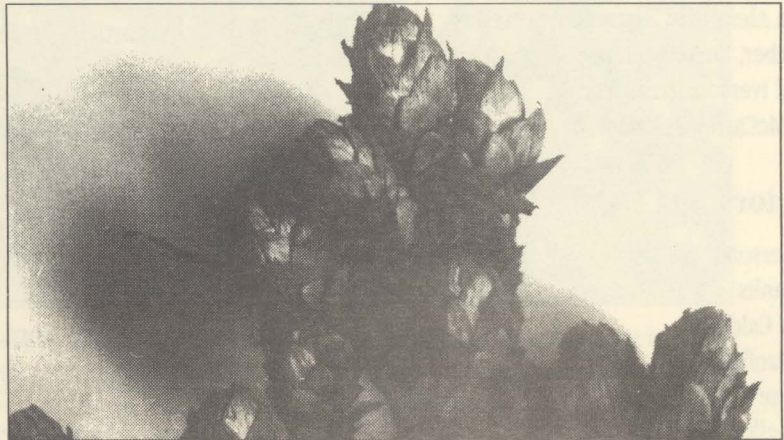


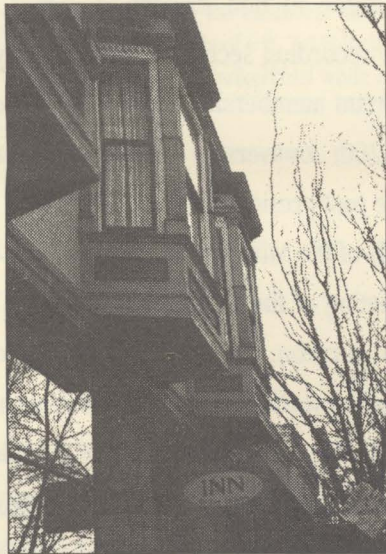


RUSSIAN RIVER RECORDER

Hop Boom The Hop Years 1880-1950



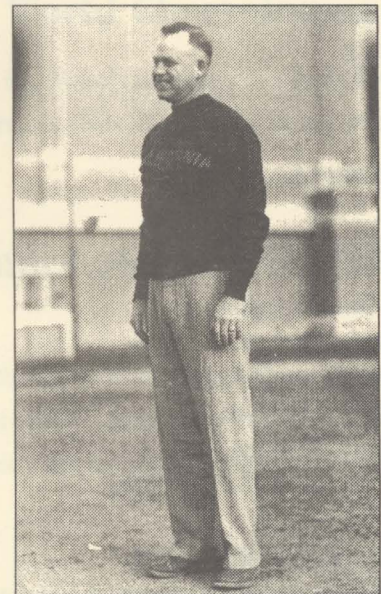
Hop flowers - light, scaled and pine cone shaped
(Healdsburg Museum Photo)



Healdsburg Inn on the Plaza, an
award winner

Healdsburg Inn on the Plaza Preservation Award

Dr. Edward Beeson World Champion



Dr. Eddie Beeson while coaching at
UC Berkeley in 1932.
(Photo courtesy Dr. Perry Beeson)



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RUSSIAN RIVER RECORDER

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and Historical Society
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And So It Seems --

This is my first edition as editor of the Russian River Recorder and I need to acknowledge the help and assistance afforded to me by Museum board members and those willing to impart information for this official publication of the Healdsburg Museum and Historical Society.

A special thanks to our curator Marie Djordjevich who has taken the time and effort to acquaint me with some of the mysteries of the computer age. She has been most patient and willing to help. Her definitive article on the Hop Boom which ties in nicely with the special exhibit now on display at the Museum shows her dedication to her profession and to her position as curator. She logged many long hours in mounting the Hop Boom exhibit and the results of her labor show in the success of the new exhibit. Her article reflects her meticulous research.

Another word of appreciation to Bob Rawlins, a very dedicated member of the board, past recording secretary and presently chairman of the extremely important membership committee. His detailed article on the Museum's 20th anniversary meeting and salute to founder Ed Langhart and the past presidents is in keeping with the historical perspective and goals of the Museum.

