



Patterson Township Historical Society

SPOKES

February 2005 Newsletter



Annual Meeting: “Lodi’s Neighborhood”

The Patterson Township Historical Society Annual Meeting will feature long time, well-known resident Lodi Harrison, who will talk about the Patterson families he has known, in particular those near his North 7th Street home.

At 93, Lodi can still be seen walking his dog “D.J.” almost everyday in his “Neighborhood” often stopping to chat with long time friends, many of whom he has known for over 50 years. He will also talk about those neighbors who are now gone.

There are only a handful of Patterson residents who have lived in their home more than 50 years and Lodi is one of those.

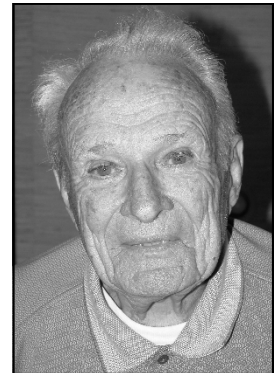
Lodi also recently became a columnist for the Patterson Irrigator. He writes about past Patterson events and his family with lots of humor. He and his late wife Doris traveled extensively.

Lodi came to Patterson in 1938 as a high school

teacher. In 1942 he enlisted in the Air Corps where he worked with Combat Intelligence.

After the war, he returned to Patterson and resumed teaching and coaching.

In 1947 he started work at the West Stanislaus Irrigation District and later became manager until he retired in 1977.



The annual meeting will be held on Sunday March 13th at the Patterson Senior Center at 700 “F” Street at 2 p.m. The Center is located at the west end of “F” Street. Take “E” Street to 7th and go one block north and then make a left. The Center is at the end of the street.

***Annual Meeting: March 13th 2 p.m.
Patterson Senior Center***

**OFFICIAL
DUES NOTICE**

**Please use the enclosed
envelope and
card to renew your
membership**

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**Check our web site once a week:
www.patterson-ca.com**



John V. Azevedo, Historical Society historian for many years, is paring down his records and turning many of them over to the Society. Above, he is shown with board member Burta Herger looking through one of many boxes of various clippings and notes on the history of Patterson that he has preserved. In the process, John found the only copy of a missing Patterson Irrigator edition. Using his example, the Society encourages community members to consider the giving of old photos and other records when cleaning out or paring down possessions. You never know what you might find that will have value to future Patterson historians.

Gateway Issue Delayed

Over the years, The Gateway, the Patterson Township Historical Society' annual historical publication, which is usually produced once a year, has run into research and production problems. Mostly, the trouble has been with subjects where obtaining the information or photos became exceptionally difficult. Unfortunately, this is the case with the 2004 issue on the Crows Landing and Vernalis Naval Air Stations. Old photos have been almost impossible to find. If anyone has photos, please send to PO. Box 15, Patterson or call Claude Delphia at 209-537-9604.

The subject of each issue is picked the previous year and then the research and writing starts. The 2004 issue started in 2003. The difficulties weren't

2004 in Review

The Board of Directors, our curator Bob Kimball and historian John Azevedo and others have had a productive year. After two years of effort the center building was named to the National Register of Historic Places and six months later received a Stanislaus County Historical Society Preservations award. The city will be placing a plaque on the building.

The Society was involved with the controversy over the removal of the David Minniear Memorial cross in Frank Raines Park. The County Board of Supervisors declared it a religious symbol on public property. There was an outpouring of support to leave the cross in place, but the county removed it. We are grateful to the Hurner and Stoddard families for allowing the placement of the cross on their property, about 300 hundred feet from the original site.

We were very pleased when the City of Patterson declared that the new City Hall will be built on the site of the Del Puerto Hotel and that the facade will resemble the Hotel.

In March Chris Dennis was elected to the Board.

We now have a plaque on the bell on the east side of the center building. Lions Club and Mark Kuhn contributed to this project.

The audio-visual interviews of citizens of the area is continuing, preserving the memories of people from this area.

realized until it was too late to pick another subject for 2004. The Editorial Board is working on various options including running just a couple of photos in the airbase histories.

In the meantime, we are putting out this newsletter to keep members informed. The Board of Directors will consider putting out the newsletter once a year depending on finances. Note, that in general, this newsletter will have information that doesn't appear in The Gateway.

**"SPOKES" — A PTHS newsletter
Also Available on the website**

Edited by Claude Delphia
Coordinated by Mary Pat Thompson

Obituaries — Microfilm Equipment Project

Over a year ago a project to find and convert all Patterson Irrigator obituaries to computer text was led by Burta Herger, assisted by Faye Hill and Gale Stroud. Other volunteers, the browsing committee, included Florence Philips, Carol Raven, Ellie Lanfranki, Lilly Hudson, Sandy McDowell and Phil Breasher.

