

Soquel Pioneers

Newsletter

July 2021

Soquel Pioneer and Historical Association

2021 PIONEER PICNIC returns
Saturday, July 31 ~ Details Here



The Soquel Pioneer and Historical Association is pleased to announce the return of the annual Pioneer Picnic on July 31st. It took a pandemic to break the 80+ year tradition of the picnic. But now that the State of California is re-opening we are delighted to welcome one and all to an enjoyable afternoon of celebrating the history and people of Soquel. There will be displays of historic photos, Soquel history books available for purchase and an auction of wonderful goods and services generously donated by local merchants and residents.



TRACI BLISS
Speaker for the 2021 Picnic

The noted author and historian, Dr. Traci Bliss, whose family roots go back several generations in Soquel and Santa Cruz, will inform and entertain with a local history presentation, which includes, *Murder, Mayhem, and Mistaken Identity!*

Adhering to California Department of Health guidelines will require some changes from previous picnics. People who have not been vaccinated and those with on-going health issues are strongly urged to wear masks and observe social distancing. An area will be reserved for that accommodation. **THE PICNIC WILL NOT BE A POTLUCK** this year. Bottled water will be provided. (See back page for more details.)

Soquel Pioneer & Historical Association

Information: 831.818.8109 www.soquelpioneers.com

THANK YOU JUDY PARSONS!

By Pioneer President Jim Hobbs

Judy Parsons served as President of the Soquel Pioneer and Historical Assn. from 2014 to 2019. Her accomplishments as president are many and of no small significance. But she says that her real gift is being able to cajole and delegate, often shifting the "heavy lifting" into the willing hands of her husband, Paul.

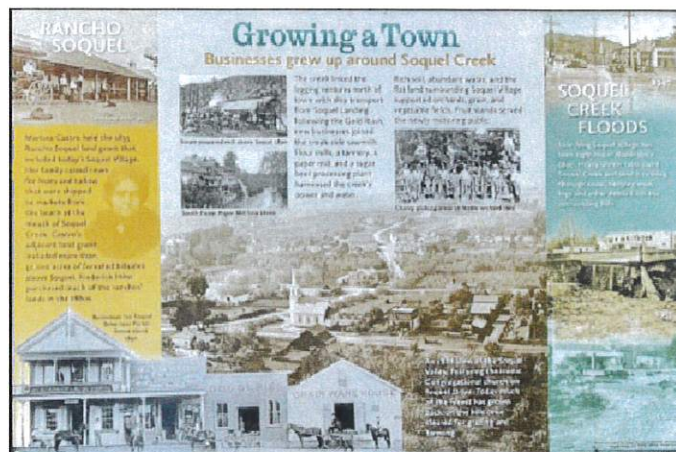
She is not a Soquel native. She grew up in Stockton, CA during the difficult years of the Great Depression and WWII. With family help, hard work and a bit of good fortune she was able to attend San Jose State, graduating in 1954. She and Paul soon married. And after a few job changes and having 3 children, they settled into their lovely home in Monterey Bay Heights where they have lived for over 50 years.

Community involvement has always been important to her. In Soquel that started with the Save Soquel group that lobbied and fought for many years to keep Soquel from being over-developed. This culminated in the purchase of the Oneill Ranch and eventual development of Anna Jean Cummings (Blue Ball) Park. All the while she was a Girl Scout and Cub Scout leader.

She attended the Pioneer Picnics and became interested in our local history and before long she was on the Board of the Soquel Pioneer and Historical Assn. and was elected president in 2014.

Under her leadership the Soquel Pioneers website was created. She spent many hours scanning and uploading historic photos and other content. She was one of the authors of the *History of Soquel* book published by Arcadia. She improved and edited the annual Soquel Pioneers Newsletter. She coordinated a new agreement with the Porter Memorial Library to facilitate our history room therein. She oversaw the establishment of Soquel Pioneers as a 501c3 tax-exempt organization. She coordinated the refurbishment of the Soquel Village signs.

Thanks Judy and Paul for your many years of service to Soquel.



