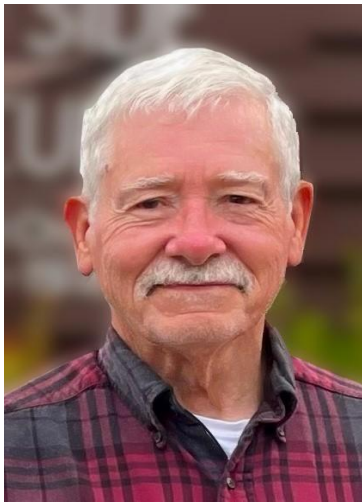


# Pacifica Historical Society

Newsletter Volume 19 Issue 2 Summer 2025

## President's Letter

Several board members and I recently took a tour of Mission San Francisco de Asis, better known as Mission Dolores in San Francisco. Our guide was Andrew Galvan, mission curator and the only Native Californian in charge of a California mission. His Ohlone ancestor was



baptized at the mission, and his family has remained Catholic through the generations. Andrew is a very engaging speaker, and he explained how he is changing the narrative of the mission from the Spanish to the Ohlone point of view - after all, they were the ones to build and manage the mission. He showed us the tomb of Francisco Sanchez, the last commandant of the Presidio and the owner of Rancho San Pedro (today's Pacifica). He also showed us the tombstones his family have erected for his ancestors buried there, a very touching moment. I will arrange for him to give a talk to PHS about the Ohlone, an event I hope you will not miss.

Also in June, board member Susan Stallard and I attended a meeting of the directors of historical museums on the Peninsula, hosted by the Colma Historical Association at their museum. We shared our common concerns about finances, recruiting members, ways to involve the community, and more. The

conversations were very useful, but we all felt the need to talk more about these issues. Another meeting will take place in October. I offered the use of our museum, which was readily accepted. I will share the ideas that are suggested at that meeting in my next message.

One way we are engaging the community is to have historic walks in Sharp Park on the last Saturday of every month. So far, we have been averaging a dozen people on our walk, led by me or another PHS historian.

Some of the walkers are locals, some from neighboring cities, and often they visit the museum afterward and buy Pacifica Jack cheese. If you haven't yet gone on this walk, please join us Aug. 30 at noon and learn about the early history of our town.

We recently held a "Hobo Dinner" at the museum as a fundraiser for the restoration of Ocean Shore Railroad car 1409. The dinner was hot dogs and beans, and wonderful music and entertainment, emceed by Rob Wullenjohn. It was a roaring success, as evidenced by the number of people attending (over 70!) and their enthusiasm for singing along with the musicians. The money raised helped with the purchase of the two trucks (wheel assemblies) that will eventually go under car 1409.

Make sure to mark your calendars: We're having the 10th anniversary celebration of the opening of the Pacifica Coastside Museum on Saturday, August 23rd. Hope to see you then.

Sincerely,

Stephen Johnson



# 10th Anniversary of the Pacifica Coastside Museum



**Join us as we celebrate 10 years of keeping Pacifica history alive.**

**Where:** Pacifica Coastside Museum, 1850 Francisco Blvd., Pacifica

**When:** Saturday, August 23, 2025

**Time:** 1 - 4 pm

Social Hour & Video 1 -2 pm

Panel discussion 2 - 2:30 pm

Unveiling of Plaque of Appreciation

Cake and beverages afterward

*Admission free, donations gratefully accepted*

[PacificaHistory.org](http://PacificaHistory.org)

