

<http://www.smartsvillehistoricchurch.org>

www.pioneerday.info

Byzantine Studio Begins Work on Sanctuary!

One of the gems inside the historic Catholic Church of the Immaculate Conception is the sanctuary, with its enormous vaulted apse ceiling and its altar and tables. We have found an expert restorer, Aurel Onut, who has worked in California on several church restorations and is anxious to work here in Smartsville.

The work entails erecting tall scaffolding, removing damaged plaster and framing, building new framing, attaching new lathe where needed, putting on three coats of plaster, cleaning and touching up painting on the altar and tables, and for a beautiful finish, bringing to new life the words painted high upon the wall, "Gloria in Excelsis Deo." Come to Pioneer Day on April 25th to view the progress.

We're also planning repair of our eleven windows and hope to have an agreement made to begin that important work. Last year's non-profit group, HistoriCorps, is willing to return this year to do the job. We're grateful to all of our donors like you who have faithfully contributed to our work, especially to Ned and Carol Speiker who have pledged to give half of the funds needed for the sanctuary restoration. Please keep the donations coming in, as we need to match those funds.



Aurel Onut, Byzantine Painting Studio

Wreaths Across America in Smartsville

Events on the church grounds, such as Wreaths Across America, remind us of why we have our mission to restore the former Catholic church for community use. On December 15th we hosted such an event to honor the memory of a former Smartsville citizen. One hundred years ago a plaque was placed for Edward James “Ned” McGanney, who had died in the Battle of the Argonne in France during World War I. The huge redwood tree which towers above the plaque, now matching the height of the bell tower, was planted then in Ned’s honor. How fitting to meet with community members and friends one hundred years afterwards to place a Christmas wreath and remember the sacrifices given for our freedom. Thanks to all for coming and to Ron Gross for getting the grounds ready.

On the same weekend thousands of such wreaths were placed upon graves of military men and woman in a movement called Wreaths Across America which began in 2007. We were fortunate that two relations of Thomas Mooney, gold rush era owner of the local Empire Ranch and namesake for Mooney Flat and Mooney Flat Road, had found us to donate a portrait of Mooney. These two sisters, Sally Knutson and Charle Lennon, were inspired later to bring an actual Wreaths Across America wreath for “Ned” McGanney and describe its purpose. SCRFI president Kit Burton was Master of Ceremonies. Eleven-year-old Madison E. recited her award-winning poem called Guardian Spirit, and SCRFI vice-president Kathy Smith read excerpts from the George Rigby book she helped edit, The Sage of Smartsville.

We greatly appreciated the tamales for lunch, fixed by Ron’s family, with his daughter Alexandria Pacheco in charge. Many thanks go out to the volunteers who provided side dishes, drinks, desserts and who served the food. Lunch was accompanied by the Christmas caroling of Plinky and Plunky and Friends and the church was opened for inspecting our progress, especially the bell tower, with the historic bell ringing. We think a new tradition in Smartsville for Wreaths Across America has begun!



Sisters Sally Knutson and Charle Lennon place the wreath.



Ned McGanney’s plaque



Madison E. recites "Guardian Spirit".



Five generations of Madison's family!



Kathy reads from George Rigby.



Sisters Sally and Charle with Kit, Master of Ceremonies



Volunteers Kathy, John, Sue, Stacie and Stephanie



Harlan and Ben ring the bell.

WIN THIS CHURCH MODEL!

In the last newsletter we described being gifted with an attractive model of the historic church for the purposes of raising funds for our restoration work. We'll draw three winning tickets on Pioneer Day, April 25. Second place is a framed print and third place is one of our traditional vendor raffle donations.

Last month our church model began its tour around the community, beginning with Fletcher Insurance in Marysville on 4th and C Streets. The entire staff was glad to house the church model and the second-place prize, an autographed print by Nick Vogt of a 1950's scene of the Church of the Immaculate Conception. Owners Randy and Kathy Fletcher already have some interesting displays, including an antique carriage and a freight wagon with an old-fashioned chest. They appreciate our local history and have been very supportive of our work, including their annual appearance at Pioneer Day as greeters on the east end of our Smartsville festival, as well as generous donations over the years.

Tickets to help raise funds will be on sale on Pioneer Day. One ticket costs \$5 or three tickets are \$10.