ACCOMPLISHMENTS & PROJECTS

Heart of Soquel Park Historical Display. Santa Cruz County Parks completed a multi-year project to build a riverside path along Soquel Creek. The path goes from the Heart of Soquel Park to Soquel Elementary School. It is wheelchair accessible. The Soquel Pioneer and Historical Association Board contributed photos and ideas for the interpretive panels along the path. The panel about Soquel History is located on Porter Street next to Discovery Preschool and Family Center (formerly Soquel Grange). This Park is a wonderful addition to beautiful Soquel and we hope you go there to take a walk along this historic Soquel Creek.

Large tree branch was removed from the grove. On May 18, 2021 Lewis Tree Service cut and removed a diseased Tan Oak branch from Pringle Grove. The Arborist said that there is a Termite-like insect boring into the bark of the tree. He said the tree may not live past 10-15 years. The Board monitors the health of the Pringle Grove trees so the Grove is safe and beautiful.



The Castro-Lodge Millstones. Thank you to Shan Gilmore for donating his services to build a platform adjacent to the Barbecue that has the dedication sign for Martina Castro Lodge. The platform also supports the Barbeque structure that was collapsing. Soquel Nurseries has offered to move the Castro-Lodge Millstones to the new platform. It will require a hoist to move them. These may be two of the few remaining rancho-era large millstones in the State.



100 Years Ago. . .

Compiled by Frank Perry

May 6, 1921

"Norman Angell is expected at his home in Soquel tonight from the University of California. Last year he took his degree—B. A.—and this year B. S. His work is in mechanical engineering."

June 13, 1921

"The graduation exercises at the Soquel school were held last Friday at 10 o'clock, out of doors. The program was presented on a special platform erected for the occasion in front of the school building. The graduating class was the largest in the history of the Soquel school, and the closing exercises were especially good to consecrate the old building for the last time. Everyone is looking forward with pleasure to next year, to see the next class graduate in their own new auditorium in the new school."

November 1, 1921

"The Soquel school had a Hallowe'en party last night. There were the usual decorations, with games and refreshments peculiar to this merry season."

November 3, 1921

"Bids for the construction of the new grammar school building for the Soquel school district were submitted at the last meeting of the board of trustees, but the successful bidder was not named. The matter will be settled at a special meeting to be held next Tuesday evening by the board."

November 9, 1921

Advertisement: "AGENT for Aermotor Windmills, engines, and pumps; planing and sawing; grinding and cleaning grain; redwood tanks; wood and lumber for sale. R. Thistlewaite, Soquel."

November 18, 1921

"Soquel school reports 100 per cent membership among the teachers and 100 per cent in each room for Junior Red Cross. They are entitled to a 100 per cent banner."

December 17, 1921

"The town of Soquel is coming into its own and is bustling with activity. It has caught the spirit of progress of its larger sister city, Santa Cruz, and its people are keenly awake to the opportunity of the present and the possibilities of the future. The new concrete bridge spanning the Soquel Creek at the center of town will soon be completed. Concrete is being poured on the last span."

History in the Making 2020-2021 Global Pandemic

The Soquel Pioneer Historical Association is not only interested in the historical record of Soquel, but also of the world outside Soquel as well.

All of us witnessed a most rare event, which changed the world as we knew it - the 2020-2021 Global Covid -19

Coronavirus Pandemic. We would love to collect the stories of your pandemic experience to be compiled into a scrapbook - of sorts - containing stories and pictures.

Please tell us about how this global pandemic affected life in this region and beyond.



- How did your home life and/or work life and/or social life and/or hobby life change over the last 15 months or so?
- Did you learn to knit? Perfect your sourdough? Volunteer to deliver goods and services to others?
- Experience serious hardship? Lose a loved one?

Whatever happened - it is a part of YOUR history AND part of OUR history... and it matters. You can mail your story in the enclosed envelope or email it to me at dlmadd@sbcglobal.net



Future generations may certainly wonder how the modern world coped with such an unusual event. Let's get our stories together and tell them about it.

-Deborah Maddock,
board member



How You Can Help

Donations: Your contribution to the Soquel Pioneer and Historical Association is greatly appreciated and allows us to continue our important work in preserving Soquel history. We continue to have expenses like the maintenance of the Pringle Grove, the Porter Library/Museum partnership contribution, and other expenses. Thank you so much for your past donations. There is a PayPal link on our website: SoquelPioneers.com or you can send donations in the envelope enclosed in this Newsletter.

