# The Legacy No. 128 Winter 2016

Save the Date!

March 13th, 2017 for our

QUARTERLY MEETING

& DINNER

Lompoc Valley Historical Society's Quarterly Newsletter

# LVHS Launches into The Digital Frontier

### And you're invited join in ...

By Julie Ann McLaughlin
Thanks to DAR funds, preservation of early
Lompoc Newspapers has been completed.
The "Lompoc Review" should join the
"Lompoc Journal" online sometime next
year. If you haven't visited the California
Digital Newspaper Collection site maybe you
should. (cdnc.ucr.edu; in the search box
type "Lompoc"; access to the Journal is
currently available.)

LVHS (Lompoc Valley Historical Society) will launch our next digital preservation project in 2017. We will kick off this endeavor with Scan-a-thon. What's a Scan-a-thon? It's an event, one that will take place at our January 28th Open House. That day will not only be your last chance to take in the fabulous Victorian Christmas display, you will also be able to scan your personal photos up to 11"x17" and archive them onto your own flash drive or we can supply you with one for a \$10 donation. The service is free of charge, but we are hoping you'll be willing to let us archive a digital copy of any of those photos that are relevant to our valley's history. So we can share your photos and their stories with generations to come.

What's on the back? This photo of a missile launch is very dramatic and tells a story, but the back of photo can provide context and details you can't always see in the photo alone.

"1st Samos Shot from Pt Arguello"
U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO: DET. 1-1352 PS-APCS
(MATS): 11092 '60DET1-1352 PS UNCL
donated by Morgann Tayllor Jack
(visit ThisisLompoc.blogspot.com)



# The Balaam Mine By Author G. Balaam

Excerpts from a letter dated Decemer 13, 1938
Part two of two Parts



(This is letter was in response to what apparently was a request from Johns-Manville for the history of the Balaam Brothers mining of celite in the Lompoc Valley. A.G. Balaam continues the account with a lengthy description of a tool used in the operation on what he term as the overburden before returning to were we pick up with the arrangement they had with Captain Barrow".)

Thru the arrangement we made with Captain William Barrow, he practically became the selling agent for this material all over the world, and the contract which we made with him shortly after we began mining, ran for a period of ten years, and as I said before, this agreement provided that he take and dispose of a minimum of 1500 tons the first year, and if I remember correctly, the next three years the minimum was placed at 2000 tons and thereafter there was to be a minimum of 3500 tons. My brother and I, of course, under this arrangement became the production plant for that outlet of the material. Captain Barrow took his minimum and a little more the first year, and thereafter took the minimum specified in the contract and some years more, up to 1898. At that time, there appeared upon the scene a man by the name of Rose who said he represented large eastern interests and stated that if he could get Captain Barrow and ourselves to enter into a contract with him for his principals, that he could take tonnage of the material in a large way, but nothing came out of this matter.

Of course it was necessary for this mining to be done in the summertime when rains were over, and up to the time rains began again, by reason of the fact that all of our drying was done by sunshine, so each year we would start our

mining operations as soon as we thought the rain was past, and follow out the method of dumping the large chunks to the bottom of the bluff, (which we were always careful to keep intact, and cut these chunks into smaller chunks and haul them out into the drying yard, the location which is now occupied by your Brick Plant and Mills. These ricks were made as long as we could conveniently make them, about 2-1/2" wide and from 4 to 5 feet high. We would test this material in the ricks by weighing on scales, and when we found that the material, being weighed, was light enough to be sacked, we would sack it and haul it to the cars at Lompoc and ship it either to San Francisco to Captain Barrow, or to such points as he might designate in his instructions to us.

Of course Captain Barrow had limited storing capacity for this material in San Francisco, and when we first started, we had no storing capacity for winter use, so the only way we could overcome this lack of storing space was to get the users of the material to order their supply in the summer time or before rains began, and store their material at their respective points of use. Captain Barrow seemed to be very successful in getting the users of the material to do this. However, we soon saw the necessity of having some storage capacity ourselves, and so in the year 1895, we built on the grounds here, a small warehouse 40 to 60 feet, and this we stored to full capacity, even to the roof, with dried material out of the ricks, so as to have some dried material for winter use as possible, which we used to sack this material for the purpose of shipping. After sacking the material in these containers, we hired anyone in Lompoc who had teams and cared to use them for our purpose, to haul this material and place it in the cars at the depot at Lompoc. We contracted with these people to haul it and place it in the cars at so much per ton. The material being very light, we always tried, if possible, to have

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the railroad company called furniture cars (cars used for transporting furniture), because in order to ship a carload of 30 tons of this material, in the manner we were shipping, it required the largest cars we could possibly get, and the railroad was very kind and considerate of our problem and nearly always furnished us such cars. In order to place the 30 tons in these cars, it was necessary to do the placing in an orderly manner and we provided a man at the cars to place this material for the teamster who tossed it in at the door.

