



## Lompoc Valley Historical Society, Inc.

*Founded September 5, 1964 at Lompoc, California*

### QUARTERLY BULLETIN

COPY No. 41

THOSE HALCYON DAYS ....

SPRING 1984

## Early Holiday Celebrations in Lompoc

The town of Lompoc was founded Nov. 9, 1874. There is no record of how the pioneers celebrated the first Thanksgiving and first Christmas. Perhaps they were too busy clearing land and building temporary "shanties" to do much more than cook up some venison or rabbit special for the occasion. The Lompoc Record began publishing April 10, 1875 and almost immediately promoted the first holiday for the busy pioneers.

Lompoc Record  
Sat., April 17, 1875

"It is suggested that a May party be held at the grove up the San Miguelito, three miles from town. It is befitting that a little festivity be mingled with the busy life of the present. Let us all celebrate that day." W. W. Broughton, ever promoting the virtues of Lompoc Valley said elsewhere in the April 17 Lompoc Record, "Pleasanter weather than has prevailed this week could scarce be wished for. The mornings and evenings are warm and pleasant, and the midday breezes prevent oppressive heat. The nights are always cool and comfortable."

Lompoc Record  
Sat., April 24, 1875

#### GRAND MAY DAY PICNIC

"There is to be a grand picnic and dance in Park Grove up the Miguelito on Saturday of next week, May 1st. The lumber is already on the ground for a large platform

and preparations are being made this the first event of the kind in the valley, a day to be remembered.

The best music has been engaged for the occasion, and Messr's Hendricks and McKinney will arrange a stand at which will be kept ice cream and edibles generally."

Lompoc Record  
Sat., May 1, 1875

"THE PICNIC TODAY...Great preparations have been made by the committee to render the May Day party at Park Grove a most grand affair. Many who attended the sales have stopped over to participate in the pleasures of the day. Mr. O. L. Abbott (Corresponding Secretary of the State Grange) of Santa Barbara will deliver the address and Miss Lansdell has promised to sing several choice pieces with piano accompaniment. Let us enjoy this day and above all, cultivate a sociability that shall make the residents of this valley friends and neighbors."

"The 'Glorious Fourth' will soon be here when we shall have, no doubt, the largest and best (picnic) of all."

Lompoc Record  
Sat., June 5, 1875

"Fourth of July...Several of our patriotic citizens desire to know how the colonists feel about a grand 4th of July celebration

at Park Grove. There is no time to be lost if a good program is to be arranged and carried out. We suggest that those who can conveniently do so, meet at the meeting room of the Lompoc House on Wednesday evening next June 9th and talk the matter over and arrange committees. Let there be full attendance."

Lompoc Record  
Sat., June 19, 1875

"Fourth of July...The several committees are vigorously at work preparing for the celebration and report all things favorable. It is desired that all come with a goodly supply of edibles as there are many among us not yet provided with a better half. Park Grove is the location selected."

Lompoc Record  
Sat., June 26, 1875

"Fourth of July...There are to be celebrations all around us; at Santa Maria, Guadalupe, and perhaps Graciosa. We hear some of our neighbors will visit Lompoc on the occasion of our celebration on that day. Of course we extend a cordial invitation to all. It will afford a good opportunity of seeing both the valley and most of the families who reside here."

Lompoc Record  
Sat., July 10, 1875

"The Glorious Fourth was ushered in at Lompoc at the usual salute from firearms and anvils in truly patriotic style. And such a day, so different to the day in any other state, and comparing favorably with many places in California even. It was clear and balmy, warm enough for all outdoor pleasures but instead of a blistering sun or sultry heat or fear of thunder showers, we had a most pleasant gentle breeze just tempering the warmth to the most desirable degree.

From early morn till nearly noon, conveyances well loaded with families and good things were seen moving up the canyon to the grand grove set apart for our picnic. Horsemen too, mingled with the

throng in goodly numbers. We noticed visitors from Santa Barbara and L. Cruces. Major Jackson acted as president and marshal of the day and called the large audience to order. After America had been sung by the company, the Chaplain, Rev. T. O. Lewis of Central City (Santa Maria) offered a very fervent and appropriate prayer. J. W. Green, Esq., of La Graciosa (Orcutt) then read the Declaration of Independence, and Birdie, son of Dr. Childs, dressed in appropriate costume wearing a liberty cap and waving the Stars and Stripes sang 'The Red White and Blue.' The assembly joined heartily in the chorus."

