



LIME KILN CHRONICLES

Newsletter of the Friends of the Cowell Lime Works Historic District
University of California, Santa Cruz

Special 10th Anniversary Issue

Highlights from Our First 10 Years

By Frank Perry

Wow, it is hard to believe that 2018 marks the completion of the Friends' tenth year! This is the 20th issue of the *Lime Kiln Chronicles*.

From the beginning, our mission has been public education, restoration, and preservation. We thought it would be worth taking a look back at some of what has been accomplished over the past decade.

2009

- Our first full year was a busy one. One of our initial successes was receiving a grant from the S. H. Cowell Foundation for stabilizing the historic Cooperage. Cribbing was placed beneath the building and diagonal cables attached to the inside to help keep the building from collapsing.
- In August of 2009, the Friends organized the "Conference on Lime and Lime Kilns in California History." This was the first time a large group of people with this common interest came together to share information. There were about 80 attendees who came from many parts of California to enjoy lectures, exhibits, demonstrations, and a tour of the Historic District.

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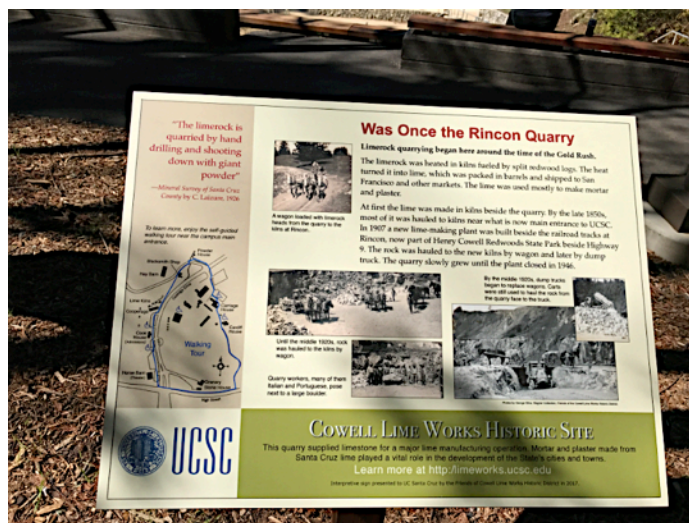


Photo by Alisa Klaus

The new sign in its natural habitat beside the amphitheater.

Quarry Amphitheater Sign Installed

The Friends are pleased to announce that the interpretive sign designed and funded by the Friends was installed earlier this year at the refurbished Quarry Amphitheater.

The design follows that of the interpretive signs within the Historic District. It explains that the site was once known as the Rincon Quarry and supplied limerock for Cowell's kilns at Rincon (just off Highway 9). Those kilns were built in the early 1900s, but the use of the amphitheater area as a quarry goes back to at least the 1850s.

The sign uses photos supplied a few years back by Barbara Wagner, whose father, George Silva, worked at the quarry in the 1920s. Long time readers may

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100 years ago . . .

The following tidbits were extracted from the *Santa Cruz Evening News* for the first half of 1918.

February 25, 1918

"Commissioner Greenfield has spread two carloads of screenings on Bay street in proximity to the **Cowell warehouse**, where the road bed has been in very bad shape for some time. The main objection to the approach to the Cliff Drive is thus removed."

April 16, 1918

City receives consent "to open a thirty-foot right-of-way through the **Cowell lands**, beginning at a point where Bay Street first curves in front of the **Cowell warehouse** and continues directly across the **Cowell property** to a new junction with the Cliff Drive near the W. S. Goodfellow home."

April 20, 1918

"Louthain & Kenyon announce the sales of three Buick sixes during the past week to Miss Effey Hogle, O. W. Ebert, the local grocer, and **Henry Cowell**."

May 17, 1918

"The Epworth League of the First Methodist Church had a picnic last evening on **Cowell's beach** for the young people of the church."

May 18, 1918

"Jensen Brothers Auto Company have received a Ford sedan for local delivery. Ford touring cars have been sold to the **Cowell Lime & Cement company** and to Edward Riordan. Otto Jensen will go to San Francisco on Thursday for three more cars."