The first year, my brother and I did this mining ourselves and hired a crew of men to do the same, but after the first year we contracted the mining of the material under our supervision at the rate of \$1.00 per ton delivered in the ricks, and paid at the rate of \$1.00 per ton to have the material sacked and hauled to the delivery point. There was always one of us present at all times to watch the kind and class of material being mined, and make a proper selection so far as we had means to do, of the right kind of material for commercial purposes. We had no laboratory and we depended entirely upon microscopic tests of the material. We had a very powerful microscope and watched the material as being mined from the different lamina of the deposit and if the slide from the material showed the proper diatoms, we passed it. So far as specific gravity was concerned, we had no means of testing the specific gravity of the material, but depended upon the weight of the material on the scales to determine whether or not this particular feature of the matter would meet requirements. However, we had the best luck in the world in regard to these matters, because I do not recall that we ever had a single that 17 now. We found this material of fair carload of material rejected by reason of the fact enough grade for our purposes, but from the that it did not meet requirements.

Of course, when we started to mine this material, we were put to necessity of hauling water from Miguelito Creek in a large wooden tank for the purpose of domestic water at the



Bird's eyeview of Balaam mine

location of the mine. During the second year of our mining operations we dug a well four by four and about eighty-three feet deep, if I remember correctly, and curbed this well with redwood curbing. We discovered sufficient water for domestic purposes and this furnished all of the water we required for our operations after that time. We pulled this water from the well by the old-fashioned method of the 'Old Oaken Bucket' and the wheel and rope.

During our mining operations, we made certain tests of the deposit by boring holes and examining the material taken from these holes under the microscope to discover whether or not the material carried the right kind of diatoms. We put these borings in the particular mine on Hill 20 which we operated, and also made borings and tests in our fashion. We tested the deposit lying northeast of your present Mill, and as I understand it you call fact that the dip of the plane of the lamina was away from the bluff, instead of toward the bluff, under our method of mining we never attempted to mine for our purposes in that location.

Continued.on page 4



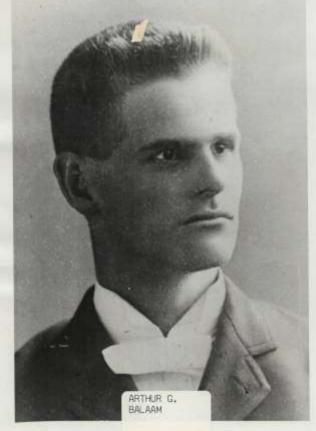
At this point A. G. Balaam goes into great detail about "the method used by Captain William Barrow, in the preparation and use of this material ". The full transcript of the account is posted at hodgepodgeofmiscellany.blogspot.com

BLIZABETH CLEMENTINE (CLEM MALCHE)

RANGES SEELTON (PRANK) BALAAM

TAKEN AT LOWFOC, CALIFORNIA ANOUT 1890

Both Captain Barrow and ourselves stopped operations in this line along about the year 1898, and Captain Barrow released us from our contract by reason of the fact that he was getting ready to retire and told us that if we wanted to go ahead with anybody else, we could do so. This was after we found that Rose had failed to produce parties who were interested in taking material in a larger way.





My brother and I had been paying our father for the mining privileges of his mine at the rate of 10 cents per ton royalty, on the material mined and sold, so the matter was held in abeyance at this point for some little time, and in the meantime a man by the name of Geo. B Hanneman had been working on a deal with my father unbeknownst to my brother and myself) and finally secured an option on the mine which he turned over to a Mr. Mason and the mine was sold at that time to a new company. Of course when Mr. Mason got ahold of the mine, he then put up mills, driers, etc. and went at the mining of the material in a much larger way. However, the fact remains that my brother and myself and Captain William Barrow of San Francisco are

the real pioneers in this industry, and it was thru our original energy and confidence in the value of the material that this deposit was first introduced upon the market and became known as one of the largest deposits of infusorial earth in the world.

Lawrence Archer Lompoc's oldest alumni.

He lives at the Rogue Valley Manor in Medford. Just turned 101. He is doing well. He is pictured here with his daughter,Diane Bingham



#### Barbara Rhodes Salzman Linn

#### By Myra Manfrina

Barbara Rhodes Salzman Linn was a valued worker and historian at our Lompoc Valley Historical Soc. for many years. She dearly loved Lompoc history and immersed



herself in researching and helping with maintenance chores at our historical complex.

Barbara crossed over on Oct.18<sup>th</sup>, at age 98. She was born in Lompoc Valley into two

old Pioneer Families – her dad was Allan Rhodes, long time valley farmer, out on the Sudden Ranch and in the lower valley. Her mother was Amelia Perozzi, born out on the Honda on her father's dairy, and lived in Lynden District down the valley at the present site of south VAFB headquarters.

Barbara graduated with the Class of 1936 at Lompoc High School. She and Eddie Salzman, of another old Lompoc family, were married in 1941, two days before Pearl Harbor. Eddie was the son of Otto and Ada Salzman, San Pasqual Canyon. WWII took Eddie's life on Guam, in July, 1944. Barbara and Eddie's son Gary and his wife survive them, and their grandchildren are Noah Salzman and Maria Barbara Kubitz.

