

RUSSIAN RIVER RECORDER

fall. 1984

issue 28



view north, Healdsburg Ave. at Matheson St., 1928

The Prohibition Era

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EDITORIAL

In case you missed our non-existent summer issue of the "Recorder", you should know that the time saved by our staff was put to good use in producing the Museum's first book, Historic Homes of Healdsburg - A Self-Guided Tour, due out this winter.

Our ace reporter, Carl Moore, was on the job last spring, however, developing the feature article for this issue.

We would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the local residents who helped Carl on this article. The valuable information that they gave helps to preserve a mostly unrecorded era in local history. Although these residents prefer to remain anonymous in print, they get our "Golden Dusty Tales Award" for 1984, and our sincere thanks.

Even though it was against the law, bootlegging is still history!!

QUESTION: What would the Recorder be like if it had a staff larger than two?

ANSWER: Let's find out!

Editor.....Hannah Clayborn
Staff.....Carl Moore

RUMRUNNERS

on the

RUSSIAN RIVER:

the 1920's

by CARL MOORE

The Setting...

"...Speakeasies were multiplying by the thousands, there was a still in every cellar and gin in every bathtub. Cocktail parties in homes and country clubs degenerated into brawls and petting parties and getting drunk was an American institution, the favorite indoor sport of thousands who had never touched a drop until prohibition gave them a holy cause and an ungodly thirst. The graft built on prohibition alone pyramided into hundreds of millions of dollars as the gangsters bought off chiefs of police, sheriffs, and federal government officials who sold them the contents of government warehouses. Hijackings, bandit raids on banks, machine gunnings in the street, gang warfare, and gang control of counties, cities, trade unions, and small industries became common while stocks were beginning the climb that would send the nation into mass hysteria, a feverish panting for riches."

The forces of history were traveling at a frantic and devastating pace. Along with modernization, mechanization, industrialization, electrification, and mass production, there developed intense and bitter disputes between the leading bodies of the nations of the world. It was a world of conquest and empire. By the time the eighteenth amendment became law (Prohibition, 1920) the United States had consisted of only 48 states for 8 years. By the time of the eighteenth amendment, world War 1 had been over for a year, and at least 25,000,000 people had died because of it.

¹ excerpt: Labor's Untold Story, Boyer, Richard O., and Morais, Hervert M.; Cameron Assoc., N.Y., 1955

Prohibition remained in force until 5 December 1933. The fourteen years of Prohibition were as inane, cruel, desperate, and criminal, as any America has seen since the end of the Civil War. The era of Prohibition was a period of government fraud, corporate chaos, stock and financial manipulations, attacks against labor, industrial abuse, outlawry, the growth of the criminal empire, and drunkenness. Even the trades unions leaders were, in the early years of Prohibition, infected by the virus of growth and prosperity, investing members' hard-earned money in real estate, banking, stocks and bonds, claiming that strikes were outmoded, and that workers had become capitalists.

The eighteenth constitutional amendment forbidding the manufacture, sale, or transport of intoxicating liquors was ratified by the Congress of the United States on 16 January 1919. A little more than a year later, and as the result of a long-fought struggle, women were provided by congressional consent and constitutional amendment, the right to vote in state and federal elections.

By the late twenties only 1,000,000 workers out of 33,000,000 worked 5 days a week, while the remainder worked from somewhere between 55 to 60 hours a week.

President Harding was inaugurated 4 March 1921. Shortly thereafter Harding transferred certain naval oil reserves from the Navy to Interior Department. Secretary of the Interior Albert Bacon Fall took bribes from the Sinclair and Doheny oil interests and, without accepting competitive bids, leased these reserves to them. This was later to become known as the Teapot Dome scandal, but did not lack continuity with what was happening all over America in both government and private sectors.

Herbert Hoover was campaigning for the presidency in 1928, the same year \$2,928,000,000 were the recorded profits from speculation on Wall Street, and were divided up between one-tenth of one percent of the population. Hoover said on 27 July 1928, "The outlook for the world today is for the greatest era of commercial expansion in our history."

With the aid of his cronies on Wall Street in 1928, Rudolph Spreckels was able to obtain \$19,000,000 from the sale of stock in a completely worthless radio corporation. But Spreckels broke no laws. In fact, as earlier proof of his honesty and integrity, and as a result of the disastrous San Francisco fire and earthquake of 1906, Spreckels had organized and financed an investigation into political corruption in San Francisco.