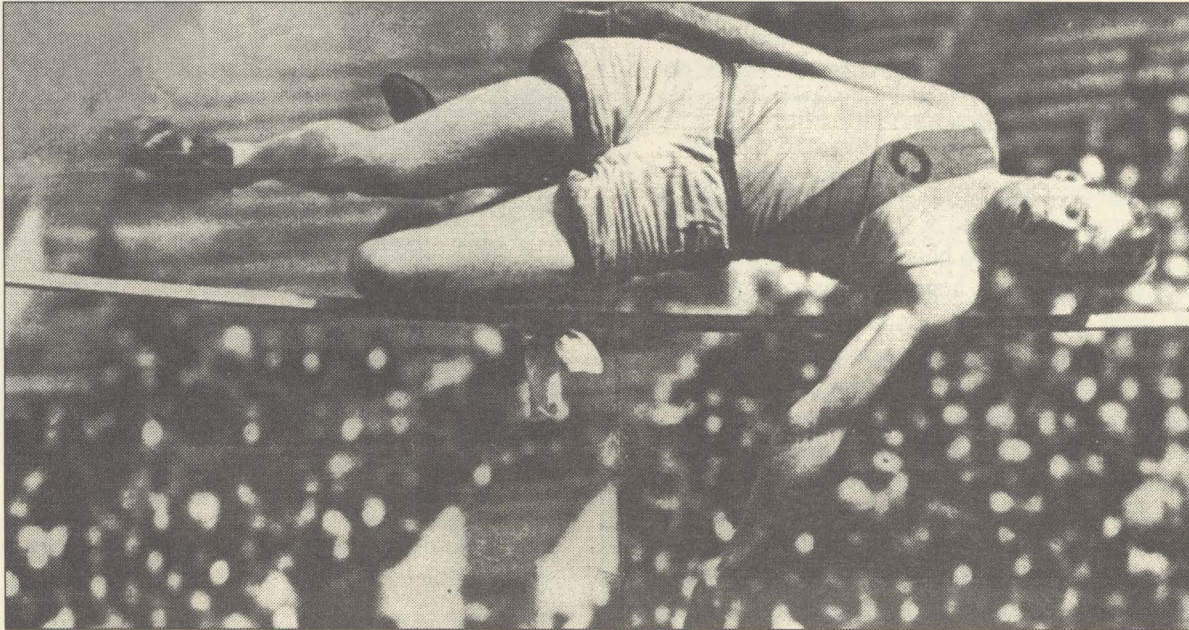
In January, 1996, at a meeting of the Healdsburg Kiwanis Club Dr. Perry Beeson, retired dental surgeon, gave a tribute to his late father, Dr. Edward Beeson who held the world high jump championship from May 2, 1914 to July 7, 1924. The accomplishments of Dr. Eddie was so interesting and so well presented I thought the Dr. Edward Beeson story deserved to be featured in the Museum's official publication. I am grateful to Dr. Perry Beeson for allowing us to utilize this information and for letting us use the many fine photos in his portfolio

I also wish to acknowledge the much appreciated help given to me by Steve Perkins of the Solo Press. Also please let me know what you would like to see covered in the Recorder. I always like to be pointed in the right direction !

I look forward to hearing from you.

Arnold Santucci
Editor

C O N T E N T S



Edward Beeson, the California Man on Springs who shattered all records for the running high jump, by clearing the bar at the remarkable height of 6 ft. 7-5/8 inches, breaking the record of 6 ft. 7 inches held by George Horine. The photo shows Beeson "rolling over" the handkerchief while making his wonderful jump. (Photo courtesy Healdsburg Museum)

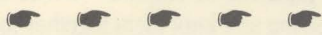
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Dr. Edward Beeson-A World Champion

A special tribute to one of Healdsburg's four World Champions. Dr. Perry Beeson, at a recent meeting of the Healdsburg Kiwanis Club, shares with us the story of his father's athletic achievements.

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A Tribute To The Founder and Past Presidents

Bob Rawlins

Museum Board member and membership chairman Bob Rawlins gives us a definitive and historical account of the 20th anniversary meeting saluting the founder of the Healdsburg Museum and Historical Society and the past presidents.

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Feature Story

The Hop Boom: Hop Years 1880-1950

by Marie Djordjevich

Curator Marie Djordjevich brings us an exciting account of the growth and eventual demise of the hop growing era, 1880-1950.

HOP BOOM

The Hop Years, 1880-1950

Marie Djordjevich, Curator

All roads will lead to the hop fields for the next few weeks. By Monday picking will be in full blast throughout the Healdsburg section, which is the center of the hop industry in the county. Thousands of men, women and children will be at work gathering the crop, and kilns will be running full time to prepare the output (Healdsburg Enterprise 1915)

Introduced to Sonoma County in 1858, hops were recorded as being a major crop by 1880, and by 1900 they were well established. From 1880-1950, the "hop boom" years, Sonoma County produced about one third of the hops grown in California. By 1960, Sonoma County hops were gone. A combination of disease, invention and bad economics caused the downfall of the industry in Sonoma County. However, far from forgotten, hops will always have a place in Sonoma County agricultural history.

The hop is a perennial plant that grows on tall vines. The leaves of the plant are generally three or five lobed, and both the leaves and the stems are rough to the touch. The hop flowers are extremely light, scaled and pine cone shaped. These flowers grow one to two inches long, and up to one inch in diameter. When they are ripe, the base of the scales around the core of the flower is covered with a waxy substance called lupulin, which contains the resins and oils that give beer its distinctive bitter taste.

There are many different varieties of hops. Sonoma County hop growers grew "seeded" hops, which means that they cultivated a male vine for every row of female vines in order for pollination to occur. Only the female produces the flowers that are used for brewing. Seeded hops were bigger and juicier than the seedless variety—they contained more lupulin—and this made Sonoma County hops popular.

The soil, climate, etc., of this section are well adapted to hop culture and Russian River hops are considered equal to the best in the market (Healdsburg Enterprise 1878)

Hops were first brought to Sonoma in 1858 by pioneer Amasa Bushnell. Bushnell, coming to California from the East, brought with him enough roots to plant ten acres of land. He experimented with hop growing in San Mateo, and when that failed made an attempt (again unsuccessful) in San Francisco. From what he learned of Sonoma County, its soil and climate seemed ideal for growing hops. Hops grow well in rich moist soil like that found along rivers and creeks, and the sandy clay soil of the Russian River bottom land, the Laguna de Santa Rosa and its tributaries, Green Valley Creek and Mark West Creek made Sonoma County conducive to hop growing. Bushnell transported his salvaged roots to Green Valley along the Russian River, and there he formed a partnership with Otis Allen. In 1858 they harvested 1,000 pounds of hops, which they sold for one cent per pound. In 1874 Allen harvested 2,500 pounds which he sold for twenty seven and a half cents per pound. This success generated a great deal of interest in hops, and fifteen years later hops were one of the most successful crops in the county.



