



# Nacitone Foundation

**Lockwood, California**

"Enrich Your Future and Discover the Past"

**Second Quarter 2020**

## Presidents Message

Hello everyone,

During the Covid 19 stay at home mess, Nacitone was active but at a slower pace. We practice social distancing and still able to function. During this time we formed the pads for the Archive Room to set on. We poured the concrete and trenched for the building rain gutter drains. We also received a large donation from the Planett Ranch. We picked up six trailer loads of treasures. Thank you Karen for your generous donation. I also sprayed weeds for the third time this year as well as Pam Davis and Neil Wollesen mowed the larger area again thanks to our late rains. The trees we planted last year are happy and growing. I can hardly wait for the much needed shade. I hope everyone made it through the Covid scare. It was a good time to reflect back at all the hard work and sacrifice our forefathers went through to allow us to enjoy our country. It seems like folks in the cities have forgotten this looking at all the protests going on. On a lighter note the museum is back to being open the first Saturday of each month and I hope to see you there. I would like to thank everyone for your continued support.

Donald Gillett  
President, Nacitone Foundation

### Dates to Remember

Museum Meeting Time – 6:30 pm      Museum Monthly Meetings- 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday  
Meeting Dates for 2020- July 21, Aug. 18, Sept. 15, Oct. 20, Nov. 17 & Dec. No Meeting  
Museum Open 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of each month – 10 am to 4 pm or by appointment

### COMING EVENTS

Clam Chowder Feed – Plans for next spring

**Rescheduled - 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Dutch Oven Cook off – Saturday May 8, 2021**

Web page - [www.nacitonefoundation.org](http://www.nacitonefoundation.org)

Newsletter editor - Pam Davis

Nacitone Foundation, Inc.

Non-Profit # 71-0877555

## Hungry Flats

It was here that the village of Lockwood was founded. The part of Lockwood valley south of Jolon upon which (the Weferling family) settled, was known by the first settlers as "Hungry Flats". The Weferling place is still there, long ago disproving the theory that no one could make a living from the soil there. Gladys L. Post, postmaster, Lockwood wrote: My late husband told me that the people who first came and settled this area set up their homes in the hills as there were springs and they called the valley "Hungry Flats" as it was bare of vegetation. Olive Wollesen adds that the valley was known simply as the "The Flat." Another variant is "Jolon Flat." Rachel Gillett, in her *Memories of the San Antonio Valley*, Writes In 1869, and farther south in the San Antonio Valley, known as Poor Man's flat, or Hungry Flat, or even Poverty Flat, land became available from the government for homesteading. It was called Poverty Flat because it seemed that there was only poverty grass growing on it, which isn't good for cattle or anything.

Written as printed in book

Ref. Names & Places of Monterey County

*Bill Parlet, Sr.*



*Recognize this Young Lady?*

Find out in our next newsletter

*"When I'm looking in the mirror, I'm looking at the problem and I'm also looking at the solution, and the buck stops with me."*

*Jamie Lee Curtis*

### DIRECTORS 2020

Jason Carroll  
Pam Davis  
Fred Forgnone  
Donald Gillett  
Kathy McCormack  
Lester Patterson  
Rob Johnson  
Bud Reiwerts  
Neil Whitty  
Neil Wollesen

### Again

*We the members of Nacitone Foundation would like to thank the officers for graciously accepting another year of their respective offices.*

*President – Donald Gillett  
Vice President- Neil Wollesen  
Secretary – Kathy McCormack  
Treasurer – Beverly Kovacs*

## ★ Nacitone Volunteers ★

**Our Volunteers have put the time in!**

	Hours	\$	# People
2017	1966	\$25,000	172
2018	2590	\$27,000	257
2019	2125	\$23,000	254

We thank all of you who spent your time, Money, donation, and support.

The \$ is donations in the form of fuel, use of equipment (backhoe, trailers, mowers, parts, pickups) food, wine and etc.

**WE CANNOT DO IT ALL WITHOUT YOUR HELP!**

We are working to secure our past and educate about past times.

