

Soquel Pioneers

Newsletter

July 2023

Soquel Pioneer and Historical Association

2023 PIONEER PICNIC Saturday, July 29 ~ Details Here



Summer is once again upon us, and for the Soquel Pioneer and Historical Association that means making preparations for our annual Pioneer Picnic on the last Saturday in

July. It is an event we always look forward to. It is a time to reconnect with old friends and meet new ones who come to share our interest in preserving the history of our wonderful little town.

As Covid is still with us, the picnic will continue to be a “bring your own food” event. Coffee and water will be available. Masks and social distancing are still recommended for those whose immunity is compromised. We ask that courtesy be the order of the day for all picnic attendees.

Historical Materials Donation from the Parrish House

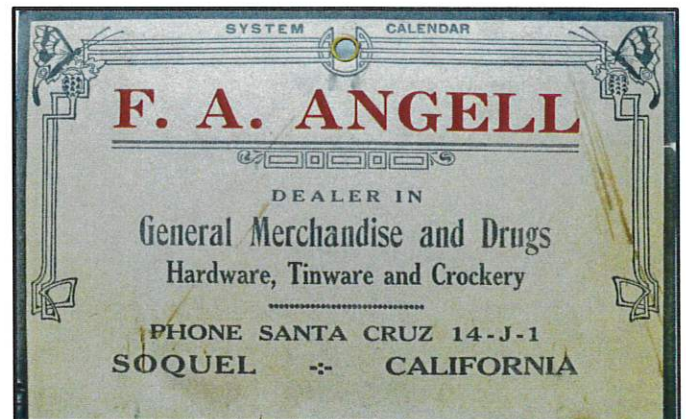
Our sincere thanks to **Jim Schubin** for donation of historical materials from the Parrish family. The collection includes old photographs, ledgers, books, clippings and other memorabilia relating to Soquel history. Providing a safe home for such historical items is one of the ways that the Pioneers strive to preserve Soquel history for future generations. We have already begun scanning and sharing some of the collection through the Pioneers Facebook page. Look for more scans in the near future!

THOMAS SUTFIN Featured Speaker Soquel Demonstration Forest

We are pleased to have Thomas Sutfin as our featured speaker this year. Mr. Sutfin will share his extensive knowledge of the history of logging in the mountains above Soquel as well as current events in the Soquel Demonstration State Forest. Mr. Sutfin is a Licensed Professional Forester with almost 20 years' experience as the Forest Manager in the Soquel Demonstration State Forest.



He wrote an article about the history of timber harvesting in the Soquel Demonstration State Forest for the MAH's Santa Cruz County History Journal Number 7.



Soquel Pioneer & Historical Association

Information: 831.818.8109 www.soquelpioneers.com

Some Soquel Floods

Compiled by Frank Perry

The flooding of downtown Soquel last December 31 was nothing new as evidenced by this list of some (but not all) the floods of the past 177 years.

December, 1846. Heavy rains pummeled central California and a heavy snowfall blanketed the Sierra. There was no town of Soquel yet, but a lumber mill built on Soquel Creek by John Daubenbiss and John Hames washed away.

—Leon Rowland, *The Story of Old Soquel*

January 1862. "Water flowed four feet deep through Soquel Village. . . Mills, flumes, houses, barns, a school, and the town hall were all destroyed." —Gary Griggs, *Between Paradise and Peril*

1869. "The most fearful rain storm we have witnessed in California occurred on Tuesday night last. . . In Soquel, the town was flooded, next to the creek, and we are informed that the new bridge, just above the forks of the creek, was carried away. The bridge cost \$2,500, was built last summer, and was thought to be above the reach of all floods or danger from driftwood." —*Sentinel*, 2-13-

69



1911. "The flood waters in Soquel were said to have been higher this past storm than ever before. There was two feet of water in the store of the Angell Bros. Four houses were so completely drenched that even the mattresses on the beds were reached by the flood. . . ." —*Sentinel*, 3-4-11

1940. "Soquel—famous in Santa Cruz for its cherries—was just as famous for its flooded streets yesterday as Soquel Creek jumped its banks and flooded the central section of the small community. . . One of the heaviest losers in the Soquel area was Mac Fisher, who operates the motor court at the bridge. Several cabins were destroyed and those remaining had four

feet of water in them, Fisher said." —*Sentinel*, 2-28-40

1955. "Flood damage to Soquel's business district and homes along Soquel Creek was approaching the half-million dollar mark this morning in a survey of the mud-caked and littered area. . . Probably the worst hit in the Soquel business district was Willbanks Brothers' Red and White grocery store. The entire interior is in shambles. . . The Cunnison Brothers garage on Soquel Drive was all but destroyed. . . Six or seven businessmen who rushed to their businesses to save what they could were marooned. Several were picked out of trees, a few in the attics of their stores, and one off the top of Cunnison Brothers' gas pump. . . Both ends of the Soquel Bridge are out on Soquel Drive." —*Sentinel*, 12-28-55



