



Annual PTHS Meeting to Mark 50 Years

To some, it might seem just like yesterday. To others, maybe not.

It was 50 years ago in this month of February that the Patterson Township Historical Society officially came into being. For it was on Feb. 17, 1969 that some 20 Patterson-area residents gathered at the Las Palmas School to put into motion an organization to record and preserve the historic founding of this community and its surroundings.

Such an organization had been informally discussed for some time, possibly as early as Patterson's Golden Jubilee celebration in 1959.

In 1968, the year prior to the first annual meeting, a committee was formed to come up with a proposal for such an organization. Members of that committee included Virginia Williams, O.N. Minniear, Mario Ielmini, John V. Azevedo, Walter Filippini, Claude Delphia, and Ron Swift. Elected to the first Board of Directors were Laverne Bowman, Jack Brown, Dorothy Harrison, Williams, Ielmini, Minniear and Delphia. Williams was elected the first president, and a second general meeting was held in April.



This photo of three of the original members was taken at the 40th anniversary of PTHS. From left: Claude Delphia, John Azevedo and Ron Swift..

Several names of the Society were suggested at that first meeting, including one proposed by the study committee – Patterson Township Historical Society. It was later adopted.

Delphia was appointed to head a committee to draft a constitution and by-laws which set the classifications of membership and the amount of the dues structure.

Continued on page 3

General Meeting

Sunday, March 10, 2:00 p.m.

Patterson Township Historical Research Center

Remember: Daylight Savings Time begins that Sunday morning.

President's Message

The Patterson Township Historical Society board members have been very busy organizing and filing all the pictures, documents, letters and information we already have and continue to receive. Our goal is to have this information on line as soon as we can so it will be available to the public, schools and anyone interested.

The Barnstormers have a whole year of activities already on their agenda. They continue to rebuild old farm equipment and display it at their museum, in parades, at the County Fair and of course the Apricot Fiesta. They are also organizing fun days for those who want to watch the old equipment run or perhaps drive them. The Barnstormers are always coming up with new ideas to display their love of farm equipment and restoring it to its originality so we all can appreciate it.

We have been working with the city on a grant for improvements needed on the Center Building. The job should be going out to bid within the next few weeks and work on the project will begin after the Apricot Fiesta.

The PTHS has a busy year ahead. Volunteers are always welcome!!!

Did you know: John D. Patterson bought the land grant which is Patterson on August 14, 1866 for \$5,400.

Linda Briggs, President

***Spokes* is a quarterly newsletter of the PATTERSON TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

P. O. Box 15, Patterson, CA 95363

Editor: Faye Hill

All rights to republication are reserved. Permission to quote or use material herein should be obtained in writing.

MEMBERSHIP

Any person interested in the history of this area who applies for membership in any classification and who tenders the necessary dues may become a member.

Annual Dues:

Household. \$20.00
Business. \$100.00
Life Membership. \$150.00

Annual dues are payable as of January 1st each year and are tax deductible. Dues will include mailed copies of *The Gateway* and *Spokes* newsletters to each membership.

2018-2019 PTHS Officers & Project Leaders

Linda Briggs, President, 892-7176
Carol Scoles, Vice President, 892-8355
Faye Hill, Secretary, 892-6533
Chris Dennis, Treasurer, 415-850-3022
Henry Bettencourt 531-3709
Carole Dompe, Director, 614-6404
Kenny Herger, Director 681-5604
Kevin Nelson, Director, 631-9378
Vivian Ratliff, Director, 892-5141

APPOINTED

Carol Scoles, Curator, 892-6355
Bob Kimball, Tour Director, 892-8664
Kenny Herger, Curator of Large Equipment,
681-5604
Eileen Forte, Webmaster

Museum Phone: 895-8095

At that time, the public was asked to donate items of local historical interest that had been saved over the years. Azevedo headed the collection process. However, it wasn't until 1978 that the Society and the City of Patterson entered into an agreement to allow full usage of the Center Building (also referred to as the Administration or Plaza Building in earlier days) as a museum. The city had acquired the building from the Patterson Ranch Company in the early 1940s.

The structure had limited usage after the Ranch Co. and the Patterson City Water Co. moved offices across the street in 1960. The Department of Motor Vehicles, the Men's Club and the Police Reserves had sparing access to the building. Then for a few year's prior to 2009 the Chamber of Commerce had its office there.

