

San Antonio Valley Historical Association
April 2025



Newsletter

WORKING FOR A FUTURE
THAT CELEBRATES THE
PAST

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STAGE STOPS AND SALOONS ALONG OLD JOLON ROAD

The annual Spring Tour for the San Antonio Valley Historical Association is in the planning stages for an event titled STAGE STOPS AND SALOONS ALONG OLD JOLON ROAD.

Saturday, April 26 is the date chosen for a trip down memory lane along one of Southern Monterey County's oldest roads just south of King City. Starting time will be 9 a.m. at San Lorenzo Park in King City.

This year's event is being done in cooperation with the Monterey County Agricultural and Rural Life Museum where the day will begin at the Main Barn with a power point presentations of Stage Stops between Soledad and San Miguel from 1873 and 1910. Mixed in will be scenes from saloons that have lined the route over the years.

The event will be conducted by caravan with participants encouraged to carpool with guests. A few stops are planned along the route that heads southwest on Road G14 ending up about 20 miles later at the site of the old town of Jolon and the entry to Fort Hunter Liggett at Mission Road. Lunch will be served at the historic St. Luke's Episcopal Church, dating back to 1883. There will be a chance to visit the site of the old Dutton Hotel, the Tidball Store and the St. Luke's Cemetery.



DUTTON'S HOTEL, H. J. REDMOND, PROP.
Six Miles From San Antonio Mission Rendezvous For Motorists
FIRST CLASS ACCOMMODATIONS
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Also featured will be information about the Dew Drop Inn, the Bombay Club, the Adobe Club, the Voodoo Room and the Ruby Mine Saloon.

Cost for the event is \$30 for members of SAVHA and \$35 for non-members, payable in advance. Space is limited so reservations are requested by April 19. In the last two years, the tours have been sold-out.

For more information, call or text Karen Jernigan at 831-594-3740 or email karenjernigan2007@gmail.com

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY PAUL GETZELMAN

Hello everyone,

As the leaves begin to turn green again, it's a perfect time to look ahead to what's in store for SAVHA. Here are some updates and news I would like to share with you all.

First, I want to express my sincere gratitude to everyone who made our Fall lecture event at the Hesperia Hall such a resounding success. The luncheon and lecture was a wonderful celebration of our local heritage. A special thank you to Maria Weinerth and Patricia Woodfill and all our dedicated Board members for your hard work and generosity, they are the lifeblood of our organization.

Looking forward to the new year I have a number of great projects to tell you about:

We are very happy to announce that we've set the date for our very popular Spring Tour. The tour called "Stage Stops and Saloons along Jolon Road" will be happening on April 26th. Our Spring Tours have sold out in recent years so please be sure to get your reservations in early.

- Online Digital Newspaper Collection : We are currently funding new releases of the King City Rustler, the King City Herald and The Land and its People for online viewing. (cdnc.ucr.edu)
- Oral Histories: If you haven't already discovered the SAVHA YouTube channel it's definitely time to check it out. Recent uploads feature Butch Heinsen, Calverne Saylor and the Lester Patterson family of Lockwood, John & Darlene Maggini of the Bitterwater/King City.
- SAVHA Scholarship Program: New to our organization we have established a scholarship program with the help of King City High School to provide continuing education for young people interested in history.

SAVHA believes that by working to educate as many as possible, we can ensure that the rich history of Southern Monterey County is preserved and celebrated for years to come.

As always, we welcome your feedback and encourage you to get involved with SAVHA. Whether you have a passion for research, a knack for organizing events, or simply a love of history, we have a place for you.

Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events.

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, or an article for our newsletter, please let us know about it. 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 (Newsletter articles): patran2@gmail.com

STAGE COACH CHARLEY

March is Women's History Month so here's a story that should not be kept a secret.

Mountain Charley Parkhurst, one of Wells Fargo's most notable stagecoach drivers, kept a significant secret until death. Weighing around 175 pounds and standing approximately five feet seven inches tall, Charley had broad shoulders, a sharp voice, and preferred the company of horses over people. Despite these preferences, Charley was known for exceptional skill and resourcefulness as a driver, with a reputation for being hard-boiled and reticent about personal matters. The surprising truth revealed upon death was that Charley was biologically female.

Born in 1812 in Lebanon, New Hampshire, Charlotte Darkey Parkhurst, known as Charley, disguised herself as a boy to escape an orphanage and subsequently never dressed as a woman again. This disguise facilitated employment opportunities typically unavailable to women at the time. Charley worked at a livery stable in Worcester, Massachusetts, and learned stage driving skills under the mentorship of Ebenezer Balch. Eventually, Charley developed a reputation as one of the best coachmen on the eastern seaboard.

