

# HODGE PODGE OF MISCELLANY

## Lompoc Legacy 113 a

Lompoc Valley Historical Society, Inc. Newsletter

May, June, July 2013

Hodge Podge Written and Edited by Carolyn Huyck Strobel

The Legacy Written and Edited by Vance Newcomb

June BBQ Reservations Inside

Labor Day Weekend Reservations Inside

### 1877 "A Visit to Lompoc"

Lompoc Record

W. W. Broughton, Editor

It is an old saying that "all roads lead to Rome" and so, it would seem, is the case in regard to Lompoc. All you have to do, if a-horseback, is after you leave La Graciosa to follow up any canyon running in a southwesterly direction and you are all right. No matter, if you have to do some tall climbing, the steeper the hills, the rougher the trail, the surer sign that you are on the right road to Lompoc.

We rode down the stage road about 4 miles, then followed the telegraph line to the point where it entered the canyon. Here we were informed that the trail had just been fenced in, and that we could not pass that way. Skirting along the base of the foothills for about a mile, we found a trail leading up a canyon in the right direction, and we took it. After riding for half an hour we came to a place where the trail trisected itself and as each of the three branches seemed to be the right one, and as we couldn't try them all at once, we concluded to do so in detail. Trail No 1 ended suddenly in a dense thicket of underbrush from which we backed out in a hurry, visions of grizzlies and California lions staring us in the face; Trail No 2 brought us abruptly face to face with the perpendicular wall of a huge bluff, from which we retreated in disgust; Trail No 3 carried us up a hill so steep that we had to walk and lead our horse, but at least we attained the summit, and there, just below us, lay the broad telegraph trail, with Lompoc, far off in the dim distance, nestled in its beautiful valley, a welcome sight.

From this point, it was all plain sailing, and we made good time down through the ravine, although it was somewhat rough and gullied. This trail loses itself in a wagon road, which enters

Lompoc by way of La Purisima Mission, and crosses the Santa Ynez some mile and a half from town. This route is perhaps not the shortest between Guadalupe and Lompoc, but for a man a-horseback, it presents the advantages of being less hilly and less slow than the others.

We found the people of Lompoc very hospitable and friendly and decidedly anxious that their town should create a favorable impression on visitors, which it certainly did on us. They may well be proud of their embryo city, and the enterprise and public spirit which have constructed in two years so flourishing and handsome-appearing a place. They have an elegant two-story school house which would be an ornament to any city, two comfortable hotels, well-kept by J Friel and Martin & Leggitt, several large, well-filled stores, two roomy public halls, a neat little post office, efficiently kept by our friend and agent, B.F. Tucker, a telegraph office, restaurant, a neat and well stocked drug store, kept by our old friend Dr Dimock, whom we can recommend as a skillful surgeon, dentist and physician, and pleasant gentleman, and many handsome residences.

We returned home by way of Shuman Canyon, a long, rough, tedious, lonely route, tired and dusty, yet glad that we had made a trip, which, in spite of the asperities of the road, had afforded us a good deal of pleasure.

### Happenings Around Lompoc - 1913

JAN 5 - Weather 14 to 18 degrees in Lompoc, 10 degrees at Floradale.

FEB 21 - Sudden school is too far for the little ones. Farmers already feeding hay to dairy herds. Dry year so far.

FEB 22 - The Record moved between F & G Streets across from the Lompoc Garage.

**MAY 9** - A celebration is planned for dedication of Santa Rosa Park recently given to the public by owners of the Santa Rosa Rancho.

**JUL 4** - Public drinking fountain installed by Alpha Club in front of Moore Mercantile Union. Grand opening of Ocean Park, a new County park. Fifty mile auto races and picnic. Al Canfield won in his speedy Ford. Largest crowd ever, close to 2,000.

**AUG 1** - Bond election for roads: Harris Station \$38,000; Santa Rita \$24,000; San Julian \$24,000; Santa Rosa \$10,000. A 10,000 ton oil tanker being completed in England for Union Oil Co is named "Lompoc".

**AUG 12** - A real treat in store when Edison talking pictures will be shown for the first time at the Opera House this month. Admission 10 cents.

**AUG 29** - Road between Central and Ocean Ave. Named DeWolfe Ave in memory of Benjamin R DeWolfe, early settler on this street was the Hilburn family.

