Bonny Doon residents find town's mystique

Authors of new novel explore 200 years of hamlet's history

By JONDI GUMZ

SENTINEL STAFF WRITER

Twenty-six years ago, Barbara Louv and her husband decided to bail out of New Jersey.

It was getting too crowded, and DOON

they loved the outdoors, WHEN: On sale for \$20.50 today. so they packed everything into a U-Haul with their two children and

headed west.

They settled in San Jose, but at local bookstores. Barbara felt "like a caged animal," so they took a ride over the hill. A real estate agent showed them an acre of land with sunshine and redwoods.

said.

That was her introduction to Bonny Doon, the mountainous rural outpost north of Santa Cruz, where people are only a few steps away from a pleasant hike.

who collaborated to produce a new history of Bonny Doon, "Memories of the Mountain." About 200 copies will go on sale today from 1 to 4 p.m. at Bonny Doon Presbyterian The price is \$20.50.

of Bonny Doon Club, a group

Bonny Doon history

WHAT: 'Memories of the Mountain,' first locally published book of Bonny Doon history from 1800 to 2000, researched and written by the Ladies of Bonny Doon Club.

WHERE: Bonny Doon Presbyterian Church, 7065 Bonny Doon Road.

ALSO: Available at Amazon.com and

DETAILS: Barbara Louv, 426-3652, or barbaralouv@sbcglobal.net.

"We fell in love with it," Barbara they would lose their history * unless someone pulled it together.

"So, we decided to do it before it was too late," said Barbara, 66, who was a teacher in Soquel.

For those who haven't been to Bonny Doon, it stretches from the Barbara is one of a dozen people coast to the crest of Ben Lomond in as writers. Suzanne Hunter Mountain (not to be confused with designed the book cover. the community of Ben Lomond on Highway 9).

Physically, Bonny Doon is almost as big as San Francisco, Church, 7065 Bonny Doon Road. according to Donald Coyne of the Rural Bonny Doon Association, tory during Prohibition," Barbara The authors belong to the Ladies but far fewer people live there, said. although it's difficult to know founded in 1942 to roll bandages exactly how many. Coyne said for the war effort. They realized "4,000 is the figure that's tossed

byterian Church, which had kept The Bonny Doon book project many photos over the years.

> seminary that was active in the 1940s, the Mormon camp at the end of Empire Grade, the Bosch Baha'i community, and Baba Hari Dass, the "silent monk" who is revered at Mount Madonna.

> Some writers interviewed oldtimers. Others researched the founding of the California Youth Authority camp, the films made, such as "Maid of Salem," and The Lost Weekend, a tavern that became a grocery and then a win-

Proceeds from the book go to the ladies club, which is clearly one of the community assets along with the elementary school, the volunteer fire department and the churches.

discussed whether it was time to is what keeps people here." She learned about a Catholic move on. His employer relocated from San Jose to San Ramon, outside the commuting range.

"He retired and I kept teaching,"

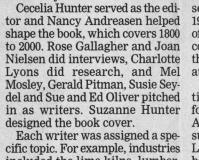
Barbara and her husband once she said. "The beauty of the area

Contact Jondi Gumz at jgumz@santacruzsentinel.com.



Dan Coyro/Sentinel

These 12 Bonny Doon residents want to preserve the history of the town, so they published a book on the town's history.



about."

took two years.

included the lime kilns, lumber, Lockheed Martin and grapes.

"We have a very interesting his-Her assignment was religious

groups, partly because she was a member of the Bonny Doon Pres-