Contemporary economists say that the volume of speculation and transactions on the stock market in the second half of the 1920's was clear evidence of a failing system. As proof they point to the fact that stocks were being bought and sold through margin accounts, that between 1910 and 1920 the number of stocks changing hands had jumped to 576,000,000 and that the amount of money loaned to brokers to carry margin accounts had increased proportionately.

While buying on margin has gone through some dramatic changes, speculation today is made on such a volume of stocks daily, that the total for the year 1927 is passed in an active week of trading. The increased volume of stock changing hands daily has increased almost 100 percent in the past three years alone.

In 1938 President Franklin D. Roosevelt said in a Message to Congress, "The year 1929 was a banner year for the



Albany Hunger Marchers and Women's Council being fed by Workers of Yonkers, New York, 1931

distribution of stock ownership. But in that year three-tenths of one percent of our population received 78 percent of the dividends reported by individuals. This has roughly the same effect as if, out of every 300 persons in our population, one person received 78 cents of every dollar of corporate dividends while the other 299 persons divided up the 22 cents between them."

While the above statement is correct it implies that, though miniscule, 299 out of 300 people shared the negligible portion of dividends from stocks. Roosevelt may have more accurately stated that the above reference was only to people who had money to invest in the market, while the "benefits" reaped by the overwhelming majority of Americans who couldn't afford to invest in the market, included; unemployment, bread lines, starvation, foreclosure, sickness, and death.

By the time economic conditions matched the real dilemma of the productive forces following the end of World War 1, the total value of America's farm property had dropped some 20 billion dollars in value. And it got a lot worse.

Demon Alcohol

There have existed organized movements against drunkenness in America since it was part of the British colonies. Most of these organizations however, were organized in the attempt to either moderate the consumption of alcohol, or were opposed to bars and saloons. The real stimulus leading to Prohibition was America's need to conserve grain for the war effort. There were few, if any, groups opposed to Prohibition, and the well organized groups in favor of moderating drinking habits were made to believe that Prohibition was a good idea, and were able to counter the opposition that did exist.

The eighteenth amendment (Prohibition) was proposed by Congress 18 December 1917, and was to become effective one year after its ratification by the legislatures of three-fourths of the states. It was ratified by 16 January 1919, and went into effect 16 January 1920, by which time the war had been over (Armistice was declared on the Western Front 11 November 1918) for 431 days.



Grain would still be saved, but instead of being used for the war effort, would be used for the manufacture of the now illegal "demon alcohol", and the battles that had taken place in the trenches of Europe, would now be fought on the streets of America in the gangland warfare of the new criminal empire.

The word "soldier" took on a new meaning. It came to mean a hired gunman working for a criminal boss.

The financial, industrial, and agricultural growth and prosperity that had come with World War 1, continued when it was over. In some regions it even got better.

A Boom Back Home

Prior to Prohibition the California Wine Association had been able to keep a tight lid on the maximum price paid for grapes. The price averaged from between \$6 to \$10 a ton. After Prohibition was in effect for 6 months, the Healdsburg Enterprise of 7 August 1920 reports that Angelo Lencioni bought 500 tons of grapes at \$85 a ton -- a price about \$40,000 more than would have been paid by the California Wine Association.

By November of 1919 California produced about 146,000 tons of apples, about 110,000 tons of pears, nearly 180,000 tons of raisins, and record crops of almonds and walnuts. Prunes sold at their highest price ever, and

hops bring a price that set a record for Sonoma County. From the beginning of 1919 until November of the same year, the California total from fresh deciduous fruit sold to eastern markets, was \$25,000,000.

According to a column in the Healdsburg Tribune of 8 January 1925, by the beginning of 1925 Healdsburg was the wealthiest city in the United States with less than 3,000 population. By 31 December 1924 the total assets of Healdsburg banks equalled \$4,734,637.

But statistics can be just that, statistics. It is not mentioned whether the money represented a portion of the profits of the contraband liquor industry, or if the majority of the money was in the control of only a few people.

If Peter has millions of dollars, and Paul is going hungry, statistically they exhibit a combined value of millions of dollars -- right up until Paul starves to death.

