



# *The Monterey* **MANIFEST**

*The official newsletter of the Monterey State Historic Park Association*



## IN THIS ISSUE

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE** P.1-2

**HISTORY OF THE CASA DE ORO  
ANNEX BUILDINGS** P.2-3

**THE MEMORY GARDEN** P.4

**VOLUNTEER  
COORDINATOR'S CORNER** P.5

**RENEWAL REMINDER &  
DONATIONS** P.6

**CONTACTS** P.6

**Don't Forget Your  
2021 Dues**

[www.mshpa.org](http://www.mshpa.org)

**Custom Store Reopening!**  
**May 21-23, May 28-31**  
**11am -3 pm**

## **A Message from our President** *by Lee Henderson*

As the USA successfully navigates through the pandemic, the reopening of the Custom House store will commence over the Memorial Day weekend. The retail committee is working on inventory, and State Parks has implemented safety protocols and customer flow that enables a safe environment.

We welcome back our loyal volunteers and anyone interested in volunteering as a storekeeper should contact Erica Hedlund at [Erica.hedlund@parks.ca.gov](mailto:Erica.hedlund@parks.ca.gov). The store will initially have limited hours from 11 am to 3 pm on weekends (Fri-Sun), but a visit to the Custom House today (Saturday) reveals an active and interested public, a redesigned space and new flow pattern through the museum. Store customers will enter through the outside store door; one family at a time will be permitted access.

At this point, we are also getting ready for Christmas in the Adobes (CITA) 2021, but a final decision on its happening and dates will be coming soon. We hope to

*Continued on p.2*

have another successful year in spite of the social limitations that may still be in place. Several restoration projects will be completed in time, and we anticipate that the First Theater will be able to open for CITA. Please consider membership and renewals in MSHPA as we push forward to complete the restoration of First Theater and enable live performances and an expansion of children's programs. More information on membership is included on the last page of this newsletter.

Our social programs for members, volunteers, and State Park employees will be restarting again and we hope to bring in new people that wish to learn more about MSHPA, our mission, and our partnership with Monterey State Parks. We thank you for your continued support.

## History of the Casa Del Oro Annex Buildings: The Picket Fence and the Restroom Buildings –

Hailee Singleton, Senior Curatorial Aid, Monterey State Historic Park

### Casa Del Oro

Casa Del Oro, or the House of Gold, was the home to the first safe in Monterey making it a “safe” place for residents to store their gold and wealth. We have even found sources suggesting that Casa Del Oro was used as a Mint in the late 1800s. Last year, the Cultural Resources department made a push to register the annex buildings officially with the State of California which involved several months of in depth research. The goal of this research was to establish a historical significance for the outer buildings in the Casa Del Oro Complex. Although it is believed that Casa Del Oro was built between 1845-1848 but there is no real solid date that we can find in our archives to indicate original year of construction. Will Jacks, the son of David Jacks, built both annex buildings with the original use of the complex that is currently the restrooms believed to have been servant’s quarters due to the discovery of a servant’s panel that was found during renovations. The restroom building is believed to have been built after 1927, but not after 1939.

This is an early photo of Casa Del Oro as evidenced by the absence of both the Bathroom complex and the Picket Fence building and attached Annex. Image from California State Parks' Statewide Collections.

Not for reproduction or publication without permission.





Continued from p.2

### The Picket Fence and Annex spaces

The Picket fence Building is the second oldest structure on the property having been constructed around 1924 by Will Jacks, as a garage and living space for his servants as verified in a letter that was written by Margaret Jacks, Will Jacks' sister. Historic photos indicate that the rest of the structure was likely constructed in separate passes. After 1926 the first half of the picket fence building (moving from the garage back) was then added by Will Jacks. The building would have stopped after second set of windows. The last phase of construction was in 1949 where the former ranger office was added on by MSHP.

Casa Del Oro property as it was during Will Jacks' ownership as the Restroom buildings are seen on the right attached to the main building. We suspect this photo to date to the late 1920s through possibly as late as 1939. Image from California State Parks' Statewide Collections. Not for reproduction or publication without permission



View today from the Pacific Street side of Casa de Oro gardens; restroom building on left side and annex building to the right.

Continued on p. 4



Continued from p.3

# Monterey's Tea Garden

by Mimi Sheridan, MSHPA Historian and Board Member

The Memory Garden, tucked behind the Pacific House museum, is one of the crown jewels of the Monterey State Historic Park. The garden is the product of Margaret Jacks' vision to create an oasis on the desolate space behind the building that her father, land baron David Jacks, had purchased in 1880.

Miss Jacks sought to make the old adobe useful and profitable once again, with a garden as the centerpiece. Accordingly, she hired the Olmsted Brothers Landscape Architects to design it. A vital part of the scheme was a tea garden, located in the smaller northern section, separated from the main garden by a vine-covered wall of arches.



Above-Photo of wall of arches. Photo Credit Historic Garden League; Right- Kitchen area in rear wall of garden; Below, Fountain on north wall of garden



A tea room (called the "sala de te" on the original rendering) was planned for the north end of the Pacific Building, with customers spilling out into the adjacent courtyard. The garden was a romantic vision, shaded by large awnings with a large fountain at the rear. As the plan was refined over the months of design work, the fountain was moved to the north wall. A unique outdoor kitchen was added at the rear, with a grill, work space and storage cupboards built into the wall.



