

Monterey County Agricultural & Rural Life Museum Newsletter

1st Quarter ~ May 2015

Museum's Connect in Honduras

After seven months of planning, work days, skype sessions and a lot of anticipation, on April 11, 2015, the Museum's Connect US team consisting of Sharon Turner, Museum Assistant; Meg Clovis, Monterey County Cultural Affairs Manager; Jessica Potts, MCARLM Executive Director; Dr. Maria de la Fuente, Director, University of California Cooperative Extension Monterey County and Jose Sanchez, Director, Greenfield Community Science Workshop, departed for Copan, Honduras. The Museums Connect project, Common Ground: Connecting Communities through Gardens purpose has been to give young people in both Honduras and the US opportunities to actively engage in environmental stewardship through gardening and share their experiences with each other and their local communities. By gardening on a local scale, students from both countries have come to understand how the pieces of the world's ecological puzzle interconnect, that environmental challenges are complex and cannot be understood in isolation. A part of the project includes each team to traveling to the others home to see firsthand the project and to meet the children that have been instrumental in its success, as well as to learn more about each other's culture and industry.

Flying from San Jose to Atlanta then to San Pedro Sula, Honduras, for us was an overnight flight, losing 3 hours and then regaining 2, leaving at 10:45 pm and arriving at 10:30 am. Disembarking the plane in San Pedro Sula, we were greeted with a blast of heat and proceeded to work our way slowly through the emigration process before finally descending down to the main airport to meet our host, Liz Nutter-Valladares, Project Manager, Asociacion Copan and her husband Mike who is a wonderful tour guide in Copan. Ready to drop after a night of travel, we only had 3 1/2 more hours before us as we drove up the mountain to our final destination, Copan Ruinas. Our first cultural lesson as a group was that there are few, if any traffic rules in Honduras. Passing and right of way seem to be decided for the most part by a light beep of the horn, and while to the untrained eye, it seemed to be chaos, the drivers all seemed very in control and there were no wrecks that we saw during our entire trip. During our trip up the mountain the changing scenery showed our weary eyes glimpses of the local neighborhoods and meager homes mixed along rivers and streams and lush greenery.

Pulling into Copan Ruinas was a sudden change from what we had seen the previous three and a half hours. As we drove under the village's welcoming arch and we passed onto cobblestone roads, relief flooded the van as we were finally arriving at our destination. Driving through the town, down narrow streets lined with white adobe buildings, that secreted little shops, restaurants and hotels, many with surprisingly lavish and pretty private patios lined with potted plants, we passed the town center and arrived at our hotel which

would be our cool escape for the next 4 days. After almost 12 hours of travel, the group was tired and ready to collapse. Heading to our separate rooms, we all took a couple of hours to rest, relax, shower



and refresh enough to regroup for our first meal in Honduras. After dinner we mustered enough energy to wander around for a brief tour of the small village and then headed to bed to catch up on needed sleep in preparation for a busy schedule that was planned for the next couple of days.

Day one of our trip, after a traditional breakfast known as "typico", we were greeted by Donaldo Martinez, Educational Facilitator, Asociacion Copan who escorted the group to the Asociacion Copan offices, where we were joined by Liz and met Ricardo Agurcia, Executive Director, Asociacion Copan. Ricardo, a native Honduran archaeologist is well known for his discovery of Mayan temple, Temple 10L-16, better known as Rosalila. After a



meeting that gave us the opportunity to learn more about Honduras, Ricardo and the Asociacion, we climbed aboard an adventure on wheels called a tuk-tuk (also known as an auto rickshaw or mototaxi). This cross between a motorcycle and a golf cart was something to experience as it bounced



(Continued on page 3)

Upcoming MCARLM Events

- May 24, 2015 ~ Gold Fever Exhibit Closes
- July 4, 2015 ~ 4th of July in the Park
- August 29, 2015 ~ South County Ag Tour
- October 24, 2015 ~ Ghost Stories Bon-Fire
- December 12, 2015 ~ Holiday Open House

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Come see what is happening at the Museum

Museum Hours

Tuesday ~ Friday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Tours available Saturday ~ Sunday 11-4 pm.