The wine on hand in California in 1924 that had been legally produced for "sacramental" purposes was nearly 17½ million gallons of dry, and not quite 7 million gallons of sweet wine -- this was considerably less than the previous year.

Estimating a religious sacrament using wine would use an ounce of wine, and using the exact figures of the quantity of wine on hand and in storage in California, the wine on hand was enough for 3,100,720 sacraments. Bless you.

Life With Volstead

While wine in Healdsburg was still being produced during prohibition, the quantity produced legally was small enough to be insignificant, and some of the wineries either sold their holdings or lay dormant, waiting. Other wineries (it has been said) produced "bootleg" illegally -- but most of the bootleg that was made was produced by stills that were set up illegally, and the majority of the illegal liquor sold was either straight alcohol, brandy, or grappa (unaged brandy, distilled from the pomace of a wine press.) The wineries that were able to stay open however, soon discovered there was a market for fresh grapes and grape juice.

The varieties of California grapes that made the fine premium wines prior to Prohibition were not able to withstand the abuse of shipment, and as a result they were uprooted and replaced by a sturdier grape. As a result, the grapes that produced premium wines were not grown in any substantial quantity until about 1965.

Brokers would buy grape juice from the winery and then send their salesmen out to sell the grape juice. Each salesman would be provided with a vial of yeast for each 5 gallon container of grape juice he was selling. They would also be supplied with printed material explaining that if the vial of yeast was poured into a container of grape juice, it would begin a rapid process of fermentation and, (should such an unthinkable event occur,) would be in violation of federal law. A lot of grape juice was sold. During the years of Prohibition, yeast was also a popular commodity.

The grape juice that was sold required the addition of a preservative. Sodium benzoate and sulfur dioxide (sulfur dioxide is now thought to be the major cause of acid rain) were both common food preservatives in the days of Prohibition, but they had one important difference. Sodium benzoate was not compatible with yeast -- it would neutralize any yeast added to the grape juice, and there was no simple way to prevent this neutralization from occurring. On the other hand sulfur dioxide could be removed by aeration, and the addition of yeast would start fermenting the grape juice. Naturally, the wineries selling grape juice used sulfur dioxide exclusively, as the required preservative. Even concentrated grape juice was sold. It too could be turned to wine after water was added to the concentrate.

One of the methods for producing and shipping grape concentrate was to take the pressing (grape juice) and lower its boiling point by placing it in a vacuum, then boil it, (with the lowered boiling point, the sugar in the grape juice would not caramelize,) until the water boiled out, leaving the concentrate. The stems were saved from the pressings and were compressed into the shape of a small block (brick) which was then dumped into the concentrate

until saturated. The brick was then covered with treated paper and shipped to its destination.

Everybody's Doing It!

Stimulated by the utility of learning a new but illegal skill and earning the respect and admiration of compatriots who opposed Prohibition, there were a great many people who made their own wine or their own liquor. Virtually everything one might need for fermentation, distillation, and flavoring, could be bought legally, "over the counter." Flavoring could even be bought that would flavor what was distilled to taste like Jamaican rum, London dry gin, or anything else that had a good reputation for flavor and potency prior to Prohibition. Of course the flavoring was sold with an explicit warning that it was for flavoring beverages containing no alcohol.

The liquor that was distilled in quantity in and around Healdsburg was apparently concentrated in the hands of individuals. It is assumed the wineries that could distill did make brandy, but most of the liquor distilled was done so by people who had been able to obtain a remote piece of property with an abundant supply of water, and all the mechanical and structural material necessary for such an operation. If such a location ever happened to be raided by officers attempting to enforce Prohibition laws, everything was damaged and dismantled and would end up in a junkyard -- where it would be promptly retrieved and restored, and put back to work, sometimes at the same location from which it had been removed.

An early version of recycling.

Due to the prevalence of already existing organizations and congressional support, the feeling was widespread that the eighteenth amendment (Prohibition) would become reality 3 years before it actually went into force. As a result there was activity among the people capable of arranging it, to build structures and machinery that would be able to show good profit in the manufacture of the liquor that was to be made contraband by decree.