Pioneer Legacy Donor: You may want to consider becoming a Pioneer Legacy Donor. By including The Soquel Pioneer and Historical Association in your estate plans, you will help ensure that the Historical Association will continue its mission to preserve and promote Soquel History. For more information or to let us know that you have included the Soquel Pioneer and Historical Association in your estate plans, please contact David Lewit, Board Treasurer, at 831-818-2277

Matching Fund Donor: Consider becoming a matching fund donor. In the past we had a donor offer to match any donation of \$100 or more up to \$1,000. Contact your Treasurer for more information.

Volunteer at the 2021 Picnic or assist with a project. If you would like to get more involved in your Historical Association contact Lynda Lewit, Secretary at 831-818-8109.

Communication with the Soquel Pioneer and Historical Association: You can communicate with the Association through our website, soquelpioneers.com and Facebook page, [Soquel Pioneer and Historical Association](https://www.facebook.com/SoquelPioneerandHistoricalAssociation) or by calling 831-818-8109.

Donations 2020-2021 Thank you!

Steve & Denise Agosti
Kevin and Annie Allen
Sherrill Ash
Mary Bailey
Traci Bliss
Julia Mae Burgess
Joe and Karen Calcagno
Lynne McCall Caldwell
Gail Carhart
William Cummings
Tim David
Thomas Deasy
David Emanuel and Annie Chapin
Kate Erstein
Carolyn Folmar
Sylvia Prescott Forsyth
Terri L. Freshour in memory of Sid Freshour
Robert and Lily Gerrans
Duncan and Bonnie Gillies
Ben and Carol Gregg
Marc and Laura Grossman
Laura Hamby
Scott and Lynette Hamby
Kitty Hansen
Jim Hobbs
Russ and Mary Ann Hobbs
Mary Ellen Irons
Linda Jordan
John and Jeannie Kegebein
Pat Kenyon
Yvonne King
Ingrid D. Larsen
Terry Leonard
David and Lynda Lewit
David and Jeanne Macdonald
Deborah Maddock
Lisa McAndrews
Donaldine McRae
Julie Mc Gowan
Robert Morden
Keith and Barbara Murray
Michael and Elizabeth Musal
Lisa Nelson
Mark and Jolene Nicklanovich
Richard Nutter
Paul and Judy Parsons
Frank & Jill Perry
Alice Ponza
William D. Purcell
Thank you's continued -->

Pioneer News and Notes

Collecting Emails: The Board is collecting Emails of members and people who want to stay in contact with the Pioneers. Email, as well as USPS address updates, may be emailed to Deborah Maddock, at dlmadd@sbcglobal.net. We will be also collecting Emails at the Picnic. We look forward to seeing you there!



Celebrating 2020 Soquel Grads with a drive through parade!

Your Board of Directors

Jim Hobbs-President
Frank Perry-Vice President
Lynda Lewit- Secretary
David Lewit, Treasurer
Lynne Caldwell
Deborah Maddock
Lisa Nelson
Laura Hamby

More Donations 2020-2021 THANK YOU!

Chris Poulos
Patricia Poulos
Willa Dean Reynolds
Phillip and Janet Rupp
Priscilla Strauhal
Carolyn Swift
Jean Tarr
Jerry and Robynn Walters

Picnic 2021!

Saturday • July 31 • Music Starts @ 11:30am

The picnic will be a REAL PICNIC this year! Each family or group attending the picnic will bring their own picnic lunch. There will **NOT BE A POTLUCK TABLE**. SO, bring family and friends, whatever food and drink makes a good picnic for you and be prepared to enjoy and share history and fellowship at the **82nd Soquel Pioneer Picnic!** Everyone's favorite **LIVE AUCTION** is back!

Pringle Grove Picnic Grounds:

5270 Pringle Lane

Take North Main Street .6 miles to Pringle Lane
(Just beyond Bargetto Winery on the right.)

- Music by the Open Heart Strings
old timey string band
- Browse historical photos
- Greet longtime friends
- Meet new friends

Soquel Pioneer &
Historical Association
5270 Pringle Lane
Soquel, CA 95073

