



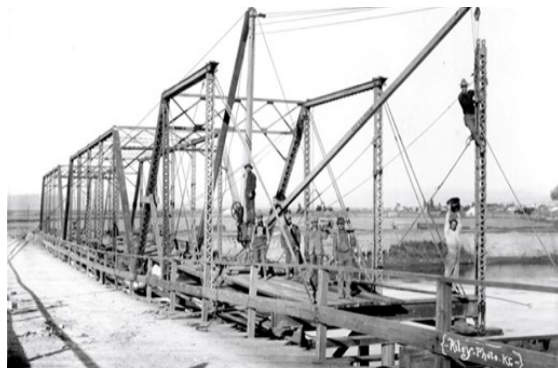
# Newsletter

WORKING FOR A FUTURE  
 THAT CELEBRATES THE  
 PAST

IN THIS  
 ISSUE

- 1 Spring Tour
- 2 President Message
- 3 Meet Our New Board Members
- 4 Jolon Country in 1911
- 5 Jolon Country in 1911 Part 2
- SAVHA's YouTube Channel
- 6 South Coast
- 7 Santa Lucia Fir
- 8 How to Reach Us

## BRIDGES OF SOUTHERN MONTEREY COUNTY



**King City Salinas River Bridge 1910**

A Springtime outing labeled "The Bridges of Southern Monterey County" is being planned for Saturday, April 22, 2023. It will be the featured portion of the San Antonio Valley Historical Association's (SAVHA) annual spring tour.

The event is scheduled to begin at 9:30 a.m. with coffee and pastries in the Irrigation Building at San Lorenzo Park in King City in cooperation with the Monterey County Agricultural

and Rural Life Museum. The tour will include a video presentation of historic bridges along the Salinas River and surrounding areas presented by local historian John Jernigan.



**Opening of San Ardo Bridge April 1908**

Participants will then go by private vehicles to bridge sites in King City, San Lucas, San Ardo and Bradley. At the San Lucas bridge, long-time resident Bill Barbree will share memories of that metal bridge built in 1915. A light lunch will be served at the historic San Bernardo Grange in San Ardo where Historian and San Ardo resident Howard P. Strohn will talk about the history of the San Ardo bridge and river area. For those interested, an added feature will be a trip to see the two bridges near Bradley with the tour concluding around 3 p.m.

Cost of the tour will be \$20 for members and \$25 for non-members payable in advance. Participants are encouraged to carpool. Most sites are accessible with little walking. The tour will also give those attending a chance to see some of the effects of the January flooding in the area.

Reservations are required and space is limited. To make a reservation, please contact Karen Jernigan at 831-594-3740 or Patricia Woodfill at 831 385-0323 or by email [savha4@gmail.com](mailto:savha4@gmail.com)

**SAVHA  
 BOARD OF  
 DIRECTORS**

**President** Paul Getzelman

**Vice President** Carol Kenyon

**Secretary** Maria Weinerth

**Treasurer** John Jernigan

**Directors at Large**

**Patricia Woodfill** Shari Schmidt

**Jon Conatser** Donna Lewis

**Director Emeritus** Bart Bartosh

**Member-ship** Karen Jernigan

**P R E S I D E N T ' S M E S S A G E****B Y P A U L G E T Z E L M A N**

---

**W**elcome fellow members,

Now that winter is nearly at an end, I would like to share with you what the association has been doing since our last newsletter.

On November 12th of last year, SAVHA hosted a very successful Fall Dinner and lecture event. In fact, so successful that we had to turn away a few late reservation requests. Our guest speaker, Mr. James Perry, the Executive Director of the Monterey County Historical Society, did a wonderful job of presenting some of the truly amazing old photos from the Pat Hathaway photo collection to the attendees. The old photos shared were mainly of our immediate area, the southern portion of the Salinas Valley. However, the Pat Hathaway collection is extensive and I would highly recommend if you have an interest in old photographs, you take a trip to visit the collection at the Monterey County Historical Society. (Boronda Adobe History Center, 333 Boronda Road, Salinas) It is a very rewarding experience, well worth the time spent. And if you missed Mr. Perry's presentation on the Pat Hathaway Photo Collection, you can now view it on SAVHA's youTube Channel at [San Antonio Valley Historical Association \(SAVHA\) - YouTube](#)

