

The Legacy

No. 124

Winter 2015

Lompoc Valley Historical Society's Quarterly Newsletter

A TREASURE RETURNED

By Julie Ann McLaughlin

Donnie Silva had a surprise recently when Sue Huseman told Donnie, "I have something I think you should have." She said, "it's your Dad's accordion." Donnie said "I was speechless" and if you know Donnie that's pretty momentous, "tears came to my eyes."

A Lompoc native, Donnie's Dad was born Wallace Charles Grossi, May 9, 1905, but he was known as "Babe".

Babe made his living on a dairy farm for a time, but mostly he was employed as a welder and mechanic and even did some bartending on the side. But his claim to fame was as a renowned accordionist. After he retired from his job with the City of Lompoc in 1971, he volunteered at a near-by special needs school, teaching the kids to play on the 3 accordions he owned.

In the over 30 years since her father's death Donnie had no idea the instrument was still in existence and Sue doesn't remember how she came to have it either except that she taking lessons from him shortly before his death in 1984. He was almost



Wallace "Babe" Grossi with one of the other three accordions he played

Treasure continued on Page 4

REMEMBERING A NOTABLE OCCASION IN OUR HISTORY

Ten Thousand Attend
Jubilee Celebration

Lompoc Record No. 25
Friday; November 13, 1925

A Crowd that it is estimated to number ten thousand people participated in **Lompoc's Golden Jubilee** celebration on Armistice Day and on November 11th 1925, will be looked back by many as long as they live as one of the most notable occasions in the history of the community.

Weather conditions were ideal, the sun coming out bright and warm early in the morning and continuing to shed its glorious rays upon the happy throng of people all day long. Our guests began to arrive early and by 8 a.m. there was a steady stream of humanity wandering its way hither, some from as far distant as San Luis Obispo arriving at the early hour.

The spirit of the crowd was as cheerful and bright as the day itself and there was no

unpleasantness to mar the occasion. Our Chief of Police informs us that it was the most orderly celebration and that not a single arrest was made nor was there the least bit of trouble with anyone all day.

Most people were awakened and had their appetites whetted for **excitement at about 5:30 o'clock** Wednesday morning by a snappy little earthquake. Then those who had begun to doze again were vigorously reminded **at 6 a.m. that it was Lompoc's**

Occasion continued on Page 2

Occasion cont. from page 1

Golden Jubilee by the booming of the morning salute.

And by 7a.m. everything was hustle and bustle in the city for everyone had a task to perform in entertaining the thousands of visitors who were to arrive that day. Everything had been carefully planned and we are proud to say that it was well executed.

There isn't any questions in anyone's mind but that the celebration was a rip roaring success. Hail to the Legion boys and the way they put it over. Hail to our citizens and the willing cooperation that they gave in making the Golden Jubilee a success. Our visitors who remained over yesterday with us remarked over and over that the whole community seemed to be working together in this undertaking. Verily, it is the truth and the key to the success of the whole affair. Yea, we were all back of the celebration.

The parade in the forenoon was one of the most remarkable features of the celebration and eclipsed anything of the kind that has ever been attempted here before. The parade first of all was handled right and showed thorough organization. Then it was a large parade. It extended over thirteen city blocks when it was moving which means that it was considerable over a mile in

length. And it was a parade of real merit in that it had many excellent displays and artistic touches. As a southern visitor remarked yesterday. It must have been a difficult position for judges in giving prizes as there were so many worthwhile floats, etc.

The speaking and exercises at Ryon Park, which came immediately after the parade, was the best of the sort we have listened to for a long time. Following the **playing of the "Star Spangled Banner" by Santa Maria band** a brief and appropriate introduction was made by C.J. Smith, Commander of the American Legion Post. He was followed by mayor A.C. Whitemore who warmly welcomed the throng of visitors. Atty. A.G. Balaam **made the address on "Old Timers of Lompoc"** and gave the audience a delightful picture of pioneer days in Lompoc Colony. Judge Ira Thompson of Los Angeles was the speaker of the day and was a forceful speaker whom everyone enjoyed listening to.

Then followed the big free barbecue with the choicest of beef and other good things to eat that was served a la cafeteria style. Eighteen hundred people were accommodated at the

long tables at each sitting and the monster picnic was so inviting that superior court judges, Judge Ira Thompson of Los Angeles and Judge S.E. Crow of Santa Barbara, declined an invitation to come up town to a dinner that had been especially prepared for them in order that they might enjoy a real barbecue dinner.

