

News from

The Monterey County Historical Society



June 2001

Museum Construction Once Again Underway



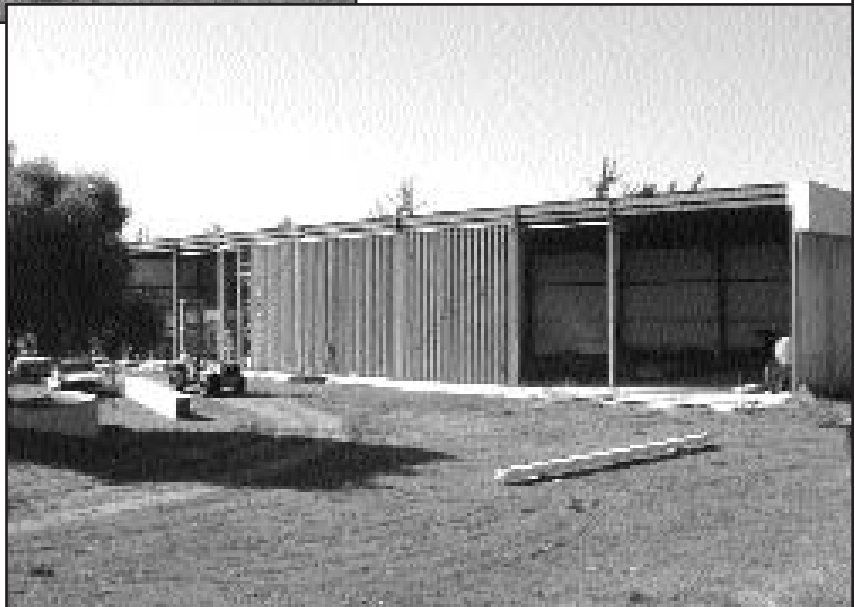
As the photographs on these pages illustrate, construction is once again underway on the Society's new agricultural and cultural museum!

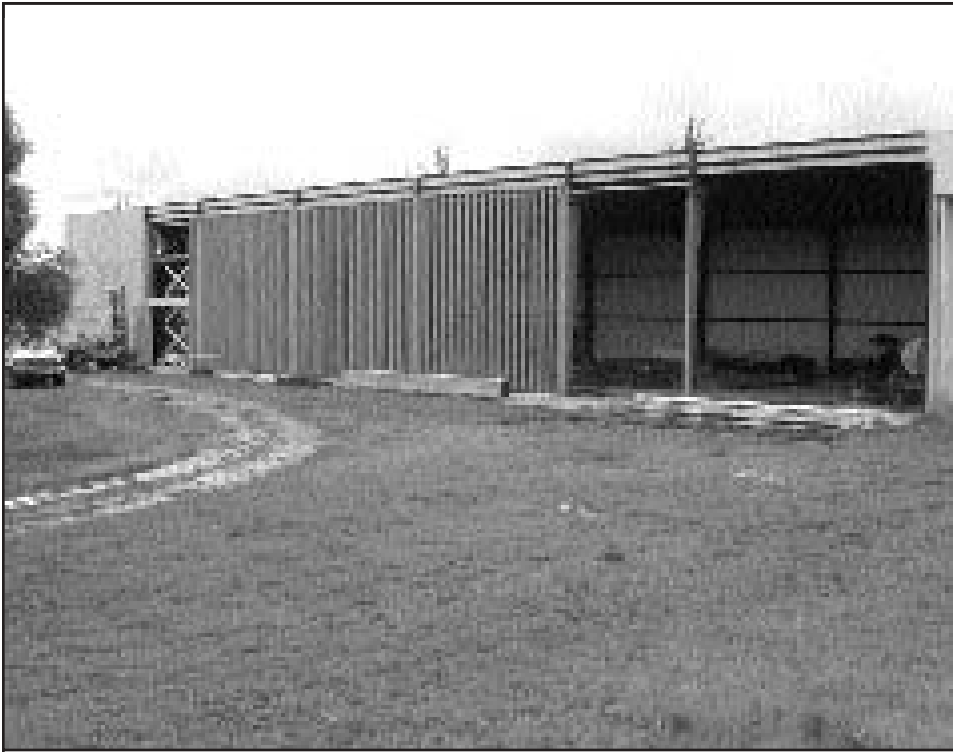
Construction on the most recent phase started in late January (our contractor is Ausonio Inc.), and was completed in early April (see pictures on the next page).

