

RUSSIAN RIVER RECORDER

Published By
HEALDSBURG
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

JANUARY
1981



ENGINES: Two Thresher Engines repaired by Clarence Downing (front center),
Brother of photographer, J. H. Downing, Healdsburg, June 10, 1874

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Post Office Box 952, Healdsburg, Calif. 95448

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* SPECIAL NOTICE - NEXT MEETING WILL BE THURSDAY, JANUARY 22ND * *

Our speaker for the evening of January 22, 1981 will be William V. Smith, a local resident. Mr. Smith's presentation will be concerned with the original inhabitants of the Healdsburg area. For a time Mr. Smith taught at Santa Rosa Junior College and presently is an instructor at Sonoma State University. While at the Junior College he was instrumental in the development of the Native/American Museum at the campus. Mr. Smith is recognized as an excellent speaker. Following the meeting, refreshments will be served. Please attend.

Dear Members:

This past year has been a very special one for me serving as your President, and I want to thank you for electing me to that office. It has been a rewarding experience chairing an organization with a membership of 450 persons who actively support our Museum.

I especially want to send my thanks to the Board of Directors that worked with me during 1980, as well as those of you who served as members and chairpersons of various committees. It was the combined effort of everyone of you that made this past year a success. Thank you, too, Hannah, for the splendid job you have done.

My congratulations to Dr. Ritz, your new President, and his new officers who will serve our society for 1981. I know they will do a great job. Please join me in supporting them. We can begin by attending the meeting scheduled for January 22nd.

Francis Branern
Jr. Past President

Officers and Directors of the
HEALDSBURG HISTORICAL SOCIETY

- | | |
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Newsletter Editor: Jan Harrison

(Story of the Fitchs' Elopement)
Excerpts taken from
San Diego Magazine
July 1969 Issue

JOSEFA

by Mary Stewart

She was born at San Diego on December 29, 1810. Her baptismal name was Doña María Antonia Natalia Elíjia Carrillo. But at the font her madrina (godmother), the Señora Doña Josefa Sal del Mercado, in what probably was a premeditated lapse of memory, conferred her own first name upon the baby. And it is as Josefa that her name has been carried down to us by her descendants, although some have deepfrozen it to Josephine.

The parents of Josefa Carrillo were Don Joaquín Carrillo and Doña María Ignacio del Candelaria López, daughter of Don Juan Francisco López and Maria Feliciana Arballa de Gutiérrez.

Josefa grew to be tall. She had brilliant hazel eyes, black hair and incredibly white skin. When Don Juan Bandini presented his guest, Governor José María Echeandía, to the radiant girl, her gleaming hair was banded with Loreto pearls. The visiting dignitary became smitten with both Josefa and the delightful San Diego climate. Echeandía immediately determined to change the capital from Monterey to San Diego, and to marry the Carrillos' most beautiful daughter.

Leo Carrillo claimed that the Governor was runty and pompous, an object of ridicule because of his lisping Castilian accent--an affection which had escaped the early Hispanic settlers of the New World. The Governor visited San Diego soon after his appointment, and his new constituents were hopeful. Most hopeful of all were the parents of Josefa, who had noticed the swaggering little official yearning after their proud young beauty. They fancied the prospect of so distinguished a son-in-law.

Josefa already had met Captain Henry Delano Fitch, who by this time was in the process of making a record round trip to Boston and was waxing impatient for the sight of her when the fiery Echeandía first hove into San Diego Bay. As Don Leo and Mrs. Older told it, Josefa's father sent her to buy new finery so she might appear even more irresistible in the Governor's sight, and it was at that time she met the prepossessing Yankee merchant captain.

Josefa was accompanied by her cousin Pío Pico, who although a decade older was the eighteen-year-old girl's good friend and companion. The two put out to the María Esther (most Californians, who depended on such vessels for all luxuries and many necessities, referred to such craft as the Boston Ships, no matter how they were rigged). Josefa had climbed the ship's ladder and had bent to wipe the salt spray from her silver-buckled slippers when she looked up into the compelling blue-grey-violet eyes of Fitch. She was accustomed to the usually not over-tall Spaniards of the nineteenth century. Towering above her was a well-favored, six-foot, two-inches tall seafarer who enhanced his height with a broad-brimmed California-style hat shoved toward the back of his head, and a serape hanging vertically from one shoulder.

It was the era when Yankee merchant ships ruled the seas, and Fitch was every inch the master of such a ship. With courtly manners and great aplomb he took much time to display for Josefa's benefit his array of splendid wares. This was not the usual fawning attention of a mere Yankee trader. She was aware of his apparent person interest in her, and becoming color began to rise in her flawless ivory skin.

