



THE CAPITAL

"Preserving Santa Barbara's historic sites of enduring community value"

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PEARL CHASE SOCIETY OCTOBER SCHEDULED MEETINGS OF INTEREST

PEARL CHASE SOCIETY

Board Meetings are typically held the first Thursday of the month at the MacVeagh House on the grounds of the Natural History Museum. Next meeting: October 6

Preservation Committee Meetings are now held at 4 pm on the fourth Thursday of the month at Wood Glen Hall, 3010 Foothill Road. Next meeting will be held October 27

CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

City meetings are broadcast live on City TV channel 18 and streamed live at www.santabarbaraca.gov/Government/Video, where they are also archived and viewable on demand.

City Council Meetings are held on Tuesdays at 2 pm at Council Chambers, City Hall: October 4, 11, 18, 25

Planning Commission Meetings are held on the first, second and third Thursdays of the month at 1 pm at Council Chambers, City Hall: October 6, 13, 20

Historic Landmarks Commission Meetings are held every other Wednesday at 1:30 pm at the David Gebhard Public Meeting Room, 630 Garden Street: October 5, 19

Architectural Board of Review Meetings are held Mondays at 3 pm at the David Gebhard Public Meeting Room, 630 Garden Street. Full Board meets on October 10, 24

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

County Board of Supervisor Meetings and Planning Commission meetings are broadcast live on CSBTV20. They are also streamed at www.countyofsb.org/ceo/media02.aspx, where they are also archived and viewable on demand.

County Board of Supervisors Meetings are held on three Tuesdays of the month at 9 am. The first and third meetings are held in Santa Barbara in the Board of Supervisors Hearing Room, 105 East Anapamu St., 4th Floor. The second meeting is (typically) held in Santa Maria at 511 East Lakeside Parkway: October 4 (SB); October 11 (SM); October 18 (SB)

County Planning Commission Meetings are held three Wednesdays of the month at 9 am. The first and third meetings are held in Santa Barbara at 123 East Anapamu Street, Room 17, and the second meeting is (typically) held in Santa Maria at 511 East Lakeside Parkway: October 5 (SB), October 12 (SM), October 26 (SB)

County Historic Landmarks Advisory Commission Meetings are held the second Monday of the month at 10 am at 123 East Anapamu, Room 17 (unless specified otherwise): October 10

Society News and Notes *by Kelly Mahan & Rick Closson*

At this month's Pearl Chase Society board meeting, the board considered appointing a local CPA to fill the role of board treasurer. No final action or vote was taken, and the board will further consider it a future meeting. The board also voted to change the time and day of the Preservation Committee meetings, to encourage more attendance. The new meeting time is 4 pm on the 4th Thursday of the month, at Wood Glen Hall, 3010 Foothill Road.

Discussion continued on a potential Historic Homes Tour for next year. The Samarkand neighborhood is a potential location to hold the tour, and the board will begin forming the HHT committee in the coming months. The next board meeting is scheduled for October 6.

Recently Pearl Chase ex-director Jennifer Stroh discovered an unusual structure slated for demolition behind a handsome Victorian house and wondered what it was. She sent pictures to some Board members and the story unfolded.

In the 1950s Joseph McCarthy ranted, Korea exploded, color TV broadcasted, "Catcher in the Rye" caught on, Elizabeth became Queen, George Jorgenson became Christine, polio was vaccinated, SCOTUS banned segregation, Lords of Rings and of Flies published, Jackie wed Jack, the Yankee Clipper married Norma Jean, Viet Nam war was French, Elvis wore khaki, Disneyland opened, Rosa Parks sat, Don Larsen was perfect, European Markets became Common, Sputnik launched, Thalidomide caused defects, Alaska and Hawaii were stated, Edsels started and stopped, Hulas Hooped, and Santa Barbarans burned garbage in their back yards.