A near exposure occurred when Charley's hands froze during a January dance in Pawtuxet, necessitating another driver's assistance. Shortly after, Charley moved to Georgia and later followed Jim Birch to California as he established the California Stage Company. Arriving in San Francisco in 1851, Charley quickly adapted and excelled, driving stagecoaches amidst gold rush boom towns and handling the reins with remarkable dexterity.

Injuries did not deter Charley, who earned the nickname "One-Eyed Charley" after losing an eye. Charley continued driving stages in Northern California and undertook special missions for Wells Fargo, gaining further respect. By the late 1860s, Charley retired from stage driving and transitioned to cattle farming and freight hauling.

Charley registered to vote in the 1868 presidential election, notably before women's suffrage was legalized by the 19th amendment in 1920. Upon passing away on December 29, 1879, the true identity of Charley Parkhurst was discovered. Obituaries highlighted her secret and contributions to stage driving, leaving a legacy that challenged contemporary gender norms.

RECOMMENDED READING AND RESEARCH FOR STAGE STOPS AND SALOONS ALONG OLD JOLON ROAD APRIL 2025

- Some By-ways of California** by Charles Franklin Carter, Copyright 1902. Chapter on Jolon, pages 96-117
- Adventures of a Novelist** by Gertrude Atherton, Copyright 1932. Description of visit to Jolon and Milpitas Ranch, Circa 1877-79, pages 75-81.
- California Coast Trails, A horseback Adventure from Mexico to Oregon in 1911** by J.Smeaton Chase, Reprint Copyright 2001, Chapter 13 & 14, pages 136-155
- Stagecoaching on El Camino Real**, Los Angeles to San Francisco, 1861-1901 by Charles Outland, Copyright 1973, page 159-160
- Stagecoaching on the California Coast.** The Coast Line Stage from Los Angeles to San Juan by Maury Hoag, 2001. Chapter on Jolon, page 85-89. Some info questionable.
- History of California Post Offices** 1849-1976. H.E. Salley, grandfather of Grace Foster of Lockwood. Copyright 1977
- Oxcart, Wagon and Jeep** by Eva Taylor, Circa 1945
- Monterey County Place Names** by Donald Clark with John Durnford Jernegan, 1991
- San Antonio Valley, Images of America** by Sue Raycraft and Ann Keenan Beckett, 2006
- Padres and People at Old Mission San Antonio** by Beatrice Tid Casey, May 1957
- Lost Adobes of Monterey County** by Don Howard, 1973
- Up and Down California** by William Brewer, Page 94 description of Jolon, May 8, 1861
- Memories of the San Antonio Valley** by Rachel Gillett from an oral history interview printed by the San Antonio Valley Historical Association, Copyright 1990, Pages 13 & 21
- Mc's Stage Line** By George R. McIntosh, Copyright 1972

Continue reading on Page 5

SAVHA UPDATES

KING CITY VISITOR AND HISTORY CENTER

Spring is now the projected opening timeframe for the King City Visitor and History Center next to the Downtown Plaza on the northeast corner of Vanderhurst Avenue and Broadway.

Contractor Paul Tavernetti is doing the finish work at 110 North Vanderhurst across from the King City Library. The history room will operate in conjunction with the King City Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture which is scheduled to move from their current office in the 200 block of Broadway. The room will be used for historical research and to display photos of how the town has evolved over the years.



Running concurrently is the final phase of construction is a park-like area that will be a focal point in King City's downtown.

This historic building, was built in 1931

Those of you who appreciate history will be interested to know that the Downtown Plaza entrance pedestals will include four interpretive panels highlighting major segments of King City's history.

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

SAVHA'S YOUTUBE CHANNEL

The San Antonio Valley Historical Association (SAVHA) continues to enrich our YouTube channel with captivating historical content. Our most recent updates feature interviews with David Ellis Tavernetti, conducted on November 26, 2019, at his home in El Dorado Hills. David spent the majority of his life in King City. Additionally, we have posted a 2018 interview with Josephine (Jo) Koester, who shares her deep knowledge of King City, the town where she was born and raised.

Another recent addition is the 2018 interview with Thomas "Tom" Hamilton Pettitt, who was born on July 29, 1937. Tom spent most of his life up until 1995 living in King City and is the great-grandson of Lewis King, the brother of Charles King, the founder of King City.