Flustered in her pleasure and embarrassment, Josefa scarcely saw the gowns and laces, the shawls that the young captain theatrically unfurled, the dainty shoes he brought forth to suit her tiny feet. But at last he produced a hair comb so gorgeous that she quite forgot his presence. She was caught up in the fascinating perfection of the object herself. Josefa took the tortoise comb in both hands, held it up so that the rich gold banding glittered in the summer sun, and then secured the exquisite piece of hair jewelry in her own dark, lustrous tresses. The young Captain thought her more captivating than ever. Josefa knew full well how the hair ornament flattered her. When he told her the price - six hundred hides - her mood grew wistful as she returned the comb. Fitch urged her to take it home, to let her parents see how fully it complemented her ripe Spanish beauty.

Josefa showed the comb to Don Joaquín, who exploded. He regarded it as a ploy by an over-shrewd merchant to force a sale. A ploy it was indeed: To give Captain Fitch opportunity to call at the Carrillo home. Josefa's father surmised Fitch's intent when the commanding figure of the young sea captain was ushered before him. All Don Joaquín's instinctive parental suspicions were aroused. Right you were, Don Joaquín Carrillo. The little pueblo of San Diego quickly was scandalized by Josefa's disregard of her parents' wishes, her disdain for the Governor's attentions and by the ardent suit of Henry Fitch.

Henry Delano Fitch, who traced his lineage to John Alden of the Mayflower, was born at Nantucket, Massachusetts, May 1, 1799. He was said to have been graduated from Harvard. On September 2, 1815 when he was certified as an American citizen and seaman, he was described as having "dark hair, grey eyes and a dark complexion." A congregationalist by faith, for Josefa he became a Roman Catholic and a Mexican citizen, to overcome all religious and civil barriers.

He persisted until at last the marriage was arranged. On the wedding day, Josefa was arrayed in shimmering white satin, with orange blossoms. Lustrous Loreto pearls were about her throat. An altar had been prepared at the Carrillo home; clad in his vestments, Father Antonio Menéndez began the ceremony, with Captain Richard Barry of the Vulture serving as best man. Abruptly, Josefa's uncle stepped between, stating that an order from the Governor prohibited foreigners from marrying in California without a special license.

Fitch was not to be put off. "Tell the Governor we shall be married in spite of him, for Josefa's parents have given consent!"

Josefa wept for her disgrace before all her relatives and friends. But through her tears she murmured. "Enrique, why don't you carry me off?"

While appearing to bless the couple, Padre Menéndez said between closed teeth, as men in prison speak, "There are other countries where you can be married with fewer restrictions." But now we know that later in the day a Spanish-California version of Romeo and Juliet, Act II Scene V, was played. The courageous priest, but newly arrived in San Diego, wed the couple in a secret ceremony.*

*For this act, the record simply states, "Father Menéndez was removed with cause, October 16, 1829." Out of loyalty and gratitude for the priest's great-hearted assistance, Josefa never publicly referred to this marriage (which would have cleared her reputation, according to the rigid mores of the last century); she did not even allude to it in the comprehensive deposition which she dictated at Healdsburg, November 26, 1875, to an amanuensis of H.H. Bancroft.

Now the romantic figure of Pío Pico (later to be the last Mexican governor of California) assumes importance in the drama. Pío advised Enrique Fitch to go aboard his ship and haul anchor. Then, when night was near, to send a small boat for Josefa. Fitch complied and at the indicated hour was there with a good boat at the appointed spot. Meanwhile, Pío Pico went to his dear cousin Josefa. He spoke persuasively to her of her love for the young captain, and easily induced her to flee with him at once on his magnificent horse. Some say that before leaving the house she disguised herself as Pío's valet. By her own account the eloping Josefa took with her only a small case carrying petticoats and other necessities. Then Don Pío helped her onto his horse and galloped away. They dashed at full speed to the rendezvous on the beach where Fitch was waiting in readiness with a sailboat manned by six of his crew.

Pío Pico said, "Goodbye, cousin. May god bless you - and you, Cousin Enrique. Be careful that you give Josefa no reason to regret having cast her lot with you." Fitch replied, "I promise before God and man that as long as I live Josefa will be happy."

After seventy-four days at sea they reached Valparaíso safely. Captain Fitch immediately ordered arrangements made for a wedding, which was solemnized by the parish priest of Valparaíso. Captain Barry again acted as one of the three witnesses.

The Yankee captain and his lovely California bride set sail for Boston, where Josefa was received with pride by the Fitches, Delanos and Gorhams.

On the return voyage, Fitch resolved to fly the Mexican flag along the coast of Latin America and to enter at Acapulco. From Acapulco he sailed directly to San Diego, where he cleared customs under the authority of Juan Bandini, who then was collector of the port.

Upon resting anchor in the bay, women friends and the female members of Josefa's family came to welcome her. But her mother brought Josefa the warning that her father had sworn to kill her.

Josefa felt she could not bear to live in enmity with "the author of her days." She resolved to brave the danger and to go to him at once. Determinedly, accompanied by family and friends, she went ashore. Turning over to her sister the baby she carried in her arms, the young wife approached the half-open doorway of her girlhood home. Her eyes fell at once upon the form of her father sitting inside at some distance. She saw that he was armed. Nevertheless, she did not desist. "Father, I have returned to San Diego to ask your pardon for leaving your house."

