

The Scruffy Post

Vol. 10:3

Sept. 18, 2021



P.O. Box 374 Smartsville, CA 95977

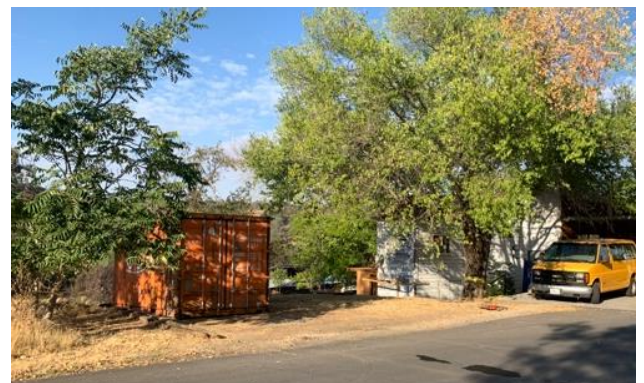
www.smartsvillechurchrestoration.org

Progress Check

Restoration of the church remains our mission and the progress these past months are in the electrical and window work. A building permit and plans have been obtained for the electrical wiring which will be done as a volunteer service by Tommie Barry of Barry Electric from Live Oak. John Wright of Wright's Restoration continues his quality work on the windows.

One barrier to facilitate work inside the church is now overcome, with the rental of a large storage container from our helpful neighbor across the street, Lauren Greene.

We're currently pricing a restroom facility, which will need to go on the outside of the church and are looking into making parking spots on the Church Street side of the church. The stage is another outside structure we're planning to build to enhance our events.



Patrick Jouganatos of Storage Group Inc unloads the large steel container across the street.

Inquiries About our Events

It's gratifying to know that many Smartsville Church Restoration Fund, Inc. supporters miss our events, postponed during the pandemic situation. We continue to hope to have such events, especially Pioneer Day. We're planning to have Wreaths Across America in December and are also thinking about how we can celebrate the 150th anniversary of our church building (thanks for remembering, newest board member Jacob McDonald).

Pioneer Day continues to be the most memorable event. Driving past the church one day a young woman was taking photos. It turned out Alea-Baker Dockrey grew up in our area and was utterly grateful to be shown inside the church. For her, Pioneer Day was a happy childhood memory. Visiting Smartsville was a highlight of her trip all the way from England, where she now lives.



This scene was a big surprise for Alea-Baker.

Artist Al Rundall at one of many Pioneer Days

Recently we were given back a raffle prize donation of a welded metal church model by the winner who asks us to display it. We can display it in the church with our other art pieces, which we continue to receive. Hopefully you've seen photos of the artwork over the years in this newsletter, including paintings and church models. If not, come to Pioneer Day!

This most recent contribution is a welded metal model of the church measuring over two feet high which can be hung on a wall. It is one of the awesome creations of local resident Al Rundall, delivered to us by stepdaughter Deanna Evango. Al's wife and Deanna's mother, Judy Underwood, helped us on Pioneer Day till she passed away in December, 2016. Deanna remarked, "Mama always had him do one raffle prize every year."

Al has lived in the Smartsville area since 1986 and at age 79 still works for himself in heating and air conditioning (which is where he got the metal for the church art). Deanna added he enjoys kayaking, boating, motorcycle runs on his Harley and sitting by the pool with a glass of wine. We're hoping he attends our Pioneer Day again.

Al's church model is seen above in the masthead of this newsletter, along with a crocheted blanket that was a past raffle prize by local postal worker Linda Wygal, already at work at another raffle prize for next Spring. Another local crochet artist is Hilda Biffle, also promising one of her handiworks.

Thanks kindly to all the wonderful people who truly support SCRFI's work, especially Ned and Carol Spieker. Our new friends of Native Sons of the Golden West are most supportive, too. Read on to learn about this year's Wreaths Across America.



**Smartsville's talented crocheters,
Hilda Biffle and Linda Wygal**



Wreaths Across America

It's not too soon to think about our third year celebrating a national event to honor local deceased soldiers from our community. Mary Clark, with Letty Litchfield's help, has once again coordinated funding the wreaths and delivering and placing them at our local cemeteries, with a special memorial wreath to place at our historic church grounds.

If you would like to purchase a wreath for \$15 to honor one of our area's own veterans on Saturday, December 18th, this link will allow you to buy one or more: [Smartsville Wreaths for Veterans](#). Details about the event will be shared as we approach December's date.



A wreath decorates the commemorative WWI plaque of Edward "Ned" McGanney. Last year we had a small gathering. We expect more people this year and will enjoy showing you the interior progress of the church.



By the next time you visit these items will be in storage and more windows will be restored, as in the entry.

The One Hundred Fiftieth Anniversary of the Church *more or less*

By Kathy Smith

Last week our new board member, Jacob McDonald, pointed out that 2021 is the 150th anniversary of the church building (our sesquicentennial). That's what it says in front of the church, but in all my archival data it points to 1870 as the date. So, I decided to try and solve the mystery.

In 1860 with the support of several local families mostly of Irish descent a small church was built at Smartsville in Roses Bar Township. On the twenty-fifth of November, 1860 The Archbishop Alemany made a visit to the new built St. Roses in Smartsville where he confirmed many young people from the nearby camps oof Parks Bar, Timbuctoo, and Sucker Flat. Their names are recognizable as early families who settled in the area.

Between 1860 and 1870 there was no resident priest at Smartsville. However, St. Roses small and devoted congregation was served by visiting priests, Fr. Morris, Fr. Blake and Bishop O'Connell from Marysville.

On October 30th, 1869 the Sacramento Union reported that a fire at Smartsville on the night of the 29th at 12:30 am had caused much destruction. The toll was the Catholic Church, Duhain & Deseel's, Eiericks & Toklas' stores and several other buildings were destroyed. The Post Office, both Expresses and the Telegraph office were also burned.

In the summer of 1870 advertisements were placed in the Daily Appeal requesting contractors to deliver sealed bids by August 15th for the construction of a new Catholic church in Smartsville. The plans could be obtained at Father Callan's house in Marysville or in Smartsville at the residence of James O'Brien. The building committee was Daniel McGanney, Father Callan and James O'Brien.

Local lore has it that the church was rebuilt in time for Christmas Eve service that year. December 24th is very close to the next year and it's possible it was not completely finished until 1871, so the date is a good one to use as the anniversary. Not being able to find any information about a dedication, we can tell you that the first resident pastor of that parish was Fr. Daniel O'Sullivan in 1871, the cousin of Fr. Dan Madigan of Sacramento.



Undated photo. Note the bell at the back of the church, not yet in a tower.



The Rev. Daniel O'Sullivan (1846 – 1928)
(Photo courtesy of St. Mary's in the Mountains, Virginia City)