



LIME KILN CHRONICLES

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

Hay Barn Disassembly Completed

March was an incredibly exciting month here in the Historic District as work on the Hay Barn project began. On March 16th, contractor Mark Plainfield, and his assistants Julian Plainfield, Mike Greenwald, and Florian Rotman, began the delicate task of disassembling the barn. The work had to be done carefully so that some of the wood could be re-used in the rehabilitated structure.

Paul Oatman, an authority on timber-frame construction and expert on historic barns, also assisted with the deconstruction. Although Oatman had documented how the barn was built before the work began, the disassembly revealed details of the joinery that were not previously visible.

One of the barn's most unusual features is the ridge beam. During construction, this beam helped hold the rafters in place along the roof ridge until the sheathing was installed. Most barn ridge beams are only an inch thick. This beam, however, is massive and notched for the rafters. There are also large hooks on the under side. It is unclear why it was built in such an unusual fashion. Perhaps it was used for heavy lifting of some kind.



More barn photos on page 5

New Archaeological Dig Underway

The Friends are very pleased to sponsor for the second year a student archaeological excavation in the Historic District. The principal goals are to give UCSC anthropology students hands-on experience in archaeological field techniques and to learn more about the district's past. This year, the students are working at the Hay Barn site, digging test units to see what kinds of historic artifacts are buried there. This will give archaeologists a better idea of what to watch for during excavations for the new foundation later in the year. As with last year's dig, it is being led by archaeologist Pat Paramoure. Assisting Pat will be UCSC senior Jacqueline Prescott Frazier and UCSC alumnae Christina Powell and Libby Tjoa.



For updates, follow the Friends on Facebook.

This year, with the help of University Relations, the Friends tried a new crowdfunding technique. The funds were raised during the month of March through online networking. It was very successful, and by the end of the month we attained our goal.

The Friends sincerely thank the following for generously contributing to this project: Ralph Alpert, Daunte Ball, Steven Bignell, Patricia Boyd, Martha Brown, Stephen Bruce, Teresa Buika, Dennis Diego, Andrew Dowds, Lee Duffus, Bob Dunn, Christopher Ely, Michael Greenberg, Anita Grunwald, Anne Hayes, Eric Hughes, Alisa Klaus, Don Lauritson, Elise Levinson, Cynthia Mathews, Drew Meyer, J. Cameron Monroe, Gary Neier, Ron Ostrow and Margaret Wood, Frank Perry, Sarah Rabkin, Elizabeth Schilling, JoAnn Smiley, Lynne Stoops, Leslie Sweeney, June and Mike Swift, Susan Willats, and Frank Zwart.

Cardiff House Sesquicentennial

The precise ages for many of the Historic District's lime kilns, buildings, and other structures remain uncertain. The Cardiff

House, however, is an exception, thanks to a brief note in the *Santa Cruz Sentinel* dated May 14, 1864:

"Mr. A. P. Jordan is building a new residence in that most delightful situation overlooking the town and the Bay of Monterey, long since selected as a site for building, near the lime-works of Davis and Jordan."

Mr. Jordan was co-founder of the firm of Davis and Jordan, which began manufacturing lime in Santa Cruz in the early 1850s. The house was most likely built by Jordan's father-in-law, John B. Perry. A skilled carpenter, Perry built several other houses of this style in Santa Cruz.

Jordan, his wife Mary, and their children lived in the home for only a short time. In 1865 Jordan sold his share of the lime business to Henry Cowell. Mr. Cowell, his wife Harriet, and their five children lived in the house from 1865 to 1879, when the family returned to San Francisco. Afterwards, the Cowells continued to stay here on visits, which ranged from a few days to months. The Cowells always called the Santa Cruz property their "Home Ranch."

In the 1950s and early 1960s it was the residence of George and Violet Cardiff. Mr. Cardiff was Cowell's property manager in Santa Cruz. Cardiff knew Harry Cowell (Henry's son) fairly well, and the oral history he provided to UCSC in the 1960s remains a valuable source on the history of the Cowell family and ranch.



