

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



San Miguel, CA; California Historical Landmark 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 as well as a recently opened Research Library. 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. *(The Rios-Caledonia Adobe is located just south of Mission San Miguel at 700 S. Mission Street.)*

Estrella Adobe Church



Paso Robles, CA; California Historical Landmark 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 Estrella Adobe Church is on Airport Road, 2½ miles north of Highway 46 East.)*

Caledonia Days ... featuring music by Monte Mills!



September 25, 10 AM to 4 PM

Please join us at the Rios-Caledonia Adobe as we step back in time on Sunday, September 25, from 10 AM to 4 PM, to enjoy bygone ways of bygone days. For the first time ever, this special event will feature live music by the Central Coast's own icon, Monte Mills and the Lucky Horseshoe Band (from noon till 3 PM)! Admission is free.

There will be skilled artisans and craftspersons, displays of small engines, local rock enthusiasts with their collections, and more! (If you are interested in participating as a vendor or artisan/craftsperson, please check our website for a registration form.) In addition to Dutch oven cooking and tastings, there will be beer, wine, and barbecued food available for purchase.

(Caledonia Days is sponsored by Friends of the Adobes, and The Native Sons of the Golden West, San Miguel Chapter.)

Candlelight Tour ... unique fun for the entire family!



October 22, 7 to 9 PM

Be sure to visit the "spooky" darkened Rios-Caledonia Adobe on Saturday, October 22, between 7 and 9 PM, for a unique (and free) Candlelight Tour.

Luminarias will illuminate the path from the parking lot to the Adobe and you will be provided with a candle to light your way as you wander. Ghost stories will be told and refreshments will be provided. Who knows what else might happen if ghosts are involved! Don't miss it!

Five EASY ways to help or get 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 always 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 working as docents, in the Gift Shop, and at special events, volunteers can help with 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, email friendsoftheadobes@gmail.com or call Joyce at (805) 440-7173.

Thank you, treasured LIFE Members!

Here is a GRATEFUL nod to our VERY special *Life Members!* In our next issue, we will recognize members at the *Sponsor* level. (If you think you should be on this list and aren't, let us know!)

Agua Caliente Questers, Cora Andreu, Constance Avila, Mary Baiamonte, Bill Bartosh, Allen Belden, Millie Bewley, Barbara Bilyeu, Curtis Black, Tony Blouin, Eleanor Boba, Corky Brandenburg, Diana Brenna, Laverne & Gilbert Buckman, Lorraine Cagliero, Joan & Fred Carrington, Anne Collins, John Comino, Conference of CA Historical Societies, Betty Weitze Cook, Ray Craig, Joan & John Crother, John Curtis, Marc Dart, Jody & Raymond Dauth, Bev Delwiche, Maryetta Bradford Dulcich, Linda Elmerick, Louise Ferrin, Mary Fiala, Eleanor Garrissere, Charline & James Green, Denise Grigory, Dottie Hale, Carolyn & Mike Hawk, Donna Helt, Joyce Herman, Jane & Dennis Johansen, Tony Johnston, Kalar Productions, Bertram King, Cyndi & Dave Krill, Suzette (Murray) Lees, Leonis Adobe Museum, Shirley J. Mankins, Gary Manninen, Helen Marshall, Linda & Gordon Marshall, Joe Martinez, Shirley & Bob McConnell, Gary McMaster, Patrice Merwin, Lois & Eugene Miller, Ann Myhre, Rosemary Netto, Mr. & Mrs. Steve Onderdonk, John Onderdonk, Lloyd Plymate, Robert J. Rios, Betty & James Robinson, Marilyn Rocha, Fay & Pat Ross, Linda Saylor, Pat Silveira, Laurie & Jack Sinton, Susan Souza, Kari & Toni Sullivan, Thomas Taylor, Shirley Tharaldsen, Janet & Robert Tullock, Nancy & Terry Tweedie, Carolyn & Roy Twisselmann, Maggie Vandergon, Mr. & Mrs. Ole Viborg, Ruth von Dollen, Karl Von Dollen, Florence Von Dollen, Charlotte Wallace, Jim Weir, Phyllis Wilkinson, Peggy Wolf, Harry Wolf (& Vicki Ryal), Mr. & Mrs. George Work.

We need YOUR special skills



We are looking for one or two very special volunteers to join our Friends of the Adobes team with its important efforts to help preserve the history of San Luis Obispo County.

Newsletter Editor

Starting in January 2017, we will need someone to take over as editor of our quarterly newsletter. The newsletter is currently designed in Pages for Mac, but you can use the software program and format of your choice! You will also have the option of writing some of the articles or none of them (if you prefer to concentrate on formatting content written by others).

