



# Newsletter

WORKING FOR A FUTURE  
THAT CELEBRATES THE  
PAST

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## HISTORIC WALKING TOUR OF KING CITY

An outing labeled "History, Food and Fun in Downtown King City" is being planned for Saturday, April 23, 2022. It will be a featured portion of the annual spring tour of the San Antonio Valley Historical Association.

Beginning at 10 a.m., it will include a walking tour of historic buildings in King City. There will be pauses allowing for sampling tasty treats at several local restaurants along the way.

The tour is scheduled to begin at the corner of Broadway and Vanderhurst Street at the location of the proposed Downtown Park/Plaza scheduled to begin construction this spring. King City Manager Steve Adams is planning to

give a brief talk about the plans for the site. There will also be a tour of the King City Visitor and History Center to be renovated at 110 North Vanderhurst Avenue. Some residents will remember this as the Jo's Flower Shoppe building.



## SAVHA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Local Historians John and Karen Jernigan are scheduled to be your guides and they will feature stories and photographs of historic buildings between the starting point and the historic area of King City up to First Street. The tour will conclude at the historic Masonic Lodge at 421 Broadway.



Cost of the tour will be \$20 per person payable in advance so that the group can notify the restaurants as to our numbers. The walk will cover less than a mile with time to stop for stories of the past.

Reservations are required and space is limited. To make a reservation, please contact Karen Jernigan at 831-594-3740 or by email at [karenjernigan2007@gmail.com](mailto:karenjernigan2007@gmail.com)

The San Antonio Valley Historical Association is a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving the history of the Jolon/Lockwood area and all of Southern Monterey County.

## P R E S I D E N T ' S M E S S A G E

*B Y P A U L G E T Z E L M A N*

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**W**elcome fellow members to another year with SAVHA.

We are looking forward to a great year ahead. First we will be sharing with you a wonderful Spring walking tour of King City, given by fellow Board members John and Karen Jernigan. We are in the early planning stages for two additional Zoom events and of course our Fall Dinner and Lecture in November. Please join us for all of our learning events. We look forward to your company.

I am happy to report we are well on our way to making the historical archives we own available to the public via the new SAVHA.org website. We expect to have available selections from our collection of audio tape-recorded interviews with some of the old timers in South County. These are first person recollections of their life and times.

We also have selections available for viewing from our photo archives. We have a large collection of photographs, some showing the original founding families of the area. Our hope is that we can bring historical information to those who are looking to fill in gaps in their family history or bring more information to those history buffs out there just looking for new and interesting things.

Speaking for myself and the Board of Directors I want to thank everyone who has continued to support SAVHA, especially through the last couple of difficult years. Your support has allowed us to further our goal of sharing the history of Southern Monterey County with as many people as possible and to expand the knowledge of history in and about Southern Monterey County.

See you on April 23, 2022, for SAVHA's Spring Walking tour of Historic King City.

## T H A N K Y O U F O R Y O U R M E M B E R S H I P A N D D O N A T I O N S

*B y K a r e n J e r n i g a n*

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**T**hanks go to all of you who have paid your \$25 in dues for 2022 to SAVHA in support of our efforts to preserve the history of Southern Monterey County.

### **Special thanks go to those who added extra donations to help fund our organization.**

Peter Anderson, Les and Ruth Christiansen, Mildred Dodd, David Delfino, Ray and Beverly Gillett, David Ginsberg and Yvonne Davis, Carol and Fred Kenyon, Butch and Vivien Lindley, John and Lois Lindley, Abe Marquez, Ann Myhre, David and Karen Park, Amy Phillips, Renee Rianda, Janice Smith-Ramseier, and Helen Collins.

**Welcome to our new members:** Patricia Hearne of King City, Tom and Terry Pettitt of Salinas, Marlane Gottschalk of Hays, Kansas, Donna Lewis of King City, Larry and Denise Hayes of Paso Robles, and Tom Finnegan of Monterey.

If you have not yet sent in your dues, please mail a check to PO Box 145, Lockwood, CA 93932. A membership form is available on the back side of this newsletter.

