

Annual Meeting Speaker to Give El Solyo Ranch History

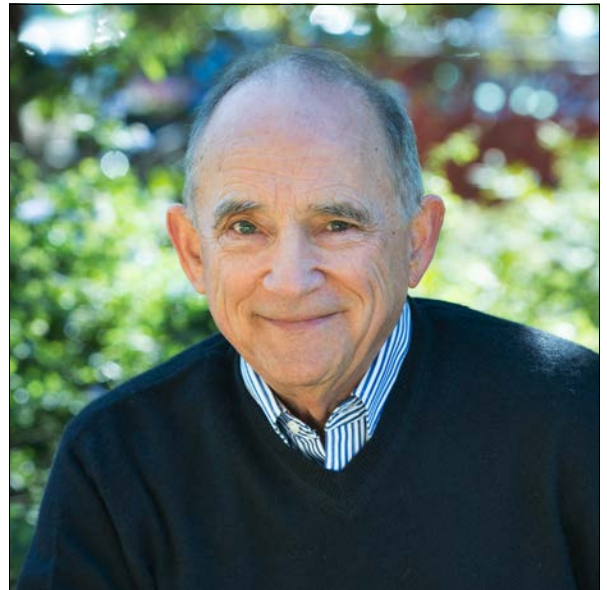
The Patterson Township Historical Society will begin its 51th year when it holds its annual meeting Sunday, March 15.

The meeting will be held in the council chambers at City Hall beginning at 2 p.m. after a ribbon cutting at our museum (see story below). All members as well as the public are invited.

Guest speaker for the occasion will be Peter Pike Jr. whose grandfather Roy Pike was the driving force behind the development of the huge El Solyo Ranch near Vernalis about a century ago. The 4300-acre ranch became “the largest diversified farm in the world” before its financial collapse in the early 1940s.

Peter Pike is a fourth-generation Californian who graduated from the University of California, Berkeley in 1965. He then served in the Peace Corps in Honduras and after working in Europe, solo-sailed across the Atlantic before starting a career as a commercial real estate broker in San Francisco. Now retired, he and his wife Dyan live in Marin County north of San Francisco and enjoy visits with their four grandsons.

Pike recently published a book detailing his family’s history that includes remembrances from El Solyo Ranch. The title of his presentation here will be “The Rise and Fall of El Solyo Ranch – A Family Saga.” He made several trips to the West Side in recent years while researching the book, and thus has previously met with several residents who recalled personal experiences at El Solyo. They are all invited to his power point presentation.



Peter Pike, Jr. to speak here March 15

Museum Ribbon Cutting March 15

All members are invited to a ribbon-cutting on Sunday, March 15, to reopen our downtown museum after extensive renovation work.

The Patterson-Westley Chamber of Commerce will cut the ribbon on the steps of the Center Building at 1:30 p.m. It is planned that city officials as well as chamber and Historical Society directors will have a hand in the ceremony. The museum will then be open to the public.

President's Message

The Patterson Township Historical Society is getting ready once again for our annual membership meeting to be held on March 15, 2020.

Along with the Chamber of Commerce we will be having a ribbon cutting ceremony on the circle honoring the completion of the restorations and repairs on the Museum, Patterson's oldest building.

When the ribbon cutting is complete we will have our membership meeting at City Hall followed by an update by Ken Herger of the Barnstormers.

Peter Pike, whose grandfather founded El Solyo Ranch, will then give a presentation. It should be very informative about our area's beginnings.

Along with help from the City we hope to have our Museum open two days a week on a regular basis. The Museum will also be open for special events, school tours, etc.

The Barnstormers continue to hold many events and are always coming up with new activities for the public to enjoy.

All and all we have a busy year ahead. We always need volunteers

Linda Briggs, President

Did you know: The Museum was built in 1910. It's official name was Patterson Ranch Co. and would be the equivalent of today's developer's sales and operations office.

