

Mayor Tom O'Malley's Atascadero violin

ATASCADERO
HISTORICAL SOCIETY



JAMES WILKINS
SOCIETY PRESIDENT

I hope you enjoyed celebrating Fourth of July commemorating the adoption of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776.

The document's famous preamble includes the ideas and ideals that were principles of the Declaration, "that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of

Happiness."

Early Atascadero Colony residents were very patriotic and celebrated the holiday as a community with picnics, parades, concerts and outdoor games. Many of us remember the same type of July 4 camaraderie growing up prior to Atascadero's incorporation in 1979. There were all sorts of games, food booths and fireworks in the evening at the Lake Park. We all need to remember and celebrate our forefathers' bravery and all those who fought and continue to fight to uphold these rights equally for all of us.

Turning to a local note, Tom O' Malley owns a violin that he believes was made here in Atascadero; perhaps his violin was played during an early Colony Independence Day concert. This article found in the July 1, 1916 historic edition of the *Atascadero News* may confirm that possibility.

Atascadero-made violins

Some weeks ago the *News* called attention to the fact that the famous Greely (Colorado) colony contained one member who later made an international reputation as a violin-maker and still lives, turning out each year a limited number of highly coveted instruments.

This week a newsman's attention was called to the fact that there is in Atascadero a man who makes some very interesting statements in regard to violins. He is Mr. McCormick, engaged at present in house construction work.

In an interview, Mr. McCormick said he could sell his instruments faster than he can make them and that he worked out after fifteen years' study an application of mathematics to the problem of the violin sounding board. He says his discovery makes possible an absolutely sure instrument and one that is positively even in its



Atascadero News photo courtesy of Atascadero Historical Society

Mayor Tom O'Malley's violin sits in its case. It has Atascadero stamped on it and is believed it was made in the city.

response from one extreme to the other, and an instrument of rich, full and pleasing tone. As Mr. McCormick is now actually at work here in the Colony making violins, it will soon be

possible for music lovers who are at the same time partial to everything bearing the impress of their beloved Colony, to have an Atascadero-made violin.

James Wilkins is the president of the Atascadero Historical Society. For more information, go to www.atascaderohistoricalsociety.org or call 466-8341.