We continue to upgrade our website, [www.SAVHA.org](http://www.SAVHA.org). If you have not visited us yet, please do. Our goal is to make as much of our historical archives as we can available to the public online. So far we have included a few audio selections of recorded interviews with old timers in South County...first person recollections of their life and times. We've also included selections from our photo archives. Our plan is to include additional photos and as much historical information as we have and make everything available to people who want to fill in gaps in their family history or are just interested in the history of this area. We hope history buffs will find our website useful and interesting.

I would like to invite everyone reading this newsletter to join us for the SAVHA Spring Tour, this year to be held on Saturday, April 22nd. (Look for more information in this newsletter)

I believe I can speak for the Board of Directors and say that we are looking forward to seeing you then.

See you soon!

Paul

## MEET SAVHA'S NEW BOARD MEMBERS



*Welcome Shari Schmidt, Donna Lewis and Jon Conatser*

Please welcome SAVHA's new Board Members who all have ties to historic families in the Southern Monterey County area and will be a benefit to the work that SAVHA hopes to accomplish in the years to come.

***"Shari Schmidt from Bitterwater, ties to historic Schmidt family "***

While Shari only moved to Bitterwater eight years ago, she has deep roots in the valley. Shari and husband Jeff Popnoe are the third generation of Schmidt's to live in their 140 year old house. While growing up in Southern California, she spent many vacations visiting family in this area. During those vacations, the family would visit the local "spots." She fondly recalls trips to The Pinnacles, Blue Jay Splash, Tully Hall, The Reel Joy, San Antonio Lake, Arroyo Seco, and Jolly Kone to name a few. Shari says her first paid job was gathering cattle on Hunter Liggett for Pacific Valley Cattle Company. Jeff and Shari enjoy living in Bitterwater. Their daughter Melissa visits often. Shari is happy to be serving on the board of directors for SAVHA

***"Donna Lewis from King City, ties to historic Plaskett and Loudermilk families"***

Donna has lived in Monterey County for 64 years. She received an AA Degree from Hartnell College and a Bachelor of Business Administration from American Intercontinental University. Donna was married for 49 years and has been widowed for 3. She has three children, 6 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren. Donna's family came to this area in the 1800's and received land grants in the Lockwood-Jolon area. Her family has deep roots in the area which made her very interested in the history of our beautiful valley.

***"Jon Conatser from Lockwood, ties to historic families Smart and Conatser"***

Jon was born in Monterey, CA and is the 6<sup>th</sup> generation in his family to live in Monterey County. He attended King City High, where he lived and worked until 2014 when he moved to the Lockwood valley with his family. Jon Conatser says, *"Being the 6<sup>th</sup> generation draws me to the history of the area along with working for the Salinas Land Co./ California Orchard Co that has over 100yrs of history in the area as well."*

**JOLON COUNTRY IN 1911**  
**A BOOK REVIEW OF 'CALIFORNIA COAST TRAILS'**  
 KING CITY RUSTLER, VOLUME 39, NUMBER 87, 26 FEBRUARY 1940

While searching online through the newly added editions of the Rustler newspaper at the California Digital Newspaper Collection ([cdnc.ucr.edu](http://cdnc.ucr.edu)), SAVHA's Membership Chair Karen Jernigan found a book review from February 1940 on "California Coast Trails" and it was the inspiration for Patricia Woodfill's article on the "Santa Lucia Fir".

**A Book Review by Ethel Buttle**

We are still pondering over a horseback trip from Mexico to the Oregon line. A few hours and the journey was completed—through the pages of an interesting book, "California Coast Trails," by J. Smeaton Chase.

Mr. Chase made this trek back in 1911 and chronicled his impressions of "the facts and beauties in nature and the humane and historic elements in life" in a most entertaining and instructive manner.

