

The La Honda Voice



Friday, November 12, 2004

San Mateo County Father of the Year

" Congratulations to La Honda's "own," longtime resident, **Georg Hellerich**, recently named San Mateo County's "Father of the Year!"

The spotlight doesn't often fall on those less vocal or visible. Georg has also found time to contribute to our community through school and neighborhood efforts, and been a LH Volunteer Firefighter for nearly twenty years. Article to follow in this Wednesday's issue of the HMB Review. Well Deserved Georg! " From: Kim Borick (msg #4984)

Retrospective of Neal Cassady on Saturday

" La Honda House "Chat and Chew with Jamie Cassady - a Retrospective of Neal Cassady" **Saturday, November 13th at 6 pm.** The La Honda House is hosting Jamie Cassady, her sister Cathy, and Neal Cassady's former partner, Ann Marie. They will talk about growing up and living in those notorious times with Neal Cassady (cohort of Ken Kesey and Jack Kerouac), one of La Honda's most interesting former residents. There will be a question and answer period. Please call 747-0312 for reservations. Mark it on your calendars." From Kathleen Dickey (see msg #5003).

The Cuesta Independent Action Coalition

A new group has formed in La Honda who call themselves the Cuesta Independent Action Coalition (CIAC, pronounced "cake"). They have provided this statement about their purpose:

"Many Cuesta La Honda Guild members are struggling to understand the current BOD's plan for our community. One concern is the increased Guild assessment fees. The high assessments have already resulted in a loss of some of our neighbors who have lived in this Community for many years, and potentially more with special payment plans due in about a month and a half. The proposed budget plan for 2005 is the maximum allowable by law. It is composed of questionable values that appear to be based upon a past budget and not actual expenditures. The budget line items end in too many "zeros" to be anything more than rough estimates, and these estimates mostly appear on the high side.

A second, and possibly more important, concern is the lack of community input into the decisions of the Board. The Board needs to re-energize Committees with general membership involvement. The Board must share all questions, comments, and suggestions with the community and base decisions on this information.

CAIC wants to change the present situation. CIAC will be endorsing and nominating candidates for the Board of Directors at the General Membership Meeting on November 14. Each of these candidates are committed to working with and educating the Community. One goal of CIAC is the reduction in Guild fees through realistic budget values and alternative funding. The Board meetings and Committees should again be a welcome place for the Membership to become involved.

Please **join CIAC Saturday at 2 PM at the La Honda Elementary School** and help make La Honda the Community it can be. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to call me at 747-0942, Carl Bralts at cbralts@yahoo.com or ciac@thesling.us

More Message Board Items...

The La Honda message board is at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/LaHonda>
Here are some interesting threads over past week:

La Honda Creek Workshop Update

"Those groups...made lists of all the concerns and suggestions for use of Preserve. Points which I felt had a great deal of agreement on were.

- 1 The development of trail system which would accommodate many types of users, hikers, bikers, equestrians, and possibly hikers with dogs...
2. Placing trails away from neighbors property lines to discourage trespassing onto neighboring properties.
3. The preservation of the character of the ranching community...
4. Controlling invasive plant species and excessive fuel for fire.
5. Connecting the trails on this preserve to others in the area
- 6 Using the Red barn and area around it

for parking, staging area for equestrians, trail head, etc...

7. The use of other structures scattered on the property for educational purposes

8. The protection of riparian habitat of La Honda Creek

The next meeting is at the school on December 6th. It is conveniently located at La Honda Elementary school at **7:PM**. ... For those of you who would enjoy access to the property in the future, I would recommend community involvement in the planning of these properties...On Nov. 20th there will be a tour of the property. In order to attend you must reserve a space contact Mr. Freeman if you are interested." From: Charlie Catania (see msg # 4931 for more details)

Recycling Area at the School

"...These requests came from... our La Honda School ...:

1. Please try harder to keep the recycling area neat...
 2. Someone has been riding dirt bikes ...on the school grounds after hours and on the weekends. Please don't. It tears up the hills and the fields and we're trying to get the fields fixed up."
- From: Heather (see msg # 4956)

Average Home Sales Price in 2003

"In 2003 the average home sale in Cuesta was \$547,222. So far in 2004 the average sale price is \$467,125. There were 9 sales in 2003. So far there have been four in 2004. This according to MLS." From: Scott Hayes (see msg # 4964)

Photos for Bird Lovers

" check out these kick ass pics i got of a hawk in half moon bay...http://www.inyourmind.org/misc/IMG_9383.jpg...[for more photos see post]...it's a shame i didn't have my big

lens, even without i was within 10 feet of this bird as it looked around for grub." From: Andrew Payne (see msg #4992).