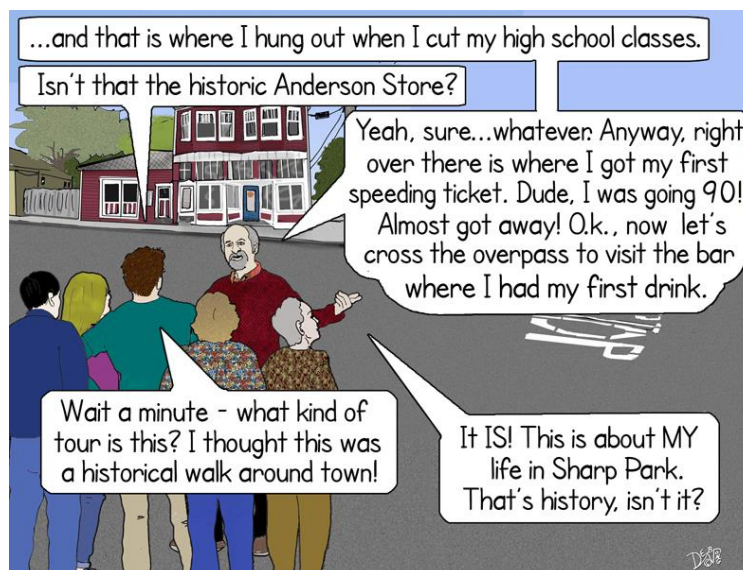


# Sharp Park Walking Tours

Join us and spread the word to friends and neighbors: the last Saturday of each month, PHS is conducting walking tours of one of Pacifica's fascinating, history-filled neighborhoods: Sharp Park.

Meet at the museum at noon for a casual and easy stroll that ends around 1 p.m., just in time for a museum visit. The next walks are August 30 and October 25 (September's walk is cancelled due to Fog Fest). No RSVP needed. Free admission; donations appreciated.

(Top left photo, Mike O'Neill leading a group, on right, PHS President Steve Johnson guides a tour. Deb Wong's light-hearted take is at the bottom.).



# ***Train Committee Report***

We last reported the actions of the OSRR train committee through April 2025 in the spring issue of the newsletter. The committee researched all over northern California for several years, to locate trucks (wheeled chassis that support rail cars) for OSRR 1409. One hundred-year-old rail trucks are difficult to find.

In May, we were advised that a set were at the Northwestern Pacific Railway Historical Society's yard in Petaluma. After traveling there, the committee decided they needed a lot of work, and we would continue to research. In July, after failing to locate other trucks, we returned to Petaluma. Measurements were taken and negotiations made. The PHS board of directors approved the acquisition at its next meeting.

We then had to locate flat bed trucks to pick up and deliver the railroad trucks to Pacifica. Arrangements had to be made with the railway society to open the yard for delivery. Lots of timing and details to work out!

Steve Johnson, PHS president, drove Kathleen Manning, our chairman, and I to Petaluma to make the payment and watch the loading of the trucks. They are 7 feet long by 9 feet. Each weighs 5000 pounds. The forklift driver used two forklifts to load them onto the 21-foot bed of the tow truck and managed to have each set loaded. The driver was very knowledgeable in supervising, and each set was firmly chained down.

Problems occurred when we reached Pacifica.



We had gone to Public Works for permission to place traffic barricades, but we were told it wasn't possible because it was a public parking lot.

We placed eight cones around an area so that the tow truck could make a U turn in the lot.

When we arrived, there was a truck parked in the middle of our cones and an RV parked close by. We couldn't unload where we had planned. It was a waste of time to phone the Pacifica police for help because we had been told it was a public lot. So, our plan for placing the trucks inside the fenced area with Car 1409 was impossible.

The tow truck driver managed to back up through the north side of the lot and offload the trucks in the area outside the north side of the fenced rail car.

Now we must work with the city to have the trucks in a spot that is, as of now, unapproved.

Our hope is that the city will permit us to extend the fence. Our work will continue to complete the restoration and have OSRR 1409 moved to the corner location at Francisco Boulevard and Salada Avenue. – Shirlee Gibbs, OSRR Train Committee/photos by Raquel Iverson

## ***E-Waste Collection Sept. 20***

Do you have an old printer that doesn't work anymore? A phone that has been replaced with an upgrade? A drawer or box of wires or cables that you don't need? Do you want to help save the planet and clear out unwanted electronics? Do you also want to help out the Pacifica Historical Society?