If Don Joaquín heard, he gave no indication. "A storm agitated his soul." He remained seated at his writing desk, indicating his scorn of her.

At length, Don Joaquín relented. He went toward her and gathered her in his arms. "I forgive you. It is not your fault if our governors are tyrants." With affection and relief, Josefa then went to the doorway and announced to all who awaited the joyous news of reconciliation between father and daughter.

Afterward, she said, that tempestuous day ended with a great dance with "illumination," and the house was not big enough for all the congratulatory gifts which the women of San Diego brought for her.

A few days later, the young Fitches cast away and pointed their ship toward Monterey. But their misfortunes had not ended. No sooner had they cast anchor at Monterey than a Mexican official clambered aboard the ship with an order for Captain Fitch's arrest. Manfully, he left without delay to face the charges. There followed terrible months in which Fitch was imprisoned, kept from his wife and child while Josefa herself was under quasi-arrest. After persecution by both church and state, the couple at last were ordered to go through yet another marriage ceremony. Some accounts say that, at the conclusion of this rite, as part of their penance the Fitches were forced to hold three-foot candles. Through the night, friends and relatives sat with them in the church waiting for the enormous tapers to burn down, as they finally did, scorching the hands that held them.

It is an established fact that as a final penance Captain Enríque Fitch was required to donate a bell to the Catholic church at Los Angeles.

The rock which Enríque Fitch hid behind while waiting for Pío Pico to spirit away Josefa is called Fitch's Rock, to this day. The Captain made the first survey map of the Pueblo, and it is called Fitch's map. In Healdsburg, Fitch Mountain was named for him. In 1841 he was grantee of the Sotoyome Rancho. In 1845-46 he was Receptor in San Diego. The San Diego Union for July 13, 1876 lists the first Ayuntamiento or Town Council, with Juan María Osuna as Mayor and Henry Fitch as Síndico Procurator. Bancroft says: "Captain Fitch was one of the earliest, most prominent and most popular of the early pioneers, straightforward in his dealings, generous in disposition, frank and cheerful in manner; in physique a very tall man inclined to corpulency."

Judge Benjamin Hayes wrote: "Henry Domingo Fitch...died January 13, 1849, at four o'clock and twenty minutes in the afternoon. He died at the old Fitch house on Fitch (or Calhoun) Street. He was the last white person buried on Presidio Hill. He was several times alcalde (unproved), was over six feet high and very corpulent. He died of fever after a brief illness." To this his grandson, the late John D. Grant, adds in his handwriting: "He contributed \$50,000 to the American cause." Tradition in the family is that Captain Fitch met with foul play. Some say that he died in San Francisco and that he was poisoned.

Philip Crosthwaite declared that, just before the confrontation of Mexican and American forces and the end of Mexican rule in California, Pío Pico, then governor, warned his dear cousin that a Mexican military party was heading for San Diego with the intent of killing all Americans, particularly Fitch. Don Pío urged Josefa to flee for her life, to join him in Los Angeles. Torn by divided loyalties, Josefa remained staunchly faithful to her husband, sounding the alarm that alerted all San Diego. There is no doubt that Fitch was beset by powerful enemies to the end of his days. Some of them coveted his large land holdings. Others undoubtedly resented his service to the U.S. Army; having surveyed all the area, he was able to provide gringo troops with a back-canon route into San Diego, by-passing any possible ambush by Mexicans and/or Indians.

The Fitches' fifth child, Josefa, was eleven years old at the time of her father's death. In 1906 she gave this version, according to the San Francisco Chronicle: Enríque Fitch had established several great ranches. One was at Sotoyome, on the Russian River, near Healdsburg; another at El Valle de las Palmas, forty miles south of Ensenada; and, most important, a third was in San Francisco. This he owned in conjunction with Francisco Guerrero, and it covered three and a half square leagues, running from the Bay along Larkin Street to the old Mission, thence to a line beyond the Spring Valley Water Works (this section at the turn of the century embraced the Cliff House, Golden Gate Park and the Presidio). Enríque Fitch attended a banquet

in San Francisco with such well-known men as Commodore Stockton. While there he signed away his title to all the land which was his between Powell and Taylor Streets, O'Farrell and Post. "He had already laid out and given Union Square to the City," said Mrs. Josefa Fitch de Bailhache. "An old friend, Manuel Torres, still living...summoned Dr. Hope and Dr. McNulty to my father's assistance. All three accompanied him to San Diego. When he regained consciousness, Torres told him what he had done. My father fell back dead." His bereaved family held to the poisoning theory because Fitch did not drink, would not allow liquor in his house, and once had incurred the wrath of Richard Henry Dana by throwing the writer out of the Fitches' Old San Diego store when Dana entered in an intoxicated condition.