Picking hops in the Windsor area (Healdsburg Museum photo)

...before the growers get their money they have their cost of preparation, which amounts to a big sum (Healdsburg Enterprise 1915)

There is much work and money that goes into the preparation for the hop season. Most growers were financed by the brokers, usually contracted a year in advance. A grower would write a contract with a broker in the winter, and the broker would advance the grower money to produce the crop. At the end of the year the brokers were paid back from the sale of the crop, and any money left over would be a profit for the grower.

Hop production was very labor intensive. In the late 1800s hop ranchers started using the high pole trellis system for growing hops which enabled growers to produce greater tonnage per acre. In this system eighteen to twenty-two foot redwood poles were set in rows eight feet apart at thirty-six to forty-eight foot intervals. Heavy wire was strung over the top of the poles, and lighter wire was attached to the heavy wire creating a grid-like system. String strands were tied to lighter cross wires every two to four feet, and workers—usually Japanese or Filipino—would then gather three or four strands of string and knot them together four feet above the ground. The rest would be tied to a stake in the ground that was next to a hop root. The fast growing hop vines were trained up the string, and they grew up to the wires and back down, creating a jungle-like field. In a couple of months the flowers were ripe and ready for picking.

Men, women and children and all classes of people find ready work... (Healdsburg Enterprise 1906)

Hops were picked from mid-August to mid-September. They are extremely perishable, and must be picked quickly once ripened. Thousands of people were needed each hop season to pick the fields in approximately three to four weeks. Much of the time it was local families, including hundreds of Italian immigrant families, and Pomo people that picked the hops. However, there

were also families from San Francisco and the East Bay, gypsies, 'Okies' from Oklahoma, 'Arkies' from Arkansas, German prisoners of war during World War II, various other immigrant groups over the years (Chinese, Japanese, Mexicans) that spent some time picking the featherweight flower. Kids picked hops to earn money for school clothes. Teachers picked hops to supplement their income. Migrant workers stopped to pick hops before moving to and from apples and prunes.

Hops grew on long stems called streamers and were picked by pulling the streamers from the vine, and then picking the hop flowers off of the streamers. The hops were picked into a basket, and the full baskets were dumped into large burlap sacks. Picking hops was hard work. Pickers wore long-sleeved clothing that covered their legs, and hats and scarves to protect their heads and faces from the rough vines. The pickers also wore gloves or wrapped their fingers with tape because the rough vines wore through the skin.

"Clean picking" was required. Too many leaves or stems in a basket meant that the picker had "dirty hops" and the consequences of this varied. Sometimes the guilty picker had to go to the hop kilns and pick out the leaves and the stems. Other times, after a few warnings, the picker was fired. Each picker and sack was given a corresponding number for identification. Pickers were paid by the pound, and 250 to 400 pounds was considered a good days work. Hop pickers usually—throughout the seventy year hop boom—made one or one and a half cents per pound picked. Hop picking could take on a competitive atmosphere, with pickers trying to pick the most poundage per day.

With many pickers coming from many places, hop ranchers usually supplied a campground for the season. Many accounts of the hop pickers camps describe a lively atmosphere that found the people singing and dancing, telling stories, and playing games around a bonfire at night. As Joe Rochioli recalls: "We used to have on the ranch a campground, and it was a beautiful place down on the river, we had it all clean, we used to furnish them with bed-springs, we had platform mattresses, ice boxes, wood, electricity, water... I used to go down there and loved it. They used to have a bonfire every night. And they'd just stand around that bonfire telling stories like you wouldn't believe" (Rochioli 1996). Also, at the end of the season, many ranchers showed their appreciation by

throwing a watermelon feed, a wiener roast, or a barbecue for all the help.

...proper or improper drying of the season's crop could mean profit or loss for the ranch owner

Twice a day the hops were weighed right in the field, with a scale attached to a cross bar and pole. A bookkeeper recorded the weight of each sack of hops as well as the name and number of the picker. The sacks full of hops were then thrown onto wagons or trucks and taken away to the hop kilns for drying.

Some hop kilns were built on a hillside so the wagons or trucks were able to drive up to the drying floor level which was twenty to thirty feet above the ground. However, many kilns were not built on a hillside, and a tramway system with flatcars was used to get the hops up to the drying floor level. Large heating pipes extended upwards from the furnaces to under the drying floor, which was made of wooden slats spaced about an inch apart. The upper structure of the kiln consisted of funnel-shaped ventilators—called cupolas—that opened and closed, creating a draft that pulled the heat upwards through the hops. Hops took about seventeen to twenty hours to dry; the 75 percent moisture content of newly picked hops was reduced to 10-15 percent. A good kiln manger could tell by touch if the hops were done. Once the hops were dried, they were taken by carts to the cooler.

After the hops were cooled, they were pressed by machine into cloth covered bales. These bales, averaging 200 pounds each, would measure five feet long, two feet wide, and two and a half feet high. They would be stacked and stored for the buyers.

Before any hops were marketed they had to be inspected for quality by samples. As the Healdsburg Enterprise wrote in 1928: "With hops, as with other industries, it is the product of high quality that brings good prices and helps to maintain the market at a point where the grower can make a fair profit." A buyer could detect by smell if there was any mold in the finished hops. Also, a grower would get docked money from the contract if there were too many leaves and stems in the final product. The bales were delivered to Santa Rosa, and shipped out from there. "Some of our buyers weren't consistent. We sold to the best buyers, whoever gave us the best prices... We had no idea where our hops went, what breweries or anything. We sold to a broker, and they in turn sold to breweries" (Rochioli 1996).



