

RUSSIAN RIVER



R E C O R D E R



The Litton Story

Children picking flowers in fields of Lytton Home, c. 1923

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Upcoming Events

Antique and Collectible Toys

November 22, 1994 -
February 12, 1995



A special toy exhibit
at the
Healdsburg Museum



Open
Tuesday - Sunday
11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.



Admission is Free!



Tours by appointment



For information call
707/431-3325

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Printing: Solo Press

Save These Dates

November 30

Museum Reception
Holiday Boutique Preview

December 1

Holiday Boutique Early Bird Sale

December 4

Open House for Children at the Museum

Healdsburg Historical Society

Ed Langhart, Founder

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Claire Rithner 431-3325
(Curator)

Museum News

Claire Rithner, Curator

Antique and Collectable Toy Exhibit Opens November 22nd

It's that time of year again . . . time to come to the Museum and indulge in fantasy and nostalgia. Once again the Museum is filled with toys of past eras which will delight the children and grandparents alike.

Featured in this year's toy exhibit are many exquisite dolls, including an 1870's French fashion doll with original clothing, and beautiful bisque dolls by French designers Jumeau and Steiner. Also on display are a miniature quilt shop, a Gene Autry bicycle, a four foot W.W. I era model biplane, an operational American Flyer train from the 1930's, and W.W. II era lead toy soldiers.

This year we thought it would be fun to hold a special event for children in conjunction with our antique toy exhibit. So, on Sunday, December 4th from 1-4 p.m., the Museum will hold a special open house for children. There will be a clown and storyteller along with special guests. This will be a great way to introduce your young friends to history and our very special museum. And, as always, it's free! Thanks to Susan Bierwirth for organizing this special day.

Sonoma County Foundation Awards Museum \$1,500 Grant

The Sonoma County Community Foundation awarded the Museum a \$1,500 grant to hire a consultant to inventory and catalogue the Museum's Pomo Collection in order to repatriate any Pomo artifacts which were taken from Pomo grave sites. This is a

wonderful opportunity for the Museum to record as much as possible about our Pomo collection and to bring it within Federal regulations. The Native American Grave Protection Act requires all museums to repatriate Native American artifacts which can be documented as artifacts used in burial ceremonies. This project will also be a great learning experience for me as I work with the consultant and have the opportunity to learn more about the Museum's Pomo Collection. Many thanks to the Sonoma County Foundation.

Bob Rawlins Comes Through Again

Every time we construct an exhibit at the Museum we inevitably have to cut certain artifacts which we had planned to exhibit due to the fact that we don't have enough plexi-glass cases. Longtime volunteer, Bob Rawlins, heard of our need and offered to make five plexi-glass cases at cost! Bob saved the Historical Society at least 60% of the cost of a "professionally" made case, and his cases look just as good, if not better, as our other cases. Thanks, Bob!

Special thanks to the following generous people who have donated artifacts to the Museum's permanent collection since our last publication:

- | | |
|---|----------------------------|
| Roy Lowe | Dennis and Denise Neves |
| Wardine Herrick | Glyn and Jeanne Hasal |
| Ron Walters | James M. Hotchkiss, Jr. |
| Richard Papp | Christine Williams Wareham |
| Marge Barnard | Clarence H. Barnard, Sr. |
| Dorothy Simon for the estate of Rena Phillips | |
| The Healdsburg Fire Department | |

A Message from the President

Norbert C. Babin

The Healdsburg Museum and Historical Society, with all of your support, has achieved an outstanding year. We have been able to provide the necessary funds to keep the Museum operating efficiently. Claire Rithner, our Curator, has put together some excellent shows, which will be capped off at the year-end by the holiday toy show. In the Spring of 1995, in conjunction with the Sonoma County Museum and the West County Museum (Sebastopol), there will be a World War II exhibit, and that will bring back a lot of memories.

As we proceed into 1995, we will be making a concerted effort to increase the membership of the Society, not only from the standpoint of individual and family memberships, but also with respect to the business community. The more active our community becomes in the Society affairs, the more certain it is that we will be able to meet the continuing and ultimate goal of recording the history of the Healdsburg area through the collection and preservation of historical materials.

