



Patterson Township Historical Society

# SPOKES

February 2008



## Annual Meeting Speaker On Early California

We are lucky to have Lorie Garcia, a seventh generation Californian, as our speaker at our March 9th Annual Meeting.

Garcia, a resident of Modesto, tells how her ancestors came to California with the Juan Bautista de Anza party in 1776 for the founding of Missions, San Francisco de Asis and Santa Clara de Asis. It doesn't get much earlier than that.

Garcia is trying to help connect us to descendants of the Mexican brothers, Mariano and Pedro Hernandez, who were the first Del Puerto land grantees in 1844. We are pretty sure there are Hernandez descendants in the San Francisco Bay Area. One descendant, George R. Hernandez, came to an Apricot Fiesta in the '80s, but we did not get enough information to make further contact with him. PTHS has been trying off and on to make contact with the family ever since with no luck. Garcia has pointed us to a number of possible leads to the family.

Ms. Garcia is a historian specializing in the contact period (1830-50) of California history. She has guest lectured on Local History, Historic Preservation, Historic Research and Preservation Planning at San Jose State University and the University of Santa Clara. Ms. Garcia is a former Santa Clara County Heritage Commissioner, a former City of Santa Clara Historic and Landmarks Commissioner and former member of the City of Santa Clara Planning Commission.

Also, she is a former board member of the California chapter of the American Planning Association and the Region VI (California and Nevada) planning com-



**Santa Clara historian Lorie Garcia.**

mission representative to the American Planning Association. Ms. Garcia has been a board member of the Historical and Arts Consortium of Santa Clara and the Historic Preservation Society of Santa Clara. She is the South Bay Historic Railroad Society Covenant Representative.

Ms. Garcia is a published author of Santa Clara Valley history and is the City Historian for the City of Santa Clara.

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**Check our web site once a week:**  
[www.patterson-ca.com](http://www.patterson-ca.com)

**PTHS Annual Meeting**  
**March 9, 2008 2 p.m.**  
**Patterson City Hall Council Chambers**

## President's message:

Greetings:

Organize, organize... We keep working at it but it is a long and time consuming process. As always, we could use help. Please contact anyone on the Board if you can give us some time.

We did manage to get our storage unit at the Masonic Temple better organized. The display cabinet from the old Patterson Bakery will be donated to the new Fire Station. They plan to use it for displays including long time fire Chief Ozzie Ball's hat which will be on loan.

There are a lot of little things, but important, that are being done. An example is the moth-proofing of John D. "Jack" Patterson's coat which hung on his chair for many years. It was decided to put it away in moth-proof storage so future generations can see an actual piece of clothing T.W. Patterson's son wore during his life time. We also moved all the newspaper storage cases into the main museum to free up space and the cases are now locked.

We are in the process of opening the museum on Saturday afternoons from 2-4. This will make it easier for people to visit.

Be sure to read the information on the Horse Ride and Barbeque scheduled for April 26th.

Please renew your membership using the form included in this issue. See you at the General Meeting on March 9, 2 p.m.

Mary Pat Thompson

Spokes is a semi annual newsletter of the  
**PATTERSON TOWNSHIP  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

P.O. Box 15, Patterson, CA 95363

Editor: Claude Delphia

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## MEMBERSHIP

Any person interested in the history of this area who applies for membership in any classification and who tenders the necessary dues may become a member.

### Annual Dues:

Household ..... \$20.00  
Business ..... \$100.00  
Life Membership..... \$150.00

Annual dues are payable as of January 1st each year and are tax deductible. Dues will include mailed copies of The Gateway to each membership and two Spokes newsletters.