It is estimated there were present in this area (Sonoma, Napa, Mendocino, and Lake counties) at least 5 distilleries capable of producing up to 1,500 gallons of alcoholic beverage a day. The kind of liquor most commonly produced and sold in the early days of Prohibition was called "Jackass." All of the now contraband liquor produced from the big distilleries went by car or truck to San Francisco in 5 gallon tins. The Golden Gate Bridge wasn't built yet, so it traveled part way by ferry, but the roads traveled on always varied. Once in San Francisco, the load would be sold to another dealer (sort of a "contraband wholesaler") who would handle sales and distribution from that point. But it was all sold in and around the San Francisco area. None of it was shipped elsewhere.

The 5 gallon tin sold to the "wholesaler" is thought to have cost \$5.50 to produce at the distillery. The wholesaler would then mix it, bottle it, add water to it, or do what was necessary to get as much as he could when he sold the liquor. While it's not known how much the wholesaler received from the 5 gallons he bought, the price he had to pay for them until 1930 was \$75.00. So, while a distillery would have a considerable expense in paying \$1650.00 to produce one day's worth of beverage, it was far overshadowed by the \$112,500.00 it would receive for the same quantity.

By 1926, of the 10,000 agents that had been employed to enforce Prohibition (since 1919) 875 of them had been discharged for robbery, accepting gratuities, extortion, and etc.. The largest group of agents fired, were fired for drunkenness.

Nationally, deaths from acute alcoholism went from 20,443 in 1920, to 58,617 in 1925. Deaths from narcotics went up by 296% for the same period. The estimated cost to the federal government for enforcement of Prohibition was 25 million dollars a year. Taxes lost to the cities, states, and federal government combined, were estimated at well over one billion dollars a year.

In Senate hearings on Prohibition, Alfred J. Talley, judge of the Court of General Sessions, the oldest court in



UNKNOWN
TIPPLERS
CIRCA
1925

the United States, disclosed there were 1,432 court cases involving Prohibition in the year 1921. Only 18 of the cases led to conviction, 16 were acquitted, 94 pled guilty, and 1,294 were dismissed. In 1922 there were 2,733 cases, 2,318 dismissed. In 1923 there were 2,739 cases, 2,462 dismissed. When asked why so many cases were not indicted by the grand jury, Talley quoted the jury foreman as saying:

"We have urged them to bear in mind the instructions they got in the charge of the court, but they tell me that they will not indict men for offenses which they are committing themselves." (1)

In the hearings mentioned above, a United States Attorney said that government records estimate that 88 million gallons of alcohol (pure) were escaping capture and were diluted into liquor. The Attorney also stated that just one raid in Philadelphia stopped a bootleg operation doing six-hundred-million dollars a year in "business."

According to the Healdsburg Enterprise of 8 December 1927, federal Prohibition officers seized and confiscated enough ingredients and machinery for the production of liquor, to make it the most prominent "raid" since the eighteenth amendment was made law. Seized in this raid were 1,000 gallons of alcohol and

25,000 gallons of mash. This raid occurred at a giant still in Alexander Valley.

Golden Insanity

But this was the era of "golden insanity." Money could buy anything, even police and judges. If an illegal still or a speakeasy happened to be raided, it was usually because either an agent of enforcement or some elected official had been neglected when the extortion money was handed 'round. Even a San Francisco vegetable peddler who sold grappa from his store or from off his truck while making his daily rounds, would pay a few dollars to the cop on the beat. Just as much as selling contraband liquor became a way of doing business -- extortion became a way of life. Hijacking, too.

A specially prepared truck carrying 40 of the 5 gallon tins of Jackass, would have made its way from Healdsburg to San Francisco. The driver of the truck, being extra careful to avoid complication, would suddenly be cut off and stopped by a large sedan full of well-dressed men carrying large guns. The truck driver might be thinking:

"Oh dear. This has the appearance of being, perhaps, an arrest by federal agents of enforcement for the laws of Prohibition. I'll bet those guns are loaded, as well. Oh dear."

Instead, the truck driver would be ordered out of the truck and told to sit in the large sedan, while one of the men from the sedan would drive the truck and its now stolen contraband, to a destination other than the one originally planned. As the truck was driven away, the driver would be released from the sedan. There were not many 'official' reports of the theft of contraband liquor.