Member Database Manager

Are you a person who enjoys data input and management? Starting in January 2017 we will also need someone to take over the task of managing our member database. This would entail updating the database as needed and printing labels for our quarterly newsletter and occasional other mailings. Our database is currently managed as a simple Excel spreadsheet, so if you are an experienced Excel user, you might prefer to continue with that. However, if you have ideas about a better database option (perhaps using Google contacts or something like MailChimp), and you'd like to assist us, give us your thoughts!

Welcome to the wonderful Tom Taylor!

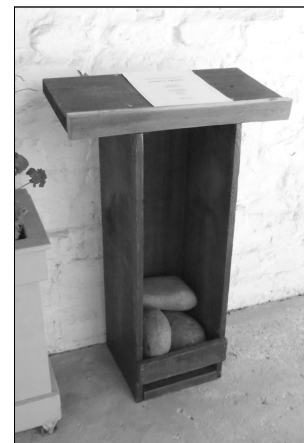
Tom Taylor has joined the Friends of the Adobes Board and what an impact he has had already! In addition to building a guest book "podium" for the Rios-Caledonia, he also installed a "You are Here" grounds map there, AND rehabilitated the hexagonal "tree bench" at the Estrella Adobe Church.

Tom is a retired General Engineering Contractor (roads, parks, school sites, freeways) and General Contractor (public works buildings, earthquake retrofits, historical sites). He has three daughters, ten grandchildren, and two great grandchildren, with one more on the way. His wife, Madalyn, passed away 6 years ago.

In addition to being on our Board, Tom is involved in the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program, One Cool Earth, and the Camp Roberts Historical Museum. He also has created an informative and fascinating map of historic places on the Cuesta Grade. (We'll tell you more in a future newsletter!)



Far left: Tom Taylor, fellow Board member Linda Elmerick, and Linda's grandson Lukas, who helped plant the California Buckeye tree in the center of the bench at the Estrella Adobe Church. Left: The much improved bench. Right: The new guest book podium at the Rios-Caledonia, built from reclaimed lumber.



Research Library Book Review

By Barbara Bilyeu, Librarian and Lead Library Volunteer at the Rios-Caledonia Research Library

*Book: **El Dorado: Adventures in the Path of Empire**, by Bayard Taylor (first published in 1850)*

Those of you who are acquainted with California history know that the Gold Rush of 1849 was a Really Big Deal in the history of our state. You also probably know that there were three main ways to get to the gold fields from the eastern part of the country: overland, by sea around the southern tip of South America (Cape Horn), and the Panama route which included travel by both sea and land. None of these journeys was to be taken lightly, but in June of 1849 the trip via the Panama route was taken by a young journalist, Bayard Taylor, "on assignment" for Horace Greeley's New York Tribune. His assignment was to cover the Gold Rush, which was causing a bit of a sensation! Luckily for us, this "working vacation" allowed him to be present during some very significant moments in California's history, such as the first State Convention, and he was a very observant and colorful writer. His associates and acquaintances included major names from California history such as Fremont, Beale, and Pico. He spent time in San Francisco, Monterey, and Sacramento, and his descriptions of those fledgling towns are snapshots-in-time, enhanced with descriptions of the sounds and smells of the moment to bring them very much to life in words. (My favorite is his entranced description of the surf on the Monterey shore. His words place you right there next to him and you can almost feel the ocean spray and the thud of each wave crashing ashore.) He also spent a good deal of time in the Sierra foothills, describing the people and conditions he saw there, concluding that serious work was involved in obtaining the gold, and many were not up to the task. A word-to-the wise "back home"! He only stayed for four months—a short trip considering the effort expended in getting here. His book also describes his very colorful travel adventures before and after his tour of California.

This very interesting account of the very early days of the Gold Rush is available online in full text, as well as in the Rios-Caledonia Research Library.

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Rios-Caledonia Adobe happenings ... in photos

Given that photos sometimes tell a story as well as words, below are a few recent photos taken at the Rios-Caledonia Adobe, courtesy of Meagan Friberg. Left to Right: 1) Perfect for travelers during the hot days of summer, our longtime Museum host Joyce Herman offers ice cold water for sale inside the Adobe's Gift Shop. 2) Joyce conducted several tours for elementary school students in June, including Mrs. Garcia's 4th grade class from Templeton's Vineyard Elementary. 3) Ron Friberg, our Rios-Caledonia Camp Host, spruced up the signs around the grounds recently. 4) Lovely cactus blooms grace the grounds. *(There are many beautiful cacti on the Adobe grounds. Come for a visit!)*

