

LIBRARY BUILDING MOSAIC MURAL RESTORATION PROJECT

20-27 July 2009

Joan M. Decker

Work began sharply at 9 am, 20 July, on what turned out to be a truly fun operation with the erection of scaffolding. By midday, we were under way with volunteers washing and sorting tiles while Steve Proano, master tile setter, and artist, Peter Ladochy, began directing the team of workers manning the scaffolds.

Our intrepid volunteers consisted of individuals of all ages. The youngest, Duke Meaney, came with his grandparents, the Du Fosees, to help wash and sort tiles. Riley Proano, Ben Koppl, and Betsy Kinter climbed all over the scaffolding; courageously extending themselves to areas where older, less supple bodies could not quite reach. Creighton Decker, David Rosenthal, and Roger Ewing served time on the wall, as well. Everybody on the list gave generously of their time and helped to make this a resoundingly wonderful event!

A passer-by who remembered the first incarnation of the mosaic, commented to me that it is unfortunate to realize that in another twenty years or so, the mural will probably be in disrepair and need to be restored, yet again. "How wonderful is that!" I thought. How exciting that another generation of citizens of Morro Bay will have the opportunity to acknowledge the value of this work of art to the community.

For the present, I hope that all of us but especially Riley, Ben, and Duke will remember their experience, and that someday they will be able to bring their children to the Morro Bay Library and tell them, "I helped to restore this mural that celebrates the history and beauty of the Central Coast."

To all the volunteers, and Steve Proano, Peter Ladochy, Alberic Nault, who charged us so little for the use of his scaffolding, and Joe Woods from the Recreation and Parks Department of Morro Bay, thank you one and all for a great job!!!!

VOLUNTEERS:

Rita Brotherton
Creighton Decker
Elaine and Robert Du Fosee
Roger Ewing
Herb Garfield
Betsy Kinter
Ben Koppl (age 17)
Duke Meaney (age 5)
Berta Parrish
Riley Proano (age 10)
Catherine Reustmann
David Rosenthal
Susan Stephens
Richard Strasburg
Lynn Wickham