Weighing hops at the Nalley Ranch on Eastside Road, Circa 1900 (Healdsburg Museum photo)

...but the wonderful fluctuations and unlooked for changes of values in the past have taught us that no one can possess more accurate comprehension of hops prospects than anybody else (Healdsburg Tribune 1895)

The hop industry was always a gamble. "It was a risky business," states Alex Vescova. Prices fluctuated wildly—sometimes ranchers received a dollar a pound, sometimes less than a dime. Prices were set by the world market—failure of a crop in one part of the world could drive the price up, and success could send it falling. World events would influence the market in big ways.

World War I and Prohibition combined to create a wild ride for the Sonoma County hop market. During World War I The US wartime liquor laws reduced the alcohol content of beer to 2.75 percent and shut the breweries to save grain. National prohibition was looming on the horizon and so hop growers organized and lobbied in congress. Then demand from England, who was buying California hops to put her breweries back in business after the great war, created a mini-boom in the California hop industry between 1918 and 1919. The last crop in 1919 was sold for 85 1/2 cents per pound. However, by 1920 English hop fields were re-established, and England complained about the quality of California hops (filled with dirt and leaves). Prohibition and Depression settled in on the hop growing industry (LeBaron 1993).

With the introduction of Prohibition in 1920 hop production dropped off drastically—"they couldn't sell those hops... they couldn't give them away" (Vescova 1996)—and both of the local breweries disappeared. Many farmers replaced their grape and hop fields with prune orchards. In fact, in 1924 Healdsburg began promoting itself as the "buckle of the prune belt." However, some of the hop ranchers hung in there, and when World War II started, the hop prices soared again, and the industry was revived.

The outbreak of World War II was good for the hop industry for two reasons. One: Unlike World War I when the government had shut the breweries to save grain, the government did everything to encourage hop production. During World War II beer was considered an essential commodity for the GIs; the government offered steel, gas, anything to keep the industry going in order to supply the servicemen. Two: the major hop producing countries—Germany, Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia could not export, therefore the United States became the main exporter. Prices rose to \$1.25 per pound. The hop industry experienced a mini boom that lasted through the war years.

It was like a window in time... Seventy-five years from the first planting, and then it was all over (Bob Fairbairn 1996)

In the 1950s the hop business died down, and by 1960 all operating hop yards were closed. What happened? There are a few reasons given for the demise of the hop industry. All resulted in the buyers turning away from Sonoma County.

After World War II the trend in America turned towards light beer. A large part of this was attributed to women, who went to work during the war, and began drinking beer. Brewers began using more grains to make the lighter beer. Remember that Sonoma County hop ranchers grew seeded hops with more lupulin. This is what gave beer its strong bitter flavor. Pre-World War II the

greater lupulin content, plus the larger size, made Sonoma County hops valuable. Now, with America's taste for lighter beer, the opposite was true.

Not only did the demand for Sonoma County hops fall with the taste for lighter beers, but the demand for US hops fell in general. When World War II ended, the European countries began re-establishing their hop production. US hop export dropped off.

The Downey Mildew, a hop plant disease, was reported as early as 1903 in Sonoma County. The moist soil so conducive to hop growing, made the plants susceptible to the mold. Hop growers did not know how to combat this mold; however, the hop industry survived for several decades. After World War II the country's chemical companies were left with a surplus of ammonia for ammunitions manufacturing. They began using nitrate as a fertilizer. Though Sonoma County hop growers had been dry farming successfully, they began to irrigate using the ammonia fertilizer in the water. This produced a perennial dampness, and caused an outbreak of Downey Mildew that stayed in the soil. Hop crops, as well as hop ranches, were destroyed. Buyers began buying hops in the Yakima Valley in eastern Washington because the soil there froze in winter killing the Downey Mildew.

Larger tracts of land were made feasible for farming with the advent of the hop picking machine invented by Santa Rosa resident Florian Dauenhauer. The machine that Dauenhauer invented did not pick the hops off the vines in the fields like the workers did, but rather the vines were fed into the machine which then separated the flowers from the vine. A few workers can cut the vines and feed them into the machine, versus the large number of pickers needed to service each yard. Over 1000 acres could be farmed using the new machine. Washington and Idaho contained the larger farms, and therefore were able to produce more hops. Sonoma County, with its small tract farms averaging 50 acres, was unable to compete. Dauenhauer received his patents in 1944, and helped change the dynamics of the hop industry.

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Dr. Edward Beeson and his wife, Bera, are pictured when Healdsburg dedicated the monument honoring the former Olympic Club star and three other world-record breakers.

(Original photo courtesy Santa Rosa Press Democrat, as it appeared in May, 1964 Olympian Magazine)

Dr. Edward Beeson - A World Champion

In the northeast corner of Healdsburg's Plaza Square you will find a monument dedicated to the four athletes of our community who once held world's records or were champions in their respective sports. The four renowned athletes were Dr. Edward Beeson, who set a high jump record in 1914 that remained unbroken for ten years; Ralph Rose, shot put champion from 1909 to 1923; Hazel Hotchkiss Wightman, women's tennis singles champion in 1909-1910-1911; and Robert A. Boehm, Jr., 136-cubic inch inboard motorboat hydroplane champion since 1955. This article is a salute to Dr. Edward Beeson.

The monument, a six-foot high Olympic torch sitting on a one foot octagonal base, was erected in 1964 with appropriate ceremonies. Civic leaders, spurred by past president George Barry of the Healdsburg Rotary Club, erected the monument to Dr. Beeson and the three other champions.