As far as is known, the tea garden never functioned as a commercial enterprise. It was completed in 1928, a time when the surrounding Lower Alvarado/waterfront area was rather rough-and-tumble, with card room, billiard halls and taverns (in spite of Prohibition).

However, the garden fulfilled another part of Miss Jacks' vision—recognition of Monterey's Spanish past. Since 1929, the Memory Garden has been the site of La Merienda, a celebration of the city's birthday. About 1939, a large grill was installed in the center of the Tea Garden, marking the end—both symbolically and practically--of its original use and demonstrating its future of hosting large events. It has seen extensive use as a venue for weddings and other celebrations. See [https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page\\_id=24737](https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=24737) for more information if interested.

## Volunteer Coordinator's Corner by Erica Hedlund, Interpreter I



### Hello MSHP Volunteers!

Custom House Store Grand Reopening will be Memorial Day Weekend, and we need **YOU** to sign up for shifts! We are also planning a soft opening Saturday 22nd-Sunday 23rd. If you are a volunteer who usually volunteers in a different park but you are willing to help out in the Custom House Store in the coming weeks, we would very much appreciate it. Other volunteer opportunities will come once we get past the full reopening of Custom House Pacific House and Tours.

Shifts will run 10:45am-3:15pm to allow for opening and closing procedures. Store hours will be 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

- **Soft Opening Shifts** 10:45AM-3:15PM- Saturday 5/22 and Sunday 5/23

- **Grand Re-opening Shifts** for Memorial Day Weekend 10:45AM-3:15 PM; Friday 5/28, Saturday 5/29, Sunday 5/30, Monday 5/31

### How to start signing up for shifts:

As the volunteer program starts up again, we have two trainings for you to take. The Better Impact training will show you how to view and sign up for available shifts. You may also contact me if interested in signing up for shifts. The Custom House Store Refresher Training is for anyone wanting to come back and help in the store.

#### 1) Better Impact Training

- To those who took the Better Impact Training this week, THANK YOU! You all made our time in training enjoyable and successful. I took attendance of our training and you all will be receiving credit towards your volunteer hours for your time.

- To those who missed the Better Impact training that was provided this week, if you have not already spoken to me about not being able to have attended, I will be offering two more trainings online. This is a very important piece to getting volunteers signed up for Custom House Store shifts which is the biggest need we will have as we begin to reopen the park.

- If you are not able to use Better Impact to sign up for shifts, please work with me so I can schedule you for needed shifts at this time.

- Please email to let me know which training you plan on attending and I will send you the Zoom link. Wednesday, May 12th @ 10:00 AM or Thursday, May 13th @ 2:00 PM

#### 2) Custom House Refresher Training

- In order to prepare volunteers to begin helping in the Custom House Store again, we will be doing Custom Store Refresher/COVID Operations trainings in person at the Custom House in the next two weeks. If you plan on attending, please let me know. You can also now sign up for these trainings on Better Impact. Sessions are Friday, May 14th, @ 10 am and Friday, May 21st @ 10 am. If neither of these times work for you, but you would like to begin working in the store, PLEASE LET ME KNOW.

I have sent several emails in the past month so if you have not yet seen these, please look out for me in your email: [Erica.Hedlund@parks.ca.gov](mailto:Erica.Hedlund@parks.ca.gov). I can also be reached at (831) (649) 7172.

**Getting Ready to see you in the park soon!**





# Reminder to Join, Renew, and Donate for 2021

by Harish Joshi, Membership Chair

You should have received a reminder to renew your annual membership. This year, the plea comes with more urgency. As you are aware, we have been sorely affected by COVID closures in 2020 and now 2021. Our benefit store in the Custom House, closed since mid-March 2020, will be reopening for weekends only starting May 21 and we look forward to greeting shoppers again. We look forward to hopefully hosting Christmas in the Adobes (CITA) 2021. Donations in the collection box at the Custom House museum, your membership dues, and tickets sales for CITA, constitute the bulk of our revenue that we use to support children's programming. We desperately want to re-emerge from the closures and become active in the community once again. Besides that, we are also partly funding the restoration of the First Theatre, which has been closed for a decade.

Please take a moment now to renew your membership and to help grow our membership. Furthermore, please consider making a charitable donation to allow us to continue our education and preservation efforts. The easiest way to renew or donate is online at [www.mshpa.org](http://www.mshpa.org).

## Co-editors:

**Donna Gibson &  
Nicollette Eason Trottier**

Email: [info@mshpa.org](mailto:info@mshpa.org)

We welcome your stories  
and ideas.



Support MSHPA while shopping on  
Amazon at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) &  
search for

Monterey State Historic Park  
Association

Follow Us on Social Media:



@MSHPA\_Monterey



## 2020 MSHPA Board of Directors:

--**Lee Henderson**, President,  
Development

--**Nicollette Eason Trottier**,  
Vice President, Marketing &  
Outreach

--**Vacant**, Secretary

--**Toy Bryant**, Treasurer

--**Harish Joshi**, Membership  
Chair

--**Mimi Sheridan**, Interpretation,  
Volunteer Council

--**Bende Kelly**, Retail Committee

--**Meredith LaTelle**, Retail Chair

--**Jason Ward**, Development

--**Jo McMenamy**, MSHP

Cooperating Association Liaison

--**Erica Hedlund**, MSHP Volunteer  
Coordinator