During this phase, the front of the building was framed, and the two "storefront" doors were installed. The two roll-up doors were also installed. The building is now weatherproof all around!

We are now ready for the next phase—construction of the two front rooms, one at either side of the building, along with the roof over these rooms and the veranda between them. This will complete the front of the building

This phase of construction will be well underway by the time this *Newsletter* is finished and printed. This phase will be followed by the first work on the interior, which should begin late this summer. After many years, our dream is finally beginning to come true!





have noted before, the choices we had were either to build only what we could afford in 1990 and have a finished building of about 1,000 square feet within a year of starting or to start a longer, step by step process and design an approximately 12,000 square foot museum plus another several thousand square feet of storage on the second floor—knowing it might not be finished for ten years or more.

We selected the second option, and have since completed major portions of our building. Some of the work does not show, as

As noted previously, the Society received a generous bequest from the Armstrong estate which allowed us to resume construction on the museum.

Our strategy of building the museum one step at a time has taken a number of years. As we

we had to spend a lot of our money and effort on underground utilities for the entire facility.

In our next phase of construction, we will try to revise our building design to see if we can expand the size of the vault without changing the original plans too much. This would provide some





much needed room to expand our most valuable holdings and collections.

Our archival vault is one of our best kept secrets. Many of our own members are not even aware that we have one of the best archival facilities on the central coast. It is nearly 1,000 square

feet in size, with atmosphere and temperature control, and is named after Robert B. Johnston, a pioneer Monterey County historian and former Society president who donated his lifelong research files to the Society. A partial list of the contents of the vault appears on our website.



SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War-Lincoln 10 are collecting information on the Civil War Veterans who lived in the Monterey County area. Timothy P. Reese, of Salinas, who is a member of the Lincoln 10, has spent a great deal of personal time at our facility trying to locate information on several soldiers who served from this county. Of great importance will be the publication of all information gathered which is vital not only to our county, but all of the United States.

Following is just a few of the hundreds of individuals they are seeking further information on:

Abbott, Edwin K.; Blosser William H.; Chamberlain, Charles G.; Clark, William Henry; Cooper, Albert B.; Cummings, Francis; Davis, David; Douglas, Charles D.; Frasier, James A.; Hamilton, James; Hatch, Isaac Collins; Johnson, Joseph; Josselyn E.S.; Joy, John G.; Reynolds, John; Scott, John B; Snively, James B.; Todd, William Lewis; Weaver, Thomas R.; Winters, Oscar Fitzallen.

If anyone has information on burial locations or any kind of profile on a Union Veteran who lived in this area, or have a photo of a Union Veteran with identification please contact Lincoln 10, SUVCW, P.O. Box 1641, Monterey, CA 93942 or you may contact the Monterey County Historical Society, P.O. Box 3576, Salinas, CA 93912 and the information will be forwarded to the SUVCW.

Also of great importance the G.A.R. (Grand Army of the Republic), Salinas Post #179, any information on it's members or the location of any memorabilia or documents, especially the Post Description Logs would be vital to the research being done.

You may also e-mail Timothy Reese at Riis-Reese@aol.com or the Monterey County Historical Society at mchs@dedot.com.

RECIPES FROM THE PAST

Skunk

Meat is very light in color, extremely tender and very tasty.

Roast Skunk

Par-boil in salt water 15 minutes, after skunk has been cleaned as you would a rabbit. Be sure to remove scent glands. Drain par-boil water, place meat in fresh water. Steam until tender. Cook about 1 to 1 1/2 hours. Put in roasting pan, set oven at 375 degrees, add one cup of consommé, 3 carrots, 2 large onions, salt, pepper and garlic to taste.

Home Brew Beer

Malvina Wahl

6 gallons of water
1 can malt syrup (Old Hilemaster)
1 cup brown sugar
1 cake fleishmans yeast

In warm room-let stand 60 hours, then skim. Bottle, place 1 teaspoon white sugar in each bottle—the white sugar will keep the brew clear. Cap the jars.

Grandmother's Mentholatum

1 pint vaseline
2 cakes of camphor
2 tablespoons menthol crystals

In the top of a double boiler melt all the above together, grate the camphor cakes fine before starting to make the mentholatum.

