

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Shop for Christmas Tree and Preserve History At Patchen California - Ghost Town Restored For Christmas Tree Shoppers

Los Gatos, Santa Clara County, CA - (November 6, 2015) - The Patchen name spans at least 2300 years in England, well before the Roman rule and the advent of Christ. More recently exciting characters and fateful events have dotted the landscape to help shape Northern California's history. Christmas Tree shoppers at Patchen will enjoy some of this past and help preserve it for their children!

In the mid-1700's, the earliest writings about the wilds of the Santa Cruz Mountains, where Patchen stands today, were set down by Spanish explorers. Stories tell of untamed forests, where the countryside was replete with thirsty deer, great bounding grizzlies, and howling packs of coyotes. A visit to Patchen, brings back "memories" of centuries past.

The genealogy of Patchen traces back to one Joseph Patch(ing), who immigrated to America in 1634. Fast forward to the eighteen hundred's, to find that notable race horse "George M. Patchen" and his "get" nicknamed "California Patchen". They brought the name to California by showing well in San Jose, San Francisco and Sacramento around the time the first road across the Santa Cruz opened.

California was admitted to the Union in 1850, and the first abiding white settler known among the pioneers of the era was Charles Henry McKiernan, better known as "Mountain Charlie". He built roads on his land, and ran a toll road following a local Indian trail. His most famous exploit, however, was his encounter with a grizzly bear. McKiernan set out with neighbor John Taylor, and Taylor's dog near Patchen. Spotting a grizzly, they both fired, but only stunned the great beast. With no chance to reload, "Mountain Charley" tackled the titanic bear with his rifle until the stock snapped in two. Upon his hind legs, the fierce behemoth bared his massive teeth, and bit off a large piece of Charley's forehead. Miraculously, McKiernan survived, having his terrible wound patched with a metal plate formed from two Mexican coins.

The town of Patchen featured a hotel, a stage coach stop and a post office. The first local postmaster, D.C. Feely, represented Patchen at the American Exposition at New Orleans in 1885, taking with him local produce and other items to exhibit. What's more, the famed novelist Jack London (1876-1916) spent time at a nearby ranch, and a careful eye will pick out *Call of the Wild Road* as you make your way to Patchen to pick out your Christmas tree.

The Great Earthquake and Fire of 1906, and 1989's Loma Prieta earthquake destroyed much of what was Patchen, but owner Jim Beck is restoring what remains, having gradually purchased the land where the town once stood beginning in the 1960's. His goal in converting Patchen to a Christmas tree farm has been to preserve a bit of history and protect this mountain gem from disruptive development.

In it's former heyday, Patchen was a bustling town, rich in customs and culture for more than one hundred years. It has found new life as a Christmas Tree ranch, allowing its' rich stories and delightful atmosphere to come alive once again in the form of a family-friendly holiday experience. We invite you to come and celebrate Patchen with us from 7 am to 7 pm, every Christmas season...if you decide to choose and cut a tree to take home, you'll be helping to preserve a bit of California history!

Contact:

Jim Beck
22217 Old Santa Cruz Hwy.
Los Gatos, CA 95033
408-353-1615
Jim@PatchenCalifornia.com
www.PatchenCalifornia.com

###