

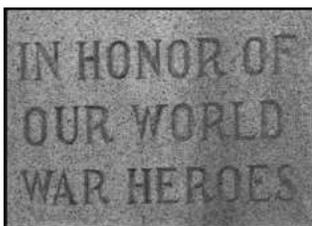
THE LEGACY

Lompoc Valley Historical Society's Quarterly Newsletter

100 year anniversary of the U.S. in WWI



Photo from
courthouselover
on flickr



WWI Memorial's
inscription

Lompoc Museum Association is re-landscaping the property around both the Carnegie Building and Stone Pine Hall. They are taking this opportunity to incorporate and increase the visibility of the World War I Memorial in the overall design. There is a plan to pave the area around the monument and even includes a couple of benches for seated reflection.

Lisa Renkin, the museum's Director, has been working toward the refurbishment of WWI memorial, but will have to coordinate with the City for any actual improvements to the monument itself.

The current memorial was the base of the flagpole placed in the center of H Street and Ocean in 1925 by the Lompoc Civic Club. It was removed in 1941 as it was a hazard for all the military traffic through Lompoc and moved to the Lompoc Library site, now the Lompoc Museum. The Reference Room has been assisting in trying to find those who served in WWI from Lompoc Valley.

This monument is one of the many commemorations to "Our Heroes" sacrifices during the history of our town. There is more than one mural honoring service men of the armed forces.

I recently discovered that there is a Viet Nam Memorial at River Park. It was refurbished just last year with the help of the Rancho Purisima DAR Chapter, but is still plagued by vandalism.

Earlier this year there was a ground breaking at Beattie Park for the Lompoc Valley Fallen Warrior Memorial. The Reference Room assisted in the compilation of "The Fallen". The founders are still working to raise the funds to complete this monument.

Veteran's day is an excellent opportunity to visit these memorials and contemplate the freedom we have enjoyed due to the ultimate sacrifice made in this past century.

Julie Ann McLaughlin

Eclipsed by Tragedy

As we anticipated in the partial Eclipse August 21st, 2017 we remembered a famous total eclipse here in Lompoc September 10, 1923. Astronomers, Professor Worthington & Dr. Burton from England spent months in Lompoc in preparation, placing instruments in Ben Grossi's field. At 12:50pm, the fog parted just in time. Exposures were made with nine cameras by eight observers yielding more than a dozen successful photos.

Stanford professors also made the journey to view the special event. Two days earlier, the infamous Honda Point Naval Destroyer disaster had occurred and the amazing photos were taken as all these photographers had gathered for the eclipse.



THE AQUALIERS BY JUSTIN M. RUHGE

SLC6 is the site of some of the largest space satellites launched in the US from Vandenberg AFB. Located on South Base, it is directly opposite a very historic site at Point Pedernales. This site was given this name because of the flint deposits near the shore discovered by the Spanish Portola Expedition in 1769.

Anchor from the Chauncey Recovered in 28 July 1973 by the Vandenberg Air Force Base Aqualiers, Shown here still in wetsuits.

Pictured below: J.P. Moore, Larry Desy, Sam ?, Andy Anderson, Maurice Greenberg, Jack Bruckner, Steve ?



Here they stopped to gather flints for their muskets while on their way north to locate Monterey Bay. This section of coast is very rocky with heavy surf and onshore sea currents.

Three shipwrecks occurred at this site over a period of 100 years. The first on October 1, 1854 was the *Yankee Blade*, a steam powered side-wheeler cruise ship carrying a full complement of passengers heading south from the gold fields. The ship was loaded with much of their mined gold on the way to the east coast when it went aground on the rocks at Point Pedernales. About 30 people were killed and the ship sank in hours and was beaten to pieces on the rocks by the surf.

The second wreck was the now infamous, Naval Destroyer Fleet that crashed in the same spot on September 8, 1923 with the loss of seven ships and 23 sailors of Destroyer Squadron 11. The third and last known wreck was the *Nippon Maru* in May 28, 1933. The Japanese sailors were removed and sent back to Japan without any loss of life.

