

Annie Murphy

From: Annie Murphy
Sent: Thursday, April 20, 2017 11:51 AM
To: Paia Levine
Subject: FW: Hemingway's S.C. Hero
Attachments: Marriman PDF.pdf

From: Ross Gibson [mailto:rossericgibson@comcast.net]
Sent: Monday, April 17, 2017 12:58 PM
To: Annie Murphy <Annie.Murphy@santacruzcounty.us>
Subject: Hemingway's S.C. Hero

Dear Commissioners

I served on the Live Oak Landmarks subcommittee of the County Historic Resources Commission in 2006, seeking overlooked landmarks to add to the county's inventory. Our committee was unanimous in our desires to protect the Bob Merriman Ranchette (1438 Capitola Road, near Live Oak Market). Here was the home of the Santa Cruz man who from 1936-1938 headed the "Abraham Lincoln Brigade" in the Spanish Civil War (the earliest international Anti-Fascist Movement to oppose Hitler and Mussolini), and who inspired his friend Ernest Hemingway to write the novel "For Whom the Bell Tolls," basing the novel's hero Robert Jordon on Robert (Bob) Merriman.

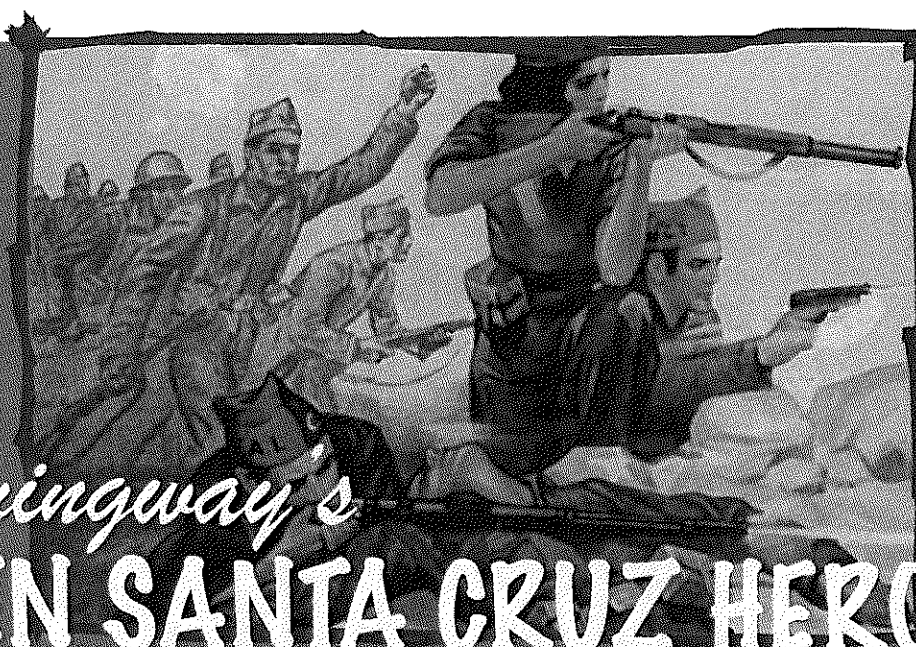
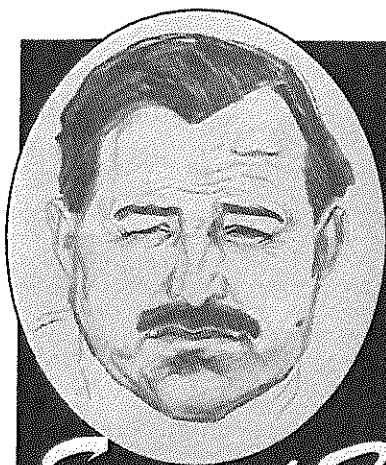
In 2006, the Bob Merriman Ranchette was owned by the County of Santa Cruz, representing the People of Santa Cruz County. The Andraes Ranchette next door to it was already listed on the county historic resources inventory, even though it was less historic than the Merriman Ranchette. But because the site was being considered for housing by the Redevelopment Agency, county leaders didn't want to consider the Merriman House for landmark status at the time. However, we received vague assurances that it *might* be retained on the site as a clubhouse for the complex, or moved to another site.

Today, however, the fate of the Merriman House is again up for debate, with redevelopment still framing the discussion. The only time we hear about Bob Merriman locally is in connection with this house, proving the building is the most viable interpretive tool for honoring those who foresaw World War II, and stood up for Democracy under the leadership of Merriman. Below is a PDF of my 2006 report "Ernest Hemingway's Forgotten Santa Cruz Hero: How Bob Merriman Inspired *For Whom the Bell Tolls*."

Please find a way to preserve this landmark.

Sincerely

Ross Eric Gibson



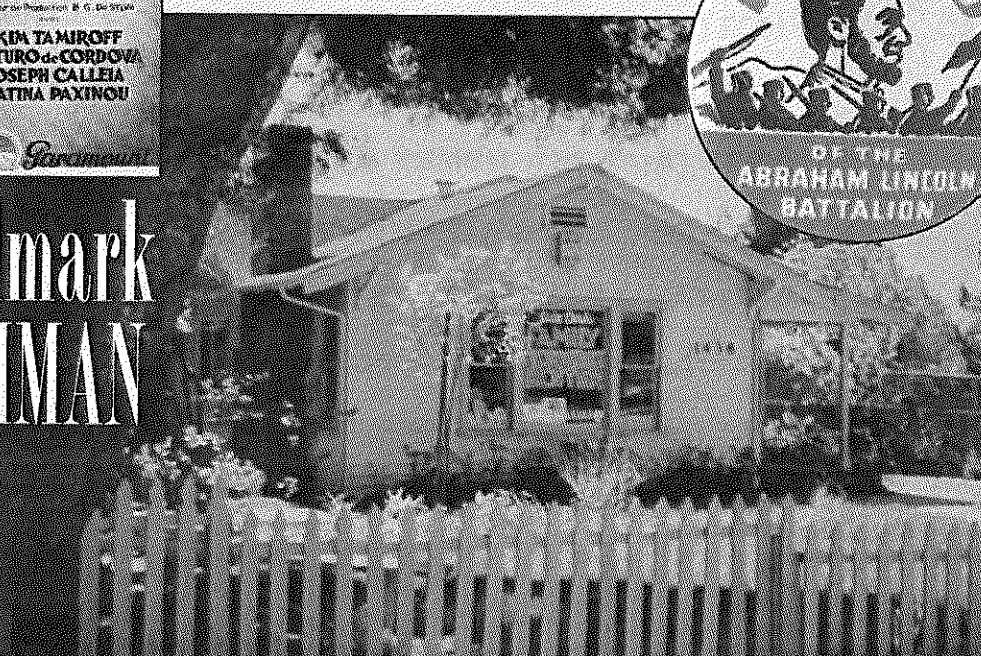
Ernest Hemingway's FORGOTTEN SANTA CRUZ HERO

Featured in "For Whom the Bell Tolls"



The Last Landmark of BOB MERRIMAN

by
Ross & Eric Gibson



Chain of Title

FOR THE BOB MERRIMAN HOUSE

*From Research by Steve Benson—Title Searcher
For Ross Eric Gibson*

1916 (June 6): JAMES MORRISSEY'S "WILSON BROS. TRACT #1"

1918 (Apr. 29): JOHN & SUSIE GOETSCH

1921 (Nov. 4): I.A. & ELSIE GRAVELL

1922 (Feb. 28): V.E. ECKSTEIN

1922 (Apr. 28): F.E. CLARK

1923 (Apr. 25): HENRY & FAYE MERRIMAN

1930 (Sept. 29): WALTER & LOLA GOULARD

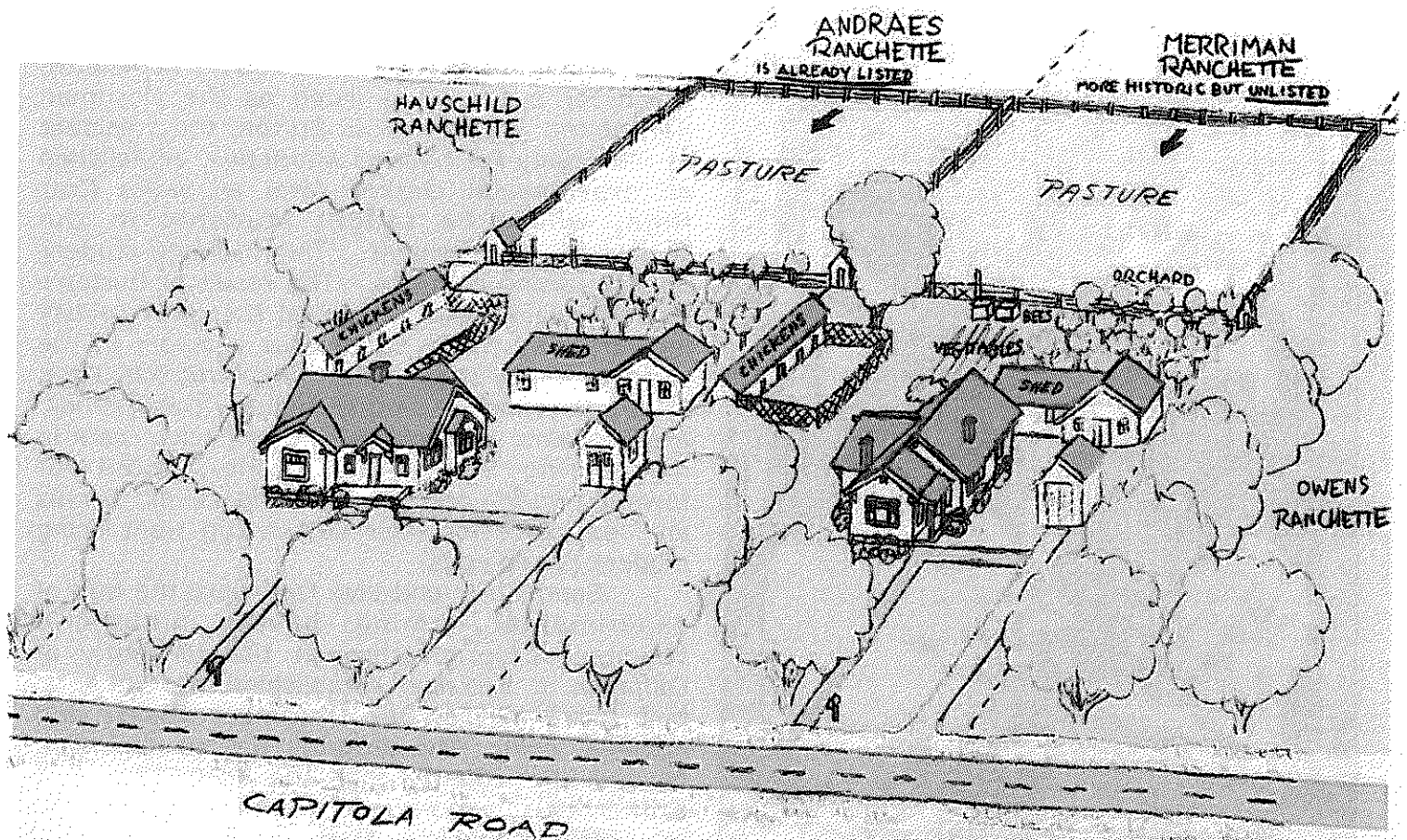
1973 (Apr. 27): DORIS C. [GOULARD] SCHLOSSER (on death of Walter)