One of the principle goals of the Society is to actively foster the appreciation of local history. In 1995, we want to proceed forward with that goal by providing programs and activities that cause an increased awareness in the community of the illustrious history of our community. I am most hopeful that through our Outreach program, and with the assistance of our Volunteer Association, the docents, and our Curator, that we will spur the interest of the youngsters of Healdsburg in learning the history of the area and the need to preserve that history for future generations, and that the children will come to look to the Museum as a

source of information in their educational process. If they learn at a young age what their Museum has to offer them, then they will be the active members of the Society in the future.

The Hispanic influence in the development of this area cannot be understated, and our community has a strong Hispanic presence. We need to strengthen our efforts to bring forth and preserve that history. I would hope that with the efforts of that sector of our community that we will soon be able to put on an exhibit that will document that illustrious history. I look forward to meeting with you at our annual meeting (potluck) in January of 1995. I would ask that each and every one of you, volunteering your time to the programs that support the Healdsburg Museum and Historical Society.

Come to the Holiday Boutique at the Healdsburg Museum's Gift Shop

Preview

Wednesday, November 30

5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Early Bird Sales

Thursday, December 1

10:00 a.m. to 12 Noon

Boutique items available at the Gift Shop
until December 24

11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Tuesday through Sunday



Captain Litton's Hotel, c. 1910, known as the "Big House" by Lyttonites

The Litton Story

By John Pruitt

Introducing Captain Litton

Captain William H. Litton, who developed the property now known as the Salvation Army's Lytton Adult Rehabilitation Center, on Lytton Springs Road, was born in Baltimore, Maryland, in 1816.

At the age of 12 he went to sea. And by the age of 18, he had attained the rank of captain. A superior mariner, he was selected as one of several American sea captains to carry provisions to Ireland, during the infamous "Potato Famine" of 1846. His was among one of the few ships to actually reach Ireland with its cargo intact, as many of the ships in the rescue effort were sunk in a storm at sea.

"Lionized" by the Irish people, Captain Litton eventually traveled throughout the world before arriving in San Francisco in 1849, where he worked as a ship's pilot in the San Francisco Bay.

In 1860, he acquired a large tract of land that extended from the southernmost boundaries of Geyserville to the northern limits of the fledgling town of Healdsburg, with the Russian River serving as its eastern boundary. It appears that this property was originally part of the Sotoyome Rancho land grant.

By 1867, in fact, Captain Litton was considered the fourth largest property holder in Sonoma County. To further cement his ties within the county, he married Agnes Smith, who as a member of a prominent Healdsburg family, had crossed the plains with her parents in a covered wagon in 1852.

Then, in 1872, Colonel James M. Donahue, of Donahue's Landing, which was located at the mouth of the Petaluma River, built the San Francisco and Northern Pacific Railroad which linked Healdsburg and points north with the Bay Area.

Eager to attract tourists, Captain Litton and three partners built a plush resort hotel on the Litton Springs site, in 1875, at a cost of \$80,000. Able to accommodate approximately 150 guests at a weekly rate of \$8 - \$12 per person, the resort soon became known as "Litton Springs" or "Litton Station".

The popular name of "Litton Springs" refers to the two naturally occurring springs that are located on the property. The soda springs is located half of a mile uphill from the original hotel site, while the naturally carbonated seltzer, or sweetwater, spring lies by the north gate entrance. Both were considered of medicinal value for their mineral properties; yet, there is a third, freshwater spring/well, located between the two springs, which also was potable.

Although Captain Litton and his family resided at the resort, he sold 2,700 acres, as well as a share of the hotel, to B.G. Lathrop, in 1878. Then, in 1880, Captain Litton, his wife, and three sons—William, Jr., Bearse, and Charles—apparently moved to San Francisco while retaining at least partial ownership of the hotel and 12 adjacent cottages.

In 1887, Captain Litton fell from a buggy, and died of head injuries on June 22nd of that same year. He is buried, along with his wife, who died in 1933, at Oak Mound Cemetery in Healdsburg.