The museum's interior received a major paint job several years ago and the Patterson Lions Club put down new flooring after worn and ragged carpeting was removed. Over the years the building also has on the receiving end of much work done by the Rotary Club, Soroptimist International of Patterson, and the local Boy Scouts.

The Plaza Building was constructed by the Ranch Co. in 1909. Patterson's first post office moved in the following January and continued service there until 1931. The Bank of Patterson also used the facility for a short time while its new structure (torn down for a new building in 1969) was built across the street. Eleven Patterson's City Council met for a spell in the 1930s in the Plaza Building.

Museum curators over the past 40 years have been John V. Azevedo, Claude Delphia, Bob Kimball, Ron Swift and presently Carol Scoles.

While the Society has grown in membership to well over 250, it has also expanded its activities to include an antique farm equipment museum headed by Ken Herger. He has put together a separate Board of Directors for The Barnstormers and is affiliated with the Society.

Also new is the John V. Azevedo Memorial Research Center at 110 N. El Circulo where this year's annual meeting will be held. It provides storage area for items not displayed in the museum as well as massive space needed for our many files and work area for volunteers. Non-profit groups are beginning to use the facility.

An election of directors will be held at the annual meeting, after which the directors will elect the Society's officers for the coming year.

Annual Meeting Speaker

Retired Patterson Irrigator editor and publisher Ron Swift, a charter member of PTHS, will be the featured speaker at this year's annual meeting of the organization.

That meeting will be held Sunday, March 10, at 2 p.m. at the John V. Azevedo Memorial Research Center at 110 North El Circulo. All members and guests are invited and refreshments will be served.

Swift will speak on Patterson's early history including the Rancho Del Puerto land grant signed by President Abraham Lincoln in 1864. That grant of 13,340 acres was purchased two years later by New York state rancher and businessman John D. Patterson. His relatives, including nephew Thomas W. Patterson, founded this community and installed an irrigation system in the early 1900s to serve the development of local agriculture. The town of Patterson was then plotted in 1909.

Continued on page 4

The land grant document will be on display at the meeting, as will a large framed map of the grant area. Drawn on the original map are property acquisitions by the Cox, Elfers, Hammonds, and other families.

The historic founding of the Patterson community has long been a major interest of Swift's since he arrived here in 1962. A detailed history of the founding Patterson family appeared in the Irrigator's Diamond Jubilee issue in 1984, written by reporter Ken Carlson.



Museum Project

The City of Patterson is in the process of going to bid on restoration work on the Center Building that houses our museum. The city owns the structure.

The city's management analyst, Xavier Gularte, reports that bids will be sought from firms that specialize in restoring historic buildings. This is a government requirement in that the Center Building is on the list of historic structures.

Grant funding from the state of California will pay a portion of the reconstruction cost. The building's west porch has been sinking for a number of years and will undoubtedly be replaced.

Although the bid process may be completed this spring, Gularte says the project will not commence until after the Apricot Fiesta in early June.



Acquisitions in 2018

Numerous acquisitions have been donated or loaned to the Historical Society in 2017 and 2018.

Vera Stewart Bettencourt – Wooden rolling pin handmade by Glen Stonecipher between 1935-38 at Patterson High School

Emily Tabor Hove – 1957 PHS letterman sweater, "Tabor". Crimson sweater, "Hove"

Barbara Torrison estate – 5 photos: 1920 Sunday School class, birthday party of Blosser girls on 8-7-20, 1938 Barbara Blosser and Betty Vincent, 1917 Doris 6th birthday, 12-12-43 (bride on left is Barbara Torrison).
Box of handmade dresses

Gail Shadle Campbell – Wooden letter opener carved by retired PHS ag instructor Karl Robinson from lilac bush on N.3rd St.

Gordon Ellery – Box of Highway 33 Association cards

Melba Osnes – Framed photo of Delta-Mendota Canal construction. Framed photo of Commercial Bank building. Yearbooks from PHS. Apricot Fiesta plaque, Sverre Osnes, grand marshal

David Klein – Plaque given to PHS by class of 1959 in memory of Don Richardson (1942-79). Second identical plaque given to Phil Breasher, class of 1959. These plaques were on PHS baseball dugouts before renovation.

Peter Pike, Jr. – "California Bound," a book written by Mr. Pike containing information about founding of El Solyo Ranch.

Amy Hussar – 4 PHS yearbooks (2012-15)

Frank Stehli – 3 photos of original Rising Sun School building

Phil Breasher – Photo of 1954 Little League baseball team, tournament champs. (Fran Wilkinson, coach).