Be sure to check out these fascinating interviews on our YouTube channel!

<https://www.youtube.com/@savha>

MORE SAVHA UPDATES

DIGITIZING LOCAL NEWSPAPERS

Finally!!! The long-awaited issues of the King City Rustler from 1949 to 1954 are available online!

In addition, you can find issues of the Rustler's supplemental publication "The Land and Its People" from 1956-1962 and issues of the King City Herald from 1918-1921.

Access to the information can be found on the website of the California Digital Newspaper Collection (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 King City Rustler to this website making issues accessible to the public at no charge. The Rustler started in 1901 and that first issue from May by Publisher Fred Vivian can be read as well as all issues through 1954.

There was one year, 1920, where microfilm of The Rustler was missing but during the early part of the 1900s from 1914-1937, King City had two newspapers, the Rustler and the Herald. Issues of the King City Herald from 1918-1921 were digitized and their 1920 editions help cover the missing year of The Rustler.



The Land and Its People was a monthly publication of the Rustler that focused on agriculture and ranch life. One of the features of the CDNC is that you can use Optical Character Recognition to find specific information. For example, if you type "Jolon" in the search box, all articles related to that will appear on your screen. Or type in your family name or the name of a business and you might be surprised what you

will find.

Perhaps the easiest way to access information on the website is to Search by County/Monterey and then pick the newspaper that you want to look at. It also gives access to Salinas newspapers.

CONTINUING FROM PAGE 3 OF RECOMMENDED READING AND RESEARCH FOR STAGE STOPS AND SALOONS ALONG OLD JOLON ROAD

Salt of the Earth, Copyright 1951 featuring profiles of pioneers from The King City Rustler-Herald newspaper

Marno Dutton Thompson, daughter of George and Deborah Dutton, Dutton Hotel

Medarda Yates, Lockwood resident

William Curnell, worked at Lowe's Station on his first job

John Hersom, remembers the stage coach

Fritz Weferling, remembers the stage coach

Frank McCormack, Remembers Jolon in 1878

Cipriano Avila, lived at Salspuedes Ranch, helped build Red Grade Road

Otto Wolff, worked for William Randolph Hearst

Pete Mansfield (Walter Plaskett Mansfield), son of Curnel Horry Mansfield

Ramon Augustin Madero, Remembers the stage

William Zimbray Adam, traveled from Soledad to Jolon

DUTTON HOTEL AND SALOON

In 1849, Antonio Ramirez built a small adobe on the El Camino Real, near the site of the ancient Indian village, Holamna. As a main artery to California's gold fields, the El Camino Real brought many travelers past Ramirez's place. He transformed his adobe into an inn and stage stop and soon enjoyed a brisk business.



Eventually, the Inn became the nucleus of the town Jolon. Ramirez sold the building in 1871 and it changed hands

three more times before it was purchased by Lt. George Dutton and Capt. Thomas Tidball in 1876. Dutton, who became the sole owner in 1878, added a second story of adobe and wood frame structures at either end. Jolon's first post office was located at the Inn, and Dutton added a store and saloon. The saloon boasted a huge fireplace, 6 or 8 poker tables, and an ornate bar which came around the Horn.

By 1876, Jolon had grown into a thriving town serving the Los Burros Mines, surrounding ranches, and many travelers. However, when the railroad came to King City in 1886 traffic followed the railroad, and the old Camino Real fell into disuse. Soon after, the Los Burros Mines gave out as well, and business at the Dutton died down.

William Randolph Hearst purchased the property in 1929 and removed the Dutton's outbuildings as well as many other Jolon structures. In 1940, the U.S. Army acquired the property, and the adobe was used as a bivouac area. Vandalism and exposure to the elements finally destroyed the building, leaving only an adobe ruin. The building was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1976

A Column About . . .

People and Places

MARIANO GIL, about whom we wrote in this column last week, used to drive the stagecoach on a night run from Pleyto, leaving there about dusk in the evening and arriving in Soledad about 4 a.m. the next morning. On the return trip, Mr. Gil left in the late afternoon and arrived at Pleyto about sunrise of the next day, to meet the coach arriving from San Luis Obispo.

"We drove fast in those days," Mr. Gil recalls, "as fast as the horses could go." The first station south of Soledad was called Last Chance, and the second was the Quinado station, remembered here as Lowe's station, site of the present George Gamboa ranch.

The next station on the run was at Jolon, at the old two-story adobe hotel operated by Dutton and Tidball. This old landmark is still standing, now owned by the War Department as a part of the Hunter Liggett military reservation.