We were disappointed that we had to cancel our annual

## **Dutch oven Event**

For this year

**SEE YOU 2021**



Meet our new Director

**ROB JOHNSON**

Rob was raised in Glendora, a small town in the San Gabriel Valley in southern California. During his youth, he observed the predominantly citrus and avocado ranches in the area rapidly converted into housing tracts. This gave him a deep appreciation for local history and a realization that the agricultural practices of the "old ways of life" would be lost forever without concerted effort to preserve the local history. Rob graduated from Occidental College with a BA in Biology in 1977 and completed a Master's Degree in Environmental Science at California State University Fullerton in 1993. During his career, he worked on numerous hydrogeology, water quality and biological projects for several large public utilities, including Southern California Edison (SCE), Metropolitan Water District (MWD), Caltrans as well as the Department of Defense and private entities. A notable highlight was the 11 years he spent working on MWD's Inland Feeder Tunnel Project which traversed 11 miles of the San Bernardino Mountains. For the duration of the MWD project, Rob hiked monthly to more than 125 remote springs and streams in the rugged mountainous terrain to measure water quality and flows. Since moving to Lockwood in 2016, Rob has been assisting the Nacitone Museum with its mission of preserving and promoting the history of the San Antonio Valley. He recently developed a website for the Museum (<https://nacitonefoundation.org/>). He has also been cataloguing the Nacitone Museum's artifact collection. Rob and his wife Julie enjoy whitewater rafting and they have floated many of the rivers in the western United States (including the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon). They have a cabin in Kernville, California near the Kern River where he has guided rafting trips for over 30 years. His other hobbies include camping, hiking, metal detecting, gold prospecting, building and flying remote control planes, playing electric and acoustic guitar, family genealogy and tending several acres of wine grapes at his residence in Lockwood.

The hard working crew have been at it again. John Sonne, Donald Gillett, Neil Wollesen, Neil Whitty and Lester Patterson moved equipment from the Plannett ranch. It was a long day. Thank you to the Plannett Ranch and the hard working men for their time. The members appreciate your help.

The equipment is on display at the museum.



Meet our new Director

**FRED FORGNONE**

Fred Forgnone was born in Merced, California. His paternal Great Grandfather's family and Grandfather Secondo, emigrated from Northern Italy in the early 1900's and settled in Livingston, California to start a dairy farm. His Grandfather Secondo fought bravely in World War I. Fred's father Robert, "Bob" owned the Chevron Station on Williams Road in Salinas and his mother Ada worked as a homemaker and Barber at P&L Barbershop in Salinas. Fred has three siblings, Nita, Cindy and Gerard. His parents founded the Salinas Sand Bugs, after building and running their dune buggy at the beaches with friends (BOB2000.com). In 2001, Fred and his brother found their late father's dune buggy and restored and run it at Old School Dune buggy Reunions. Fred has been married to Kathy for close to 40 years. They had two daughters Alexis (San Diego), and Vanessa (1986-2002). Alexis and her husband Josh blessed Fred and Kathy with a granddaughter, Vanessa. Fred has been speaking to teenagers with the CHP's "Start Smart" since the loss of his daughter Vanessa, in a car accident. The program was started in Salinas and has been pushed thru to Sacramento. Fred has worked for TransFRESH Corporation in Salinas for 43 years. Retirement???? Fred and Kathy moved to Lockwood in 2012. They fell in love with the people and the San Antonio Valley and its rich heritage. They were impressed with how friendly people are and how everyone comes out to help and support each other during the good times and bad times. Fred is a committee member of King City Friends of NRA. He enjoys playing cards with his Lockwood neighbors & Long range shooting. Fred built a Cobra 427 in 1995 with the help of his daughters.

## **NACITONE PIONEERS**

Nacitone Foundation and Museum will be doing a book on pioneer families of the area. We would be pleased to have your family included. We are looking for two to four pages of family history with pictures. When the family came to the area, where did they come from, who came first, did they homestead and where, what was their occupation, how many children, what schools did they attend and stories of their life in the area.

We would also be pleased to have help putting it all together.

