

New Mountain Echo

Summer 2025 • Volume 23 • No. 2

Side Track

Faye G. Belardi Memorial Gallery

Mid-June—Mid-September 2025

Reception Saturday, June 28, 2025, 2-4 pm

Opening in mid-June at the Belardi Gallery in Felton will be the exhibition *Side Track* featuring the Rail Art of Jim Potterton, whose work was recently featured on the cover of the 2024 fall issue of *Railroad Heritage Magazine* along with a ten-page article focused on his paintings and rail trail advocacy. Pictured here is *Big Trees Track*, Oil on Canvas, 16" x 12".

Join us for the opening reception on Saturday June 28, from 2 – 4 pm.
Light refreshments. Admission Free.



FaceTime

Grace Episcopal Gallery

Mid-June—November 30, 2025

Reception Saturday July 19, 2-4 pm

Opening in mid-June at the Grace Gallery will be the exhibition *FaceTime*, a portrait (salon style) exhibition, featuring local individuals through artwork, photographs, and albums.

Featured on the exhibition flyer here is Alice Hesse. Alice graduated from Boulder Creek High School in 1921 and graduated with a BS from UC Berkeley in 1929. During WWII she served with the Woman's Army Corps in Africa and Italy. Alice authored several books of poetry, some of which are in the Museum's collection.

Join us for a reception and guided talk on Saturday July 19, 2 pm.
Light refreshments. Admission Free.

FaceTime

Portraits from the Past

On Exhibition Mid-June – November 30, 2025
Reception and Guided Talk Saturday July 19, 2-4 pm
San Lorenzo Valley Museum
Grace Episcopal Gallery
12547 Highway 9, Boulder Creek, CA 95006

Info: (831) 338-8382 • www.slvmuseum.org • info@slvmuseum.org



Our Mission

*To preserve and share the history
of the San Lorenzo Valley.*

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San Lorenzo Valley Museum**Grace Episcopal Gallery
and Museum Office**

12547 Highway 9
Boulder Creek, CA 95006

**Faye G. Belardi
Memorial Gallery**

6299 Gushee Street
Felton, CA 95018

Mailing Address:

PO Box 576
Boulder Creek, CA 95006

Phone: (831) 338-8382
Email: info@slvmuseum.org
Website: www.slvmuseum.org

President's Letter

May 18 is International Museum Day. It has been organized each year by the International Council of Museums since 1977. Last year over 37,000 museums across more than 158 countries participated. This year the theme is *The Future of Museums in Rapidly Changing Communities*. The theme invites museums to re-imagine their role as essential connectors, innovators, and stewards of cultural identity.

Later this year we will be examining the state's cultural identity as we host a traveling exhibition at the Belardi Gallery—*Telling Stories of Mexican California: Real Life & Myth Making*.

California's Mexican period (1822–1846) helped shape the distribution of land, wealth, and power after California officially entered the union on September 9, 1850. This exhibition reflects on this past and how romanticized retellings made lasting impacts on the state's culture and popular understandings of its history.

This year marks the 175th anniversary (dodransbicentennial) of California's admission to the union. Check out the website www.celebrate.ca.gov to find out more.



September 9, Admission Day, is an annual legal holiday, but it is not a public holiday. The city of Monterey however, where the state Constitutional Convention was first held, observes it as a city holiday, where city offices and most facilities are closed. Admission day parades were once popular. The parades were often organized by groups such as the Native Sons of the Golden West and Native Daughters of the Golden West, and featured marching bands, decorated floats, carriages, and even grizzly bears.

Interestingly, in 1969, California celebrated its 200th birthday (1769–1969) with a parade in Santa Cruz on Admission Day. It was sponsored by the Native Sons and Native Daughters of the Golden West, the Bicentennial Commission, and the City of Santa Cruz. The state issued stamps to commemorate the anniversary. Stay tuned for more on this story!

Lisa Robinson

Executive Director's Letter

Springtime at the San Lorenzo Valley Museum has been vibrant with a colorful spectrum of blooms painting the entrance of the Faye G. Belardi Memorial Gallery. Meanwhile, our native plant garden at the Grace Episcopal Gallery - *Flora* - graces us with more subtle pops of color in dainty western columbine blooms and a smattering of California poppies. If you are interested in learning more about California native plants, we have a wonderful new program where you can adopt a native plant bed to care for year-round. Learn more about *Flora* and how you can get involved by visiting our website.