A. P. and Mary Jordan.

Judy Steen

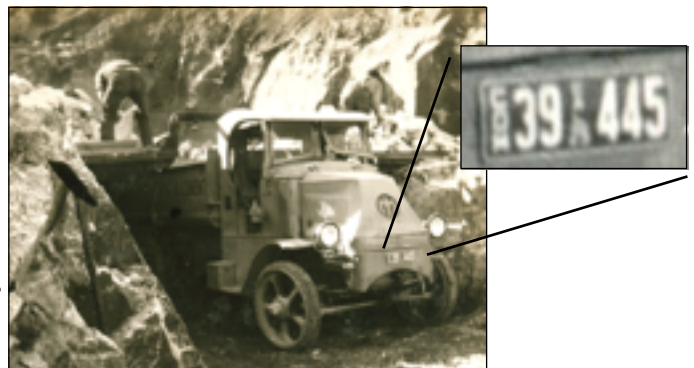
Resurrecting the Bull Dog

One of the objects in the Crystals, Caves, and Kilns exhibition is a scale model of a Mack "Bull Dog" dump truck. It replicates as closely as possible (at 1/24 scale) one of the trucks used here by the Henry Cowell Lime and Cement Company in the 1920s.

According to the late George Cardiff, Harry Cowell was reluctant to convert from draft animals to trucks. Not until Cardiff demonstrated that trucks were cheaper to operate, did Cowell (who loved animals) reluctantly decide to modernize.

For the truck model to be accurate, it needed to have the correct license plate number and year. In the early to middle 1900s, California license plates had the year embossed in large letters. The entire plate was replaced each year instead of just a sticker like today. Often, old photos of cars and trucks can be dated by reading the year on the plate.

A photo of one of the trucks taken in the 1920s by quarry worker George Silva and supplied by his daughter, Barbara Wagner, clearly shows the plate on the front. The year, however, is not quite readable. It appears to be twenty-something. Indeed, Silva started working for Cowell in the middle 1920s.



Even though the year is illegible, the style and "color" provide further clues. The plate has very light colored letters with a very dark background. "COM" for Commercial is on the left, and the state and last two digits of the year are in the middle (placement of these varied year to year). A search online for California plates of the 1920s revealed that only one year fits this pattern: 1923. That year, the plate was black with white letters. With a little detective work, the mystery was solved, and a reproduction plate could be made for putting on the model.



Harry Cowell (right) in front of what is now the Cardiff House, circa 1912. Today it houses the UCSC Women's Center.

Special Collections, UCSC

Barbara Wagner

Encore for the Crystals, Caves, and Kilns Exhibition

This exhibition, co-sponsored by the Friends, opened at the San Lorenzo Valley Museum on April 26 and will run through November. Through mineral specimens, historic artifacts, and old photos, visitors will explore the natural history and cultural history of limestone and marble in the Felton-Santa Cruz area. Over 8,000 people saw the exhibition this past winter at the Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History. Now it moves north for an engagement in Boulder Creek. Besides the Friends and the two museum sponsors, funding also came from the San Lorenzo Water District Education Grant Program.

The San Lorenzo Valley Museum is located at 12547 Highway 9 in Boulder Creek (south edge of town on left side going north). The museum is open Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday, noon to 4 p.m. For more information, telephone 831-338-4152 or visit the museum's website at www.slvmuseum.org.



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



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82 Years Ago . . .



Cowell's buffalo herd at what is now Pogonip, 1932. Cowell had 13 bison at the time this photo was taken.

The following newspaper article was published January 6, 1932. It has been edited for clarity.

Four Buffalo Calves Now on Cowell Ranch

Frank George, who has charge of the Cowell Ranch, part of which lies within the city limits of Santa Cruz and upon which is located the Santa Cruz Golf and Country Club, said the ranch had received some beautiful Christmas presents: four fine buffalo calves, having been born just previous to the holiday, as well as two baby elk. And then, to add a little more life to the ranch, a big buck came racing through the woods and, spying a lovely young doe in her enclosure, jumped over the fence and has seen fit to make his home in the paddock ever since. The two animals are now great "playmates" and the buck is getting tamer every day.

The large herd of buffalos on the Cowell Ranch has been one of the main attractions on this beautiful stretch of property and has created favorable comment from visitors from all parts of the world. The herd of elk is also equally popular with visitors. They are well fed and carefully cared for at all seasons of the year.

