

RUSSIAN RIVER

RECORDER

Published by
HEALDSBURG HISTORICAL SOCIETY
APRIL 1980



LANGHART
PHOTO

"Julius Myron Alexander and Friends"
1928

RUSSIAN RIVER RECORDER

Published by

HEALDSBURG HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Post Office Box 952, Healdsburg, Calif. 95448

Issue No. 16 April, 1980

* * * * * SPECIAL NOTICE - NEXT MEETING - MAY 15, 1980 * * * * *

Due to printing problems in connection with the cover and photo sheet, late mailing of newsletters was unavoidable and regretted. Hopefully, members will receive this issue prior to the MAY 15th meeting. Please plan to spend the evening of Thursday, May 15th at the Town Hall where our meeting will commence at 7:30 p.m. The program is as follows: Following a short business meeting, members will once again enjoy "show and tell" for a brief period. If you have an item of interest which you would like to share with members, please bring it along to the meeting. The evening's program has been arranged by our new Vice President/Program Chairman Dr. Francis Ritz who has informed us that his son, Dr. Frank Ritz, Jr., will speak on "SUCCESS TO THE RAILROAD HISTORICAL FLASKS". Historical flasks were made in honor of special occasions, such as the trip to Pikes Peak. Sometimes flasks would have an eagle on one side and an historical train on the other. Sometimes they would feature a picture of George Washington and a train. Dr. Ritz will give a resume of what the flasks are, who made them, and what they were used for.

Also on the program will be Frank Sternad who will speak on "LOCAL PATENT MEDICINES". Mr. Sternad is an avid bottle collector, and is currently serving as President of the Northwest Bottle Collectors Association (NBCA). This should prove to be an interesting program. Following the meeting Frances Etchell and her faithful committee will serve refreshments, and members will have an opportunity to get acquainted. Bring a friend.

* * * * *

OUR THANKS TO BILL MARKEY AND THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE BOYS CLUB WHO ALLOWED THE NEWSLETTER CREW TO USE THEIR FACILITY TO ASSEMBLE AND READY FOR MAIL THESE ISSUES. WITH THE CEILING FALLING DOWN AT THE TOWN HALL WE WERE UNABLE TO MEET THERE FOR SAFETY REASONS. NORMALLY, THE CITY OF HEALDSBURG PERMITS US TO USE THE TOWN HALL FOR THIS PURPOSE.

Those members wishing membership cards may pick them up at our general meeting where they will be made available. This eliminates the necessity of mailing.

EARTHQUAKE STRIKES!

Healdsburg Tribune, April 26, 1906:

Tuesday evening, April 17th, was as fair and pleasant as one could desire, but later in the night the atmosphere grew warm and sultry, and surplus covers were thrown off. This was the only indication of unusual conditions.

At 5:13 Wednesday morning the shock occurred. It started quite gently, but quickly increased, until it became absolutely terrific in its force. It was accompanied by a fearful noise, atmospheric and subterranean, interspersed with the crash of falling buildings.

Chimneys went down by the hundreds and weak structures collapsed.

Along the Russian River and Dry Creek bottom lands the earth opened in small and large fissures, through which, in some instances, subterranean water spouted. In places the ground was left in ridges.

Near the Bidwell place, on Russian River, ten or twenty acres, covered with timber, was badly fissured, and many trees were torn up.

The long bridge crossing the river in Alexander Valley was thrown down, and many fissures were made (SEE PHOTO IN THIS ISSUE OF THE RUSSIAN RIVER RECORDER).

Rocks were heaved from their beds on Fitch mountain and rolled down into the river.

Many farm houses were more or less injured. The residence of M.V. Frost was lifted from its foundation, and is practically ruined.

Such a tremendous seismic disturbance has never, within the memory of man, been felt in this valley or county.

Shocks were felt at intervals for several days, but they were slight, and did no damage, though causing considerable uneasiness among the timid ones.