The PHS is sponsoring an e-waste collection event on Saturday, September 20, 9am to 2pm, at the Sea Bowl parking lot, 4625 Coast Highway. Bring your acceptable items. Helpers at the site will take care of the rest.

Acceptable items: Televisions, computers, servers, monitors, laptops, printers, phones, stereos, cell phones, and wire/cables.

Unacceptable items: Toys, alkaline batteries, bulbs, hair dryers, household items, microwave ovens, fans/heaters, other appliances.

Start now to save acceptable items for the e-waste collection event on September 20. Another notice and flyer will go out closer to the event. You will clear out some clutter, help save the planet and help PHS! It is a win, win, win! – Susan Stallard

## ***Our Cheese is a Hit!***



Pacifica Jack Cheese was a big hit at the recent Handmade Pacifica event at Sanchez Art Center. PHS members, (left to right), Deidra Crow (as dairyman's wife, Mrs. Mori), Michele Trausch, Karen Bacheller and Kathy McGuire sold dozens of blocks of our renowned cheese.

If you haven't heard KQED-FM's story about Pacifica Jack, here's the link:

<https://www.kqed.org/news/11916538/move-over-monterey-pacifica-lays-claim-to-iconic-jack-cheese>



## ***Hobo Dinner Sell Out***



Our OSRR Car 1409 fundraiser was a sellout, thanks to the hard work of many PHS members. More than \$2,000 was raised for the restoration, through ticket sales, raffles and a silent auction.

## ***Thank you, Helen Price, RIP***

My Pedro Point neighbor and friend, Helen Price, who passed away several years ago, left behind wonderful tributes to what she admired and loved about Pacifica: the schools, Pacifica Performances and the Pacifica Historical Society. She was frugal and smart and a woman ahead head of her time. Our share of her estate, \$98,000, will be used frugally, wisely and to further our goals and projects. On behalf of us all at PHS, thank you, Helen. We will remember your humor, your uniqueness and your generosity. – Kathleen Manning

*In September of 2001, Pacifica Tribune writer Jean Bartlett interviewed Helen Price following a local performance of the theater ensemble "Word for Word." Jean, who was friends with Helen, used that story for this remembrance.*

The San Francisco-based Word for Word reads, with brilliant theatrics, classic and contemporary literature verbatim on the stage. Helen, who was always dressed straight out of bohemian Vogue including with fabulous hats, was in the audience for that 2001 Pacifica performance. It was no surprise she was there. She loved words. She was also a huge celebrant of the arts, particularly of Pacifica Performances. Classical music and opera were her great joys and despite her tiny frame, 5 ft. 1 and maybe 95 pounds, she could belt out opera like a pro. Additionally, she was the retired speech and language therapist for the Laguna Salada School District. She did that for 25 years, driving from school to school to help Pacifica's youngest access their best communication abilities. "I believe with our every breath, every vocalization and every movement that we need to elevate children by our own behavior," Helen said. "Children are the most wonderful gifts in the world and we need to nurture them. So often today, people do not hear themselves. Words misspoken can have disastrous results. Encouragement of the proper pronunciation of language is an essential ingredient for the human need to be heard and to hear." A frequent contributor to saving Pacifica history through financial support, the longtime Pacifica resident, who designed her home in Pedro Point, could appear to be the epitome of decorum, but a private conversation revealed she was hilarious. Helen did enjoy a fine glass of red wine or sherry, and undoubtedly would enjoy, at any point, a toast in her memory.

# ***Clorinda Campagna (1931-2025)***

Longtime PHS Board member and cheerleader for the entire Pacifica community, Clorinda passed away April 8 surrounded by her family and friends. After an exciting life as a renown opera singer, she raised her large and lively family on Gypsy Hill and was active in education, Good Shepherd Catholic Church, the Pacifica Historical Society, Pacifica Open Space Committee, Relay for Life, UNICEF and other groups too numerous to list here.



