

THE LEGACY

Lompoc Valley Historical Society's Quarterly Newsletter

"From the Ground Up"



Photographed by Sherrie Chavez

The Spanne House has been given a make-over. Chiefly the new xeriscaping.

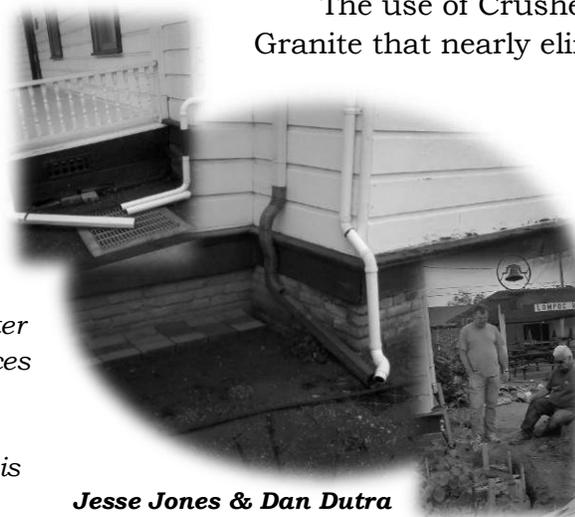
{In the early 1980s, "Xeriscape" was coined by using the Greek adjective "Xēros (meaning "dry") as a prefix for a name of a type of landscaping practice that would require little or no supplemental water and efficiently using natural resources such as reducing evaporation. The Water Department of Denver, Colorado, is credited with coining this word.}

The use of Crushed or Decomposed Granite that nearly eliminates the need for

watering. Jesse Jones almost single handedly installed all that gorgeous granite.

Also some sexy French Drains. A system that redirects surface water away from the foundation of the Spanne House. (Ooh La La!)

Ground continued on page 6

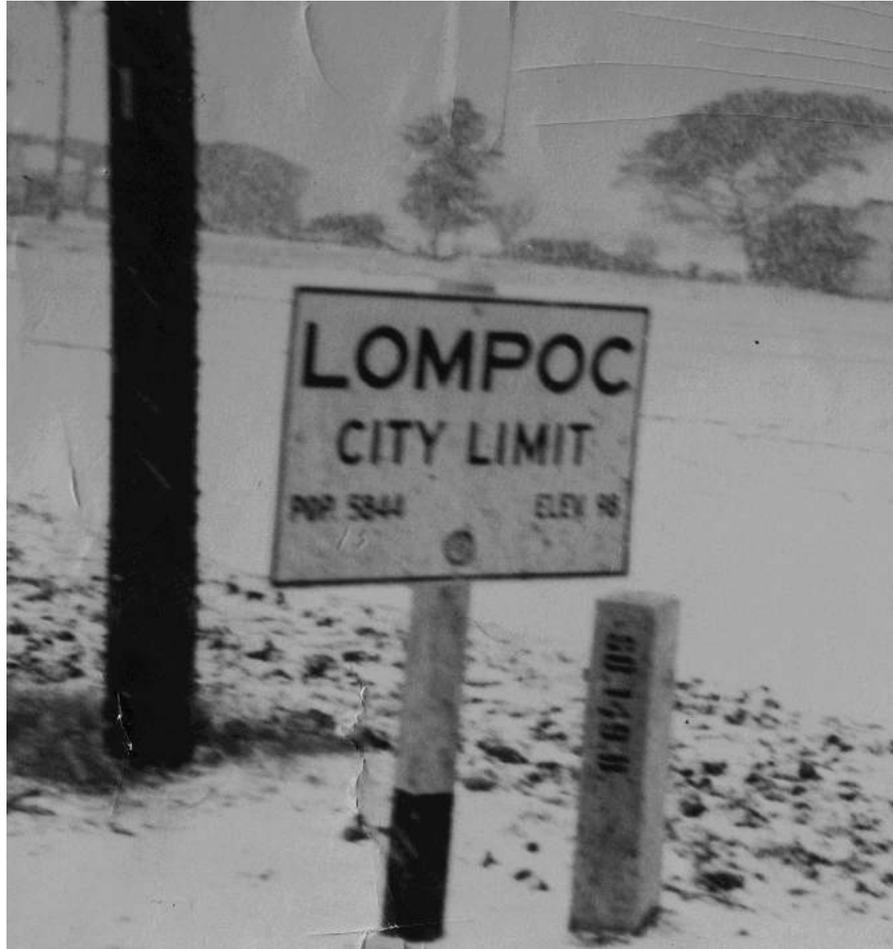


Jesse Jones & Dan Dutra

LOMPOC WINTER MEMORIES

Part 2 of 2 continued from The Legacy 136

LET IT SNOW !



