

CAYUCOS PORTAL

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Christmas greetings and thoughts THE CAYUCOS BREEZE 1973



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MRS. FILOMENA BRUGHELLI is 89 years old and was born in Lavertezzo, Switzerland. Her husband had come to Cayucos in 1910 to work with his brothers, Pete and Valente Brughelli, who rented Joe Righetti's ranch.

Without a doubt the happiest Christmas of Filomena's life was when she and her son Mario were united with her husband in December, 1914. The winter trip across the Atlantic lasted 2 weeks and everyone was

dreadfully ill. This was followed by the long trip across country to get to California.

Looking back she said, "I was afraid of everything and everybody but when I arrived in Cayucos everybody was friendly. There were lots of Swiss people and it was the main dialect. There were plank sidewalks and 3 business places, Ghezzi's store, Tomasine's and Cass's warehouse by the pier. Butter, cattle and pigs were shipped out from there. The saloons were meeting places where the men talked about the weather, business and probably their wives. There was much visiting among the ranchers at Christmas, people got together for eating and drinking.

"The women cooked for weeks before Christmas and there was plenty good food. There were toys for the children and we made clothes for presents for the grown-ups. Always something we could use. Cayucos was always a friendly town and whenever the people got together at Christmas everyone would be shouting 'Buon Natale! Buon Natale!'

She concluded: "For me, I love America, right or wrong it is my country. And now I want to say in 1973, 'Buon Natale' to all the people in Cayucos."

MR. WILLIAM BOYLE of Boyle's Lumber recalls that on the summer day in 1947 when he arrived in Cayucos there were only 2 cars parked on the street. One of the greatest things that Cayucos ever had was its own telephone service. Everybody in town was proud of it and the girls who ran it were just beautiful they were so accomodating. At that time it was Sue Ghezzi, Olga Rotanzi (deceased), Sylvia Turri and Audrey Vosti.

"If you had any idea of the name of the person you wanted to reach, or knew something about them, those girls could put you in touch with them. No matter where you were in town if the girls knew where you were, they would put your calls through to you." Shaking his head slowly, Mr. Boyle commented, "It was a sad, sad day in Cayucos when dial telephones were put in. As a matter of fact, there was a big public dinner in honor of the girls, and their service to the community.

The Christmas party at the Cayucos Grammar school in 1947 has stayed in my memory all these years. It was a party that made you feel everyone in town belonged in the family.

It seems to me it was organized by the PTA, plus some workers from the community. Henry Minetti was an unusual community man and helped a great deal.

"The Christmas party was for every child in Cayucos and the huge tree was loaded with presents. The Santa Claus was wonderful. At a given signal the telephone would ring and the Master of Ceremonies would talk with Santa so the audience could hear what part of the countryside Santa was covering on his way to the Grammar School. The excitement amongst the audience kept building and building.

"When Santa was outside the door we would start to sing Jingle Bells and that was when Santa made his entrance. It was so b (sic) beautifully organized and there was a gift for every child. Sometimes there were special gifts for adults who had done things for children during the year."

Mr. Boyle concluded: "At that Christmas party in 1947 there was such a feeling of love and friendship expressed for the children. It was like one great big family meeting together. I've never forgotten those wonderful moments, for it was at that time we felt we belonged and we've been at home ever since."



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