

# 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 non-profit 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, 2 1/2 miles north of Highway 46 East.



## Membership News

*by Anne Collins, Board Member*

Last year we realized that our newsletter reminders about membership renewals were resulting in very few renewals, so we decided to both improve and simplify our renewal process. We switched to a calendar year membership cycle (so that all annual memberships expire at the same time) and did our first formal "membership drive." We were delighted with the response! We received SO many renewals, and gained more Lifetime members as well! We even received generous donations from existing Lifetime members!

It's time for our annual membership renewal drive, so please keep an eye out for our letter containing a renewal form and envelope. We have annual memberships available for as little as \$10 (if you are willing to receive your quarterly newsletter by email), and Lifetime memberships start at only \$150. (If you are a Lifetime member, you'll still receive a letter in case you want to change to an email subscription OR give a membership as a gift.)

We are so very lucky to have the support of so many people—people like Roy and Carolyn Twisselmann, who are Lifetime Members but were inadvertently left off our August newsletter list! You are ALL greatly appreciated!

## 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](http://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 something 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 [hermanjah11@yahoo.com](mailto:hermanjah11@yahoo.com).

## President's Message

*By Gary McMaster, President, Friends of the Adobes*

A lot of things have been happening since the last issue. Our Caledonia Days event and our annual Candlelight Tour (with ghost stories) were both very successful. We met a lot of new neighbors and everyone enjoyed themselves. I would like to give thanks to all the Friends of the Adobes volunteers and other participants who teamed up to make these events a big hit. It was the first time for Paul Burkle telling the local ghost stories, and he did a stellar job! A special welcome to Ron Friberg, our new caretaker at the Rios-Caledonia, and his wife Meagan. They showed up with their son and his friend to give a hand and pitched right in. What a great family!

While we're on the subject of "pitching in," I'd like to ask each one of you to take a close look at your schedule to see if you can find time to volunteer a little in order to help at the Rios-Caledonia. We are still in need of a couple of people to come in and get involved with helping as hosts at the museum and gift shop every once in a while. Just get ahold of us, come in once, and see if you like it—that's how it starts! You may love it!

Over the years, I've often heard many of the local outlaw legends. You know that Jesse and Frank James' Uncle Drury was a founding father of Paso Robles, and the boys came to stay with him soon after their first heist. Some say that Jesse visited the Rios-Caledonia, which is easy to believe, for there weren't many saloons or other amusements around in those days. Legend has it that infamous bandito Joaquin Murrieta used to visit the adobe when it served as a tavern or general store as well. Billy the Kid's stepfather, William Antrim (who helped raise the Kid but was often an absent parent, off looking for gold) spent his last years here in San Miguel, living with his sister. It's a pretty sure thing that he visited our adobe. He's buried in the San Miguel cemetery. Will Dalton, of the infamous Dalton family of outlaws, lived on a ranch out on the Carrizo Plain with his wife Jane. His brothers, Grat, Emmett and Bob, spent a lot of time visiting, and would drink and brawl at watering holes in Paso Robles and San Miguel, so they no doubt visited our adobe as well. It's hard for us to imagine, walking through the Rios-Caledonia of today, what characters took the same steps as yours and what things took place within those walls over the last 180 years!

Come in, volunteer, and become a part of history yourself!

## Can you spare ONE day a month, please?

As Gary mentioned above, Friends of the Adobes has a critical need for docents who can volunteer ONE day a month for FOUR hours at the Rios-Caledonia Adobe Museum and Gift Shop. The Adobe is open from 11-4 Friday, Saturday and Sunday. (You can choose your day.) You'll meet interesting visitors from around the world and will be joining a fun group with a shared interest in keeping the Adobe open and active for our next generation. If you're interested or want more information, call Linda Elmerick at (805) 680-6086.

