



Newsletter

WORKING FOR A FUTURE
 THAT CELEBRATES THE
 PAST

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SAVHA SPRING TOUR: SHOOTING THE LOOP

A Spring Tour of the Bitterwater and Lonoak area is being planned for Saturday, April 13, 2024, by the San Antonio Valley Historical Association (SAVHA) of Southern Monterey County.

Featured this year in the group's annual event will be an update on the King City Visitor and History Center by King City Manager Steve Adams when the group assembles at Hestia coffee in downtown King City to start the tour at 9 a.m.



From there the group will caravan in private vehicles to Lonoak and Bitterwater in what is locally known as Shooting the Loop, an approximately 40-mile route that travels through some of the most picturesque scenes found in rural California.

The group plans to take Lonoak Road east of King City to the intersection of Highway 25, where lifelong resident and rancher Bill Rist plans to share memories of the area.

From there, the group will proceed to Tully Hall, an historic building constructed before 1900 that has served as a school, Grange Hall and community center. While lunch is served at the hall, speakers will talk about the history of Tully Hall and the water line that serves the Bitterwater Valley. Steve Schmidt will talk about the Pine Hill Cemetery in Bitterwater where his parents are buried.



After lunch the group will visit the Schmidt Ranch on Highway 25, current home of Shari Schmidt and Jeff Popnoe, to learn about their property which features an historic barn and stage stop house.



Final stop will be the intersection of Highway 25 and Bitterwater Road which was the location of the old Associated Oil Pipeline that ran from near Coalinga to Monterey. An interesting feature of the area is that the San

Andreas Fault runs through the Bitterwater Valley. Another interesting feature is that the area is partly in Monterey County and partly in San Benito County.

Pre-paid Reservations are required for the event. Cost is \$20 per person and \$25 for non-members and includes lunch. Call or text 831-594-3740 or email

karenjernigan2007@gmail.com.

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**SAVHA
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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**

Welcome everyone,

Beginning with a wonderful Spring Tour in April, featuring The Bridges of Southern Monterey County presented by John and Karen Jernigan and ending with our Fall Lecture/annual meeting in November, featuring Pearls Diary, presented by the Daniels family, the San Antonio Valley Historical Association has had a very successful year.

We continued our support of the California Digital Newspaper Collection by continuing to pay for uploading of King City Rustler newspaper. This installment is from 1949 into the 1950s. If you haven't checked out the Rustler currently available online at the CDNC site, please do.

During the year we purchased a new digital projector and screen and portable sound system to make our future presentations more enjoyable for you.

2023 was a great year for the San Antonio Valley Historical Association thanks to all the hard work of our board of directors and members.

I look forward to seeing all of you at our upcoming Spring Tour, until then take care and thank you for your support.

Paul Getzelman

SAVHA SPRING TOUR: SHOOTING THE LOOP - CONTINUATION FROM PAGE 1

The Spring Tour event is being organized by SAVHA members Shari Schmidt and Jeff Popnoe along with John and Karen Jernigan and the board members of SAVHA.

SAVHA is dedicated to the preservation of area history with a focus on preserving the past to better understand the present and future to Monterey. An interesting feature of the area is that the San Andreas Fault runs through the Bitterwater Valley. Another interesting feature is that the area is partly in Monterey County and partly in San Benito County.

A FAWN NAMED JOSEPHINE

BY SHARI SCHMIDT

Many years ago, when Bitterwater School was a one-room schoolhouse, many of the 12 Schmidt kids attended there.

Lunchtime came. The kids went outside to eat and play. A fawn appeared in the school yard. No doe around. The fawn was an orphan. The kids named her Josephine because Joe Schmidt was the one who caught her.

The kids knew she needed someone to raise her.

On their way home, the kids took Josephine to Aunt Daisy Selleck (b.1885).

While walking to and from school each day, they stopped at the Selleck's and fed Josephine a bottle of milk.

Before long, Josephine was old enough to be on her own. So, the kids took her back up to the school yard and turned her loose.

Every day at lunchtime, Josephine returned to the schoolyard. The kids shared their lunches with her.

One day, Josephine didn't come for lunch. The kids were sad for quite a long while. Then, one day, she returned and brought her own fawn with her!

Although Josephine would share the kids' lunches, the fawn would never come that close.

This is a true story that was always one of my favorite bedtime stories.



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 a 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

Paul Getzelman: pcgetzelman@gmail.com

Patricia Woodfill: patran2@gmail.com

SAVHA UPDATES

DIGITIZING LOCAL NEWSPAPERS

Summer 2024 is when more issues of the King City Rustler should become available on the California Digital Newspaper Collection website (cdnc.ucr.edu), a project associated with the University of California at Riverside.

For several years, SAVHA and its members have been providing funding to upload 47 years of issues of the Rustler to this website making issues accessible to the public. The Rustler started in 1901 and that first issue from May by Publisher Fred Vivian can be read as well as all issues through 1948.

