



The Scruffy Post

Volume 12:1

March 31, 2023

SCRFI P.O. Box 374, Smartsville, CA 95977

www.smartsvillechurchrestoration.org

14th Annual Pioneer Day

Planning for this year's Pioneer Day is well under way, but it's not too late if you want to participate as a vendor, volunteer, or to portray a historical character. The craft and food vendors, musical entertainment on stage, talks in the Timbuctoo Theatre, children's activities, mining tours, demonstrations, and of course the viewing inside the historic former Church of the Immaculate Conception will make the trip to Smartsville worthwhile.

The future *Smartsville Salvage and Sundry* store across from the historic church and the Smartsville Community Church also provide hospitable and interesting places to visit. The blacksmith Doug Ward is returning, along with Leroy Prindle, from Friends for the Preservation of Yuba County History, who again will portray Fr. Andrew Twomey (1887 – 1902) inside the church.

Our favorite bands are returning – Stamp Mill Stompers, Buffalo Gals, and Bo Bevitori and Friends – plus there's the addition of a gospel group with a lively sound to begin our day, led by Brian Barber. Pastor Jerry Cooper of the Smartsville Community Church will lead an invocation, sing, and introduce Brian. Plinky and Plunky once again offer a photo op with children and rhythm instruments on stage.

See you when you return or come for the first time to Pioneer Day on April 29th!



Preparation for Pioneer Day is major work.



Collecting and delivering raffle prizes is an annual tradition.



Music by our own Ace and Bo



The mining tour is always a favorite.

NEW EVENT IN SMARTSVILLE

By Kit and Janet Burton and Kathy Smith

Every year at Pioneer Day we celebrate the town's settlers. This year, a few weeks ago, a new event was introduced to honor one of the area's foremost citizens, Fr. Andrew Twomey. He was the Catholic priest who tragically died on March 8, 1902 at the age of 36. He drowned in the flood waters of Dry Creek on his way from Smartsville to minister to the residents of Rackerby on Sunday morning.

Fr. Twomey was loved by the local residents and has been remembered since Pioneer Day began in 2007 on the last Saturday of April, portrayed by Leroy Prindle, as already noted.

Beginning this year, Fr. Twomey's life was also remembered in a new event on the anniversary of his death, March 8, thanks to the inspiration and organization of local resident Luis Vazquez. This first annual gathering took place at two locations, the former Church of the Immaculate Conception in Smartsville and the Smartsville Catholic Cemetery. Visitors at the church were impressed and moved by Fr. Twomey's story and by the historic church. It was thought they'd be inside the church for less than a half hour, but happily they stayed for two hours. Afterwards, they attended a memorial service and mass at the gravesite.

Hopefully you'll talk to Leroy this year inside the church on April 29th to learn about the priest who served so faithfully in our area. And we hope that next year we'll see more of our SCRFI friends on March 8th to celebrate Fr. Twomey's life.



Kathy Smith, Fr. Avram, Luis Vazquez, Fr. Erik



Fr. Andrew Twomey

(courtesy Sacramento Catholic Diocese archives)

KIT'S QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER RESTORATION PROGRESS

SCRFI'S president, Kit Burton, has lots to report and here are his notes:

Church restoration progress this winter began with David Mitchell, a local carpenter-handyman, stopping a major roof leak, repairing storm damage and fixing the buckling floor in the entry and the sanctuary. David also replaced the floor in the sanctuary which had been missing a section for many years and a missing step in the spiral staircase.



