

Willow

Spring 2009



Whistle

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Stinson Beach Historical Society / Board of Directors President Kendrick Rand; V.P. Marcus White; Treas. Phyllis Fitzpatrick; Sec. Barrie Stebbings; Archivist Jane Slack. Board Members-at-Large: Shirley Moyce, David Conrad, Mary Greenwood, Celeste Washington; SBCC Rep. Robin Grean. Committees/Acquisitions & Archival Planning Jane Slack, Shirley Moyce; Digitization & Library Shows; Tamae Agnoli, Barrie Stebbings, Georgia Heid, Barbara Ward, Belinda Zell; Oral Histories: David Conrad, Georgia Heid, John Andrews, Marion Weber; Grant-writing: John Andrews, Janice Cline; Willow Whistle: Barrie Stebbings, Tamae Agnoli, Robin Grean; History Corner Docents: Phyllis Fitzpatrick; Shirley Moyce, Jane Slack. The Society collects photographs, documents, oral histories and memorabilia significant to the history of Stinson Beach and its environs; keeps these available for retrieval, provides for perpetual care and uses them in exhibitions & publications for the educational enrichment of the public. Meetings are at 5:30 on the 2nd Tuesday of each month and are open to the public. Our non-profit tax number is 68-416759.

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Friends and Neighbors

Stinson Beach, CA 94970

PASSING AROUND THE SPIRIT OF GOODWILL

At the SBHS February board meeting, it was announced that our annual Holiday Luncheon in December made about 20% less than the previous year. This figure was lower due to both a lower attendance and the fact that donations from over-the-hill merchants were non-existent. Luckily, our memberships have risen, as well as donations from Historical Society Friends who contributed more than the standard \$15-\$25 yearly dues. Our heartfelt thanks goes out to those donors, as well as to our loyal merchants, both local and West Marin, who continue to help make our yearly luncheon so successful and delicious: Parkside Cafe, Sand Dollar Restaurant, Stinson Beach Grill, Stinson Beach Market, Willow Camp Catering, Star Route Farm, and Palace Market. Of course, none of this would be possible without our volunteers especially Sandra Francis (stuffing), Jane Slack (cranberry relish), Barbara Sherfey and Nancy Barnett (desserts). Our special thanks also goes to Union Street Goldsmith for the donation of our raffle prize, a gorgeous gold and semi-precious stone necklace and earring set, and to Celeste Washington for the second prize of a hand woven basket. They made our raffle the most successful one yet. Even with the Holiday Luncheon shortfall, the board moved to donate \$500 to the Stinson Beach Community Center in addition to our yearly \$250 membership dues. It is our feeling that we must all support one another in these belt-tightening times.



Denis Parsons at Holiday Luncheon

SPRING RAFFLE TO BENEFIT COMMUNITY

(as well as furnish some great prizes!)

The Historical Society Spring Raffle prize winners will be drawn at the upcoming Cuisine On the Green, Saturday, May 9. Our intention this year is not only to award some nifty prizes, but to have those gifts remain in our community. So, our prizes will be in the form of gift certificates to local stores and businesses. These steadfasts have been loyal supporters of our community events for many years and it is only fitting that we help them out a little in our current challenging economic times. Our Grand Prize will again be our popular luncheon picnic basket for four made by Historical Society Members for the date of your choosing. SBHS will share the balance of the fundraising from our raffle with the Stinson Beach Medical Clinic, another deserving local resource facing economic hardship. So fill in the attached raffle tickets, write out a check, and know that your welcome contributions will go to fuel our local economy. You do not need to be present to win. But, of course, we hope to see you at what has become a much-loved and fun event for residents and visitors alike; and be sure to stop by and shop at our cookie table.

LIGHTS, CAMERA...

Our annual meeting event on March 14th was a great success. Seventy or so people were in attendance to enjoy a showing of *Call It Home: Searching for the Truth on Bolinas Lagoon*. Producer Nancy Olin and director Bill Chayes gave us their insights into the making of the film. Nancy's moving comments about co-director/husband Chuck's desire to complete the film prior to his untimely death added greatly to the viewers' appreciation. The movie traces the progress of the \$1,500,000 Bolinas Lagoon study over the past 15 years, which has ended in a basically "do nothing" approach and the handing of the reins to Gulf of Farallones National Marine Sanctuary. The film's theme of ongoing community dialogue and compromise was nicely defined in a Q&A with Bill at the film's conclusion. Refreshments were served, a donation was taken and the proverbial good time was had by all. On this topic, SBHS History Corner at the library is now exhibiting the 1960s version of the proposal and studies on the lagoon, "History of Bolinas Harbor District."