With SAVHA's latest support, issues from 1949 into the 1950s should be available soon.

KING CITY VISITOR AND HISTORY CENTER

The King City Visitor and History Center plans continue to move forward in conjunction with improvements to downtown King City.

Upgrades to the downtown streetscape landscaping have been underway and are nearing completion this Spring. Part of these improvements involve the Downtown Plaza scheduled for the lot at the corner of Broadway and North Vanderhurst Avenue on the east side of the intersection. Next to the Plaza is the building at 110 North Vanderhurst which is scheduled for remodeling to hold the King City Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture office. Inside will also be room for a History Center that focuses mostly on digital images and information about the area. Watch for this to make progress through the Spring and Summer.

This historic building has housed numerous businesses since it was built in 1931 starting with The King City Rustler and including Benadom's Meat Locker, Jo's Flower Shoppe and Graphic Designs.

SAVHA YOUTUBE

SAVHA continues to add historic content to our YouTube channel. Most recently three interviews with the late Ernest Clement can now be seen by viewers. Mr. Clement passed away in November 2023. He was born in King City and spent most of his life as a farmer on the Spreckels land north of town. These interviews were conducted in his Arroyo Grande home after he retired and moved there to be closer to family.

Also available is a recording of SAVHA's Fall Lecture on November 18, 2023 that featured the Pearl Daniels Diary. Pearl's sons, Danny and Marvin Daniels, and her daughter Marlene Daniels Thommason, each spoke about the 64 years of entries their mother made documenting her life in the Lonoak area, east of King City.

You can also find the 2023 Spring Tour video "The Bridges of Southern Monterey County."

*Look for updates and news of SAVHA events on our website
www.savha.org and our Facebook page
[www.facebook.comSanantonioValleyHistoricalAssociation](http://www.facebook.com/SanantonioValleyHistoricalAssociation)*

NEW FIRE STATION IN LOCKWOOD AND THE HISTORIC 1942 CALANDRA LOOKOUT DEDICATION



Next door to the Nacitone Museum on Jolon Road is the new South Monterey County Lockwood Fire Station that took many years of planning and will soon be open to protect local residents, visitors, and their property from fire, medical emergencies, and other public service requests. There will be a dedicated training center for future firefighters that are welcome and encouraged to "Become a Volunteer Today! Be part of the Tradition, Excitement and Community!" Go to <https://www.somocofpd.org/become-a-volunteer-today>

In August of 1939, Joe Calandra, a state assistant forest ranger at the King City state forestry headquarters lost his life battling a fire in the redwoods district of Little Sur, Carmel. The Fire Lookout that was dedicated in 1942 and named in his honor. It is now on the National Register of Historic Lookouts (US 395 CA 46)

Article on the dedication from King City Rustler 18 June 1942 – California Digital Newspaper Collection (ucr.edu). Photo copied from Calandra Lookout | National Historic Lookout Register (nhlr.org)

New State Forestry Lookout Station To Honor Memory of Joe Calandra

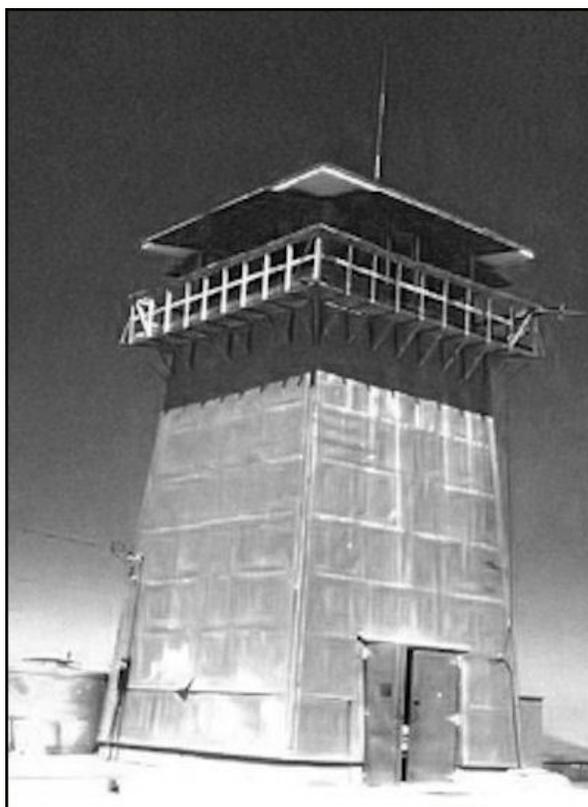
Dedication of a new lookout station located on Williams hill near Lockwood will be held at noon next Wednesday, June 24, it was announced yesterday by F. H. Raymond, state forest ranger.

The new station has been named Calandra Lookout Station in memory of Joe Calandra, who lost his life fighting a forest fire in August, 1939, in Little Sur canyon south of Carmel.

Principal speaker at the dedication ceremony will be M. B. Pratt, state forester for California. Lunch will be served at the lookout station. Attendance will be by invitation only.