Spokes is a newsletter of the PATTERSON TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P. O. Box 15, Patterson, CA 95363

Editor: Faye Hill

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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.

2019-2020 PTHS Officers & Project Leaders

Linda Briggs, President, 892-7176
Henry Bettencourt, Vice President, 531-3709
Faye Hill, Secretary, 892-6533
Chris Dennis, Treasurer, 415-850-3022
Carolyn English, Director, 892-8041
Kenny Herger, Director 209-681-5604
JoAnne Marci, Director, 209-642-6340
Kevin Nelson, Director, 631-9378
Vivian Ratliff, Director, 892-5141

Appointed

Bob Kimball, Tour Director, 892-8664
Kenny Herger, Curator of Large Equipment,
209-681-5604
Eileen Forte, Webmaster

Museum Phone: 895-8095

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The city-owned building, constructed in late 1909, was renovated thanks, in part, to funds available through the California Cultural and Historical Endowment museum grant program. It provided over \$115,000 of the nearly \$232,000 spent on the project. Improvements were made to the west porch and arbor, ADA upgrades, structural enhancements, new paint and improved drainage.

Patterson was awarded the CCHE funding after two rounds of review. Construction began last August.

The building first housed offices of the Patterson Ranch Co. as well as the first post office. It soon served a short time as the Bank of Patterson, and for many years housed the offices of the Patterson City Water Co. Even City Council meetings were held in the Center Building for a short time. It now displays artifacts of Patterson's unique history.

At 2 p.m. or shortly thereafter, the Historical Society will hold its annual meeting across the street at City Hall. The public is invited to hear a guest speaker (see above). Refreshments will follow.

Barnstormers Keeping Busy

Our Barnstormers group of volunteers has a busy schedule through the spring and summer months, according to President Kenny Herger.

Starting on Saturday, March 21, the Barnstormers will have a work day at their antique farm equipment museum on River Road. The group also will have equipment displayed at the Rising Sun School's 150th anniversary party on Saturday, April 4. They will be back at the museum on April 18.



Delta Charter School visits Ag museum

In May, Herger plans another museum work day on the 16th, his plans calling for preparation of the upcoming Apricot Fiesta at the end of the month. The group will have a Fiesta parade entry on May 30 as well as a display of equipment over that weekend.

A Father's Day tractor ride, a very popular event a year ago, will be held on Saturday, June 20, and a week later on the 27th, the Barnstormers will host their annual fund-raising dinner at their museum, beginning at 4 p.m.

A big event for the group will be a display at the County Fair in Turlock from July 10-18.

Anyone wishing to volunteer for these fun activities should contact Herger.

Rising Sun to Note 150th Anniversary

Special recognition will be given Saturday, April 4, when the Rising Sun School in the Vernalis area notes its 150th anniversary of its founding. That makes it one of the oldest schools in the valley.

The public – and particularly anyone who has had direct experience at the school as a pupil, parent or teacher – is encouraged to attend.

Major activities will be held between 1 and 4 p.m. at the school site at 2243 Welty Road. A special rededication video will be shown and tours of the facility will be given. A social hour also is planned, according to Johnny Padilla with the Patterson Unified School District. RSVPs to Padilla are requested – jpadilla@patterson.k12.ca.us or by calling 895-7738. Additional information is available on [facebook.com/PJUSD95363](https://www.facebook.com/PJUSD95363).

An Easter egg hunt, a tradition at the school, will be held for youngsters in the morning.



This Rising Sun School photo was taken in 1925. The teacher was Charles Garrett.

The school first opened in 1870 to serve the families of early West Side settlers. Operating first in only one room with one teacher, it served students from first through the eighth grade. It started some 50 years before the community of Patterson was founded.

The first Rising Sun School was located near River Road on property that later became the El Solyo Ranch. It was moved to its present location after the railroad line was extended down the West Side in 1888. Travel to school was by foot, on horseback, or horse and buggy.