Breasher's jersey. 1974 Evans Telephone Co. directory

Tami Yamaichi – PHS cheerleading outfit, about 1970 (belonged to Linda Rodrick)

Velma Klein – 26 PHS yearbooks including 2 duplicates (1943-80)

Mary Kay Herger – Lug box from El Solyo Ranch

Ron Swift – 1847 flintlock rifle. 3 white ceramic commode pieces (set includes pitcher with 2 chips; over 100 years old; used in Iowa)



2018 Membership - *Life Member

Patterson

Richard Agerety III
* Philip Alfano
* Drs Kent & Lisa Sarasqueta Allen
* Jeffery E. Arambel
* John Azevedo Dairy
* Robert & Trisha Barsamian
* Andy & Eloise Barsamian
* Ken & Michele Bays
* Henry & Irene Bettencourt
* Denise Bickle
* Bryan & Denise Bingham
Mary Solario Brandt
* Phil & Tillie Breasher
Linda Briggs
* John Bristow
* Rob & Sarah Brooks
* Larry & Joyce Buehner
Pat Burch
Ramona Casado
Dan & Christine Collier
Barbara Cook
Tony and Carolyn Cooper
Joel Covolo
* Chuck & Sylvia Cox
Dick and Betty Day
* Norma Days
* Tyler Del Don
* LeRoy & Tiffany Del Don
* Chris Dennis
* Kathy Dennis
* Mimi Draper
* Betty Eberweimn
* Henry Gordon Ellery
Carolyn English
* Paul & Denise Fantozi
Agnese Friedrich
* Paul and Margaret Friedrich
* Mary Chin Gong
John and Diana Gregory
* Elizabette Guecamburu

* Mike & Maryann Halseth
* Gloria Halsetn
* Esther Hamilton
* Marsha Hamilton
John and Anthea Hansen
Barbara Hartsell
* Ken & Kathy Herger
* Frances Hicks
* Durwood Hicks
* Dr. David & Lili Hilburn
* Harold & Faye Hill
* Vee Hooper
* Tom Houk
* Harold Hove
Don and Fran Huston
* Joyce Ielmini
* Virginia Iturreria
* Laurie Morgan Karp
* David & Stephanie Keller
* Bruce & Wendy Kelly
* Robert Kimball
* Velma Klein
* Dr. Tom Klein
* George and Ruth Klopping
* Laurence Kolding
* Mark Kuhn
* Dr Peter and Vicki La Torre
* Virginia Lanfranki
* Ellie Lanfranki
* J. Paul Lara
* George G. MacMaster
* Jon Maring
* Ed and Mimi Maring
* Thomas & Nancy Maring
* Nancee Maya
* James K. Maya
* Sandra McDowell
* Brenda Melo
* Robert & Carolyn Messer
C. D. Mitler
* Ken & Lorene Moeller

Reta Muller
* Michael & Rosanna Murata
Eun-Joo Myung
* Scott Nelson
* Kevin Nelson
* Judy Noah
* Carol Nunes
* Greg Nunes
* Shelly Perez
Alex Pino
Anthony and Vicki Plaza
Betty Prevostini
Wendi Ramirez
Vivian Ratliff
* Ron & Mary Ann Rogers
Tom Rose
* Dave & Kris Santos
Louise Sarasqueta
* Fritz & Donna Schali
* Jonathan & Kristine Schali
* Al & Betty Scheuber
Joseph Schuber
* Evan & Katheryn Schut
Gary and Carol Scoles
* Everett & Sandie Segoviano
Delwyn and Madeline Silveira
Danny Silva
Frank and Kathleen Stehli
* Ron & Kay Swift
* Melinda Sword
* Bruce Thompson
* Clay & Pam Thorkelson
* Jeff & Vicki Torrison
* Dorothy Vieira
Ray and Bonnie Washburn
Pat Wells
June Wheeland
Jeff & Katie Whitney
* Mike and Pat Worley
Carolyn Wortman
* Mike & Beverly Wright

Crows Landing

- Rose A. Beltran
- * Karen Herger Crow
- * Matt & Jill Crow
Tom and Carole Dompe
- * Kathy Herger Pedrazzi
- * Perez Ranches
- * Coleen Sanguinetti
- * Carol Schuler

Westley

- * Gene & Eleanor Bays
Jim & Cathy Cox
- * Gloria Gordon Ellery
- * Jerry & Janine Goubert
- * Fred Lara
- * Mike & Cathy Mahaffey
- * Peggy Perez
- * Greg Petz
Ida Tucker
- * Diana Gerber Wells