"Thomas McNulta, Esq., a prominent lawyer of Santa Barbara, delivered an excellently composed and well-timed oration which was listened to with fine appreciation and was greeted with merited applause. Mr. S. H. Webb, being called out, made a good impromptu speech. After further singing, the friends dispersed for dinner. Ample justice having been done to the ample supply of viands, the meeting was called to order again to listen to some exercises by the children of the two schools in our valley. They consisted of singing 'Revive Us Again,' by the schools; 'Yes and No,' Ella Webb, 'Elbow Room,' Lincoln Frick, 'What is the Use,' Julia Jackson, 'Well, Little Birdie,' Lizzie and Emily Webb, 'Give the Boys a Chance' Grant Jackson; 'The Greedy Fox,' Azariah Hodges, 'The Boy Stood on the Burning Deck' (parody) Richard Freeman; and 'The Final Triumph of Temperance,' George Talford. The young folks acquitted themselves very creditably. The rest of the afternoon was devoted to amusements. Messrs Tucker, Steele, Tucker, Jr., and Lansdall constituted a good string and brass band. Rarely is a more enjoyable day spent."

"THE CELEBRATION...on Saturday last, the colonists celebrated our National Anniversary at Park Grove in good old eastern style with an oration, reading of the Declaration of Independence, prayer and song. The tables were bountifully spread and hundreds dined who came unprepared. Mr. Thomas McNulta, a young and promising lawyer of Santa Barbara, delivered a most splendid oration which was duly appreciated by all who heard it. To conclude the pleasures of the day, the afternoon was spent in a most social dance

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in which most everybody engaged for a set or two. Visitors from abroad, and we had them from twenty miles about, pronounced our celebration the grandest affair they had witnessed in the county and commended the people for their extreme sociability....

The next public entertainment will be the harvest feast of the Grangers when the valley will send in its offerings and return thanks for the thousand of blessings we enjoy."

Lompoc Record  
Sat., Nov. 27, 1875

"Thanksgiving was generally observed. The Rev. Mr. Webb preached a most admirable sermon at 11 o'clock in the morning, after which, all repaired to their homes and partook of the good things provided for the first Thanksgiving observed by our colony.

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"Sunday School meets in the school house after service. Elder J. W. Webb preaches at 11 o'clock tomorrow.

(J. W. Webb was the school principal and teacher, and was an Elder in the Christian Church.)

Sat., Dec. 4, 1875

The Members of the "Lompoc Hook and Ladder Company" will give their first grand ball on Christmas eve in Swanton's Hall. The company will appear in costume.

(Swanton's Hall was above Swanton's livery stable on South I Street, now Moore's parking lot.)

After Sunday School, it was determined by a unanimous vote to follow the time honored custom of having a Christmas tree for the children of our valley. Everybody has heard of Lompoc and no doubt Old Father Santa Claus has too. The good old soul may be looked for before long since Christmas will be here 3 weeks from today.

Dec. 11, 1875

It has been decided not to attempt a public Christmas Tree this year owing to the want of a hall sufficiently large and convenient. An enjoyable entertainment will be given the scholars of our Sunday School as soon as the new school house is finished.

Dec. 18, 1875

"The Amateur Minstrels" will give their 2nd grand performance for the benefit of the Church Organ on New Years night. The last one was successful so don't miss this one.

Dec. 25, 1875

The Children look anxiously and expectantly forward to Christmas as the time when some coveted prize will find its way into their tiny stocking.

Saturday, Jan. 1, 1876

Lompoc is the 2nd largest town in Santa Barbara County ...

There has never been a criminal action -- or cause for one.

(W.W. Broughton, town founder and Lompoc Record Editor, never ceased to extol the virtues of the Temperance Colony.)

Tonight is the time of the promised performance of our Amateur Minstrels. The object being to raise funds to help the ladies pay for the church organ. None who has two bits will stay away.

Swanton's Hall will be well warmed for the entertainment tonight.

The new moon brought looked for rain.

Brother Hubbell of the Guadalupe Telegraph says we are dying for a good "horn of old bourbon." Perhaps so. We have courage to die then and wish we could return the compliment.



Who ever saw a more delightful Christmas? The atmosphere being balmy as spring and all nature smiling in her new mantle of green. What other country offers more attractions than Southern California.

The January 8 Lompoc Record reported the New Year was "greeted by an uncomfortably filled house."

Jan. 15, 1876

We predict a full house at the Literary meeting tonight to listen to the various exercises of readings and orations and a debate on Woman's Suffrage. 7:00 p.m.