## 2006-2007 PTHS Officers & Project Leaders

Mary Pat Thompson, President, 892-9681

Phil Breasher , Vice President, 892-6714

Faye Hill, Secretary, 892-6533

Chris Dennis, Treasurer, 415-850-3022

Chris Bingham, Director, 892-2701

Burta Herger, Director, 892-3301

Joland Schut, Director, 892-8355

Mike Wright, Director, 892-6284

Claude Delphia, Web & Publications, 892-5037

APPOINTED

Bob Kimball, Curator, 892-8664

Ron Swift, Gateway Editor, 892-6355

Ed Torrison, Curator of Large Equipment

# Patterson's 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday plans moving forward

The town of Patterson was founded in September of 1909 when T.W. Patterson told W.W. Cox that he wanted the grain harvested so that he could lay-out a town. Thus Patterson began. The first major anniversary of the town's founding, the Golden Jubilee, was held in September 1959. In 1984, the town celebrated the Diamond Jubilee combined with the Apricot Fiesta that year.

Planning for the 2009 Patterson Centennial celebration is well underway. Although still tentative, the event scheduled for the summer of 2009 will begin with the Apricot Fiesta having a 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary theme. The celebration will continue with a special 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend planned with events to appeal to families and Patterson area residents.

The Centennial celebration will culminate on Labor Day weekend, Friday, Saturday and Sunday, September 4, 5, 6, 2009. This will be a special weekend devoted to Patterson history. It is scheduled to start with opening ceremonies, a historical pageant under the direction of the Patterson Repertory Theatre Friday evening. There will also be a My Fair Lady chosen who has contributed to our community over the years as was done in 1984.

Saturday will start with a community breakfast in the park. It will be followed by all-day events. The PTHS museum will be open. Some other events being considered are tours of businesses, homes, churches and other locales.

Both Saturday and Sunday will feature all-year class reunions in the downtown area. Plans are to notify all class members through 1999 of the reunion plans via mail. All class representatives are invited to submit class lists

to PTHS at P.O. Box 15. We can also receive these in computer format via email at [contact@patterson-ca.com](mailto:contact@patterson-ca.com). P.R.I.D.E. or **Patterson Recognizing Individuals Determined To Excel** is scheduled to lead the reunion effort. The last such event was during the Diamond Jubilee in 1984.

Besides putting on special Museum displays, PTHS will have special photo displays around the downtown area. We will also be publishing a book on Patterson History. A time capsule is planned.

Patterson churches will be encouraged to have special displays of their histories, past ministers and may feature early members and families. Patterson businesses will be encouraged to have their employees dress in clothes of 100 years ago. Businesses may participate with special displays.

Schools will also be encouraged to put on displays about their history and feature tours of their facilities. There are plans to have local restaurants and food vendors offer specials for the many out-of-town visitors.

There are other events being planned such as historical costume contests and maybe even a beard contest. The history of local long-time families will also be featured in downtown displays. On late afternoon Sunday there will be a closing ceremony.

Many other activities are being considered, but the above are highlights so far. While the centennial's summer events are under the auspices of a large centennial committee, the Labor Day Weekend is being lead by a sub-committee consisting of Peter La Torre, Ron Swift, Andy Barsamian and Claude Delphia.

