

# *The La Honda Voice*

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Friday, December 10, 2004

## **Meet the Candidates Potluck!**

A Meet the Candidates Potluck!

When: Sunday 12/12/04 from 4pm -6pm

Where: La Honda Elementary School

**Candidate attendees** (alphabetical order)

Robert Dougherty

Scott Hayes

Grant Kern

Bob Meehan

Carol Prentice (incumbent)

Mike Williams

**What to Bring?** A potluck dish or drink.  
Questions for the candidates.

The remaining three candidates: David Ehrhardt, Dave Schorr and Larry Fama are not able to attend. If you can help with setup or take down please contact Gail Cholios. She is the organizing coordinator of this event.

## **Winter Program & Craft Night at La Honda Elementary School**

"A little invitation to let you all know you are personally invited to the La Honda Elementary School Winter Program & Craft Night next Weds.

**DEC. 15 from 7 - 9 pm**, you are welcome whether you have kids in the school or not! There will be hands-on craftmaking, holiday treats to eat, Music and art by the kids, as well as some local

artists, displaying and selling their work. So come on up to the school for a little while or spend the whole evening. Shop and enjoy the spirit of the season with the children of La Honda! Is there any better way to experience it?"

## **Related Item: Father Christmas Raffle for La Honda Educational Foundation**

" raffle tickets for the beautiful handmade Father Christmas figure are now available at PIONEER MARKET in LA HONDA for anyone who wishes to help La Honda Educational Foundation raise funds for teachers salaries, educational enrichment and music at La Honda Elementary School. Tickets are ONLY \$1 each, or 6 for \$5!\* Raffle to be held on Dec. 15 at La Honda Elementary School." from Karen Shaff (Message #5540)calendar. *The Voice* will continue to periodically publish an updated monthly calendar.

## **Fire Safety Message from Larry Whitney**

(dated 5Dec04) "Last night at 11:24 pm Fire Engines from the La Honda, and Loma Mar Vol. Fire Depts. as well as the CDF/County Fire Station at Pescadero were dispatched to a Structure Fire on Cougar Ridge Rd. off of Gazzos

Creek Rd. in the Pescadero area. The fire was several miles off of Gazos Creek Rd. and only a off road engine; similar to the one that the La Honda Fire Dept. is currently raising funds to acquire, could reach the incidents location. Fire Fighters found a fully involved structure that regrettably burned to its foundation. Fortunately no one was injured as a result of this fire and its cause has yet to be determined.

There has now been a total of four house fires that resulted in a total loss to occur in our rural area since April of this year. In one of these fires two very young children's lives were lost. This is a reminder to every resident and homeowner on the Southcoast that these types of fires can and will continue to happen here. It should not be taken for granted that a house fire will always affect someone else. Now is the time for you to assess your homes fire safety. Do you have the proper number of smoke detectors, are they working, when did you last change their batteries? Early fire detection can clearly help protect the lives of your family and give the Fire Dept. the best chance of stopping a fire and saving as much of your home and personal property as possible. Does your home have adequate water with which to fight a fire? This has been a big problem in three of these fires. If your area is not served by a "Rated Fire Hydrant System" (only about 6 percent of the Southcoast is) you should attempt to have at least 10,000 gallons of water on site and it needs to be plumbed in a way that Fire Engines can connect to it. Is the route in to your home marked and does your home have an easily read address?

Per the National Fire Prevention Association December, January and February are some of the deadliest months of the year for home fires. For more information on Residential Fire Safety please see the La Honda Fire Brigades Dec. 2004 Newsletter, it's due to hit the mail next week. You may also find valuable information at the following Web Sites: [www.firesafety.gov](http://www.firesafety.gov), [www.usfa.fema.gov](http://www.usfa.fema.gov), [www.lahondafire.org](http://www.lahondafire.org), and [www.NFPA.org](http://www.NFPA.org). On behalf of all of the Fire Fighters who serve the San Mateo County Southcoast we wish you a happy and safe holiday season."

### **Sees Candy Sale for La Honda Educational Foundation**

"See's Holiday Gift boxes are on sale now at these locations: La Honda Post Office, Skywood Trading Post (at 84 and Skyline), Woodside Pharmacy (in downtown Woodside). We are selling the small holiday gift boxes (peanut brittle, chocolate Santa gift pack, mini fancy candies, and assorted chocolates) for \$4 each. All proceeds go to the La Honda Educational Foundation for teacher salaries, music and educational enrichment at La Honda Elementary." From Paula Womack" (Message #5520)

## **History of La Honda, continued!**

Here is a continuation of the highlights from "A History of La Honda" by **Werner (Bud) Foss**. Mary Bordi saw him this week and showed him a printout of The La Honda Voice with the first part of his history of La Honda. See gave me his phone number, and I plan to interview him! Thank you Mary, and thanks again to Charlie Catania for getting me started with this endeavor

Below are just highlights - the whole document will be posted soon (hopefully). It shows an interesting and informative side of life in La Honda before the turn of the century. Mountain lions, grizzlies, and rattlesnakes - it was quite a place!