While the structures erected by man have been damaged by the shock, the beautiful lands surrounding the wrecked cities have not been injured. The flowers are blooming with a beauty so unexcelled as to be remarkable, and the gentle breeze at this writing is heavy with the perfume of the locust. Roses are everywhere, the chirping of mating birds comes from tree and bush, and a feeling of peace has taken the place of anxiety and fear.

While ruin and death startled and shocked and dazed us all, and people looked haggard from the effects of their fright and shaking up, no one has lost hope, and the world will go on as though the calamity had not come to us. In a few years all of the scars will have disappeared, the indomitable energy of the descendants of the Argonauts will have reconstructed the ruined cities, and progress and prosperity will be on every hand.

Officers and Directors of the
HEALDSBURG HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Francis Branern.....President
Francis Ritz.....Vice President
E.B. Christensen....Treasurer
Norma Voss.....Recording Sect'y.

Alice Grove.....Corresp. Sect'y.
Robert C. Jones....Director
Major Phillips.....Director
Frances Etchell....Director
Jan Harrison.....Director

Newsletter Editor: Jan Harrison

A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF A MUSEUM
AND ITS OPERATION

* * * * *

* * * * *

(This is Part I of a series of articles based on information researched by the editor:)

We are very fortunate to have such an outstanding museum in Healdsburg. This museum is well organized, its collections are well cared for and documented, and every effort is being made by its curator to use the collections in the best possible ways.

Uses of the collections housed in museums would be meaningless if all items owned were on exhibit at the same time. Items, or specimens, should be collected for their educational value. Although exhibition may be the chief use of certain objects, the curator must consider the worth of all collections aside from their exhibit value.

The educational, public museum was created in the last century, and since that time has been devoted to research.

Carl E. Gurhe explains that the records constitute a research facility.¹ The researcher goes from the records to the collections and works with both. Daifuku speaks of research as pursued in the different kinds of museums.² The museum's input is research based on the objects that it has acquired; its output is public education. If museums are to claim the prestigious title of "educational institutions," they must study their collections in depth and interpret them, not merely show what they have collected. All museums must do research, for each museum has things that no other museum has; and each museum is unique, also, being concerned with a region, subject matter, or public with which no other museum is concerned in just the same way.

Even small museums should be concerned with research. The word "research" has a definite meaning. Surely a curator must be capable, or he/she would not be a curator, in name or in fact. Research creates knowledge, and museum curators must become authorities on the kinds of materials collected by their museums. Assisting the general public to identify objects is one of the museum's public services. Research done over the years should make this relatively easy, and usually enjoyable, for the curator.³

Fortunate is the small museum that is being directed by a skilled, professional curator. Such has always been the case with the Edwin Langhart Museum.

1. Carl E. Guthe, "So You Want a Good Museum" (Washington, D.C.: Association of Museums, 1957, 1973), p. 4.

2. Hiroshi Daifuku, "Museums and Research," The Organization of Museums; Practical Advice, Museums and Monuments Series, No. IX (Paris: UNESCO, 1960).

3. G. Ellis Burcaw, "Introduction to Museum Work," The American Association for State and Local History, 1975, 1976.

HISTORY OF HEALDSBURG'S VILLA CHANTICLEER

The Villa Chanticleer, in its day, was the leading French Resort north of San Francisco with accommodations for as many as 200 persons on special holidays and an average summer long attendance of 75 vacationers.

The "Villa" was established in 1910 when a Frenchman by the name of Pradel built several cabins and a screened dining pavilion and informed French organizations in San Francisco that this was the ideal spot for their vacation. A horse and buggy was sent to the depot on the arrival of each train to take people to the hill. Later a small bus replaced the horse and buggy. In 1916 Victor Cadoul purchased the Villa and expanded the facilities. Those interested in swimming and boating were taken to the river down a wagon road below Eagle Rock. Ownership changed hands several times through the years: Adrian Cayre purchased it in 1924; Peter Roquier in 1926, and Victor Cadoul again in 1930, at which time a new dining room was built and it was claimed to be the largest between San Francisco and Eureka. About this time the custom started of taking all the vacationers at the "Villa" on a weekly trip to the Italian-Swiss Colony at Asti.