1977 (Aug. 5): HERBERT & ROSEMARIE LACKI

1985 (Feb. 6): JAMES & GERTIE JOHNSON

1994 (Oct. 24): REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY OF SANTA CRUZ COUNTY





ERNEST HEMINGWAY'S FORGOTTEN SANTA CRUZ HERO: How Bob Merriman Inspired "For Whom the Bell Tolls"

By

Ross Eric Gibson

With Research Information from Phil Reader

In 1908, Robert Hale Merriman (called "Bob") was born to Henry and Faye Merriman in Eureka, California, where his father was a logger. The family later relocated to San Jose, then in the summer of 1922 they moved over the hill to Santa Cruz where they had relatives. Henry's mother -Mrs. J. Merriman Johnson- lived in town, while the Merrimans stayed at the Live Oak poultry farm of Henry's sister and her husband, Clarence E. Freitas. This was only a few doors west of the Live Oak Market on Capitola Road. Henry worked in an auto repair shop, and Faye wrote popular romance novels under several pseudonyms for lending libraries.

Live Oak looked like your typical suburban neighborhood, with craftsman homes in rows along the street, spaced about 20 feet apart behind a corridor of native live oak trees. But what made Live Oak unusual was that all the lots were deep three-acre ranchettes, mini-ranching subdivisions for raising poultry or

flowers. Unlike most rural areas with isolated farmhouses, the ranchettes placed the homes side-by-side for a sense of community.

The concept was born during the depression of the 1890s, when the failure of a single industry could throw hundreds of people out-of-work, creating a burden for the community. Santa Cruz County responded by encouraging backyard industries selling to a central co-op, so that if any individual failed, it wouldn't impact the industry as a whole. Santa Cruz became the state's *Queen City of Poultry* (second largest after Petaluma), and even developed its own Santa Cruz breed noted for prolific egg production. Chicken manure was used as a desirable fertilizer for the companion flower industry. By World War I, a stem nematode infestation on Holland bulbs resulted in an embargo on imports, and Santa Cruz became the *Bulb Capital of the Pacific*.

While attending Santa Cruz High School,



BOB MERRIMAN
DURING THE HIGH SCHOOL'S
"OLD CLOTHES DAY"



Bob helped out at the Freitas Poultry Ranchette, which for a time was listed as the Merriman Ranchette. Professor R.E. Burton, the president of the *County Poultrymen's Association*, established an experimental chicken farm at Santa Cruz High, where he taught students in the Agricultural Department. This included student poultry raising contests. The result of Burton's student-aided research helped the local poultry industry, and made Santa Cruz a leader in the science, widely read in the *"Santa Cruz West Coast Poultry Magazine"* and other industry publications. A class picnic was held at "the Pinnacles" park in neighboring San Benito County, noted for towering rocky outcroppings and caves, it was an ideal place for their Easter Egg Hunt using student-raised eggs.

Santa Cruz and Live Oak were the hub of experimental farming, having initiated a volunteer program through the *University of California at Berkeley*, establishing experimental bulb farms in Live Oak to combat disease and increase yield. The program was so important beyond the county, that the *Santa Cruz Bulb Growers Association* led tours of dozens of experimental Live Oak farms for visiting farmers and government officials. This innovative farming atmosphere would eventually have a major influence on the direction Bob's life would take.

Bob entered Santa Cruz High School as a sophomore. Some of the kids in his grade were judge's son Clifford Bias, Soquel wine-maker's daughter Sylvia Bargetto, Willett Ware who'd become County Auditor, and George Penniman who'd founded his own Land Title Company. The families of Wesley Campbell and Dorothy Leibbrandt owned large portions of the San Lorenzo rivermouth. Freshmen included the department store founder's son Charles Ebert, and the attorney's son Louis Rittenhouse.

Bob's girlfriend in high school was Ella Moody (the daughter of the game warden), and his friend Gorman Woody remembered that Bob preferred taking a drive up Highway 9 through the redwoods, than go to the popular tourist beach next to the boardwalk. Bob loved the peace of the redwood forests, and would also hike or drive in the Soquel groves near their Live Oak Ranchette. He also visited coastal lumber camps north of Santa Cruz, courtesy of classmate Viola Stoddard, daughter of the owner of San Vicente Lumber.

In Bob's Junior and Senior years, Santa Cruz became host to the original Miss California

Pageants, which became an annual event for over half a century. Yet the first was steeped in controversy, as the skin-tight bathing suits were deemed indecent by some, and presenting progressive women's roles that emphasized college and career, was seen as "turning out innocent daughters into wanton Flappers," who were "losing their femininity by aspiring to do men's work." To answer the preposterous idea that beauty queens were considered too "manly," Bob's class put on their own "Follies" fund raiser, consisting entirely of boys in drag. The debate over women's roles in the modern world would have a major influence in Bob's feelings about female equality.

The seniors staffed the yearbook, and Bob was its business manager, directing the sales of print ads to local merchants, and the sales of yearbooks. His friends also served on the yearbook staff, such as Don McHugh as assistant editor (later to be a firebrand journalist), Gorman Woody as art editor, and John Helms as sports editor. John and Bob attended all the games, John as a team member, and Bob as a yell leader but not an athlete. Home games were held at the high



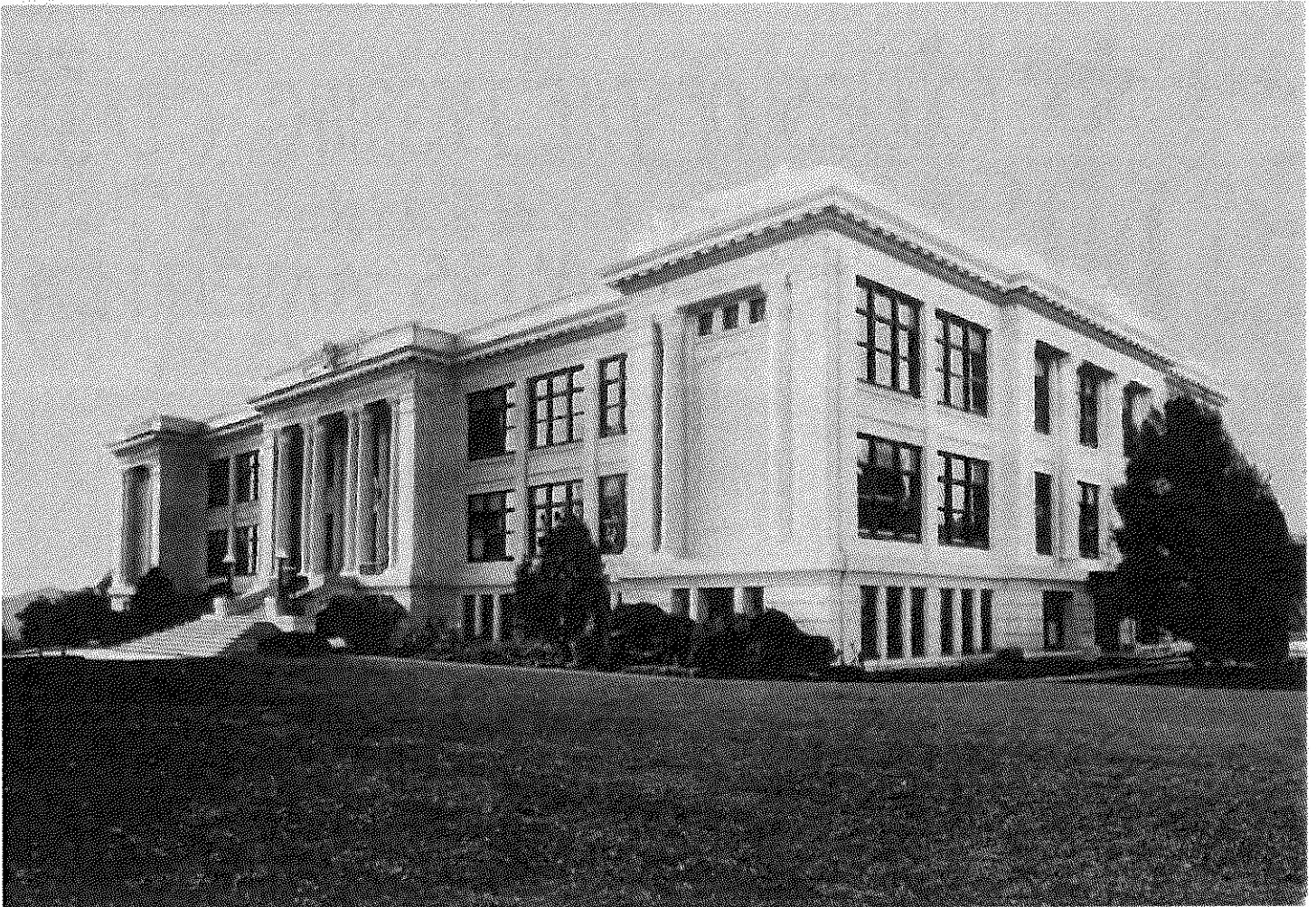
CARDINAL



dedicated as Memorial Field to the 11 Santa Cruz High graduates who died in World War I.