One of the few mistakes that historian H.H. Bancroft made (In the Pioneer Register and Index, page 143) was the statement that "The last two (of Josefa and Henry Fitch's children) died in 1850-54. Josefa became the wife of John Grant and a locally famous singer; Isabela married John Bailhaiche." It was daughter Josefa who married John Bailhache. Daughter Isabela (Ysabella in Henry Fitch's Bible, now in the possession of Dr. Ben Grant of Long Beach) was the first wife of John Grant. The first opera singer in San Diego was her sister Anita, who became John Grant's second wife, sometime after the demise of Ysabella on June 15, 1861. Anita, the youngest child and the one said most to resemble her mother, passed away on February 16, 1933. She is buried beside her mother, Josefa Carrillo Fitch, at Oak Mound Cemetery in Healdsburg.

Captain Henry Fitch left his widow the 35,487.53-acre Rancho Sotoyome granted him in 1841. His last will forgave the debts of Santiago Arguello (one half); of Miguel Pedorena; John Borker (requesting his wife to give Borker shoes); and Alfredo Anselino, whom he not only released from payment of debt but made "a present of my Encyclopaedia and Practice of Medicine." Over and over in Fitch's ledgers, debts were forgiven. Enrique Fitch also left eleven children: Enrique Eduardo, born June 23, 1830; Frederico, born June 28, 1832; Guillermo, November 7, 1834; Jose, March 19, 1836; Josefa, November 2, 1837; Juan, April 6, 1839; Ysabella, August 24, 1840; Carlos, September 1, 1842; Miguel, March 13, 1844; Maria Antonia Natalia, September 19, 1845; Anita, April 13, 1848.

A visitor to San Diego who attended Juan Bandini's New Year Fiesta in 1849 especially singled out Josefa, noting in his journal her "personal pulchritude and clearness of complexion." It is impressive to consider that after eleven accouchements her comeliness was outstanding even among the younger women attending Don Juan's celebration--which must have been the last gaiety Josefa was to know before widowhood came upon her scarcely a week later.

Besides looking after a large family, Josefa found time for good works. Juan Bautista Alvarado in his Historia de California says, "Mrs. Fitch has always been generous to the needy, the sick and to works of public utility--in fact, to all but the Church. She believed that the Padre Presidente (Padre Jose Sanchez of San Gabriel Mission, whose position corresponded to what one might call vicar of all the missions) prompted (Governor) Echeandia in his persecution of her husband. I have tried to convince her to the contrary, but of course it is impossible to convince an old lady that she has lived for forty years under an erroneous impression."

Señora de Fitch did not always possess the wherewithal for the acts of charity which she was moved to perform, for she was the victim of land grabbers, and little by little sacrificed property for taxes and loans at usurers' rates of interest. But her courage never left her. Dr. Grant says that when he was a boy his Uncle Bill (Guillermo) related this tale: Josefa gave her brother a load of hides to take to Tiburon to sell. He did so, receiving \$5,000 in gold. But he went to San Francisco and before returning home proceeded to gamble away all the money.

Next year, Josefa could afford to take no further chances. She seated herself atop the high load of stinking, fly-ridden hides and took off with them on a two-wheeled cart, with an Indian boy on either side oiling the wheels with tallow to lessen their racket. Thus she brought back \$5,000 in gold to feed and care for her eleven children for another year.

Whatever life's vicissitudes, until her death at Healdsburg on January 26, 1893, Josefa never gave up the treasured cat's-eye necklace which Enrique Fitch had presented to her. And nothing could take away her memory of how well her husband had kept his promise to Pio Pico to cherish her. Never in her married life, she said afterward, had Enrique caused her to feel one moment of disgusta.

(Appreciation is extended to Alma Grant for use of her photos of Josefa and Captain Fitch, contained herein)

All other photo credits are given to the Edwin Langhart Museum Archives.

HEALDSBURG PLAZA

Harmon Heald, Proprietor of the First Commercial Establishment in an, as yet, unchristened town, can be credited with "inventing" the Healdsburg Plaza. In 1856 he laid out the town, "beginning at a point at or near a big tree, and running two parallel streets about north by east until they brought up against the southern shore of the slough. Two other parallel streets were made across these at right angles, the square thus formed being the Plaza."

Plaza development was slow in starting. The native Oak and Madrone were not replaced with Blue Gum and Eucalyptus until the mid 1870's, but by 1878 the citizens of Healdsburg began calling for serious improvements to their weedy park (see photo included in this issue).

A high bell tower and adjacent bandstand were built in the late 1870's, and mushroom-shaped trees inexplicably maintained from 1887 to 1896. The mid 1890's saw construction of an ornate gazebo/bandstand utilizing the old belltower base, and the planting of Kentucky Blue Grass and more relaxed foliage, including Orange and Lemon trees. In 1897 the present Palm trees were planted. The short-lived gazebo bit the dust in 1900 when, amid great public controversy, it was replaced with a monument that also served as a drinking fountain donated by the Ladies Improvement Club. Many disgruntled citizens demanded that a bandstand be built beside the monument, however, and thereafter that bandstand served as the center of evening musical entertainment and public address until the early 1950's.