Yet long after their deaths, controversy continued in regards to the change from "i" to "y", as the accepted spelling of the Litton property. According to the text of Once Upon a Time by Julius Myron Alexander, the spelling was changed "because it was proper".

Then, in a 1969 Press Democrat article, Healdsburg City Clerk and local historian, Edwin Langhart, offered a different opinion, "It appears the name was changed in error by a draftsman or some other official, and it has stayed 'Lytton' ever since." Whatever the reason, records show that by 1896, most official documents had adopted the 'Lytton' spelling.

A Period of Transition

It appears that by the late 1880s the Litton family was no longer interested in maintaining the plush resort, and it became a military academy for boys from well-to-do Bay Area families.

Referred to as the "Yellow Jackets" by the local Healdsburg youth, these boys appeared to be the "... cavalry dismounted" in their elaborate gold-braided uniforms, which included Civil War sabers and "natty" gold-braided caps, complete with striking yellow plumes.

Professor Gamble served as Headmaster of Litton Springs Military Academy, as it was called, with Major Shakespeare, a West Point graduate, serving as instructor of mathematics and military tactics.

Then, in 1889, Agnes Litton, wife of Captain Litton, filed a law suit against railroad magnate Colonel James M. Donahue, for "taking" Litton water from the freshwater source, in order to begin construction of Litton township, which was located on a piece of land he owned abutting the railroad tracks, east of Litton Station.

In February, 1890, Mrs. Litton won the lawsuit, but Colonel Donahue gained ownership of the Litton Station property. Yet before he could fulfill his dream, he died at the Palace Hotel in Ukiah, at age 30, on March 3, 1890.

The Litton property, as part of Donahue's estate, was eventually bought by Charles H. Montgomery, in 1893, for \$165,000. He, in turn, sold it to Dr. Burke, of Oakland, who wanted to operate a sanitarium at the site.

At this point, actual ownership of the property becomes obscure. Apparently, however, in 1898, San Francisco restaurant owner, A.W. Dennett and his partner, George S. Montgomery (whose wife, Carrie Judd Montgomery, was a leader in the Pentecostal religious movement), bought the Litton property. Like others before them, they tried to keep the sanitarium idea alive by offering an added attraction: Bible courses, "to afford all who attend an opportunity of acquiring a more practical knowledge of the Word".



Lt. Commander Wilfred Bourne, c. 1910

Enter Captain and "Mother" Bourne

In 1904, the Salvation Army purchased the Lytton property, and started the Lytton Orphanage and School for Boys and Girls, under the leadership of Captain Wilfred C. Bourne and his wife, Alice Smith Bourne.

They arrived by way of Amity, Colorado, where they had closed the Salvation Army's Cherry Tree Orphanage since the locale's severe temperatures restricted the self-sufficient lifestyle of the orphans who resided there.

Orphans in tow, the Bournes arrived at Lytton in October with sixteen children (including two of their own, Margaret and Charles Percy, as well as Vera Nelligan who they had taken under their wing while living in southern California earlier in their marriage), with a sum total of \$21.00 between them.

Born of English aristocracy before earning a reputation for breaking wild horses here in the States, Captain Bourne offered sound advice to the orphans who hoped to start a new life under the shadow of Mt. St. Helena. "Every man shares in 24 hours of the day," he told them. "Devote 8 hours to work, 8 hours to sleep, and 8 hours to play. But his own be

done when the money to support the whole 24 is in sight."

He also was often heard to proclaim, "A man is what he makes of himself. Once made, no other man can take that from him."