Bob got his start in debating, not in the debating club (which he later joined), but arguing before the Student Body council. In his senior year, Don McHugh was student body president during the first semester, then John Helms became student body president in the second semester. Helms nearly missed his swearing-in when he discovered the seat of his pants showing too much of his student body, and he hurriedly patched his trousers in a private room as the public assembly waited. The student body was very active in local issues, once even debating a subject 3½ hours. They came out against smoking, long before it was seen as a health hazard. Philip Jordan and a younger Lillian McPherson (later Rouse) were children of the rival editors of the Santa Cruz News and the Santa Cruz Sentinel, and saw issues debated in their papers also debated in Student Body meetings.

On March 4, 1925, the students assembled to hear Calvin Coolidge inauguration live on the radio, a marvel for its



= 7 =

MORNING SANTA CRUZ SENTINEL

ASSOCIATED PRESS DISPATCHES

DAILY EXCEPT MONDAY

SANTA CRUZ, CALIFORNIA, FRIDAY, JANUARY 2, 1925

EIGHT PAGES

**FOUR P.M.
A.P. SERVICE**

SANTA CRUZ NEWS

**LATEST
NEWS**

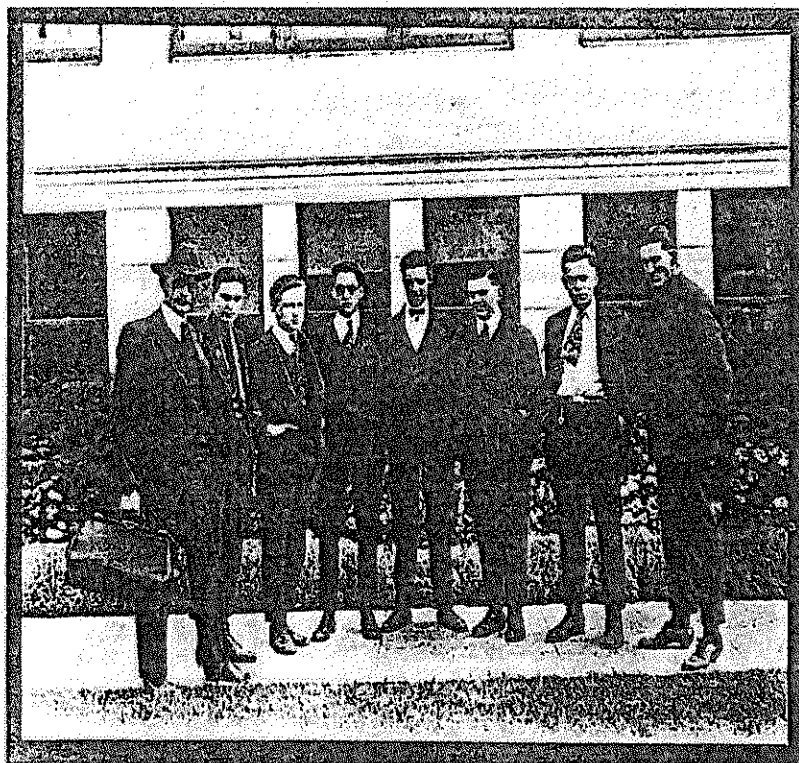
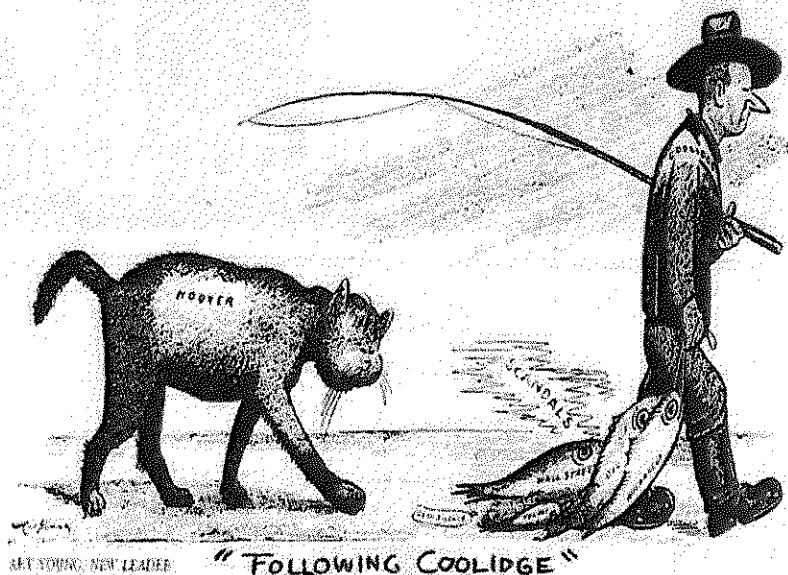
TWO SECTIONS

SANTA CRUZ, CALIFORNIA, SATURDAY, JANUARY 3, 1925

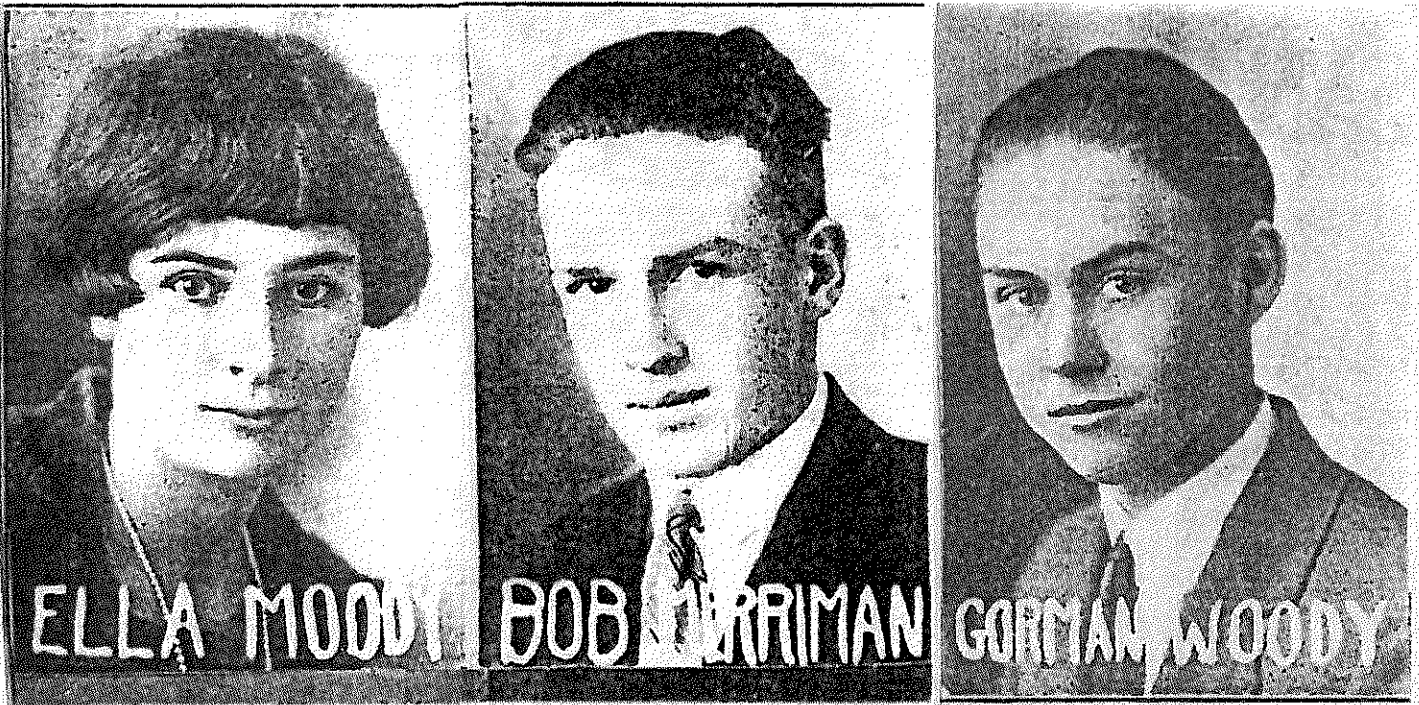
time. Coolidge was Vice President to Warren G. Harding in 1921, becoming president when Harding died in office August 2, 1923, then was reelected in November 1924. Santa Cruz felt a personal tie to the Harding/Coolidge administration because their Secretary of Commerce was Herbert Hoover, whose relatives owned the ranch at Waddel Creek, with Dorothy Hoover just a grade behind Bob at the high school. This branch of the Hoover family were strong conservationists in the Teddy Roosevelt tradition.

But the Merriman and Frietas families disliked the administration. Coolidge had become Vice President due to his national reputation as a strike breaker. Harding and Coolidge were politically stingy, cutting taxes while refusing to honor bonuses for the recent World War I veterans, and opposing Federal aid to farmers. As they maintained high import tariffs and National Prohibition, the administration pointed to Robber Barons getting richer and the climbing Stock Market as a sign of the nation's economic health (a false indicator built on unsustainable speculation). Then just before the election, their Secretary of the Interior, Albert B. Fall, was indicted for taking a \$100,000 bribe to sell to private operators the public oil-reserve lands in Teapot Dome, Wyoming, and Elk Hills, California.