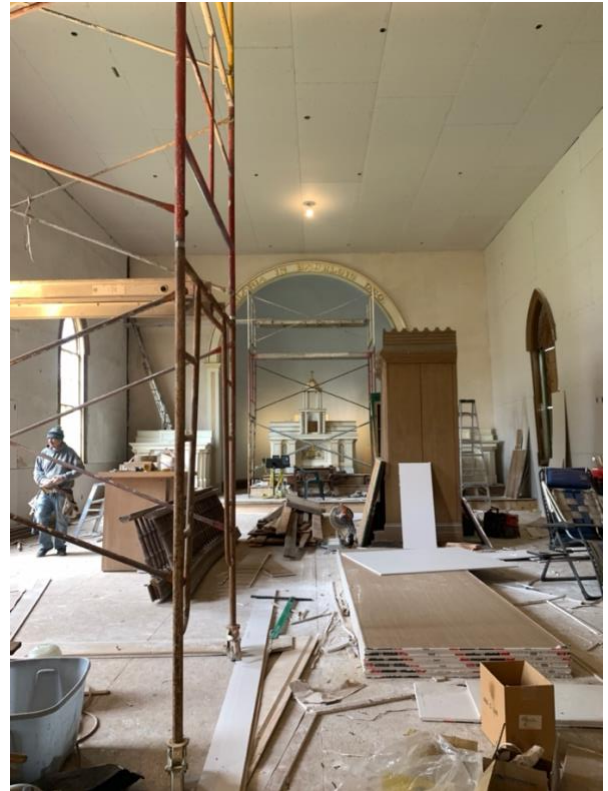
David at work repairing the door, the entry and the stage floor

Neighbor Joe Ramus, Jr., of JR Square Construction, along with his father, Joe, Sr., a Smartsville resident in his youth, inspected dry rot and some water damage. They made structural repairs and added plywood sheathing to portions of the walls where the original interior wall covering had to be removed. After strengthening some ceiling joists, Joe did additional repair work suggested by the Yuba County building inspector.



Joe and his father, Joe, discuss ceiling repairs.

In late March, Keith Brown Drywall Company, Inc. installed sheet-rock on the interior walls and ceiling. It is currently being taped and painting will follow.



Keith Brown Drywall Company, Inc. workers Alex and Jason delivered drywall. Ramon and his sons hung it.

Meanwhile, window and wood expert John Wright continues his efforts to restore the remaining windows.



John and Kit discuss east wall window restoration. John removed the smaller window in the bell tower for repair.

The result of all this effort leads to a dramatic visual improvement to the church interior that visitors will be stunned – I mean stunned – at. Pioneer Day is our way to show our progress in restoring the former Catholic church. The next projects will involve finish electrical work, flooring, installing the railing and pews, and exterior painting. The completed, restored building will be a meeting and visitors center and a museum.

Not only will the building demonstrate a vital element of California gold rush history, it will serve as a reminder of what life in early California was like.

For more information contact Kit and Janet Burton (530) 701-2639, (530) 701-5090,
or Kathleen Smith (916) 838-2757.



The poster is designed to look like a piece of aged, yellowed paper. At the top, there is a circular illustration of a church with a bell tower, surrounded by trees and mountains. A red banner across the middle of the illustration reads "SMARTSVILLE & TIMBUCTOO". Below the illustration, the words "PIONEER DAY" are written in large, stylized letters. "PIONEER" is in a bold, blocky font, and "DAY" is in a more decorative, cursive-like font. To the right of the illustration is a circular seal with a star border, containing the text "14th ANNUAL". Below the main title, the phrase "Join the Fun!" is written in a cursive font. To the right of this, a large red banner contains the date and time "APRIL 29 9 am - 4 pm" in yellow text. Below the banner, a list of activities is provided, each preceded by a right-pointing arrow. At the bottom, contact information is listed, including phone numbers and a website. A small line of text at the very bottom states that the proceeds benefit the restoration of the 1871 building by the Smartsville Church Restoration Fund, Inc. (SCRFI), a non-profit group.

Join the Fun!

- Live Music & Historic Characters
- Tour the Historic Smartsville Church
- Craft & Food Vendors
- Blue Point Mine & Sucker Flat Tours
- Children's Activities

Information. (916) 838-2757 or (530) 701-5090 or (530) 701-2639
www.smartsvillechurchrestoration.org

Proceeds benefit restoration of the 1871 building by the Smartsville Church Restoration Fund, Inc. (SCRFI, a non-profit group)

WANTED: NEW SMARTSVILLE ENTRY SIGN

Sadly, somebody took our nice sign holder on the west end of Smartsville. It was reported to the sheriff's department, but nothing has been heard. Rodney Ivey made two sign holders for us at one time. You've seen him in this photo for years. If you have something we could use to replace it, that would be very much appreciated.



This is the one that went missing.



Fortunately, we still have this sign on the east end of town.