Hijacking was a lucrative business -- but kind of dangerous.

Most of the historical data on the years of Prohibition, point out that speakeasies (illegal saloons) proliferated during these years. It seems that in each town or city in the United States, the number of speakeasies that eventually opened were either equal to or surpassed the number of bars and saloons that had

operated legally before Prohibition. In addition, virtually all of the "better" restaurants either served liquor to their patrons at their tables, (always in containers that wouldn't be suspected of holding liquor,) or had a back room for that purpose. In Healdsburg, two speak-easies that were quite well-known were Buffi's Hotel, (which is now the House of Sonoma on Healdsburg Ave.,) which was then located near where the railroad depot is now situated, and the Riverside Villas, located on Front Street.

When the era categorized as, "the golden insanity," and "the greatest era of commercial expansion in our history," by American captains of industry, financial moguls, and elected officials, had proved itself to be nothing less than the anarchy from the spontaneous greed of those with power to influence policies, the effects were devastating. According to the federal government's own study:

"A more nearly perfect mechanism for making the poor poorer and the rich richer or for making depressions could scarcely be desired."

The stock market "crashed" in 1929. Twenty-five billion dollars in stock market value were wiped out overnight. By 1933, some 5,761 banks had failed, industrial production decreased by 50%, one-third of America's population, 40,000,000 men, women, and children, were living without earned income. President Hoover had organized the Reconstruction Finance Corporation in 1932, which loaned taxpayer's money to the captains of industry and the financial wizards, stating that this new prosperity would "trickle down" to the common people. Two billion dollars



were loaned to financial centers and industry -- the railroads alone were loaned \$300,000,000.

Even the market for contraband liquor suffered. By 1931, distillers and bootleggers from around Healdsburg were receiving \$15.00 for the same 5 gallon tin of liquor they had been paid \$75.00 for during the heyday years of Prohibition.

The severe depression of the times was blamed on the Republican Party. The presidential election of 1932 led to an unprecedented victory for the Democrats. One of the Democrat's demands for the elections of 1932 was the repeal of the eighteenth amendment to the Constitution, an end to Prohibition. The twenty-first amendment, repealing the eighteenth amendment and ending Prohibition, became law on 5 December 1933.

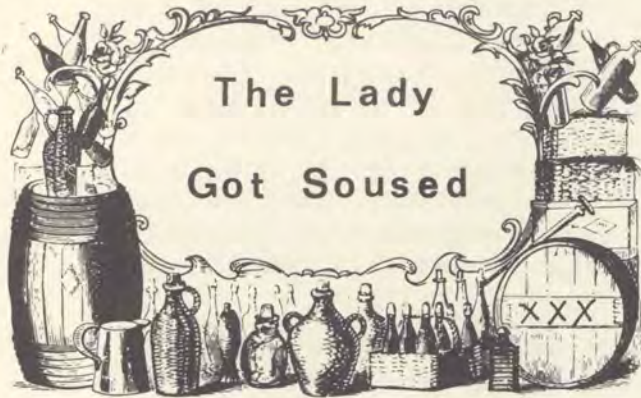
"Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." (From George Santayana's *Life of Reason*, volume I, *Reason and Common Sense*, 1905-06.)

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Ed. Note: Attempts to limit alcohol consumption were not new to Healdsburg in the 1920's, as shown in the following article written by W.C. Shipley in 1938.



This story goes way back to the very early history of Healdsburg, some time in the '60's when the town was but a village, for I heard it when a very small boy and then it was almost legendary.

It seems that in one of the rural districts, not far from town, on a ranch lived a couple who loved their toddies. The man of the house operated a small still for pleasure and profit, making his own hootch, yet he did not think it right and proper that his good wife should get swacked every time he went to town, as he could do all the drinking for the family. He tried out every known scheme to hide from his partner in life his potent home grown nose paint, before he went to town every Saturday to market his products and buy supplies.

His efforts were all in vain for she would ferret out the hiding place no matter where it might be, and when he came home after a hard day's work at the bars and stores in town he would find his energetic helpmate in a blissful state of intoxication. There was a great live oak tree in their backyard, and a brilliant idea penetrated his dome of thought. He would swing his keg of liquor out of her reach high in the branches of the great tree. Then it would be beyond her reach, for she could not climb the tree.