The process involved going through the microfilm of the Patterson Irrigators which started in 1911 and making a printout of each obituary. A laborious process then ensued. The printout was scanned into a word processing format where it was edited and restored to its original text. The obits were grouped by month and then by year before being placed into a data base program that would allow immediate retrieval of any name, place, or event mentioned in the thousands of obituaries. Eventually, the obituaries will be available on the PTHS website.

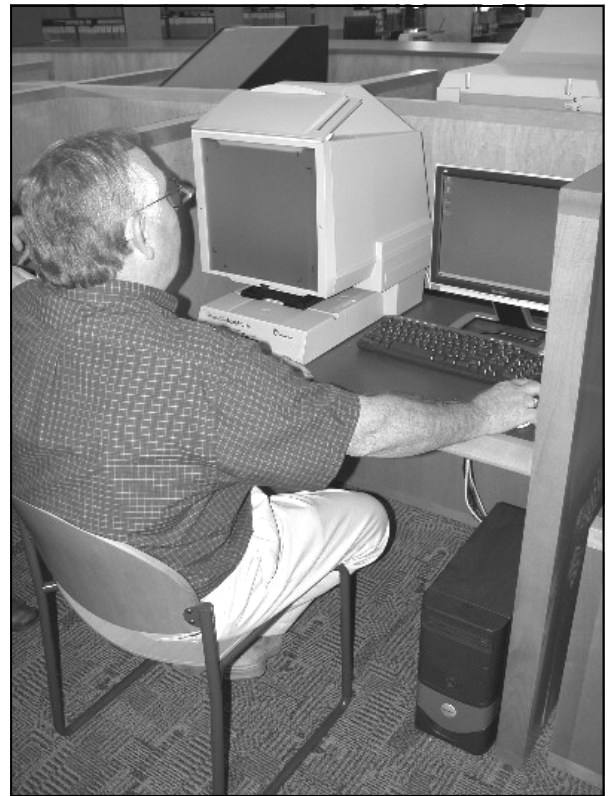
Gale Stroud, a 1955 Patterson High class member living in San Jose, is indexing all the obits, coordinating them with the Patterson District Cemetery records and indicating Patterson High graduates.

Microfilm Reader

Two thirds of the way through the process of finding and printing obituaries, the library microfilm reader died, which put the process on hold for over six months.

The local Lions and Rotary Clubs each generously donated enough money to allow the Historical Society to buy a replacement machine. With money worries, behind us we were able to concentrate on looking into a machine that Claude Delphia found on the Internet. This machine would allow us to interface with the "reader" and scan or import the obits directly onto a hard disk or CD -- a feat that would save hours of time.

The committee working on the obits felt that we had to see and try the machine with our own microfilm to see if it would do what the manufacturer said it would do and do what we wanted done. A trip to Visalia this past month to see the machine gave us hope that maybe it is the one for our project, but we still had some reservations that needed to be resolved. Hopefully, by the time you read this, a decision will be reached and the



Phil Breasher, representing the Patterson Lions Club, checks out the microfilm reader/scanner. The computer is under the desk to his right..

browsing committee will be back at work finishing up the obituary project on a machine using the latest technology.

PTHS Member's Deaths

- 2004** Domingos Farinha, May 2004
- Tom Vilas
- Kay Goutiere, June 2004
- Bessie Stonecipher, July 2004
- Lee Roy Holder, August 2004
- Louella Sears, September 2004
- Paul Johnson, October 2004
- Bernice Matteri, November 2004
- Allen Gee, November 2004
- Meda Washburn, December 2004
- Alvin Kjonas, December 2004
- 2005** Evelyn Danielson, January 2005
- Misao Fukuhura, February. 2005
- Henry Ellery, February. 2005

A History of www.patterson-ca.com

by Claude Delphia, webmaster

In May of 1997, quite a few in Patterson were involved in an effort to save the fire damaged Del Puerto Hotel. At the time, I was learning about the Internet and how websites worked. E-mailing was already an everyday tool. It seemed a natural extension to set up a website as part of the effort.

All websites require a “domain name” such as “www.patterson-ca.com.” Each name must be registered internationally.

At that point, the name “Patterson.com” was already taken as well as other combinations. So I tried “patterson-ca.com” and found that it was available. The “ca” denotes California. I then became the registered domain name “owner.” It's really a license which must be renewed yearly. Failure to renew it in time means you lose it.

