

Resource Guide

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Kim Hanson Scott Finley
Don Barella - Maintenance Supervisor

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Chuck Lucas

Media Contact:

 Lyndi Brown

Fundraising Committees:

Italian Night - Joe Pedrani

Crab Feed - Roland Mellor

Corned Beef and Cabbage

Stan Pronzini

Truckers Ball - Roland Mellor &

Julie Hanson

Rotary Bike Ride - Dan Colville

July Celebration - Board of Directors

Hawaiian Luau - Kim Hanson

Social Affairs Committee:

Lolli Evevich & Bob Moretti, Bar
Jan Johnson, Monthly Raffle

By-Laws and Legal Committee

Bill Fishman



Penngrove Social Firemen GAZETTE FEBRUARY 2019

P.O. Box 264, Penngrove, CA 94951

LOOKING BACK # 9

Tragedy befalls Penngrove Kin Tomales Bay Claims Nine

By: Jack Withington

On December 18, 1930, Tomales Bay claimed nine members of the Augustine and Freas Families; they were drowned in a boating mishap. The family of Manuel Augustine and their neighbors, the Freas family, set out for a holiday excursion on a chilly December day and never returned. The roiling and turbulent waters of the bay took nine lives and only gave back one body. The rest of the bodies were never recovered, according to a staff member of the Marin County Coroner's office.

What was planned as trip to secure a Christmas tree ended up in an areawide search for the victims. Many vessels, including the US Coast Guard Cutter Morris, WSC 147 which was taken off its search for "Rum Runners", participated in the frantic but futile search. Local fishing boats, and a contingent from the US Coast Guard Life Saving Station at Point Reyes took part in the attempt to find the families. Fishing trawlers from the Smith Brothers fleet also aided in the futile search. The search went on into the night as volunteers scoured the local shoreline for possible survivors.

Two brothers, Grant, age 22, and Ornburn Gray, age 25, from the Central Valley town of Esparto, had come to Tomales Bay for a day of abalone hunting. The young men witnessed the calamity and heroically, but vainly, attempted to save members of the ill-fated party. The violent waters swamped their rescue craft and nearly claimed the life of Ornburn Gray. The brothers were driven to Petaluma General Hospital where Ornburn was treated for "submersion", water in the lungs, and fractured ribs.

Lost in the accident was Manual Augustine, 53 yrs.; his wife Caroline (Carrie); daughters Virginia, 17 yrs., and Gertrude, 16 yrs., and son, Daniel, 13 yrs. A few months before the disaster, Gertrude Augustine was selected as queen of the Annual Sausalito Holy Ghost "Festa Do Espirito" --a celebration of Portuguese and Azorean cultures. Her sister Virginia served as her "side maid".

Also killed in the accident were Jack Freas, 35 yrs.; his wife Helen, 26 yrs.; sister-in-law Mary, and a neighbor named Tony Alfonso.

Relatives of the Augustine family once lived, and still live, in the Penngrove area. For many years it was impossible to attend Penngrove School without having an Augustine for a classmate!

PSF Monthly Meeting - Wednesday, January 2, 2019

Absent: Stanley Pronzini

Good of the Order: BIRTHDAYS!!! A big Happy Birthday to: Don Barella, Vern Chang, Sandy Spring, Ron Goodlund, John Kaupp, Dan Colville, Jackie Tucker, Steve Davidson, and to members not present: Ed De Carli, Delmar Friedrichsen, and Diane Hole. Hope we didn't miss anyone!

Treasurer Report read by Julie

| | |
|-------------------------------|--------------|
| General Checking | \$42,889.58 |
| Petty Cash | \$450.00 |
| Poppy Savings | \$4,556.00 |
| CD @ Poppy Bank | \$60,000.00 |
| Total | \$107,895.58 |
| Exchange Bank Ball Field Fund | \$1,675.16 |

Julie read thank you notes provided by Kim Beary of the Penngrove Community Church. The notes were from all the recipients of our Christmas Cheer--everyone was very appreciative.

Guests: Dr. Jim Lowy (friend of Chuck Lucas), Jack Withington (the historian who has provided all the wonderful articles in our newsletter), Jim Peterson, and Gina Campili.

Thank you to Arron and Melissa Sikes for the donation of the beautiful Christmas tree. It will be enjoyed for many years to come.

Thank you to Robin and Kurt Kunde for their ongoing donation of wine.

Kim spoke about the Parade of Lights. Even though the weather was not good, there were 40 entries, with 9 signing up that night. Again, a wonderful time was had by all. Local merchants, and their patrons, and members donated over \$550.00 to help offset expenses. Thank you, all!

Taste of Italy is Saturday, January 19th. Tickets available at JavAmore Café.

Crab Feed coming up on Saturday, February 16th. Again, tickets at JavAmore Café; \$50.00 each.

Park work to start in the spring.

February cooks will be Eddie Amato and his crew. They will be cooking sausage and risotto.

In March, come join the Mardi Gras fun. Kim and her crew will cook up Jambalaya and Gumbo! (A veggie option will be available.)

Calling on future cooks! We know how intimidating cooking for a crowd can be. But don't despair! Just take the leap and one of us experienced folks will step in to help. It's fun and a good way to get to know fellow members. It can be as easy as tacos, spaghetti, whatever you feel comfortable with. It's all about coming together, and what better way than with food. So, think about it, and let's see new hands rise in the months to come.



Meeting adjourned at 7:05pm.

Next Board Meeting:

Tuesday, February 12, 6:00pm
at Joe Pedrani's home

Next Membership Meeting:

Wednesday, February 6, 6:30pm
at the PSF Clubhouse

Dinner will include sausage and risotto!

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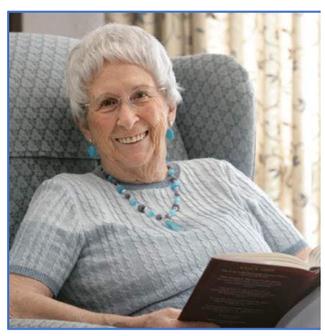
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Farewell to Harriet Boysen

Longtime residents of Penngrove will join me in bidding farewell to Harriet Chambille Boysen, who passed away on December 30 in Petaluma. Born and educated in Petaluma, she graduated from Petaluma High in 1939, studied in San Francisco, and lived in the San Jose area before marrying high school friend Soenke Boysen. They settled in Penngrove, where she became Penngrove's Post Mistress until retirement in 1984. Harriet often weighed newborn babies on the postal scale or stamped the hand of neighborhood kids.

She loved Penngrove. and was a member of the Penngrove Advisory Committee that devised the Penngrove Area Plan, adopted 1984. The Plan implemented strong zoning restrictions against development and to this day, is the bulwark that can retain our rural character -- as long as we fight for its guidelines! In Harriet's honor, take a look at our "Constitution." You'll find it posted on Nextdoor Penngrove under Documents. It is titled Penngrove Specific Plan, posted by Rick Savel (July 13,2016). The 82-page document includes: historic features, zoning, land use, groundwater, open space information with maps, and more



Farewell Harriet, you'll be remembered.