Recipes from *Grandma's Recipe Box and Grandma's Remedies* by Dorothy Galyean, 1975.

WEBSITE

If you haven't visited the Society's Website lately, please do so. Gary Breschini continues to upgrade, add new material and thus far since February 25, 1997 we have had 169,092 visitors. The site has generated researchers, new members and many donations of artifacts for our archival vault. The address is:

<http://www.dedot.com/mchs>

Blanco, Cal., Feb. 13th 1904.

M. J. Marci

Bought of **JOHN BRESCHINI**

General Merchandise • • • Groceries
 Dealer in • • Hardware • Crockery • Clothing
 • • • • • Boots and Shoes.....

WINES, LIQUORS AND CIGARS

EDWIN PERRY, MALLINAS

Feb. 11	5 1/2 gal Whiskey	1 50
" "	1 Pincher	50
" "	1 Doz. Gopher Traps	2 00
" "	4 1/2 gal's Wine	1 75
" 13	Coffee	1 00
" "	28 @ 35¢	8 40
		\$15 15

Paid

They were selling more than beans at the old Emporium! Above: receipt dated Feb. 13, 1904. From the John O. Breschini collection. Below: Breschini's Emporium and Post Office, about 1912. MCHS photograph.



Indian Horse Raiding at Monterey and Expeditions Against the Central Valley Indians

by Gary S. Breschini, Ph.D.

Monterey was the capitol and principal port of Spanish California. However, it remained an outpost (in contrast to Carmel mission just a few miles to the south) until well into the 1800s.

By 1810-1815 the local population was increasing. Families of settlers began to move into California, although few came to Monterey. The soldiers of the presidio often married Indian women or brought wives from Mexico. Many were given small tracts of land. A few American settlers began to arrive, and sailors from many nations deserted when their ships anchored at Monterey.

As the settlers moved out from the presidio the economy was centered around cattle. Huge herds roamed the plains, particularly in the Salinas Valley. The "hide and tallow trade" flourished during the 1820s and 1830s, and is well portrayed in Dana's *Two Years Before the Mast* and Robinson's *Life in California*.

Conditions changed significantly during the Mexican era (after 1822). The most important change for the Indian population, virtually all associated with the mission, was the secularization decree of 1834. Governor Figueroa ordered the Franciscans to turn the missions over to secular priests, and the affairs of the mission to be handled by government officials. The result was predictable: the officials appropriated the missions and their extensive lands—lands held in trust for the Indians. The decree was supposed to make the Indians independent Mexican citizens, free of the padres, but when they were released they found themselves without any land. Some returned to their aboriginal life, as well as they were able, and a few managed to acquire land. Few were able to keep it very long. Most were eventually forced to become servants to Monterey area families or *vaqueros* (cowboys) on the ranchos. Some, however, went east and joined unconverted tribes in the Central Valley region. In doing so, they were probably reunited with relatives who had fled the padres' reach years earlier, as the normal reaction of dissatisfied Mission Indians was not violence or revolt—they simply tried to run away.

Since the early 1800s expeditions had been sent to the interior to recover runaways. The relations between the Spanish and the interior tribes grew increasingly worse as many of these expeditions, in addition to capturing runaways, caused a great deal of damage and even killed and kidnapped non-Mission Indians who had provided the runaways with shelter.

Shortly after 1810 the interior tribes began to raid Spanish settlements and run off horses, both to eat and to sell. There is little specific information from Monterey for the 1820s as no important voyages stopped there dur-

ing this time—and much of our independent information on Monterey came from these voyages. By the 1830s, horse raiding was a serious problem. Broadbent suggests it was an extension of the traditional hunting practices, as the raids were more for the purpose of capturing horses for food or to sell. The Indians appear to have avoided violence and fighting whenever possible. (Not so the Spanish and Mexicans. Though there are few available reports, one notes that in 1831 two Indians were shot in Monterey for cattle stealing.)

A visitor to Monterey in 1836 noted that the Indians "plunder the farms of the colonists of horses, which they eat in preference to beef." From 1837: "[They] are harassed on all sides by Indians, who are now stripping them of their horses, without which their cattle are not to be preserved." In December of 1846: "On the 14th inst. a large body of Indians came down and swept every horse they could find in a circle of twenty-five or thirty miles, and left the farmers without a single horse to hunt up their working cattle."