In an article about Dr. Beeson published in the Olympic Club's May, 1964 issue of the Olympian Magazine the author writes:

In the dim past of 1914, a half century ago, a young fellow named Ed Beeson set a high jump record that remained unbroken for 10 years. His mark was 6 feet, 7-5/6 inches, phenomenal when the 7 foot jump wasn't even a dream.

Beeson made his record jump as a member of the Olympic Club track and field team competing in the fifth annual Pacific Coast Conference meet, May 2, 1914 at Berkeley.

Friends recall that Beeson set his record jump while competing against George Horine, the record holder of the day with a mark of 6 foot-7. The event was spotlighted by the Conference to give Horine and Beeson a chance to better the world record.

Behind Beeson's great jump is another story. It was related by a Mr. Richardson, who recalled how Beeson, with his variation of the Western Roll, raised the world's high jump mark to 6 feet 7-5/16 inches.

The story of Beeson's career is almost a complete parallel to that of George Horine. Both went to high school and college in California and each worked out his variant of the Western Roll, unknown to the other, although separated by only 120 miles. Beeson attended high school at Healdsburg. Like Horine, Beeson was not a high jump prodigy and his best mark in high school, before he developed his own style, was only 5-foot-2, a height he jumped in his first meet. Ralph Rose, a high school classmate, became interested in young Beeson and told him that his body action called for a takeoff that would enable him to put his left side to the bar, using a left foot takeoff. Beeson tried the suggestion first by running straight at the bar and trying to turn in the air to accomplish his purpose. Later, Rose suggested that he run from the left side because it would require less effort. Beeson tried this and found it easy to handle. From then on it was only a matter of practice. He cleared 5-10 before graduating from high school. Entering the University of California in 1910, Beeson was fortunate in the matter of coaching as head coach Walter Christie made no

attempt to force him to run at right angles to the bar, as was the custom in those days. Because he was also called on to run the high hurdles, Beeson's progress in the high jump was slow. His best height in his freshman year was only 5-11. He leaped 6-2 as a sophomore, did 6-4 as a junior and equalled Sweeney's record 6-foot-5-5/8 in his senior year, but by this time Horine had set the record at 6-7.

Horine's record served as an inspiration for Beeson, who drew a crossbar on the wall of his room at 6-8. Each morning and evening he would look at it and three weeks before he broke Horine's record, with the encouragement of trainer Bill Von Poelnitz of the Olympic Club, he felt sure he would establish a new mark.

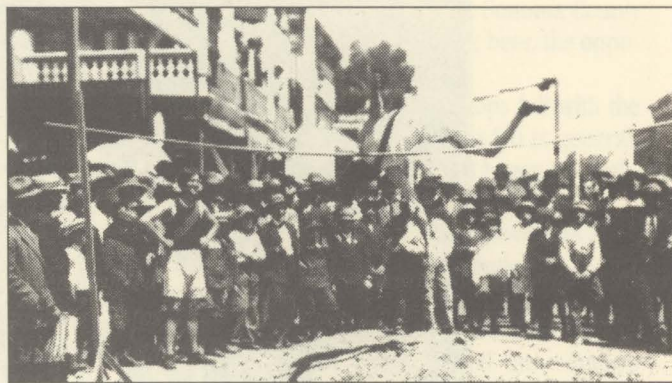
Consequently on that day, May 2, 1914, at Berkeley, everything went right with Beeson. He felt it was his day - his form was right, he felt right, and he set the world's record at 6-foot-7 5/16. Actually, the bar measurement was 6-foot-8 1/2, almost the exact height that Beeson had marked on the wall of his room.

Judges ruled that his takeoff spot was a fraction high and placed the record at the lower figure. There it remained in the book for ten years until Harold Osborn, also using a variant of the Western Roll, raised it to 6-8 1/2 in 1924.

Beeson's 1914 world record jump not only stood nearly 10 full years as the world record, but remained the Pacific Association record, the oldest in the P.A. books for 22 years. Dr. Beeson served as a 1st Lt. in the U.S. Army Dental Corps during the first World War. He also officiated at Inter-Collegiate and Olympic try out track meets.



Bera Mothorn Beeson, third from left, was a member of the Healdsburg High School's Girls Basketball State Championship team in 1908. Members of the team, from left, were Gertrude Field, Aubrey Butler, Bera Mothorn Beeson, Kathleen Swisher Pope, Una Williams Anderson, Elva Beeson Grant, and Audrey Walters Heudry. (Photo courtesy Dr. Perry Beeson)



Ed Beeson winning the High Jump, June 26, 1909 on West Street (now Healdsburg Avenue) in front of the Plaza Hotel. This event was part of the Winter Carnival. (Healdsburg Museum photo)

For many years he found time despite the demands of his dental practice, his family and his activities in community and civic affairs, to coach the Healdsburg High School track teams. In 1938 the school named its track field - Beeson Field - for him.

In 1932 Dr. Beeson was called to Berkeley as full time assistant to coach Walter Christie who was retiring at the end of the season. He served six months.

Dr. Beeson had no intention of abandoning his profession and taking over as head coach when Christie left and told the university he would not accept an offer of the job.

As one sports writer put it: "Beeson takes over as full time assistant to Christie through his final track season to help the man who refined his jumping style. His is purely a work of love and repayment of a debt to Christie whose fine coaching made Beeson a world champion in 1914."

