

Soquel Pioneers

Newsletter

July 2020

Soquel Pioneer and Historical Association

**2020 PIONEER PICNIC Cancelled
Due to Historic Coronavirus
Pandemic**



The July 29, 2020 Soquel Pioneer Historical Association annual picnic has been cancelled because of the Coronavirus pandemic. This will be the first time in 82 years that the picnic will not be held. We will miss a chance to see you face to face and hear your feedback about our activities. We will have the Picnic on the last Saturday in July in 2021.



TRACI BLISS
Speaker for the 2021 Picnic

Traci Bliss was to have been our speaker this year. Dr. Traci Bliss, a lifetime member of the Society of California Pioneers, is an award-winning emerita professor of education. She has authored several books, most recently the best selling Santa Cruz's Seabright with co-author Randall Brown. Her forthcoming book Evergreen Cemetery of Santa Cruz (August 31, 2020), includes the gripping story of why her ancestors donated the cemetery land in the 1850s. Traci also has deep and cherished roots in Soquel as the great, great granddaughter of J.F.J. Bennett and Jane Rice Bennett. We look forward to meeting Traci at next year's Soquel Pioneer and Historical Association annual picnic.

Soquel Pioneer & Historical Association

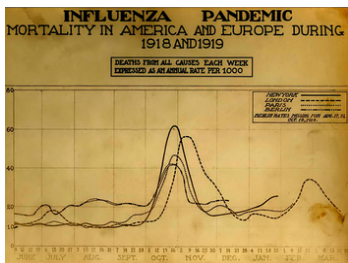
Information: 831.818.8109 www.soquelpioneers.com

History in the Making: Comparisons of the 1918 Pandemic and the 2020

Pandemic by Pioneer Board President Jim

We are living in a time that will provide material for historians and commentators for years to come. The disruption of normal activities is largely what history is all about. And hopefully for most of us this Coronavirus pandemic will prove to be no more than that: a temporary disruption of our normal lives.

It is always good to look back at the historical record of similar situations to see if we can avoid the pitfalls of bad decisions when dealing with current problems. So I did a little research on the Spanish Flu pandemic of 1918. There are some very interesting parallels to what is happening today. The virus progressed very quickly, attacking the respiratory system. Victims suffered fever, sweats, delirium, asphyxiation and often death. And like today, there was no vaccine to prevent it nor effective medicine to treat it.



No one knows for sure how many people perished as a result of the 1918 pandemic. Worldwide estimates range as

high as 100 million with US estimates as high as 650,000. But many died at home and did not become part of the official record. So accurate numbers will never be known. What is known is that infection spiked when restrictions were relaxed and diminished when restrictions were kept in place.

The official number of deaths for Santa Cruz was 20 and Watsonville was twice that. The difference is attributed to Santa Cruz's relative isolation. Highways 1 and 17 did not exist and holiday travel was curtailed. So then as now isolation and sanitation provided the only real



ACCOMPLISHMENTS & PROJECTS

New signs in Pringle Grove. The 10-foot sign in Pringle Grove and the small sign on the barbecue honoring Martina Castro had peeling paint and weather damage. The Board hired "The Sign Shop," to refurbish the signs. We are pleased with the results.

The Castro-Lodge Millstones. In the 2019 Pioneers newsletter, we had an article about the history of the Castro-Lodge Millstones that are located near the entrance to Pringle Grove. The stones have settled in the Earth and the Board felt that they needed to be moved. Our President, Jim Hobbs, reached out to local cement contractor, Shan Gilmore, and he volunteered to build a new base for the stones and to move them. The base is up against the barbecue, and that will prevent more settling of that structure. We will have the millstones in their new location before the 2021 Picnic.



New Picnic displays. Everyone enjoys looking at the displays of photographs from Soquel Elementary School and other historical images during the Picnic. The Board is currently planning on putting together new displays that are attractive, easy to assemble and weatherproof.

Heart of Soquel Park expansion update. Santa Cruz County Parks is building a Creekside trail starting at the Heart of Soquel Park! The Soquel Pioneer & Historical Association will provide input and historical photos on aspects of the Creek for two or three interpretative panels that will be placed on the Creekside trail. Soquel Creek was key to nearly everything that happened in Soquel for many years.

Soquel During the 2020 Pandemic

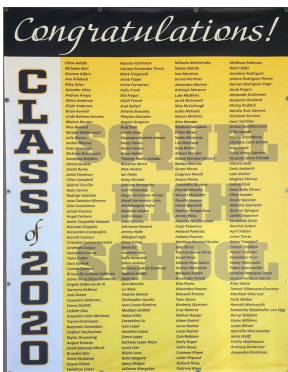
The 2020 Covid-19 Pandemic and the Santa Cruz County shelter-in-place order which began on March 16, 2020 is a historical event.

The Soquel Pioneer and Historical Association is in the process of documenting how it is affecting our community for future reference. Following are some examples of the effects.

On most April evenings at 5pm there are 2-4 cars at the intersection of Soquel Drive and Porter Street. The drive from 41st Ave to Porter Street takes 3 minutes! (During normal traffic that distance could take 15 minutes and there would be lines of traffic at that intersection.) All Soquel restaurants, food stores, wineries, coffee shops and cannabis stores are closed to dine-in seating and open only for takeout.

