

# RUSSIAN RIVER RECORDER

Published by  
HEALDSBURG HISTORICAL SOCIETY

JANUARY 1978



Laura Destruel, Marian Whitney, Helen Hilgerloh, Mildred Coffman, Lucille Byington,  
Edna Haigh, Jean Tevendale, Juanita Banks, Claire Schwab, Eda Beeson, Loraine McDonough.  
1910



Audry Walters, Elva Beeson, Aubry Butler, Kathleen Swisher, Gertrude Field, Una Williams, Bera Mothorn.  
1908



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133 Matheson St. Healdsburg, Calif. 95448

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THE MUSEUM COLLECTION GROWS

Friends of the museum have added many new and interesting items to its collection. Eight scrapbooks from the Edgar A. Poe family were left by Mrs. Ira Green. "The Marvelous Wondergraph", vintage of 1910, old drafting tools, and a variety of personal items are gifts from Duvall Bell. Eloise Prince Liston has again contributed treasures from the Prince family, the most unusual being an old photo album containing 41 identified and dated photos of her family. She has also included a silverplated bowl and sterling pie server, and a fur covered purse used by her mother, Luella Wolcott Prince, in the 1880's.

Two rare photographs of the Albanian Literary and Military Society, taken in 1885, were presented by Elva Beeson Grant. This was a

group of twenty young ladies, all identified, and some being daughters of the G.A.R. Other old photos were received from Wayne Goodrich, Mrs. George Warfield, Ed Mannion, Mrs. Gridley Clement, Alice Grove, and Bob McAfee.

Thirteen scrapbooks of the Healdsburg Country Dancers covering the years 1946 to 1959 are now in the museum files. Lilly Clement made a gift of items collected by her husband, Gridley, including a set of nine sepia photos of local churches, a souvenir of the Sotoyome school district for 1896, and eight pages of handwritten comments by Sam Heald.

The museum Board of Trustees and the curator wish to thank all who have remembered the museum as a repository for interesting items and relics of our past.

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PROGRAM FOR JANUARY

Dr. Richard N. Lerner, U.S. Corps of Engineers, and one of our very regular members, will speak at our general membership meeting on Thursday evening, January 26th, at the High School Library.

He will talk on the Warm Springs Dam - Lake Sonoma project and the historical research work that is being done to document the history of the area, from the earliest prehistoric times to the present. You will enjoy this one.



The following article was one of a series published in the Healdsburg Tribune commencing in 1938 by Dr. William C. Shipley who was born in Healdsburg in 1872:

#### THE HEALDSBURG TELEGRAPH AND CABLE CO.

"It was back in the 80's that an epidemic of telegrapher's itch broke out among some of the girls and boys of the old home town. It all started when Dellie Hassett and this historian conceived the plan to become expert telegraphers, so we borrowed two old telegraph instruments from Julius Alexander and with a coil of soft iron wire, insulators, a few old two by four timbers, and some old style crowfoot gravity batteries for basic materials, we started work erecting the greatest telegraph line in the whole country. We hoped to outshine the Western Union in due time.

"A line was run from a pole atop our home at 21 Haydon street to the belfry of the old North Methodist church and along up the alley on barns and poles to the Hassett home, also on Haydon street. The instruments were hooked up, batteries and grounds connected, and - it worked. Ecstatic joy was ours and the epidemic started. Other boys and girls took the fever and a line was run over to the home of Frank Gum, then a loop was put into the house of the Gaines family on Tucker street and Caddie Gaines became a fan.

"Next the line was extended downtown to the office of the Healdsburg Enterprise, edited and published by J.M. Alexander and C.B. Pond, both expert operators. After that a loop was run across Center street to the Tom Hickey home, and he started his telegraphic career.

"A little further down the street in a corner room of the city hall were the offices of Wells Fargo and the Western Union Telegraph company, presided over by Harry Brown. Harry was a good operator and kind of liked Caddie Gaines. He had an extension run from the Hickey place to his office so he could chat by wire with the beautiful and charming Gaines girl.

"We all had a lot of fun and were progressing wonderfully. Then C.B. Pond had a line run across several blocks to the Fried house so he could communicate with one of the older Fried sisters, who later became his bride and they lived in bliss ever after.

"It was interesting to listen to the chattering instruments and read the gibberish going over the wire. Once in a while we could catch some sweet nothings passing back and forth when the operators thought they had the lines to themselves.

"For a country town it was quite some telegraph line and before long all became expert at reading and sending messages in the Morse code. The line was in operation for several years before it, like all temporal things, disintegrated and crumbled into dust, or, in this case, rust."