It is indeed a relief from the dashing about of today to read page after page of keen observation of a leisurely conducted tour—taken back in a time when autos were used chiefly to frighten horses, and when the board fence, with its advertising of "unconscious humor," was never "given its due by writers of the genesis of American poetry."

Naturally the glint in our eyes heightened over the passages in this book concerning the country most familiar. On arriving at the San Carpojo above San Simeon, Mr. Chase deviated a while from the main coast trail and made his way over the mountain into the Nacimiento and Jolon country. This he did for two reasons: One to visit the San Antonio Mission and the other "to study a rare tree, the Santa Lucia fir, which is

found far up a few canyons of this range."

Of Jolon he writes: "The villiage consists of two store-and-hotel combinations, a church seldom used, a school, three saloons, and as many small residences . . . I noted that the dialect of Jolon is rather above than below the western standard in amount and quality of profanity; and that days when the thermometer registers a hundred and odd degrees are pronounced by Jolonians to be agreeable."

After visiting the mission he spent a few days with relatives of Spanish friends which he proclaims "one of the most agreeable episodes of the whole journey."

Returning to the coast through the Los Burros Mines, Mr. Chase continued through Pacific valley up the coast—which recalls most vividly our close contact with the rugged beauty of this section some twelve years past (still in the days before the present highway) when we made a horseback trip from Monterey to Pacific valley and back.

"Complicated odors of fish and antiquity met us as we entered Monterey," writes Mr. Chase, "where the street cars wrought Anton's" (his horse) "nerves to a point of desperation. I piloted him by back ways to a stable, and

(Continued on Page 2)

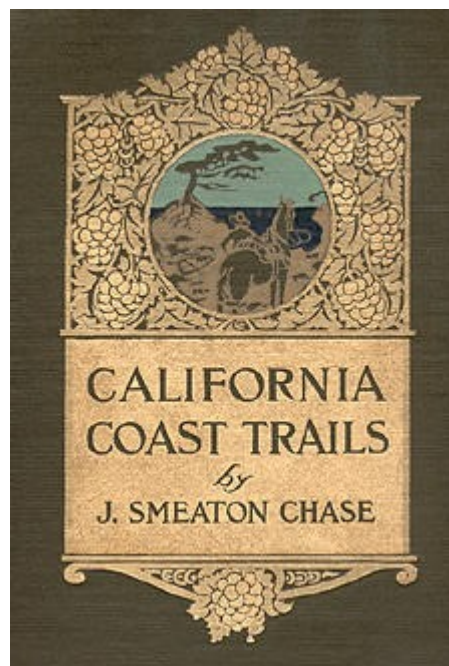
## JOLON COUNTRY IN 1911

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

found myself lodging at the home of a charming Spanish lady to whom I brought a letter of introduction from my good friends at Lompoc . . . Much of the air of its early days still pervades the place, and makes it in a way the most interesting town in California."

His simple style of presentation is spiced with humorous happenings of the trip. Such as: "It was quite dark before the barking of dogs heralded our approach to an old ranch house, where I was received with rough hospitality . . . When I entered the house, a freckled tom-boy of five, who was in process of being undressed before the fire, and had reached the stage that immediately precedes the nightgown, came charging and butting at me with her tousled head, declaring that she was going to cut off my ears. Such a free-and-easy reception could not fail to put a gentleman at his ease, and did not heed her father's admiring apology, 'You mustn't mind the little omadhaun, surr. She's a great gurrl, is Soosan, whativerr way you take herr.' "

The complete text of the original 1913 edition of *California Coast Trails*, including all sixteen original photographic plates, is now available online in the Fall 2005 edition of the *Double Cone California Coast Trails | Home* ([ventanawild.org](http://ventanawild.org))