Show your support and become a member today!

Memorials & Members

The Monterey County Agricultural & Rural Life Museum is happy to welcome its new members to the Friends of MCARLM Family, as well as thank those who continue to show support for the museum and its mission. All membership fees are used to support the museum, its programs and its mission to protect the rich history of agricultural & rural life of the Salinas Valley and educate visitors and youth about their origins and culture.

1st Quarter New Members

Ed Fischer

1st Quarter Member Renewals

Larry Homen	John & Janet Buttgerreit
Gordon & Vickie Rosenberg	Duane Hyde
Brent & Julie Plemmons	Carol Robles
Joanne Banuelos	Frank & Peggy Nadin
Gary & Barba Oetting	David & Suzanne Tavernetti
Robert Grab	Taylor Farms
Pete Godinho	King City Veterinary Hospital
Richard Crawford	Ed Thorp
Jeff Schmidt	Suzi Taylor
Ruth Records	Roberta Oswald
Lincoln Hatch	Jerry & Paulette Bumbalough

The museum protects the areas heritage, operates and provides valuable programming to the area and its youth through public donations and memberships. To join or re-new your membership, submit the application found on the back page of this newsletter, and as always, donation are appreciated and tax deductible.

Membership Renewal

MCARLM appreciates the support you have shown us. With your help we were able to accomplish many things including new exhibits, new educational programming as well as repairs and maintenance of artifacts and equipment. We appreciate your continued support and couldn't do it without you!

Don't miss out on upcoming newsletters and events . . . We encourage you to renew your annual membership today! Membership expiration dates are on the corner of this issue's address label. Donations and memberships are tax deductible and are greatly appreciated and 100% of all donations support your local museum and its local programming.

MCARLM Board Members

President ~ Jim Spreng	Vice President ~ Will Taylor
Treasurer ~ Lincoln Hatch	Secretary ~ Raye Ann Houx
Ernie Binsacca	Chris Parrish
Bob Weinerth	Craig Wiley

Mo. Co. Museum Assistant ~ Sharon Turner
MCARLM Executive Director ~ Jessica Potts

Editor ~ Jessica Potts
Contributors to this issue ~ Jessica Potts, Susan Coale, Marvin Shepherd

MCARLM Phone ~ (831)385-8020
School Tours Reservations ~ (831)386-0965
Camping and Building Reservations ~ (888)588-CAMP

2015 Drury Tankersley Clam Chowder Dinner

By Susan Coale

Thank you to our community and supporters for another successful Clam Chowder dinner & silent auction. Despite a change of date this year from the end of January, to the beginning of February, and a change of location from the Orradre building to the Expo, we still ended up serving more than 1300 meals, over 1,000 take out & more than 350 dine in and much in thanks to a chilly night, a record number of gallons of soup made.

Although this dinner is a Monterey County Agricultural and Rural Life Museum fundraiser, it is only through the generosity of others that we are able to call it a success. The Vanoli family spearheads the kitchen prep & cooking, Bea Hayes and friends cut and serve desserts most generously made by bakers from the Silver Kings and Queens and



around the community, Jim Spreng and crew sling take out, the MCARLM board & staff collect tickets at the door, the King City Rotary hosts the bar, local boy scouts and 4H clubs serve the dine in tables and I'm sure we've

missed somebody in there! We also have to thank all of the many sponsors who donated produce, time and or funds because without them, this event just couldn't happen.

This year's silent auction featured forty items ranging from bottles of wine to antiques. Some of the hottest items were tickets to the Salinas Rodeo and certificates for a whale watching tour in the Monterey Bay. One lucky guest even won their bid for a day in the DeAnza building at San Lorenzo Park, a great place to host a party or an event.



As a side note, I remember when my family & I first moved here, we were gifted tickets to the Clam Chowder dinner as an opportunity to get to know King City, and now that I work with the people that run the show, I have a fond appreciation for why the event is so important. This year I was able to gift several tickets to some new families in the area to help them get to know the town as well. As great of a time as everybody seems to have dining together, and for those that get take out to enjoy a unique and tasty meal with their family at home, I sincerely hope this is a tradition that continues for years to come.