Efforts were made to salvage these wrecks using the techniques of the day usually with hardhat divers. However, it was not until the 1960s that the techniques of SCUBA diving became popular. With it, dive clubs were formed around the country. Vandenberg Air Force Base has its own group called the Aqualiers. This group explored the wreck sites at Point Pedernales and found the floor of the ocean at about 60 feet depth strewn with artifacts from all of the wrecks. Many items were recovered from the remains to the ships dating from 1854 and 1923. These have been placed in the Lompoc Historical Society Museum, the Lompoc Museum and the Santa Barbara Historical Museum.

One of the largest artifacts located and recovered by the Aqualiers was the anchor from the Naval Destroyer, *Chauncey*, recovered in 1973. This anchor and a plaque listing the names of the lost sailors at Point Pedernales were on display for years there.

In 2000, the Air Force removed this memorial and turned the anchor and plaque over to the Lompoc Historical Society where it can be seen today in their Museum at Walnut and L streets.

References: Maritime Tragedies on the Santa Barbara Channel, Justin M. Ruhge, 2000.

Lompoc Journal November 1917

Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Calvert this week received the following letter from their son Ralph who is with the United States forces in France: 33rd Aero Squadron, Aviation Headquarters, Paris, France, October 3rd.

*Editor's note:
Walter Calvert is
Ralph Huyck's
Step-father.*



Library of Congress

As I have had a general deluge of mail, I must try and write you another letter and let you know where I am and how I am feeling. It takes letters about one month to go and come outside of a few that make regular ship connections. It is sure great to hear from home again even if they are a little ancient. None since Aug. 11th as we have done some moving since leaving Camp Kelly. I had a wonderful trip and the few minor inconveniences of the ocean voyage can be overbalanced by the excitement and novelty of such a long trip for yours truly We were on the boat a very long time for the trip—24 days on the water. The fish are not any fatter as far as I was concerned but they did not go hungry at that. The last day out was full of excitement as we were followed by a submarine and it attacked us just before dark. As good luck was riding on our mast and Uncle Sam's boys around us, we docked safely and feel sure that one of our enemy's pirates, at least, if not two, will not be wandering any more looking for prey. We were in England only two days but had the pleasure of seeing part of it. Am glad I did not stay there as some did as France is good enough for me until I get permission to go where I please and then I surely will blaze a trail for the States and California as the old song, "There's no place like home" is an entirely correct version, believe me, and say, please inform all correspondents to nix on the swell descriptions of eats in their letters as they are merely starting a revolution with my democratic stomach and you know, where there is unity there is strength, etc. Our trip across the channel was also a success and it was with a feeling of relief to put our feet on the soil of France, knowing at least we would be able to see the enemy above us or in front after this instead of fearing them in the water—for some time at least. I am sure lucky being in the army now and especially in this branch as I am getting an education like I hoped for when I saw you last. I am billed for a mechanic and my instruction started almost immediately after arriving at our final destination I feel safe in saying that money could not buy the same instruction as the opportunity would not be open to anyone but Uncle Sam's boys. The French are some mechanics and it is altogether different to work on a French motor under French tuition. I am working in a large French motor factory at present and am learning much. If I keep on I ought to be a good mechanic in Uncle Sammy's service and be able to tune up one of our aero planes so the pilot can, "Go get 'em Bosche!" I feel safe in saying ' am learning fast and know my willingness to work at it and trying to assimilate the theory will mean worlds of good in the army and if need should cause it, after I get out. I visited Napoleon's Tomb and the Invalids where there are so many famous sights to be seen from the armors worn by the nobility of France to the modern weapons and hell's instruments captured from the Germans. We were in a small city of France for a few days and while there I received ten letters, the first since I left Camp Kelly and yesterday I had 6 more delivered at the factory and say, it is sure great to get mail from home. Ben Yoder was sent to Southern France for training of some sort so I will be separated from him until we meet again this coming spring. It makes me feel fine to know all are well at home and that so many take an interest in my doings and some day in the future I will be home again, full of knowledge and experiences. Tell the boys at home hello. Your loving son and brother,