## CITY OF KING AWARDED PROPOSITION 68 GRANT FOR THE DOWNTOWN PARK/PLAZA PROJECT

King City is excited to announce it has received approval from the State of California for its Proposition 68 grant application for \$2.135 million to construct its proposed Downtown Park/Plaza Project. In response to the notification, Mayor LeBarre stated: “King City greatly appreciates the Governor’s commitment to rural communities, the California Department of Parks and Recreation recognizing the value of our project, and most importantly I want to thank our community for their help and input in making this project a beautiful addition to our city.” The project was identified as a need through public workshops designed to plan improvements to the downtown area as part of the City’s economic development efforts. The project features were then developed through a series of public workshops, meetings and activities. Community input was a major criteria in the application review process, so the City is appreciative of the community’s participation to both create an excellent project design and assist in obtaining approval for the funding.



Proposition 68 was a State of California general obligation bond passed by the voters in 2018. The grant was awarded through the Statewide Park Development and Community Revitalization Grant Program, designed to increase access to parks and open space facilities. According to the California Department of Parks and Recreation, “it was a very competitive process.” Of the 468 applications requesting \$2.42 billion, 112 grants were awarded for a total of \$548.3 million.

The Downtown Park/Plaza project will be constructed in the heart of downtown at the blighted vacant property on the northeast corner of Broadway Street and Vanderhurst Avenue. It is one of the key features of the King City Downtown Streetscape Master Plan developed in 2017. It will feature grass and brick open space areas, outdoor seating and tables, a stage area, trees and landscaping, interactive youth art features, a mural and sculpture, a public restroom and parking improvements. It is intended to help revitalize the downtown area and provide a place for the public to eat, play, enjoy events, and relax while visiting the downtown. The existing historical building at 110 Vanderhurst Avenue will also be renovated and converted to a new Visitor and History Center as a separate but related project.

The property was acquired using park development impact fee revenue and construction will be fully funded from the Proposition 68 grant. Therefore, no City General Fund revenues will be impacted. The project is being designed by RRM Design Group. Construction is projected to begin in spring 2022 and be completed in fall 2022.

Contact City Hall at (831) 385-3281 for more information.

**MAYO HAYES O'DONNELL PENINSULA DIARY COLUMN**  
**AS PUBLISHED IN THE MONTEREY PENINSULA HERALD**  
**APRIL 18, 1955**  
**AN OLD PRAYER BOOK**

A little book, ancient leather covered, raw-hide thonged prayer book, date of publication unknown, has been returned to the Old Mission San Antonio de Padua. It probably left the mission in the Valley of the Oaks in the early 1880's.

The Answer to the question where the antique prayer book has been hiding during the many years it was absent from the old mission is an entertaining story told by Beatrice Casey in the King City Rustler, she received it from Mrs. Marno Dutton Thompson, whose father was the owner of the Dutton Hotel at Jolon, near where the San Antonio Mission is located.

Mrs. Thompson brought the book back to San Antonio after she had received it from her sister Mrs. Alfred Smythe-Pickett (Eunice Dutton), through their mutual friend Mrs. Maurice Townsend of Michigan, also a former resident of Jolon. It seems that in 1953, Mrs. Thompson had as her house guest at her home in San Jose, Mrs. Townsend, who before her marriage was Miss Charlotte Dayton, whose childhood had been spent in the San Antonio Valley. During her stay in California the two women visited the region. Greatly impressed by the mission's restoration, Mrs. Townsend wrote to Mrs. Smythe-Pickett in England, giving her a glowing report of the day spent among the scenes of her childhood.

Following receipt of the letter Mrs. Smythe-Pickett recalled that she had in her possession several items from the collection assembled many years ago by her late father, George Dutton, founder of the historic hotel in the community of Jolon. Among the articles was this little prayer book which she lent to her Michigan friend, who immediately forwarded it to Mrs. Thompson for return to the mission.

Bound in the traditional manner of bookbinders of the 17th and 18th Century Spain where it was undoubtedly published, according to those who have seen it, it is a manual of prayers customarily used after and before masses by the early fathers. Printed in Spanish, Italian, and Latin, the book is so compiled as to incorporate blank pages preceding and following the text in order that other prayers might be written in according to the desires of the priest.

The text embodies an instruction of St. Bridges on the august sacrifice of the mass, prayers to be said before mass asking God for worthiness to offer those sacred mysteries, the prayer of Venerable Bede on the Holy Eucharist, the prayer of Gregory XIII before mass, the prayer of St. Ambrose, etc.

