

PCNS Minutes for February 23, 2022

The board meeting for February 23, 2022, was called to order in person at Fort Mason at 7:07 PM by President Jason Macario. Attendance at Fort Mason included Michael Wehner. In attendance via Zoom were Treasurer Stephen Huston, Secretary Charlie Catlett, Governors Bob Somers, Ed Treuting, and Mike McDaniel, past president Dan Hipple, and Bill Hyder.

The minutes for the January meeting were approved.

The treasurer's financial report for January 26-February 22, 2022 was given to the board for review.

2022 Papers Contest: submissions are due by the end of the April 27 meeting. Jason will coordinate the competition, and three of four judges have already been secured.

Status of 2019-2021 Papers printing: they are at the printer

Revisiting the question of continuing to print the papers: this was discussed and will be brought up again in the future, to be discussed with all the members.

The Archives move is done.

Speakers are needed for April-May. Herb Miles will talk at the March meeting.

New Business: 1. Jerry Schimmel's book needs photographs of the collection, and Michael has possession of the collection to do that. The text is all complete. 2. Jason presented the 50th year membership for Jerry (from 2020) to Michael, who will present it to Jerry's family. 3. It was agreed that there will be no drawings at in-person meetings if fewer than five members are in attendance.

Adjournment 7:24 PM

At 7:31 PM, general meeting #1270 was called to order. Present, in addition to the members from the board meeting, via Zoom were Doug Ward, Herb Miles, Dean Neald, Scott Safe, Charlie Ludvik, Michael Carolan, Robert Jesinger, and Paul Turner.

Jason reminded members who have not paid 2022 dues of \$20 that they should do so, preferably through our PayPal account.

Entries for the Papers Contest for 2022 are due by the end of the April 27 meeting.

Speakers are needed for April-May: please contact Jason and/or Stephen.

Featured speaker: Bill Hyder

"The Swiss Hotel: Hospitality for Swiss Immigrants in Santa Cruz, California."

Emigrants from Switzerland began arriving in Santa Cruz around 1868, mostly coming from an Italian-speaking region. 30,000 arrived in California, attracted to the dairy and vineyard potential. Some were entrepreneurs, but many were single men who came as laborers and had arrangements with women back home to arrive later and become their wives here in California.

In 1868 the Swiss Hotel was built in Santa Cruz, behind Chinatown on Bridge Street (later to become Water Street). A second story was added in 1873. And it was burned down in the Chinatown fire of 1877, and then rebuilt. Bill showed early photos of Santa Cruz with a Flatiron building in the center, business district on the right, and Chinatown on the left. He then showed Rossi and Varozza Swiss Hotel Tokens: Rossi apparently had the bar and Varozza had the hotel. It was a Strahle token, which indicated that there was billiards in the bar. The tokens were also used as part of the house cut in poker games.

In 1890, Santa Cruz flooded- so the hotel was raised two feet. It had new owners in 1901, and in the 1910s was raised again due to more flooding. The Swiss and Italian-Swiss community was very active then (and continues to be important today), with the Swiss Hotel being important in the activities. Bill showed two more Swiss Hotel tokens. One was octagonal and named owner Borradori. The other was a round 21mm slot machine-sized token. The hotel was raided by police many times from 1918-1926 looking for alcohol, even after it changed ownership.

In 1926 Borradori sold a ranch he owned and bought a building across the street from the Swiss Hotel, naming it Swiss-American Hotel. Bill showed three different 24mm tokens from that hotel. Borradori committed suicide in 1948, and his son took over the business until 1963. It was destroyed that year to widen Water Street.

Member Exhibits:

Stephen recently moved to Woodland, and proudly showed off a Storkman's Woodland Good For 5 cents in Trade token that he spotted in a local antique shop. He found info on Storkman's from 1886-1927, which was a billiard parlor that also sold tobacco and liquor. It is currently the Stag Bar in Woodland, just down the street from where Stephen lives.

Herb showed three "Vote the Free Land" coins, in which was the motto was counterstamped on two large cent coins and on a Mexican silver 2 real piece, all prior to 1844. Initially it was thought that the motto referred to adding slave-free states to the union. But research by Q. David Bowers revealed it was for the National Reform Association from ~1844, formed to honor the common man and open land in the Western United States to common people, not capitalists

Doug showed a comparison of the 1922 Matte Proof Peace Dollar with a circulation strike. There were some very minor differences, but the biggest was the high relief of the proof issue

Robert J showed several certificates/vignettes of wine-related items, as well as several medals: Mechanics Institute award medal for wine casks in 1883, and another subject from 1885; and a California Agricultural Society medal to Beaulieu Vineyards from 1935.

Michael W showed a big light house medal and a stock certificate with a light house that he got for Ed (to be delivered later). He displayed his Medal Collectors of America club medal for 2021, featuring an octopus on top of a treasure chest full of coins. It was one of fifty made of hand-burnished bronze.

The general meeting adjourned at 8:44 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Charlie Catlett, Secretary PCNS