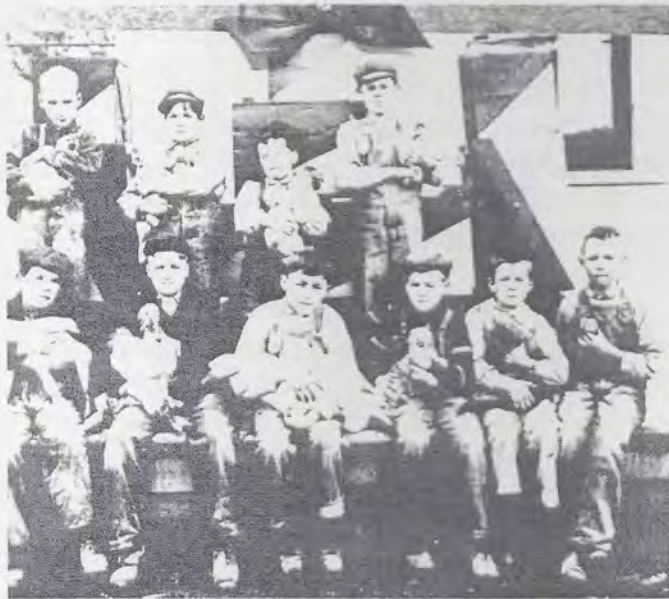
Meanwhile "Mother" Bourne, as she was known to the approximately 1,500 children who resided at Lytton from 1904 to 1916, also expected a great deal of personal effort and self-discipline from her young charges. A strict disciplinarian, she never resorted to punitive measures. Rather counseling and lectures were her mainstays when it was necessary to discipline the children.

Still it has been stated that even though the orphans didn't like to be scolded by the Captain (who, in later years, rose to the rank of Major, within the Salvation Army organization), they dreaded the long walk from his office, down a long hallway, where "Mother" Bourne waited to dole out the non-corporeal punishment she felt they deserved.

As was often the case during the years the Bournes resided at Lytton, many of the children who were placed under their care were not technically orphans. Vera Nelligan's



Alice Smith "Mother" Bourne, c. 1910



Postcard, 1911 postmark, showing Percy Bourne (son of Wilfred and Alice) in back row, 2nd from right

father, for instance, had evidently abandoned his family, leaving Vera's mother unable to earn enough to keep her family together. The Garcia family faced a similarly bleak future since their father was serving time in Yuma Territorial Prison, and their mother had met with an untimely death.

In fact, "Mother" Bourne first met Robert, Tony, Peter, and Rebecca Garcia when she stepped out from behind a Salvation Army parade band that was marching down a street in San Bernadino (where the Captain and she had earlier resided), and asked these four young children if they were getting enough to eat.

When the oldest child, Robert, admitted that they weren't, Mrs. Bourne took them to a nearby mission and fed them.

There she must have heard of their sad plight: of walking part way from Yuma to San Bernadino, with their father, upon his release from prison. And of his marriage to a widow with children of her own who wouldn't allow the Garcia children in her house, and made them live outside like animals.

Apparently "Mother" Bourne stayed in touch with the Garcia family after her arrival at Lytton, for, in 1905, the three brothers arrived at the orphanage, with Rebecca

following some months later.

Unfortunately, Rebecca contracted military tuberculosis, a disease which the brothers believed could have been prevented, given a healthier living arrangement in southern California.

Four and a half years after her arrival at Lytton Rebecca died on March 8, 1910. She was ten years old. She is buried in Healdsburg's Oak Mound Cemetery.

On a happier note, Rebecca's older brother, Robert, and Vera Nelligan eventually wed, in spite of "Mother" Bourne's vigorous objections. Years later, this same "Lyttonite" couple observed "Mother" Bourne's 80th birthday, by presenting her with 80 silver dollars, many of which were gifts from other Lyttonites, who had spent their formative years in the Bournes' care.

Beyond the Bourne Years (c.1920-Present)

For 54 years, Lytton Springs was "home" to 11,000 children. There were many good times and a few bad times. One of those "bad" times occurred on April 19, 1920, when the orphanage's main building (which had once served as Captain Litton's plush hotel) caught fire. The magnificent old building, which housed the girls' dorm, offices, kitchen and sewing room, burned for three days. It is



Captain Bourne in the family room in the "Big House"

believed that an electrical short was the cause of the fire that prompted the following Press Democrat headline: "Lytton Orphanage Burned, Kiddies Lose All in Fire . . ."

The boys, who were housed in the cottages on the north side of the property (which is the present-day site of Sallie's Antique Store), gave up their cottages and spent the summer of 1920 living in tents furnished by the Red Cross, so that their Lyttonite "sisters" could be properly housed.