In 1934 Lucien Delagnes purchased the resort, added more cabins and made many improvements, establishing a far-flung reputation for the place. On June 29, 1945, he sold the resort with seventeen acres of land to two men, Jack Kent and H. Johnson, who had plans to make major changes and improvements. Three months later, in September of 1945, the dining room was burned to the ground but by the middle of 1946 the new and present Villa Chanticleer was under construction. This was an elaborate structure that was completed in 1947; but before the landscaping and development of the grounds could be finished and only a few weeks prior to its scheduled opening, the owner declared bankruptcy and all further construction ceased. A caretaker was appointed to remain on the premises and he maintained the building until it was purchased by the City of Healdsburg in October of 1955.

Since its acquisition the city has developed the picnic area, installed air conditioning in the dining room, modernized and equipped the kitchen, and furnished water and sewer service to the premises.

THE SONG OF THE STREAM
(by Julius Myron Alexander)

I'll go me away to the waters flow,
The stream with its rocks and its ferns that grow;
All day and all night, 'tis the water's way,
To sing as it goes to the Ocean grey.

'Tis louder it sings when the dark cloud brings
Its shadows and storms, and its dismal things;
Softer the song when the silver of light
shall come from the sun, and the stars of night.

I will wait me there by its shaded bank,
By its willow and weed and grasses rank;
I'll say to my Soul, 'tis a song for thee,
As its waters go to the deep of sea.

I'll say to my life of shadows and tears,
That's mingled with grief and its clinging fears,
The song that comes from the way of the stream,
A lesson for all shall be of its theme.

Though clouds and storms, and the rocks and the rifts,
Singing it goes o'er the clay and the cliffs;
In eddy and pool, 'tis only a wait
For the rider ahead, to open the gate.

Then hark to the song the stream ever brings,
'Tis only of joy that it always sings;
Still on to the sea forever it goes,
To the tide-swept shore with song it flows.

Then sit me down on the bank of the stream,
And mingle my thoughts with life and its dream;
Shall it be songs as the stream to the sea,
Or shall it be tears to Eternity.

(Julius Myron Alexander is pictured on the cover of this issue)

PHOTO CREDITS ARE GIVEN TO THE EDWIN LANGHART MUSEUM ARCHIVES

Telephone Committee Chairperson Pearl Guptill wishes to thank the following callers:

Bertha Carley	Olive Bell	Aleta Rulofson
Margaret Frampton	Irma Cuneo	Virginia Zobel
June Jones	Ted Kellogg	Maxine Bell
Rena Phillips	Hazel Wilson	Margaret Luce
Cleone Tilley	Evelyn Iversen	Gwen Hasset
Art Larson	Suzanne Gustafson	Mary Dowling
Eunice Edrington	Carmel Bottini	Rose Benson

MEETING DATES FOR THE REMAINDER OF
1980

MAY 15 * JULY 24 * SEPTEMBER 25 * NOVEMBER 20

MUSEUM NEWS

It's springtime, and our visitor count was up for the month of April at the Edwin Langhart Museum. The Spring Blossom Tour, visiting school groups, and increased foot traffic have raised our tallies considerably - and we're not complaining!

Current displays, running till the end of May, include an extensive collection of local Chinese artifacts from the 1850's to 1910, on loan from Dr. Francis Ritz, a quicksilver mining display, and the Healdsburg photographers retrospective.

Plans are marching right along for the large Healdsburg Military Show which will include military artifacts of local soldiers from 1847 to the present. Local collectors are now pooling their resources to run from June 3 through July 31, 1980. If you would like to be involved, contact the Museum at the number below. The Museum will sponsor a GRAND OPENING for the show in the Town Hall next to the Museum on Traditional Memorial Day, Friday, May 30, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. All Healdsburg Historical Society members and interested parties are invited to attend. Live entertainment is planned.