The present Plaza fountain, built in 1960, was donated to the City by the late Elmer Sandborn.

Over the years many Healdsburg citizens have offered imaginative suggestions for Plaza development. In 1906 R.K. Truitt strongly urged the City officials to add extra earth to the lot in order to raise it above street level. The "High Rise" Plaza idea never caught on, however. An idea has recently been put forward to annex bordering lots to enlarge the Plaza.

(above article provided by Hannah Clayborn)



Captain Henry Delano Fitch
1799 - 1849



Mrs. Josefa Carrillo de Fitch
1810 - 1893



"Fitch's Castle": Ranch house of Sotoyome Rancho, 1912.
(Once located near present Bailhache Avenue.)

* * * * *

A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF A MUSEUM
AND ITS OPERATION

* * * * *

(This is Part IV of a series of articles. (This issue's article was prepared by Hannah Clayborn, Museum Curator)

OUR MUSEUM: WHAT ARE WE AND WHERE ARE WE GOING?

In recent installments of this section of the Recorder we have read about the functions and operations of museums in general. This article has to do with our Museum. What kind of a Museum are we, and what are our goals?

A good museum should serve and reflect the community that creates it. As there are many types of communities, so should there be many types of museums. In large urban centers a museum must reflect an extremely varied cross-section of historical influences and events. Since it also serves a large population it may, as in the case of the Oakland Museum, combine regional and natural history along with the fine arts in one facility. The activities of the large museum may range from public educational programs to the restoration of an internationally significant work of art. As such, it employs hundreds of specialists, consultants, and supervisory personnel.

In a smaller community like ours an "ideal" museum would encompass similar functions and activities, but each on a much smaller scale. However, "ideal" and real are rarely synonymous for the small museum, due mainly to a lack of financial resources. Just as large urban centers tend to draw more than their share of commerce, so large museums tend to attract more than their share of financial backing and trained personnel.

Nevertheless, it is important to understand the main goals of the small local museum - more specifically, ours.

WHAT WE SEE: THE TIP OF AN ICEBERG

When we think of a museum we usually think of a glass case, attractively lit, with neat little signs explaining its contents. This, certainly, is one type of museum exhibit. Is a museum only this, only what the visitor sees? Not by a long shot. Exhibits are a very important aspect of a museum, because they are, of course, most visible, and therefore should be done as professionally, accurately, and attractively as possible within the confines of financial resources. However, exhibits are not the most important function of a museum. The primary responsibility of an historical museum is the collection, study and preservation of local historical documents and artifacts, so that they may be delivered intact and in an orderly body to the future.

Museum exhibits serve to educate, entertain, and otherwise draw support from the local community, and are therefore absolutely essential. In fact, the success of any museum, in an immediate sense, depends on the caliber of its exhibits and special shows.

What then is the measure of the success of a museum over the long span of years? In ten years will anyone remember the exhibit assembled on local organizations in 1981? Not many. But the objects, themselves, hopefully, will be there to show us once more, again and again. It is this fact that makes the museum storeroom, not the display areas, the most important part of our museum.

In Healdsburg we have a small museum with limited display areas. Our storage space is even less adequate (a large closet, as it were). To make matters even more difficult we must display and care for what is indisputably the largest and finest collection of documents and artifacts in Sonoma County. We have every reason to be proud of our excellent and ever-improving collection, but we have problems. Our funds are limited, and the time to accomplish necessary tasks is stretched beyond reasonable limits.

How do we solve these problems? Firstly we rotate exhibits. Our display areas are so small that we must change our exhibits frequently to do justice to our collection. Secondly, we institute a schedule of special exhibits (currently two per year) that incorporate artifacts of regional and national interest, as well as local significance. Special shows have a two-fold purpose: They serve to draw visitors from outside our immediate area thereby widening our reputation (putting us on the "map" of northern California museums); and also provide an opportunity for local collectors to show their collections to the community at large in a safe and supervised environment. In this way our museum becomes more useful to the entire community.

We spend as much time as possible treating, researching, and documenting our undisplayed material, and we do EVERYTHING within our means to defeat the ravages of time and avoid damage to the artifacts. In certain instances a fragile object may be damaged by the heat and light of a display case, especially if that case is lighted from within, which most of our cases are. It is a difficult decision, but in these cases it is better to save the object until more sophisticated display facilities can be assembled.

An artifact donor should not be dismayed when his or her loved object is "just laying somewhere" in the museum storeroom. This object is actually resting comfortably with others of its ilk; it is being studied and cared for while it is awaiting its space in the lime-light. And most importantly, its life-expectancy in Healdsburg is greatly increased.