Call Pam Davis if you would like to have your family included in the book. (805)714-7588

**Nacitone Officers**

*President – Donald Gillett  
Vice President – Neil Wollesen  
Secretary - Kathy McCormack  
Treasure – Beverly Kovacs*

**Directors**

*Jason Carroll - (831) 310-8488      Pam Davis - (805)714-7588  
Fred Forgnone – (831)6822625      Donald Gillett - (831)206-6255  
Kathy McCormick - (831)236-2062      Lester Patterson - (831)235-7358  
Rob Johnson – (714)961-0257      Bud Reiwerts – (408)842-4756  
Neil Whitty - (831)818-5265      Neil Wollesen – (831)596- 8548*

**Memorial Bricks**

Order your personalized brick for permanent display on our patio.  
You can use your name, family member or company, also add a logo  
A 4”X8” brick is \$100, an 8”X8” is \$200 and a 12” X 12” is \$500

Logo and graphics are available.

For information Contact Neil Whitty- @ (831)818-5265 or email – [nwkenworth@gmail.com](mailto:nwkenworth@gmail.com)

***Continue***



This was taken from

THE RUSTLER-HERALD 40<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

had to piece it together – read Left to Right – Top to Bottom



## Mexican 'Fourth Of July' Fiesta

(Since California was originally governed by Mexico, many Mexican celebrations were held here even after the state became part of the United States. One of the fiestas, held on the 16th of September, took place southwest of King City at Jolon until about the year 1908.—Editor.)

(As told by Marna Thompson)

SEPTEMBER 16, the Mexican "Fourth of July," was celebrated in Jolon for nearly 100 years. It honored Miguel Hidalgo, the "Washington" of Mexico. He led a revolt on September 16, 1810, that ended in the liberation of Mexico from Spain.

For three days before the celebration, Spanish-speaking people from all neighboring counties streamed into Jolon. They came on horseback, with their fiesta clothing tied on behind. They came in carts and wagons. In the very old days they came by ox-cart.

Ramadas, willow huts, were built in the little canyons and along the creek. There were many fires, one before each hut. All through the region was the smell of the tamales and the enchiladas they cooked for the fiesta.

By the afternoon of September 15 there were always from two to five thousand merrymakers waiting to honor Miguel Hidalgo.

Toward sundown the band tuned up. Every year it was the same band. Trinidad Bojorques was cornetist. Jose Maria Carajal was violinist and Manuel Rojas played the flute.

When the band tuned up those not already there streamed towards the flag pole. The American flag went slowly up while the band played the "Star Spangled Banner." As it neared the top shouts of "Viva!" burst out that would make your heart beat faster and the tears come.

The Mexican flag followed it. The band played "Himno Nacional," followed by more shouts of "Viva!" The great chorus of "Vivas" swelled until you could scarcely hear the band. It made the chills run up and down your spine.

Men worked all afternoon getting the traditional explosions ready. They piled one blacksmith's anvil on top of another, with a stick of dynamite underneath. Then they touched them off, one after another. You could hear the explosions for miles. They terrified the children, but they liked them just the same.

Everyone went to mass at the old mission on the morning of the 16th. They paraded to mass. They paraded back. Everyone wore fiesta clothing and flowers and ribbons. Tails and manes were curled on all the horses, being braided up the night before. The horses glistened from being rubbed with a rag with a little coal-oil on it. The bridles and saddles and martingales reflected the sun from burnished surfaces and the silver on them dazzled one's eyes.

For the barbecue, all the big ranchers gave one, two or three steers each. Everyone cooked something too, in the days before the festival. Everything was free but

the beer! Nobody minded paying for the beer. They liked beer. It made the fights better.

Afterwards were games and races and cockfights. The young men with the fine horses rode full tilt at rings on a pole to hook them off with a lance. They swooped swiftly past roosters buried in sand with their legs tied to a weight, and twisted the neck off. That was pescuza and everyone could not do it right for the neck had to snap pronto and come off. Training for pescuza was unfair, but all the young blades did train. They had to because the horse had to know what it was all about.

The grand ball started at sundown and lasted until sunrise. The next day everyone went home.

The celebrations lasted until they moved the September 16 fiesta away from Jolon. With the moving went also the heart. It was not good anymore like in the old days.



