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For Immediate Release

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### **Can you guess my weight? 150 Tons!**

The 1906 Lodge at Coronado Beach got a big lift this week. Designed by prominent local architects, Hebbard and Gill, the historic structure is getting a new lease on life as a boutique hotel. But before the renovation and expansion could begin, the building needed a 6 inch "face lift".

The Lodge was raised to make the complex structural plan for the project work. Mix together a 100 year old unreinforced concrete building, an underground parking structure, a very flat lot, and the possibility of lots of rain, and you have a fun engineering puzzle. To create enough slope for natural drainage on the property, the Lodge needed to be 6 inches higher.

Bob Taylor, construction superintendent for Tekton Master Builders, took the lead designing a plan to lift the 150 ton building. Also on the team was Jerry Dodd, structural engineer, Ray Flores, shoring engineer, and John Hansen and Son House Movers. Together they crafted a 4 step process – remove excess weight, reinforce the exterior walls from both sides, build a steel brace under the building, and raise the building with 14 hydraulic jacks. The jacks were controlled by a single specialized piece of equipment driven to Coronado from northern California.

The actual lifting took less than an hour. With one of Hansen's men watching every jack, the building was raised 4 inches in a few seconds. The house was allowed to settle, all sides were inspected for signs of structural stress, and Joe Hansen approved a second lift of two inches. With a collective sigh of relief, the lift was pronounced successful by Bob Taylor.

"I'm ecstatic! This was the most challenging step in the entire project. We only got one shot at doing this right and it was perfect," declared project director and co-owner Sue Gillingham. Sue was joined by her husband and co-owner Dave Gillingham, neighbors, the construction crew and the engineers in watching the lifting process.

Plans for the 1906 Lodge at Coronado Beach include six renovated guest rooms in the historic building. In addition, 11 guest rooms will be added in the bungalow structure around the perimeter of the property. Parking will be provided underground, and as part of the realignment of "A" Avenue, three additional public parking spaces are being created at the Lodge owners' expense.

The Lodge will be welcoming guests in late 2007 and will be taking reservations starting in the spring.

Owners of the property are Dave and Sue Gillingham, Joe and Holly Jankiewicz, Mark and Pam Gould, and Rick and Maria Kenney. The development team includes Russ Prentice - Tekton Master Builders, Nancy Helsper - Hospitality Consultant, Jeff Dreyfus - Bushman Dreyfus Architects and David Reed Landscape Architects, and Kristine Smith – Interior Design.