark is helping Dr. Ramon Martinez on a project to trace contributions made by Mexican Americans in Santa Clara County in the 20th century, with a primary focus from the 1940s to the 1980s. You can respond directly to Mark Sanchez at 408-842-7000, or by email at Mark.Sanchez@colliers.com.

This sounds like a very worthy project that could benefit the Gilroy Museum if this group is willing to share their results of their research. Here is the photo:



He aquí otro de los muchos automóviles que desfilaron el Pdo. 16 de Sept. en el cual podemos ver un puñado de bellas damitas de la vecina Cd. de Gilroy, Calif., las cuales asistieron en representación del conocido y activo "CLUB GARDENIA" cooperando con su belleza y magnífico atavío, al lu cimiento de dicho desfile

And here's an approximate translation of the text:

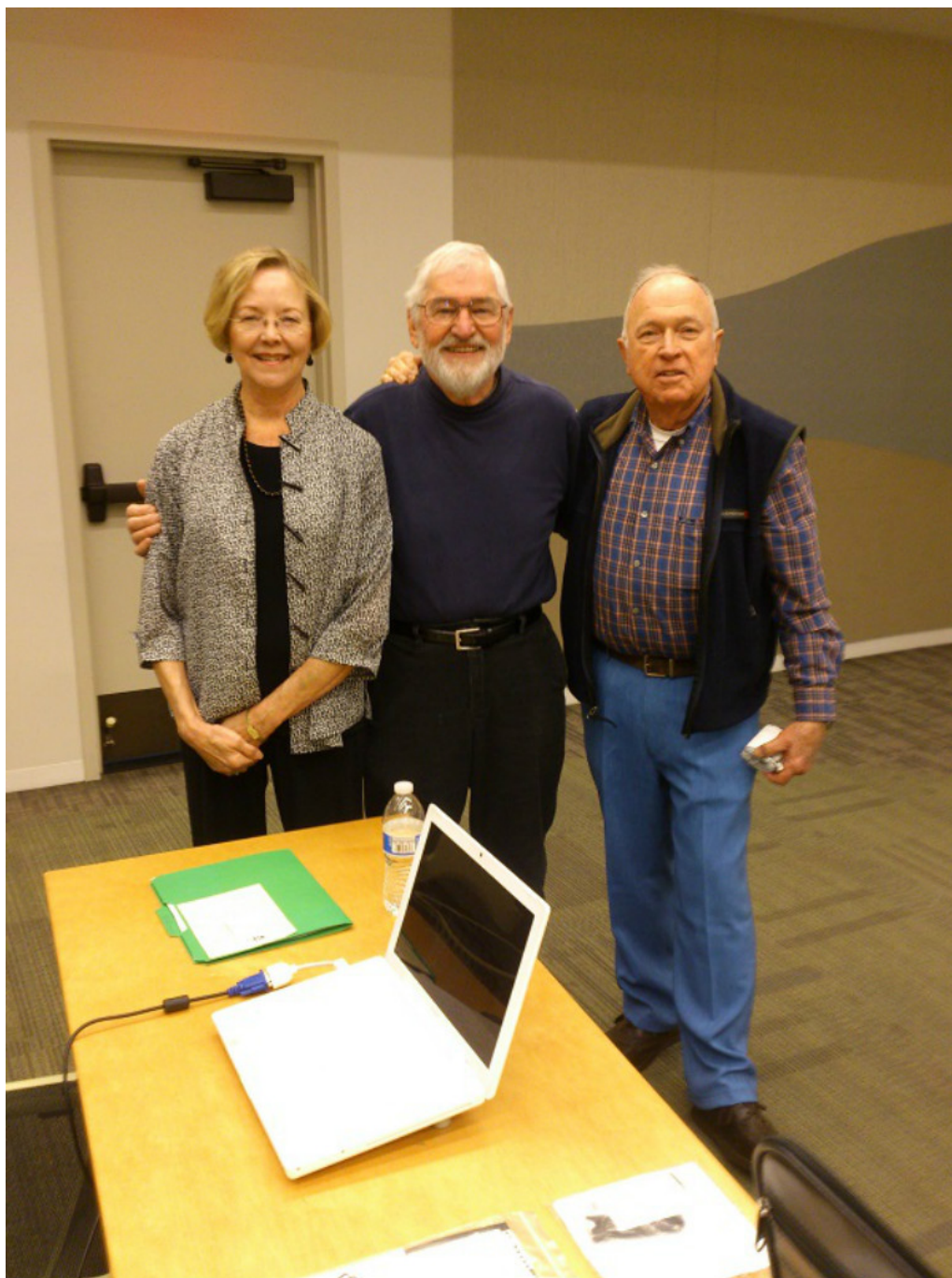
Here is one of the many automobiles in the 16th of September parade in which we can see a handful of beautiful young girls from Gilroy who helped represent the known and active Club Gardenia lending their beauty and magnificent finery to light up the parade.