June 25, 1918

"It is announced that Tom Prescott of Stafford's place, near Soquel, has won the **Cowell scholarship** at the state university for this year. The scholarship provides \$150 a year for four years. He will begin his studies next fall. He was one of the recent graduates at the high school."



Mary Harpin tells the story of the Rincon Road in this online video that uses George Silva's photos.

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recall the short video we did that used many of his photos. It is still available on YouTube. If you have not watched it or want to see it again, visit YouTube.com and search for "Along the Rincon Road." Be sure to put quotes around the title. Mary Harpin, who was then a UCSC student, was the presenter.

The Friends also contributed photos to an online exhibit about the history of the site. The exhibit was designed and authored by Christine Turk, a PhD candidate in the literature program at UCSC who is interested in historical preservation and public outreach. The exhibit is at: <https://quarryamphitheater.library.ucsc.edu/exhibits/show>.



Cardiff Shed Update

Friends Board member and local architect Dennis Diego has been making great progress in lining up donors to restore the historic Cardiff Shed (seen here before it was disassembled). We need to raise several thousand dollars to finish this project. If you would like to help, please email us at limeworks@ucsc.edu.

Preserving Memories

While there are no surviving Cowell lime workers, we have discovered that there are still plenty of descendants of the workers as well as others with memories of the UCSC campus area before the land was acquired for a university.

One of our goals during the past ten years has been to interview some of these people and record their stories. It is these personal family stories that really bring history alive, especially when there are some family photos too. Some of these interviews have been the basis for articles in the *Lime Kiln Chronicles*, which are archived on our website (limeworks.ucsc.edu). Others have not yet been published. Here is a list of interviews we have done so far.

Jo Ann Cacace. Our first issue of the LKC featured an interview with Jo Ann Cacace, whose grandfather, Carlos Silva, was a barrel maker for Cowell (published Fall, 2008).

Wilbert Patten. The late Mr. Patton attended the S. H. Cowell birthday party in 2011 and said that his aunt once dated Mr. Cowell. Who can ignore a story like that? He shared his childhood memories of the Cowell Ranch, including playing in the quarry. This will be in a future article.

Joe Conde and Jim Lorenzana. The parents of brothers Joe and Jim worked on the Cowell Ranch, and Joe lived in the Cookhouse as a boy. Some of their memories were published in the Spring/Summer 2012 issue.

Dick Nutter. As a young man, Dick worked for the County agricultural inspector and visited the Cowell Ranch. His story will be in a future issue of the *Chronicles*.

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New and Renewing Members

Our sincere thanks to these new and renewing members. Their donations enable The Friends to continue its mission of education and historic preservation. We have several important projects in the works, which we will be sharing in future issues of the *Lime Kiln Chronicles*.

John and Bridget Barnes
Keith Brant and Janelle Del Carlo
Neal Coonerty
Lee and Emily Duffus
Anne Hayes and Daniel Mountjoy
Hal and Dottie Hyde
Richard Hyman
Patricia R. Johns
Alisa C. Klaus
Michael D. Luther
Cynthia and Bill Mathews
Dusty and Craig Miller
Patricia Paramoure and Michael Boyd
Redtree Properties, L.P.
Tom Schreiner and Jeannette Echenique
Janet and Richard Schwind
Kathleen Shaw
Stan and Carli Stevens
Mark and Patricia Traugott
Frank Zwart and Julia Armstrong-Zwart

The *Lime Kiln Chronicles* is published twice each year (Spring and Fall) by the Friends of the Cowell Lime Works Historic District



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Unveiling of the bronze plaque in 2009.

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- That fall the Friends assisted with the installation of a bronze plaque commemorating placement of the Historic District on the National Register of Historic Places. Chancellor George Blumenthal and other local dignitaries helped with the unveiling in a ceremony next to the Cookhouse.
- Also in 2009, student interns, under the direction of Sally Morgan, completed archaeological excavations at Cabin B. The discoveries provided valuable insights into the lives of the lime workers and were later analyzed in detail by archaeologist Pat Paramoure for her masters' thesis. This was the first of several student archaeological excavations in the district, some of these funded with help from the Friends.

2010

- The Friends received a grant from the National Trust for Historic Preservation for documentation of the Hay Barn. The barn was meticulously measured and photographed to document how it was built. This information laid the foundation for the eventual disassembly and reconstruction of the barn.