## ***Salt of the Earth*, Research Library Book Review**

*By Barbara Bilyeu, Lead Library Volunteer*

One of the exciting additions to the Rios-Caledonia Research Library collection is from the Tognazzini donation, *Salt of the Earth*, compiled and published by the Rustler-Herald in King City back in 1951. It is a treasury of biographies of many area pioneers, recorded from interviews conducted with them. And this is real TREASURE! Each entry is from one to several pages in length, and most include a photograph of the pioneer. The stories told are fascinating accounts of life and accomplishment during the late 1800's and early 1900's, when Monterey and San Luis Obispo Counties were wild and rugged and life was very different from what it is now. Many stories center around the Jolon area, Bitterwater, San Lucas, King City, extending over to the coast. Stories of the old stagecoaches, coming of the railroad, ranching and farming, outlaws like Vasquez (many folks knew him), early schools, and much, much more. If you have any interest in the history of this area, it's a hard book to put down! Luckily, it can be read in short segments, so it's easy to spend an enjoyable hour or so at the Rios-Caledonia Reference Library with it, or do research. *Names included are: William Zimbray Adam, Cipriano Avila, Doctor Dorus Brumwell, Julius Brunetti, Al Carlson, Mrs. William Chambers, William Currell, Rebecca Currier, Thomas Arthington Day, George De Alvarez, Mrs. Millie Duckworth, Katie Eringer Ellis, Dolores Encinal, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Folks, Antonio Garcia, John J. Gonzales, George Washington Gruver, Peter Ivar Gottfriedsen, Mrs. Alice Handley, Mrs. George Hays, George P. Henry, John Hersom, Andrew H. Hopkins, Pete Jessen, Mrs. Margaret Voss Krenkel, Hans Lang, Joseph David Leach, William Harvey Livingston, Ramon Augustin Madero, Pete Mansfield, Frank McCormack, Gil McKinsey, Mrs. Alec Morasci, Felix Ortiz, Tom Pettit, Mike Ramirez, Jack Ramus, Tom Rogers, Nels Ronning, James Oscar Stanley, Marno Dutton Thompson, John Tompkins, Edgar Raymond Tully, Frederick Godfrey Vivian, Fritz Weferling, Margaret Jane Whisman, Otto Wolfe, Mrs. Medarda E. Yates.*

The Rios-Caledonia Adobe Research Library, built around the collection of local historian Wally Ohles, is planning to open in Spring 2016. Hours are not yet set, but will probably be on Fridays when the Adobe is open to the public. Until then, call (805-434-2708) or email me (bbilyeu2001@yahoo.com) if you have a special research request. If you want to take a look at *Salt of the Earth*, contact me so I can be sure to be there when you come in. Friday afternoons are best!

## **Cactus Jelly for sale**

This year's supply of our famous "Cactus Jelly" is available NOW in the Rios-Caledonia Museum Gift Shop. Our very special jelly is made from the juice of the prickly pear fruit, which is sometimes called a cactus fig, Indian fig, or tuna in Spanish. Half pint (8-ounce) jars are available for just \$7. We started out with only 62 jars, so our stock will likely sell out before Christmas. The jelly makes a very unique gift or stocking stuffer, but don't forget to get a jar of it for your OWN table!

Did you know ... like all true cactus species, prickly pears are native only to the Americas, but they have been introduced to many other parts of the globe.

## **Our Jelly Team!**

This year's batch of Caledonia Cactus Jelly was made by Joyce Herman, Karl Von Dollen, Barbara Robinson, Florence Von Dollen, and Linda Elmerick (not pictured).

Barbara Robinson was on the original crew, with Rita Cagliero, who recently passed away. Florence Von Dollen has also been a long-time regular. Karl Von Dollen, Florence's son, is a "go-to" person who helps acquire the fruit, or will run for anything we need, and he's also been a generous donor of jelly jars! Since coming back to work at the Adobe in 2008, Joyce has been a constant volunteer. And, although Linda Elmerick is new to this yearly project, she is a real "task master"—we couldn't do it without her!



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### **Events in the past ... if you joined us in the fun, thank you!**

*Caledonia Days (September):* This special event was a fun day with food, displays, and live music, and it was well attended this year! Thanks to Craig Rambo, of the San Miguel Chapter of Native Sons of the Golden West, who suggested revising "Caledonia Days" from years past, adding Dutch Oven Demos, and encouraging the theme of "Celebrating Bygone Ways of Bygone Days." The day included blacksmith demos, a small engine display, arrowhead knapping, old-time photography, and much more.

*Candlelight Tour (October):* Halloween's spooky season arrives at the Rios-Caledonia Adobe each year on the weekend before Halloween with a free event that includes a candlelight tour of the darkened adobe, haunted with former residents or "spirits," creepy crawlers, and ghostly stories by a mesmerizing storyteller. A tarot reader was on hand this year to mystify our visitors, and refreshments and candles were also provided.

### **Events in the future ... be sure to mark your 2016 calendars!**

If any of the following dates change, we will let you know in the newsletter, so be SURE to renew your membership if you are an annual member. (See page 1 for more information.)

- 🕒 Date to be announced: *Research Library Grand Opening* at the Rios-Caledonia Adobe
- 🕒 May 29, Sunday of Memorial Day weekend: *Annual Church Service* at the Estrella Adobe Church
- 🕒 June 4, Saturday: *Car Show* at the Rios-Caledonia Adobe
- 🕒 September 17, Saturday: *Caledonia Days* at the Rios-Caledonia Adobe
- 🕒 October 29, Saturday: *Candlelight Tour & Ghost Stories* at the "Haunted" Rios-Caledonia Adobe