Broadbent writes:

This history of raiding may be summed up as follows. During the earliest period of Spanish settlement and the establishment of the missions, the Californios were not troubled by raids from interior tribes. Before 1820, however, such raids were beginning to occur. The events of the 1820s remain unknown. In the 1830s they were becoming a serious problem, so much so that by the early 1840s defensive measures were being considered by the Spanish. A peak seems to have been reached in 1846, when the Americans were struggling for power in California; after that there was a decline. The Americans did not, however, succeed in stopping the raids immediately [1974:91].

From the various letters, diaries, and other accounts, Indian horse raiding seems to have been fairly constant during the 1830s and 1840s. The Spanish response was not. The pattern seems to have been to do nothing about any particular raid, but to wait until conditions became intolerable and then send a punitive expedition into the interior to punish any Indians they could find. The Americans, on the other hand, believed that a "crime" called for immediate retribution, but they were generally after the real "culprits." Nonetheless, punitive expeditions to the interior, responding to the raids, apparently led to the deaths of many of the unconquered Indians living there.

After about 1820 the character of the expeditions to

the interior changed. Under Spanish rule most expeditions were exploratory, or to bring Indians to the coastal missions for conversion. Under Mexican rule the motive was purely military or retaliatory.

The shift in emphasis was due to several factors, including:

- 1) The number of runaway Indians from the northern missions was very high. These Indians carried their mission experience and knowledge of Spanish/Mexican technology and psychology to unconquered tribes on the interior.
- 2) Both the runaways and the unconquered tribes now had access to the horse, increasing their mobility and military power.
- 3) The increasing number of civilians in Alta California, the decrease in the moderating influence of the missionaries, and the limited ability of the government to prevent horse raiding and other Indian attacks on ranches and farms led to unsanctioned "vigilante" expeditions, many led by retired soldiers. On these expeditions, hundreds of Central Valley Indians were slaughtered.
- 4) The Indians of the interior valley formed a hard core of resistance to further encroachment on their lands, and even mounted a vigorous counteroffensive against the coastal settlements and the many expeditions to the interior. Indian horse raiding was also a serious problem, and a number of the settlers were killed.

The Mexican government attempted to limit and moderate the punitive expeditions. For example, a letter from Governor Figueroa in Monterey to the Alcalde of San José, dated January 24, 1835, stated:

...the last expedition which the citizens of this town made to the tulares [Central Valley] they committed various atrocities against the heathen Indians without distinguishing between the innocent and the guilty. In addition to stealing their ornaments and personal effects they took away seven small boys to serve them and act as slaves, without informing this government of the occurrences.

In order to eliminate such extreme abuses I have prohibited these civilians from entering the tulares. They shall pursue only veritable thieves when they are stealing livestock. However the necessity having been made clear to me of pursuing the latter into the interior to their actual villages, I have permitted this to be done with the proviso that those who are defenseless shall not be molested, nor shall

weapons be used against those who offer no resistance. At the moment these provisions have been violated, and in order that the offenses shall not be repeated I adjure you, under your responsibility, to see that Indians are pursued only when they come to rob and that no other expedition is undertaken without permission of this government. Those Indians mentioned who were brought in shall be gathered together and placed at the disposition of the Father Minister of Santa Clara so that they may be educated there or returned to their parents as may seem appropriate [Cook 1962:189].

The Indians of the Monterey Bay area were not a significant factor in the uprisings of the 1830s. Although a few escaped to the Central Valley or hid in the rugged interior mountains southeast of Monterey, by the 1830s an estimated 80% to 90% of the Monterey Bay area's aboriginal population was gone (see Cook 1976).

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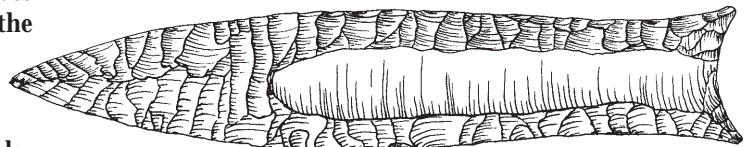
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MONTEREY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY photograph of BEST "30" TRACTOR, CA. 1925. FROM *THE SALINAS VALLEY: A HISTORY OF AMERICA'S SALAD BOWL*, by BURTON ANDERSON.

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MONTEREY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P.O. Box 3576
Salinas, CA 95912
831/757-8085

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