

CALEDONIA ENTERPRISE

PO Box 326, San Miguel, CA 93451 | 805-467-3357 | <http://www.rios-caledoniaadobe.org>

Who are Friends of the Adobes?

Friends of the Adobes, Inc. is a nonprofit organization incorporated in 1968 for the purpose of bringing together persons interested in history, especially the history of northern San Luis Obispo county and southern Monterey county. The organization's major function is to promote the restoration and maintenance of adobes and other landmarks of historical significance in these areas.

Rios-Caledonia Adobe

California Historical Landmark No. 936

This former residence, inn, and stage stop was constructed in 1835 and is located on the old mission trail between San Francisco and Los Angeles, adjacent to the San Miguel Mission. Preserved adobe buildings currently house a Museum and Gift Shop, with a research library in the works. Picnic spots and restrooms are available. If you haven't yet visited, please come by! The Adobe is open Friday through Sunday from 11 AM to 4 PM. Take the San Miguel exit on Highway 101 (eight miles north of Paso Robles) to 700 S. Mission Street, San Miguel.



Estrella Adobe Church

California Historical Landmark No. 542

The Estrella Adobe Church, the first Protestant church in northern San Luis Obispo County, was built in 1878-1885 by early pioneers. The church prospered for a few years but then fell into disuse and began crumbling into ruins. The church was restored through the efforts of the Paso Robles Women's Club and was rededicated in 1952. It is opened for a memorial service annually (on Memorial Day weekend), but you are welcome to visit the grounds any time. The church is located on Airport Road in Paso Robles, two miles north of Highway 46 East.



Don't miss this very special once-a-year opportunity!

If you have never been inside the beautiful, historic Estrella Adobe Church, this is your once-a-year chance! The church is opened for services on Memorial Day weekend each year.

When: May 24, Sunday, 2 PM

What: Estrella Adobe Church Annual Service

Our guest pastor for the annual non-denominational service will be Steve Calagna of North County Christian Fellowship in Paso Robles. Lynne Schmitz will lead the singing, accompanied by Cactus Harris on the antique pump organ.

We will also recognize the 2014 Pioneer Day royalty, Ole Viborg and Dottie Reiff, and will remember John Craspay, Sr., who passed away recently.

Refreshments will be provided by the Agua Caliente chapter of the Questers.

After the service, you are welcome to wander the grounds of our historic little church.

(There are approximately 48 people buried in the cemetery but it is no longer used; the last burial was in 1938. Many of the graves reflect the diphtheria epidemic of 1884-85.)

Five EASY ways to help or be involved...

1) Join

Membership is an easy way to provide support and ensure you keep updated on our activities. Memberships start at \$10 and can be given as gifts. Visit our website for more information: www.rios-caledoniaadobe.org

We also welcome new Board Members with fresh ideas!

2) Shop

The Rios-Caledonia Museum's Gift Shop offers truly unique antiques and collectibles as well as fascinating books. You just might find the perfect gift for someone special, or perhaps a keepsake for yourself!

3) Donate items

Donations of antique/vintage items to sell in the Museum's Gift Shop are very much appreciated! In addition to bringing in money, new Gift Shop items help bring in repeat visitors and shoppers!

4) Donate funds

We are always very grateful for monetary donations of any amount! And, please keep in mind that we are a 501(c)(3) non-profit!

5) Volunteer

Volunteers are always appreciated! In addition to helping as docents, in the gift shop, and at special events, we also need helpers for clerical tasks, exhibits, fundraising, research, landscaping, website updates, publicity, and special projects. If you have a special talent or are willing to help in any way, please contact Joyce at (805) 467-3357, or email her at hermanjah@tcsn.net.

Annual Model A and Model T Car Show—Saturday, June 6



It's that time again! The *Rios-Caledonia Adobe Annual Car Show* will be held Saturday, June 6, 2015 from 10 AM to 3 PM at the Rios-Caledonia Adobe, 700 S. Mission Street in San Miguel. Admission is free! There will be live music, wine tasting, tours of the Adobe, refreshments for sale, and a 50-50 drawing.

This year we also plan to commemorate the 100-year anniversary of the construction of the OLD highway (a section of which remains on the east side of the Adobe), which was paved in 1915. This piece of the highway is one of only FOURTEEN pieces left in the state of California. So, come enjoy the day viewing the old Model A and Model T cars, and help us celebrate an important event!

For more information about the old highway, see page 4.

Message from our President

By Gary McMaster, Board President

I am honored to have been selected as the new President of Friends of the Adobes. Growing up in Old Town—the birthplace of San Diego and home to many beautiful and historic adobe buildings—I was enthralled by the Casa de Estudillo and other romantic structures there. I fell in love with the adobes in this area as soon as I was transferred up here to be the Operations and Security NCO for Camp Roberts, in 1997. The name of the Rios-Caledonia especially attracted me, as I have visited Scotland many times and have close friends there. I came to know our Administrator, Joyce Herman, as well as other local historians and long-time residents, and I eventually became the volunteer Curator and Chairman of the Camp Roberts Historical Museum. In the past, I've been a Docent at the El Paso de Robles Historical Society at the Carnegie and a board member of the Pioneer Museum, and I'm a life member of some of our other local museums. I have a sincere interest in the history of this area, and will do my best to serve Friends of the Adobes as well as I possibly can. I really feel honored to work on this board with such a sincere and dedicated group of people.