When it snowed in January 1949, instead of being in High School Auto Shop, I was in Bendasher's playing pool. As it started to snow everyone ran outside. All the school kids took off; everyone was playing in it, so I didn't get in trouble for skipping school.

Ron Hooker

Rare snow in Lompoc, 1949

My son, Steve was about a year old when it snowed in Lompoc in 1949. We drove up Miguelito Canyon and put him in the snow against a bank and took his photo.

Betty Lewis

So, in High School, when it snowed (in 1949), it was snowing in Santa Ynez and everybody ditched and went to Santa Ynez! I'm sure by the time they got back we had snow in

We are pleased to share this collection of Lompoc Winter Memories from our Historical Society members. We hope you all had a Cheery Winter, filled with Happy Memories like these.

H and Walnut was the location of Hobbs Bros Service Station on the SE corner. Later it was Monte's Auto Parts. The corner always used to flood when it rained. In the winter of 1941-1942, there was so much water that Bill Hobbs was using his canoe around the gas pumps!

Ron Hooker



Lompoc. But! After lunch the high school was almost empty. I could not go because I had a job at Stan Johnson's soda fountain and my mother was my Boss so I Knew I couldn't ditch and go! What I remember is when everyone who ditched came back they all had to write an essay, 500 words or less, about the snow. Rose could not leave school either. If her parents had found out she had ditched she would really have been in trouble. It was really happy times playing in the snow in Lompoc!!

Doni Silva and Rose Machado

I wish to share my memory of the Lompoc snow of 1949. I was three or four at the time. Mom (Dorothy) and I were in the car returning over the Harris Grade from Santa Maria in the snow, and encountered a car sideways across the road, which had spun round on the slippery surface. I strongly suspect that we made the crazy trip



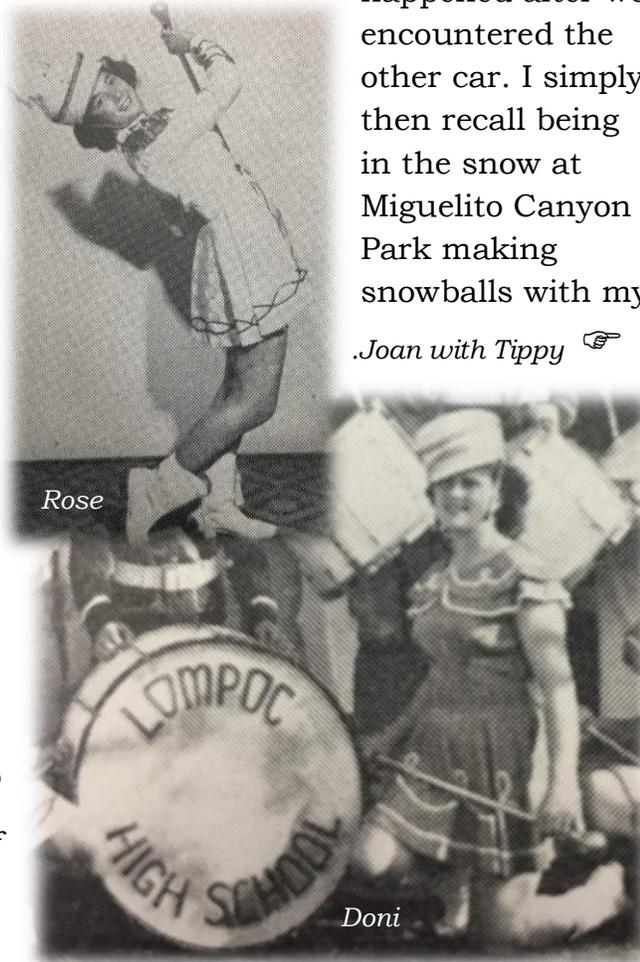
to Santa Maria to purchase the snow suit I am wearing in the photo. My mother was nothing if not intrepid and determined! I have

On back of photo

"Brr! No gloves and making snowball for Joan."

no recollection of what happened after we encountered the other car. I simply then recall being in the snow at Miguelito Canyon Park making snowballs with my

.Joan with Tippy 



Rose

Doni

No. 137



Grandmother, (Juna Harris) pictured, and playing with our dog Tippy. We lived up the Canyon then on Johns-Manville land. Needless to say the adorable pink wooly snowsuit, complete with hat, was worn but once!

