

SBALT NEWS

A Voice from the Fields: The Tale of the Yellow Barn

By Candy Coleman

Amidst the rolling hills and fertile fields of San Benito County, an old barn stands as a silent witness to decades of agricultural heritage. This barn has a story to tell, a tale of resilience, community, and the need for a helping hand. Let's listen as this barn, a cherished part of the San Benito Agricultural Land Trust and San Benito County, shares its journey and its urgent call for repair.

"My beginnings are unclear. Some say that I was raised by one of the Larios sons. But the land has been here forever.

The land I reside on has seen many things. Before I was raised, this land was free and open to all. Animals, Native Americans, Spain, and Mexico have all laid claim to it.

Since I have been around, I have seen many



The iconic barn on the old Nyland property in San Juan Bautista. Photo: Bob Connolly.

happenings. Buildings going up and coming down, highways cutting across the land, less wildlife, horses, cattle, and sheep. There have been fiestas, bullfights, family gatherings,

births and deaths, but the land will always be here.

The land has come down through many generations of families -- millennia of Indige-

San Benito Agricultural



nous generations, followed by the recorded families of Castro, Anzar, and Manuel Larios. After Larios died, the family sold off parcels to various buyers. Arthur Nyland purchased 209 acres of the "Rancho San Antonio" in 1939, which eventually grew to over 1,000 acres. In 2021, the land that I call home was sold to the Trust for Public Land, who, in turn, gave it to the San Benito Agricultural Land Trust.

Alongside me was a house, and together we were known by all for our unique yellow color. Sadly, time has not been kind to me. The highway split the land in two. The house to my side collapsed. My sides are gone, and I am listing. But I hope sometime soon I will rise again, a renewed version of my old self."

SBALT is stabilizing this iconic barn now! We need to raise another \$25,000 to complete the job! Please visit our website at www.sanbenitolandtrust.org to help to restore the Yellow Barn. ■