Bob became a champion debater, able to see all sides of a subject, simplify complex issues, and present a convincing argument. But he was also starting to develop political positions that required an ethical justification. In 1925, one of the topics for debate was "Should Santa Cruz adopt the managerial form of government?" Bob was undefeated in



INTERSCHOLASTIC DEBATERS



Cardinal

The Senior Pictorial

STAFF

EDITOR *Audrey Marcum* BUSINESS MGR *Robert Merriman*

ASSISTANT EDITORS

Esther Fields *Geneva Henderson*
Donald McHugh

ART EDITORS

Gorman Woody *Audrey Edwards*

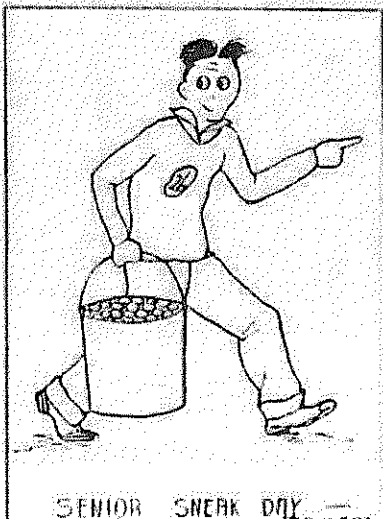
SPORTS EDITOR

John Helms

every local debate that year, and the high schooler even placed 4th in a statewide debating competition held just over the hill at Stanford University.

Following Bob's Santa Cruz High graduation ceremonies in 1925, a reception was held for the graduates at the Unitarian's Hackley Hall. The Unitarians were well known supporters of progressive causes and issues, often taking courageous stands. They supported Woman's Suffrage, and during the 1918 Influenza Epidemic when the sick became outcasts even to treatment, the Unitarians made Hackley Hall available for the Red Cross Influenza Hospital. This kind of Social Justice advocacy had a profound influence on Bob's outlook on life. And Hackley Hall would later become one of Bob's lifelines at the darkest time in his life.

After graduation, Bob followed in his father's footsteps working two years in the Sierra lumber camps. Then he went to Reno in 1927 to enroll at the University of Nevada as an economics major, and second-string football recruit. But recruits had to be Nevada residents, so he worked his way through college with odd jobs as a pulp feeder at the paper mill in Floristan, a ranch hand, and cement worker. He earned \$7.50 a month in this campus Reserve Officers' Training Corp (R.O.T.C.) where he became a second infantry lieutenant. He



joined the Sigma Nu fraternity, was active in the yearbook, debating, and plays, and flew airplanes with his buddies.

When he met Marion Stone at a dance hall in Verdi (near Reno), she found the 6-foot 4-inch tall Bob to be dashing and adventurous. Marion was a Santa Barbara native just a year younger than him, a popular member of Gamma Phi Beta sorority, but employed as a live-in domestic to earn her way through college. When she graduated from the university in 1932, Bob married her, and took her to Lake Tahoe for their honeymoon. That summer they visited Bob's relatives in Santa Cruz, and enjoyed an outing to Paradise Park, a Masonic resort.

Bob became a U.C. Berkeley professor, and spent vacations in Soquel and at the Frietas Ranchette. He taught economics during the depths of the Great Depression, a subject that was a matter of life and death to many. The Hoover Administration seemed preoccupied with preserving "police state" Prohibition, while following a Do-Nothing "Be-Patient-for-Prosperity-Is-Just-Around-The-Corner" approach. This radicalized many who needed help right away, and legitimized fringe groups that seemed responsive to public needs.

Bob supported the famous San Francisco General Strike. In the face of penniless Dust Bowl refugees pouring into California, Bob started taking the lessons of the Live Oak Ranchettes seriously, the product of the previous depression, and investigated other farming models as well. His work soon won him the Newton Booth Traveling Fellowship, to study first-hand the agricultural problems of various European countries that were also experiencing hard times.

The Merrimans went to Europe together and toured the continent. Bob was studying the economics of the Soviet Collectivist experiment in 1936 when the Spanish Civil War broke out. But



Merriman & friend at Paradise Park in the summer of 1932.



The "California Farm Bureau" building on Pacheco Ave. was the University of California's official Egg-Laying Contest headquarters



Bob Merriman & wife Marion. Cartoon about Merriman below.



**BUT IT'S NOT A HARMLESS BLOWHARD
WAVING ITS ARMS! IT'S A MONSTER!**

when Spanish democratic Loyalist forces faced an arms embargo from the world's democracies, only Russia sent supplies to the Spanish Loyalists. It wasn't because Russia supported democracy (being only a month away from a bloody Stalinist purge of Russia's anti-totalitarian Bolsheviks). It was because Spain's dictator Francisco Franco was supported by anti-Communists Benito Mussolini of Fascist Italy and Adolph Hitler of Nazi Germany, as well as importing Moroccan troops and North African Legionnaires. Americans generally believed we had our own problems at home and Isolationism would keep us out of another war. But Bob worried this was only going to strengthen Fascism in Europe, and lead to a wider conflict if Spanish democracy was killed.

So Bob left his studies and his wife in Moscow in late 1936, and went to Spain to be among the earliest Americans to join Europe's first Anti-Fascist movement. They gathered in Figueras near the French border, and in early 1937 organized a 96-member International Brigade. While condemned as violating America's neutrality, the American fighters were dubbed the "Abraham Lincoln Brigade" to stress that defending democracy was not anti-American. Bob's R.O.T.C. experience led to his assignment training the American volunteers in field striping rifles and machine guns, reconnaissance, signaling and fortifications. In February 1937, Bob led a battalion in the battle of Jarama. Bob was injured by shrapnel, cracking his shoulder in three places, and replaced as battalion commander by Oliver Law, the first American black man to ever lead a military force. When Marion received a telegram that Bob had been injured in battle, she rushed to be with him, and nursed him back to health.

In Spain, Marion encountered the marginalization of women so common in conservative Spanish society. Yet as she involved herself working with refugees and keeping records, she became accepted as the only woman in the foreign brigades. Bob eventually rose to command the now 450-member Abraham Lincoln Brigade with Marion as his staff assistant; then Bob became Chief of Staff of the International Brigade, which represented fighters from 54 countries.

The war attracted journalists and writers such as George Orwell and Ernest Hemingway. But they didn't find the romantic war they had envisioned. Conditions were miserable, and casualties extremely heavy in this Dress Rehearsal for World War II. Hemingway met with Bob and Marion in war-torn Madrid, and together they conceived a broadcast for American radio to

4873--Hackley Hall, Santa Cruz, California



describe the deprivations under which the Loyalists fought. Later, as conditions got worse, Bob couldn't convince Marion to return to the U.S. for a rest, even though she was suffering from dental pain. Marion feared if she went home, U.S. authorities wouldn't allow her to return to a forbidden battle-zone. But Bob finally convinced her that his forces desperately needed financial support, and sent her home on a fund-raising tour. Marion took the precaution of having her passport identify her as providing humanitarian medical support, the only aid to Spain not banned by the U.S.

Marion arrived in the States in November, 1937, stopping in San Francisco, where the "Friends of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade" were headquartered. This support group had been created because friends and relatives were not permitted to send parcels to individual brigade soldiers; but by mailing in bulk, their supplies periodically got through. Marion was joined on a statewide speaking tour by the executive secretary of the "Friends," Miss Lee Levy of San Francisco, and by Mrs. Ann Hawkins of Berkeley, the wife of a Lincoln Brigade officer.

Meanwhile, the Frietases were actively involved in (if not the founders) of the Santa Cruz Chapter of the "Friends of the Lincoln

Brigade," and were growing concerned from newspaper reports and Bob and Marion's correspondence, of the brigade's activities and needs. In February, 1938, Marion, Levy and Hawkins brought their fund-raising drive to Santa Cruz county, and stayed with Marion's in-laws.

On February 24, Marion's trio appeared in Santa Cruz at the Unitarian's Hackley Hall, under the sponsorship of the "Women's Alliance of the Unitarian Church," the "Women Today Club," and the Santa Cruz Friends of the Lincoln Brigade. Bob's grandmother and the Frietases were featured at the local events. The speakers were treated to a noon luncheon at the Hall, sponsored by the women's groups, before the evening lecture.

Because of widespread curiosity and misinformation, Marion asked for time after the talk to answer questions. Many of Bob's local classmates were surprised at his involvement, not having regarded him as politically active, much less a Communist. Marion explained that while over 50% of the brigade were Socialists or Communists, she and Bob were not, and they made no distinction with those fighting Fascism to save Democracy. Kasper Bauer offered the first donation, which produced an outpouring of

WEATHER
SANTA CRUZ COUNTY REGION
Clouds and mild showers, but
no rain today. Tomorrow, clear
and sunny. Sunday, clear and
pleasant. Forecast for the
week: clear and mild.

SANTA CRUZ NEWS

PUBLISHING DISPATCHES OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS AND UNITED PRESS

TIDES		TIME	LOW
High	Water	10:15 A.M.	1:30 P.M.
Low	Water	4:45 A.M.	7:45 P.M.
High	Water	10:15 A.M.	1:30 P.M.
Low	Water	4:45 A.M.	7:45 P.M.