2011

- The Hay Barn documentation was completed this year, which was also Samuel Henry Cowell's 150th birthday. We threw a party for him at the Cardiff House (the former Cowell family residence) with a cake and short talk by historian Frank Perry. That summer, Eagle Scout Sam Muse restored part of the fence around the cabins.
- In 2011 we received yet another grant, this one for documentation of the Cooperage. This grant for \$10,000 was from the Community Foundation of Santa Cruz County. The resulting document will play a vital role in any future restoration or reconstruction project.



A tour group walks past the Cooperage, built in 1869, on the way to the Continuous Kiln, built in 1861.

OUR CINEMA CENTENNIAL

★ The Beginnings of Movie-making in Santa Cruz ★



Lecture
Exhibit of Movie Memorabilia
Reception at Provost's House
Refreshments
Silent Film Showing*
Door Prizes

A century ago, in the Fall of 1911, the first dramatic motion pictures were filmed in Santa Cruz.

• "A Diamond in the Rough" was shot among the Henry Cowell Redwoods.

• "The Danites" was filmed at what is now UCSC.

• Join historian **Randall Brown** as we explore Santa Cruz's early film history.

Date: Saturday, November 12, 2011, 2-6 p.m.
Location: Humanities Lecture Hall (near Cowell College, UCSC)
Parking: Free at Cowell and Stevenson lots.
Cost: \$5.00 donation. Students free.
Information: 459-1254

The Cowell Ox Teams appeared in the films.

Sydney Ayres

In 2011 the Friends hosted a lecture by historian Randall Brown on early movie-making in Santa Cruz. A century earlier, a silent film called "The Danites" was shot on the Cowell Ranch. The movie used some of the Cowell ox teams to pull covered wagons. The motion picture was made by the Selig Polyscope Company before there was even a Hollywood.

F. Perry



Students help restore one of the old limeworker cabins.

2012

- By the summer of 2012 considerable progress had been made on restoration of Cabin B. Over 14 volunteers had worked on this project, many of them students. Support came from the Cabrillo Civic Club, Alameda Roofing, and Western Roofing Supply.
- Sally Morgan, who played a vital role in getting the Friends started, left her position with the University and Alisa Klaus took over as staff liaison.

F. Perry



Alameda Roofing donated the labor for a new Cabin B roof. Western Roofing Supply donated the shingles.

- In April the Friends and the Santa Cruz Museum of Art & History (MAH) co-sponsored a demonstration and lecture on timber frame construction. This was followed in the fall by an exhibition at MAH on the same subject.

2013

- This was an especially exciting year. In March, UCSC announced a \$5 million gift from the Helen and Will Webster Foundation for restoration of the Hay Barn. The restored barn would be used by the Center for Agroecology and Sustainable Food Systems.



Soon-to-be Eagle Scout Jonathan Chaney shows off his fine fence work in 2013.

- Boy Scout Jonathan Chaney rebuilt the rest of the fence around the cabins for his Eagle Scout project.
- Thanks to a generous donation from Redtree Partners L.P., six interpretive signs were installed around the district explaining the historical significance of the buildings and kilns.
- In the fall, the Friends co-sponsored the "Crystals, Caves, and Kilns" exhibition at the

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Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History. The following year, the displays moved to the San Lorenzo Valley Museum in Boulder Creek. The two museums and the San Lorenzo Valley Water District also sponsored the exhibition, which explained the natural history and human history of limestone and marble in the Felton–Santa Cruz area.

- Lynne Stoops, our development liaison stepped down, and Anne Hayes took over that position.

2014

- Work on rebuilding the Hay Barn began with disassembly and careful examination of each timber and piece of siding so as to determine what wood could be salvaged and re-used in the “new” barn.
- The Friends sponsored an archaeological dig to give UCSC anthropology students hands-on experience with field techniques. The students excavated at the Hay Barn site before new construction began.

2015

This was another especially busy year.

