



Diane Varni

**John DeMers repairs the museum chimney.**

## Slowly, surely, museum repaired

**W**ITH A STEADY forward movement, workers on the Pajaro Valley Historical Association's Volck Museum are bringing the earthquake-damaged building back to a safe and useable condition.

Like many non-profit organizations, PVHA looked to government agencies and service groups for financial help to begin reconstruction. Grants from FEMA and the city of Watsonville were received, and last week, a \$500 award from E Clampus Vitus, Monterey Viejo Chapter, was presented to the association. The museum, at 261 E. Beach St. in Watsonville, has been closed since the October earthquake.

John DeMers, of Aptos, who is working on the 1901 home, which was designed by architect William Weeks, had to learn some old construction methods before he started fixing the damage.

Museum officials wanted to retain the charm of the original building and, whenever possible, replace with authentic materials. The fewer new-fangled products, they felt, the better.

DeMers used an Epoxy-resin paint to hold the damaged ceiling together before applying spackle.

The damaged fireplace was replaced with a reinforced wooden chimney. Stucco was applied over the chimney to match the original, turn-of-the century construction.

DeMers said he blended old methods with new to make repairs. No reopening date has been set, but museum officials say it should be soon.

— Candace Atkins

REFERENCE

WATSONVILLE  
REGISTER-PAJARONIAN  
June 9, 1990