One appendage is dated 1798, therefore the book must have been published prior to that date and in all probability could have been brought to the San Antonio by one of its first fathers – either Miguel Pieras who was present at the mission's founding in 1771, remaining there until his retirement in 1794, or Buenaventura Sitjar, also present at the founding, who served at San Antonio until his death in 1808.

That the little book had undergone repairs in 1812 is disclosed by a notation in Spanish on the inside of the front cover, as noted in Miss Casey's Story. At that time, the missionaries at San Antonio were Fathers Juan Bautista Sancho who served from 1808 until his death in 1830, and Pedro Cabot who was obliged to retire, following the secularization during the Mexican rule.

Also on the front inside cover, we are told, is a printed nameplate. This identifies one of the users of the little prayer book as Father Dorotio Ambris who came to San Antonio in 1851 as its first resident padre during American rule and died there in the valley, in 1882. There is also a possibility that the book was in Father Ambris' possession when he arrived at San Antonio.

The text printed in ink has remarkably stood the ravages of time. It is a pleasure to report the return of this antique prayer book to its rightful place among other relics in the museum of Old Mission San Antonio.

*"An Old Prayer Book" was one article written by historian and journalist Mayo Hayes O'Donnell (1892-1978) on April 18, 1955 for her column "Peninsula Diary" in the Monterey Peninsula Herald newspaper. For a full list of her columns, visit <https://indexes.montereyhistory.org/peninsula-diary>*

## IMAGES OF AMERICA BOOK ON THE HISTORY OF KING CITY

BY KAREN JERNIGAN

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SAVHA members Howard Strohn of Priest Valley and John and Karen Jernigan of King City have recently completed a draft of a book on the history of King City for Arcadia Publishing. The 128 page document has been sent to the publisher for editing with a publication date of some-time later this year.

The book contains 200 photos and images of King City starting with the arrival of the railroad in 1886. Other chapters include What Came Before, A River Runs Through It, Our John Steinbeck Connection, the Turn of the Century, The Progress of Education, Agriculture and Irrigation, A Highway Runs Through It, Mesa Del Rey Army Pilots and Everyday Life.

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## SAVHA YOUTUBE CHANNEL

The San Antonio Valley Historical Association (SAVHA) now has a YouTube channel [San Antonio Valley Historical Association \(SAVHA\) - YouTube](#). Currently you can watch the 2021 Fall Dinner Lecture about Historical Postcards with Michael Semas [SAVHA Fall Lecture 2021 by Michael J. Semas](#). SAVHA will be uploading more videos about SAVHA events and lectures so you will never miss out on the historical experiences.

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## HISTORICAL PHOTOS ON SAVHA WEBSITE

Have you had a chance to take a look at SAVHA's new website at [www.savha.org](http://www.savha.org) and all the new additions on the Photo page? SAVHA's historical photographic collection from the early 1800's to today and information about them are being uploaded from SAVHA's FileMaker Pro database weekly. This is time-consuming work for the volunteers who are trying to work as fast as possible while ensuring the information about them is correct, so be patient and keep checking back for new additions.

You may see a photo of a place or family member that you haven't seen before and would like a copy. Contact a SAVHA via email at [savha4@gmail.com](mailto:savha4@gmail.com)

### San Antonio Valley Historical Association Newsletter

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## UPDATES ON HISTORIC ISSUES OF THE RUSTLER NEWSPAPER

BY KAREN JERNIGAN

More historic issues of the King City Rustler newspaper are due to be available online this Spring that give readers access to issues after 1937.

Currently readers can access The Rustler from 1901 through 1936 by going to the website for the California Digital Newspaper Collection out of the University of California at Riverside. The website is [CDNC.ucr.edu](https://cdnc.ucr.edu)

Donations from the San Antonio Valley Historical Association continues to make this historic information more widely available with the goal of someday having all 120

years of newspapers accessible to the public online. A regular feature of early newspapers gave information on the Jolon area and other outlying areas of Southern Monterey County.

To access the information from the website, users can click on the Search by County feature, click on Monterey County and then click on The King City Rustler. From there, users can search by date or by topic.