Beeson's rival George Horine gave full credit for the introduction of the Western Roll (also known as the Beeson Roll) of high jumping to Beeson. However, Dr. Beeson never did claim the honor. Instead, he contended that his fellow Healdsburg athlete great, Ralph Rose, suggested that he take a side run at the bar and from that the "Beeson" roll style developed.

Dr. Perry Beeson who spoke about his father and his accomplishments at the January 16 meeting of the Healdsburg Kiwanis Club was quick to add that his mother, Bera Mothorn Beeson, was a member of the Healdsburg High School Girls Basketball State Champions in 1908. Other members of that team included Gertrude Field, Aubrey Butler, Kathleen Swisher Poppe, Una Williams Anderson, Elva Beeson Grant and Audrey Walters Huedry.

(material supplied by Dr. Perry Beeson and edited by Arnold Santucci)

(Acknowledgements: Dr. Perry Beeson for allowing us to use family photos and newspaper and magazine articles; The Olympian Magazine, May, 1965; The Healdsburg Tribune, February 24, 1966).



Verna Lafon, 1982 president of the Historical Society, addresses the crowd at the HM & HS Annual Meeting. At the left is William Caldwell, a past president and program chairman, and to the right, past president Carol Muir. (Museum photo by Charlotte Anderson)

Twentieth Anniversary Annual Meeting:

A Tribute To The Founder and Past Presidents

Bob Rawlins

On Thursday evening January 25, approximately 150 Healdsburg Museum and Historical Society (HM & HS) members and guests gathered at the Villa Chanticleer Annex for the 20th anniversary annual dinner meeting. The mood was festive and the array of salads, casseroles and desserts was truly sumptuous. Our members surely are great cooks and bakers.

Vice-president Grant Canfield called the meeting to order promptly at 7:30 p.m., explained that president Norbert Babin was on a long-planned vacation and read a message which Norbert had left. Grant thanked De Andersen and the Volunteer Association Committee members for their most capable efforts in organizing the meeting.

Grant introduced our guests, Mayor and Mrs. Kent Mitchell, Council member Carla Howell, City Manager Chet Wystepok, Assistant City Manager Barbara Jason White, City Recreation Director and Mrs. Neil Smart and Healdsburg Tribune managing editor Dan and Jane Stebbins.

Items of Business

Treasurer Richard Iverson noted that the Society had finished 1994 in the black but had a small deficit for the 1995 fiscal year.

The HM & HS by-laws changes submitted with the annual meeting notice were approved.

The following officers and directors to serve until 1998 were unanimously voted into office:

President: Grant Canfield

Vice-president: Susan Bierwirth

Assistant Treasurer : (New Position) Persis McCarley

Recording Secretary: Roberta Alexander

Directors: De Andersen, Lee Engelke, Bob Rawlins, Garry Rosenberg and Arnold Santucci. Catherine Curtis, filling and unexpired term, will serve to 1977.

The 1996 Nominating Committee - Betsy Bippart, Chair; Bill Caldwell, Carol Muir, Peggy Rawlins and June Smith - was approved by unanimous vote.

Grant thanked retiring directors Betsy Bippart, Thelma Frey, Peggy Rawlins and Eleanor Zak for their services and also the 1995 Nominating Committee members Don Reukema, chairman, Bill Caldwell, Nanci Gunnerson, June Jones and Fern Naber.

Curator's Remarks

Marie Djordjevich noted that today was her fourth month anniversary in the job. The transition with Claire Rithner had gone smoothly and Marie felt comfortable in her job and was fond of the Museum. Museum volunteers were most helpful in the transition.

The Museum goal for 1996 is to complete the second phase of the Museum Assessment Program (MAP 211) which is concerned with collection management. Marie is writing for a grant for the evaluation of the Museum. The Toy exhibit will close February 4 and an exhibit on hops will open February 27. Members who would like to volunteer their services are always welcome.

Awards

De Andersen led off the awards presentations with the "Volunteer of the Year Award" to Betsy Bippart. Betsy helped organize and was the first coordinator of the Volunteer Association, organized the Instant Wine Cellar fund raiser, co-chaired the Autumn Fest, worked with the crafters for the Christmas Boutique and served on the board of directors.

For some years, the Society has presented awards of merit for preservation, restoration, addition to or remodeling of existing historic buildings in Healdsburg. Bob Curtis, HM&HS board liaison to the Historic Building Preservation Committee, presented the 1995

Historic Preservation

Award to:

Mike and Karen Miller for the preservation of the residence at 301 Tucker Street.

Genny Jenkins for preservation of the Healdsburg Inn on the Plaza. Arnold Santucci, standing in for the Rev. Canon Marvin Bowers, for lifetime preservation of St. Paul's Episcopal Church.

Twentieth Anniversary Program

Bill Caldwell, outgoing HM& HS past president, acted as master of ceremonies for the evening's program, a tribute to catalyst Edwin Langhart, Historical Society founder, and a recap of the first 20 years of growth.

Colonel Bill Lucius, former Healdsburg Mayor (whose name we see every time we cross the Highway 101 bridge heading north over the Russian River) recalled how he first met Edwin Langhart. Bill moved to Healdsburg in 1966 and met Ed when they were both on the Industrial Committee. Ed told Bill what a small city should be and what he (Bill) should do to further the goals of Healdsburg. When Ed was ready to retire from his job as City Clerk, he wanted no party. But the Council organized an affair in the Firehouse at which time Ed was designated Healdsburg Historian.