Mr. Gil recalls that the town of Jolon was founded about 1864 by Antonio Ramirez, who came there from Monterey. The village consisted of the Dutton hotel, store and saloon; a blacksmith shop; a few houses; and the big Tidball store which is now operated by Ramona and Eldon Sutfin. The little chapel at Jolon was constructed in 1879 by Reason Plaskett. It is still used today by soldiers of the military reservation.

Mr. Gil remembers the day that the old grapevine which now grows in front of the former adobe hotel was set out. It was a slip brought from the Mission San Antonio, six miles away.

Of course, in the stagecoach days there were no bridges in this part of Monterey county. The trip from Soledad to Pleyto, therefore, required fording the Salinas river once and the San Antonio river twice. In winter, when the former river was high, a ferry boat took passengers and mail bags across the river at Soledad, and the coach journey began from the south bank of the stream.

BANDIT DAYS — One day in 1884 (two years before the founding of King City) Mr. Gil's coach was held up by a bandit, unmasked. The road at that time went down into Thompson's Gulch. As the heavily loaded coach was coming up out of the little canyon, two men suddenly emerged with guns.

Instructions to the drivers in those days were to offer no resistance, for it would only mean death to the driver and perhaps to some of the passengers. So on this occasion Mr. Gil, who was then a young man of 31, threw out the mail bag and Wells-Fargo Express to the bandits, then did what he could to calm one of the passengers, a hysterical girl who naively asked; "Will they shoot us?"

King City Rustler, 15 October 1942

San Antonio Valley Historical Association Newsletter

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ENJOYING AND HARVESTING THE WILD ELDERBERRY BY PATRICIA WOODFILL

I have been interested in California Native plants for many years, practically from the time I moved to Lockwood in May of 1972. In March of 2010, my sister-in-law Susan asked me to work with her on a column about Southern Monterey County native plants and their history for the SAVHA Newsletter. I jumped at the chance. Southern Monterey County, and the San Antonio Valley in particular, has an abundant number of plants of such wide variety that it was hard for me to choose which plants to write about first. So now in 2025, I thought I would share with you how I came to be so interested in the local native plants and my first and still most favorite article.

Being born and raised in San Diego, I thought that all of the flowers, shrubs, and trees around me were from a seed packet or nursery and that someone had planted them. As a child, I really 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 I turned to the other plants and shrubs that grew in my surrounding area. To this day, I am still gathering information and knowledge about these plants and shrubs, and how they were used by the native people who lived in this area many years before their way of life was changed forever.

My first spring in Lockwood was followed by a very long and hot summer. One hot August day, a young man who grew up in the area asked me if I wanted to go pick elderberries along the Lockwood-San Lucas Road and around the Salinas River. I was clueless as to what an elderberry was and what to do with these berries once they were picked. Having never in my life picked any wild berries or made jam or jelly from any fruit, I learned how to pick the large, purple clusters and then how to make the most delicious jelly that I have ever tasted from the berries of the elderberry shrub or elder flowers. Although I have not tried "Elder Fritters," I have heard that they are great when using tempura or pancake batter. Elder flowers also make wonderful tea, especially with mint.



*Remember to leave
some behind for the
birds and other wild-
life that rely on these
natural resources for
sustenance*

According to Valance E. Heinsen, who published "The Medicinal Herbs of Mission San Antonio de Padua" in 1972 and 1974, the native Salinan Indians used the elderberry bush flowers to make tea for headaches and fever from colds. Just so you know, parts of the elderberry bush are poisonous. Unless you are an experienced herbalist, never use the leaves, roots, or bark. They contain a bitter alkaloid and glycoside that may change into cyanide. Another tip: people have been known to use dried, crumbled elderberry leaves in their gardens as a natural insecticide.

In the book "Tending the Wild," M. Kat Anderson describes how the California Indians paid close attention to the changes in plants and animals. The Coastal Pomo people stopped gathering clams and shellfish when the elderberry shrub flowered, and when the berries were ripe, they knew it was time again to harvest the shellfish.

Southern Monterey County is still home to a plentiful supply of elderberry bushes. Several grow in front of St Luke's Episcopal Church and the Dutton Ruins in Old Jolon. However, it's best to steer clear of gathering berries from heavily trafficked roadsides, as vehicle pollution could contaminate the fruit. When foraging for any wild fruit, always remember to leave some behind for the birds and other wildlife that rely on these natural resources for sustenance.

2025 MEMBERSHIP / DONATION FORM

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Renewal _____

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