Barbershops, schools, day-care centers, hair salons, massage parlors, offices, and antique stores were closed from March 16 through mid-late June. Our Soquel post-office is open and required masks and 6 feet of social distancing. Anna Jean Cummings Park is open but the playground is closed.

More people are seen working in their yards, walking, running and riding bikes because they are not working in their jobs, could not travel or visit family of friends, and are unemployed due to businesses being closed.



Graduations at Soquel schools were held on-line, with 6 feet of spacing, by car parades and other creative ways to recognize the Graduates. *Congratulations Graduates* signs were seen everywhere.

Churches are conducting worship services through

a variety of on-line platforms. One benefit of this is that people who moved away from Soquel can enjoy on-line services.

How You Can Help



Donations. Although we are not having the Pioneers Picnic this year, we still need your help. Your contribution 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, 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.

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. 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. For more information or to let us know that you've included The Soquel Pioneer 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 our 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 Lynlewi@comcast.net or 831-818-8109.



100 Years Ago. . .

Compiled by Frank Perry

The following Soquel items are from Santa Cruz newspapers during the year 1920.

January 12. "The first concrete on the new county unit of highway being built between Arana Gulch and Soquel was poured Saturday afternoon, marking the actual beginning of the first permanently improved section under the \$924,000 bond issue."

January 16. "Norman H. Angell, son of Mr. and Mrs. H. V. Angell of Soquel, . . . returned from a trip to Lexington, Kentucky, where he was sent by the Kappa Alpha fraternity of the University [of California] as a delegate to their convention. . . . When he stopped in Chicago on his way home, he found the weather so cold that census enumerators, who had just started work, were forced to discontinue as the ink in their fountain pens froze."

February 6. "On the upper Capitola Road yesterday morning, L. F. Engles, a painter and paper hanger of Soquel, had a miraculous escape from death when his Ford got frisky and jumped over a bank at an angle of about 45 degrees and broke through the flume about forty feet down below the road."

February 20. "NOTICE. Billy the Barber has retired from business, and I have rented his old stand, and will be glad to meet his many old customers. I am a first-class barber and you will find me ready for business every afternoon, all day Saturday, and from 8:30 to 12 Sundays. I will also take care of your laundry. M. M. Steele, Soquel."

May 16. "A protest against the proposal to annex the Soquel School District to Santa Cruz High School District, as recently proposed by the Board of Education of this city, was filed with the Board of Supervisors this morning by the trustees of the Soquel Union Grammar School District."

July 16. "The guests of Stafford's Inn, a popular summer resort, . . . held a box ball tournament on Wednesday and Thursday of this week. Each player was allowed three games, a total of which made his [or her] score. Tom Prescott made the sensational score of 404 and won first place in the event."

September 13. "INCOME RANCH BARGAIN. Ten acres along Soquel Creek; dandy soil; 6 acres in full bearing orchard; cherries, apples, and peaches; some strawberries; good pumping plant; 6 room house; chicken house and barn; 1 horse; cow and some chickens also go. Price, \$10,000. FRANCIS & PIMENTEL, 140 Pacific Avenue, Phone 430."

Donations 2019-2020 Thank you!

Steve & Denise Agosti
Julia Mae Burgess
Joe and Karen Calcagno
Gail Carhart-Scofield
Tom Cassera (Family of James B. Phillips)
David Emanuel and Annie Chapin
William Cummings
Ceedola Daubner
Thomas Deasy
Carolyn Folmar
Duncan and Bonnie Gillies
Ben Gregg
Marc and Laura Grossman
Laura Hamby
Scott and Lynette Hamby
Kitty Hansen
Jim Hobbs
Mary Ellen Irons
John and Jeannie Kegebein
Pat Kenyon
Jane Kotila
John and Linda Lucchesi
David and Lynda Lewit
Deborah Maddock
Margaret Madsen
Lisa McAndrews
Lynne McCall Caldwell
Bob McKenzie
Donaldine McRae
Roy & Nettajo Morter
Keith and Barbara Murray
Lisa Nelson
Thom and Diane Parks
Paul and Judy Parsons
Frank & Jill Perry
Alice Ponza
Chris Poulos
Patricia Poulos
Willa Dean Reynolds
Phillip and Janet Rupp
Stanley Stevens
Priscilla Strauhal
Carolyn Swift
Jean Tarr
Greg and Kathy Walls
Jerry and Robynn Walters

Communicate with the Pioneers

We'd like to stay in touch! Here are some ways you can help!

Email Addresses. 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.

Facebook. Have you checked out the 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.

Web Page. We also have a web page at www.soquelpioneers.com, which includes current picnic information and a lot of Soquel history. People who love Soquel will enjoy the history, interview videos, historical photos, picnic pictures, and other resources.



Your Board of Directors

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

Thank You!

2019 DONATED RAFFLE ITEMS

Mallory Baggerman at Prima — Beauty Basket
Soquel/Capitola Chamber — Gift Basket
Soquel Vineyards — Wine Tasting certificate
Carpo's — Gift Certificate
The Cook House — Gift Certificate
Soquel Pottery — Mug
Shadowbrook — Gift Certificate
Golden Chiropractic — Gift Certificate

Soquel Growers — Potted Flowers
Crow's Nest — Gift Certificate
A Taste of Soquel — Various Items
Elyxir - Exotic Beer

Live Auction items Donated

Ted Maddock Watercolor
Jay Topping Signs

Soquel Pioneer &
Historical Association
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Soquel, CA 95073