## CATTLE ROUND-UP AT THE HOPKINS' RANCH

There was a "round-up" in May of 1912 on the 8,000 acre Hopkins ranch, south of Healdsburg on Westside road. The cattle came down through the wild oats from the fields and woods far back on the range.

The Hopkins ranch (later known as the White-O Ranch and today as the Bishop's Ranch) extended from the banks of the Russian River to the benched lands with their cherry and prune orchards and vineyard, then farther west into the hills of oak and madrone, and finally to the steep, timbered land covered with redwoods.

The cowboys of the round-up were George Blackburn, the Superintendent; Marshall McCracken and Herman Coggins, the riders of the range; Dave Ross, the fearless Indian in charge of the corral; Raymond Blackburn, who handled the branding irons and dodged the horns of the nervous cows; Frank Robinson, the automobile man, who was swift with the lariat and never missed a throw; and Harvey Frost who kept the fire burning and the irons turning. Fred Warner, Jim Thurman, Albert Bidwell, and Fred Young did a lot of the heavy work and managed to keep the cattle moving.

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### 1978 DUES ARE DUE:

Many members have already renewed their membership in the HEALDSBURG HISTORICAL SOCIETY for the year 1978. If you are one of those who have not, you may send your check to our Treasurer, Major S. Phillips, 310 Mountain View Drive, Healdsburg, 95448. An active membership is \$5.00 a year.

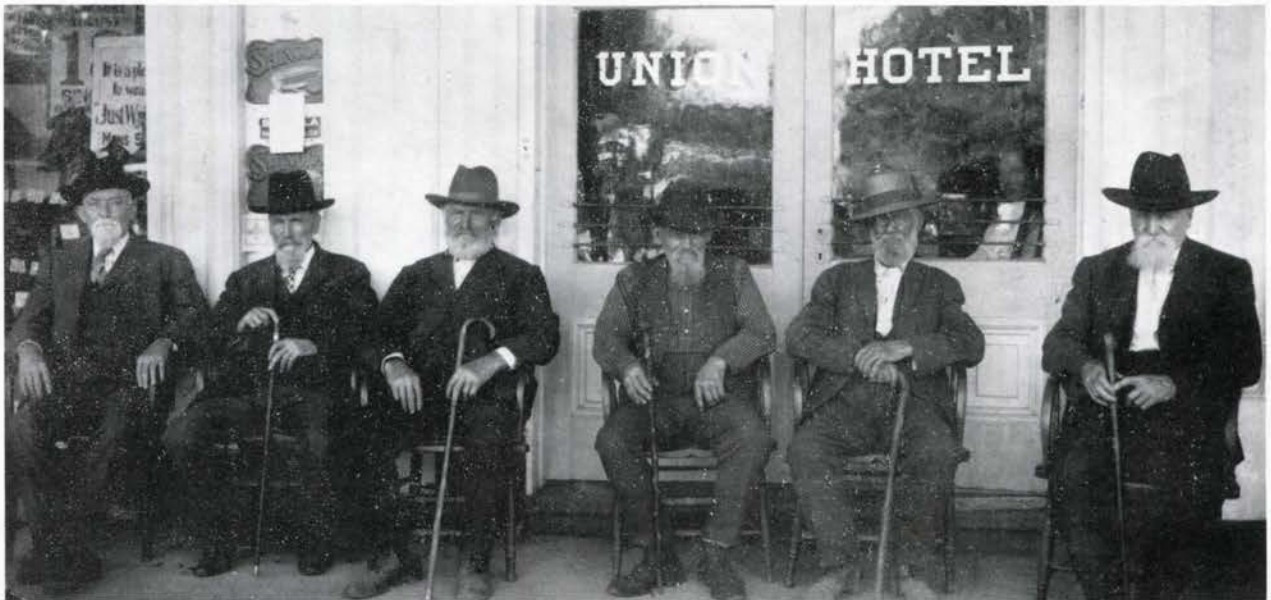
### WE ARE HONORED

The Conference of California Historical Societies, Region 4, will hold their next Executive Committee meeting at the Healdsburg Museum on Saturday, January 21st. Bert Dunshee, Regional Vice President, says, "I especially want the people to see what a fine job you have done" at the museum. President Rose will attend for Healdsburg.