Joan Cutting Burke

I remember when all the bridges went out in the Winter of 1940-41, due to a record amount of rain! I lived out in Jalama and parts of all of the bridges went out. In order to get to school I remember my oldest brother carrying me across on a plank to get to the other side of a bridge so I would be able to get to the bus to go to school. I was probably in the 8th grade at that time. That was something!

Eva Hamon

❄️Continued on page 6

THE RILEY DAYS

We wish that there were time enough to talk with all of our Old Timers about the early days for it is so interesting to hear them tell of the colony. The contrasts between life in the settlement then and now is most striking. Mrs. Etta Day tells us of arriving here from Hollister Nov. 6th in 1874. She came with her husband, the late Riley Day and three small children and a cousin George Day. Mrs. Day's parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Hendricks and two small children were also in the party driving down from Hollister in wagons. They camped enroute but found no beautifully laid out camping parks such as we find now-a-days. But those that nature offered were far more beautiful, near La Graciösa (where Orcutt is today) the family made camp one evening in a pleasant hollow. But before morning they, were drenched with rain. Traveling over the mesa the next day they stopped on the hill top above Purissima canyon to dry out their clothing and bedding in the sunshine. Here they were overtaken by another wagon with travelers headed for the same destination. The strangers who stopped to chat were none other than Cyrus J Tucker and his father. Just outside of town, before crossing the river, the Days and Hendricks families camped again for the' night and at breakfast time they shot three coons in the willows nearby. The party reached the valley November 6th, which was Friday and the following Monday was the day of the sale. Mr. Day purchased a tract in the lower valley not far, from Ocean and Floradale avenues' and eighty acres near by were the choice of Mr. Hendricks. The families camped at the mouth of Miguelito canyon near the old grist mill for a time while their homes were being built. Their first appearance socially was at a Saturday night dance held in an old adobe house not far from the mill. Ticks were a regular pest in that vicinity and every night and sometimes oftener every youngster had to be "picked." The Day family sold their

land about two years after the purchase and bought eleven city lots. These they later sold also. The parents farmed their holdings until the death of Mr. Hendricks some years ago.

BENS MILLIKEN

Thomas B. Milliken has made Lompoc his home for nearly half a century but was not one of the colony members. Nevertheless his is an interesting career. When he was three years of age, his parents, with several other small children crossed the Plains from Lee County, Iowa, in 1852. They traveled in a covered wagon with an emigrant train and came by the Salt Lake route, making the trip in six months. Their journey was unusual in having no encounters or difficulties with Indians. Stops were made to have the oxen shod at intervals and two sets of shoes were necessary. The father of the family often recounted later that the silver he had to pay for this service at one place was heavier than the shoes for the oxen. The Millikens came to Santa Clara county and settled near San Jose. The children attended school there and among their classmates were Charles, Joe and Lou Reed, later of Lompoc, also Mr. Milliken, our townsman, came to the colony in '81 as a laborer and made his home with relatives, the John S. Henning family. Wages were \$1 a day and board and one of his first jobs was clearing away brush from in front of the school house. Gaviota Landing was used extensively by this time as a shipping point and boat landing. Swanson's stage made the trip down and return at intervals, requiring a day each way. Mr. Milliken with eight others made the trip from there in a spring wagon

THE BARKER FAMILY

Joshua Barker was an outstanding figure in the early days of the Colony. When he arrived here 51 years ago tomorrow, November 11, 1874, (his wife's birthday) he brought his family and all his worldly possessions. They were quite a caravan with a spring

wagon and two or three heavy wagons and teams and more than twenty cattle and a number of horses. Unlike many of the pioneers, this family brought all of their household goods with them, even to canned fruit and fresh apples. But it was indeed a wise fore-thought as there were nine hungry mouths to be fed besides the mother and father. The trip required sixteen days of travel as they were delayed by storms and had to travel slowly on account of the stock. Upon their arrival here they joined the campers near the entrance of the canyon, where several families spent their first days in this valley. The old adobe house which was used by many of them was an old ranch house that had been used before the days of the Colony and stood on the corner of J street and Locust avenue. Mrs. Lafe Stephens, Mrs. John Balaam, Jim Barker and Bird Barker are sons and daughters of these pioneers living here now and came with their parents on that long journey from Santa Cruz. Mrs. Stephens tells us with what joy and freedom she and her brothers and sisters roamed the hills on horseback and with what thrills their young hearts responded to the new homeland. The Barker lands comprised more than 300 acres at the south end of town much of it being grazing lands in the hills. Their first home was in the ruins of the old Mission near the cross. A rude flooring was laid and boards put over the top for a roof until spring when they could get their lumber from Pt. Sal.

