

# Redman House visions take shape

Historic Houses - South County

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WATSONVILLE — Lovers of the Redman House are hoping that an artist's rendering of what the historic home could look like after it's been rehabilitated could help generate the donations they need to buy the property before their option runs out in December.

"We're just in a Catch-22 because a lot of people would like to be a part of its renovation, but say 'We want to see something happen with it first,'" said Redman House Committee member Geoff Scurfield. "It's been a long process. Somebody's got to save that house and show it off for this Pajaro Valley."

Scurfield, — who would like to see the 1897 home become a symbol of the Central Coast area and its rich agricultural history — has his personal vision of how the home could be turned into a self-sustaining agricultural tourism destination.

"My idea — and I'm just one of three principal members of the committee — is to raise the house four or five feet and put a wine cellar below it and an art gallery inside," he said. "I think that would be a wonderful way to sustain the house in a low-impact way, where people could also have weddings and meetings."

Scurfield said the barn and carriage house on the property could also be rehabilitated and

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— Redman House Committee member Geoff Scurfield

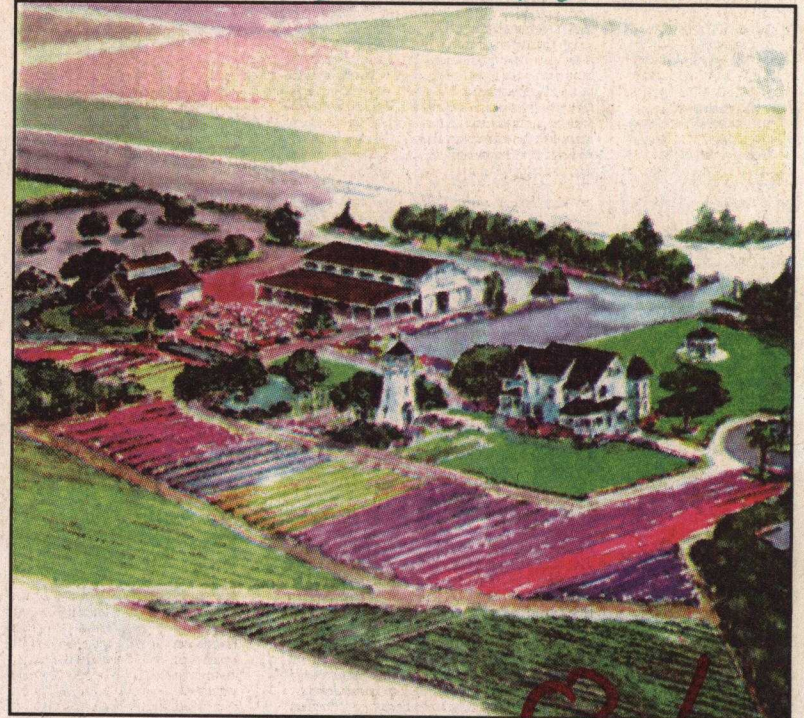
pressed into service and that a deli restaurant might work well on the site.

"We have to keep 70 percent of it in agricultural land," said Scurfield. "So there's a guarantee this project would not be developed into some kind of Disneyland. We want to preserve the house to exhibit what's best about the Pajaro Valley."

Scurfield and other committee members plan to meet with Assemblyman Fred Keeley (D-Boulder Creek) in October to explore whether state funds can be found to help with the \$2.4 million purchase price or other expenses.

Fellow committee member Karell Reader said donations are sorely needed for the project, whether they take the form of cash or pledges. She said so far the committee has gotten mostly offers of do-

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Courtesy of Karell Reader

An artist's rendering of a rehabilitated Redman House property and surrounding fields.

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nations of time and materials — which she finds encouraging — but money is also needed.

"The more people who have a stake in it, the better," she said. "It's really exciting. There's tremendous interest from people who come to visit the area. It's really heartwarming to see people from all over the world relate to that once-beautiful house."