A small local museum may never achieve the "ideal" of adequate display space to house both permanent and rotating exhibits, a perfectly documented and stored collection (storage areas should ideally comprise 75% of the entire facility), and enough personnel to accomplish all of this. We may never achieve this - but as employees of the future, entrusted with the past - we cannot afford to stop trying.

A WARM WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS JERRY A. GUFFEY, TOM McFARLIN
AND FERN NABER. WE HOPE YOU BECOME ACTIVE IN OUR SOCIETY.

Editor's note: A big thank you is extended to Ann Woltzen, Major Phillips, Jan White, Bob Jones and Hannah Clayborn for their assistance in assembling this newsletter.

Jan. 1981

MUSEUM NEWS

The Museum has broken its own record in visitor attendance! Since our Second Annual Christmas Toy and Doll Show opened on November 19, 1980, we have had nearly 1,200 visitors. December and January are historically low attendance months, and so we are especially pleased with our tally. Those of you who saw the Toy Exhibit this year will join me I know in thanking all the generous people who made the show a success:

MRS. FLORENCE O'BRIEN
MOLLIE BENSKO
VERNA LAFON
DR. FRANCIS RITZ
DAVID & EDWARD DEMOSTENE
PAT SCHMIDT
ERIC SMITH
FRANCIS ETCHELL
BILLYE TSARNAS

ROSINDA HOLMES
MR. & MRS. JOHN POLI
PHAEDRA WOLDEN
JACK GROVE
HELENDALE BARRETT
ROBIN DANIEL
MRS. ISABEL MARTINSEN
SABRINA DeWITT
STEVEN CASTELLI

And we give special thanks to the men who worked so hard on our new exhibit area: Cecil Lotspeich, Dr. Francis Ritz, Dr. Franklin Ritz, Mark Ritz, Major Phillips, and Mr. D.W. Conley who painted our lovely Fitch Mountain mural, and William Auradou who provided us with a superb fireplace mantle.

During recent weeks we have received artifact donations from Mrs. Truman Clark, Joe and John Barrett, Evelyn and Waldo Iversen, Eloise Prince Liston, Frank Sillano, the Progressive Grange of Healdsburg, Charlotte Nalley, Eda McClish, Jack Relyea, Bob Taylor, William Beedie, Major Phillips, Ida Bodensteiner, Clyde Tucker, Martha Witcosky, Helendale Barrett, the Chamber of Commerce, Regina Goodman, Pat Schmidt, Frank Monteleone, Russell Naber, and Marcia Roche. We thank you sincerely.

We will be returning our local family collection to the Museum after January 10th. Drop by and see the treasured objects of some of Healdsburg's oldest families.

Our next special show in May and June will display items related to homemaking. Included in the show will be antique tableware, kitchen tools, and various home-crafts. If you have something you would like to share with us for the run of the show, please contact me, Hannah Clayborn, at the Edwin Langhart Museum, 133 Matheson Street, Healdsburg, Ca. 95448. Museum phone number is 433-4717. My home phone number is 433-9362.

Again, let me thank you all for your kind efforts and support in the past weeks, including my indispensable museum volunteers (which we need more of!)

Hannah Clayborn
Museum Curator

6 mph verses 55 mph

There are times, I'm sure, when all of us grow impatient while traveling a freeway or highway and are limited to a 55-mile an hour speed. When weather conditions are good, when there are few cars on the road (seldom but occasionally), and when we have a deadline to meet, it sometimes becomes very difficult indeed to keep the "foot" from getting heavy. It is, perhaps, at those moments when we should recall that there was once a time when a speed limit of only six miles per hour was imposed.

Let us go back in time for a moment to the historic glamorous horse and buggy days when livery stables flourished. It was then that six miles an hour was considered a good average speed. In fact, many cities enacted laws limiting speed within the city limits to six miles per hour, and going beyond that speed resulted in occasional arrests and convictions.

As with other towns during that era, Healdsburg boasted of several of these wonderful institutions. Perhaps you will recall hearing about such names as "The Geysler Stables", "The Sotoyome Stables", "The Fashion Stables", etc. There were three stables located practically in the center of the business district. One was across the slough near the famous Kentucky Saloon, owned by Jesse King, and one was started by Ed Bale which was located on Fitch Street, near Tucker.

Listed as early proprietors were William Cummings, Jesse King, N.W. Bostwick, William Brice, John Edrington, and Lew Helman. Later on came J. Conner, Tom Neely, Frank Newland, Jimmie Guerin and Jerome Hobson. All these stables claimed fine horses and rigs with showy harnesses and other gaudy trappings, all of which were kept sparkling like new. If you took a fancy to go for a ride, you could hire single, double or four-horse outfits ranging from carts to carriages.

Moonlight rides in the long summer evenings are only pleasant recollections for the older generations. The old horse and buggy days are gone, and the livery stables are but memories to oldtimers.