Donations to the Museum have been superb in the last few months. The largest collections were donated by C. Leon Hendricks and Mr. Dwight Richard who respectively have provided us with many first rate old Healdsburg items (nearly 200 in all), including furniture, firearms, clothes, antique farm equipment, household items, photographs, books etc. etc.

Other lovely collections came from Grace N. Pearson, Major Phillips, Mr. Tod Richie, Charlie Scalione, Cleone Snook Tilley, Florence

Masson, and Minnie Royal. The list of donors of single items, no less valuable, includes Mrs. H.O. Martinsen, Jaretta Swanson, Estelle Nervo, Audrey Gillespie, Mr. E.E. Swanstom, Mr. and Mrs. R. Weller, Ward E. Briggs, and Ralph E. Hamilton.

Space does not permit us to record each item given, but let us thank you all sincerely for your generosity! Many of these gifts will be on exhibit following our military show.

IF YOU HAVE SOMETHING THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO DONATE TO THE MUSEUM COLLECTION, PLEASE BE SURE THAT THE ITEM OR ITEMS ARE RECEIVED AT THE MUSEUM BY EITHER THE VOLUNTEER IN CHARGE, OR THE CURATOR, SO THAT A SIGNED RECEIPT CAN BE MADE OUT TO YOU. THE BEST TIME TO BRING DONATIONS INTO THE MUSEUM ARE MONDAY THROUGH WEDNESDAYS, FROM 8:30 A.M. TO 5:00 P.M.

Since the good weather is here, and foot traffic by the Museum seems to have increased on Sundays, it has been suggested that we try to keep the Museum open from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. on Sunday afternoons. This would provide out-of-town visitors with a place to stop while on the Winery Tour.

But in order to do this we need your help! If you have 3 hours a month that you could spare on a Saturday or Sunday, please let us know. The work is not difficult and you can meet some very interesting people.

And once again let us thank our faithful and diligent volunteers who have kept the Museum open in the past months. Let us add your name to that honorable list.

For information phone: The Edwin Langhart Museum 433-4717
or: Hannah Clayborn, Curator 433-9362



"Alexander Valley Bridge"
(After 1906 Earthquake)



"Leo and Leonida Frediani"
Wedding Photo
Taken November 15, 1925



"Frank and Hatti (Truitt) Goddard"
Wedding - December 23, 1883
(Wedding dress on view in Edwin Langhart Museum)



**"Odd Fellows Building"
(Prior to 1906 Earthquake)**



**"Odd Fellows Building"
(Taken following 1906 Earthquake)**

THE FREDIANI STORY (Leo and Leonida)

When Leonida was five years old she left Lucca, Italy (the place where she was born) and came to America to live; specifically, the old Howard Ranch in Dry Creek, which was run by her father and uncle. Later her family moved to Windsor, where Leonida attended school and spent many hours working on their ranch. During the following years she was employed at several different places including a shoe factory in San Francisco, Woolworths, Rosenberg & Bush, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Ehrlich's store, Mr. Pool's general merchandise store, and J.C. Penneys.

Leo was born in Forestville. He attended Sotoyome School and later graduated from Healdsburg High.

Of unusual interest (and noted in Ripley's Believe it or not), is the fact that Leo and Leonida were born with the same family name of Frediani. In fact, to make it even more remarkable, both their fathers were named Pietro Frediani, yet they are not related in any way. Both Leo and Leonida celebrate their birthdays in the month of June.

Leo grew up to be an auto mechanic, and because of his occupation he was able to meet the girl he would eventually marry. Leonida's father bought her a Model T, and as with all automobiles, mechanical work needed to be accomplished. Leo was always ready to lend a helping hand. One day, much to Leonida's surprise, she found that her Model T had been the recipient of a new paint job - done by none other than the attentive Leo.

On November 15, 1925 Leo and Leonida were married. (See Wedding Photo within).