Barbara worked at Bodger Seeds, as a seed analyst, met and married Tom Linn there in 1948 and they were transferred to Chino with Bodgers until Tom died in 1975.

Barbara returned to Lompoc and to Bodgers and when she retired, she came to the historical society.



A board meeting back in the 1980's in the reference room, before it was refurbished. Seated at the south end of the room are Jane Donlon, Barbara Linn, Earle Sweetland, Elsie Sperber, and Larry Archer. The rest of the board members are on either side of the table, not seen in picture. Of this group Larry Archer is the only one still living --- at age 101.

Aug, Sept, Oct 2016
Memorials & Membership
Welcoming New Members
Larry Huyck
Anne Marie Hufford
Judy Pochini
Barbara Rizzoli Carter
Total Number of Members: 439

Kathryn (Kay) Donnelly Minniebelle Hoover Stalker Arlen Sechrest Recently passed away

Memorial Contribution in Honor of Justin Crowell Joe Valencia Peggy Tosti Nadine Grider Deitz Houk Barbara Rhodes Salzman Linn

Myra Manfrina and the DAR announcing her "Spirit of America Award" and National Preservation Award. Presented to her at the Patriot dinner, September 10th, 2016



Pictured: In the center is Myra Manfrina; to her left is Margaret Courtney; on her right is Margaret Courtney. Top left is Heather Bedford, Vice Regent. Top right is Sue Huseman. Regent.

## Karen's Chronicles

Labor Day weekend events at the Elk's and Ryon Park BBQ were very successful.

145 Lompoc Grads and their guests enjoyed a steak BBQ and the River Bottom Boys chicken was fabulous at Ryon Park.

Newly installed French drains surround the Victorian home!
Harvey Wynne, Jesse Jones, Brian
Donelson and Dan Dutra along with
Rodney Eckert dug the trenches, put in pipes and filters. The new 4 foot sidewalks are under construction, with the first pour October 27.

The DAR Patriot Dinner on September 10 honored Myra Manfrina who was given 2 national DAR awards, Historic Preservation Recognition and Historic Preservation Medal and the local DAR Spirit of America Award.

I also spoke regarding the DAR generous donation last December, which allowed us to complete the digitization of the Lompoc Review which should be online is 2017.

- 1. loan of a laptop computer for 5 months windows 7,8 or 10 with USB port to attach to scanner so that 125 issues of the Legacy can be stored in pdf format.
- 2. Come help prune the roses January 5, 9, 12 8:30am to 11am. Bring gloves and clippers.
- 3. Help guide 3<sup>rd</sup> graders touring the property in March, every Thursday.
- 4. Dust the museum or Carriage house once a month.

Hope to see you all at the Holiday Dinner, Monday, December 12



Workers putting in the new 4 foot wide sidewalks in front of the house.

#### From the Treasurer's Desk....

Jeannette Wynne

First, I'd like to say thank you to those of you who are members on an annual basis for mailing in your dues so promptly.

As you know, our "fiscal year" ends 31 August and that makes the dues for the next year due on 1 Sept. I really appreciate your promptness. It helps me keep the bills paid!

The end of the year is fast approaching. If you have been thinking about somewhere to make a year-end donation, look no further. LVHS is a 501-C-3 Non-Profit Charitable Organization. This allows your donations to be fully deductible when filing income tax returns.

If you haven't noticed, the Fabing-McKay-Spanne home is undergoing a huge garden renovation project at the present time. Even though most of the labor is done by volunteers, equipment and supplies can be costly. Here's a great opportunity to help defray some of the costs. Any amount is always appreciated.

You will find a reservation form for our annual Christmas dinner in this publication. Please Make note of the due date and get yours in the mail on time! I need to have them at least a week before the dinner to give Pastor Doug a count. MAIL RESERVATIONS TO: LVHS, P.O.Box 88, Lompoc, CA 93438.

As always, If you have any questions, please call me at 737-1170 or email: cybernana1@gmail.com.

### 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, Jesse Jones, Brian Donelson, Irma Gadway, Don Fletcher, Sherrie Chavez, Debbie Schuyler Manfrina, Lynn Benedict Romine and Larry Huyck Reference Room Hours are suspended from Thanksgiving through New Years

- Veterans Day (Friday, Nov. 11)

  Last Working Day in the Reference Room of the year (Monday, Nov.28)
- Thanksgiving (Thursday, Nov.24)
- NOVEMBER 25 & 26 open house
- DECEMBER 3 open house
- DECEMBER 10 open house
- DECEMBER 12 Holiday Dinner
- Hanukkah begins (Saturday, Dec.24)
- Christmas Day (Sunday, Dec.25)
- Kwanzaa begins (Monday, Dec.26)
- New Years Day (Sunday, Jan.1)
- First Working Day in the Reference Room of the year (Monday, Jan.5)
- JANUARY 28 open house & Scan-a-thon
- FEBURARY 25 open house & Scan-a-thon

Honorary Board members Lyla Sechrest & Carolyn Huyck Strobel

TOUR THE VICTORIAN HOUSE ALL DRESSED UP FOR THE HOLIDAYS AND RING IN 2017



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