(Continued from page 1)

roughly yet swiftly along the cobblestone streets, darting around cars, other tuk-tuks and random pedestrians. Hanging on tightly and laughing from the excitement of it, we made our way up to the hilltop home of the Casa



K'inich Children's Museum. The museum is located in the renovated Fort Cabanas, a military fort built in 1940 in honor of General Jose Trinidad Cabanas. The fort was built to station Honduran armies to safeguard the western borders and provided amazing views of the town and the valley of Copan Ruinas.

Waiting to provide us with an in-depth tour of the museum alongside Donaldo, we met Karla Morales, Director of the Casa K'inich Children's Museum. The museum is designed to teach visitors of all ages about the Maya culture and is done so through interesting hands-on interactive exhibits that are inventive and draw you in to participate and learn more. The museum was created with the intention to produce a future of Hondurans that care about the World Heritage site. While the museum is small, it is full of great information. Exhibits teach visitors about Mayan history including topics like reading, writing, counting and math in Ch'orti, a Mayan lan-



guage, as well as learning about the 16 different Mayan rulers and even a section about native plants and animals from the area.

As a part of our trip, we expected to see amazing sites, drink world renowned coffee and be moved by memorable people but we never expected to sample wonderful cheeses. Our lunch stop was a pleasant surprise though as we dined with the entire Museum's Connect group (finally meeting the final members of the Honduras team, Paola Carias, Executive Director of the Copan Ruinas Chamber of Commerce; and Jesus Guerra, Owner of El Mirador Finca and Agricultural Consultant for the project), at Café San Rafael. Café San Rafael is a Coffee Farm/Roaster, Bistro and Cheese shop. What a wonderful surprise we got as we were taken on a tour of the small, on-site cheese making operation. As it turned out, the small operation makes some really amazing cheeses, something none of us had expected to find in Honduras. The bistro menu consisted mainly of cheese sandwiches and cheese plates and lunch ended with a homemade piece of rich tart cheese cake and of course, coffee.

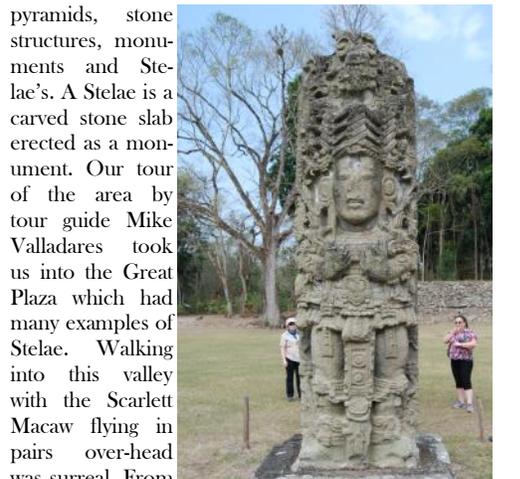
Our afternoon meeting was with Copan Chamber of Commerce president, Don Raul Welchez who is also the owner of the beautiful Hotel Marina and the Finca Santa Isabel which produces the Welchez brand coffee. Talking with Don Raul, we discussed farming practices and issues both in Honduras and in California and

learned more about business in Copan. That evening, Jose and Jessica were taken to a small public television station called CTV20 and interviewed about the garden program. Jose, being the fluent Spanish speaker did the majority of the interview and talked about the benefit of the program to the children involved and what it was teaching them on a local and global level. The response from the watchers was instantaneous as e-mails and texts began to flood in, many wondering if the program would continue and grow to include more Honduran children. All good questions and food for thought.

The morning of day two, we set out early to try and



beat the sweltering heat, which we found to be a real force to contend with. This day of our trip was much anticipated, as we were all excited to visit the Copan Ruins. During what is considered the Classic Maya Period, Copan was one of the greatest cities in the Mayan world and was able to sustain their power for over 400 years. During this period 16 rulers oversaw the city's growth. Today the ruins are considered to be one of the best archeological sites and are a popular tourist attraction. The valley is about 10 square miles and displays the remains of Maya pyramids, stone structures, monuments and Stelae's. A Stelae is a carved stone slab erected as a monument. Our tour of the area by tour guide Mike Valladares took us into the Great Plaza which had many examples of Stelae. Walking into this valley with the Scarlett Macaw flying in pairs over-head was surreal. From the Plaza through the Altar and celebrated Ball Court, we headed to the Petroglyph stairway of 'Structure 26' with stairs to the gods and a sacrificial altar at its base.