Leo remained with the Chrysler/Plymouth agency after their marriage until 1954 when he retired as owner, having been with the agency for forty years. Following his retirement he built and sold many homes in Lake County and elsewhere. He also became a boat enthusiast and built, sold and raced both inboard and outboard varieties. He has a collection of trophies, including those won in 1929 with an outboard, and in 1948 with an inboard. In 1968 Leo built a 21-foot cabin cruiser, which was left docked at Clear Lake. It was there that he won five trophies in races sponsored by Lakeport's Chamber of Commerce. The name chosen for the cabin cruiser was "DONLEONIDA", consisting of both Leo and Leonida's names, as well as the name of their only son, Don. Don is Vice President in charge of the foreign trade division of the A. Levy and J. Zentner Company of San Francisco where he lives.

Leonida has been active in the Catholic Social Services and has served as Vice President of the Healdsburg Garden Club. As one tours a portion of their 4-acre site on Fitch Mountain it becomes quite apparent that Leonida can certainly claim a green thumb. Included on the acreage are ten large oak trees, a variety of roses, camellias, violets, oleander and ferns - all beautifully kept. This green thumb

PATRON MEMBERSHIPS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED FROM:

BIRDICE PHILLIPS \$250.00

PHILLIP PHILLIPS \$250.00

Phillip Phillips and Major Phillips are brothers. Phillip and wife Birdice are members of our Society and reside in Napa.

The Healdsburg Historical Society gratefully appreciate the above-listed Patron Memberships

The Healdsburg Historical Society is most appreciative of the generous contribution to its Museum Memorial Fund received from:

HERBERT AND ELADORE LYNCH

Eladore Lynch and the late Edwin Langhart were sister and brother. This donation was given in memory of Mr. Langhart's birthday. He would have celebrated his 65th birthday on Feb. 20th.

Capt. and Mrs. Lynch reside in the City of Oakland

"JIM THE SCHOOL BOY"

Slowly and sadly he walked towards
The Old Millcreek School.

The meadow grass grew tall.
A sparrow sang from a poison oak bush.
And he heard a bluejay call.

He had to cross the stepping stones,
Where the little brook ran fast.

He knew there were pollywogs in the pool
He shut his eyes till he passed --
And there stood the school house on the hill
He thought of the long dull day
Until he looked up and there stood
Lela Warner and little Anna
So he ran the rest of the way -

And then the bell rang, darn it!

(the above poem is from the
collection of J.L. McClish)



At our last regular meeting members voted to approve awarding our first Honorary Membership to the position of Museum Curator. Congratulations go to Hannah Clayborn, holder of this position. An Honorary Member has the same privileges as all other members with the exception of casting a vote. The advantage, of course, is that dues are considered paid up for a lifetime.

Healdsburg Enterprise - August 19, 1876

THE FIRST WHITE WOMAN IN THE MINES

The following interesting letter appeared in the Sacramento Record-Union, from Eugene Gordon, who lives near Healdsburg: A short time ago I noticed an article in your paper in regard to Mrs. Shepherd and her claims to the honor of being the first white woman ever on the American river. Although Mrs. Shepherd may sincerely believe she was, I will soon prove that other white women were there several months in advance of her.