Many of the buildings currently dotting the Lytton property once served other functions during the 54-year span when Lytton operated, first, as an orphanage, then as "a farm for boys and girls" and, finally, as an industrial school with correction as its goal.

For example, the Gym is now the Clothing Store, and the Swimming Pool Building is known as Large Appliances. The imposing two-story main building, which continues to serve as Lytton's focal point, was reopened in 1921.

Many other buildings have come and gone on the property, including the William Booth Schoolhouse, which was burned down by a 14-year-old boy who was tired of going to school. Rebuilt in 1923, it was eventually razed, when, in November, 1958, state law determined that the youth-oriented programs at Lytton were no longer "self-sustaining".



Parade - bound

Yet memories of Lytton's past still abound, including those of Anthony "Greg" Gregory, who served as Dean of Boys from 1944 to 1958. For fourteen years he taught boxing at Lytton. "The Lytton boys lost only once to the Healdsburg boys," he recalls. "But it wasn't because I was a great teacher. (Instead) you've got to remember that the Lytton boys came from very rough neighborhoods in the inner city areas. By the time they were ten years old, they'd had to fight a time or two, just to get a bite of food to eat. So when they got into that ring, they had the advantage."

Another story, this one from former "Lyttonite", Leo Hazard, recounts the episode of the "Monkey Tree". Located on the north side of Lytton Springs Road, the tree was always full of "monkeys" (children). One day, a boy who wasn't very well-liked, set the tree on fire. Immediately 150 boys and girls set up a bucket brigade, and managed to save their tree. But from then on, the boy who set the fire was no longer allowed to cross Lytton Springs Road. It was the kids' law, and they strictly enforced it.

Since 1959, however, Lytton has served adults rather than children. In the spring of '59, Salvation Army Captain George Duplaine and Brigadier Tobin brought men from the Salvation Army's San Francisco, Sacramento, and Oakland Adult Recovery Centers to Lytton for a "retreat". Lytton A.R.C. evolved from that experience, and is now considered one of the most successful centers within the Salvation Army system.

For the past 90 years, Lytton has represented a new beginning for children and adults alike. In fact, the orphans had a motto that spanned the original entrance gate (which was removed to make room for the freeway). "Mizpah" was their motto. It means, "May God watch over thee when we're apart."

Contributors to this article include: The Salvation Army Archives, Bob Curtis, Bob Taylor, Carrie Stith, Jean Thompson, Claire Rithner, Larry Granville, Casey Farrell and Jim Childe. A complete bibliography is available upon request.

Double the Fun

Betsy Bippart, HMVA Coordinator

The Toy Exhibit Reception and Holiday Boutique Preview will be a 'double header' occasion Wednesday, November 30 from 5-7 pm.

The HMVA (Healdsburg Museum & Volunteer Association) committee, 'Crafters', is putting finishing touches on our last project of the year, the "Holiday Boutique". There has been a change of venue since the last Recorder. Everyone attending the Reception for the Toy Exhibit at the Museum will preview our crafts in the Gift Shop.

As space is limited in the Gift Shop area we will not be selling items during the Reception. If you see something that you must have, it can be put on 'hold' until the reception is over. This means you can buy after 7:00 p.m. The 'official' advertised sale will be held from 10:00-12:00 am Thursday morning, Dec. 1. Hand made holiday gifts, ornaments, decorations and dolls (including Raggedy Ann) will be featured and all sales will benefit the Healdsburg Museum, Edwin Langhart, founder. The Gift Shop will continue to feature boutique items until Christmas.

Our thanks to Crafters' Chair Judy Babin and her committee: Eleanor Zak, Barbara Young, Virginia Prince, Shirley Davis, Verna Lafon, Betty Reukema, Jean McLarnon, Dawn Moser, Ginny Canfield, Norma Passarino, Mary Lou Eddinger, Rhea Bain, Susan Bierwirth, Geri Myers, Betsy Bippart.

Receptions have all been jolly this year, made so by your excellent attendance. Please drop in for a nip of cheese and a tot of wine and let us thank you in person for your splendid support through this challenging year.

