

HISTORY COMES ALIVE IN MONTEREY

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Photo by Dale Welch/Hilltop Express "Standing Stone Visitors from the Past" will be held Friday, Oct. 9 and again Sunday, Oct. 11, at the Monterey First Baptist Church Family Life Center in conjunction with the



Standing Stone Day celebration. Pictured, from left, are Drucilla Ray as Margaret Buckner, Julie Bohannon as Dr. Dora Wilder, Dr. Oplless Walker and Kay Walker as Mr. and Mrs. George Mudd and Dale Bohannon as Logan Waddles.

MONTEREY -- Learn some Monterey history and help the Standing Stone Historical Association at the same time at a dinner theater set for two shows Oct. 9 and Oct. 11. "Standing Stone Visitors from the Past" will kick off Standing Stone Day, set for that Saturday, Oct. 10, and will be held at the Monterey First Baptist Church Family Life Center.

"There will be four presentations," Ruth Ann Woolbright, coordinator, said. "There will also be a nice dinner with chicken breasts stuffed with spinach, a fall vegetable medley, a fruit salad with poppyseed dressing and a pumpkin cheesecake roll for dessert." The four presentations will include Samuel and Mrs. Mudd, portrayed by Dr. Oplless ("Op") and Kay Walker; Dr. Dora Lee Wilder, portrayed by Julie Bohannon; Logan Waddles, portrayed by Dale Bohannon; and Margaret Buckner, portrayed by great-great-grandmother Drucilla Ray. "How he got to Monterey, I don't know," Woolbright said of Mudd.

Mudd is known for treating President Abraham Lincoln's assassin, John Wilkes Booth. Booth and Mudd were acquainted with each other, and as he was fleeing the scene of Lincoln's assassination, Booth broke his leg and sought medical advice from Mudd. Mudd was arrested and tried on conspiracy charges and was found guilty. He was sent to Fort Jefferson, a military prison located on a small island in the Gulf of Mexico, about 70 miles west of Key West, Fla. In 1869, Mudd was pardoned by President Andrew Johnson, who returned home to his family farm until he died in 1883.

He was pardoned partly due to his work during an 1867 yellow fever epidemic at Fort Jefferson. He replaced the fort's regular doctor, who died at the beginning of the epidemic. Dora Lee Wilder is the wife of Gen. John T. Wilder and is the first woman to pass the state medical exam in Tennessee.

According to W. Calvin Dickinson and Charlene McClain, by the year 1900, she had acquired enough education to be listed in the census as a nurse, still living in her father's house. She had moved to Knoxville four years later and was working as a nurse when she met Gen. John Wilder, a Civil War hero who had led the U.S. Army's Lightning Brigade through Tennessee. They married later that year and returned to Knoxville, where she enrolled in medical school at UT. They moved to Monterey in 1913, where he built the Imperial Hotel. The Monterey home of the Wilders is presently owned by Woolbright.

Logan Waddles is a medicine man in Monterey. "His performance is more of a comedic role," Woolbright said. Woolbright also says that Ray's performance of Margaret Buckner will be one to see. "She will steal the show," Woolbright said.

Buckner's story says that she and her husband had a large farm in Monterey, and it was a bit too much to

handle. Her husband brought in a 20-year-old girl to help. Allegedly, Margaret got suspicious of the relationship between the girl and her husband, and killed her. The story continues that Margaret put the young girl's body into the fire, but the bones wouldn't burn so she threw them down the well. The girl then came back as a ghost, appearing to several people in Monterey. Margaret denied killing the girl, saying there was no proof since a body was never found.

Each member will approach the stage, carrying their tombstones, and Jeanie Kinslow will be playing Civil War music with her fiddle. Tickets will cost \$35 per person, \$50 per couple and \$150 for a table of six. For more information or to buy tickets, call Woolbright at 839-2467 or Teresa Godsey at 839-3187.

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