As time marches on with progress ever onward, it seems as though the speed of all things increases. There certainly is a great distance, for example, between the long-forgotten six miles per hour of yesteryear and the fifty-five miles per hour of today's generation!

Hannah, now that you've thanked everyone for their assistance, we want to turn the table and let you know how much we appreciate everything you have been doing for our Museum. Your planning for the outstanding Christmas Toy and Doll Show was, to say the least, just great. People from several other areas in the state made a special trip to Healdsburg for the sole purpose of viewing the display for the past few months. We know the City officials are proud of your work, too.

Edwin Langhart, founder of both our Historical Society and our Museum, as well as first editor of our newsletter, passed away nearly two years ago. How pleased he would be to see the beautiful condition of his Museum and to know how well it is cared for and loved.

Telephone Committee Chairperson, Pearl Guptill, thanks the following for their assistance in contacting members regarding meetings: Bertha Carley, June Jones, Margaret Frampton, Rena Phillips, Cleone Tilley, Eunice Edrington, Art Larson, Olive Bell, Irma Cuneo, Hazel Wilson, Evelyn Iversen, Aleta Rulofson, Carmel Bottini, Virginia Zobel, Maxine Bell, Gwen Hassett, Margaret Luce, Mary Dowling, and Rose (Demostene) Benson. Also, a thank you to Ted Kellogg who has moved away.

OUR MUSEUM

A special place for us to see,
A special place for us to be;
A place to go without a fee,
All that is our Museum, to me.

A photo hanging from a wall,
It's Captain Fitch so sleek and tall;
And in the corner stands a doll,
But wait, there's more, that isn't all.

A velvet cloak inside a case,
An antique toy in its own space;
A smile upon a pioneer's face,
To greet us in this special place.

A fork that once was used for hay,
A quilt handmade of colors gay;
A card once sent on Valentine's Day,
That's our Museum of today.

The displays are a sight to behold,
Bygone days, simply told;
Memories that will not fold,
That's our Museum, that's our gold.

Jan Harrison

Thank you for your cooperation.

WE SOLICIT YOUR NEW OR YOUR RENEWED MEMBERSHIP IN THE HEALDSBURG HISTORICAL SOCIETY

We now have 450 members; that is, we will again have that number once everyone has paid their dues for 1981, which are due this month. Because of your memberships we are able to produce a newsletter and reach people who live some distance away and are unable to attend our meetings. In some cases, it is their only contact with our Society. For that reason, it is those people who live in other areas that are the first ones to submit their dues. That way they are assured of not missing a newsletter. Membership dues are used for many other things also, including purchasing much needed items to assist in the upkeep of our Museum. Please won't you return the form below and submit with your dues today.

MEMBERSHIP DUES - 1981

If you have paid your dues for 1981,
we thank you.

STATEMENT OF DUES FOR 1981:

Dues may be paid per member, as follows:

Student Member	\$ 2.50
Active Member	\$ 5.00
Sustaining Member	\$ 25.00
Patron Member	\$250.00

(Your cancelled check will serve as
your receipt)

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT

PLEASE ASSIST US!

If you anticipate moving, please drop us a note with your new address. For every newsletter that cannot be delivered because it is unforwardable, or is returned because of a change of address, the Society must pay .25¢; then we are charged an additional .40¢ to have it redelivered once the Post Office gives us your new address. The reason for the additional .40¢ charge is because the item cannot be mailed in bulk form with the hundreds of others and we are unable to take advantage of our non-profit mailing permit. Because of this prohibitive cost, we will not be able to re-deliver the issue that is returned. However, if the Post Office is able to notify us of your new address, we will resume forwarding the newsletter to you with the next issue. As we're sure you can appreciate, this can add up when there are as many as ten newsletters returned each mailing due to change of address.