Joseph Gordon, A.J. Gordon and John Williams and their families, and a train of immigrants, left the State of Missouri in May, 1846, in company with the Donner party, for California. On the road the two companies separated, the Donner party taking the Hastings route, through by Salt Lake, and the other the Fort Hall and Truckee route, arriving at the Nicholas ranch, on Feather river, October 5, 1846. Here nearly all the young men of the company volunteered to go and fight the Spaniards, the Mexican war being in full blast at that time. After resting there a few days, they went over to Cache creek and wintered in what is now called Hungry Hollow or Gordon Valley. This valley at that time, instead of being as it now is, a thrifty farming community, was a common pasture for herds of wild cattle and antelope. Herds of deer, and now and then a grizzly bear roamed over these plains with a feeling of security. Early in the winter of 1848 the most of the party came to Russian river, Sonoma County, and remained there until the Spring of 1848, when the mines were discovered on the American river. On or about the first of June, Joseph Gordon and family, A.J. Gordon and family, John Williams and family, and several others of the party left Russian river, and going through the old town of Sonoma, across the hills to Sacramento Valley, crossing the river where Sacramento city now stands, arrived at Mormon Island on the American river, about the 7th or 8th of that month. They remained there a few days, when they moved on up the river to a place about ten miles above the junction of the north and south forks of the river. They were there on the 4th of July, 1848, and Mrs. A.J. Gordon gives an interesting account of how they celebrated. I haven't space to give you a detailed account of it; but to commence with a bold sailor boy, whose name was Gear, proposed to raise the American flag. They had been talking of putting it on top of a tall pine, and to do it was considered a brave feat. His proposition was considered a foolish one, for no one believed he could do it. But he bravely undertook it; the stars and stripes were waving high up in the tallest pine to be found. It could be seen floating and tossing in the breeze for miles

and miles around. Gear was warmly applauded for his daring. After the colors were up they all sat down to a splendid dinner prepared by Miss Mary Gordon (now Mrs. Wm. Potter) and Mrs. A.J. Gordon. Rude tables were constructed expressly for the occasion, while tablecloths were spread upon them, and all that was to be had good to eat was there. All who participated, who are now living, will long remember that Fourth of July dinner, prepared in the woods over 28 years ago. Not satisfied with the mines the party returned to Russian river, in the latter part of July. But this little party, who shared so many pleasures and hardships together, are now scattered - some are dead and others far away. Mrs. Joseph Gordon is dead; her husband, though 86 years old, is still living. Mrs. Williams (now Mrs. Lindsey Carson) is living, and is a resident of Lake County. Mrs. Potter is living with her husband in Texas. Mr. Williams died in 1849. A.J. and Mrs. Gordon are still living on Russian river, where they have resided since 1849.

(The above article was received by your editor at our Museum a few weeks ago and was given by Mr. Ralph E. Hamilton of Piedmont, Ca. who was visiting in Healdsburg. Ed Langhart had researched the article and presented it to Mr. Hamilton a year and one-half ago). We thank you for your interest, Mr. Hamilton.

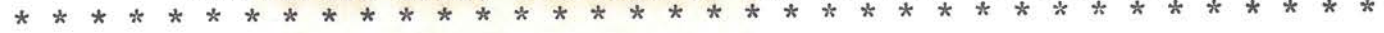


NEW MEMBERS NOT PREVIOUSLY LISTED IN THE RUSSIAN RIVER RECORDER - - - - WELCOME!

- | | | |
|-------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| Sherman Boivin | Mrs. Fred Kellogg, Jr. | Francis Passalacqua |
| Helen Branern | Eladore Lynch | Art Ruonavaara |
| Ward Briggs | Joe Mullin | Dorothy Ruonavaara |
| Glen Davis | Mary Lou Mullin | Robert Selzle |
| Sara Davis | Eugenia Ohman | Eric Smith |
| Jerry Eddinger | Ray Osenga | Jane Beeson Smith |
| Fred Kellogg, Jr. | Elsie Passalacqua | Joseph Vercelli |

 The Healdsburg Historical Society regrets the resignation of Jan White, Treasurer, but looks forward to having her assistance in other areas.

NOTICE: E.B. "Bud" Christensen has been appointed the new Treasurer. Membership dues should be submitted to him by the end of May. This will be the last newsletter sent to non-members. DUES OF \$5.00 per person should be forwarded to Mr. Christensen at 824 Pordon Lane, Healdsburg, Ca. 95448. We thank you.



ANNOUNCEMENT: One of the best friends our Historical Society has is the Healdsburg Answering Service. They have been so cooperative in printing our newsletters for us, and sometimes accommodate us on a moment's notice - with finished product in a few hours. We appreciate their very reasonable rates and excellent service. Jeanne Dardini has been especially helpful. If you need secretarial services, contact them.