1963. "Almost steady rain, surging at times to near cloudburst proportions, . . . caused Soquel Creek to overflow its banks in the heart of Soquel. . . Swirling, muddy-brown water rushed to within two feet of the Soquel Bridge." —*Sentinel*, 1-31-63

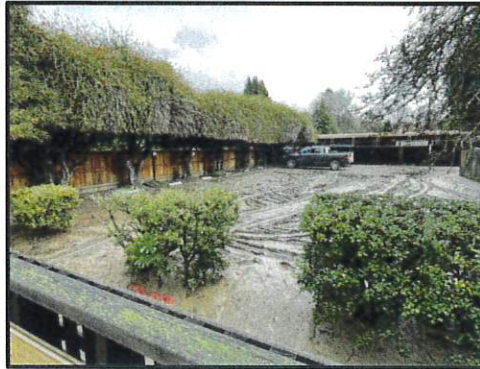
1982. "Mud was chest high in some portions of downtown Soquel this morning after a raging Soquel Creek jumped its banks and filled the area with brown, swirling water Monday. Soquel Fire Chief Steve Negro estimated damage would reach into the millions and said many business structures suffered heavy structural damage. Sixty to 70 persons were reported homeless, and two mobile home parks were destroyed. . . The front of Soquel Auto Parts was caved in and there was three feet of mud inside the Soquel Fire Station. Mud was packed up four feet in the post office. . . Mobile homes in the two parks downtown were lying on their sides and roofs." —*Sentinel*, 1-5-82

DOWNTOWN SOQUEL & BATES CREEK FLOODS

WINTER 2022 -2023

Downtown Soquel Flood

December 31, 2022 another atmospheric river went through Soquel and the Soquel Creek flooded. There was water and mud in the intersection of Soquel Drive and Porter Street, the Heart of Soquel Park, and Porter Street going towards Highway 1. Some Board members went to the Porter Memorial Library to move some of our historical documents to higher levels. The water went almost as high as the deck back entrance to the Library! The water did not enter the Library. The parking lot was full of water and mud. Everyone was happy when it stopped raining.



Bates Creek Flood-During the night of March 10, there was very heavy rainfall. The culvert of Bates Creek became jammed and washed out part of Main Street at the north corner of Pringle Grove. The people who lived on Cherryvale, Glen Haven, and Prescott were unable to exit into Soquel. During the rain, Soquel Cruz County Public Works and Granite Construction worked hard to build a temporary bridge over the creek. Network news came to cover the story and it became national news. The water main to that area also broke. Soquel Creek Water asked if they could place a temporary large water hose through Pringle Grove, over Bates Creek, and to the hydrant at the corner of Cherryvale. This hose was there for 3 weeks. We hear they will build a more permanent bridge this summer.



2023 Santa Cruz County History Fair



THE SANTA CRUZ COUNTY HISTORY FAIR was held on May 13th at the Felton Community Center. Over 20 organizations including the Soquel Pioneer and Historical Association participated. It was very well attended and people were treated to a variety of interesting displays explaining local history from every area of the county. Lisa Nelson curated an interesting display of Soquel historical artifacts.

Soquel During the Pandemic Send Us Your Stories!

Reminder! The Soquel Pioneer & Historical Association will be posting stories on our website of how we managed (and are still managing) the historic global Covid-19 Pandemic on our website. Your experience will inform generations to come of our courage, ingenuity, loss, flexibility to change, and perseverance. You'll find an observation from one of our board members in this newsletter. Please send us a story you would like to share with the world. You can mail it in the attached envelope, bring it to the picnic, or email it to me at dlmadd@sbcglobal.net.

How COVID Changed Soquel

A 2022 Reflection by David Lewit

One of the most noticeable influences of the Pandemic was how Soquel traffic changed during the first year. During the beginning of the Pandemic people were encouraged to stay home. I remember going through the intersection of Soquel Drive and Porter at 5pm and only saw two cars! One day I rode my bike over the bridge on Capitola Avenue and noticed that Highway 1 was almost empty. I have not seen such a low volume of traffic on the freeway since I moved here 50 years ago.

2022-2023 Donations Thank You for Your Support!