In 1931 the government found itself with more buffalo in the Yellowstone Park than it cared to handle. After the announcement reached the ears of Harry Cowell, he at once applied through the proper channels to give a big herd a home on his ranch. A large enclosed range, lying just west of the Santa Cruz Golf And Country Club, adjoining the elk range, forms the home of the buffaloes.

Outside of parks and zoos, very few buffalos are privately owned in California, but Mr. Cowell is a lover of wildlife and the buffalo and elk appeal to his fancy along with that of race horses and fine-bred cattle.



In the 1930s there was a buffalo in almost every pocket.

Two Portraits of Henry Cowell

The Cowells are said to have been camera shy, but it is difficult to know if this was really true. It may just be that because there are no descendants, most of the family photos were lost or destroyed. There are also relatively few surviving company records, yet a vast number must have once existed.

The photo of Henry Cowell at the top has been widely published. Margaret Koch, who was a writer for the *Santa Cruz Sentinel* in the 1950s, '60s, and '70s, often did stories on local history, including the Cowell Ranch. She credited a relative of the Cowells, Frances Cowell Littlefield of Riverton, New Jersey, as the photo's source.

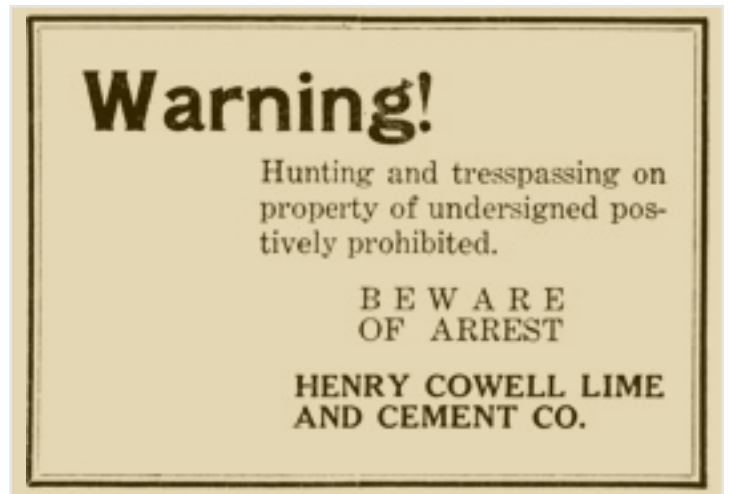
Lesser known is the photo below. It must have been taken around the same time based on the graying hair. If Cowell was approximately 60, then the photo would date from around 1880. This photo appeared in the newspaper in 1953 when Samuel Henry (Harry) Cowell donated the land for Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park. Harry Cowell—the last surviving Cowell child—was 92 by then. It would be wonderful to locate an original of this image. There are at least two other known images of Henry Cowell. In those, he is with his wife, Harriet, but the photos were taken from a distance.



Santa Cruz Museum of Art & History

No Hunting

The thousands of acres that comprised the Cowell Ranch were a magnet for hunters seeking deer, quail, and other game. Although Cowell welcomed many guests to his property, he did not like trespassers, especially hunters. He posted warning signs and sent his men on patrols. The concern was legitimate. Trespassers would sometimes leave gates open, letting cattle escape. In a few cases, livestock were struck by stray bullets. In the fall of 1921 (hunting season), Cowell tried something different: a notice in the newspaper (below).



Sept. 16, 1921



Jan. 24, 1925

Barn Deconstruction Photos, March, 2014

Frank Perry



Ridge beam showing hook on underside.



Frank Perry

Dismantling a bent at the north end.

Martha Brown



Removing skip sheathing from the roof. Originally the roof was shingled.



Frank Perry

Section of ridge beam showing scarf joint and notches for rafters.

Alisa Klaus



Removing siding from the east side. Original whitewash still coats the upper part of the boards where they were sheltered by the eaves.



Frank Perry

Temporary braces help hold the bents together until each is dismantled.



This view, probably from the late 1920s or 1930s, looks toward the southeast and shows the cook house (center). To the right is a garden, and nearby are several small buildings that no longer exist. Today's "Barn Theater" is on the far right. In the distance, just left of center, is a white building with a smokestack. This is probably the barrel mill, which burned before the University acquired the property. The smokestack was for a steam engine that ran a stave machine. *(George Silva photo, courtesy of Barbara Wagner)*

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