Vol. 61—No. 123

SANTA CRUZ, CALIFORNIA, SATURDAY, APRIL 23, 1938

(TEN PAGES)

BOB MERRIMAN CAPTURED BY FRANCO

Santa Cruz Leader Of Lincoln Brigade Taken At Battle Of Gandesa

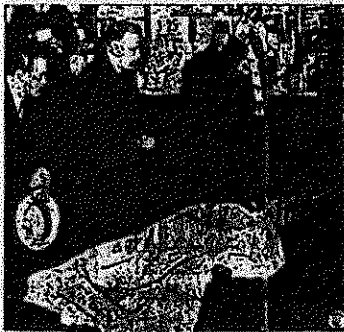
Friends Concerned As Report Of Staff Commander's Seizure Is Received By S. F. Headquarters

The late of Robert Merriman, Santa Cruz high school graduate of 1935 and major and chief of staff of the Abraham Lincoln and George Washington brigades, an integral part of the Spanish government's international forces, was a matter of concern to California friends and supporters today following a report of his capture. Reports from the headquarters of the San Francisco headquarters of the Friends of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade declared Merriman was taken by General Franco's forces in the battle of Gandesa.

HATFIELD PLAYS BANK'S PART IN SPAN FINANCING

SAN FRANCISCO, April 23.—(Associated Press.)—The San Francisco Chronicle today said that the late of Robert Merriman, Santa Cruz high school graduate of 1935 and major and chief of staff of the Abraham Lincoln and George Washington brigades, an integral part of the Spanish government's international forces, was a matter of concern to California friends and supporters today following a report of his capture. Reports from the headquarters of the San Francisco headquarters of the Friends of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade declared Merriman was taken by General Franco's forces in the battle of Gandesa.

DANCE OF LIFE ENDS IN DEATH



That dance, a beautiful dance, the dance of life, ended with a death, it is said, when the late of Robert Merriman, Santa Cruz high school graduate of 1935 and major and chief of staff of the Abraham Lincoln and George Washington brigades, an integral part of the Spanish government's international forces, was a matter of concern to California friends and supporters today following a report of his capture.



Mine Blast Dead Now Forty-Five

24 Bodies Are Recovered And 21 Others Are Said Located

GRAND, Tex., April 23.—(Associated Press.)—The bodies of 24 men killed in a mine blast here today were being recovered by the Grand County sheriff's office. The bodies of 21 others were being located by the Grand County sheriff's office.

Knudsens Have Something But Not Sure

This is not something at the St. Francis hospital, but it is something that the Knudsens have something but not sure.

800 Girls Here For Play Day

Eight Schools Represented In Exercises And Sport Program

Today was "katie" day for over 800 girls from Watsonville, Monterey, Santa Cruz, Pacific Grove, Hollister, King City, Gonzales and Salinas high schools as they met in Santa Cruz for the fourth annual play day of the Girl's Coast Country Athletic League.

SPEED PLEDGED FOR REOPENING OF EAST CLIFF

The board of directors of the East Cliff Hotel today pledged to speed the reopening of the hotel, which was closed for some time.



AIDE CONFESSES

SIMON



HEMINGWAY IN WAR

7th page of word to 4-75
was most was in your mind. That was all
you had to worry about. You're pretty good, but
took himself you really are and if that
is all you have to worry about I
think you had better go to sleep
your beautiful young wife is asleep
already because pretty soon it is going to
be morning and in the morning see if
you can remember what your
problems were last night.

A page from Hemingway's handwritten manuscript of For Whom the Bell Tolls: part of the monologue of Robert Jordan during the last hours of his life.

financial support. They spoke next in Salinas on their southward lecture tour.

Eight weeks later, the situation had changed radically. Bob disappeared in the battle of Gandesa in April. Early reports were that he had been captured by Franco, and held as a prisoner-of-war. Marion was again in Santa Cruz seeking public support to petition the U.S. government to negotiate his release. Then word came from the Franco regime that there was no paperwork showing he'd ever been logged into prison. The big fear was this meant Franco had executed him, although conflicting reports also suggest he died in battle.

Ernest Hemingway turned Robert Merriman into the character *Robert Jordan*, in his novel "For Whom the Bell Tolls." The message in the title was that the Spanish Civil War wasn't announcing the lone death of Spanish democracy, but our own as well, if we didn't defend democracy even in distant lands from the rising tide of totalitarianism. The

ERNEST HEMINGWAY



• FOR WHOM THE BELL TOLLS •

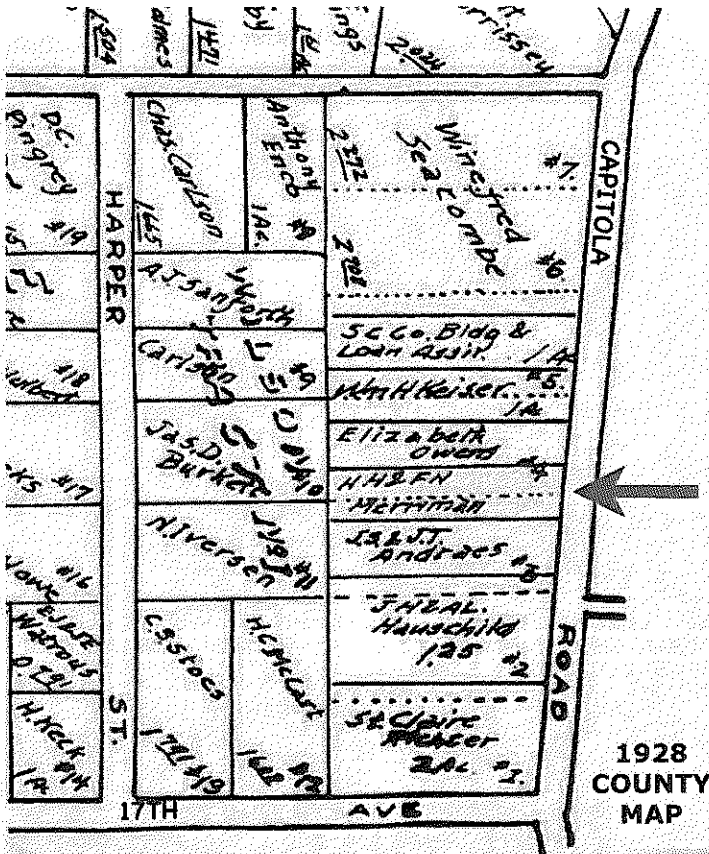


MARION MERRIMAN IN SANTA CRUZ IN 1987

Spanish Civil War was won by the Fascists, yet as the dress rehearsal for World War II with the same cast of dictators, the fight itself may have changed the course of history. Franco sat out the war rather than give the axis powers a third front against America and England. And when the United States entered the war, it followed the same strategy as the Lincoln Brigade of allying with Soviet Russia, even after Stalin had briefly been an ally of Hitler.

Yet when World War II ended, and the Cold War with Communism began, Lincoln Brigaders were subject to the first angry "Viet Nam home-coming" type experience. They were targeted in Joseph McCarthy's Communist Witch Hunts, which made Brigade veterans and their supporters (a number from Live Oak) fearful to speak of their experiences for half-a-century.

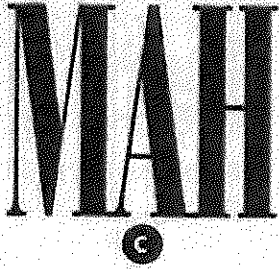
In the 1980s, Marion Merriman Wachtel was convinced by Pulitzer-prize-winning Reno journalist Warren Lerude to co-author "American Commander in Spain—Robert Hale Merriman and the Abraham Lincoln Brigade." She said it was far more candid than if she'd written it right



after the war (especially her reluctance to admit she'd been raped during the war). The book was published in 1986 on the brigade's 50th anniversary, and during the book tour to Santa Cruz in 1987, other Santa Cruzans still spoke reluctantly of their own involvement in the brigade, while one acquaintance of a brigade member preferred to remain anonymous in comments to Sentinel reporter Marybeth Varcados. Marion died two years later in 1989.

Even eulogized by Hemingway as a character in his important novel, no community has claimed Merriman's legacy as a subject for commemoration. Support from his Santa Cruz friends and relatives helped for a time to overcome American resentment and apathy, and they called him a Santa Cruz boy with pride. Yet much of this important chapter of our heritage has been lost because of the straight jacket of silence imposed upon it. And lessons bought with blood are being forgotten, and paid for again in suffering as the cost of forgetting. "...So send not to ask for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for thee."





(PROPOSED 2006
APPLICATION FOR COUNTY
LANDMARKS PLAQUE. NEVER
SUBMITTED, BUT STILL VALID)

Submitted _____

Action Taken _____

APPROVED _____

NOT APPROVED _____

HISTORIC LANDMARK NOMINATION FORM

Address: 1438 Capitola Road, Santa Cruz

Popular Name/Designation If Any: "BOB MERRIMAN RANCH HOUSE"

CONTACTS:

Owner: The People of Santa Cruz County Phone: _____

Email: _____

Address: 1701 Capitola Road, Santa Cruz

Owner's Signature: _____

If the building is NOT owner occupied:

Building Occupant(s) Name: Live Oak Family Resource Center Phone: _____

BASIC INFORMATION ON BUILDING:

Date Built: June 6, 1916 (Definite ✓ Approximate _____)

Architect: Wood Bros. Style: California Bracketed/Craftsman

Builder/Developer: James Morrissey's "Wilson Bros. Tract #1

Original Use: Chicken Ranchette

Original Owner If Known: John & Susie Goetsch

Additional information about architect, use, style, original or subsequent owners, other features i.e. major exterior remodeling:

The C.E. Freitas Chicken Ranchette was part of a unique chicken farm suburban subdivision of deep lots, with ranch homes aligned like a suburban neighborhood.

HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE OF THE BOB MERRIMAN HOUSE

Gibson's 2006 Analysis for the County Historic Resources Commission and County Board of Supervisors

The Merriman House is significant for the following seven reasons:

1. BACKYARD INDUSTRIES: The Merriman House is a model ranchette. The 3-acre ranchette was a significant innovation promoted by the County in response to the Depression of the 1890s. It represented a way people could be self-employed on a small scale, while selling goods to large county co-ops. If any single ranchette failed, it would not impact the industry as a whole.