Sat., Feb. 3, 1877

The Lompoc Brass Band and Amateur Minstrels are rehearsing for a grand entertainment to take place on the evening of the 14th inst. St. Valentine's day adm. 25¢ Dancing after entertainment.

Feb. 14, 1880

Grand free Concert tonight --

Presents to handsomest men and most talented Lady - Votes 10¢

Come see Mr. Tucker's fine stock of Valentines. He has the finest display ever brought to Lompoc.

Saturday, Nov. 6, 1880

J.W. Webb and A.N. Powers Editorial:

"The President has issued his Thanksgiving Proclamation for the Last Thursday of the month. It is too late for picnics but would it not be a pleasant way to have a public dinner in the hall after religious services of the morning? (Each family bring in baskets of food for common table.) Failing this, won't some one invite us to eat Turkey with them? Now don't all speak at once ...

Frank Dinwiddie is contemplating getting up a dance on Thanksgiving night.

Sat., Nov. 20, 1880

"Next Thursday the people are recommended by both President Hayes and Gov. Perkins to assemble in their respective places of worship and render thanks to the Great Ruler of the Universe for his manifold blessings during the past year. Union Services will be held in the M.E. Church, the M.E., M.E. South, Presbyterian and Christian Churches taking part. The Choir of Lompoc will, no doubt, perform. J.W. Webb will preach.

### GRAND THANKSGIVING BALL

at  
Dinwiddie's Hall  
given by  
B.F. Tucker  
Music by  
Harrison's Quadrille Band.  
Supper given by  
Mrs. Dinwiddie

Dec. 4, 1880

Christmas comes on Saturday this year. Will there be a Christmas Tree? That is what the children are asking.

Dec. 11, 1880

Grand  
Bon-Bon Ball  
at  
Dinwiddie's Hall  
given by  
Lompoc Brass Band  
on  
Christmas Eve  
Dec. 24, 1880  
\$1.00

Floor Managers  
Phil Tucker, H.H. Lambert (The undertaker)  
and O. Anthony  
Lompoc Orchestra  
Supper at Mrs. Dinwiddie's

Christmas is two weeks away. Lompoc is free from small pox, measles, mumps and other contagious diseases generally, except the marriage epedemic. That is raging mildly and the end is not yet ...

Dec. 18, 1880

When buying Christmas presents, don't forget to call at McNealys. He has some real useful things for sale.

Dec. 25, 1880

A Right Merry Christmas Courteous Reader

Christian Message

No Public Christmas Tree in Lompoc This Year, but several private ones.

Jan. 1, 1881

There was a Happy New Year editorial stating that a good life -- depends on good health, a clean conscience, sufficiency of what is needful and an honest attempt to make others happy. The editor also noted that on Christmas day "we gathered a bunch of full blown blue violets in our garden."

Santa Rita had a fine Christmas tree. It was beautifully decorated and loaded with \$300.00 worth of presents.

January 8, 1881

An editorial comment noted that 25 large liquor dealers in Chicago were arrested for keeping their saloons open on Christmas in defiance of State law.

In 1887, W.W. Broughton was again Lompoc Record editor after almost 10 years of other publishers.

Sat., Dec. 17, 1887

Dr. H.C. Dimock with numerous relatives and friends from the east are in Lompoc for the holidays.

There will be a Christmas tree on Christmas Eve at the M.E. Church. Everyone is cordially invited to hang their presents on the tree and enjoy the evening.

Arrangements are being made at the Lompoc Hotel to have a supper for the Christmas ball in behalf of the Lompoc Hook and Ladder Co. The proceeds will go to purchase a hose cart.

Jan. 7, 1888

The Mountain tops within sight of our valley are crowned with snow, while the valley and hills are covered with grass. This is summer trenching on winter.

Dec. 1, 1888

The baseball boys gave a most excellent dance Thanksgiving night. Over 40 couples were present and all reported having an excellent time.

A Union Thanksgiving at Hargrove Chapel was held Thursday morning. Rev. C.C. Wright, Rev. J.O. Redden and Rev. I.L. Spencer were the speakers.

The Baptists will hold their first services in their new church tomorrow morning at 11 -- Rev. J.O. Redden officiating.

The M.E. Ladies will serve a "New England" dinner Dec. 18.

Dec. 22, 1888

There will be no Christmas exercises at the M.E. Church, on account of diphtheria among the children.

May Day faded in importance through the early years so that by 1887 (the next year that Lompoc Records are on file) no mention is made of any fuss being made over the occasion. The schools had May Day parties with the traditional May pole dances with Easter-colored streamers. These celebrations lasted into the 1930's in the County schools.