From there we ventured up and around to the West Court to stand before Structure 16, the Rosalila Temple that was discovered by Ricardo, and then around to look over what was once a town of 'upper class' Mayans and is now referred to as the Cemetery. Tradition of filling and



E-mail Newsletter

With the rising cost of postage, paper and ink, help MCARLM save valuable resources and funds by receiving your copy of the MCARLM quarterly newsletter via e-mail rather than a hard copy through the mail. E-mail us at info@mcarlm.org with your e-mail address.

MCARLM in Social Media

Trying to keep up with different ways to reach out to our supporters, MCARLM provides many different ways to keep current on what is happening at your local museum. To receive e-mail notifications of new publications that are posted on the blog, log into: <http://mcarlmblog.wordpress.com> and enter your e-mail in the section on the right hand side of the screen that says "Follow Blog via Email" then click on Follow to be a part of the blogging fun.

Also show your support and keep up to date of events and museum happenings by following us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

[facebook.com/MCARLM](https://www.facebook.com/MCARLM)

[instagram.com/mocoagmuseum](https://www.instagram.com/mocoagmuseum)

twitter.com/MoCoAgMuseum

Newsletter Contributions

MCARLM is always trying to improve its newsletter and the information it provides to its followers and members. If you have any local stories, news, photos or suggestions for upcoming newsletters, call (831)385-8020 or email info@mcarlm.org. Thanks for any comments or suggestions!

3rd Annual Prime Rib Museum Fundraiser

By Susan Coale

Wishes, Wants and Needs for 2015

If anyone else has equipment that can help the museum in our mission, let us know! Here is a list of needed items:

- ~ Looking for a 1930's or 40's flatbed truck with about a 16' bed to put a well extraction rig on. Truck does not need to run as this will be a static display
- ~ Chipper for Garden
- ~ Garden tools in good working condition
- ~ Rototiller to borrow for Garden
- ~ Historical photos of the area (donate or digital)

If you have any of these items that you would like to donate for use at the museum, please come by the museum, or contact us at 831-385-8020 or info@mcarlm.org

Volunteers

MCARLM is in need of your passion and dedication to our area's heritage. The museum is looking for skilled, motivated and dedicated volunteers to aid the museum in its mission. Immediate needs are:

- ~ Re-tired Teachers and Volunteers: Help planning and working a 2 day 4th grade History Jamboree on May 21 & 22

If you've noticed any of the local businesses closing up shop, it might be that the owners struck it big when they were mining for gold at the 3rd Annual Museum Fundraiser Prime Rib Dinner! Sheriff's were out all evening, but no arrests were made despite a fun evening of dinner, drinks and panning for gold.



In typical MCARLM fashion, attendees were greeted with a host of themed activities, including

a chance to pan for gold in a hand built sluice and getting dressed up for photo ops in the theme decorated photo booth. The building décor was

so authentic, completely forgot since a look century King raising good

Dinner this Rib, creamy tasty spinach course, guests cake and a

Thank you to Steve Rianda who was this year's volunteer cook, John Pekema, this year's live auctioneer, and of course to Jim Spreng who spearheaded the construction and use of the mining sluice.



you were at the DeAnza building; especially out the window took you to turn-of-the-City. Some of our guests had such a hair time, they grew mustaches!

year included a generous serving of Prime potatoes and sweet carrots served after a salad and dinner rolls. After the main were offered a serving of delicious cheese-cup of coffee to finish up the night.

to Steve Rianda who was this year's volunteer cook, John Pekema, this year's live auctioneer, and of course to Jim Spreng who spearheaded the construction and use of the mining sluice.



Our silent auction participants left happy with an array of items, including more wine than some of them probably know what to do with, but I believe that's a quality problem!

Of course the live auction always includes the opportunity to have dinner for 8 hosted by MCARLM at the museum, and this year's winners will enjoy themselves in the Train Depot.