## Donations to PTHS in memory of loved ones and friends

Deceased	Donor
<b>Joseph Silva</b>	Mary Moore
<b>Archie Henry</b>	George Fleharty
<b>Alvin Kjonaas, 12-14-04</b>	Ann Kjonaas
<b>Rudolph Hansen, 3-28-05</b>	Betty Dittman ♦ Burta Herger
<b>Laura Kimball, 5-15-05</b>	John Kimball ♦ Vee Hooper
<b>Mary Knutson, 10-14-05</b>	Joland & Elwood Schut ♦ Burta Herger ♦ Barbara Cherron
<b>C.C. "Corky" Bessey, 10-21-05</b>	Jane Vilas ♦ Edith & Everett Adelman ♦ Winifred Wilson ♦ Joan Solomon ♦ Marilynne & Allister Allen ♦ Ruth & George Klopping
<b>Frank Herger, 12-24-05</b>	Robert & Dorothy English ♦ Vee Hooper ♦ Wade & Chris Bingham ♦ Roy & Betty Eber- wein
<b>Dan Kelsay, 12-21-05</b>	Donna & Lois English ♦ Betsy Campbell ♦ Ann Kjonaas
<b>Lloyd George Silva, 1-30-06</b>	Ed & Phyllis Breves
<b>Margaret Mickel, 3-23-06</b>	Joland & Elwood Schut ♦ Mary Lisa Kuhn
<b>Ann Kjonaas, 7-05-06</b>	Don & Rosemary Starcher ♦ Lois & Carolyn English ♦ Bar- bara Torrison
<b>Vera McGee, 7-08-06</b>	Joland & Elwood Schut ♦ Mark & Mary Lisa Kuhn
<b>J.D. Hicks, 7-14-06</b>	Joland & Elwood Schut ♦ Burta Herger
<b>Betty Emmons, 8-01-06</b>	Mark & Mary Lisa Kuhn
<b>Marion Palmer, 8-05-06</b>	Mary Lisa Kuhn
<b>Clyde Prevostini, 8-19-06</b>	Joland & Elwood Schut
<b>Robert Densmore, 9-08-06</b>	Barbara Torrison ♦ Mary Lisa Kuhn
<b>Stanley Farinha, 10-18-06</b>	M.P. Thompson ♦ Joland & Elwood Schut ♦ Burta Herger ♦ Ed & Phyllis Breves
<b>Irene Betry, 11-15-06</b>	Burta Herger
<b>Margaret Allen Bakker, 1-06-07</b>	M.P. Thompson ♦ Joland & Elwood Schut
<b>Mary Houk, 4-08-07</b>	Robert & Judith Murphy ♦ Burta Herger ♦ Joland & El- wood Schut
<b>Fred Hudson, 4-21-07</b>	Burta Herger
<b>Lena Castro, 5-24-07</b>	Joland & Elwood Schut
<b>Nancy Parros, 6-03-07</b>	Marilynne & Allister Allen

<b>Fran Wilkenson, 6-30-07</b>	Burta Herger
<b>Lilly Hudson, 7-01-07</b>	Burta Herger
<b>Bob Menghetti, 7-09-07</b>	Bob & Dorothy English
<b>Adeline Rapp, 7-27-07</b>	Bob & Dorothy English
<b>Keith Knapp, 8-25-07</b>	Vee Hooper ♦ Faye & Harold Hill
<b>Howard Usadel, 10-25-07</b>	Vee Hooper ♦ M.P. Thomp- son ♦ Joland & Elwood Schut
<b>Everett Souza, 10-19-07</b>	Robert & Jackie Weaver ♦ Joland & Elwood
<b>Alfred Stehli, 11-01-07</b>	Phil & Tillie Breasher ♦ Bob & Dorothy English ♦ Burta Her- ger ♦ Joland & Elwood Schut
<b>Kathearn Stroud, 12-10-07</b>	Joland & Elwood Schut ♦ Rosa Stelhi ♦ Burta Herger
<b>Maxine Kolding, 12-10-07</b>	Burta Herger
<b>Isabelle Rezendes, 12-7-07</b>	Burta Herger
<b>Neil Phillips, Sr. 1-09-08</b>	Burta Herger
<b>Kathryn Inaudi, 1-1-08</b>	Chris & Wade Bingham ♦ Joland & Elwood Schut
<b>In honor of Jeff Adelman</b>	Elwood & Joland Schut

To make a memorial donation:  
Make payable to PTHS  
P.O. Box 15  
Patterson CA 95363

*A special thank you to  
Burta Herger for her  
contributions to PTHS*

### Support Friends Of The Library

**Join:**

**Individual: \$10**

**Life: \$150**

**Family, organization or business: \$150**

**Tax deductible**

**Pay to: Friends of Library**

46 N. Salado Ave., Patterson CA 95363

## Historical Societies Fourth Annual West Side Trail Ride April 26, 2008



Last years BBQ in the Houk Barn with people chowing down to some really good grub for a good cause.

The Historical Society is preparing for what may be our fourth and last West Side Horse Trail Ride. Next year will be Patterson's 100 Year Jubilee celebration spread out over the summer months which will preempt a Trail Ride for next year.