The first Museum was in the old Tribune Building, now the Senior Center and Bill, as Mayor, and Ed's many friends were present at its dedication.

When Ed died in February 1979, Bill knew he had lost a great friend and advisor; there was no individual so dedicated to Healdsburg as Ed Langhart.

Bill Caldwell then recounted the events leading up to the nation's Bicentennial celebration in 1975 which also laid the groundwork for the Healdsburg Museum. In 1974, several local cities organized an action committee for the 200th anniversary of our Nation. In September, 1974 Ed Langhart was designated first archivist of Healdsburg to form a committee for the Bicentennial celebration. By June the following year, 18 individual organizations had representatives on the committee. In August 1975, the great grandson of Harmon Heald presented the bible of Harmon Heald to the City. In November 1975, the City approved the purchase of the Tribune building (now the Senior Center) as Museum and City Hall Annex. In June 1976, the City Council formally established the Museum.

Earlier on January 29, 1976 Ed Langhart chaired a meeting of citizens interested in establishing an Historical Society. The idea was enthusiastically supported and by July 4, 1976 the membership charter listed 288 names.

Bill introduced Crystal Langhart, Ed's widow and noted that the two had first met during the Bicentennial meetings which were described.

Bill then introduced the Historical Society past presidents who were with us that evening.

Dr. Francis Ritz (1981) relayed how Ed had told him where old bottles might be found; when Dr. Ritz would bring them to Ed's

office, no matter how busy, Ed would clear the office to talk about the new find;

Verna Lafon (1982) said how proud Ed would be of the success of this Museum;

Dennis Hill (1984) noted that he was president when the first Historic Homes of Healdsburg book was published.

Carol Muir (1987-88), then new in town, was amazed at being asked to head the Historical Society. Carol was also designated bidder for the Society when Captain Fitch's desk came up for auction; "just hold your hand up until the desk is knocked down to you," she was told.

Nancy Young Smith who spoke for Phil Smith (1989-91) remembered the meaningful relationship that Phil had with the Historical Society and how much he enjoyed his work for the Museum.

Bill Caldwell (1992-93) noted the most dramatic moment in his term came when the City, in a budget crunch, decided to terminate funding for the Museum; subsequently a team of members negotiated a contract with the City to operate and manage the Museum. Grant Canfield reported that five or six drafts of the agreement were tabled before the final one was approved. Now the Society pays \$1 a year to lease the Museum and the City pays the Society \$1 a year to operate it.

Wrapping up the historical presentation, Peggy Rawlins, outgoing Endowment Committee chair, recalled the efforts of a committee of five to raise funds to turn the Carnegie Library building into the Museum. The Museum trustees at the time - Bob Jones, Thelma Frey, Emil Passalacqua, Rhea Bain, Ted Etheredge, Phil Smith and she - helped guide the effort. Ed Gauer most generously matched \$110,000 of the \$350,000 ultimately raised. The Committee also dealt with lighting, plumbing, landscaping, carpet, woodwork, elevator and a host of other details which had to be handled before the ribbon in the entry was cut at the May, 1989 opening.

In closing Grant thanked those involved with the program and those who had attended before adjourning the meeting at 9 p.m.

Special thanks are extended to members of the Healdsburg Museum Volunteer Association and to De Andersen, Mary Jane Elze and Jean McLarnon who planned and coordinated a most successful 20th anniversary annual meeting.

"A Substantial Ornament To The Town"

An historic commercial building located on prime downtown property, facing the south side of the Plaza Square, was awarded the HM&HS Preservation Award in the Commercial Category.

The building, constructed in 1900 as the "home of handsome stores and up-to-date dental parlors", is the Healdsburg Inn on the Plaza, owned and remodeled by innkeeper Genny Jenkins.

The Healdsburg Inn on the Plaza, a prestigious bed and breakfast establishment, was purchased by Jenkins in 1980 and the first phase of converting the historic building was completed two years later when the upstairs was turned into 8 guest rooms.



Award winning Inn on the Plaza

In the ensuing years the owner added two more rooms, renovated the downstairs shops, restored the fabrications building, added an open porch, added fireplaces and enclosed the porch on the street side.

In the March 7, 1901 issue of the Healdsburg Tribune, a front page article heralded the completion of the EA Kruse Block. (Now the site of the Healdsburg Inn).

The newspaper report, very complimentary, calls it a "substantial ornament to the town."

The reporter wrote as follows:

The fine Kruse building which is located on the south side of the Plaza, is about completed and those who have rented stores and offices have moved or are moving. The building is a substantial ornament to the town, being modern and up-to-date, with excellent foundations and walls, constructed of the best brick to be obtained in this state. The front walls are composed of terra cotta bricks from Lincoln, Placer County, and the other walls are made of San Rafael bricks. The lower floor is divided into three fine store rooms with large show windows of plate glass. There are four sets

of offices on the second floor and a fine broad staircase leading to them from the front of the building. All of the offices have Bay windows. The entrance to stores on the first floor are laid in ornamental tessellated tiling, presenting a neat and attractive appearance. The entire lower front is composed of iron, steel and plate glass. Over the cornice in a semi-oval panel is the following legend in raised gold letters: "Kruse Building, erected in 1990."

The architecture is modern renaissance, and the architect who drew the plans is A.J. Barnett of San Francisco. Mr. Fred Kruse superintended the entire construction of the edifice, there being no contract work done. The interior of the second story is finished in natural woods, some of the hall trimming being embossed and presenting a beautiful appearance. The west room is occupied by Wells, Fargo & Co.'s office and the western Union Telegraph office. The front window and part of the room - divided by a railing - is occupied by E.H. Beckas as an express office. In the rear of the express and telegraph office is located Mr. Kruse's private room. The doors and windows are elegantly lettered in gold. The whole constitutes a very fine office.