### SAVHA's YouTube Channel

New on SAVHA's YouTube Channel is the interview with Roberta Oswald, a Bitterwater native and King City business woman for more than 40 years. She shares memories of her life including her years growing up in Bitterwater, attending Bitterwater-Tully School and then King City High School. Roberta was born May 6, 1927 and passed away February 19, 2023 at age 95 having led a long and active life. Roberta was a long time SAVHA Board Treasurer. The interview was conducted for the San Antonio Valley Historical Association by John and Karen Jernigan. <https://youtu.be/xaThscN3qu8>

#### San Antonio Valley Historical Association Newsletter

Published Biannually by the

San Antonio Valley Historical Association (SAVHA)

P.O. Box 145. Lockwood, CA 93932

SAVHA is a 501(c)(3) organization

Production: SAVHA Newsletter is digitally composed on Windows 10 computer using

Microsoft Publisher

## SOUTH COAST

A series of articles printed in the October/November 2011 edition of the "Ranch & Reata Magazine" tell the back-stories of some favorite western tunes. Excerpt from one article is reprinted here with permission of the author **William Reynolds**

Great songs of the west, the ones that travel through generations, tell stories with timeless appeal. They are "story-songs" that carry the listener to a place where time stands still. Songs like "Strawberry Roan," "El Paso," "Tying Knots in The Devil's Tail," "Claude Dallas" and "The Sky Above, The Mud Below" are all memorable tales that relate an event or a series of events through words and music that lock a story's images in an enduring depiction. Over the years, with different performers and through different eras, versions and tempos vary and evolve – but the stories told maintain their intent, and continue through the years to captivate listeners. One such song, performed by such diverse artists as The Kingston Trio, Arlo Guthrie and Tom Russell is, "South Coast." Like many of the west's great stories and songs, it started out as poem. Originally titled, "The Coast Ballad," it was written in 1926 by Lillian Bos Ross (1889 – 1960) after a walking trip she had taken with her husband, Berkeley-trained, sculptor/artist, Harry Dick Ross, through the Big Sur country on the central California coast. They wanted to see – what was at the time – the blank stretch on a map that lay between San Simeon and Monterey. It was a trip that would inspire Ross to write a poem called "South Coast" about a young vaquero, the son of a Spanish Don, who, during one of his weekly trips to the little town of Jolon, near his ranch, wins a wife in a card game.

While on that "hike" in the rugged coastal mountains the Ross's came across a small cabin built and abandoned under a grove of trees that still had the remnants of the long gone inhabitants – a small crib and a name carved into the fireplace mantle. From that discovery first came the inspiration for the poem "South Coast" and later she based her 1941 novel, "The Stranger", on the poem. In turn, the novel which was later renamed "The Stranger in Big Sur" became the basis for the 1974 movie, "Zandy's Bride",

### South Coast

By Lillian Bos Ross, Sam Eskin, Richard Deltz and Frank Miller

*(This shows 14 of the 16 original verses and is the most performed version of the song.)*

My name is Lonjano de Castro  
My father was a Spanish grandee  
But I won my wife in a card game  
To hell with those lords o'er the sea

In my youth I had a Monterey homestead,  
Creeks, valleys and mountains all mine;  
Where I built me a snug little shanty  
And I roofed it and floored it with pine.

I had a bronco, a buckskin –  
Like a bird he flew over the trail;  
I rode him out forty miles every Friday  
Just to get me some grub and my mail.

CHORUS:  
Well the South Coast is wild coast and lonely  
You might win in a game at Jolon  
But a lion still rules the barranca  
And a man there is always alone

I sat in a card game at Jolon  
I played there with a half-breed named Juan  
And after I'd won his money  
He said, "Your homestead 'gainst my daughter Dawn."

I turned up the ace...I had won her  
My heart, which was down in my feet,  
Jumped up to my throat in a hurry --  
Like a young summer's day she was sweet.

He opened the door to the kitchen;  
He called the girl out with a curse  
"Take her, God damn her, you've won her,  
She's yours now for better or worse!"

Her arms had to tighten around me  
As we rode up the hills from the south  
Not a word did I hear from her that day,  
Nor a kiss from her pretty young mouth.

(Chorus)  
We got to the cabin at twilight,  
The stars twinkled over the coast.  
She soon loved the orchard and the valley,  
But I knew that she loved me the most.