2. RANCHETTE SUBDIVISION #1: No less innovative than the Backyard Economy, was the Ranchette Subdivision. The transformation of Live Oak into a Farming Suburbia is unusual in the history of developments. The Wilson Bros. led the way, and the Merriman House is part of the first of these subdivisions in 1916, called "Wilson Bros. Tract #1," leading the way for all others.

3. FLOWER & POULTRY CAPITALS: These ranchettes served Live Oak's flower and poultry industries. By the end of World War I, Live Oak had become the Bulb Capital of the Pacific with famous locally developed hybrids, plus the state's Queen City of Poultry production (after Petaluma), with a popular Santa Cruz strain of high egg-yield chickens. Live Oak being giants in two industries is more notable in that it was based on mostly small scale backyard farming. Many pocket farms like Merriman Ranchette produced both poultry and flowers.

4. JAME MORRISSEY: James Morrissey is a well-known local philanthropist, who owned and developed the Merriman ranchette. He is remembered for creating *Morrissey Boulevard*, landscaped as the grand entrance to the City/County-owned *De Laveaga Park*. He also donated land for the *Santa Maria Del Mar* Catholic retreat, as a vacation spot for women and the poor. It was for Morrissey that the Wilson Bros. created their Ranchette Subdivision #1 in 1916.

5. WILSON BROS. BUNGALOWS: The Wilson Bros. had their own variety of Craftsman bungalow, interpreting the normally broad-beamed style in a distinctive delicate manner.

6. ABRAHAM LINCOLN BRIGADE:

Previous information showed Mr. & Mrs. Clarence E. Freitas as residents of the ranchette from around 1920 to the mid-1930s. We now learn this was not as the ranchette's owners, but as its caretakers. In fact, it was owned by Mrs. Freitas's brother Henry Merriman from 1923 to 1930. Henry's mother lived in Santa Cruz, and his wife Faye was a novelist under several pseudonyms. The Merriman/Freitas family living at the ranchette became the nucleus of a large group of *Friends of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade* thriving in the Santa Cruz / Live Oak area. This was the brigade of American fighters in the Spanish Civil War against Franco, Hitler, and Mussolini just prior to World War II.

7. HEMINGWAY'S HERO:

Bob Merriman, the son of Henry and Faye Merriman, would outshine them all as commander of the *Abraham Lincoln Brigade*. But during his years at the Merriman Ranchette, Bob distinguished himself in Santa Cruz High School as a champion debater and yearbook staffer, and his experiences in ranchette farming led to a study of alternative farming methods around the globe to aid in combating world hunger. As commander of the *Lincoln Brigade*, he was a friend of Hemingway and George Orwell, and when Merriman was captured and killed by Spanish dictator Franco, local headlines called him a Santa Cruz man. Hemingway changed his name to *Bob Jordan* as the hero of his novel "*For Whom the Bell Tolls*."

= CONCLUSION =

There is nothing in a local landmark designation that would preclude new development on the site. The Merriman House is small enough that, if necessary, it could be re-situated on site as a club house for the new complex. Or it could be moved to a location where it can be better appreciated and featured as an historic attraction, museum, interpretive center, and-or-research center for Live Oak. While moving a landmark is *not preferred* with a state or national listing in losing historic context, the best local example was when Watsonville's historic Rogers House was moved to the County Fairgrounds, a setting better suited to its farmhouse origins than the commercial strip that had overwhelmed its original site.

Proposed Landmark
Page 2

DOCUMENTATION:

Nomination Prepared By: Ross Eric Gibson
Phone Number: (831) 423-1932 Email: rossericgibson@comcast.net

- ☐ Chase's "Sidewalk Companion"
☐ County's "Survey of Historic Resources"
☐ City's "Historical Building Survey"
☒ Other published source (s), old or new: "Ernest Hemmingway's Forgotten Santa Cruz Hero--The Last Landmark of Bob Merriman," by Ross Eric Gibson, 2006
☒ Specific research (photos, title search, old newspapers, etc.)

Info. on Bob Merriman: "American Commander in Spain--Robert Hale Merriman and the Abraham Lincoln Brigade," by [his wife] Marion Merriman and Warren Lerude, 1986

SUGGESTED WORDING FOR PLAQUE: Wording (see attached sample)

1916
"BOB MERRIMAN HOME"
Led Abraham Lincoln Brigade
in Spanish Civil War,
Inspired Hemingway's
Signature "For Whom the Bell Tolls" Date _____

RETURN THIS FORM WITH A CURRENT PHOTO AND ANY ATTACHMENTS TO:
The Museum of Art & History, 705 Front Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060
Attn: Marla Novo

Questions? Call (831) 429-1964 ext. 7019

Supplementary material in the form of photocopies, newspaper clippings, etc. is encouraged.

3441 Redwood Drive
Aptos, CA 95003
April 21, 2017

County Historic Resources Commission
c/o Ms. Annie Murphy, Planner and Secretary
Santa Cruz County Planning Department
4th Floor
701 Ocean Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Dear Ms. Murphy and County Historic Resources Commissioners,

We are writing to hereby demand that you cure and correct the Brown Act violations your Commission committed in association with the April 10, 2017 Public Hearing for the Amendment to the Historic Preservation Plan for the Hihn Apple Barn in Aptos Village, Application #171095.

Violations include, but are not limited to:

1. Improper notification: the agenda for the public hearing was not made available 72 hours in advance, as required by Govt. Code 54954.2 (a)
2. The agenda, once made available to the public, did not include any of the information in the attachments referenced in the agenda. The public was therefore given no information regarding the specifics of the proposed amendment changes. Members of the public unable to attend the 9:30am public hearing could not have responded in writing to issues reviewed by your Commission due to improper notification procedures. Violation of Govt. Code 54957.5.
3. The agenda, when first made available to the public, had the incorrect time for the public hearing, listing it as occurring at 9:30pm. This was corrected when an observant member of the public questioned Ms. Murphy 24 hours before the public hearing. Members of the public who viewed the agenda before it was corrected were improperly notified and improperly informed. This violated Govt. Code 54954.2(a).
4. The agenda was very vague and was not written in such a way to pique the public's interest to further investigate critical issues not available in the agenda. For example, the agenda stated the proposed amendment reduced the number of doors. In reality, the two doors remaining are proposed to be a modern industrial steel roll-up door and a steel door for employee entrance. This violated the opinion of the California State Attorney General's brief "The Brown Act, Open Meetings for Local Legislative Bodies" pp16-17.
5. Members of the public attending the public hearing were given incomplete packets of information, devoid of many Exhibits purported to be in the agenda packets of Commissioners. This violated Govt. Code 54957.5.
6. There was an insufficient number of complete information packets available for all members of the audience at the public hearing. Because no advance information was available, even the members of the public who attended the public hearing were not properly or fully informed of all of the critical issues being considered. Gov't Code 54952(b) clearly states "information given to a majority of the

members of the legislative body in connection with an open meeting must be equally available to members of the public." The Historic Resources Commission violated Govt. Code 54952(b)

7. There was insufficient room for all attendees to be comfortably seated. Even though Ms. Murphy was notified by Ms. Steinbruner in advance that a sizeable number of people were planning to attend and that she needed to consider a larger room for the public hearing, attendees were crowded into the small Planning Department Conference Room. The chairs were uncomfortably close together, making access difficult, and some members of the public were forced to stand the entire duration of the hearing. This violated Govt. Codes 54953(a) and 54953.2.

7. The County Historic Resources Commission website was not updated with any current information before the public hearing. This violated Govt. Code 54952(b).




8. During the public hearing, it became clear that three of the five Commissioners had privately toured the Hihn Apple Barn and the Aptos Village Project with Barry Swenson Builder foreman Mr. Keith Henderson at some point before the public hearing. This constitutes a serial meeting and as such violated of the Brown Act under Govt. Code 54952.2(b) and 54952.2 (c) (1). Case laws Frazer v. Dixon Unified School District (1993) 18 Cal. App. 5th 781, 798-798 and Stockton Newspapers Inc. v. Redevelopment Agency (1985) 171 Cal. App. 3D 95, 103 support this claim.

Therefore, we demand that the Santa Cruz County Historic Resources Commission cure and correct the above Brown Act violations immediately by properly noticing A SECOND AND NEW Public Hearing for the Proposed Amendment to the Historic Preservation Plan for the Hihn Apple Barn in Aptos Village, Application #171095 (Amendment) for APN 041-011-49, formerly APN 041-011-03.

Until then, all work associated with the Amended Historic Resources Preservation Plan for the Hihn Apple Barn in the Aptos Village Project must cease and desist. The Final Action taken by the County Historic Resources Commission is null and void. No work approved by your Commission on April 10, 2017 is legally allowed until all Brown Act violations are cured and corrected with a new Public Hearing on the matter that has been properly noticed and in which citizens have properly received full information in advance of issues to be considered.

Please respond by May 22, 2017. If we do not receive any response, we will determine that we have exhausted all means of remedy and will promptly contact the Santa Cruz County Grand Jury, the Santa Cruz County Office of the District Attorney, the State Attorney General, and the First Amendment Coalition.