CORPORAL RALPH HUYCK

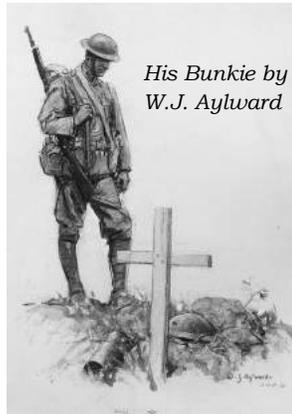
FIRST OF LOMPOC'S BOYS IN THE NAVY DIES IN SERVICE

Eldridge L. Badger, the first of the many Lompoc boys in the service of the government to die in a foreign country, was buried with military honors yesterday in Evergreen cemetery. The young man was a fireman second class, on board the U. S. Battleship South Dakota and died at Montevideo, Uruguay, South America on the 6th of November. The remains were shipped by the government to Lompoc arriving here Christmas day. The Home Guards accompanied the body to the grave yard where the Rev. F. M. Clark, acting chaplain, conducted short services following which the Guards fired the farewell salute of three guns over the grave, Bugler Everett sounding "taps." A number of the marines from the radio station came over to pay their respects to their comrade in arms. Eldridge Badger was the son of Mrs. D. W. Badger of Santa Rita and leaves besides her, two sisters to mourn his loss, Mrs. Chas. A. Davis and Mrs. J. N. Garter. Mr. Badger was 24 years at the time of his death and was among the first to enlist at the outbreak of hostilities.

Lompoc Journal January 2018

LOMPOC BOY WRITES US FROM

HALIFAX Dear Sir: I am no longer in New York but in a town called Halifax, Nova Scotia. I am on the boat Northland. I can't tell you where I am going or when I left New York. I arrived in New York, November 1 and stayed there a little over a month. We had six hours drill a day to get us in shape for something hard. We did not work on the planes there at all, all we did do was to drill or go out to people's places for dinner. I have had five standing places to go when I felt like it. I had numerous other invitations out for a day or over the week end. Before I left we had three inches of snow there. It was the first time I ever had a chance to snow ball my superior officers which I took



*His Bunkie by
W.J. Aylward*

advantage of. Here on the boat we have snow one day and then it freezes. It takes four or five days for it to melt. It was 11 below zero yesterday morning and we had to roll out at 6:30 a. m. I do not know how soon I will be able to write as I am on a boat. I will have to write pretty carefully. I (will write soon as I- get at my destination. As ever your friend W. W. LOWE.

May 1908 Lompoc Journal

Famous Vaquero Back After Twenty Years
An old-timer, once a famous horseman and major-domo of this valley, arrived in town Thursday, and after being shaved up in the Angler barber shop; was seen to be no other than John Quoin. This hardy individual, who has handled trotters, pacers and racers, and trotted himself over half the known world, was once a prominent personage in this vicinity, where as major-domo of the Santa Lucia rancho he had charge of the affairs of the great Rochine and swung the lasso of authority over that vast estate, where roamed thousands of cattle and horses. His special care was the Senor Rochine's thoroughbred horses, some two hundred in number, whose equal has never been duplicated in the county. Since leaving Lompoc the fortunes of John Quoin have gone up and down, but more particularly the latter. He has been sent to China, Japan and the Philippines in charge of high priced horses and has visited many countries. In the meantime the man who picked him up a waif in the streets of San Francisco and gave him a home, had let slip his vast fortune and in poverty was gathered to to his fathers. The site of the city of Lompoc was once the grazing lands of the great Rochine.