The horse trail will cover much of the same area as last year since it rained so much, riders had their heads down for protection and didn't see the territory. We are hoping for much better weather this year.

We will have the hay ride again for those who want to ride the trail and see the banks of the San Joaquin River up close.

There will be a barbeque in the barn for all to take part in, enjoying music and entertainment after eating.

It will be a fun event for horse people, local people and special "old timers" of the area. Everyone is invited to the happening.

### **El Pescadero Land Grant**

The farmland along the San Joaquin River in Stanislaus County was first settled by Mexicans when they came over from the San Jose area to establish land grants under the Mexican government. On the south end was the Orestimba land grant where Newman is now. Further north from Marshall Road to Del Puerto Creek, was the Del Puerto Land Grant. Next on the north, was the El Pescadero Land Grant where the trail ride takes place.

The Mexican Government issued about 30 land grants in California between 1836 and 1846, primarily for raising cattle. The United States Land Commission confirmed most of these after California became a state.

Five of these grants were located in what is now Stanislaus County. Three were located on

*(Continued on page 6)*

# High School and Hotel Commemorative Ornaments

The Historical Society introduced its second commemorative ornament in time for the 2007 Apricot Fiesta. This ornament at right, features the Hotel Del Puerto which burned in 1996. Both ornaments are finished in gold with a stained glass background.

The final ornament in the series of three will feature the Center Building and will be introduced in time for Patterson's centennial year in 2009.

The high school ornament/suncatcher went into a fourth order so that enough will remain on hand.

The Patterson High School was demolished in September 1975 after standing for 60 years. It was an enduring symbol of all the classes that graduated during those years. The Hotel was badly damaged by fire in 1996 and then demolished in 1998 after an effort to restore it.

These ornaments will be available while they last through the Historical Society for \$15.00 each or \$18.00 if it has to be shipped. It is made with a 3-D image finished in 24 Kt. gold suspended over a translucent glass background of hand-swirled colors and gift boxed.



To order, send check to Patterson Township  
Historical Society at P.O. Box 15, Patterson CA 95363

## Land Grants (Continued from page 5)

the San Joaquin River.

**El Pescadero Ranch** (the fishmonger), which consisted of about 35,000 acres was issued to Valentin Higuerra and Rafael Feliz in the area that became San Joaquin City, a river-steamer stop, in November 1843 by Governor Micheltorena. This grant extended from Banta to below Grayson along the San Joaquin River to Del Puerto Creek.

This ranch was the only one occupied on a regular basis. Other ranches had too many problems with Indians in the area. Higuerra and

Feliz drove 1,300 head of cattle, 350 sheep, and 300 horses to the area in 1843. They were the first permanent non-Indian settlers in the area.

Another source states that this grant was given to Pio Pico, Governor of Mexican California, in 1844. Pico presented his claim to the United States Commissioners in 1852, but his claim was rejected. He appealed to the United States District Court and in April 1856, the court declared it legal. Pico sold the grant to William McKee and Frank and Hiram Gaines, who sold it to Timothy Paige in Stockton.

### *PTHS Member's Deaths:*

- Mamie Relvas March 7, 2007
- Lilly Hudson July 1, 2007
- Howard Usadel October. 7, 2007
- Alfred Stelhi November 3, 2007
- Isabelle Rezendes December. 7, 2007
- Fred Beltran, Jr. December 14, 2007
- Mary Dompe December 22, 2007
- Joe Relvas December 26, 2007
- Hitoshi Murata January 1, 2008

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WS-PACE.org

Help  
save the  
West Side



# Fourth Annual West Side Horse Trail Ride

Saturday, April 26, 2008 -- Check in at 11:00 a.m.

Beginning at the Houk Ranch, 1666 Condit, Patterson

Patterson Township Historical Society  
invites you to join us



Riders and their horses will have an opportunity to travel the banks of the San Joaquin River and experience West Side history.

Features include:

B.B.Q. — 4:00 p.m.