After the Barbecue came the horse races and as usual these events created lots of interest. These followed the football game between Santa Barbara Legion and the Lompoc Football team. This proved to be a thrilling and grueling contest that ended in a tie with zero score for both teams.

The reception and reunion for the old timers, which was held during the afternoon at Foresters hall was something of unusual appeal and no doubt was one of the happiest events of the celebration.

The special show at the Lompoc Theatre attracted a packed house and Charley **Poulsen's Golden Jubilee Song** went over big. Next was the Fireworks. The Japanese association furnished fireworks that were fired during the afternoon at the football

game and also in the night display and they were extra good.

The dances - three dances—brought the celebration to a fitting close. The old timers had a wonderful dance at Foresters hall and there was a full house at Odd Fellows hall where the Canterbury orchestra played. At the Lompoc Theatre **Campbell's orchestra furnished** the music and the hall was filled to overflowing.

The visitors all seemed to enjoy the celebration and our home folks are satisfied that it was a real success.

Charles Poulsen was invited over to the Old Timers Dance to sing the Golden Jubilee song for them. The song proved to be the climax of a happy evening and the young composer warmly applauded.

(Karen Paaske discovered this article in the hard bound Lompoc Record Newspaper books that until recently were in the basement of the Lompoc Library and are now stored in our vault.

These newspapers are available at the Library on microfiche, but are worn from use.

We have digitized the Lompoc Journal and have plans to digitize and microfilm the Lompoc Review. Hopefully the Lompoc Record can be digitally preserved as well.)

"Metadata is a love note to the future."

Jason Scott

Beverly Morehart Preece stopped by to see us one day. Beverly is the model on the poster that she holds. Photo taken in 1947 when she was just 16.

Being the Step daughter of Chuck Bodger, she was asked to pose and wear a blue dress. She didn't own one so she borrowed it from her friend Eleanor Bailey. It was a windy day and she worried about her hair and that the flowers would loose their petals. She said that they used Wesson Oil from Safeway to make those peppers shine!

What a treat to visit and hear her story. A pretty little piece of our local history!



Poster is in vibrant colors and those colors can be viewed on the Historical Society's Facebook page.

The Legacy

Treasure continued from page 1

79 years old at the time.

Joe Avila remembers that it was the accordion that he played at the Odd Fellows.

Ardeane Eckert is sure it is the accordion he played when he rode in parades with her Uncle, Joe Machado, on the Elks' wagon or in the back of a pickup truck.



Everyone seems to have fond memories of Babe and his accordions. "I have something of my Dad's. I will never forget that moment," said Donnie. "This accordion has been many places all over the Central Coast. It's been to more parties than I have." She laughed. Many thanks to Sue Huseman for safeguarding and returning this treasure to Donnie. "She has made me so happy."

Digital Preservation of Pioneer Family Photos Begins...

Over 600 pages to date have been scanned, about one tenth of the collection but the real work is to link each photo on a page of 4 or 5 photos with a unique identifier (an assigned name usually a number) so that the information or story (who, what, where, when and sometimes why) can be attached and preserved together as part of digital file. Then the file is indexed and searchable. Scanning is time consuming but the easiest part. The real work is to gather the metadata for these files. What's metadata? I'm glad you asked. Metadata is a lot of stuff only the computer understands, it's also the code that only programmers understand and it's the information mentioned earlier.

Who or What is in the photo; Where was it taken; the date it was taken and finally the story behind the photo or subject. And that's where you come in. I'm posting these photos on the "Hodge Podge of Miscellany" Blog with what information I have and I'm hoping you'll go there and comment on the photos. Any constructive criticism would be appreciated. Feel free to correct my spelling, punctuation or even my grammar but what I looking forward to is the fact checking and the stories you have to

Notes from your Treasurer...

Jeannette Wynne

As we near the end of 2015, I wanted to remind you of a couple things;

(1) If you wish to make a monetary tax-deductible gift to your society, now is a great time to do so. I can provide you with a receipt for tax purposes.

(2) Coming up is our "Christmas" Dinner Monday, December 14th. Please have your dinner reservations in the mail by December 5th so I will be able to give Pastor Doug a count one week prior to the event!

I can't tell you how much I appreciate your prompt reservations for our great dinner gatherings. I look forward to seeing you there!

You'll find the reservation form in this newsletter.

Any questions?

Call me at 737-1170.

tell about these photos.

The photo below and the corresponding label from a photo album has the who, what, when that would be included in the metadata, but it tells a rich story as well that needs to be preserved along with the

image.