JOHN FORBES

The John Forbes family came here from England in 1879 to join Mrs. Forbes' brother. William Cantlay, who had bought at the land sale a 200 acre place. The new arrivals made their home on the Cantlay place for about two years then they bought five acres, the home place, in town near the foothills on A street.

THE GIFFORDS

Mrs. William Bland has lived here more than half a century, having come with her parents, the H. N. Giffords in '74. Their first home was where the Talbott place is now but they later purchased in the lower valley west of the Bendasher farm and remained there several years.

McCABE BROTHERS

The McCabe brothers, J. Dwight and the late Henry McCabe, came in 1875, with their families. They had formerly lived in Santa Cruz. They were employed for some time at the Lompoc Landing by the steamship company and later took up government claims to farm. Still later they purchased town property and J. Dwight McCabe has been responsible for much building activity and civic development in the past few years.

DOUGLASS FAMILY

The Douglass family are also old timers, and Mrs. A. F. Douglass whose husband passed away several years ago, remembers accurately the days of pioneering with several small children to be fed and clothed, land to be cleared and crops to be planted with the chance of a dry season depriving them of everything. Barley bread was often resorted to when food supplies were gone or running low. The real old time stage coach which will be driven by Sherm Huyck a real old time stage driver, will have some real old time folks riding in it according to the Legion boys. Among the names mentioned for this honor are Ed Elmer, James Sloan, James Winn, James Barker, Mrs. Maggie Hogan, Mrs. Flossie Jolliff, Mrs. S. Lansdell, Mr. S. Lansdell. Dr. H. C. Dimock, Joe Dimock, George Rucker, J. D. McCabe. Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Bye and Mrs. Mary Reed will arrive this evening for the celebration and will be guests at the W. N Bland home. Other guests who are expected by the Blands are Mr. and Mrs. Carl Gifford of Maricopa.

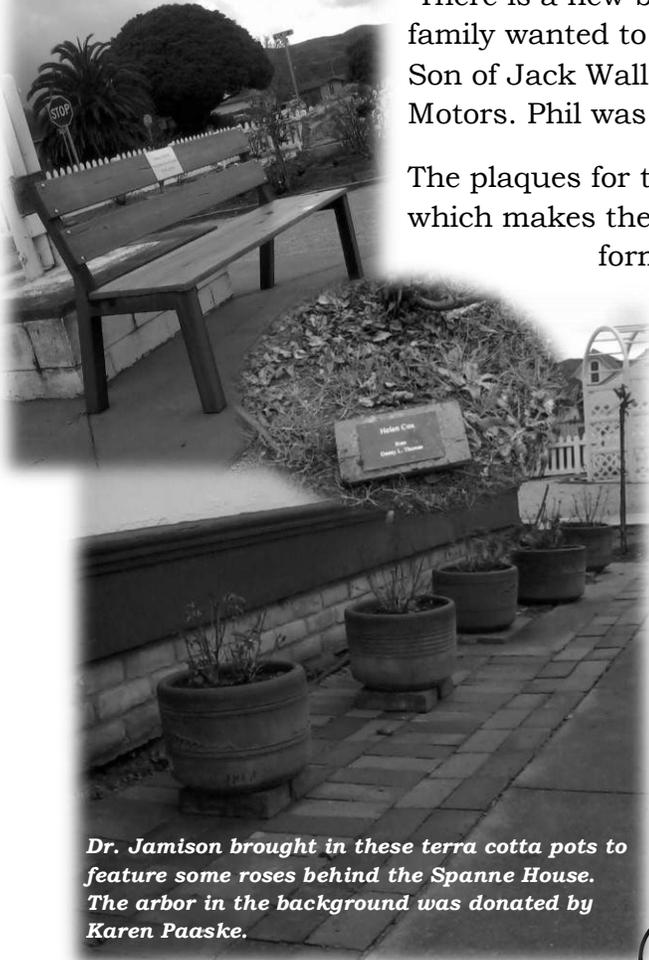
Phil M. Wall Memorial Bench

Ground continued from page 1

There is a new bench that is a memorial to Phil M. Wall. His wife and family wanted to commemorate his life. Phil grew up here in Lompoc. Son of Jack Wall, who had the Ford dealership before it was Beattie Motors. Phil was a teacher down South in the Sylmar area.