We are so pleased to announce that we have again been awarded a Community Grant from Community Foundation Santa Cruz County. The Community Foundation supports the San Lorenzo Valley Museum in so many ways, through grant funding to professional development opportunities, and we couldn't be more grateful to benefit from the amazing work they are doing. Thank You to our friends at Community Foundation Santa Cruz County for believing in our mission and helping us reach our goals.

Volunteering for the Museum is an easy way to support our work—and we have some fun opportunities ahead. We are grateful to again be a beneficiary of the Redwood Mountain Faire - special thanks to Valley Women's Club - and we have several parking lot monitor roles to fill. By [volunteering](#) for this unique opportunity, you will not only be supporting the Museum and its programs, but you will also get free entry to the Faire. We are also honored to be sponsored by Wild Roots Market through their Community Roots Program, where 5% of all proceeds made on Wednesday, June 11, at both locations, will be donated to the Museum. Volunteers will help table this sponsorship for 2-3 hours slots at their Felton or Boulder Creek stores, sharing our work and providing a hands-on activity for all ages. Other volunteer roles include walking with us in the Felton Memorial Parade on May 24, supporting first Saturday land tending, joining us in the Boulder Creek Fourth of July Parade, or signing up to be a gallery docent.

We have set the date for our Annual Fundraising Dinner and Auction, which will take place at Scopazzi's Restaurant and Lounge on the evening of Thursday, August 14. This is our biggest fundraising event of the year and we have already received some wonderful auction items from local artisans and businesses. If you are interested in making a tax-deductible donation to our live or silent auction, or filling any of our aforementioned volunteer roles, please get in touch by emailing laura@slvmuseum.org—I would love to hear from you.

Finally, we would like to extend our deepest gratitude to Aroma Restaurant and The Trout Farm Inn for generously sponsoring Community Restaurant Days this year. Let us continue to support our wonderful local businesses that support the San Lorenzo Valley Museum!

Laura DeAngelis



Remembrances of Mabel Baker

By Lynda Phillips, Executive Director Emeritus

Mabel Baker was an integral part of the Boulder Creek community. She, along with her husband Jay, was a business owner, a supporter of the Boulder Creek Fire Department, and a steadfast preservationist of local history.

In the mid 1990s, the Boulder Creek Historical Society underwent a transitional change in its mission for preserving Boulder Creek history. Mabel, with her husband Jay, felt compelled to get involved as the Historical Society seized the opportunity to purchase the long-empty Grace Episcopal Church and move its museum from a second floor office area that had been used for over 20 years to the historic church building residing in the long gone town of Lorenzo. Along with this move, we began the expansion of our mission and focus toward the entire San Lorenzo Valley and its place in the history of Santa Cruz County. Boulder Creek Historical Society became the San Lorenzo Valley Historical Society and Boulder Creek Museum became the San Lorenzo Valley Museum.

In the late 1990s, Jay and I were voted onto the Board of Directors at the same election and Mabel was right there to help.

Mabel confirmed their commitment to preserving local history by becoming lifetime members. She invested her time to supporting the expansion of current programs and introducing new ones. She encouraged her family, friends, and neighbors to become members and attend events. I could always depend on Mabel, with her close friends Jeri Green and Charlotte Kuhnlein, like the Three Musketeers, to plan and prepare the delicious refreshments for our new historical talk series, prepare the annual summer BBQ menu, including fresh strawberries donated by Driscoll's, and Christmas goodies for the kids at the Holiday Family Craft event. She rode in costume on the Museum's float in the Boulder Creek July 4th parade, and offered her home for the first Volunteer Appreciation event.

Mabel always had a welcoming smile while greeting and working with others. She never said 'No' when asked to help with an event, sponsor a historical talk, or exhibition. She was patient when I had a history question about a person, place, business, or event. She had no shortage of ideas, and always showed up early and stayed late to help others.

Mabel was a 'Supporter' in the truest sense of the word and made History Preservation a priority in her life.



Left to Right: Renee Kuehl, Mabel Baker, Jeri Green Oneto, on the Museum's 4th of July float in 2011.

Collection Updates

May is Preservation Month and as we continue to fulfill our mission to preserve and share the history of the San Lorenzo Valley, we are so grateful to those of you who have donated artifacts to the Museum's collection so that we can share them with you.