**SEP 10** - First wireless telephone message sent to Lompoc.

**OCT 30** - Surf Station will soon be Lompoc Junction.

**NOV 14** - In Santa Maria Court women as jurors were summoned for the first time.

**DEC 8** - Plans being made for a Community Christmas tree.

### Lompoc News 1871 to 1906

**DEC 1871** The Lompoc Valley Land Co was formed and soon took an option to buy 45,000 acres of the Lompoc and Mission Vieja Ranchos. This was the first subdivision in the state of small acreage of 5, 10, 20, 40 acre parcels and that alone was incentive enough for the small farm hungry men in California.

#### 1874

The John P Henning family had arrived in Lompoc and after a stay in the Ranch House built the first house in Lompoc. Was at the corner of E Ocean and G or H St.

Reserved forever 5 acres on Miguelito creek about 3 miles south of town as a Public Picnic Grounds. Street naming committee report, running east to west side of town, College, Maple, Laurel,

Chestnut, Walnut, Ocean, Cypress, Hickory, Olive, Locust, Willow, all to be "Avenue". The streets running north to south all named alphabetically, all to be "Street".

Joseph Dimock built the first blacksmith shop on SE Corner of I and Ocean.

The Grove, because of creeks converging, Ocean Ave was not "plowed" east of F St. The Grove was a stand of Elm trees, cleared of undergrowth, between E and F St on the north side of Ocean.

First indoor church held in Orsen Peck's new hardware store before the building was stocked. Peck was a Methodist minister.

First building erected by settlers was the shanty-shed type shelter built by Major Wm. Jackson of lumber he brought with him.

John Dockery built the first livery stable in Lompoc, about 119 E Ocean Ave.

#### 1875

First edition of the Lompoc Record printed in the Lompoc Hotel, W .W. Broughton Editor & Publisher.

First day of school in Lompoc Valley, J. C. Webb teacher.

Lumber schooner "Caroline" has made 3 trips to Lompoc Landing.

Frick bros had the first grocery store in Lompoc in the Hotel.

Mr. Fabing has secured the services of Wm. Woods, formerly of Santa Cruz, to supervise the building of his dwelling.

George DeMartinni opened the first dry goods store in June. Dr. Charles Childs, Lompoc's first Doctor.

Lompoc Hotel finished inside and out with Lompoc lime plaster. Ocean Ave should be plowed from H to O St

#### 1876

Frank Dinwiddle built a large hall on So H St. Sold goods and lived with his family on the bottom floor and rented out the top floor.

Rodeo Canyon road survey report, Ocean Ave to Honda Road built by Sebern Steele (near 13<sup>th</sup> street bridge)

Land Co resolves to extend Ocean Ave to the Lompoc Wharf.

M. S. Nichols to build a road up San Miguelito Canyon to the Honda.

1878

First flour from the Lompoc Valley Land Co's grist and flour mill ground this day.

Santa Barbara Co builds first bridge across the Santa Ynez River at a cost of \$600. As western approach was on Thomas Robinson's land it was called Robinson Bridge. Mr. Robinson, because the road to the bridge crossed his land, exacted a toll until 1888 when the County finally secured the right of way. Feb 1878 the bridge was completed.

1880

Lompoc population 1,400. Stage is routed thru Lompoc to the detriment of Ballard's. The stage makes this a stopping place over night and have good quarters for their stock. They have sober, gentlemanly drivers to and from Lompoc.

We have heard of shooting at tramps or slyly letting the dogs loose to keep tax collectors off the premises, and various dodges to avoid being interviewed by book agents or a newspaper man. At some places they let their bees out at our special agent. Please keep your bees chained up when you see him coming. He ain't partial to the business end of them!

1881

Lompoc now has daily mail.

1884

Roads through the San Julian were private and only traveled thru courtesy of the owners. Much of it a cow path with many gates to be opened and closed.

1885

Barley yield 40,000 100lb sacks. Mustard crop harvested, it will not be large, but of the best quality, between 2,000 and 3,000 sacks. The first crop sent out on the Duncan this month. There were 80 dozen poultry shipped on each steamer from Lompoc Landing to San Francisco and south by way of Gaviota.

First telephone line in the County of importance connected Lompoc with the Lompoc Wharf.

1887

Our schools have had to run short two months of the maximum time because of a lack of funds, and

our children left four months without instruction.

There will be three new post offices established between Lompoc and Santa Barbara as soon as the new stage line is in operation.