Healdsburg Historical Society
Post Office Box 952
Healdsburg, California 95448

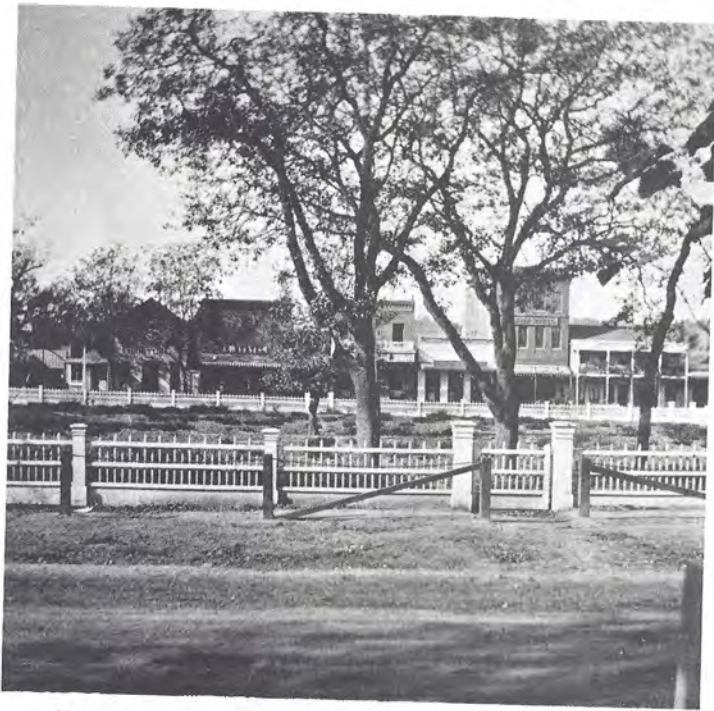
FILL IN BELOW AND MAIL

Name

Street Address

City and State Zip

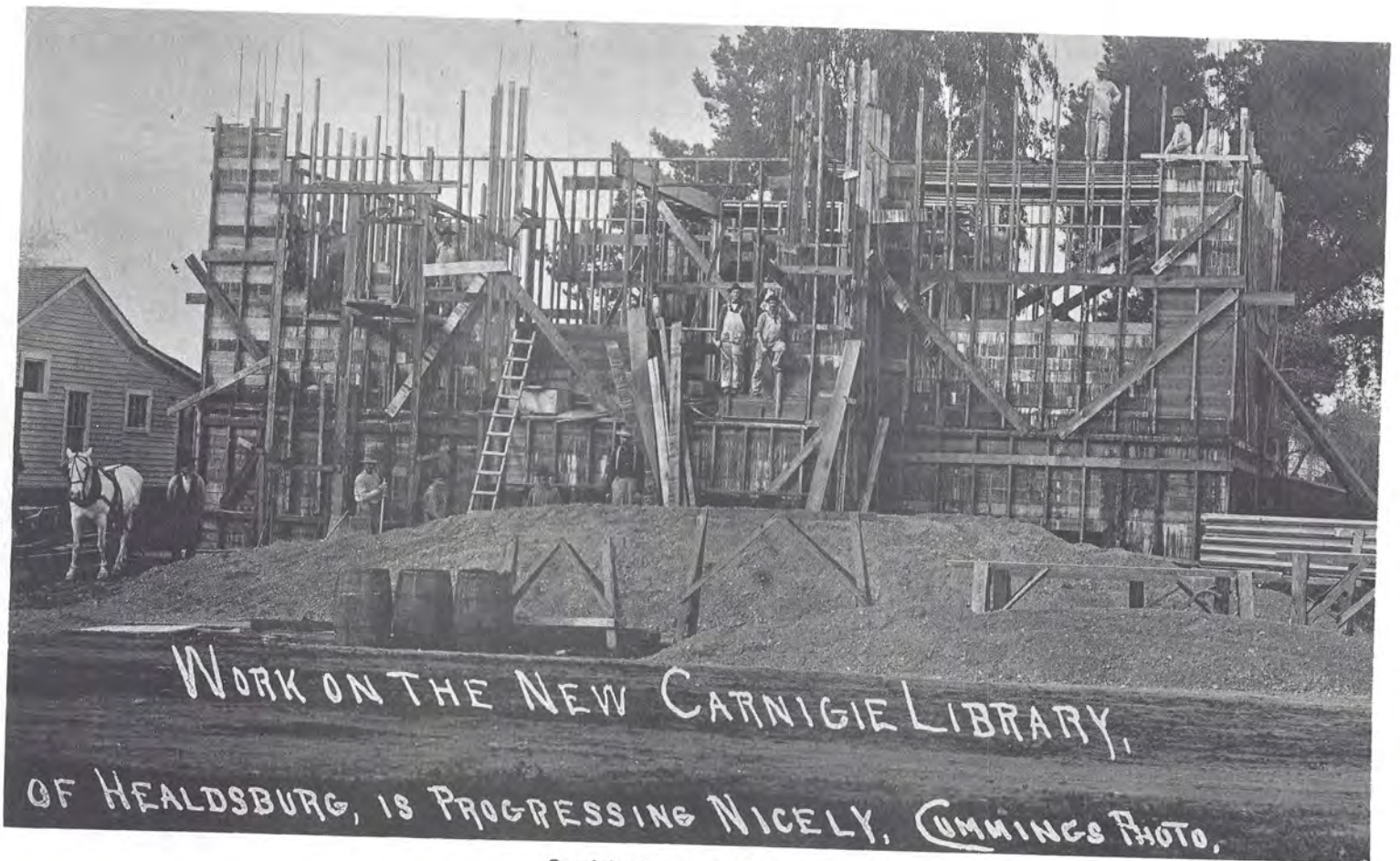
Phone: _____



Healdsburg Plaza view of West Street from Center Street
November, 1873.



West from gate, Mr. R. Abbey's residence.
Mr. Abbey and daughter, Mrs. Farquhar in the walk.
August, 1874



Carnegie Library, Healdsburg.
Fall of 1910.