While we do not have space to mention all of the recently donated items they include:

- A circa 1875 portrait of William Waddell from direct descendant William Waddell Chase, which was shipped to us from North Carolina. This painting will be debuted in the upcoming *FaceTime* exhibition.
- Two drawings by artist and Boulder Creek Historical Society founder John Holm from Mabel Baker.
- A painting of the Alba Schoolhouse by artist Florence Hamlin from Shirley Greenwood (pictured right).
- A cast iron mortar and iron drill/striker bar found at an excavated quartz ledge on Ben Lomond Mountain from Aaron Pippin and Aaron Van de Kerckhove. These were most likely used in mining for gold and are on exhibition at the Belardi Gallery.
- A sign “ TO BEN LOMOND HOTEL.” from Phil and Sam Chabot that was found in the attic of a cottage in Ben Lomond. This will be on exhibition soon at Grace Gallery.



We continue to photograph the artifacts, digitize the archives, and upload them so that they are accessible. Check our website for links.



Show and Share with Scott Tucker

Join Scott Tucker at the Museum's Grace Episcopal Gallery in Boulder Creek—see website www.slvmuseum.org for upcoming dates.

Scott will be presenting historical images from his personal collection, a collection he has accumulated over many years of researching local history, and he will be sharing their stories.

Bring along your treasures to share and reveal their story too, or bring along your questions. Drop in at any time 1-4pm. Informal presentation begins at 2 pm.

Please Note: The images that Scott will be presenting are not necessarily from the San Lorenzo Museum collection.

What's in a Name?

In the 1870s, there were two main settlements in the Valley; Lorenzo and Felton. Lorenzo was located just south of a small creek, now called "Stream 346," and was bounded by Harmon Street on the north, East Street, West Street and South Street. Boulder was just a tiny settlement centered at the intersection of what is now West Park Avenue and Highway 9. On the North West corner of West Park Avenue stood a hotel, the Boulder Creek House.

In the early 1870s, the Crediford family managed the fledgling town of Boulder, but by the mid-1870s, mainly due to tuberculosis, several members of the family had died. In 1874, the land in the fledgling town of Boulder was sold to John S. Carter, the president of the Flume and Transportation Company for \$6,250. He in turn sold it to the Flume Company in 1877 for \$15,000.

In 1885, since the Flume Company was a subsidiary of the Railroad Company, instead of Lorenzo, the railroad terminus was to be located on this land. The Railroad Company laid out a new town—the town as we know it today. It was argued that this new town should not simply be named after the post office, which had been established with the name of Boulder Creek in 1872, but that it should have a more "distinctive" name.

Excerpt from the Santa Cruz Surf, August 11, 1885:

"We repeat, this region is one of vast resources, and that the town at the confluence of Boulder and Bear Creeks and the San Lorenzo is destined to be one of importance. It ought this early to be distinguished by some more euphonious name than "Boulder Creek" and more distinctive than "Lorenzo." It will be impossible to maintain distinctions - such as "Lorenzo," the "New town of Boulder," and "Boulder Creek," proper. The citizens of the locality should agitate this question and adopt by mutual consent or determine by ballot a name which could be given to the whole settlement, the railroad station and the post office. Now is the time to do it."

Excerpt from Santa Cruz County, California: Illustrations Descriptive of its Scenery:

by Wallace W. Elliott, 1879:

LORENZO

Lorenzo, some eight miles above Felton, near the summit of the mountains and the head waters of the river, is a delightful mountain town and great summer resort, hundreds of camps being established amid the redwoods, whose white tents present a picturesque and weird aspect amid the balsamic evergreens, while the laugh and merry prattle of women and happy children mingle with the music of the dancing rills, transforming the mountain altitude into an Eden of happiness and enjoyment.

The place is a mere hamlet, comprising one hotel, one store and a few dwellings. The inhabitants are chiefly engaged in making shingles or cutting logs from the interminable forests of redwoods. One sawmill not working, is in the vicinity of the town. This locality is a favorite one with sportsmen, game and fish being plentifully abundant.

Poem by Robert Kennedy

The poem on the following page was composed by Robert Kennedy in 1941 for the first Boulder Creek Days celebration. While not quite historically accurate—Joseph Peery and John Alcorn were awarded their homesteads in the same year, and Peery was the first Boulder Creek postmaster—it does make for a great read.

We have two copies of the poem in the collection (2007-012-0001 Grace Crediford Collection and 2013-037-0015 Tish Ferguson Collection). Their texts are very slightly different. Here we have blended the two.