## John Hersom

### New "Duke of Argyle" recalls past in Old Jolon Valley

John R. Hersom, pioneer rancher near Jolon, could well be called the "Duke of Argyle" in his own

right by his seniority in that section if nothing more.

(Continued on Next Page)

#### SALT OF THE EARTH

Commenting on how the Argyle section got its name, Hersom said, "It was named by Allen McLean, the best school teacher we ever had at the San Antonio school. He named this school district after one of his favorite Scottish author - statesman," John continued.

The rancher's longevity in the Argyle district of the Jolon Valley dates back to Thanksgiving, 1882, when he and his folks moved down from Buena Vista near Spreckels. He's outlasted all the other families that were there when the Hersoms arrived — Pitts, Merriwethers, Hubbards, McLeans, McClellans, Perkins and the Hollingsworths.

John Ruben Hersom was born in Mercer, Maine on Dec. 9, 1869. His father, John A. Hersom, was a farmer of old New England stock. His mother's maiden name was Ellen Moore another "Down-Easterner."

When John was six years old the family moved west. They arrived by train and stopped for a year at San Jose before moving on. It was a small group, his mother and father, he and his sister, Lottie and his mother's father, Ruben Moore, who settled in Natividad and later near Spreckels. For five years the Hersoms ranched there before moving south to the Jolon country on Thanksgiving Day, 1882.

The country was well-populated at that time, with many homesteads in the area, the Lockwood Valley and Jolon section having been opened to the homesteaders in 1870. That was when the town of Jolon was also founded.

Their first place was across the road — then merely a stage coach

trail — before they moved to where Charlie Jackson and his mother now live. (Mrs. M. A. Jackson is Mrs. Hersom's sister.)

Young John helped with the ranch chores and attended the San Antonio school a mile and a half the other side of Jolon. It was here he came in contact with teacher McLean. "He was the best one we ever had," stated John.

Because the Hersoms lived beside the main north-south trail, John remembers well the stage coach as it sped through the Jolon Valley with horn blasting the crisp night air to announce its arrival. "There were usually six horses waiting at each stage stop. In the winter time there would be four horses pulling the coach and in the summer, when the ground was hard, they'd need only two."

The town of Jolon consisted of two stores and a blacksmith shop and a saloon or two, when the Hersoms first moved in that section. Captain T. T. Tidball and a Senor Mendoza had general stores and the Duttons had their famous hotel and stage stop. (Mrs. Hersom later became a fast friend of George Dutton's daughter, Marno.)

On Dec. 12, 1912, John married a widow who had come to California from Ohio to be with her sister. Her name was Emma Van Buren McMurray. She had graduated from the Cleveland University of Medicine and Surgery in 1898. For several years she had practiced medicine in Carey, Ohio. After her husband died, Emma came to California, more particularly, two miles south of Lockwood to live with her sister, Mrs. M. A. Jackson.

Her fame as a doctor and nurse

became known around the surrounding countryside and many a night she has sat up with a patient to nurse him back to life.

John and Emma had met when she was taking care of his mother who was an invalid the latter years of her life. They were married in Salinas and stayed on at the Hersom ranch. John had purchased the Hollingsworth place several years before and a year after they were married they moved in. The Hersoms still live in the same house surrounded by 3200 acres of wheat, range and mountain land.

"We still talk about the Sept. 16 celebrations," Hersom said. "We used to have some wonderful times. On several occasions, things did get kind of rough. I remember one such celebration when a man walked into a saloon at Jolon and went up to another man at the bar and said, 'I've a good mind to shoot you.' He pulled out a gun and shot him in the stomach. The victim died later."

When the Hersoms first came to the Argyle country, the Mission San Antonio was still "in pretty good shape." Hersom remembered all the L shape of the living quarters was still intact and there was a garden full of flowers in back of the Mission.

John's sister, Lottie Hersom, is still alive and residing at Redondo Beach.

And he remembers well the era now past. "It was a good life. And don't think that just because we were farmers we never enjoyed ourselves." He smiled and his blue eyes shone when he recalled again to mind those days of the stage coach, his schooling and the naming of the Argyle country.