The next time, before making his regular trip into town, he put into effect his wonderful plan and with the aid of a ladder and a set of blocks and tackle he swung the ten-gallon keg some 30 feet off the ground to a limb of the tree. "Now," he reasoned, "she can't get that and when I come home tonight Honey will be sober as a judge and I will be happy." Chuckling with glee he went to town and told some of his old cronies about his brilliant plan to insure his wife's sobriety.

Being convinced of the success of his plan he stayed in town rather late, getting home about sundown. To his chagrin he found his good spouse flat on the ground under the tree, pickled to the gills. He looked up into the tree, there was the keg, high and dry, but on glancing at the ground under the keg he saw the washtub with all his stock of good corn liquor in it.

And this is how it all happened. When Honey spied the keg out of her reach and no way to get it down or at it, she placed the old wooden washtub on the ground directly under it. She was not to be fooled by her foxy husband. She was not going to be cheated out of her Saturday jag. She went into the house and brought forth his good old eight-square rifle he called "meat in the pot", which had come with them across the plains from Missouri and, taking careful aim for she was a center show with rifle or six-gun, she shot a hole in the lowest portion of the keg and the fire-water slowly dripped into the tub. She proceeded in spite of her husband's precaution to indulge in her Saturday spree. Determination and perseverance will always overcome insurmountable obstacles.

Prohibition Headlines

(from "Healdsburg Enterprise" newspapers)

Oct. 17, 1914 - PROHIBITION AMENDMENT TO BE DISCUSSED: Proposed amendment will be subject of discussion at Hansen's Theater. Mrs. Vernille De Witt Warr has message for women of the city: "Why the Fairminded Women of Calif. Are Opposed to the Confiscation of Our Vineyards".

Feb. 1, 1919 - A MEETING OF GRAPE MEN FRIDAY: Grape growers and wine manufacturers meet to protect their interests against prohibition measures of Sheppard Bill and War Measure Act to forbid manufacture of wine. Harvey Frost elected permanent chairman.

Jan. 8, 1925 - COUNTY COLLECTS BIG SUM ON WET FINES: District Attorney George W. Hoyle reports the collection of \$28,555.50 in "wet fines".

Feb. 24, 1930 - VINEGAR PLANT MAY BE BUILT: Gideon & Jones Mfg. Co. may construct vinegar plant to use up bonded wine.

Jan. 7, 1932 - FEDS FIND WINE ON RANCH: Federal Prohibition agents seize 5400 gallons of liquor on ranch southwest of Healdsburg.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY NOTES

November Election

As per the bylaws of the Historical Society, the Board of Directors has selected a nominating committee which will submit names of members to serve as officers on the Board for the new term starting January, 1985. The election will be held at the regular meeting on November 15, 1984, at the Community Center. If you wish to make a nomination please contact: Verna Lafon at 433-2668.

Recent Meetings

Our general meeting in July was held in the former Healdsburg General Hospital building in Johnson St. (now Duff Chiropractic Center). Several people contributed to a very interesting and stimulating discussion of the history of the old hospital and its key staff. We would like to thank the Drs. Duff, Opal Krews, April McDonald, and Alice Grove for contributing to this memorable event.

At our September general meeting museum curator, Hannah Clayborn, traced the history of Healdsburg through slides of historic photos in the museum collection. Although the Tribune carried an add, the publicity department didn't get a flyer out to inform members about this meeting. We have had a few complaints, so we apologize. If you would like to help with publicity for the Society (including mailing flyers) please contact Alice Grove at 433-4352.

Next Meeting:

Mark your calenders for our next general meeting **NOVEMBER 15, 1984, at 7:30 p.m.** at the COMMUNITY CENTER, 131 MATHESON ST. This meeting will also be a reception to honor the release of the museum's new book, Historic Homes of Healdsburg, A Self-Guided Tour (see Museum News section).



Record It

There are some who might say, and rightly so, that history is nothing more than a very respected fiction. Undeniably history is often as biased as the historian that interprets it. For whatever reasons, historians of the past have tended to ignore the mundane events of life in favor of the remarkable, overlook the disreputable to emphasize the respectable, compromise the truth in order to support a theory.