## FORT HUNTER LIGGETT'S MARCH COYOTE COMMUNITY CONNECTION FEATURE'S SUSAN RAYCRAFT

A monthly program called "Coyote Community Connections" provides information on what's going on at Fort Hunter Liggett and has guest speakers from the Southern Monterey County communities. For Women's History Month and March's guest speaker was author and activist Susan Raycraft presenting information on the town of Lockwood's namesake - Belva Lockwood. It is now available on YouTube <https://youtu.be/-rC-nkoP-gs>

### IN MEMORY OF



On January 16, 2022, the San Antonio Valley Historical Association lost a beloved lifetime member, Babette Smith of Lockwood, CA.

Babette was on the Board of directors for several years serving as membership and correspondence chair. She gave beautiful oral presentations on the history of the organization, its mission and why saving the history of our community was so important to our future generations

There are so many fond memories of Babette's gifts and contributions to our lives. Her presence will truly be missed.

## BLACK LOCUST – THE TREE THAT HELPED BUILD AMERICA

BY PATRICIA WOODFILL



SAVHA's membership Chairperson, Karen Jernigan, suggested that I write this article on locust trees after one of our members and past SAVHA President Dennis Palm told her that if she was ever searching for old homesteads to look for a stand of locust trees and you will probably find one.

Black Locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*) trees are not native to California – they were brought to California by the gold-rush era settlers and were historically planted as a fast-growing landscape and street tree, which has escaped cultivation to become invasive in California and other states.

I didn't know much about the black locust tree, so I went searching online for information to write this article. I learned that black locust trees were used by Native Americans for bows and blowgun darts, and the early settlers quickly learned about its many uses, not only that it was fast growing, but that its wood is very dense and rot-resistant making it the perfect tree to use for fence posts and sturdy corner posts for their houses. Locusts became an important nail material in the construction of ships, increasing the strength of American navy ships in the War of 1812, making it the tree that helped win a war.

During the California gold rush, the miners cut down native trees nearby to build new towns and to shore up the mines. My Great-great grandfather who was a carpenter in Grass Valley was probably one of them. Later the towns people realized they needed trees for shade and the locust was imported from the east because it was one of the fastest growing trees and multiplied quickly. The black locust can grow 2-8 ft a year and new branches can be between 2-5 ft long by mid-summer. After 2-4 years the black locust is perfect for firewood, fence posts and some of the smaller branches for tool handles. Locust trees were used at mine reclamation sites for their ability to grow in and improve depleted soils. Black locust was also a popular ornamental tree in the newly growing towns. Its popularity has dwindled because of the thorns on young trees, its tendency to produce suckers and come up where not wanted, and the fact that it is a rather messy tree. It is also known to be toxic to horses, so planting Black Locust as a fast-growing shade tree for horses may not be a good idea.

You can find black locust trees growing around the San Antonio Valley Community Center and near old homesteads in the area – if you don't know where any old homesteads are – look for a stand of black locust trees and you'll probably find one.

### Trees For "City Beautiful" Are Being Set Out

A short time back The Rustler printed a list of citizens who applied to the city council for trees, in which list was given the number and kind of trees desired by each.

Well, the trees arrived Wednesday, 201 of them, of three varieties—silver maple, sycamore and locust.

This planting will constitute the first big step of the Woman's Club toward the accomplishment of its purpose to put King City in "The City Beautiful" class.

Watch King City grow—more beautiful!

## HOW TO REACH US

Do you have a comment or contribution? Would you like to express an opinion to the board? Would you like to become a board member? SAVHA is always looking for fresh and old ideas, so if you would like to recommend a Spring Tour site or guest speaker for our Fall dinner and lecture, please forward the information to one of the below board members

We can be reached by mail at P.O. Box 145, Lockwood, CA 93932, or by email through the following board members:

SAVHA email: [savha4@gmail.com](mailto:savha4@gmail.com)

Paul Getzelman: [pcgetzelman@gmail.com](mailto:pcgetzelman@gmail.com)

Patricia Woodfill: [patran2@gmail.com](mailto:patran2@gmail.com)

## **2022 MEMBERSHIP / DONATION FORM**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

New \_\_\_\_\_

Households (\$25)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

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I wish to enclose a donation

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Total Enclosed

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