We cannot stress how important these fundraisers are for the continuation of all that MCARLM does. The support of the community is what keeps your museum going strong so the MCARLM board and staff want to extend a huge thanks to everyone that attended our Spring Dinner and those that



donated generously through the silent and live auction. If you were at the dinner, hopefully you had a chance to glance at the artifacts from this year's traveling exhibit *Gold Fever! Untold Stories of the California Gold Rush*. If you did not, the exhibit will be up through May, so please visit us before it's gone!



Honduras

(Continued from page 3)



destroying a dwelling after the occupant passed led to this name, as when the area was discovered and uncovered many of the structures housed bodies of Mayans. Passing through the East court to the top of the Temple, we had a perfect view of the entire area. Looking at the work that was put into the

renovation of these great temples makes a real impression to the dedication of the people that put in so many hours to save this piece of world heritage.

After visiting the Mayan ruins, we were treated to a personal tour by Ricardo of the Sculpture Museum. This museum is the protective home to many pieces of Maya works of art. Walking down the entrance tunnel into the museum, we came face to face with a full-size replica of Rosalila. The temple was found completely preserved inside of pyramid Structure 16, and was completely reconstructed to scale and color in the middle of the Sculpture Museum. The works of art that the museum houses show the amazing amount of skill and craftsmanship that the Mayan people possessed and the in-depth tour by Ricardo capped off the visit to the world heritage site to be an experience that will not be forgotten.

From the history and awe-inspiring sites of the Copan Ruins, we moved on to visit Casita Copan. Casita Copan is a community-based organization in Copan, and home to many of the children that are participants in the Common Ground Garden Project. The Casitas homes are designed to be loving homes with a family environment for abandoned or orphaned children. They also provide free day care for at risk families. For more information about this amazing program visit their web page at www.casitacopan.org. Our visit to the center was moving and eye opening. We were able to tour the facility, talk with the children that were there and met a few of the children that are a part of the program. Some of the best moments of our trip took place during this visit. Maria joined a group of students and helped them with their homework. The entire group received hugs from numerous children who were so happy to see us and have our attention, even if for just a few moments. The facility provides the children with homework assistance, nutritious meals and a safe clean place to spend their days. This sparse house provides little in the way of



furniture or toys but is obviously staffed by a group of volunteers that provide attention and affection to the children it helps. Down the street from the Casitas is the local public school, one of two in the area, and where the students that are a part of the Common Ground program attend school.

On our final day in Copan,

we were picked up outside of our hotel by a small bus filled with the majority of the children from the project. As we walked up to the bus, we could hear the kids welcoming us with so much excitement that we could feel it. We were warmly embraced as we entered the bus, each of us grabbed by a child eager

to have us sit with them. The children talked the entire way to Macaw Mountain, where their garden is located. We could tell that we were getting close, as the enthusiasm from each of the kids vibrated the entire bus. When we pulled up to the garden, located along a



river and surrounded by forest, the kids flooded from the bus, dragging us along to see the work that they have done. They showed us radishes, cilantro, the compost bins and talked to us about the plants that they planted and were then stolen out of the ground. We then split



to take separate tours of the Macaw Sanctuary, a place to learn about and interact with the intelligent and colorful birds of Central America. The birds at this sanctuary are rescued or donated by people that find themselves unable to care for them or are concerned about their well-being. Currently, the sanctuary houses over 20 different types of birds in various aviaries. The facility is spread out over acres



of forest so the tour travels along winding paths and picturesque views.

Mid-way through our tour, we met back up with the children from the Common Ground Project to gather for a BBQ lunch prepared by Lloyd Davidson, one of the owners of the bird park and nature reserve. After lunch, it

was time to gather the children so that they could unpack the community suitcase. The suitcase was packed in Greenfield by the youth participants from the US team to show examples of what was important to the kids in American and give the Honduras kids a taste of American culture. Jose unpacked the case with the kids, explaining to them why each item was chosen, by whom and what it represented. To end our precious time with these lively, wonderful children, we presented to them a California t-shirt, a gift from our team. The day with the children was by far what made the trip so special. Filled with emotions, we all left Macaw Mountain deeply touched, with memories that will be lasting and spirit changing and with a deep desire to see this project continue to touch lives and do good. Back at the hotel, we gathered for a project meeting with Ricardo and Liz, during which we discussed possibilities for continuation, shared notes of success's, problem areas and general thoughts on the program.