Our Historical Society has attendance records from 1874 to 1938 found when the old wooden building was razed. The Rev. Hiram Milton Hamilton was the teacher of 24 pupils in 1874 and was paid \$60 a month plus room and board. But four years later for some unknown reason, the enrollment dropped to nine. In 1925, a new building with two classrooms was constructed after a drive spearheaded by George Delphia, Sr. It included a principal's office, a kitchen, book and storage room, and indoor plumbing.

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At that time the original building was moved to the northwest corner of the property to land that formerly accommodated a church. The one-room school was then remodeled into a three-bedroom house used by teachers and their families. It was moved again in the 1950s before the new classroom building was constructed. Charles Garrett and his wife taught at Rising Sun from 1923-38 when the enrollment had climbed to 63.

World War II brought the Vernalis Naval Air Station and expanded school enrollment, so much so that it was necessary to house overflow classes on the nearby base. Doris Harrison taught classes during this period. The old school continued to be used for various purposes until it was razed in 1975 along with the Patterson High and Northmead School buildings.

Over the decades, the school became the social hub of the Vernalis-area community. An article about Rising Sun was written for *The Gateway* in 1983 by Esther Garrett Hamilton, a longtime member of the Historical Society who died this past year.

Masonic Lodge Will Turn 100

The year 2020 marks the 100th anniversary of the chartering of Patterson Masonic Lodge No. 488.

The local lodge will be noting its anniversary later this year. In the meantime, it is planned to have a display case commemorating the history of the local lodge in our museum.

As announced on the front page of the *Patterson Irrigator* on Aug. 12, 1920, the lodge held its first meeting in Gilbert Hall in the new city's downtown. Masons from neighboring lodges in Los Banos, Newman, Tracy and the East Side were in attendance.

After the meeting, in which Percy Harrison was selected the first worshipful master, the attendees adjourned to the social hall of the Presbyterian Church for dinner.

Docents Needed For Museum

Docent training for the reopening of our downtown museum was recently undertaken by former curator Ron Swift.

The city of Patterson will soon have three of its employees (including a trainee) who will devote time each week to keeping the museum open. In addition, directors Linda Briggs, Faye Hill and Carolyn English participated in the short training session.

Additional docents are needed to keep the museum open at least 120 hours a month. They will work short days and will select their own hours, Swift noted. Those wishing to volunteer should contact Swift and any of the directors. Additional training will be planned.

The museum's hours will soon be announced



Former museum curator Ron Swift (second from left) discusses museum procedures with docent trainees.

2019 Membership - *Life Member

Patterson

Richard Agerety III
* Philip Alfano
* Drs Kent & Lisa Sarasqueta Allen
* Jeffery E. Arambel
Carol Azevedo
* John Azevedo
* Andy & Eloise Barsamian
* Robert & Trisha Barsamian
* Ken & Michele Bays
* Henry & Irene Bettencourt
* Denise Bickle
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* Phil & Tillie Breasher
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* John Bristow
* Rob & Sarah Brooks
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Ramona Casado
Dan & Chistine Collier
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Tony & Carolyn Cooper
* Chuck & Sylvia Cox
Dick & Betty Day
* Norma Days
* LeRoy & Tiffany Del Don
* Tyler Del Don
* Chris Dennis
* Kathy Dennis
* Mimi Draper
* Betty Eberwein
* Henry Gordon Ellery
Carolyn English
* Paul & Denise Fantozzi
John Farinha
* Paul & Margaret Friedrich
Agnes Friedrich
* Mary Gong
John & Diana Gregory
* Elizabeth Guecamburu
Bruce Guzman
* Gloria Halseth
* Mike & Maryann Halseth
* Marsha Hamilton
John & Anthea Hansen
Barbara Hartsell
* Ken & Kathy Herger
* Frances Hicks