Her 15 plus years as a PHS board member included organizing fund raising opportunities. See those charming, handmade donation containers in our museum? Clorinda created those from the mixed nuts she bought at Costco. She took the photo, printed it, glued it to the container (she was a big proponent of recycling!) and made several that are in use 10 years later — a very rough estimate by Jerry Crow puts at least \$4,000 realized by her efforts with this project.

Clorinda organized our participation in the Fog Fest parade for several years, once even renting a motorized cable car to ease the one mile walk for elderly members. She also helped with early fund-raising efforts at Sam's Castle, replete in her costumed persona of Madame FiFi of Chateau Lafayette fame — red boa, black fishnet stockings and all — Oooh La La!

Jean Bartlett wrote a comprehensive biography of Clorinda. It's located in the binders in the museum's Local Notables reading corner by the player piano. Stop by next time you visit the museum to read more about Clorinda and her remarkable life. Or read online at

<https://www.bartlettbiographies.com/pacifica-stories>

We thank Clorinda for her laughter, her generosity, her perspective, her wisdom and her enthusiasm—Godspeed Clorinda. – Deidra Crow

## ***Local Students Enjoy Museum***

A group of Daly City kindergarten through second grade students visited our museum in June. They learned about Pacifica's long and interesting history and were entertained by PHS board members Deidra Crow and Jay Crawford. One of the parent chaperones, an Ohlone descendant, complimented Deidra on her "thoughtful presentation of Ohlone culture."



## ***Shirlee's Milestone Birthday***



PHS Vice President Shirlee Gibbs celebrated a milestone birthday at the museum recently. Shirlee is the mover and shaker behind so much at PHS, including our monthly rummage sales. The celebration also recognized Shirlee's years of hard work as she steps back (a bit) from organizing the rummage sales.

Happy birthday, Shirlee!



# Pacifica Historical Society

A Non-Profit Organization

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Email: [Info@PacificaHistory.org](mailto:Info@PacificaHistory.org)

Visit our website <https://PacificaHistory.org> for news and materials, including links to historical resources and videos.

Subscribe to our Facebook page: Pacifica Historical Society

President: Steve Johnson

Vice President: Shirlee Gibbs

Vice President: Pat Kremer

Vice President: Susan Stallard

Secretary: Carolyn Miller

Treasurer: Janet Ang

Board of Directors: Karen Bacheller, Jay Crawford, Deidra Crow, Shirlee Gibbs, Laura Del Rosso, Sue Digre, Steve Johnson, Pat Kremer, Terri McCann, Kathy McGuire, Carolyn Miller, Mike O'Neill, Susan Stallard, Brigid Voss

Emeritus Members Kathleen Manning, Jerry Crow

Newsletter Editors: Laura Del Rosso, Susan Stallard

The Pacifica Historical Society welcomes everyone to join our organization and join our committees. We hold monthly Board Meetings on the second Tuesday of each month, 7 pm. The Planning Committee for events and activities meets monthly on the last Thursday of each month, 4 pm.

The Pacifica Coastside Museum and gift shop are open Thursdays and Saturdays, 1 to 4 PM. The shop features books, postcards, and other items of interest, including the famous Pacifica Jack cheese. The museum is free to the public and ADA accessible, and our docents are there to assist.

The museum (formerly The Little Brown Church) is a wonderful venue for meetings, weddings, parties and events, and it's a revenue generator for the PHS. Please spread the word that it's available. For rental information, call or text Deidra Crow at 650-303-1670.

Bargains are available at the PHS's popular rummage sales, usually held during the second Fridays and Saturdays of each month. Donated items are welcomed for drop-off on the Thursday mornings before the days of each rummage sale.

To join the Pacifica Historical Society, see <https://PacificaHistory.org/join>. Dues are good for the calendar year. Donations are always gratefully accepted. Our Federal Tax ID # is 943117665.



Pacifica Historical Society  
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