1888

On Monday, Feb 13<sup>th</sup>, the town school opens with the old crop of teachers, excepting the vice-principalship which is given to Mr. E. Freeman.

A new school district has been formed out of Artesia and Maple to be La Salle District. The La Salle school was opened in June with Mrs Clara La Salle teacher, but closed due to the measles.

The baseball match played between the nine of the Lompoc school and the nine of the Santa Rita school, at Santa Rita last Saturday forenoon resulted in the Lompoc nine securing 22 and the Santa Rita nine 18.

During the month of August blasting was heard in the direction of the Espada Rancho. Supposed to come from Pt. Arguello where a new lighthouse is to be built.

1889

In tearing down the adobe wall of old mission ruins an adobe was taken out with the perfect imprint of a child's foot. In another adobe was an imprint of a large chicken's foot print, probably a rooster.

H.S. Rudolph to build on So H St as soon as brick is made.

1890

Dr. Dimock is having Gum trees removed from corner of H & Ocean in preparing for erecting a bank building.

San Julian road is open to travel.

Miguelito School first in our colony to procure a flag.

1891

The Record advises Santa Barbara friends who are putting up money to defeat County division to save their money and loan it to our people where they get such fine returns. The new county will come sooner or later anyway.

1892

Western Union withdraws service to Lompoc. William Barker to the rescue with telephone service connected with the wire formerly used by

Western Union with Santa Barbara and Los Angeles contacts. Eight business houses have signed up for phones.

Sidewalks on east side of H Street being built.

### 1893

There are now three bridges in Lompoc Valley; Robinson, Dyer and Baroda.

First carload of Celite taken from quarries by Balaam Bros.

By July 1 Lompoc telephone should connect with Santa Ynez, Los Alamos, Los Olivos and Santa Maria.

After Rinconado School closed, the school bell became the property of the Episcopal Church.

### 1894

Brick work has started on the Rudolph block. In the cornerstone is full history of Lompoc Colony and many other things in an iron box.

Steamer "Los Angeles" wrecked. The S. Hebert family of Lompoc missed the train or they would have suffered among the other passengers.

### 1895

Salsipudes Creek so swollen in January the stage had to turn back.

The Lompoc Creamery is about ready for work. It has the assurance of milk product of some 600 cows. W. R. Smith owner.

### 1896

The Rail Road bridge is nearly completed across mouth of the Santa Ynez river.

Bridgeport is no more. The buildings have been removed to Surf which promises to become a metropolis.

### 1897

The bicycle craze has struck Lompoc at last!

### 1898

A year of extreme drought. Many farmers lost their lands by foreclosure.

David Brown's will: "I have two old mules Tom and Jinks, thirty years old. I direct that they shall be cared for upon the ranch without work so long as they shall live. That they shall have sufficient good hay to keep them in good condition and that they shall have pasture upon said ranch as long as they shall live."

### 1899

Following the dry year of 1898 Tom Fogarty and William McKay went to San Joaquin Valley and brought a rain making formula. Farmers and ranchers promised them a fat fee if they would make it rain. They set up shop on the hill south of the cemetery, brought in their secret formula together with all the cut nails Gury and Moore had in stock. The concoction and iron nails were boiled for 10 days. No rain was produced but the fumes killed all the crows and birds within a radius of a mile or more.

Lompoc was a valley of orchards with large packing houses in operation. They were located in the vicinity of Pine and O Street and this area was called "Stringtown".

### 1900

Simpson & Co. Packing house operating by new Spanne warehouse. Ample to handle the fruit pack of the valley.

### 1901

First official run on S.P.R.R. between Los Angeles and San Francisco. The Gap is closed and Lompoc's isolation is ended.

Lompoc Journal issued every Sat. J. S. Graham publisher and editor.

George A. Smith had Smith's Skimming Station. Advertisement, "Only clean good flavored milk accepted. This is to your interest.

### 1902

First automobile brought to Lompoc by Dr. H.F. Dimock from Los Angeles, a steamer. The trip to Lompoc taking him three days.

### 1904

Oil is main topic in Lompoc..."oil crazy".

### 1905

Robert E Sudden ship aground. Lumber cargo unloaded, rigging, machinery and furniture saved. Now the hull is being blasted. W. R. Smith built two homes of this lumber at 414 N H St.

### 1906

The first road from Lompoc to Harris Station grade built. It was a winding narrow trail on the east side of the canyon with many stops for children with uncertain tummies.