That was a gay happy winter;  
I carved on a cradle of pine  
By the fire in that snug little shanty  
And I sang with that gay wife of mine.

But then I got hurt in a landslide,  
Crushed hip and twice broken bone;  
She saddled up Buck like lightning,  
And rode out through the night to Jolon.

(Chorus)  
The lion screamed in the barranca;  
Buck bolted and he fell on a slide.  
My young wife lay dead in the moonlight  
My heart died that night with my bride.

They buried her out in the orchard.  
They carried me down to Jolon.  
I've lost my chiquita, my nino;  
I'm an old broken man, all alone.

The cabin still stands on the hillside,  
It's doors open to the wind,  
But the cradle and my heart are empty --  
I can never go there again.

(Chorus)

©1956, 1979, © 1984 EMI Blackwood Music Inc. (BMI)  
All Rights Controlled and Administered by EMI  
Blackwood Music  
International Copyright Secured



## IN SEARCH OF THE SANTA LUCIA FIR

BY PATRICIA WOODFILL

The “California Coast Trails” book review article sent to me by Karen Jernigan gave me the idea for this article on the Santa Lucia Fir. While researching for more information for this article, I discovered that the Santa Lucia Fir is one of the rarest and most endemic fir trees found growing in North America and according to some,



Santa Lucia Fir P772

the world. The Santa Lucia Fir grows in the coastal mountains for which it is named, but I didn't know it was one of the rarest and only found naturally growing in these coastal mountains. I have seen the tree growing among the Redwoods, Madrones and Pines where it is confined to steep slopes and to the bottoms of rocky canyons in the Big Sur area of the Santa Lucia Mountains along the central California Pacific Coast. There are several groves which can be found near Ventana Double Cone, Santa Lucia and Cone Peaks and along the San Carpofora Creek, north of San Simeon within Hearst's Ranch. The most inland stand can be found in Anastasia Canyon near the Arroyo Seco River and Tassajara Hot Springs. As I write this, I am wondering if they are still standing after the recent fires and storms that we have had in the Santa Lucia's. Their only protection is where they are found growing – rocky canyons and steep slopes without much vegetation

in their undergrowth. In 2005 the Los Padres National Forest established the 2,200 acre Ventana Cones Research Natural Area (RNA) to protect the Santa Lucia fir and its associated rock-outcrop vegetation.

The Esselen and Salinan native peoples (in whose traditional territories the species occurs) certainly had their own names for this species, but the padres at Mission San Antonio de Padua were reported to have known the trees as Incensio, for they used its resin in the manufacturing of incense.

Recently, I found and purchased the book “California Coast Trails: A Horseback Ride from Mexico to Oregon in 1911” by J. Smeaton Chase. On his 2000 mile ride along the California coast one of his goals was to see a Santa Lucia Fir.



Chase scholars discuss the route up the San Carpóforo Canyon, with Santa Lucia Fir *Abies bracteata* in the background. Photo by Chris Lorenc, © 1999.

### HOW TO REACH US

Do you have a comment or contribution? Would you like to express an opinion to the board? Would you like to become a board member? SAVHA is always looking for fresh and old ideas, so if you would like to recommend a Spring Tour site or guest speaker for our Fall dinner and lecture, please forward the information to one of the below board members

We can be reached by mail at P.O. Box 145, Lockwood, CA 93932, or by email through the following board members:

SAVHA email: [savha4@gmail.com](mailto:savha4@gmail.com)

Paul Getzelman: [pcgetzelman@gmail.com](mailto:pcgetzelman@gmail.com)

Patricia Woodfill: [patran2@gmail.com](mailto:patran2@gmail.com)

**2023 MEMBERSHIP / DONATION FORM**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

New \_\_\_\_\_ Households (\$25) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Renewal \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to enclose a donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Return To:  
SAVHA  
P.O. Box 145  
Lockwood CA 93932

SAVHA  
P.O. Box 145  
Lockwood, CA 93932