Nat Isaac, working with the Los Angeles Sanitation Historical Project, writes in a recent California Historical Society online blog backyard trash incineration in Southern California was, "a firmly established practice since the turn of the twentieth century." In the 1940s it was also a major means for municipalities to dispose of waste but was causing air quality issues in Los Angeles (surprise!). Eliminating backyard incinerators meant more garbage trucks on the already busy streets of Los Angeles, so there was serious push-pull as that city grappled with the problems. In 1957 Angelenos approved a



A backyard trash incinerator that was recently demolished (photo courtesy Jennifer Stroh)

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Newsletter

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PRESERVATION WATCH

By Kellam de Forest

(Initiated by popular request, Preservation Watch informs Pearl Chase Society members of community projects that may disturb historical structures and features, explains community preservation efforts, and/or lists opportunities for public input for those concerned with a particular issue.)

Average Unit-Size Density (AUD) Incentive Program: A major concern of members and the public is the impact of AUD projects to the fabric of Santa Barbara. The AUD incentive program is producing projects for large apartment buildings that when built will negatively impact Santa Barbara's charm, history and livability. To see some community dialogue I recommend visiting:
www.edhat.com/site/tidbit.cfm?nid=174581

1626 Santa Barbara Street: Owner Bob Fulmer has contacted *Preservation Watch* and brings to our attention an error in the size of his proposed two-story residence on the corner of Santa Barbara and Valerio Streets. He states: "The proposed new construction is 2537 square feet (not 3,666 feet as reported). I believe that 'the 3,666 square-foot duplex' mentioned in the August 31, 2016 City of SB Team Comments refers to a combination of the original residence and the approved additions outlined above. In other words, rather than utilizing the maximum development of the R-3 zoning, we hope ultimately to have two single-family residences and a garage apartment on the lot."

Casa De La Guerra: As reported, the Trust for Historic Preservation, in order to prevent vagrant sleeping and vandalism during nighttime hours, is proposing a six-foot high wrought fence enclosure of the courtyard including gates and piers.

Mattei's Tavern: Mattei's hotel project is under new ownership. Plans presented to HLAC on September 12, showed a new proposal for a simple u-shaped vehicle entrance on the east side of the Tavern. The historic Wicker Room is to be retained as a lobby.

Casa Dorinda: Also on both the HLAC and MBAR agendas were plans for the new two-lane entrance bridge that will replace the one-lane 1918 entrance bridge. The new bridge will emulate the old bridge in style, using its stone facing. The 1918 bridges are actually concrete stone facing to make them look old. Still needing to be worked out is the design of the required guard railings on top of the bridge walls. What was proposed looked contemporary.

The Andree Clark Bird Refuge: Originally, water from Sycamore Creek drained into the estuary. However, in 1886 the construction of the Southern Pacific railroad blocked off the inflow of water. In 1928, [Huguette M. Clark](#), along with her widowed mother, owners of "Bellosguardo," the estate across from the salt pond, donated \$50,000 to excavate the pond and create an artificial freshwater 29-acre lake. Clark stipulated that the facility would be named Andree Clark Bird Refuge, in memory of her deceased sister. The sisters were daughters of "Copper King" William A. Clark. Huguette Clark donated more funds in 1930 to complete work in the plans, designed by locally renowned landscape designer and horticulturist Ralph Stevens. The water in the lake has been replenished by winter rains and run off from the Montecito County Club until the current drought. Efforts to aerate the shallow lake have not worked. On September 13, the City Council voted to spend up to \$150,000 for a coastal engineering firm to study the problem and provide solutions. One solution could be to create a deeper, smaller lake. Another is to

—continued on next page

Pieces of the Past

by Terri Sheridan, Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History Librarian

The Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, founded in 1916 by William Leon Dawson, started out just down the road from its current campus, as the Museum of Comparative Oology. In 1922, Mary Pierpont Bushnell Hazard and her sister-in-law Caroline Hazard moved the Museum to its present site at 2559 Puesta del Sol. The two women wanted to build a memorial to their husband and brother, Rowland Gibson Hazard, the Museum's first curator, who was a lover of birds and an avid egg collector. The newly built Hazard Memorial Museum of Comparative Oology opened in April of the same year as a cluster of buildings surrounding a central courtyard. It would be two more years before the Museum expanded its mission to become the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History.

The centerpiece of the new Museum was a marble memorial tablet fitted with a terra cotta frame and decorative bowl manufactured by the historic Gladding McBean Company of Lincoln, California. In 1924 the Museum hired Lockwood de Forest, Jr. to design a tile surround for the tablet. De Forest's design called for a combination of 4x4 cobalt and tan tiles in combination with ornate mid-16th century Turkish tiles from the Iznik region. The tiles had been collected in Damascus by his father, Lockwood de Forest, Sr. during a trip to Syria in 1880.