Movie Night on Saturday

" Movie Night [on]Saturday, **November 13 [at] 6:30 Pizza**, 7:15 Shorts, 7:30 Iron Giant (PG). Our feature movie, The Iron Giant, follows the incredible adventures of young Hogarth Hughes who one night discovers and befriends an enormous robot that has fallen from the stars... in the LHE Multipurpose Room ... The La Honda Educational Foundation will pass the hat for donations to support teacher salaries and music. Please remember that all children must be accompanied and supervised by a responsible adult." From: Paula Womack (see msg #5003).

Checks and Balances for the BoD?

' There is a statement on the www.lahonda.com WEB page:

"The most important thing I can say is you need to get involved yourself to understand what is happening with the Guild and your monthly assessments. Go to the Board of Directors meeting, ask questions, and volunteer. In a nutshell, I see a hard-working Board of Directors, *but without enough checks and balances for my personal tastes.* "

With upcoming GMM Meeting it is important that members understand that the Guild is not a government that requires "*Checks and Balances*" we are a Common Interest Development private corporation governed by state and federal laws and are held in compliance by outside accountants and formal audits. I contend that we are held to a

higher standard than '*Checks and Balances*'

The Baron de Montesquieaus' "Checks and Balances" works great for a Federal Style Government fortunately we are not one. "From Larry Fama (see msg #5003).

The History of La Honda

Charlie Catania, who has also donated the use of the La Honda Gardens for a variety of Community events, has provided *The Voice* with the first part of the "History of La Honda." This was a Thesis by Werner C. Foss, Jr. at San Mateo Junior College in 1941. It is a fascinating account of the very earliest settlers of La Honda. A hand written note on it says it also won first place in the C.N.Kirkbride Contest in 1941...which means nothing to me, but probably was a big deal back then.

I don't have the whole document yet, but the Table of Contents outlines what is coming. Foss conducted interviews of the pioneer families, and many of the names you will encounter may sound familiar: Woodhams, Sears, Cavalli, and McLeod (I'm not sure if there is any relation to Toby). Here is a summary of the Table of Contents:

- I. Bibliography
- II. Introduction
- III. Some Pioneer Families
- IV. The Town
 - Old La Honda (Junction)
 - New La Honda
 - General Store/Post Office
 - Hotel
 - Blacksmith Shops
 - La Honda School
- V. Transportation
 - Roads
 - Knight
 - Knight's Stage Line
 - Motor Stages

- VI. Lumbering
 - Early Mills
 - Hanson Ackerson & Co.
 - Week Mills
 - Blomquist Bros.
 - Haskins & Sons
- VII. The La Honda "Bandits"
 - The truth about the
 - Younger Brothers

John Sears bought Sausman out and in 1877 built a store three-quarters of a mile up the La Honda Creek. The School, General Store & Post Office, Hotel, Stable and Blacksmith Shop were also established at that point and the community came to be known as "La Honda".

The actual document is typewritten with many hand edits. There is no softcopy, so I plan on re-typing the whole document and providing excerpts each week in *The Voice*.

Here are a few tidbits from what I have so far (although, I'm not going to vouch for the accuracy of any of this information)

Earliest History & Name "La Honda"

"The San Gregorio Rancho when granted to Antonio Buelna, was bounded by the "Arroyo Hondo," meaning in Spanish "deep creek". This name was used by such early American settlers in that valley as Burns John, Robinson Weeks, Michael Bubbs, George Carter and John Sears, but they not knowing Spanish too well, called the creek the "Arroyo Honda".

When A.S. Easton, County Surveyor, published a map of San Mateo County in 1868, he named the creek "Arroyo Honda". John Sears dropped the "Arroyo" and added "La", calling it "La Honda". This in Spanish happens to mean "the sling", which is probably merely a coincidence."

Andrew Sausman's store which stood at the junction of the La Honda and san Gregorio Creeks, became known as the "La Honda Junction".

Weeks Family

"...On January 31, 1880, one of Mrs. Knott's prize pullets laid an egg which measured six and one-half inches long and eight inches in circumference..."

The Dubbs family

"...During the diphtheria epidemic in the early 1880's, the Dubbs lost three daughters: Matilda, aged five years, Josephine at seven years and Theresa at two and one-half years..."

The Steinberg Family

"...On January 8, 1887, Mrs. Steinberg was bitten by a tarantula, the shock of which nearly killed her. Dr. Emerson came in the nick of time and drew the poison out of her system, thus saving her life..."

The Woodhams family

"...he [Maurice Woodhams] met Julia Lard, daughter of Fielding Lard, who came to California with the Donner party..."

It is great reading with lots of names and dates. As soon as I re-copy it, I'll post it on the lahonda.com website. Thanks Charlie!

Send comments, suggestions, etc. to:

The_Voice@lahonda.com

Bob Dougherty - PO Box 132,

La Honda - 650-747-0102