CHURCH HISTORY PROGRAM

An overflow crowd of more than 50 attended our January 24th program at the Gilroy Library. Elizabeth Barratt presented an excellent Power Point program about the history of Gilroy churches.

Ask Elizabeth about the scandal at the Methodist Church. It happened around 1900 when the minister filed for divorce. He and his wife traded accusations in court, involving a choir member. Afterwards he moved on to a different congregation.





PROGRESS AT ST. MARY CEMETERY - CAN YOU HELP?

Great strides have been made towards improving the old St. Mary Cemetery. After the storm split a heritage oak to the ground last winter, pruning simply had to be done. And what an improvement it was! The split oak was cut up and removed, others were professionally pruned and many large volunteer privets were taken out. The City helpfully added another light on the perimeter and installed much brighter LED bulbs in all four poles around the cemetery. This should decrease the dumping and vandalism.

Habing's Family Funeral Home has moved two large pieces of white marble into the cemetery. The parish donated these pieces of marble that were left from an altar that was cracked in the 1989 earthquake. Soon Habing's will engrave one stone to identify the cemetery. The other will mark John Gilroy's grave, also with appropriate engraving.

Our next step? The Committee (parish members, neighbors, DAR, the Historical Society, the City and Habing's) wants to erect an attractive six-foot wrought iron fence and gate around the cemetery. This would go a long way towards marking this historic cemetery as a special place, worthy of recognition. Unfortunately it is also expensive, perhaps about \$50,000. The committee is embarking on a fundraising campaign planned to coincide with St. Mary's 150th anniversary as a parish this year. The parish has agreed to establish a special account ear-marked for this fence. If you would like to help with this worthy cause, please send your contribution for Friends of Old St. Mary Cemetery to Debbie Pellicione at St. Mary Parish, 11 First Street, Gilroy, CA 95020.

DO YOU HAVE A NOMINATION FOR OUR 2015 ARCHITECTURAL AWARDS?

Have you noticed an historic building that is "looking good" this year? We want to honor people who have invested in the preservation and beautification of their home or building, a significant effort that makes Gilroy a better place. Kris Knutson, an architectural photographer, is again volunteering to photograph the winners. Awards will be presented at the Society's Annual Meeting in June. You can easily nominate a building for a 2015 Architectural Award. Send your nomination by March 31st using any of these methods:

- e-mail: Gilroy.Museum@ci.gilroy.ca.us
- Mail: Gilroy Museum, 195 Fifth Street, Gilroy, CA 95020
- Phone: (408) 846-0446

Please include your name, the street address of the nominee, and include a brief explanation of why you think the building or residence deserves an award.

The categories are:

- Historic Design Award - for a new building in the downtown area that complements the original historic buildings, or enhances the Downtown Historic District area.
- Historic Commercial Building Award - for a building at least 50 years old in the downtown Historic District or on an Historic Site that restores, retains or preserves the building's historical, cultural or architectural values.
- Historic House Award - for a home that is at least 50 years old that is an outstanding example of restoration and renovation; exterior only.
- Certificate of Commendation for residential, commercial or "other." This could be for new construction, restoration, renovation, additions, landscaping, painting or significant improvement.

RECOGNITION FOR JUAN BAUTISTA DE ANZA CAMP SITE #92

On Saturday, March 28th at 2:00 p.m. the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) will dedicate a marker along Llagas Creek in Morgan Hill to recognize the place where deAnza and his party camped in March 1776. Watch for information about how to find this somewhat obscure location between Santa Theresa Blvd. and Monterey Road.

Why is this important? Senor deAnza brought the first permanent settlers to our area, founding the city of San Jose. Leaving Mexico in 1775, deAnza brought whole families (240 men women and children) and 1000 head of livestock on a 1200-mile journey with the purpose of establishing permanent residence in California. What a feat! His party explored on both the west and east sides of the Santa Clara Valley. Now his route is established as a National Park Service Trail another feather in our tourism cap. You can read all about the famous deAnza expedition in a paperback book available for \$5.00 at the Gilroy Museum or online at <http://anza.uoregon.edu>.

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