Back Row: Everett Johnson, Floyd Brooks, Spiv Davis, Al Strider, Buck Nardi, Fred Martin  
 Front Row: Louie Bottini, Petersen, Vince Rafanelli, Rene Revel, Dan Modena, Gino Buffi  
 Americo Rafanelli



Robert Haigh, John Bell, Jim Jacobs, Eli Cummings, Lieuallen Hall, Kimsey Bell  
 August 12, 1909





Healdsburg Public Library, 1904  
Upstairs, Old City Hall



Southwest corner of Plaza, 1886



From the Russian River Flag, July 29, 1875

THE LEGEND OF SQUAW ROCK, as related in 1875:

"I saw at Cloverdale a photograph of "Sotuka Rock". This work presents a grand and imposing appearance, rising about 700 feet perpendicularly above the road, which passes near its base. There is a thrilling legend connected with it, which was told to me years ago by a daughter of Don Fernando Feliz. Perhaps some of your readers have not heard this story, and I will give it as related to me by the Senorita.

"There was a beautiful Indian girl of Sanel, named Sotuka. There was also a young prince of the line of Masalacon, whose country was in the Rincon, near where now is the village of Cloverdale. His name was Choah. Choah had spent some time at the Mission of San Rafael, and came home with fine clothes on, and his mind stored with much wonderful knowledge, which he had acquired among the whites at the Mission. Shortly after his return to the Rincon he attended a festival given by the Sanel Indians, where he met Sotuka, who being very much fascinated with his fine clothes, eloquent talk, and comely person, fell in love with him. Whether or not Choah reciprocated the attachment of Sotuka, is at this day unknown. It is supposed however, that he did not; as shortly after his visit to Sanel, he took a wife of his own tribe, and went up to the Big Rock and built a wigwam at its base in which to pass his honeymoon and to be where fish and grasshoppers abounded.

"Sotuka, learning the situation and suffering the pangs of unrequited love, determined to destroy herself and at the same time be avenged on the ungrateful Choah and her rival. Having marked the location of the wigwam, she waited for the darkness of the night, when Choah and his bride were asleep, and ascended the Big Rock from the west side, where it is easy of ascent. Approaching the brink of the awful precipice with a large stone in her arms, she made the frightful leap for the top of the little wigwam seven hundred feet beneath her. She missed her aim, however, and did not even disturb the cruel slumberers. Next day the mangled remains of poor Sotuka were gathered by her friends and burned, and according to the Indian theory, her spirit went up in the smoke that ascended from the funeral pyre to the happy hunting ground. Ever since this sad event the Big Rock has been an object of awe to the Indians, and is called "Sotuka's Rock" or "The Lover's Leap".



BRUTAL MURDER, 1906

"A brutal murder was committed near Healdsburg early last Friday morning. The body of an Indian woman, Martina Carillo, was found, gashed in no less than thirteen places about the face and body.

"Deputy Sheriff Ben Barnes was notified, and he has been diligently trailing the murderer, who is believed to be the woman's husband, Dick Bill.

"The body was brought to town and an inquest was held Friday evening by Coroner Blackburn.

"The murdered woman bore a bad reputation, and in her career, it is said, had sent six or eight Indians to the happy hunting grounds. She was born on the Bailhache homestead forty odd years ago, and she came of a fighting family.

"Dick Bill is also a bad Indian, and has two terms in the State Prison to his credit.

"Society can well spare both characters and the taxpayer would have saved no little expense had each cut the other into shredded meat.

"Tuesday forenoon Deputy Sheriff Ben Barnes captured Dick Bill in the hills between Geyserville and Dry Creek Valley. Learning that he had been seen in the neighborhood, Deputy Barnes was on the ground early, and upon seeing the murderer covered him with his gun and commanded him to throw up his hands.

"The Indian promptly complied, and was then ordered to turn round. He was then secured and searched, and the knife with which he committed the deed was found on him.

"He admits having killed the woman, but states it was a fight to the death between them, and he bears five wounds inflicted by the woman before she was vanquished.

"Deputy Sheriff Barnes took his prisoner to Santa Rosa on the afternoon train and lodged him in the County Jail.

"The capture is another instance of Mr. Barnes' splendid efficiency as a peace officer."

The Healdsburg Tribune  
Sept. 27, 1906

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From the "ALTA", a newspaper of Feb. 15, 1849:

"We regret to learn that the venerable and beloved Judge Henry D. Fitch of San Diego, is dead. He expired on the 13th day of January after an illness of fifteen days. His disease was Typhoid Pneumonia."



E.N. "Tough" Roberts arrived at the mountain ranch of Lieuallen Hall in 1888 and stayed on to manage it until his death in 1906. The ranch ran from the foothills of Alexander Valley up through the mountains to Pine Flat and beyond.