Sincerely,

Name (Please Print)	Signature	Mailing Address or E-Mail Address
Doris Katzen		PO Box 1284 Aptos, CA 95008-1284
Monica McGuire		430 Cliff Dr. Aptos CA 95003
Karl Maret		430 Cliff Dr. Aptos CA 95003

C: Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors, Santa Cruz County Counsel, and Aptos Village LLC

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Name (Please Print)	Signature	Mailing Address or E-Mail Address
Deborah Hencke	<i>Deborah Hencke</i>	<i>dhencke@gmail.com</i>
G.L. LINDSTRUM	<i>G.L. Lindstrum</i>	<i>P.O. BOX 504 APTOS, CA</i>
Benjamin Gergen	<i>B. Gergen</i>	<i>1515 Bremner Street</i>

C: Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors, Santa Cruz County Counsel, and Aptos Village LLC

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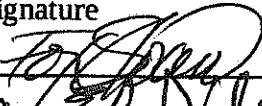
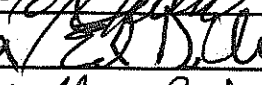
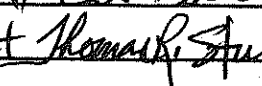
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Sincerely,

Name (Please Print)	Signature	Mailing Address or E-Mail Address
Fox Sloan		383 Nicasio Way - 95073/950
ED Silveira		150 Belvedere B40-S
THOMAS R. STUMBAUGH		111 VISTA MAR CT. Aptos 95003

C: Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors, Santa Cruz County Counsel, and Aptos Village LLC

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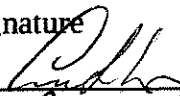

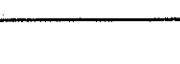
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Sincerely,

Name (Please Print)	Signature	Mailing Address or E-Mail Address
Cristina Locke		8041 Sequel Dr. Aptos, CA 95003
Beth Katzen		106 Siesta Ct., Aptos 95003
John V. Guisaboli		8041 Sequel - Aptos - CA - 95003

C: Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors, Santa Cruz County Counsel, and Aptos Village LLC

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Sincerely,

Name (Please Print)	Signature	Mailing Address or E-Mail Address
Valera Templeman	<i>Valera Templeman</i>	514 Calle del Sol Apt CA
Nancy Hoggalls	<i>Nancy Hoggalls</i>	450 Emerson Rd Apt
Joanne Katzen	<i>Joanne Katzen</i>	106 Siesta Ct, Aptos

C: Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors, Santa Cruz County Counsel, and Aptos Village LLC

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Sincerely,

Name (Please Print)	Signature	Mailing Address or E-Mail Address
Jamilah Vittor	<i>Jamilah Vittor</i>	300 Enos Ln, Corralitos CA 950
Marilyn Garrett	<i>Marilyn Garrett</i>	351 Redwood Hts Rd - Aptos CA 95000

Annie Murphy

From: Becky Steinbruner <ki6tkb@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 04, 2017 5:03 PM
To: Zach Friend; John Presleigh; Jack Sohriakoff; Richard Simmer; Becky Steinbruner
Cc: Erik Chalhoub; Tarmo Hannula; Todd Guild (tguild@register-pajaronian.com); pgomez@hearth.com; Debra Monroe; Carisa Duran; Mark Christensen; John Gerbrandt; Annie Murphy; Wanda Williams; Annmarie Sayers; Woodward Lucinda@Parks; Lauchner Shannon@Parks; Jaime Loichinger; Clinton Blount; Rae Schwaderer; Bill Anderson; David Nefouse; Becky Steinbruner
Subject: Re: Native American /Archaeologic Observers & Soil Remediation Needed for Aptos Village Traffic Improvement Project

Greetings, All,

I have received no replies from anyone regarding the significance of the excavation areas planned for the Aptos Village Phase I Traffic Improvement Project. I spoke with Mr. Richard Simmer, construction foreman, this afternoon. He stated that he intends to have his crew begin excavation in earnest for the new bus bay tomorrow.

Let me repeat that this soil was brought to the location by Chinese laborers in the 1880's. The origin of the soil is unknown, but potentially has significant historic and possibly pre-historic artifacts buried within.

Does the County intend to have a Native American observer and qualified archaeological observer at the excavation site tomorrow? The County websites claim that preserving historic and cultural resources is important to local government land use policies. Private landowners are all required to do archaeological assessments before building on sites known to contain historic and pre-historic significance. Will the County abide by it's own Code requirements?

Please require a Native American observer and qualified archaeological observer to be actively overseeing any and all excavation in the Aptos Village Phase I and Phase II Traffic Improvement Projects.

I am also registering a protest against the bus bay design. Last week, it was pointed out by a Metro official that the bay will not be wide enough to accommodate a bus getting out of the lane of traffic when making a stop. This will create hazardous conditions for Metro bus drivers, passengers, as well as motorists and cyclists trying to navigate the area with limited line-of-sight visibility. If the bus is stopped, it will essentially create a traffic block, but motorists who see a green light at the traffic signal will most likely still attempt to pass the stopped bus. Passengers who are placing their bicycles on the front of the bus will be placed in harm's way.

Please reconsider this design and make the bay wider to accommodate the full width of the bus or remove this portion of the improvements from the Phase I Project.

I realize that Mr. Aguirre from Metro approved this design, but all Route 71 Metro drivers have stated "it is an accident waiting to happen." Is Public Works willing to assume liability for these potential hazards?

Please acknowledge receipt of this message.

Sincerely,
Becky Steinbruner

On Tue, 3/28/17, Becky Steinbruner <ki6tkb@yahoo.com> wrote:

Subject: Native American /Archaeologic Observers & Soil Remediation Needed for Aptos Village Traffic Improvement Project

To: "Zach Friend" <Zach.Friend@santacruzcounty.us>, "John Presleigh" <John.Presleigh@santacruzcounty.us>, "Jack Sohriakoff" <Jack.Sohriakoff@santacruzcounty.us>, "Richard Simmer" <Richard@jmadonna.com>

Cc: "Carisa Duran" <Carisa.Duran@santacruzcounty.us>, "Mark Christensen" <Mark.Christensen@santacruzcounty.us>, "John Gerbrandt" <John.Gerbrandt@santacruzcounty.us>, "Annie Murphy" <Annie.Murphy@santacruzcounty.us>, "Wanda Williams" <Wanda.Williams@santacruzcounty.us>, "Annmarie Sayers" <annmarie_sayers@indiancanyonvillage.org>, "Woodward Lucinda@Parks" <Lucinda.Woodward@parks.ca.gov>, "Lauchner Shannon@Parks" <Shannon.Lauchner@parks.ca.gov>, "Jaime Loichinger" <jloichinger@achp.gov>, "Clinton Blount" <CBlount@albionenvironmental.com>, "Rae Schwaderer" <raeschwaderer@gmail.com>, "Bill Anderson" <bill@fedshra.org>, "David Nefouse" <David.Nefouse@santacruzcounty.us>, "Becky Steinbruner" <ki6tkb@yahoo.com>
Date: Tuesday, March 28, 2017, 11:36 PM

Dear Gentlemen,

I am writing to ask that you include a

Native American observer and a certified archaeological observer to be present and actively observing all railroad bed and bus bay excavation work in the Aptos Village Traffic Improvement Project (Phase I and II). The need for this was borne out to me this evening during a discussion with a well-respected local historian about the history of the railroad in Aptos Village.

According to the historian, the

railroad bed in this area has not been disturbed since 1882-1883, when Southern Pacific Railroad replaced the narrow gauge track with standard gauge track. He said that the areas east of the Trout Gulch Road intersection and west of the Aptos Creek Road intersection were brought up to level grade with fill from an unknown local source, with all of the work accomplished by Chinese laborers. He stated that, to his knowledge, these areas have not been disturbed since.

He further stated that there has never

been an historic assessment conducted of the actual railroad bed. Albion's studies for the Aptos Village Project were confined to the Project area but did not include the railroad bed.

It is unknown where the fill material

originated for the area to be excavated as part of the Phase I Aptos Village Traffic Improvement Project, which requires 200' of railroad track be removed and the railroad bed excavated to 31" deep. It is entirely possible that there are historically-significant artifacts buried in the soils within this work envelope.

When Soquel Creek Water District

installed the new water distribution main last year in the Aptos Village Project, the District had three observers actively observing excavation at all times. Those observers told me there were significant historic and pre-historic artifacts found during the trenching work. If the fill material for the railroad bed were taken from this area, there exists the very real possibility that there will be artifacts in the railroad bed excavation soils.

I respectfully ask that no excavation

work for the railroad bed or the new westbound Metro bus bay be initiated until this issue is thoroughly discussed with Albion representatives, the County Historic Resources Commission, and Ms. Annmarie Sayers. I respectfully request that no excavation work in the railroad bed or the new westbound Metro bus bay proceed without a Native American observer and qualified archaeological observer actively observing all work and reporting to County Public Works staff.

Further, because the area in discussion is an old railroad bed, I ask that, once cleared by Native American observers and qualified archaeological observers, all excavated soils be sampled for contamination and properly disposed at a landfill certified for remediated soils. I do not feel that any of the soil excavated should be used as fill in the Aptos Village Project construction site or anywhere else, given the historic use of the railroad bed and the commonly-associated contaminants inherent.

I am writing you to bring these issues

to your attention and ask that no further construction work proceed in these areas until discussed and properly accommodated. I have not read or heard discussion regarding these issues during any Department of Public Works

Annie Murphy

From: shirleymcoleman@juno.com
Sent: Friday, April 07, 2017 1:49 AM
To: Annie Murphy
Subject: Historic Project in Aptos

When is the County going to start following rules to protect Aptos Village.

The barn is moved; now they want all these changes made which will change the historic barn completely.

The structure needs to remain a historic place and not become a builder's "don't give a damn idea" along with Supervisor Friend.

The railroad crossing is being moved, but no regard is given to Federal Regulations regarding how close the track can be to the electrical power supply as pointed out by a person from the Railroad. Public Works informed the person from the railroad that we (The County of Santa Cruz) bought the railroad and we can do anything we want. When does the County of Santa Cruz start following federal rules instead of making them up as they go along. When does the County start regarding the safety issues.

The relocation of the bus stop is impractical and not safe for the people catching the bus. We already have enough erosion problems without the change and it is an unsafe place to put the bus stop.

Instead of widening the road and taking the parking away from the village businesses, why not leave it as it is??? You cannot change a two-lane historical bridge or even add a bridge due to the State Environmental Laws.