The plaques for the Rose Memorials are now displayed on bricks which makes them more secure and much easier to read than the former use of metal stakes.

Diligently attending the rose bushes
Jo Hoag (left), Dr. Blake Jamison (Below)
& Lorraine Schuyler Richardson
(not pictured)



Dr. Jamison brought in these terra cotta pots to feature some roses behind the Spanne House. The arbor in the background was donated by Karen Paaske.



***Continued from page 3**

The lower valley flooded when I was about three in Lompoc Canyon. We lived in a tiny house flat on the ground which flooded, so we evacuated to a next door neighbor's home that was built high. The chickens were on the water and the cows and pigs were floating. Rowboats took us to Surf station where they gave us oatmeal. My mother, Marie, cried as she lost her prized sewing machine in the flood.

Emily Ramirez Vargas

It was 2006, could have been winter. I remember coming over to the Historical Society for the first time. There were some older men sitting outside on the bench. I asked them "How do you volunteer?" They laughed and said "You just did!" I've been here ever since.

Jack Landis

**Nov, Dec 2018 & Jan 2019
Memorials & Membership**

- Welcoming New Members
- Neil & Leah Andersson**
- Mike Sewall**
- Edward Belluz (Life)**
- Laurie Linden (Life)**
- Michael Linden (now Life)**

Total Number of Members: 424

- John Sudden (Life) Nov '18**
- Paul Masters (Life) Dec '18**
- Recently passed away

Memorial Contribution in Honor of
Mati Mesikep

Karen's Chronicles

Happy 2019!

The Lompoc Museum's year-long programs on WWI have ended, but the September 2018 program on Lompoc men in WWI will be reprised for the Historical Society for our March 16 program. It was a wonderful touching, funny, amazing insight into our town and its families presented by Dr. Lisa Renkin and Valerie Jackson, so hope that you will attend this free program. All are invited, and you do not need to be a member to attend.

Popcorn, cookies and beverages will be provided. Please rsvp, so that there are enough chairs at Stone Pine Hall.

This month is the 50th anniversary of the 1969 floods that devastated our area. Will be posting photos on Facebook of those events.

The Hi Let's Eat sign restoration has two great benefactors, however, the actual amount need for the YESCO sign company (the one that does those great Las Vegas signs) is still short what is needed. Please contribute if you can.

Old houses always need maintenance, so this month concentration is on the removal of the doves in the attic, termites and leaky gutters!

Thank you so much for all of those who attended the holiday open houses and left donations. Kathy Howard and Lynn Clock were extremely generous with their donations to the society.

Karen Paaske

1969 Flooding of Lompoc's Valley Drive-in causing \$50,000 of damage including the projection equipment.



NOTICE TO MEMBERS from your Treasurer – Jeannette Wynne

Lompoc Valley Historical Society is a 501 C-3 Non-Profit organization in the State of California. Each year we file information returns with the State and Federal governments regarding our organization. Form 990-2017 Return of Organization Exempt from Income Tax and Form 199-2017 California exempt Organization Return were **filed at the end of or Fiscal year 8/31/2018**. We also file annual Business Property Statements and Free Public Library or Free Museum claims with the Santa Barbara County Clerk, Recorder and Assessor. All of the above-mentioned documents are available for your inspection upon request.
Email: 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

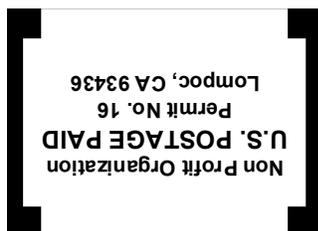
Myra Huyck Manfrina, Dan Dutra, Rose Machado Roberts, Readon "Donnie" Grossi Silva, Jesse Jones, Brian Donelson, Irma Gadway, Don Fletcher, Sherrie Chavez, Debbie Schuyler Manfrina, Lynn Benedict Romine, Larry Huyck, Julie Ann McLaughlin, Ken Ostini and Marcia Hart

Honorary Board member

Barbara Mundell Cabral, Carolyn Huyck Strobel

- No open house in February
- MAR 16 WWI program at Stone Pine Hall
- MAR 23 open house
- APR 27 open house
- MAY 25 open house
- Reference Room closed Memorial Day
- JUNE 2 Annual BBQ

COME AND SEE
THE SPANNE HOUSE'S
YARD RENOVATION
@ "L" & WALNUT



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