Children also made cornucopias using construction paper. Each was fashioned with a handle and a pocket which was filled with flowers. These bright decorations were then hung on door knobs of a grandmother, a dear aunt, and special friends of the family.

The 4th of July had become the big celebration in Lompoc. By 1887, a parade had become a tradition in addition to the Annual Picnic with accompanying program and patriotic speeches.

June 18, 1887

There will be a ball at Dinwiddie Hall the 4th of July - the proceeds of which will go to defray the cost of sprinkling the town streets.

June 25, 1887

The Lompoc Band has been engaged for the 4th by the Committee on Music and we may expect some soul-stirring music on that grand occasion.

There will be a fine display of fireworks in Lompoc 4th of July night. A collection for this purpose is being taken by the celebration Finance Committee.

July 2, 1887

The Horribles will start from the Fashion Stables at half past three led by the Ragamuffin Band.

Those horrible Horribles will parade July 4th in town in the afternoon after returning from the grove.

Preparations by various committees are complete.

The celebration on the 4th will wind up with a grand ball at Good Templar's Hall to which the general public are invited.

July 9, 1887

It has been arranged by Mrs. B. E. Tucker to have the Liberty Car redecorated, and the Goddess, and the girls representing the states, dressed as on the 4th and have a picture taken by Mr. Briggs. We can all secure a copy as a souvenir of the grand occasion.

Does anyone have a copy of Mr. Briggs photograph of the Liberty Car? Surely one of families of the girls representing the 38 states must have a copy in an old trunk somewhere...

The Celebration of Independence Day at Lompoc was in all respects a grand affair, and the day most patriotically honored. More than a thousand people assembled at the public grove in Miguelito Canyon where the ceremonies and festivities of the day took place. Besides the proceedings usual on such occasions, the ladies provided a Liberty Car, most beautifully decorated with flags, flowers and evergreens bearing a Goddess of Liberty and thirty-eight little girls in red, white, and blue, representing the States of the Union. Miss Louisa Jackson made a most handsome and queenly Goddess and bore the honor with a lady-like dignity that won much praise from all who witnessed the patriotic splendor with which the car and company were surrounded. At the conclusion of the celebration exercises the Goddess, in a nice little speech, on behalf of the ladies of Lompoc, presented Robert Anderson Post No. 66 with a splendidly wrought flag, to which Major Jackson on behalf of the Post responded in a patriotic manner.

One who has been a continued resident of the Colony from its founding twelve year ago, could not but mark the new faces which have taken the place of the many that have come and gone. The afternoon in town was given over to the most complete batch of Horribles that ever delighted, amused or disgusted a Jubilee. In the evening the fireworks constituted the chief attraction for two or more hours and the day's activities finally closed with a grand ball which was most largely attended.

Later programs became more elaborate with advertising added. The Benefit Program for the Mission Memorial Park was held at the Lompoc Opera House. The Program included a Motion Picture, followed by Folk Dances by local dancers in National Costumes, plus the Drama shown at the right.

The May Pole Dance and Grand Ball, May 1, 1914 (below) was sponsored by the Ladies of the Catholic Church.

## MISSION PARK

RELIEVES THE BARREN HILLSIDE AND ADDS A BEAUTY SPOT. A LONG FELT NEED. A PARK

## PROGRAMME



WE CAN AND WANT TO FILL YOUR NEEDS EVERY DAY IN THE YEAR.

3. "THE CHAMPION OF HER SEX"

Mrs. Duplex	.....	Eva Fulmer
Florence, her Daughter	.....	Frances Sims
Mrs. Hartson	.....	Adele Rudolph
Caroline, a step-daughter	.....	Irene Bendasher
Rhoda ]	.....	Hulda Kalin
Polly ]	.....	Geneva Calvert
Maggie Donovan	.....	Irene Saunders
Katie O'Neil	.....	Flora Fabing

MERCANTILE UNION



## DANCE And Be Happy

It will add to your happiness to know that you have some surplus money "salted away," in the

### LOMPOC VALLEY BANK,

where it will be available when your "dancing days" are over.

The Bank that always treats you right.



### FLOOR COMMITTEE

Wm. Packard,  
Jas. McCloskey—Chas. C. Mattei,  
Geo. Sanor,  
F. B. Moore—Frank I. Callis,  
R. E. Sudden—Wright Bissinger,  
Louis Kahn, James A. Blake.



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