CHARLES F. DAUGHERTY was the telephone man in 1909. He became manager of the Home Telephone Company in Lompoc and Santa Maria in 1910. While a linemana he carried his gear on his specially equipped motorbike. He was an auto and motorcycle racing enthusiast. The telephone operator was called "The Hello Girl". (Lenore Hogan's husband)



The photo to the right is from the Henning Album and the information I have is that it is the "Henning Home" (who and what); the address, "1113 North A Street (where); and the date, "Christmas 1964" (when).

What questions do I have? Were the lights a one time thing or a yearly event like the Victorian decorating done at the Spanne House. Who else in town decorated in the 60's? **Speaking of the Spanne House**, are you going to one of the open houses this year? Have you seen the 6ft jewel tree yet? (shameless plug) But in all seriousness I do hope you do visit: hodgepodgeofmiscellany.blogspot.com and participate in the preservation of **Lompoc's History**. I'll see you at the Holiday Dinner on December 14th. ☺

Former Lompoc High School Home Economics Teacher Dies

By Myra Manfrina

Geraldine Young, taught many Lompoc High school girls Home Economics during the 1970's, and as her obituary said: "She was a gifted teacher, seamstress and elegant hostess; she could give a bridal tea in the morning, host a sit-down dinner for ten in the evening, and in between sew a costume for her son's school pageant."



Geraldine "Gerry" Young picture from 1965 Yearbook Taught Sewing from 1965 to 1988

Gerry was born in Oregon in 1922 and died in Boulder, Colorado, on Sept. 22., at age 93. After she and husband Col. Hugh D. Young had traveled the world in the military, they came to Lompoc and Vandenberg AFB with their son and daughter Greg and Karen Young. Their home was the former Charles and Frances Bodger home on East Central Ave.

When she retired from teaching she moved to Santa Barbara where she took up ballroom dancing, and danced in competitions until she was 90.



Don Ray Passes

Written by Myra Manfrina

For many years Don Ray engraved our memorial plaques, and donated his work with loving dedication. We were very saddened to learn of his passing.

Don was born in 1921 to Sam and Irene Ray in Ontario, Canada and moved to Lompoc when but less than a year old. Don and I met in Kindergarten, and went all through school together, and graduated in the Class of 1939.

When we were in grade school the teachers would have Don and me write the lessons on the blackboard, as we had good penmanship. In 6th Grade we did a chalk painting together of a brilliant parrot with flowing tail feathers. We tried to find that painting in later years, but it was long gone.

After a career of engraving and jewelry work in Santa Barbara, he moved in 1960 with his wife Doris to Buellton where he operated a service station with his brother Richard Ray. He later worked for the City of **Solvang's Municipal Utility Dist., retiring in 1986.**

Don's wife, Doris, his brother Richard, and his sister, Luella Shell, of Santa Maria, survive him along with four children and many grandchildren.

Luella graduated with the Class of 1933, and is one of two surviving members of that class. The other is Lawrence Archer. Both are 100 years old and our oldest living High School Graduates.

Don Ray with his brothers and sister Arthur, Don, Richard And Luella All Graduated from Lompoc Hi



Don Ray In 1939 on High School lawn before school, on Hick's Day very strict English Teacher, Gertrude Bowen, ordered him to go home and put on some clothes. Miss Bowen was feared in our school years, but beloved when thought of in later years.

August, September, October 2015
Memorials & Membership
Welcoming New Members
Susan Warnstrom
Mary (Reed) Ward
Total Number of Members: 458
Memorial Contribution in Honor of
John "Jack" Dreese
Ed Everett
Domenico Signorelli
Gene Friis
Margaret Mange

Karen's Chronicles

Labor Day festivities, enjoyed by members, guests, and the class of 1965 had large turnouts. Many thanks **to the Elk's, the River Bottom Boys and** those who helped facilitate the Ryon Park BBQ.

The Christmas Holiday Party has a very special speaker: Cynthia Carbone Ward lives on Hollister Ranch, writes for the Santa Barbara Independent and a **wonderful blog called "Still Amazed"**. Check it out for her articles on our local area. Pastor Doug always does a wonderful job with food and decor and has kept our rate the same in spite of food prices rising, I hope many will **come, as last year's attendance was** quite low.

Around the Historical Society, Sue Canfield Harrell, Sue Huseman, and Lynn Romine have been helping out in the reference room and that help is so appreciated. Ardeane and her crew are decorating for Christmas. Soon a new roof will go on the blacksmith shop, and we hope to start work on the yard **area. Mary Braitman, Ed Everett's** daughter, allowed us to hold a garage sale at his home bringing in \$2200. She also donated money after selling some firearms. Board members worked tirelessly on this sale for many hours.