In 2003, I signed over the ownership of the site jointly to the Patterson Township Historical Society and the Patterson Apricot Fiesta. I continue as the webmaster for those two groups. The only cost is the annual registration fee, which has been paid in advance for 7 years. The total costs for this site has never exceeded \$200. The site has been located on a computer in this area and there has been no charge for this service.

From its inception in 1997, the website began a slow progression from just a few pages featuring information about the Hotel, to its present size of over 200 pages and hundreds of graphics and other elements that make up a website. There is no way to know how many words have been written for this site. The page count continues to grow and will double over the next few months as historical research data is added.

The Fiesta's web page's content on the website has been consistent over the years since the Fiesta is an annual event. Each year it's updated with the latest Fiesta applications and the addition of a printable events time table. Also after each Fiesta, photos of the current “court” are added to the photo gallery of past winners.

While the Fiesta portion of the site is smaller, it gets a larger number of visitors. That's because it is easily found by people on Google. The historical side of the site gets visitors who come on a regular basis looking for specific or new information.

During the last twelve months (as of mid February), the site had 397,163 “hits/visitors” with 87,071

Historical Designation of Center Building Achieved

By Laura Kimball

Early in 2003 the PTHS Board of Directors made the decision to apply for Historic Registration of the Plaza Building. Since the City owns the building Curator Bob Kimball got their approval to proceed.

Director Chris Bingham began by contacting the California Department of Historic Preservation. She spent many computer and telephone hours as the liaison with Sacramento. Paperwork received from that office included a 30-page (double-sided) bulletin with directions on completing the forms.

It was decided to stress the architecture and architect as they were the most significant factors. Considerable research on architect Arthur B. Benton and his involvement in the Mission Revival period had already been done by Laura Kimball. The submission was accompanied by some excellent pictures taken by Ben Swift.

Notice that the Plaza Building would be considered by the State Resources Commission for nomination to the National Register was received in September, 2003. The Commission met in Pasadena November, 7, 2003. Dr. Knox Mellon, State Historic Preservation Officer, informed the Society on January, 21, 2004 that the Plaza Building was placed on the National Register of Historic Places on January 6, 2004.

pages viewed. While these figures are somewhat technical, they do indicate a very high level of people using the website.

The following is a list of some of the features that can be found on the web site:

- Fiesta news and activities
- Historical Society information with photos and a brief history
- Patterson High School graduates list – This is updated as class members supply new information.
- Recent area obituaries
- Past obituaries from the Patterson Irrigator (See story in this issue.)
- P.R.I.D.E. – A Patterson high school scholarship organization.
- A tribute to Edna Keechler Stewart

While the site is a one man operation, there are many people behind the scenes who supply information to put on the website. Some of the information is specific for this site and some of it is being com-

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Oldest Family Living in the Same House

A reward is being offered to the first person who guesses which house has been lived in by the same blood relatives continuously for the longest period of time. This contest is limited to houses in the City of Patterson. **Please submit your guess by the Annual Meeting on March 13th.** Entries must be submitted via mail or in person at the meeting. Each entry will be dated and time stamped. The person with the earliest correct entry will be the winner.

The reward will be a one year "household" membership for a person of the winner's choice. If the person is already a member, their term will be extended. Life members can designate someone else to receive the membership. Mail to P.O. Box 15, Patterson CA 95363. Board members and society volunteers are excluded from participation. See website for application and rules.

PTHS Fund Raising Plans

The PTHS board has various plans under way to raise money for the Society. First up, is a Trail Ride being planned by board member Chris Dennis. The event, to be held along the banks of the San Joaquin River starting from north of Del Puerto Creek to near Grayson, is scheduled for April 30th. The event will include a BBQ. The history of various points along the way will be provided for the riders.

A future fund raiser being considered is a calendar with historical area photos from the Society's collection, one for each month. Plans are that this calendar would be ready for sale in October.

PTHS Board of Directors

John Bristow, President

Mary Pat Thompson, Vice President, 892-9681

Joland Schut, Secretary, 892-8355

Chris Dennis, Treasurer, 415-850-3022

Chris Bingham, Member, 892-2701

Burta Herger, Member, 892-3301

Mike Wright, Member, 892-6284

John V. Azevedo, Historian, 892-8995

Claude Delphia, Web Site, 537-9604

Bob Kimball, Curator, 892-8664

Laura Kimball, The Gateway, 892-8664

PTHS Projects

PTHS Curator Bob Kimball is working on a list of historic business buildings. The plans are to create plaques for each building. The plaques would contain the original name of the building and approximately when it was built. With the owners permission, the plaques would be mounted on the front of each building.