* Dr. David & Lili Hilburn
* Harold & Faye Hill
* Vee Hooper
* Tom Houk
* Harold Hove
Don & Fran Huston
* Joyce Ielmini
* Virginia Iturreria
* Laurie Karp
* David & Stephanie Keller
* Bruce & Wendy Kelly
* Robert Kimball
* Dr. Tom Klein
* Velma Klein
* George & Ruth Klopping
* Laurence Kolding
* Mark Kuhn
* Dr. Peter & Vicki La Torre
* Ellie Lanfranki
* Virginia Lanfranki
* J Paul Lara
* George MacMaster
* John & Joanne Marci
* Ed & Mimi Maring
* Jon Maring
* Thomas & Nancy Maring
John Matteredri
* James K. Maya
* Nancee Maya
* Sandra McDowell
* Brenda Melo
* Robert & Carolyn Messer
* Ken & Lorene Moeller
Reta Muller
* Michael & Rosanna Murata
Eun-Joo Myung
* Kevin Nelson
* Scott Nelson
Greg & Jennifer Nelson
* Judy Noah
* Carol Nunes
* Greg Nunes
Shelly Perez
Anthony & Vicky Plaza
Betty Prevostini
Wendi Ramirez
Vivian Ratliff
Sharon Reeves
* Ron & Mary Ann Rogers
* Thomas & Patricia Rose
* David & Kris Santos

Louise Sarasqueta
* Fritz & Donna Schali
* Jonathan & Kristine Schali
* Al & Betty Scheuber
Joseph Scheuber
* Evan & Kathryn Schut
Gary & Carol Scoles
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Danny Silva
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* Bruce Thompson
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* Mike & Pat Worley
Carolyn Wortman
* Mike & Beverly Wright

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* Karen Crow
* Matt & Jill Crow
* Nick Hansen
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* Perez Ranches
* Coleen Sanguinetti
* Carol Schuler

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Jim & Cathy Cox
* Gloria Ellery
* Jerry & Janine Goubert Farms
* Fred Lara
* Mike & Cathy Mahaffey
* Peggy Perez
* Greg Petz
Ida Tucker
* Diana Wells

Other Stanislaus County

* Edith Adelman, Modesto
* Linda Torrison Alberta, Modesto
Mike & Virginia Alberti, Modesto
* Joe & Marlene Amaral, Modesto

- * Amaral Associates Realty, Modesto
- * Sharon Benson, Modesto
- * Richard Bettencourt Farms, Vernalis
John Boschi, Turlock
- * Phyllis Breves, Turlock
- * Calvin & Peggy Chu, Waterford
Thomas Dodd, Newman
George & Mary Ann Freitas., Ceres
- * David & Faine Graham, Modesto
- * Kyle Herger, Vernalis
- * Henry & Carol Homen, Modesto
- * Marlene Jackson, Denair
- * James J D Jeans, Modesto
Thelma B. Kneass, Modesto
- * Lynn Lowe, Modesto
Lena & Edward Magee, Vernalis
- * Tammy Maisetti, Modesto
Audine Massingill, Modesto
Dwana McGuigan, Modesto
C D Mitler, Vernalis
- * Willie Parker, Turlock
- * Jim Patrick, Modesto
- * Signa Pedrazzi, Newman
Alex Pino, Modesto
- * David & LeAnn Pires, Modesto
- * Randy Rovedatti, Modesto
- * Colin & Lisa Schut, Modesto
- * Kathleen Smith, Turlock
- * Jay Stewart, Modesto
- * Barbara J. Thompson, Modesto
- * Carole Thorkenson, Modesto
- * Mark Trinta, Modesto
Bill Whatley, Modesto

Other California

- *Ruthann Baker, Newark
Frances Ballestero, Ventura
- * Beverly Beedie, Sacramento
Dolores Bertoloso, Concord
- * Jonathan Burke, Sacramento
- * Robert L. Callahan, Jamestown
Jeff Camara, Gustine
- * Betsy Campbell, Sacramento
- * Ward & Catherine Campbell,
Sacramento
Joan Campbell, Sanger
Barbara Cherron, Sacramento
Mary Chunn, San Francisco
Jeff Camara, Gustine
- * Velma Cook, Lodi
Gary Correia, Sacramento
- * Rudy Covarrubias, Jr., Stockton

