

# New location for old treasures

Historic Houses - Santa Co

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## Tea party to celebrate relocated museum

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WATSONVILLE — The Pajaro Valley Historical Association and Museum has moved The William H. Volck Historic Museum into the stately Bockius-Orr House and to help celebrate, members will holding a Christmas Silver Tea Friday in their elegant new quarters.

The Bockius-Orr House was built in 1868 by Judge Godfrey "G.M." Bockius, who farmed the land where Watsonville High School now stands. The Bockius family and descendants lived continuously in the home until after World War II.

G.M. Bockius was also the great-grandfather of Frank Orr, a long-time editor of the Register-Pajaronian. Upon his return from the war, Frank Orr and his wife, Zoe Ann Hill, completely renovated the house, restoring it to its original splendor. They occupied the home together until his death in 1985. His widow, Zoe Ann, donated the house to the historical association in 1994. The association will keep it preserved as an historic home.

The contents of the William H. Volck Historical Museum are currently being stored in an archive building on the Bockius property. "Because the house is being kept as a home, we are going to have a display in the archive building instead of the main house, in order to preserve the historic atmosphere of the home," said association member and volunteer Jane Borg.

The Christmas tea, which is being organized by Dorothy Skillicorn, Joanne Resetar and the board of directors, will be held Friday between 2:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. The Bockius-Orr House is located at 332 East Beach St.

There is no admission charge and the public is invited but donations will be gladly accepted. In addition, afghans, which contain historic scenes of the Pajaro Valley, will be available for sale. Anyone who is interested in joining the association members for tea and a tour of the home should call 722-0305.

The Bockius-Orr house, 332 East Beach, will soon be the new location for the Pajaro Valley Historical Association. The living room of the house is still furnished in the same manner in which the Orr family lived. The large picture window offers a spectacular view of a group of oak trees in the front yard.

Photos by Tarmo Hannula