Julia Mae Burgess	Jane Casalegno Kotila
Ted Burke/Shadowbrook	David and Lynda Lewit
Joe and Karen Calcagno	John & Linda Lucchesi
Pam Caldwell	Deborah Maddock
Nootbaar/Kennolyn Camp	Meg Madsen
Lynne McCall Caldwell	Maura Matera
Nancy Campeau	Cynthia Mathews
Bill Cummings	Lisa McAndrews
Jim DeAlba	Lynne McCall Caldwell
Thomas Deasy	Julie McGowan and Chris Fulmer
Olin and Kallistra Edmundson	Donaldine McRae
David Emanuel and Annie Chapin	Robert Morden
Carolyn Folmar	Keith and Barbara Murray
Sylvia Prescott Forsyth	Michael and Liz Musal
Robert and Lillian Gerrans	Lisa Nelson
Duncan and Bonnie Gillies	Richard W. Nutter
Marc and Laura Grossman	Lynne and John Owen
Laura Hamby	Paul and Judy Parsons
Scott and Lynette Hamby	Frank & Jill Perry
Kitty Hansen	Chris Poulos
Stephanie Harlan	Patricia Poulos
Jim Hobbs	Phillip and Janet Rupp
Richard Hyman	Priscilla (Sim) Strauhal
Mary Ellen Irons	Dave and Becky Steinbruner
Bertram Izant	Jean Tarr
John Kegebein	Greg and Cathy Walls
Patricia Kenyon	Carolyn Walker
	Jerry and Robynn Walters

Farewell Lynne Valued Board Member



It is with some sadness that we announce the resignation of long-time board member Lynne Caldwell. She and her late husband, John, have

served for many years working to keep the Pioneers moving forward while remembering that our mission is to preserve the past. They were both on the committee that crafted the excellent Soquel History book available for purchase. We will miss her kind presence and quiet wisdom.

How You Can Help!

Donations: Your contribution is greatly appreciated and it allows us to continue our important work in preserving Soquel history. We continue to have expenses like the maintenance of the Pringle Grove, Porter Library/Museum partnership contribution, and other expenses. This year, the Association would appreciate additional donations to cover the trees removed from Pringle Grove. The total cost was \$9,200. A pringle Grove neighbor from across the creek contributed \$1,000 toward the project. There is a PayPal link on our website: SoquelPioneers.com. You can also send a check in the attached envelope. Thank you for your donations.

Soquel Legacy Circle: You may want to consider becoming a Soquel Legacy Circle 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. We encourage you to consult your advisors regarding your financial, legal, or tax needs to make certain that your gift fits well into your overall circumstances and planning. The **Soquel Legacy Circle** recognizes donors who make the decision to leave a legacy through their estate and gift planning. We hope you will consider being among the inaugural members of the **Soquel Legacy Circle**. For more information or to let us know that you've included The Soquel Pioneers and Historical Association in your estate plans, please contact David Lewit, Board Treasurer, at David@DavidLewit.com or 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.

Accomplishments and Projects 2022-2023

Benches and tables repaired: Every year we repair and clean the benches and tables in Pringle Grove. They usually need sanding and some planks replaced.

New display frames: Having Historical photographs available to view is important for those who attend the Picnics. For the 2022 Picnic we borrowed some display frames and this year we recreated those frames to display photos. These frames will be easier to set-up on Picnic Day.

New display of photos from Soquel Elementary school: We are working with Soquel Union School District to locate old photos so we can scan them and put them on our website and have better quality displays.



New Picnic banners: Our new banners, which are hung along Soquel Drive will now say, "The Picnic will be on the last Saturday in July."

Porter Memorial Public Library: Thanks to your donations, we continue to provide financial support to Soquel's Porter Memorial Library, which houses our historical displays. It is a popular local library that still uses cards to check out books.

Communication with the Pioneers email Request

We are collecting email addresses so that we can update you quickly on anything that is happening with the Pioneers. Please send your email address to Deborah Maddock: Dlmadd@sbcgobal.net, and we will add you to our list. We hope that you take a look at our Soquel Pioneers Facebook page. You can join the group and add entries. We would love to hear your stories about Soquel History and your personal experiences in our community.

We also have a web page at www.soquelpioneers.com, which includes current picnic information, the Soquel Timeline, and a lot of Soquel history. There are also videos, stories, historical pictures, resources etc.

Soquel Pioneer & Historical Society Board of Directors

Jim Hobbs, President
Frank Perry, Vice President
Lynda Lewit, Secretary
David Lewit, Treasurer
Laura Hamby
Deborah Maddock
Lisa Nelson
Carolyn Walker



Pringle Grove Tree Removal

Due to storm damage during the Winter of 2022-2023 in Pringle Grove, we spent \$8,200 for corrective tree work. This unexpected expenditure has depleted our savings. We would like YOUR help in the form of donations. Your contribution is greatly appreciated and allows us to continue our important work of preserving Soquel history. There is a PayPal link on our website: www.SoquelPioneers.com. You can also send a check in the enclosed envelope. Thank you for your support.

Picnic 2023

Saturday • July 29 • Music Starts @ 11:30am

The picnic will once again be a REAL PICNIC! 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 **85th 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