**Sears** *[Each excerpt starts with a name of the section of the document it is from]*  
“On the Fourth of July, 1877, William Sears gave a big speech at Old La Honda, which was one of the highlights of the year. He informed his audience that he and his dad were going to build a store, hotel, dance hall, and barn at the old Bear Pit site, about three-quarters of a mile up the creek on Sears' property where La Honda now stands. Such people as George Atherton [and] all celebrities of san Mateo County took part in the big doings.”

“CB. Sears shot a mountain lion on his ranch on October 18, 1879, which measured seven feet in length. The lion had killed a young calf and was devouring it when Charlie shot him.”

### **Mendico**

“Juan Mendico, a Basque, came to San Mateo County in 1865 and settled in La

Honda...On November 28, 1885, grizzly bears got away with seven of his calves.”

### **Iverson**

“Chris Iverson, a Dane,...always carried an octagon-barrel six-shooter which the old timers claimed killed many an Indian and occasionally a white man.”

“Harry Love happened to come home this weekend, met Chris coming out of the house, and accused him of improper conduct with his wife. Chris tried to explain but Harry thought this would be a good time to get rid of him, so drew his gun, but Chris outdrew him and killed him instantly.”

### **Rodgers**

“On December 9, 1882, the children of Mrs. Sarah Maddox and Mrs. Ben Rodgers, Sr., found a few loose sticks of dynamite and threw them into the stove. The stove blew up, slightly burned the children, bu Mrs. Ben Rodgers I, when she died.”

### **Evans**

“A. George built his home before the Alpine road was open, bringing lumber from Page;s mill. The doors and windows he brought over the summit on horseback.”

### **Bartley**

“Dick Bartley had the distinction of killing the last grizzly bear in the La Honda district. In the late 1880's Dick's bulldog trailed the grizzly up the Alpine, everyone thinking it was a mountain lion. Two months later, Ceres Rodgers, while on her way to school, saw the large bear streak up the ridge. Dick set out poison for him. A few days passed and at the spot where he set the poison, he found the brush torn up, and a short

distance away, located the spot where the animal had vomited, No further trace of the animal was ever found.’

### **Wilbur**

“Henry Wilbur came to La Honda in 1870...For his splendid work with the building of San Mateo County school districts, a creek was named in honor of him.”

### **Dowd**

Alexander Dowd decided to become a lawyer but with the gold rush of 1848 ringing in his ears he quit school to find his share of the gold. It was on one of those prospecting trips that he followed the Stanislaus River and discovered the Calaveras Grove of Big Trees, high in the Sierras. Although he did not strike it rich and find a fortune of gold, he will always be remembered for his discovery of the Grove of Big Trees

...Dowd entertained the La Honda people with tricks he performed with snakes, until a rattlesnake bit him on the thumb and had to have it cut off. In 1885 when the grizzly bears were killing Alpine cattle left and right, A.T. set out to kill them. He shot one and set out to cut its throat before skinning it. The bear, however, had some life in him and bit off two of Alexander’s fingers before he rolled over and died.”

### **Monotti**

Fidel and Peter Monotti, of Swiss-Italian parentage, came to California in 1868. Peter...raised beef cattle...One of his bulls tried to run off in the woods, but Peter caught him. In the scramble, the bull tore off Peter’s ear which affected his hearing.”

### **Summer Campers**

Edward Washington Hause, a native of Maryland, came to San Francisco at the end of the civil war. He married Charlotte Hogan who had come to San Francisco “to pick up the gold off the streets.” The Hause and Kessing families became close friends and took regular trips to the Le Honda redwoods to fish and camp...In 1881 they put up a few small cabins and hung up a sign over the entrance, “Pioneer Camp, 1881...In the summer of 1891 when Pioneer camp was celebrating its tenth anniversary in La Honda, a series of summer camps opened. Thomas H. Dary built a cabin on his “Peek-a-boo Camp”; Mrs. Joyce and friends started “Camp Laurel”; John Christ opened his veteran “Cozy Nook Camp”; T.J. McNamara opened the “Maplewood Camp”; John McCarthy and his San Francisco outfit opened the “Jonah Camp”; Mrs. Solon came with her family to her “Brightwood Camp”; and Bernard Meyer opened his “Tanglewood Camp”.

If you are interested in placing an article in The Voice or have other comments or suggestions, send them to [TheVoice@lahonda.com](mailto:TheVoice@lahonda.com). I usually put out this newsletter Friday morning, and am willing to accept articles as late as Thursday morning.

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