(The reference room had had an inquiry about Rochin Canyon and found that it was another name for Santa Lucia Canyon.)

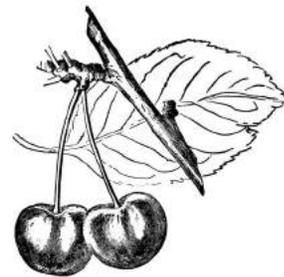
Frank L. Grube's website asserts that this photo of the Veteran's Memorial Building is from 1935



Lompoc Journal May 1908

Will Cherries Grow in the Lompoc Valley?
 Will cherries grow and pay in the Lompoc valley? That's twice we've asked the question, and mayhap a great many before us have wondered on the same subject. Well, let us see whether Lompoc can produce enough to make a cherry pie or not; but before we proceed we wish to state that we will not wager to eat the whole pie at one sitting. According to measurements made a few days ago by Horticultural Commissioner J. B. Saylor of Monterey county, there is a Garnewood tree on the farm of Guy Hibbits, east of Lompoc, that measures in circumference three feet above the ground 8 feet and 10 inches. Another cherry producer, a black Tartarian, measured 8 feet in circumference. Mr,

Hibbits is proud of these twin giants and is also proud of a single tree on his farm that last Season produced fifty dollars' worth of cherries. The Hibbits orchard comprises less than half an acre, yet he managed to sell from his trees four hundred dollars' worth of cherries last year. Will cherries grow and pay in the Lompoc valley? Gentlemen, draw your own conclusions.



Working with Vance

By Myra Manfrina



From the time we met, we clicked on the love of history, especially of Lompoc and its people and most interesting happenings.

When Vance decided he would do stories and put them in what he called Lompoc Legacy, to be a quarterly Lompoc Valley Historical Society booklet, we started looking into what to write – and of course he came up with the idea of the first feature: Fabing, McKay and Spanne families, who had lived in the society’s newly acquired Victorian home. Next he said we should do all the Pioneer Society presidents, which little by little, with a lot of other history stories in between, we did.

One he especially loved and doing, Leella McCabe’s diary, which Shirley Phelps, Leela’s daughter, brought to him to read. It became a series of booklets, as were many of the others he did, such as the Pt Concepcion lighthouse, an 8 part series on Gertrude Learned’s school days memories, Ed Negus’ Memories, Bob Mercer’s memories of Lompoc, and so many others.

It was contagious working with Vance, you got caught up in his excitement of the story, his dogged digging into it, searching out every last detail.

We started in his first print shop, in a strip mall in back of what was then The Lodge Restaurant. There he printed my first book, The Guidotti Family. After his move to his next shop, we did the Manfrina book, and then Huyck Cousins – I learned a whole lot about the printing business through working with him on the printing end of writing. He printed three other genealogy booklets for me through the years, and after he retired and closed his shop, he continued with the Legacies, writing them, but having the printing done by others. I know he hated to lose control of that part of it.

He also printed the newsletters until he retired. Then he would come and get the pages from me and take them to the printer and bring them back to me to label and mail.

Right up to three years ago he was so enthusiastic about stories, and even did many

speaking engagements to groups re our Lompoc History which he had down pat.

There will never be another like Vance Newcomb. He was truly one of a kind.

Aug, Sept & Oct 2017 Memorials & Membership

Welcoming New Members

Adam Downing

Shirley Leck

Total Number of Members: 429

Vance Newcomb

Recently passed away

Memorial Contribution in Honor of

Eugene Huseman

Kenneth & Barbra Main

Audrey Smith

Mary Cabral celebrated her 99th Birthday this October! Mary is possibly the oldest Lompoc native still here with us. Her birthday was celebrated with her family and a traditional Portuguese dinner of Sopas was served. Mary has two sons, four granddaughters, six great grandchildren, two of whom were born this year along with new twin great-great granddaughters. Mary is a happy social lady and can be seen around town (especially at Southside Coffee Co.) with her son Alvin who she has lived with for about 5 years now. When asked if she will make it to 100 she casually replies “oh yeah”. Cheers to your 100th year Mary!!