Candy in the Gift Shop

Would you believe? We have broken with Museum tradition and the Gift Shop is selling candy (to take home) for the holidays. There are candy bars (chocolate of course, with toffee), foil-wrapped chocolate'n toffee fruit shapes and English Toffee in gift packages. All of these would be appreciated as hostess or business gifts. Each purchase is tagged with our 'logo' to show you support the Museum.

There is also a 'lollipop tree' with flavors too numerous to mention. They sell for \$1.00 ~no tax), are made in the USA and go so well in the mouth, in the sock, on the gift, or on the tree. They are the gourmet dessert of choice for the busy hostess. You will probably need several dozen! We are down to our last 250!

Thanks to all you docent-volunteers for devotion and inspiration in 1994. HMVA lives! Happy holidays to each and every!

New Members

- | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------|
| Kevin & Carolyn Cosgrove | Ken Fisher |
| Mario & Carolyn Lucchesi | Mildred Howie |
| Mr. & Mrs. James Wood | Dorothy M. Jaskson |
| Robert & Frances Rithner | Dennis Szody |
| Healdsburg Exchange Bank | Meredith Heald Loree |
| David & Mary Johnson | Grant & Bonnie Denmark |
| Jean C. Smith | Rosamond Tompkins |

Memorial donations

- | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <u>In memory of:</u> | <u>Donors</u> |
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| Ernest Frandsen | Bill & Bernice Auradou |
| Willard Clay Saville | Janet Saville Coleman |
| Dr. Byron Olson | Lampson Tractor & Equipment Co. |
| Angelo Biagini | Bill Auradou |
| Nina Rose Thompson VonTillow | Fred & Fern Naber |

Endowment Fund Launched

It all began with a gift. In 1829, a British citizen left \$515,169 "the whole of my property to the United States of America to found, at Washington, an establishment for the increase and diffusion of knowledge among men." James Smithson would be pleased with the result of his bequest. Today, sixteen of the world's greatest museums form the unusual complex known as the Smithsonian Institution.

Citizens of Healdsburg and its surrounding environs take note. We hereby announce the Endowment Fund for the Healdsburg Museum is up and running. Our goal is to raise between \$500,000 and \$1 million over the next decade to provide financial security for self-supporting Museum operations.

In order to let the public and friends of the Museum know of the Fund, we will send out letters with our intentions. Consider giving a charitable tax deductible donation or gift in the form of a will bequest, trust or insurance policy. We also would like to suggest thinking about the Museum's future in a holiday gift in memory of a friend or family member. Call the Museum or me for more information. Peggy Rawlins Chair, Endowment Fund Trustees.

Oral History

Peggy Rawlins

Three people have taken advantage of the oral history training this past month. I offer this class on an on going basis at my home. If interested, call the Museum or 431-1109.

Outreach Docent Training

Peggy Rawlins, Outreach Chair

One of the joys of being an Outreach docent is the pleasure you yourself receive when you share the Museum artifacts' history with others. A senior citizen group from Rohnert Park came up for the afternoon this month and thoroughly enjoyed their visit at the Museum.

Call if you wish to become a docent trained to give tours or speeches to service clubs and schools. We offer the next class December 6th, 11 a.m. to noon. Sign up at the Museum to make yourself happy

Gift Shop News

Eleanor Zak

Happy holidays, everyone. I'm sure you are all turning your thoughts toward Christmas—all those warm, fuzzy feelings. This year the Gift Shop is converting to a Boutique Shop. Many volunteers of the Museum have worked hard all year to make some wonderful gift items, such as dolls, animals, decorations, wreaths, and ornaments. They are classy, and I hope you'll make a point of stopping by the Gift Shop.

All of these marvelous items will be available for preview at the Toy Exhibit, November 30, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.. A special public sale will be held Thursday, December 1st from 10 a.m. to noon, and items will be available throughout the holiday season. Other Gift Shop items also will be available; just ask.

All of us at the Museum do hope you plan to make our Gift Shop your special place to shop, which, in turn, provides extra support. The Museum is a special place in our community. Be a part of it.