Recently, I designed a new color brochure for the Rios-Caledonia, and was awarded a grant from the Hind Foundation to have 20,000 of them printed. Please come by and pick up a few to give to friends, and remember to bring visiting friends and relatives out to the Rios-Caledonia for a visit and an introduction to local history. You can also help us by urging you civic or veterans organization to plan a group visit, or even a picnic in the peaceful setting of the Rios-Caledonia. And don't forget our other famous adobe—the Estrella Adobe Church—which is a wonderful venue for weddings and other social occasions.

Looking back and looking forward



By Joyce Herman, Administrator

Re-plastering update: Several years ago, the south exterior wall of the Rios-Caledonia Adobe was repaired, slurred and white-washed. (This job was last done in the late 1960s or early 70s when the initial restoration took place.) The re-plastering that was done on the west side was to be followed by the east side as well as on the Dorries addition containing the Gift Shop. Time passed! The east side (with balcony) was completed, but the north side prohibited them from completing the job, due to the need to remove roof tile on the Gift Shop to facilitate the scaffolding. The good news is that the County of San Luis Obispo Parks and Recreation Department will soon complete the job!

Temporary Closure of Rios-Caledonia Adobe ... HELP NEEDED! Mandated earthquake retrofit requirements dictate that the Rios-Caledonia Adobe be closed for approximately four to six weeks, beginning June 7 and possibly to the end of July. On June 7, 8, and 9 we will need to pack up, move, and/or cover MANY display items and would appreciate any and ALL help we can get. If you would like to help with this important project, please let us know right away! (Call Joyce: 805-467-3357)

May School Tours: Each May we are busy accommodating 4th grade students from local schools who tour the San Miguel Mission and the Rios-Caledonia Adobe for their California history requirements. The Adobe was constructed on Mission lands in 1835 to house the “mayordomo,” so it has a strong connection to the Mission’s history.

Notable visitors: Friday, May 1 was a fascinating day at the Rios-Caledonia. We were visited by Rosy Rios and husband, Doug, proprietors of a hotel in Playa Samara, Costa Rica. Rosy is the niece of Rose (Rios) Jones, a member of Friends of the Adobes for many years, until her death. Rose and her husband, Paul, lived locally, following a period in the area of the Panama Canal. They were very generous in providing us with the information and memorabilia of the Rios family that appear in our museum’s showcases and in picture frames on the walls. (Rose and Rosy are descendants of the Petronilo Rios, who supervised construction of the Rios in 1835, was part owner of it in later years, and lived in it with his family in the 1850s.) Rosy was fascinated with the historical information about her family we’ve collected over the years. We shared information and provided her copies of family birth records through the years since Petronilo married Caterina Avila.

Saying Goodbye: Our resident host, Tim Palmer, and his wife, Jamie, are “moving on,” leaving sometime in May. Tim has been with us for ten-plus years and has been responsible for the beautiful grounds of the Rios-Caledonia and helping with our needs. Jamie has kept the flowers at the Gift Shop entrance looking perky and helped her husband when needed. They will be missed—so much! We wish them a bright future. Unfortunately, they are also taking “Ki-Ki,” the cat that’s been at the Rios for a long time. We will miss Ki-Ki, and so will the public, because she has been our “greeter.”

Thank you SO much ♥ ♥ ♥

☆ We will be recognizing ALL Sponsor, Patron, and Benefactor level members in a future newsletter, but in the meanwhile, many thanks to those who renewed at the Sponsor level in recent months: *Paso Robles Main Street, James Sinton, Catherine Bartley, Catherine Athans, Denis Quinn, and Karen Russell*. Thanks also to *Charlotte Wallace, Betty Weitze Cook, and Gladys Craspay* who are Lifetime Members, but continue to support us! Last but not least, thanks to *Carla Willhoit*, who renewed at the Patron/Lifetime level!

☆ *Ron Domingos & Craig Rambo*: Thanks for mowing and cleaning up the grounds at the Estrella Adobe Church!

Library Update

By Barbara Bilyeu,
Lead Library Volunteer

Work continues on our very own research library, which we hope to open for use in late summer/early fall. Books continue to be added to the collection and cataloged for online access. There's a lot more to do and we're looking forward to our grand opening! Watch for details in the August newsletter.

Friends of the Adobes, Inc.
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100 Years Later: Pictures and fascinating information on display

As you have read on page 2, this year marks the 100-year anniversary of the construction of the old highway that used to run along the east side of the Rios-Caledonia Adobe. What was originally a dirt road, ("County Road No. 1") was laid out as a State highway ("State Route 2") in 1913. (Originally each state route was designated a number from 1 to 34 but renumbering took place many years later.) Then in 1914-1915, the State constructed the 15-foot-wide concrete pavement that ran from Paso Robles north to the San Luis Obispo-Monterey county line.

From Caltrans records: *"By 1915, when the first narrow concrete highway was being constructed from Paso Robles to San Miguel, the route was serving tourists traveling north to San Francisco and south to San Diego for the expositions celebrating the opening of the Panama Canal, as well as those interested in following the historic "King's Highway" (El Camino Real) from mission to mission."*

A piece of that original concrete highway remains on the grounds of the Rios-Caledonia Adobe (one of only FOURTEEN pieces left in the state), so this upcoming centennial has stimulated a search for information regarding the highway's history. Thanks to several dedicated employees in the San Luis Obispo office of the California Department of Transportation, we will be able to provide a display that will inform and entertain the attendees of the upcoming Model A and Model T car show at the Rios. Information obtained from other sources (especially David Cole, a Friends of the Adobes Member from Santa Maria) has been added to the display, which will include maps, pictures, and data covering the highway's progression from a dirt County road to a concrete State highway. We are eager to share this information with the general public, so come join us on June 6. (And when you look at the Model A and Model T cars at the Car Show, just imagine those cars rolling along that original highway!)