- * Marian Dahlgren, Selma
- * Charles & Laurie Dayton,
Nevada City
- * Penny Docker, Fresno
- * Bob English, Lake Port
- * John & Wendy Evans, Pacific Grove
Nelda Evans, Lake Almanor
- * Gerald Hayton, Visalia
- * Mary Hawkins, San Francisco
- * Janet L. Heffner, Citrus Heights
- * John Herger, Stockton
- * Joan Honebein, Fremont
- * Barbara Keller, Santa Cruz
- * William M. Kelsay, Aptos
- * John & Stephanie Kimball, Elk Grove
- * Gary & Lynell Kirk, Richmond
- * Michele Knapp, Avila Beach
- * Davie & Marian Knutson, Sun Valley
- * Dr. Ralph Koldinger, Sacramento
- * Mary Lisa Kuhn, Carmel
- * David Lanfranki, Tracy
Betty Lindevald, Goleta
Blake Lindsey, Gustine
- * Rita Low, Manteca
- * Edward Martins, Danville
- * Doyle McElhern, Auburn
- * Lynda McGee, La Verne
- * Marie E. Mudgett, Fresno
- * Judy Murphy, Elk Grove
- * Jacquelyn Neil, San Diego
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Samuel & Nitzi Phillips, Los Gatos
- * Peter Pike, Greenbrae
- * Charles Ralston, Novato
Dr. Karl Reimer, Fairfield
- * Jody Robertson, San Francisco
Conor Robertson, Manteca
Sean Robertson, Tracy
- * Joann Rodney, Merced
- * Joe Silva, Gustine
Patricia Snoke, Gustine
- * Carol Stamenson, Walnut Creek
- * Kirk Stangeland, Lodi
- * Gale Stroud, San Jose
- * Dennis & Nadine Thornton, Lodi
- * Barbara Torrison, Livermore

- * May Wreden, Livermore
- * Ken Yamamoto, San Jose

Other States

- * Sandy Boyett, MD
- * Pat & Patty Brennan, MI
- * Kirk Campbell, MA
Philip & Dee Cearley, TX
Robert & Judy Cowan, AZ
Susan D'Ambrosio, CT
Zane & Margaret Dory, CO
- * Ellie Giles, AZ
Emerald & Carol Halseth, WA
- * Karl & Mary Kay Herger, ID
- * Durwood Hicks, GA
- * Rhonda Hicks, GA
- * Dorothy Hubbard, NJ
- * Keith & Amy Hussar, MI
- * Richard Kimball, OR
- * Dee Lamphere, AZ
Bruce Manuel, LA
- * Loretta Okel, WA
- * John Patterson, FL
- * Edwina Rogers, ID
- * Stuart & Betty Sorensen, CO
- * David & JoAnne Stewart, WA
- * Leanne Carlson, NV
- * Mary Pat Thompson, NC
- * James E. Thompson III, OR

Member Deaths

- Rose Beltran
- Joel Covelo
- Dorothy English
- Esther Hamilton
- Mike McNaughton

New Life Members

- Amarel Associates Realty
- Joe and Marlene Amarel
- Velma Cook
- Nick Hansen
- John and JoAnne Marci
- Marie Mudgett
- Tom and Patricia Rose



Members of The Curve ball team in this photo donated to the Historical Society by Shirley Mattos have now been identified, with the exception of the two bat boys who are thought to be brothers. The photo was taken about 1947. The Curve was a Patterson eatery and watering hole on Highway 33 at the south edge of town where Thompson Chevrolet is now located. Front row players are (from left) Floren Grischott, Jess Reis and George Silva. Back row: George Mattos, Chuck Minghetti, Len Wood, Domingos Trinta, Carl Freitas, Tom Martin, John Borges, Roy Hurtig, and Bob Minghetti.

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