One of his five children, Ed Roberts, wrote of some of the interesting incidents he recalled that occurred in and about Pine Flat, and the following is one of his stories:

#### THE SPLIT IN PINE FLAT

"Early in the year 1904 there was a feud brewing in Pine Flat. I was just turning fourteen then and I can remember clearly the split or division into two groups of people. It was a few years after President McKinley was shot by an anarchist and the anarchy trend was amongst the miners here in this community. One of the group of miners and their families wore pins in their coats, made of copper, and in the shape of a head and crossbones. The main idea of this group was to do away with the school and the post office, and for what reason no one ever knew. My father, a yankee from up state New York, was among many others in Pine Flat who were against this anarchy.

"One of these anarchists, named Jones, had a homestead southeast of Pine Flat in a very wild and rough part of the country. This fellow would go away for weeks at a time and work in the mines, leaving his wife and two small children to tend the homestead. Occasionally his wife would become lonely so she would take the children up to Pine Flat to visit and talk with the people at the store and saloon.

"One day Jones came home and found his wife gone, so he went on horseback up to Pine Flat to see if he could find her. When he saw her in front of the saloon with her gun in her hand, which she usually carried for her protection, he rode up to her on his horse, grabbed the gun barrel, held it away from himself, kicked the horse he rode across the Flat with his wife dragging over the rocks behind him. Her hand caught in the trigger guard on the gun and it finally worked loose just as they were passing in front of the school where I was watching. She lay there badly battered and torn, while Jones rode off down the road not looking back and never to be seen again.

"The people of Pine Flat had it all planned if Jones ever came back they would bury him in one of the old mining holes nearby. A saying came up in Pine Flat whenever there was an incident concerning someone they disliked they would say...."he's a bigger S-O-B than Jones" and then someone else would say...."only Jones didn't look back".

"The saloon keeper took care of Jones' wife and her little boy and girl for a few days and later they went to Healdsburg with a surveyor, a fellow who surveyed mine claims and who owned a mine east of Pine Flat, called the Dutch Coloney. The little boy, Earnest Jones, grew up to be one of California's early Highway Patrolmen in the Healdsburg area."



FORE !

"would be golfers who desire to acquire the proper stance and swing to their club may secure the services of a professional on Mondays and Fridays on the local links. Mr. MacPherson, who is the professional for the Santa Rosa country club, will be in Healdsburg on those days. The greens, which are at present of sand, are three in number but three more will soon be ready."

The Enterprise, July 20, 1922

In September, Col. C.E. Tayman and Mr. MacPherson walked over the grounds and mapped out a nine-hole course. It was proposed to move the first tee to the hill adjacent to the clubhouse site and to place the first hole where the first tee had been. A number of pews were purchased from the old Adventist Church and one placed at each tee of the temporary course. Score cards were made available showing the distance between holes and the par strokes of each.

Although only four holes were open to play, the first tournament was held on October 1st, with Col. Tayman and Fred Kellogg in charge. This was an 18 hole match. Joe Miller and Dr. H.J. Wright were the first to tee off. Winner was Harold Miller and second was George Sanborn. Others in order were Guy Rose, Fred McConnell, Joe Miller, John Reiners, A.A. Willoughby, Ottmar Breiling, Ralph Williams, Dr. Walter Seawell, and F.V. Kellogg. Ladies honors were carried off by Mrs. H.J. Wright followed by Mesdames Adelma Fenton, J. Walter Seawell, Fred Young, and Joseph Miller.

The course was privately owned by the Healdsburg Country Club which was headed by Col. C.E. Tayman and composed of 106 members who subscribed \$100 each and purchased in 1922 about 70 acres of the Luce Tract. In July, 1923 the handsome new nine hole course was informally dedicated. The nine holes covered a distance of 2,922 yards. Each green was given a name and par for the new course was 35 strokes, however neither Fred Kellogg nor Harold Miller did better than 43 during that first year. A caddy house was first completed, and in the summer of 1924 a rustic clubhouse was opened. The putting green, located where the parking lot is today, was especially favored by the ladies.

The club prospered and grew until hit by the depression. By 1934 only 25 active members were left and they were unable to finance the



maintenance any longer, and it was at this time that the club arranged to transfer their equity to the city. The course was acquired by the city in 1935 by purchase from the Salvation Army who at that time held a mortgage on the tract, willed to them by Dr. W.C. Weaver on his death the previous year.

