

The CAO Weekly Report

The week of May 11, 2015



Monterey County Administrative Office

Lew C. Bauman, CAO

In this edition:

- Elections hosts Voters Rights workshop for public assistance agencies
- County Historian tells tales of local 'lost towns'
- County offices enjoy Relay for Life activities



Elections Hosts Workshop on Voters Rights for Agencies Serving Persons with Disabilities

The Elections Department recently hosted a presentation on the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA) with a focus on public assistance agencies facilitating access to voting for residents or clients. The presentation took place at the County's new Schilling Place facility.

The presenters included Steven Carda, NVRA Coordinator from the California Secretary of State's Office; Raúl Macías, ACLU Voter Rights Attorney; Fred Nisen, California Disability Rights Attorney; Mary Kikuchi, Registration Program Manager and Greta Arevalo, Outreach Program Manager.

In an effort to make it easier for citizens to register to vote, the National Voter Registration Act requires public assistance agencies, state funded programs serving people with disabilities and other state designated offices to offer voter registration cards to all clients and to offer assistance in completing the registration process.

Those in attendance learned about rights for clients with disabilities, how to complete voter registration cards, and voter accessibility services available to all voters in Monterey County.

Agencies participating in the workshop included the Department of Social Services, Department of Rehabilitation, Natividad Medical Center, In-Home Support Services, San Andreas Regional Center, Aging and Adult Services, Central Coast Center for Independent Living, WIC, and the San Benito County Elections Department.



Mary Kikuchi, Elections Program Manager, shows how to complete a voter registration card.

“The Monterey County Elections Office did a great job organizing and hosting the NVRA training,” commented Raul Macias, ACLU Voter Registration Attorney. “They have been great partners over the last year and I look forward to continuing to work

collaboratively with them on improving NVRA implementation in the county.”



If you know of someone or an organization that could benefit from this training, contact Mary Kikuchi who is the Monterey County Elections Department NVRA coordinator at x1466.

Fred Nisen (right) talks about voting rights for people with disabilities.



County Historian Shares Tales of Local Lost Towns

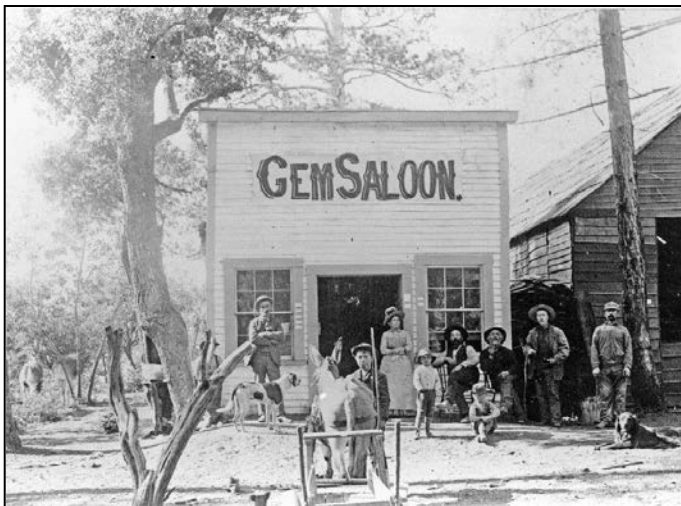
Some are lost towns, some are ghost towns. But no matter what you call them, County Historian Meg Clovis can tell their stories and explain their place in county lore.

Clovis is a requested speaker on local history, most recently giving several talks about the county's 'lost towns.' Her most recent engagements were for the Carmel Library Association at Sunset Center and a full house at the Maritime Museum in Monterey for the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute. Carmel Magazine will feature Clovis and her tales of lost towns next month.

Have you heard of these Monterey County place names: Blanco, Confederate Corners, Fort Romie, Hilltown, Manchester, Pleyto, and Santa Rita?

They all have one thing in common. They enjoyed flourishing beginnings, attracted settlers; all featured a general store, post office, stage stop, school, church and saloon. So what became of them?

In her presentation, Clovis explains how Monterey County attracted settlers for many different reasons such as gold in the Santa Lucias, farming in the Salinas Valley, the port of Monterey, the promise of a better life.



This photo featuring the Gem Saloon was taken in the now 'lost town' of Manchester, a gold mining town that once stood 22 miles southwest of Jolon.

Why did some towns go bust? The reasons are varied: the gold gave out, the water dried up, or the land was just no good and they became just a footnote in county history.

"I get a lot of questions and comments about Manchester probably because of the gold," says Clovis. "People want to know how to get to the site, which is in a remote area."

During California's Gold Rush, there were gold mining operations in the Santa Lucia Mountains and

Manchester was a remote mining town. When the rush was in full swing, the little town's population swelled into the hundreds. Although some gold was found in the area, the extraction was never enough to make anyone's fortune and the town eventually failed.

The town of Pleyto is another lost town that is now most well known for being at the bottom of Lake San Antonio.

Pleyto was founded a few years after the end of the Civil War and was important enough at the time for the coast stage line to maintain stables there. The town boasted a store, hotel, blacksmith shop, dance hall and school. The tide turned after 20 years though and by 1886, the Southern Pacific Railroad had reached the county line and Pleyto was bypassed as most travelers took the train and stage coach use dwindled.

The post office closed in 1929 and the town receded into memory. By 1964, when the San Antonio Dam was completed, the few vestiges of the pioneer settlement that remained were covered by lake waters.

A look into the past at the town of Pleyto in south Monterey County. The town main street (right), residents picnic under the trees (below).



A marker near Lake San Antonio notes where the town once stood.



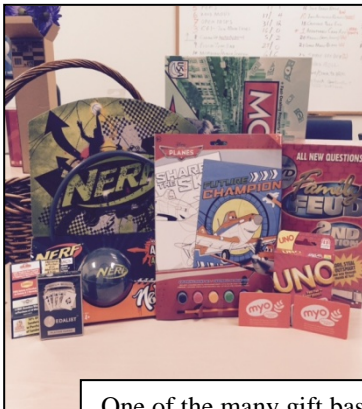
Supporters Offer Delicious Fundraisers for Relay for Life

When staff at the Auditor-Controller's Office get involved in a project, good things happen. For the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life, that means more donations for the cause. For those in offices nearby, it means lots of food and fun.

County Payroll Manager Idalia Ow, with support from the Auditor-Controller staff, held several mealtime fundraisers during the month of April in support of Relay for Life. Ow and her crew dished up breakfast burritos one day, manned a sumptuous salad bar and baked goods sale another day, then topped it off with a third event, an Ice Cream Sundae Bar. Their efforts inspired the Assessor's Office to get into the action with a cupcake sale.



Fundraising wrapped up May 7th with drawings for more than a dozen gift baskets.



One of the many gift baskets created to benefit Relay for Life.

The final fundraising tally from all these events: \$2,178.90 earned for Relay for Life.

Assessor's Office staff joined in the Relay fundraising efforts with a cupcake sale.



Idalia says a heartfelt thank you to all who came out in support of Relay and a special thanks to the talented and supportive Auditor-Controller staff.

"I could not do it without you," she says.