Other Stanislaus County

- * Edith Adelman, Modesto
- * Linda Torrison Alberta, Modesto
- Mike and Virginia Alberti, Modesto
- * Sharon Dittman Benson, Modesto
- * Richard Bettencourt, Vernalis
- * John R. Boschi, Turlock
- * Phyllis Breves, Turlock
Thomas Dodd, Newman
- George and Mary Ann Freitas, Ceres
- * David and Faine A. Graham,
Modesto
- * Kyle Herger, Vernalis
- * Karl & Mary Kay Herger, Vernalis
- * Henry & Carol Homen, Modesto
- * Marlene Hogan Jackson, Denair
- * James J. D. Jeans, Modesto
- * Thelma Kneass, Modesto
- * Lynn Chin Lowe, Modesto
- * Tammy Maisetti, Modesto
Audine Massingill, Modesto
- * Mike McNaughton, Turlock
- * Willie Parker, Turlock
- * Jim Patrick, Modesto
- * Signa Pedrazi, Newman
- * David & Lee Ann Pires, Modesto
- * Edwina Rogers, Modesto
- * Randy Angelo Rovedatti, Modesto
- * Collin & Lisa Schut, Modesto
- * Kathleen Carlson Smith, Turlock
- * Jay Stewart, Modesto
- * Mark A. Trinta, Modesto
- Bill Whatley, Modesto

Other California

- * Ruthann Thorkelson Baker, Newark
- Frances Ballestero, Ventura
- * Beverly Riddle Beedie, Sacramento
- Delores Bertoloso, Concord
- * Vico Bondiotti, Arroyo Grande
- * Jonathan Burke, Sacramento
- * Robert L. Callahan, Jamestown
- * Betsy Mayfield Campbell,
Sacramento
- * Ward & Catherine Campbell,
Sacramento
- Joan Campbell, Sanger
- Barbara Cherron, Sacramento
- * Calvin & Peggy Chu, Waterford
- Mary Caroline Chunn, San Francisco
- Gary Correia, Sacramento
- * Rudy Covarrubias, Jr., Stockton
- * Rodger Cripe, Murphys
- * Marian Almquist Dahlgren, Selma
- * Charles & Laurie Dayton,
Nevada City
- * Penny Docker, Fresno
- * Bob & Dorothy English, Lake Port
- * John & Wendy Evans, Pacific Grove
- Nelda Evans, Lake Almanor
- * Mary Bessey Hawkins,
San Francisco
- * Janet L. Heffner, Citrus Heights
- * John Herger, Stockton
- * Joan Nelson Honebein, Fremont
- * Barbara Keller, Santa Cruz
- * William M. Kelsey, Aptos
- * John & Stephanie Kimball,
Elk Grove
- * Gary & Lynell Kirk, Richmond
- * Michele Fink Knapp, Avila Beach
- * David & Marian Knutson,
Sun Valley
- * Dr. Ralph Koldinger, Sacramento
- * Mary Lisa Perez Kuhn, Carmel
- * David Lanfranki, Tracy
- Blake Lindsey, Gustine
- * Rita Hector Low, Manteca
- * Edward Martins, Danville
- * Doyle McElhern, Auburn
- * Lynda Hagemann McGee, LaVerne
- Marie Mudget, Fresno
- * Judy Houk Murphy, Elk Grove
- * Jacquelyn Stout Neil, San Diego
- Joseph O'Brien, Los Osos
- * Archie Parker, Sacramento
- * Donald Parker, Belmont
- * Marty Peterson, Petaluma
- * Peterson Family Vineyards,
Woodbridge
- * Peter Pike, Greenbrae*
- Charles Ralston, Novato
- Dr. Carl Reimer, Fairfield
- Sean Robertson, Tracy

- * Jody Jahn Tom Robertson,
San Francisco
- Conor Robertson, Manteca
- * Joann Costa Rodney, Merced
- * Joe P. Silva, Gustine
- Patricia Snoke, Gustine
- * Carol Stamenon, Walnut Creek
- * Kirk Stangeland, Lodi
- * Gale Stroud, San Jose
- * Dennis & Nadine Thornton, Lodi
- * Barbara Torrison, Livermore
- * May Harrison Wreden, Livermore
- * Ken Yamamoto, San Jose