- On September 12th, the Hay Barn was dedicated in an evening ceremony next to the barn. Speakers included Chancellor George Blumenthal, Professor George Brown, and Associate Professor Stacy Philpott, who served as host for the event.
- Work began on renovation of the Cardiff House, which was built in 1864. The work gave the building a proper foundation, replaced wood that was decayed, and made the building accessible to the disabled.
- On October 24, the Friends organized the first Santa Cruz County History Fair. This was the first public event to utilize the new Hay Barn and was a huge success. Over 300 people came to see displays, lectures, and demonstrations by historical groups from throughout Santa Cruz County. The Fair marked the sesquicentennial of Henry Cowell’s arrival in Santa Cruz.

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In the spring of 2013 student archaeologists learned field techniques through excavations in front of the lime kilns. This trench is in front of the first doorway of the western most of the three pot kilns.



The Friends held the 2016 Santa Cruz County History Fair at Loudon Nelson Community Center.

2016

- The seismic upgrade for the Cardiff House was completed in January. Among other things, kitchen and restroom facilities were improved, and the building received a new roof and paint job.
- Students from the UCSC Anthropology Department again conducted excavations in the spring, exploring cabin sites near the Cookhouse.
- In October the Friends organized a second Santa Cruz County History Fair, this time held at Loudon Nelson Community Center in Santa Cruz. The event was co-sponsored by the City of Santa Cruz on the sesquicentennial of its incorporation.

2017

- The Quarry Amphitheater renovation was completed. The Friends helped raise funds for this project (albeit in a small way) and designed an interpretive sign explaining the historical significance of the site. The Friends also provided information and photos for an online history of the quarry.

It should be noted that the above list does not include many other things that have been

accomplished, such as giving public tours of the district, publishing this newsletter, conducting oral histories and interviews (see pages 3 and 7), gathering old photos and documents, and restoring the Cardiff Shed (still in the works).

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Robert Cardiff. Mr. Cardiff's grandfather, George Cardiff, worked for S. H. Cowell and was living on the ranch when UCSC bought the property. We'll be reporting on some of Robert's childhood memories in a future issue.

Barbara Wagner. Barbara Wagner not only shared the story of her father, George Silva, who worked for Cowell, but also shared an album of photos that he took. See the Fall/Winter issues of 2013-2014 and 2014-2015.

Jackie Sims. Her father worked briefly for Cowell in the early 1900s. His story will be in a future issue.

Les Strong. Mr. Strong grew up in Santa Cruz and raised cattle on the Cowell Ranch just before it was purchased by UCSC. Read his story in the Spring/Summer 2015 issue.

Jim Bosso. We met Jim Bosso at the 2016 Santa Cruz County History Fair. His grandfather, Angelo Seghetti, worked for Cowell in the very early 1900s. His family story is in the Fall/Winter 2017-2018 issue.

Edith Bell. Edith Bell was a longtime member of the Friends and shared some fascinating family connections with the Cowell Ranch. Read her story in the Spring/Summer 2016 issue.

Ida Tarantino. Mrs. Tarantino shared the story of her grandfather, Agostino Puccinelli, after we met her at the 2016 History Fair. That story is in the Fall/Winter 2017-2018 issue.

ALL ORDERS PUNCTUALLY ATTENDED TO.

San Francisco, Feb 16th 1859

Mr. Davis

Bought of **SAMUEL ADAMS,**
DEALER IN
LIME, CEMENT, PLASTER, FIRE-BRICKS, ETC.

SANTA CRUZ LIME,
CEMENT AND PLASTER,
MARBLE DUST,
FIRE CLAY, FIRE BRICK,
HAIR, &c.

TERMS CASH. No. 42 Battery Street, between California and Pine.

To 4 Barrels Lime \$10 00

Rec'd Payment

Samuel Adams

Receipt from the Samuel Adams company, 1859. Adams manufactured lime in Santa Cruz County from 1858 to 1868. His kilns were located in what is now Wilder Ranch State Park, just west of Cave Gulch. Adams, who came to California during the Gold Rush, sold his business to Davis and Cowell in 1868 and returned to his native New York. His kilns were then used by Davis and Cowell and became known as "Cowell's Upper Kilns." The kilns in our historic district were "Cowell's Lower Kilns." This receipt lists 4 barrels of lime for \$10 (\$2.50 per barrel). At the bottom is what appears to be Mr. Adams's signature.

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