Our trip came to an end with an emotional day, meeting and learning more about the incredible children that we had only meet via skype to that

point. The trip was fascinating, amazing, eye-opening, inspirational and definitely once in a lifetime. The sites we saw and people that we met made a lasting impression on all of us and is one that we will not soon forget. It was an honor to represent the US by visiting



Honduras and meeting the other half of the team that has been working on this worthwhile project. Thank you to Liz, Ricardo, Donaldo, Karla, Paula and Jesus for hosting us and showing us an amazing time and sharing your community with us. We look forward to returning the favor when you visit us at the end of May.

Common Ground: Connecting Communities through Gardens, a Museums Connect project, is made possible by the US Department of State's Bureau of Educational & Cultural Affairs and is administered by the American Alliance of Museums.

MCARLM Programming and Building Community Connections Your Dollars at Work By Susan Coale

Here at the Monterey County Agricultural and Rural Life Museum, there is so much that happens behind the scenes in keeping the history of the Salinas Valley accessible for learning. If you've visited the museum complex, you know there are seven buildings that house artifacts, 3 of those are historical buildings and 1 an authentic replication.

So, you may have asked yourself, "How do my donations help?" Well, aside from public outreach and educational programming, the buildings are always in need of maintenance. In recent months, MCARLM, volunteers and local businesses have been hard at work on several projects.

The first project, with the help of the King City Rotary Club was to tent the c. 1887 La Gloria School for termites, that can destroy a historic building, but with regularly scheduled service, this tragedy can be prevented. The next project sponsored by the Rotary was caulking and glazing of the windows in the 128 year old school. Over the years the window weather seals have degraded allowing in moisture. We also have it in our sights to repaint the building, but the window project needed to be done before that could be accomplished. This project was taken on to completion by the folks at King City Glass and completed over a period of about 4 months.

The next big project was the repainting of the King City Train Depot. A park volunteer took this building from shabby to sheik in authentic Southern Pacific Yellow and Brown and now looks much closer to its original hue.

Our Educational Garden received its late winter maintenance thanks to John Ramirez and Big Valley Labor, who tilled the ground, ridding it of weeds in preparation for spring seed planting.

A huge THANKS to all of you for your contributions to the museum. We appreciate all the community does to support us through visitation, monetary donations, artifact donations, donations for events, docents for school tours and of course the labor of maintaining the museum buildings.

On a final note, MCARLM would like to remind you that projects are ongoing, and even though we are hard at work on constructing a new exhibit, there are several things still in need of repair. At this time, we are seeking individuals, businesses or service clubs that would like to adopt a maintenance project. The projects that we currently have available for taking on are minor repairs to the Spreckles House, including a damaged window, and the repainting of the Spreckles House.

Elkhorn Slough Lecture By Susan Coale

On Thursday, February 12, 2015 we hosted Andrea Woolfolk, who spoke passionately about the Elkhorn Slough, a 7-mi long tidal slough and estuary located on the Monterey Bay. Attendees included local educators as well as outdoor enthusiasts interested in learning about kayak and hiking opportunities.

Some of the topics covered included historical overviews of use of the land by the Ohlone Indians, Spanish and Mexican Land Grants, the introduction of the Southern Pacific Railroad, the Empire Gun Club, the Power Plant, and the returning of the area to marshland. The Elkhorn Slough Foundation is currently in the process of restoring and further conserving both the Elkhorn Slough and its watershed.

MCARLM is proud to host events that represent all aspects of the Salinas Valley and Monterey County and we hope you will join us next time.

South County Farm Day By Susan Coale

MCARLM able to support Farm day, an educational ways this were happy to Turner (Museum Assistant) at the



tor at the exhibit (a kid favorite), Jessica Potts (MCARLM Executive Director) was a coordinator in the Red Zone of the static presentation building and Susan Coale (MCARLM Assistant) hosted an educational booth representing the museum. The booth topic this year was reflective of the *Native Peoples, We Are Still Here* exhibit.