Other States

- * Sandy Hoessel Boyett, MD
- * Pat & Patty Brennan, MI
- * Kirk Campbell, MA
- Susan D'Ambrosio, CT
- Emerald and Carol Halseth, W
- * Bill Harrison, HI
- * Rhonda Hicks, GA
- * Dorothy Deri Hubbard, NJ
- * Keith & Amy Hussar, MI
- * Richard Kimball, OR
- * Loretta Okel, WA
- * Justin W. Patterson, OR
- * John Jay Patterson, FL
- * Stuart & Betty Sorensen, CO
- * David & JoAnne McGee, WA
- * Leanne Carlson Stone, NV
- * Barbara J. Thompson, OR
- * Mary Pat Thompson, NC
- * James E. Thompson III, OR

Deaths of Members

Carl Crooker
Helen Land Hansen
Robert Rodney
Elwood Schut
Howard Sword
J. Wells
Gene Wheeland

New Life Members

Janet Heffner
Marty Peterson
Signa Pedrazi
Dennis and Nadine Thornton

Barnstormers Plan for a Busy 2019

The Barnstormers, the antique farm equipment group affiliated with our Historical Society, is planning for a busy year in 2019.

The group recently formalized by selecting officers. Ken Herger, farm equipment curator for the Society and the ramrod in organizing the group, has been named president, while Kyle Herger will keep it in the family as vice president. Danny Silva has become the secretary, and Chris Dennis serves as treasurer.

The Barnstormers will continue to meet for a workday the third Saturday of every month, beginning at 10 and concluding when the work is finished. They meet at the Bettencourt John Deere Museum near the intersection of Highway 132 and River Road. All volunteers are welcome.

Ken Herger will discuss plans for the year at the annual meeting of the Society on March 10 (see separate story). He also plans to recognize several individuals for their contribution to the museum project.

Activities planned for the year are:

Display at Easter Egg hunt April 13 at Rising Sun School.
PRIDE scholarship presentation to an outstanding ag mechanic student.
Apricot Fiesta, May 31-June 2, display and entry in parade.
Tractor ride on Father's Day, June 15.
Fundraiser on Saturday, June 29, at the museum.
Stanislaus County Fair display, July 12-20.
Farm to Fork dinner, Saturday, Sept. 14.
Plow Day demonstration in October
Christmas parade in downtown Patterson, Dec. 7.

The Barnstormers recently moved several old tractors that have been stored in the Herger barn on East Las Palmas Avenue. They also received an antique harvester from Tom Houk that was used years ago on the Zacharias Ranch. In addition they recently hosted two antique farm equipment collectors from Wisconsin who were extremely interested in the local collection.

Committees to specialize in work being undertaken by the group have also been formed and chairmen have been selected. They are fundraising, Richard Bettencourt; shop steward, Clay Thorkelson; transportation, Matt Crow; events, Jonathan Schali; picker, Ken Herger; security, Tony Cooper; and fuel and oil, Kyle Herger.



The Next Gateway

The upcoming issue of the Historical Society's publication "The Gateway" will be published this spring.

It's subject will be the Hamilton-Garrett families, early settlers who have deep roots on the West Side.

Handling the writing chore will be Marsha Hamilton who lives in Patterson caring for her 100-year-old mother, Esther Garrett Hamilton. Esther is a retired schoolteacher and the widow of Glenn Hamilton.

Museum Sets Hours

The Historical Society's downtown museum in the Center Building has set opening hours for this spring.

Beginning Saturday, April 6, the museum will be opened by volunteer docents from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The City of Patterson also plans to have a staffer present on Wednesdays from 1-4.

Those interested in serving as a docent should contact museum curator Carol Scoles. Docent training will be available.



Clarification

Our Patterson Township Historical Society may use the founding date of 1968 on its stationery, but the actual founding fell in the next year.

A committee was formed in 1968 to come up with plans for the organization's founding, but it was in February 1969 when the first meeting of potential members was held (see other story).



Year for Anniversaries

Not only the our Historical Society noting its 50th anniversary in 2019, but others are observing their centennials.

They include the incorporation of the City of Patterson in late 1919, but also the formation of American Legion Post #168 which named itself after Elijah B. Hayes, the only Pattersonite killed in action in World War I. The city will soon develop plans to commemorate its anniversary.

Our local Chamber of Commerce has operated continuously since 1920, as has Patterson Masonic Lodge No. 488.

**Patterson Township
Historical Society
P. O. Box 15
Patterson CA 95363**

Return Service Requested

NONPROFIT ORG
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
Patterson, CA 95363
Permit No. 44