Kids in photo: Greatgrandchildren Kenzie and Mason



Karen's Chronicles



Our holiday event is a unique experience at the 1879 home originally built by W.W. Broughton, founder of Lompoc and now owned by Harvey and Darlene Greene. There will be lots of food and chairs in the different rooms so that people can mingle.

Many thanks for all the helpers at the Elk's and the Ryon Park BBQ. One of the hottest days in Lompoc history!

Lompoc's Coast Hills Credit Union has donated \$1000.00 to the Hi Let's Eat sign renewal. Scott Coe, an employee designated the sign donation from the "All In" program, the employee driven charitable giving program of Coast Hills. Lori Norcutt, structural engineer, is donating 10 hours of time to the Hi sign project. Once all the engineering issues are cleared will start renovation on the sign. If you would like to contribute send a check to PO Box 88 Lompoc CA 93438

The reference room has been busy with research. WWI veteran's names are being gleaned from the old newspapers, Ivano Caponigro, a UCSD professor inquired about the McKay family, Greg Ogletree is writing a history of the Boy Scouts in Santa Barbara county and has inquired about photos of Earl Calvert and Ralph Debolt.

Thanks to the Lompoc Library for some new filing cabinets that actually work and created more storage space.

Sure could use some more help with the roses and placing the crushed granite in the yard!!!

Karen Paaske

NOTICE !

There will be no Victorian Christmas Décor this year at the Spanne House. After over 15 years running, Ardeane, the Keeper of the House will be taking a break due to conflicting commitments this year.



Beginning to place crushed granite in the yard.

From the Treasurer's Desk....

Jeannette Miller Wynne

Happy Autumn everyone!

Speaking of memberships, **September 1st** was the due date for those of you on **annual membership renewal** status. If you could drop those in the mail soon I'd appreciate it. Not sure if you paid yours? Give me a call @737-1170.

As always, your memorial or general donations are very welcome and tax-deductible. If the amount is over \$250, I can mail you a written receipt. If the amount is less, your check is proof of the donation. If you are thinking about a year-end donation, we could use it to put towards our massive landscape project. The cost is great, but the end result will be water-wise gardening and easier maintenance. Thank you for anything you can do to help! If you have questions: cybernana1@gmail.com.

Up and Coming Events...

Executive Board

Karen Paaske - President
Ardeane Machado Eckert - 1st Vice President
Dr. Blake Jamison - 2nd Vice President
Linda Warren - Secretary
Jeannette Miller Wynne - Treasurer
Jan Webb - Corresponding Secretary

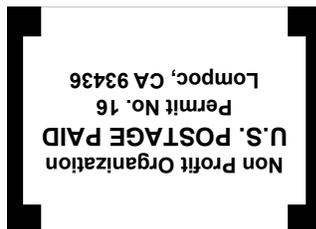
Directors

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, Larry Huyck, Julie Ann
McLaughlin and Ken Ostini

Honorary Board member
Carolyn Huyck Strobel

- **NO open house in November or December**
- **NOV 11 Veteran's Day**
- **Spanne house closed Thanksgiving Weekend**
- **Reference Room Open Monday NOV 27 and Thursday NOV 30**
- **DEC 12 -20 Happy Hanukkah**
- **Reference Room open DEC 7 & 14, both Thursdays**
- **DEC 14 Holiday Event @ the W. W, Broughton House**
- **DEC 25 Merry Christmas**
- **DEC 26- JAN 1 Happy Kwanzaa**
- **JAN 1 Happy New Year! 2018!**
- **Regular Reference Room Hours Resume Thursday JAN 4**
- **JAN 27 open house**

WMI
U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN
100TH ANNIVERSARY OF
COMMEMORATING THE



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