Farm Day at King City happens in the late winter at the Salinas Valley Fair Grounds and gives all third graders of the south valley an opportunity to spend the day visiting professionals of the agriculture industry. Other topics represented include fire and street safety, healthy eating and waste management.

This year 279 students visited the MCARLM booth and their teachers were given informational packets regarding our school tours program. Events like these allow us to continue our educational outreach in such an impactful way, as many of the students from cities outside of King City rarely have the opportunity to visit our museum, usually due to economic restraints, so we appreciate being able to take part.

MCARLM Receives Award

MCARLM the California As- seum this February lence in Museum from the Office of tendent of Public Superintend- t's lence in Museum



petition recognizes the outstanding achievements in California museum programs that serve K-12 students and/or educators. MCARLM was cho-

sen to receive the award to honor our work on the Common Ground Educa- tional Garden.



Six California museums were selected in 2015 to receive an award for excellence in museum education, chosen by the Superintendent of Public Instruction, Tom Torlakson. At least one third of the awards were given to eligible organizations with

annual operating budget less than \$2 million, one of these being MCARLM. Other winners include the Autry National Center of the American West, The Contemporary Jewish Museum, Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, Museum of Tolerance and the Palo Alto Art Center.

On February 19, County Historian, Meg Clovis, Museum Assistant, Sharon Turner and Executive Director, Jessica Potts traveled down the San Diego where Jessica received the award and joined her fellow award winners to give a presentation about the Common Ground; Connecting Community through Gardens program. The presentation was well received and offered a great example of what a small museum with a minimal budget can do through work and community partnerships to help their community and area children.



Charles H. King
From Trinidad Educator to Oakland Millionaire
By Marvin Shepherd
(Part 2 ~ Continued from January 2015 Issue)

MONEY AND REDWOOD

Charles King was about thirty years old and living in Trinidad when he met Joseph Russ, his elder by about seventeen years. He knew of Russ's business acumen and his building of the Russ, Wood and Company mill on Indian Island. He admired Russ and his accomplishments and wanted to be like him. He watched for a business opportunity that would bring the two of them together. In 1876, he got his wish. King joined with Joseph Russ, William Carson, and John Dolbeer in buying the right of way for a railroad through the town lots of Trinidad.²³

In 1878, King was invited by Joseph Russ to join his company as a manager in his San Francisco office. This would be a management, marketing and sales position. A partnership might come later. King was delighted to accept the offer. He was also happy to move to San Francisco, for Katherine much preferred the big city life.

It was in April 1878, that the government passed a law on timberland purchases called the Timber & Stone Act. This law would change the life of Charles King.



King City Station, circa 1903.

The intent of the laws was to transfer public lands to private hands and King, in association with two Humboldt County lumbermen-David Evans and Joseph Russ-developed an expedited process to transfer redwood timberlands

to Scottish investors over the short period of late 1882 until mid-1884. By early 1884, a federal government investigation alleged that the process used was illegal and eventually indicted eleven of the individuals involved.

A second plan of Charles King's was to establish a redwood lumber manufacturing company, the California Redwood Company, which would be large enough to monopolize lumber production and the price of lumber. It would be financed by a second Scottish syndicate, which King traveled to Scotland to meet with. Although this plan was legitimate and involved a four million dollar investment, the interaction between the two plans caused the second plan to fail, as well.²⁴ [The full story of this North Coast timberland fraud and the 1884-85 California Redwood Company is told in the author's new book, *A Scottish Syndicate in the Redwoods*, available December 20.-Ed.]

MOVING ON TO THE SALINAS VALLEY

Other than marketing lumber for the California Redwood Company, Inc. during its nineteen-month life, King appears to have kept a low profile. By mid-1884 he decided that he didn't want to continue his association with the California Redwood Company, and sold large part of his company stock to David Evans. He would still have substantial money coming when he dissolved his partnership with the J. Russ Company. According to an 1889 biographical sketch, "the agents began such a system of extravagance, contrary to the advice and protests of Mr. King"²⁵ that he had to withdraw from the schemes. He had decided to become a gentleman rancher.