When will the builder be responsible for paying building permits to have the development of apartments continue? Having the builder give a piece of land is ludicrous. The county needs the money for building permits and not accept anything else. Paying for building permits would help the County's financial problems instead of having another "white elephant" purchase such as purchasing the railroad in the first place. We need to make money on these projects and not let the builder and our supervisors make their own decisions which are not necessarily in the best interest of the people that live here. Only supplying one parking place for each unit will only impact the neighborhood and the new residents will park in the areas impacting parking for everyone else including the businesses and residents. How many people in our area are aware that the permits fees were waived. When does our so called Supervisor Friend start making decisions that are beneficial for the majority of the people who live in Aptos.

When is the County going to do another traffic impact study on the traffic situation. Presently the proposed plan of putting traffic lights in is only going to make things intolerable for everyone who lives in the area and to those businesses on Soquel Drive. Taking parking away from the small businesses will only cause them to lose their business. They depend on the parking to stay in business and to handle their parking needs. Narrowing the road to discourage truck traffic will also impinge on everyone.

The traffic will be one continuous mess as it presently is which also includes having Valencia Road closed 1/2 miles from Soquel Drive. Presently the traffic is horrendous and will only get worse. We need another traffic impact study now with Valencia Road closed and again when they finally reopen that portion of the road. We need to stop the traffic being able to get off at Rio Del Mar exit and coming up Soquel Drive which only adds to the congestion. Maybe putting in speed bumps along the way would be an improvement.

The road right before the railroad bridge is certainly not safe and only adds to the significant problems Aptos Village is already experiencing.

Water Shortage. We still are in dire straits with water shortage as it will take years to replace the ground water. Why is the County able to make decisions over the Water District Board of Directors, who are more knowledgeable and capable of making those decisions? Why do we even have a Board of Directors of the Water District if the County Supervisors can bypass their recommendations and do anything they want. The Water District is left to uphold the County Supervisors decisions and "Left Holding the Bag"..

Safety of New Residents. The Fire District is also in the same situation. They approve a three story building which is against the rules.

Nothing is to be built higher than the Bay View Hotel. The Supervisors again bypassed this rule. Now our area will need a Hook & Ladder Truck in case of a fire. Of course we don't have one and the closest one is near Dominican Hospital. This is again an oversight by the Supervisors and the Builder. We will be penalized in the long run by these thoughtless decisions. If the builder and supervisor create a problem then it is up to the Supervisor and the Builder to provide a Hook & Ladder in our area and not have the people pay for it in the long run.

In my opinion Supervisor Friend and the Builder do anything they want with total disregard of the benefits to the residents and businesses in Aptos Village. We need to be informed about anything they plan to propose in advance. The builder should not be able to change the initial plans submitted to the County as it only benefits himself. Why was the park removed from the initial plan?

Safety of our Children - When the road gave way off of Valencia. Supervisor Friend addressed the parents at the grade school and said there was no money to fix the road. The school buses were still bringing the children to school on an unsafe Valencia Road from Freedom Blvd to the School. It was residents in the Rolling Green Estates area that contacted people in both Salinas and Carmel Valley. These people were able to get the school closed immediately. They also contacted Panetta so he could evaluate the situation. These people were instrumental in getting the money to get the road fixed in the near future. Fortunately they cannot go ahead without the Fish and Game's approval in Sacramento. Why do we not give credit to the people in Rolling Green Estates who made this happen. It certainly was not because of our Supervisor. All he wants is credit for everything he has not been responsible for by having his name and picture pasted on every newspaper in our area.

In my opinion the attitude of our Supervisor regarding anyone disagreeing with him is being considered as his enemy.

I hope something can be done in the future to protect our rights as Aptos residents. Shirley Coleman

Police Urge Americans to Carry This With Them at All Times The Observer

<http://thirdpartyoffers.juno.com/TGL3131/58e752e7236c652e61e25st04vuc>

Annie Murphy

From: Becky Steinbruner <ki6tkb@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 09, 2017 1:01 AM
To: Becky Steinbruner; Annie Murphy
Cc: Wanda Williams; Carolyn Swift
Subject: RE: Notice of Meeting of the Historic Resources Commission

Dear Ms. Murphy,

The website link you provided was not listed in the public hearing notice information. How are people to know about the information unless they contact you personally, which is what was suggested in the newspaper public hearing notification?

While the link you provided here did take me to a list of Historic Resources Commission meeting agendas, and the site states the documentation is available by clicking on the underlined agenda item, the material for the Aptos Village Project public hearing would not open on my computer. The public libraries are closed on Sunday, therefore I will have no information available to me before the public hearing.

This is not transparent government and does not support informed citizen participation.. Again, I demand that the Historic Resources Commission take no action on your recommendation to approve the proposed changes to the Aptos Village Project Historic Resources Preservation Plan on Monday, April 10.

Were you able to investigate whether or not Barry Swenson Builder crews are indeed performing the work for which they seek the HRC approval to do? The hole in the Barn roof from the Granite Way side looks like preparation for a skylight. The large piles of wooden planks being loaded into open-top dumpsters look as though the historic wooden floor may be demolished.

Please respond.

Sincerely,

Becky Steinbruner

On Sat, 4/8/17, Annie Murphy <Annie.Murphy@santacruzcounty.us> wrote:

Subject: RE: Notice of Meeting of the Historic Resources Commission

To: "Becky Steinbruner" <ki6tkb@yahoo.com>

Cc: "Wanda Williams" <Wanda.Williams@santacruzcounty.us>, "Carolyn Swift" <carolynswift@gmail.com>

Date: Saturday, April 8, 2017, 2:03 PM

Dear Ms. Steinbruner,

The agenda and materials for the HRC meeting are provided on the County Planning Department website under Agendas/ Hearings:

<http://www.sccoplanning.com/PlanningHome/ZoningDevelopment/AgendasHearings/HistoricResourcesCommission.aspx>
x

Annie Murphy

Planner, Policy Section

Santa

Cruz County Planning Department

701 Ocean

St., Santa Cruz CA

Ph: 831-454-3111
Annie.Murphy@santacruzcounty.us

-----Original Message-----

From: Becky Steinbruner [mailto:ki6tkb@yahoo.com]

Sent: Saturday, April 08, 2017 12:36 AM

To: Annie Murphy <Annie.Murphy@santacruzcounty.us>;

Becky Steinbruner <ki6tkb@yahoo.com>

Cc: Wanda Williams <Wanda.Williams@santacruzcounty.us>;

Carolyn Swift <carolynswift@gmail.com>; Becky Steinbruner <ki6tkb@yahoo.com>

Subject: Re: Notice of Meeting of the Historic Resources Commission

Dear

Ms. Murphy and All,

For some reason, the

computer at the public library blocked all recipient addresses, and I am just now seeing that you did not receive this message. Please note that I sent the message at 2:01pm on April 7, 2017.

Again, I have just now checked the County Historic Resources Commission website for the information you said would be available 72 hours before the public hearing. Here is the link to the website:

<http://www.sccoplanning.com/PlanningHome/SustainabilityPlanning/HistoricResources/HistoricResourcesCommission.aspx>

There is still no information

about what is to be considered available to the public. How can members of the public who cannot attend Monday's public hearing find information to read about the proposed amendments to the Historic Resources Preservation Plan in order to participate with an educated written comment?

This is not transparent

government. Again, the Commission should not make any decisions at all regarding the proposed amendments.

Please respond.

Becky Steinbruner

On Fri, 4/7/17, Becky Steinbruner <ki6tkb@yahoo.com>
wrote:

Subject: Re: Notice

of Meeting of the Historic Resources Commission

To: "Annie Murphy" <Annie.Murphy@santacruzcounty.us>

Cc: "Wanda Williams" <Wanda.Williams@santacruzcounty.us>,

"Carolyn Swift" <carolynswift@gmail.com>, "Becky Steinbruner" <ki6tkb@yahoo.com>

Date: Friday, April 7, 2017, 2:01 PM

Dear Ms. Murphy,

I have just received your notification of the Monday HRC meeting. There are no attachments for the public to review in advance of the Public Hearing. It is not within the required 72-hour advance notification of a public hearing, as you stated is a requirement.

Once again, I have just checked the County Historic Resources Commission website and see no information available for the public hearing.

<http://www.sccoplanning.com/PlanningHome/SustainabilityPlanning/HistoricResources/HistoricResourcesCommission.aspx>

It is not transparent government to hold public hearings on important matters without first allowing the public to have proper time to review documentation in advance that will be considered. The Planning Department Office is closed to the public today, so those who do not have internet abilities and want to review the documentation in your Department Records Room will not be allowed to do so.

Therefore, I feel the HRC cannot make any decisions regarding the proposed amendments to the Historic Preservation Plan for the Hihn Apple Barn at the meeting on Monday.

Please respond.

Sincerely,

Becky

Steinbruner

On Fri, 4/7/17, Annie Murphy <Annie.Murphy@santacruzcounty.us> wrote:

Subject: Notice of Meeting of the

Historic

Resources Commission

To: "Annie

Murphy" <Annie.Murphy@santacruzcounty.us>

Date: Friday, April 7, 2017, 1:37 PM

This is to inform you that
there will be a meeting of the Santa
Cruz County Historic

Resources Commission

on Monday, April 10
beginning at 9:30 am.
The meeting will be held in the

Planning Department Large Conference
Room
on the 4th
Floor of the County Building,
located
at 701 Ocean St. in
Santa Cruz.

The agenda for the
meeting
is attached.

Material for the meeting
will available on the Planning Dept.
Website, under Agendas/

Hearings, Historic Resources
Commission,

by 5 pm on Friday.

Annie
Murphy
Planner, Policy
Section
Santa Cruz County Planning
Department
701 Ocean St.,
Santa Cruz CA

Ph:
831-454-3111
Annie.Murphy@santacruzcounty.us