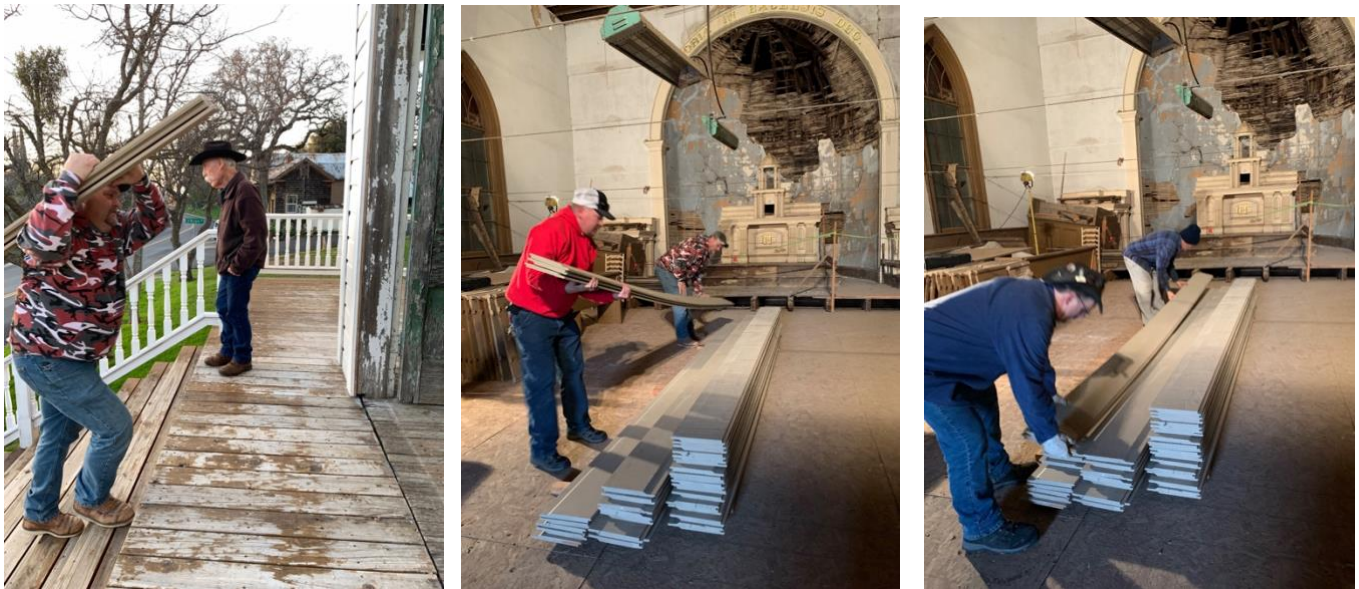


Fletcher & Assoc. employees Missy Kurkham and Laurie Benzel



Donation of Wood Siding

Our local chapter of E Clampus Vitus remains a loyal friend to SCRFI. Their leader, the past “humbug,” Shawn Nuttall asked for and received a donation of cedar siding from Unity Forest Products to help with our restoration work. We’re most grateful to finally be able to enclose the entire building and keep out the neighborhood critters who like to go under the floor. Volunteer construction workers are welcomed to help us with this important work. Contact Kit Burton at (530) 701-2639 if you’d like to help.



Clamper Mike Antrobus, SCRFI president Kit Burton, Clampers Shawn Nuttall and Mark Sellards, and SCRFI volunteer Ron Gross

Pioneer Day!!

We’d like to remind you of our annual event, Pioneer Day. We’re in our 13th year and it has remained a wholesome, fun family event with the benefit of drawing attention to and raising funds for our work in SCRFI. New highlights of the upcoming day on April 25th include viewing restoration work on the apse inside the church and preparation for the windows restoration, and the unveiling of the Thomas Mooney restored painting.

We hope to see the reenactment of Father Andrew Twomey inside the church, portrayed by the president of Friends for the Preservation of Yuba County History, Leroy Tindle. Our Timbuctoo Theatre will host an interesting array of speakers and we’re trying to get Native American dancers this year, too. Sue Cejner-Moyers and Mike Moyers will lead a fun game of local county BINGO. We’ll have our mining tours, good food, craft vendors, blacksmithing demonstration, and information booths, along with children’s activities and music on the main stage. We’re hoping for the best event yet!



Painting conservator, Margie Miller, with original Jessie Mooney painting of Thomas Mooney



Carolan Jones-Rodgers, our "acorn lady"



The ever popular mining tour heading back



One of the interesting vending booths

COMING SOON!

The Native Sons of the Golden West are looking to reinstate the former parlor in Smartsville. Both men and woman may join the Native Sons. Stay tuned for updates and check out the website for [NSGW](http://NSGW.org).

Our next SCRFI meeting is Tuesday, March 10th at 5:30 pm in the Smartsville Community Church. Guests are welcome!