The Calandra lookout station will serve a large portion of southern Monterey county and northern San Luis Obispo county, including the Hunter Liggett military reservation and Camp Roberts reservation.

For those not familiar with roads in the vicinity of the new station, a caravan will leave San Lucas at 11 o'clock Wednesday morning. No



walking will be necessary, as a road leads directly to the lookout.

NOTES FROM A BIBLIOPHILE

In the Fall issue of SAVHA's newsletter, we asked our membership if any one would be interested in writing a short review on any historical books they may have read, but we are still looking for a volunteer. We publish the newsletter twice a year, so you would have plenty of time to read and write the book review. If interested contact Patricia Woodfill at savha4@gmail.com for more information.

Here is a list of recommended reading and research about SAVHA's upcoming Spring Tour of the Bitterwater Valley.

- **Gold, Cattle and Land**, The memoirs of descendents of the Eade, Bray, Copley, Tompkins families out of the Natrass line. The oral History office, Shields Library, University of California, Davis, 1980. A.I. Dickman and Reuben Albaugh
- **East of the Gabilans**, by Marjorie Pierce, First edition 1977
- **Reconnaissance to Pine Hill Cemetery**, Three Rocks Research by Ray Iddings, burial details
- **Salt of the Earth**, Copyright 1951 featuring profiles of pioneers from The King City Rustler newspaper
- **San Benito County Long Ago & Today**, First version, October 1959, Page 42 about the Bitterwater Valley
- **Beyond the Pinnacles** by Peter Frusetta, Second printing 1990
- **Historical Guide to San Benito Mountain & Joaquin Rocks Region of Central California** by Ray Iddings

Family Documents

- **The Claire Schmidt Family of Bitterwater Valley**, July 2008 by Dan Schmidt
- **Bitterwater Homestead** by Bill Knowles
- **This Old House**, by Jeff Schmidt about their family property, Circa 2005

San Antonio Valley Historical Association YouTube Videos

- **The Diary of Pearl Rist Daniels**, featuring 65 years of entries being transcribed by her children. (To receive text messages of the diary entries contact Marvin Daniels at marvnpet@aol.com and send your name and address)
- **Memories of Roberta Oswald**, March 18, 2019 at age 92
- **Memories of Lupe Tully Family** presented by Alma Jean Russell in 1986 for Women's History Celebration

Other sources of information

- San Antonio Valley Historical Association website photo database at www.savha.org
- Monterey County Agricultural and Rural Life Museum in King City
- Monterey County Historical Society in Salinas
- San Benito County Historical Society in Hollister
- Baker Museum of Coalinga
- The King City Rustler newspaper Bitterwater column, available online from 1901-1948 at the California Digital Newspaper Collection from the University of California, Riverside. (cdnc.ucr.edu)

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BITTERWATER VALLEY WILDFLOWERS

BY PATRICIA WOODFILL



Bitterwater Wildflowers photo
Curtis Lange

I have been interested in California Native plants since I moved to Lockwood in May of 1972. In March of 2010, my sister-in-law Susan Raycraft asked me to work with her on a column for SAVHA's newsletter about Southern native plants and their history, I jumped at the chance. Southern Monterey County and the San Antonio Valley in particular, has an abundant number of plants of such a variety that it was hard for me to choose what to write about first. Being born and raised in the San Diego area, most of the flowers, shrubs, and trees were from a seed packets or nurseries and had been planted by someone. As a child, I don't remember hearing the term "Wildflower" until I moved to Lockwood and saw the hills painted a beautiful orange and the fields covered in every color of the rainbow. It was an awesome sight, and I was hooked from then on. I started to learn the local names of the beautiful flowers that produced this magnificent picture and then turned to the other plants and shrubs that grew in the area. To this day, I am still gathering information and knowledge about the plants and how they were used by the native people in this area. Each Spring, I look forward to the green, rolling hills that turn into amazing displays of color for all to enjoy.

On SAVHA's 2024 Spring tour we will be traveling on Bitterwater Road, an out of the way scenic drive on the backroads of Southeastern Monterey and San Benito Counties to Bitterwater and Lonoak.

With another year of rain and even more rain, we will most likely have another "SuperBloom" and Bitterwater Road travels through the green hills that I am hoping will be filled with a beautiful display of color from all the wildflowers in the spring which start blooming in March. So be sure to bring your cameras along because you never know what we may find in this back country where the deer and the antelope play.

I am expecting we will see carpets of color from the fields of poppies, gold fields, lupines, and fiddleneck. And we may get to see the antique cars that are planted on the banks of Lewis Creek in Lonoak.



Vintage Cars on Banks of Lewis Creek

SAVHA's Spring Tour will be a relaxing journey of discovery and we hope to see you and the wildflowers in Bitterwater.

2024 MEMBERSHIP / DONATION FORM

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____

_____ ZIP _____

Email _____ Phone _____

New _____ Households (\$25) \$ _____

Renewal _____

I wish to enclose a donation \$ _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

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