What Do You Know About That!

What do you know about your house, your neighborhood? When was it built, by whom? Who lived there before you? We'd love to collect your stories for the Archives. Mail us or e-mail to stinsonbeachhistoricalsociety@gmail.com.

SBHS OFFICERS NOMINATED

The following slate was approved at our last Board meeting. Current Historical Society members will receive the official ballots in the mail soon. Please send in your vote.

President - Kendrick Rand
Vice President - Marcus White
Treasurer - Phyllis Fitzpatrick
Secretary - Barrie Stebbings

CALLE DEL SIERRA

Denis Parsons, one of our favorite Holiday Luncheon “Santa -Chefs” for the past eight years, passed away suddenly on February 4th. We will miss his smiling face as he expertly sliced up the giant turkeys for us all to enjoy. Denis and his wife Erma have owned their cabin at 10 Calle del Sierra for over 60 years. Calle del Sierra is the only paved and county maintained ‘street’ to the beach and originally served as the major thoroughfare of the Camp Upton rental tent resort. Judge Archie Upton established the resort in 1905, and subsequently subdivided it in 1913 into the present configuration of Calles. In 1931 Judge Upton deeded the beach between GGNRA and Seadrift to the County Park and Recreation Dept. in exchange for the county’s paving it and Calle del Arroyo. The street remains today as the major connector to the beach.



Archie Upton’s rental tents in 1918 along Calle del Sierra. The ocean front house is where Uptons lived and Denis and Erma’s house is the third wooden building from the beach.

As many of you know, the 1906 SF Earthquake transformed Marin. Suddenly sleepy Marin where cows outnumbered people more than two to one was the place to settle. Stinson Beach was no exception. Denis and Erma Parsons’ cabin was one of the original ‘earthquake dwellings’ constructed in San Francisco for housing after the quake devastated the city. The

federal government provided pre-fab homes that came in a box and could be quickly assembled into 600-square-foot shelters. (Maybe FEMA could learn a lesson here!) The cabin was hauled to Stinson Beach several years after the quake. Erma’s godfather who owned the bakery in Point Reyes acquired the cabin in 1930 and gave it to the young

couple. Denis and Erma’s cabin has been remodeled and added onto, but you can still see its original shape.

(From telephone interview with Erma Parsons, IJ article, and J. Reutinger’s book, “Memories of Stinson Beach”)

Your chances to win! You need not to be present to win. Return by 5/8/09.

Spring Raffle 2009 Name: _____ Tel: _____	Spring Raffle 2009 Name: _____ Tel: _____	Spring Raffle 2009 Name: _____ Tel: _____	Spring Raffle 2009 Name: _____ Tel: _____
Spring Raffle 2009 Name: _____ Tel: _____	Spring Raffle 2009 Name: _____ Tel: _____	Spring Raffle 2009 Name: _____ Tel: _____	Spring Raffle 2009 Name: _____ Tel: _____
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FILL IN & MAIL TO SBHS, Attn: Treasurer, POB 413, STINSON BEACH, CA 94970

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Tel. _____ Email _____

A. I am buying _____ Spring raffle tickets and have filled in the appropriate amount (\$5 for 1 ticket / \$25 for 6 tickets / \$50 for 12 tickets). Total: \$ _____

B. I want a 2009 Historical Society Membership.
 Regular Memberships: _____ Individual \$15; _____ Family \$25
 _____ Friend \$100 or more; _____ Patron \$250 or more;
 _____ Benefactor \$500 or more; _____ Special Benefactor \$1,000 or more
 (*Special Member Awards* Friend: listing in the fall Willow Whistle; Patron: listing + complimentary raffle tickets (value \$50); Benefactor: all above + two complimentary holiday luncheon tickets (value \$50); Special Benefactor: all above + special gift from the Historical Society. Membership Fee Total: \$ _____)

C. I want to make a special donation to the Historical Society. Please call me _____

D. **ENCLOSED IS MY CHECK FOR ALL ITEMS SELECTED.** TOTAL: \$ _____

E. Yes, I’d like to help the Historical Society by volunteering my time. _____

F. I can bake for the Cuisine On the Green cookie table. _____