Our congratulations to Joe Avila and Brian Donelson and the Model T for their Los Alamos Parade first place finish in Antique Cars!

After 2 terms as President, and starting a 3rd, looking back at the accomplishments seemed a prudent thing to do. During the 4 years, projects included new heaters for the house and reference room, new roofs

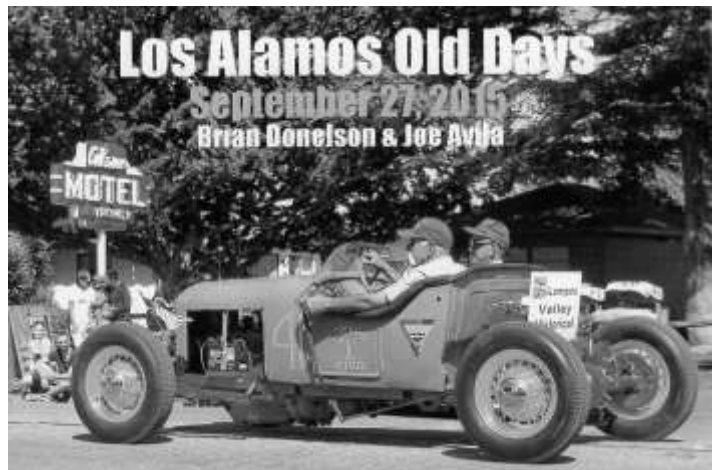
on the outer building, a complete museum remodel, restoring the front area of the house & removal of 2 palm trees. Thanks to many generous donations, those expensive projects could be managed. Harvey Wynne administered all the jobs. The Old Lompoc Journal is online and currently working on the Lompoc Review for the CA Digital Newspaper Collection. Yearbooks: Thanks to Laurie Lane for obtaining 3 boxes of Cabrillo Yearbooks. Lompoc High School Yearbooks still needed: 1992 to 2015. Have very few middle school yearbooks... Donations would be gratefully accepted!

January is coming soon and all of our roses will need to be trimmed so volunteers are needed!

If you would like to receive future newsletters only by email, please send your email address to kpaaske@verizon.net (newsletters Cost a lot to print and mail)

New Board Member

Lynn Benedict Romine has graciously accepted a **position on the Historical Society's Board**. Lynn is the daughter of Benny Benedict. Her family been here in Lompoc for 5 generations. **We'll benefit from that pioneering spirit.** Lynn's enthusiasm is positively contagious and a welcomed addition to our merry band.



Up and Coming Events...

Executive Board

Karen Paaske - President

Ardeane Machado Eckert - 1st Vice President

Harvey Wynne - 2nd Vice President

Julie Ann McLaughlin - Secretary

Jeannette Miller Wynne - Treasurer

Jan Webb - Corresponding Secretary

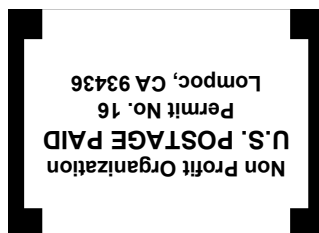
Directors

Barbara Mundell Cabral, Myra Huyck Manfrina, Dan Dutra, Rose Machado Roberts, **Readon "Donnie" Grossi Silva, Carolyn Huyck Strobel, Jesse Jones, Brian Donelson,** Irma Gadway, Lyla Sechrest, Don Fletcher, Sherrie Chavez, Debbie Schuyler Manfrina and Lynn Benedict Romine

- Reference Room Hours are suspended from Thanksgiving through New Years
- NOVEMBER 23 Last Working Day in the Reference Room of the year
 - NOVEMBER 26 Happy Thanksgiving!
 - NOVEMBER 27 & 28 open house
 - DECEMBER 5 open house
 - DECEMBER 6 Happy Hanukkah!
 - DECEMBER 12 open house
 - DECEMBER 14 Holiday Dinner
 - DECEMBER 25 Merry Christmas!
 - JANUARY 1 Happy New Year!
 - JANUARY 4 First Working Day in the Reference Room of the year
 - JANUARY 23 open house

COME TO THE SPANNE HOUSE TO
EXPERIENCE ITS OLD FASHION
HOLIDAY CHARM THIS WINTER

WE'VE DECKED THE HALTS!



Lompoc Valley
Historical Society
P. O. Box 88
Lompoc CA 93438