Poker Run

Entertainment

History

Hay Ride — limited to first 15 registrations



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## Registration Form - West Side Horse Trail Ride

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Names: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of riders -- \$35.00 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (includes dinner)

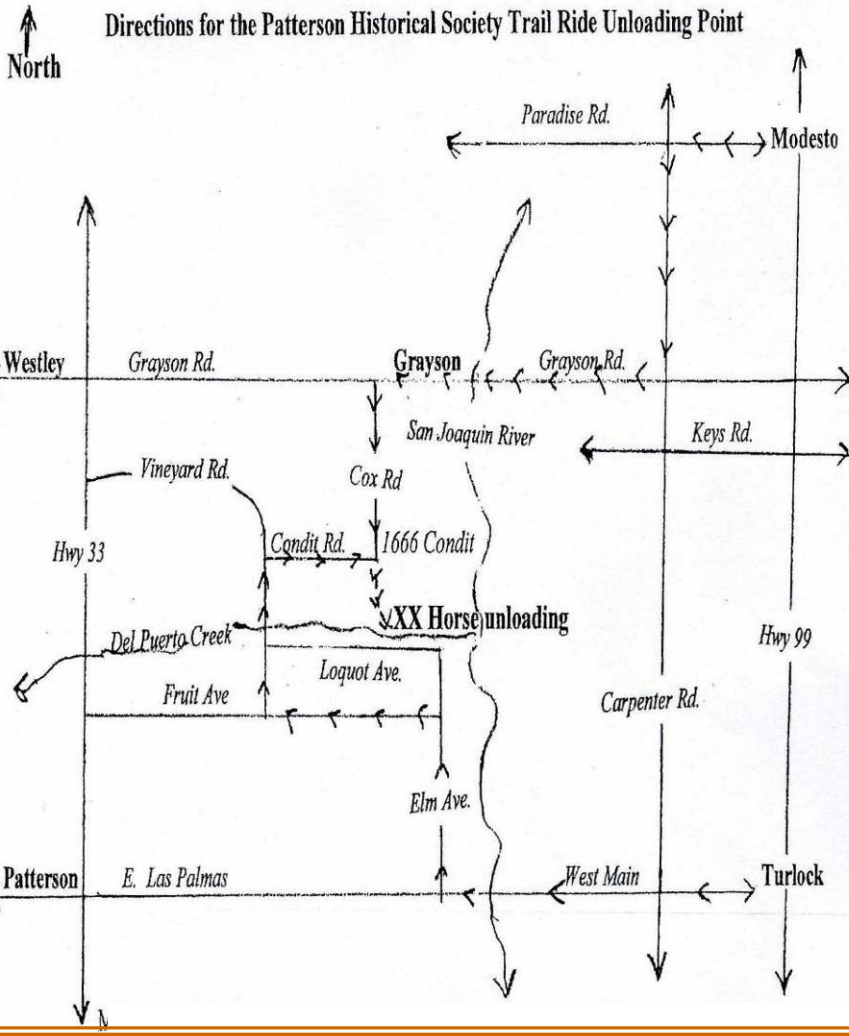
Hay Ride: Number of riders -- \$35.00 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (includes dinner)

Dinner and entertainment only \$10.00 per person -- \$10.00 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Send this form to:

Patterson Township Historical Society, P. O. Box 15, Patterson, CA 95363  
Questions, call: Chris Dennis (415) 850-3022 or Joland Schut (209) 892-8355

Registration form must be returned by April 12th



Map not to scale. Please note: if you are on Vineyard looking for Condit Rd., notice about 1/4 mile after crossing Del Puerto Creek bridge, you will find Condit Road on your right. When you get to the corner of Cox and Condit, you will enter the premises on a private road heading south. You will see the barn about 1/4 of a mile away from where you will park your trailers.

Visit the PTHS website at: [www.patterson-ca.com](http://www.patterson-ca.com)

**Patterson Township  
Historical Society**  
P.O. Box 15  
Patterson CA 95363

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