The clubhouse was rebuilt in 1936 and in 1937 the putting green was replaced with public tennis courts, lighted for night games. A dwelling for the pro was built alongside the caddyhouse and later enlarged. In 1963 the present pro shop was built, the tennis courts removed, and the parking area developed.

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#### A DELICATE REQUEST

I would like to appeal to some of my senior citizen friends who may be planning to place items of interest in the museum. Don't put it off, but do it now while you have the say over what is to become of your personal things.

As you know yourself, some historically valuable Healdsburg collections have ended up in the "antique" shops on lower Fourth street, or even worse, some have, in desperation, been hauled to the county dump.

If you have items that your family will no longer cherish and that you don't need, consider the museum as a repository where your possessions will be appreciated by others for years to come.

We need furniture, household items, and personal things. If you have old-time photos of local people and places, name and date them now, the ones you know - the next generation won't be able to.

If you need assistance in this respect, please call me or a member of the museum Board of Trustees.

Ed Langhart, Curator  
Healdsburg Museum

BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
HEALDSBURG MUSEUM

Alice Grove, President, Bernice Auradou, Darrell Barbieri,  
Jack Trotter, and Brad Witherell



## SOCIETY (1914)

"The masquerade ball given at Wagele's Thanksgiving eve in honor of the wedding anniversaries of Mr. and Mrs. Louis Belvail and Mr. and Mrs. Charles Wagele was the social event of the season and was a complete success in every respect.

"The hall was aglow with electric lights and was beautifully and elaborately decorated with ferns and holly berries.

"The guests began to arrive early and at nine o'clock the maskers formed in line for the grand march which was led by Mr. and Mrs. Otto Briggs.

"The costumes of Mrs. Belvail, Mrs. Otto Briggs, Major Phillips, Charles Wagele, Henry Witbro and Rollo Albright caused no end of fun and laughter. At midnight a sumptuous turkey supper was served.

"Everyone had a jolly good time and merriment reigned supreme until half past four o'clock in the morning when the guests took their departure, wishing Mr. and Mrs. Belvail and Mr. and Mrs. Wagele many, many more happy anniversaries.

"The maskers were: Miss Myrtle Bryant, Miss Dorothy Brown, J.D. Ireland, Mr. and Mrs. F.B. Thompson, A.W. Rechel, Mrs. Shirley Black, Mr. and Mrs. R.L. Beasley, Mr. and Mrs. P.S. Eastlick, Mrs. Ed Wainright, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Bourdens, Mr. and Mrs. Joel Reilly, Miss Pearl Rowley, Mr. and Mrs. George Rose, Mr. and Mrs. George Bell, Mr. and Mrs. George Somes, Mr. and Mrs. Louis Belvail, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Wagele, Richard Brown, Miss Martha Henderlong, Fred Henderlong, Mr. and Mrs. Otto Briggs, E.P. Eachus, L.C. Simmons, George Henderlong, Major Phillips, Rollo Albright, Eddie Phillips, Henry Witbro, Ernest Witbro, Louis Amerio, D. Cozzens, H. Peterson, Mr. and Mrs. Lind Hallengren, Miss Lillie Hallengren, Walter Rowley, Mrs. Jennie Prichett, Mr. and Mrs. J.F. Fricke, J.E. Satler, Ben Henderlong, Mr. and Mrs. B.F. Watson, Mr. and Mrs. P.W. Phillips, Mr. and Mrs. Lee Gill, Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Watson, Mr. and Mrs. William Anderson, Mrs. W. Kirschbaum, F. Hartsock, Shirley Black, Phillip Cole, A. Yoakim, Duvall Bell."

Healdsburg Enterprise, Dec. 5, 1914

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## MORE 1914 SOCIETY

"Miss Bertha Meyer was the hostess of a delightful afternoon gathering at the home of her sister, Mrs. Nita Cottle, on North street Saturday afternoon. The day was spent in conversation and needle work and the hours flew merrily by until an elaborate luncheon was served at 4 o'clock at which about twenty-four guests sat down. Those present were Mesdames Bera Beeson, Una Anderson, Addie Williams, Nina Rose, Jessie Howard, Fred Cummings, Harry Meyer, Ruby Frampton, J.H. Meyer, and Nita Cottle and Misses Gladys Hall, Helen Young, Audry Walters, Gertrude Field, Crystal Galloway, Edith Passalacqua, Elva Beeson, Margaret Grove, Helen Jones, B. Jones, and Miss Etta Goodday of San Francisco."

Healdsburg Enterprise, Nov. 14, 1914