History of Boulder Creek

By Robert Kennedy

When Boulder Creek fust cum to be,
Along in eighteen-seventy,
The only shack that could be seen,
Was John Alcorn's, down on the green.
Thar nature formed a grassy knoll,
Jest opposite the swimmin hole;
Here John decamped, with his wife an gun,
A couple o darters an' a son.
An' with an ax, a shovel an' pick,
He started the town of Boulder Crick.

He peeled tan bark fer a dollar a cord,
When along cum a feller called Crediford.
Who hailed from the good ole State o Maine,
An' was gifted with better than average brain.
When he seen John's tract, a half mile long,
An' found he could buy it for a song,
He laid the spot cash, right smack down,
Fer he know it'd make a wuth while town.
Then he built a store, an' he done it quick,
Where John had a foot bridge across the crick.

The settlers cum from miles around,
To buy spuds an' bacon by the pound.
And Crediford would play his hand,
And sell each feller a parcel o' land,
Enough fer a shack and a garden spot,
As his prices were low, he sold a lot.
An' a course when people began to buy,
The folk did nacherly multiply.
An' so they had to form a pool,
To raise spondulicks to build a school,
They built it on the banks of the crick,
An' threw it together in less than a week.

A hotel was built, then cum a jail,
An' a place where Crediford handled mail.
It were only a corner, bleak and bare,
But t'was called the Post Office over there.
So Boulder boomed fer the next ten year,
An' outside folks begun to hear,
For a man named Peery ventured down,

An' started up Lorenzo Town.
He laid it out on the river bank,
An' the Boulder Creek folks said "it stank."
But Perry [sic] all undaunted then,
Had interested several men,
Who went to work with a right good will,
To build a water power mill.
So they cut down trees and lumber made,
To built them cabins wherein they stayed.

Although the trees grew big and thick,
They soon made a road to Boulder Crick.
Some of the gang stayed in Boulder Hotel,
And spent their money, and spent it well.
When the Boulder folks saw their attitude,
An found they could sell Lorenzo food,
They began to praise this Perry [sic] guy,
An' formed a sort of neighborly tie.
An' so both towns did prosper well,
As they met in the markets to buy and sell.

Eventually a flume was laid,
Along the river, an' cross the glade,
Fer fourteen miles, along the banks,
They floated timber, boards an' planks;
This flume reached as fur as Felton then,
An' worked a crew of a hundred men.
As time went on these towns did boom,
And the Hotel's signs read standing room,
Fer tourists traveling from near and far,
Would dicker and trade at the hotel bar.

In a few years more thar cum the news,
That a railroad was coming from Santa Cruz.
Then folks hustled fer lots, spot cash to pay,
Fer they wanted to be on the right of way.
But many were sore fer the facts well known,
That the Railroad had ideas of its own,
So when site fer a depot the railroad did seek,
They passed up Lorenzo, an' chose Boulder Creek.
And from that very day, Boulder Creek wus the spot,
That appeared on the map, Lorenzo wus not,
An' today, should an airport the late tourist seek,
We'll all point with pride to Boulder Creek.



Become a Part of Our Community Today

The San Lorenzo Valley Museum is owned and operated by the San Lorenzo Valley Historical Society, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Membership dues and donations are 100% tax deductible. We are solely funded by our members, our supporters, and grants, and depend on the goodwill of our community volunteers' time and skills.

Name: _____

Address: _____

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Please make checks payable to the San Lorenzo Valley Historical Society. For payments by credit card please visit our website www.slvmuseum.org.

For more information call us at (831) 338-8382, or email us at info@slvmuseum.org.

Membership Options

Membership benefits include, membership card, printed newsletter, 15% Museum store discount, reduced pricing to fundraising events, member only events.

Individual \$25 ☐

Dual/Family \$40 ☐
(2 adults + Children under 18)

Business \$40 ☐

Supporting \$100 ☐
(Dual/Family benefits + NARM benefits)

Individual Lifetime \$250 ☐

Dual/Family Lifetime \$400 ☐

Business Lifetime \$400 ☐

Donation \$_____ ☐

Interested in volunteering? ☐ Check out our volunteer opportunities at www.scvolunteercenter.org

The Museum Galleries
are Open
Check our website for open hours.
Phone (831) 338-8382
Email: info@slvmuseum.org
Website: www.slvmuseum.org

San Lorenzo Valley Historical Society, 501(c)(3)
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