The original design for the memorial fountain didn't include running water. It was only a simple basin to serve as a bath for Rowland Gibson Hazard's beloved birds. Lockwood de Forest, Jr. designed a rustic landscape to either side with a sweep of stones drawing the eye toward the tiled wall. Through the years, well-meaning Museum staff made adjustments

to the memorial: a pool for water was added at the base of the wall, plumbing was added to run water through the basin, and finally the cobalt and tan tiles just above the basin were replaced with a set of matching Iznik tiles donated by Elizabeth de Forest in 1983. Unfortunately the Turkish tiles were not suited for direct contact with water and quickly eroded.

This past July, with the support of the Pearl Chase Society, the Museum was able to hire Silverlake Conservation, LLC, to mitigate the fountain's damage.

Mineral deposits on the tiles were carefully removed using mild cleaning agents and hand tools to gently wash then chip away at the scale without damaging the tile's glaze. Cracks in the tile bed were injected with inert liquid mortar then blended to near invisibility. The project was supervised by Silverlake's conservator Amy Green.

Losses in clay, grout, and sandstone were filled with reversible materials that mimic the original work in both color and texture, and missing glaze was painstakingly hand-painted with a compatible coloring system that matches both the color and sheen of the original tiles. Finally, all the metal and tile elements were sealed and waxed to provide protection from future water penetration.

Conserving the Memorial Fountain during the centennial year is a fitting tribute to one of the Museum's founding families. A reception recognizing the PCS for its grant donation to help restore the foundation was held in the Museum courtyard on September 1, and members of the PCS board, including Kellam de Forest, the son of Lockwood de Forest, Jr.

For more information, visit www.pearlchasesociety.org.



The restored foundation at the Museum of Natural History, sponsored by the Pearl Chase Society (courtesy photo)

modify the lake's dam to allow for periodic flushing.

Criminal Courthouse: Bill Mahan reports that the proposed criminal courthouse has been put on hold by the State due to lack of funds.

Barnsdall Rio Grande gas station: It is reported that the City of Goleta has contracted with a historic preservation consulting firm in Pasadena, Historic Resources Group.

It advertises it has and offers established expertise in issues related to the preservation of the historic building environment, and offers a wide range of preservation services since its founding in 1989. No further news about the gas station to report.

Mission Canyon Corridor, Bridge and Rocky Nook. There were no reports on these items. HLAC is awaiting a rewritten nomination document.



The Pearl Chase Society

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Society News and Notes

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new tax to fund citywide garbage collection that allowed the banning of backyard incinerators.

The residential incinerator Jennifer photographed is larger than most. Society Director and historical font Kellam de Forest has said, "Prior to 1961, pick up of trash was not mandatory (in Santa Barbara). One burned one's combustible trash in incinerators. (This one) is much larger than one designed for a single residence." Board member Kitty Peri remembers her own childhood fascination with the practice, "especially when Mama said, 'Don't you go near that!'"

Readers are encouraged to access the linked article for the full story of Los Angeles incinerators including many pictures. That author bought the one he found and incorporated it into the historical collection of the LA Sanitation Department. The local incinerator was recently demolished.

Credit: Isaac N. History Keepers: Backyard Residential Incinerator. August 10, 2016. <http://californiahistoricalsociety.blogspot.com/2016/08/history-keepers-backyard-residential.html> (accessed 7/22/2016).

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

by Maureen Masson

Pearl Chase Society Membership Renewals for August 2016

Margery Baragona &
James Wilson
Betty Ferry
Raymond C. &
Nancy L. Fisher
Dennis Forster
Neal Hooker
Erik Nickel & Michael
Loftis
Jay Parker
Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Scollin
Mary Jane & Andrew
Cooper

Renewals for September 2016

Shirley Kunze
Nancy & Robert Knight
Peg & Marty Martin
Ronnie Mellen
Tom & Dona Senning
Willard & Jo Thompson

New PCS Members

Dr. John & Maryella
Petrini

Note: Membership in the Pearl Chase Society provides the opportunity to be a part of an important organization dedicated to preserving sites of enduring value in and around Santa Barbara.