History should be a clear description of life as it was, good or bad, colorful or dull, inspiring or senseless. It should be a clear window to view the past, thereby putting the present in perspective and offering a key to the future.

Much of the vital information that could unfog history's murky glass is contained only in the memory of living people. This history is in the form of mercurial mental images that, no matter how well-etched on individual memory, die with the recaller. Our births, marriages, and deaths may be recorded in print, but milestones do not a life make.

SUPPORT THE TRUTH.
SUPPORT ORAL HISTORY.
RECORD IT.

-Ed.

†IN MEMORIAM†

WE WISH TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE FOLLOWING HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERS WHO HAVE PASSED AWAY IN RECENT MONTHS.

Betty Opperman

Mrs. Russell Green



MUSEUM NEWS

Closing Soon

The current Museum display, "DOING IT IN STYLE: ARCHITECTURAL AND FURNISHING DESIGN IN HEALDSBURG, 1840 - 1940", closes the second week in November. We don't like to brag (not much), but we have been told by visitors that it is the best of its kind they have ever seen. So, if you have not already seen it, do it now.

Coming Soon

The "SIXTH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TOY DISPLAY" will open November 26, 1984 - if all goes well. This year, among other displays, we will be recreating a children's (boy and girl) bedroom circa 1900. If you have old or unusual toys or dolls that you would like to loan for this show call:

Hannah at 433-4717.

We are happy to accept items on short-term loan, and the Museum is well known for the good care it gives to all of its inanimate temporary guests. Below is a list of specific items that we are desperate to find:

2-child mannequins
antique or "old" Christmas decorations.

1-pair boy's breeches
1-single bed quilt, circa 1900

We can't let the kids down! (Especially the big one known as the "curator")

Looking Ahead

Our spring Museum display, opening in January, will be entitled, "We Came to Healdsburg". This exhibit will examine the many routes used and the reasons people had for settling in our area from gold rush days to the present. We will be utilizing both family histories and the collections that families brought with them or items they used to get here. We will cover immigration to Healdsburg not only in the early settlement era, but many other eras as well.

We will accept all family histories and will accept family collections on short-term (insured) loan for the exhibit. Don't be left out! Write your family history down today and mail it to:

Langhart Museum
133 Matheson St.
Healdsburg, CA 95448

or call Hannah at 433-4717.

Donations

Permanent artifact donations to the Museum have been received from:

LORRAINE HAM	JUANITA H. QUINBY
OCTAVIA LOCKE	MRS. RALPH GRANT
ROY LOWE	DAN ROTLISBERGER
MAUD CUMMINGS	ALICE BURGETT
MERLE DANIELS	HELEN GIORGI
MAYE ANITA FITCH	ROBERT S. CONRICH
NORMA PASSARINO	GEORGE WOODGEN
FRANK CUNNINGHAM	ARTHUR L. WHITE
ISABELLE SIMI HAIGH ESTATE	

Welcome!

Welcome to new or returning Museum Docents (volunteer receptionists):

MARION PENRY	JANE MAYTA
JUNE JONES	BETTY REUKEMA

Our First Book!

The Museum recently completed its first publication, a 42 page booklet entitled, Historic Homes of Healdsburg, A Self-Guided Tour. The booklet contains photos, historical information, and architectural descriptions of 70 local properties. It also contains an historical and architectural overview of Healdsburg and a marked map to guide the reader to the selected properties.

This booklet involved a tremendous amount of volunteer labor, but the proceeds from the sale of the book (priced under \$5.00) will go to the Museum.

A great majority of the work was done by the Museum curator and April McDonald, who volunteered uncounted hours to the project. Chevron U.S.A. Inc. underwrote the entire cost of printing, and other costs were paid by the City of Healdsburg and the Healdsburg Historical Society. We would also like to thank the following people who helped complete this project: Rich Cartiere, June Smith, Rosinda Holmes, Carl Moore, Frances Etchell, Verna Lafon, Chris Biagi, Lee Davis, Mariner Graphics, Linda Haviland, Yvonne Milligan, Jean McMellon, Jim Voss, Conrado Figueroa, and Lenny Siegel. Special thanks to Rita Schroeder, who arranged for the printing.

Only 5,000 copies will be printed so watch for it to go on sale before Christmas at the Museum, book and other stores, and the Chamber of Commerce.