Another committee headed by Claude Delphia is considering a similar effort on Patterson houses. This inventory would include houses where early families lived. Some houses in the north area have been lived in by multiple old time families.

The Gateway Computerized

All of the "The Gateways" have been scanned into a computer and placed in a data base program that will allow immediate retrieval of any name of a person, place or thing. All you need to do is go to the Museum and use the available computer. This computer will allow you to read the information immediately. You have a choice to print it out using the printer or buy "The Gateway" containing the information.

We don't have the obituaries ready at this time for immediate retrieval, but within six months they should be available, too.

If you live out of town and would like to have information that might be contained in the "Gateways" or obituaries, you may call Burta Herger at (209) 892-3301 or e-mail bherger@net.velocite.net for assistance.

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piled for long term historical research.

The transfer of Patterson Irrigator obituaries into computer format starting from 1911 is an example of an effort involving a lot of people. The project probably has a year to go before all the years will be available on this site.

Jason Roysdon, who hosts our website, deserves special thanks. He has been an important friend in making this website possible.

Comments, questions or suggestions are always welcome. Send email to: contact@patterson-ca.com.

New Life Members:

Linda Alberta • Nancy Maya

Don and Rosemarie Starcher

Collin & Lisa Schut

MEMORIALS

George Mehlschau, 6/9/2003
Wade & Chris Bingham • Frank & Burta Herger

Donald Ray Stroud, 6/16/2003
Frank & Burta Herger

Dewey Staats, 6/27/2003
Frank & Burta Herger • Wade & Chris Bingham

Jerry Maisetti, 6/29/2003
Frank & Burta Herger

William Earl Totman, 7/8/2003
Lauren & Betsy Campbell

Ilo Engen, 7/16/2003

Myrtle Leaf, 7/17/2003

Edwin E. Hagemann, 7/17/2003
Lauren & Betsy Campbell

Jeanne Farinha, 7/21/2003
Mary Pat Thompson • Wade & Chris Bingham

Gladys Hansen, 7/22/2003
Frank & Burta Herger • Elwood & Joland Schut

Charles "Bud" Kolding, 7/22/2003
Frank & Burta Herger

Alice Silva, 7/30/2003

Mary Schut, 8/26/03
Mary Pat Thompson • Wade & Chris Bingham

Dave Petz, 8/28/2003
Lauren & Betsy Campbell

James Wong, 10/24/2003
John & Terre Gouveia • Mil Wong • Elwood & Joland Schut • The Delphias

Billy Blakely, 11/12/03
Wade & Chris Bingham

Shaundreya Craven, 1/28/04
Wade & Chris Bingham

Ty Haugen, 2/2/2004
Elwood & Joland Schut

Peter Buchanan, 2/3/04
Elwood & Joland Schut • Frank & Burta Herger

Joaquin Azevedo Jr., 2/15/04
Elwood & Joland Schut • Frank & Burta Herger

Chuck Kimball, 2/21/04
Wade & Chris Bingham

Domingos Farina, 5/10/2004
Wade & Chris Bingham • Frank & Burta Herger

Jane Bessey, 5/27/2004
Lauren & Betsy Campbell • Elwood & Joland Schut
Frank & Burta Herger • Wade & Chris Bingham

Bessie Stonecipher, 7/17/2004
Frank & Burta Herger

John Reis, Jr., 8/12/2004
Betsy & Lauren Campbell • Elwood & Joland Schut

Luella Gordon Sears, 9/29/2004
Michael & Rosanna Murata • Wade & Chris Bingham • Elwood & Joland Schut • Lauren & Betsy Campbell • George & Ruth Klopping
Lowell & Terri Bowman • Mark & Mary Lisa Kuhn
Westside Properties • Robert & Laura Kimball
Guy Allard • Alice Borba • Helen Gerber
Laurence & Evelyn Kolding • Joyce Selby • Mary Louise Cox Draper • Frank & Burta Herger • Harold and Faye Hill

Paul Johnson, 10/5/2004
Wade & Chris Bingham • Elwood & Joland Schut
• Lauren & Betsy Campbell • George & Ruth Klopping

Meda Washburn, 12/27/2004
Elwood & Joland Schut

Raymond Kolding, 1/11/2005
Frank & Burta Herger

Henry Ellery, 2/17/2005
Darryl & Kathy Dennis • Chris Dennis • Frank & Burta Herger • Sylvia Dennis • Elwood & Joland Schut • Barbara McCleskey • Claude Delphia

Memorial donations to the Patterson Township Historical Society are a wonderful way to honor someone. Their name will be remembered in our publications for decades to come.

Send to: Patterson Township Historical Society,
P.O. Box 15, Patterson CA 95363