

# The Scruffy Post

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Smartsville Church Restoration Fund, Inc.  
[www.smartsvillechurchrestoration.org](http://www.smartsvillechurchrestoration.org)  
P.O. Box 374, Smartsville, CA 95977  
Tax Exempt I.D. No.58-0412321

## SCRFI's NEW PROJECT NEEDS HELP!

Our next restoration project is to restore the south exterior and bell tower of our historic former Catholic church building. Structural issues resulting from the original construction and from weather damage require that we hire the services of a structural engineer to determine the most cost-effective way to make these repairs.

A friend of SCRFI is willing to donate half of the structural engineer's fee for which we have already received a proposal for a total of \$12,000. That means we need to raise \$6,000 for this preliminary design work, which cannot begin until we raise our portion of the total.

Time is of the essence. This has been a particularly wet year so far and the sooner we can complete this design work the sooner we will be able to begin the actual repairs and restoration. Part of the structural engineer's work will be to estimate the actual construction cost, which is presently unknown.

This work represents a new opportunity for SCRFI. Our previous restoration work was done with volunteer labor and proceeded as funds became available. This new project can be awarded to a contractor if we can raise the funds. If not, we still may be able to do portions of the work with a combination of donated labor and donated materials. Because the south side of our building is particularly susceptible to weather damage and is currently unprotected, this work needs to be started quickly. You are aware of our newly completed beautiful new porch and front steps. Please help us embark on this exciting new phase of work. Contact Kit or Kathy to help – contact information is below.



## Christmas Eve Caroling

We're imagining the day when our bell tower is restored to what it once was. Thanks to our skilled volunteers, like Steve Winchel seen in the above photo, our new porch and deck looks beautiful and has already hosted two annual events, the first Family History Picnic in October and Christmas Eve Caroling.

Thanks to the participation from Smartsville Community Church and a small group from SCRFI, we sang lots of old-fashioned Christmas songs and caroled around O'Brien Loop to be joined by Lettie Litchfield and her guests. The starry, hilly scene from the porch deck was enchanting and refreshments later were yummy. Photos by the grandkids!



## ***TWO DEAR FRIENDS OF SCRFI WILL BE MISSED***

Our long-time friend Bill Poole passed away in December. He was born into a pioneer family whose great-grandfather, William Magonigal, came from Ireland and had a cattle ranch in Smartsville in 1855. His great-grandmother was Emma Elizabeth Frazier, whose family had come to Smartsville from Nova Scotia.

Bill is remembered in an old story recently re-published by editors Kathy Smith and Lane Parker in their book The Sage of Smartsville, The Collected Stories of George Rigby. He worked for P.G.&E. and was instrumental in getting the enormous redwood tree on our church property decorated for Christmas. This became a beautiful annual event at the time.

Bill was an active member of Friends for the Preservation of Yuba County History and also attended every Pioneer Day. His warmth and down-home personality made him a favorite of SCRFI. He will be dearly missed.



Bill is seen manning the FPYCH booth at Pioneer Day in 2012.

Judy Underwood passed away in December. We at SCRFI have known her as a dedicated volunteer and the mother of another dedicated volunteer, Deanna Evango. The two of them had taken over manning the SCRFI booth for the last three Pioneer Days. This is a busy job with the important tasks of communicating our mission to each visitor and collecting donations for raffle tickets and souvenirs. With the difficult task of fund-raising, they were instrumental in contributing to Pioneer Day's success.

Judy lived in Smartsville for 27 years and had a landscaping business in Penn Valley for 16 years. She enjoyed boating with her husband, Al, at Englebright Lake, as well as gardening, photography, and spending time with her family.



Deanna Evango and mother Judy Underwood are seen here getting ready for Pioneer Day. Judy's grandson and Deanna's son, Josh Evango helped with major preparation, too, with the three generations cleaning inside the church. Smartsville has lost a good neighbor – Judy will be greatly missed.

## **Our 10<sup>th</sup> Pioneer Day!**

One of our greatest accomplishments is having created a unique small-town Gold Rush festival. For nine years it's not only been our biggest fund-raiser, but has offered a fun and educational day for the whole family. History buffs and descendants are drawn to come, too, and the entertainment and food get an A+.

The next Pioneer Day falls on Saturday, April 29<sup>th</sup>. Whether you come for the activities, the region's history, the mining tours, the music, the historic re-enactments, the viewing inside the church, the artistic vendors, or just to share comradery in a picturesque Sierra foothill town, we know you'll have a good time.

Planning begins in earnest at our next meeting on Tuesday, February 14<sup>th</sup>. The meeting is planned for **inside the church** at 3:00 pm, as opposed to our former time and location. We always need volunteers and welcome ideas to improve our event.



**If you have questions, or if you'd like to donate or volunteer, please contact Kit Burton at (530) 701-2639 or Kathy Smith at (916) 838-2757. Check out: <http://www.pioneerday.info>**