King began searching the Salinas Valley for a location to establish a ranch and farm. He found his ideal location on the San Lorenzo Rancho, 21,884 acres originally granted to Feliciano Soberanes by Governor Juan Alvarado in 1841. Over time, the land passed through a number of hands and parts of it were broken off and sold. Charles King began to purchase parts of the San Lorenzo Rancho lands on October 13, 1884, ultimately accumulating over 13,000 acres at a cost of about \$105,000.

King built his ranch house, barns, corrals and the like, just three miles north of the present location of King City and began to fill his land with dairy cows, beef cattle, horses, mules, and other farm animals. By 1888, he had two dairies, each with some three hundred milk cows and dozens of men to tend to them. He persuaded his older brother Lewis to come to California to manage the ranch. King's intent was not to spend all his time on the ranch, but to share his time between the ranch and his business and social activities in Oakland, where he and Katherine had established their family home.

King wanted to plant grain on the land and despite negative comments from nearby farmers that this was cattle land and too dry for grain, he stubbornly proceeded to plant about 6,000 acres that first year. This was a herculean effort. It required up to 150 horses, which enabled him to plant 80-100 acres of grain per day using "eight-horse gangs of plows, seeders and harrows."²⁶ The harvest was a huge success and his efforts convinced others that there was money in this dry land, not just for cattle, but for grains. In 1886, the editor of the Salinas Index visited the farm and noted that "several thousand acres of first-class brewing quality barley was growing on the ranch."²⁷ King welcomed the interest because he could now lease some of his own land for tenant farming at a tidy profit. In fact, James Lynn of Salinas farmed over 4,000 acres of King's land in 1886.²⁸

King had noted that farmers had to cart their products to Monterey or to Moss Landing, which could take as long as a week. Collis Huntington, president of the Southern Pacific Railroad, had been watching the development of the agriculture in the Salinas Valley for some time. He was impressed with the vision and successes of Charles King and arranged with King to extend the SP railroad tracks from Soledad through King's ranchland. At one location, SP would establish a station stop that would eventually become King City. Huntington also made another investment; he built a warehouse and flour mill along the tracks near the train station. The mill was called the SP Milling Company and its first manager was Ernst Steinbeck, father of author John Steinbeck. King City became an important freight station for ranchers and farmers from the surrounding area such as the Santa Lucia Valley and the Gabilan Mountains. Farmers could now bring their wheat to this nearby location and convert it into flour or ship sacks of grain to other locations.

(To be Continued . . .)

Marvin Shepherd is a Safety Engineer and Clinical Engineer now retired from the University of California Medical Center, in San Francisco. His first book, *The sea Captain's Odyssey*, detailed the biography and adventurous life of a Danish sea captain, Hans H. Buhne in the early days of California. It was during his research on the first book that Marv encountered some of the compelling details for his second book, *A Scottish Syndicate in the Redwoods*.

We hope that you enjoyed the second part of this article by Marvin Shepherd. Part three of this article will be available in the 2015 3rd quarter newsletter that will be available in July. For more interest in this story, *A Scottish Syndicate in the Redwoods* is available for purchase in the MCARLM museum store.

- 23. Scraps and Recollections of Zipporah Russ, as recorded by Bertha Russ Lytel, found in miscellaneous papers donated by Viola McBride [undated] to the Ferndale Museum, Ferndale, California.
- 24. See Marvin Shepherd's new book, *A Scottish Syndicate in the Redwoods*. Available December 20, 2014.
- 25. Harrison, Monterey County, 1889, 72.
- 26. Ibid, 219.
- 27. *King City, California*, 1886-1986, 11.
- 28. Ibid.



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The Monterey County Agricultural & Rural Life Museum's (MCARLM) specific and primary purposes are: the discovery, acquisition and preservation of artifacts; interpretation of museum exhibits, collections and historic structures; dissemination of knowledge and the history of farming, agriculture, and related cultural services in the Salinas Valley and adjacent areas; to promote interest through programs of public interest and education; and to coordinate fundraising campaigns for the support of the above purposes

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