The middle store is occupied by Vitousek & Co., as a first class shoe store and they have an elegant display of goods in their window. In the rear of the store is located the manufacturing and repair shop. The east and third store is rented but not yet occupied.

Ascending the east flight of stairs you turn to the left and enter the dental parlors of Dr. J.M. McClish which are fitted up very tastefully and with the latest appliances for performing first class work. The dental parlor is in the front and the reception room and work room are in the rear. The window and door are lettered in gold. There are two front suites of rooms between Dr. McClish's office and the office of Dr. H.G. Hewitt which is very elaborately fitted up. The reception and operating rooms is in the front, the operating chair setting in the bay window. The extracting room is in the rear of the front parlor and is a well lighted room and back of this is the laboratory and work room, all complete in their appointments for modern dental work.

In the rear of Dr. Hewitt's office is located a photography gallery of three rooms, finely furnished and will be occupied by W.A. Mooers.

Druggist C.D. Evans and wife will occupy the adjoining suite as housekeeping rooms. There are several other rooms which will be fine offices. A covered porch extends along the entire rear of the building, furnishing a fine courtside view for the upper rooms and a portico for the rear of the stores on the lower floor. There is a long shed building in the rear, separate from the main building and divided into numerous apartments for wood, coal, etc.

The building is Healdsburg's most complete modern structure and Mr. Kruse has shown a most commendable public spirit in making the improvement. The carpenter work has been under the direction of W.H. Chaney and reflects credit on his abilities in his line. William Burgett erected the brick work and H.H. Pyne did the plastering, local labor being employed throughout.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church - Beautifully Maintained

With a history dating back to the 1870's when the parish was first established, St. Paul's Episcopal Church's members have shown a special reverence for their church.

The beautiful church, located at the corner of Matheson and East Streets, with the original stained glass windows and redwood pews dating back to 1902 stands as a monument to those parishioners, past and present, who helped by their labor and or contributions to create a beautiful sanctuary for the parishioners as well as the entire Healdsburg community.

The Rev. Canon Marvin Bowers, rector of St. Paul's for over 22 years, submitted the request to the HM&HS for consideration in the Lifetime Maintenance Award.

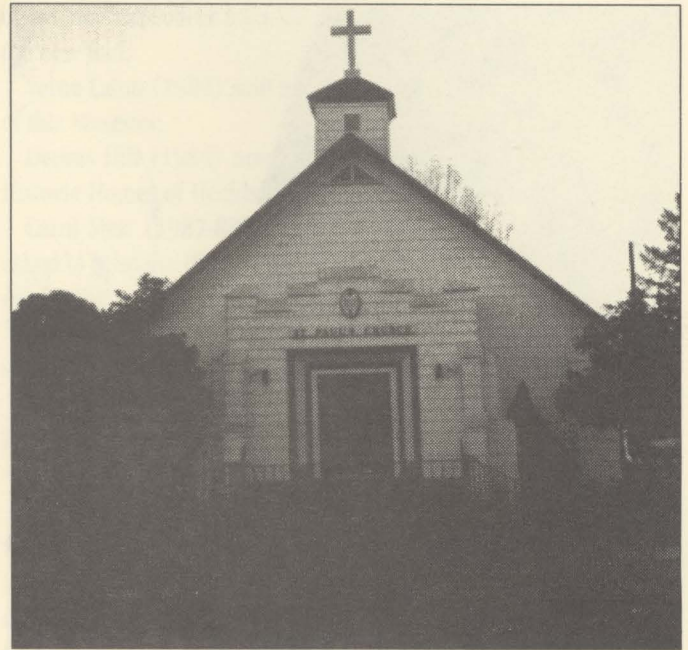
In the official application to the Historical Society Mrs.. Claire Posson, Directoress of the Altar Guild, wrote:

The Allen-Bowen History of Sonoma County 1879 says of St. Paul's: The Episcopal Parish at Healdsburg was founded as a Mission early in 1978. Services were held in the Methodist Episcopal Church South as well as the Grange and homes of members. There were about 50 members.

The Guild Hall built in 1888 faced Matheson Street near the site of the present Parish Hall which was built in 1955. The architect-builder of the Guild Hall was the father of the late Nora McMinn. Mrs. Hannah Paxton, a wealthy member of the church, promised to build a church from rock quarried from her property known as Madrona Knoll.

However, financial problems and illness prevented her from doing so. In 1900 the Guild Hall was moved to its present location and converted into the Church.

Mrs. Rosalie Sheriffs, an active member (and later a generous benefactor) remembered with good cause the raw hide seats. In 1902 the chairs were replaced with handmade redwood pews made by cabinet maker William Floyd for \$50. The pews (refur-



St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Lifetime Maintenance Award

bished in the 1990s) are still in use today.

In 1913 the church was consecrated by Bishop William Hall Moreland, then Bishop of Northern California.

The front of St. Paul's was remodeled in 1931. In 1960 the church building was lowered. The front steps were changed to either side of a landing. Not only was access to the church made easier, but it provided space for the rector to greet people before or after services.

In 1993 the church's governing board approved a considerable expenditure to retrofit the church building and make it earthquake safe --- a haven in more ways than one.

The Residential Award

Recognized by the HM&HS in the Residential Category was the outstanding work accomplished by Michael and Karen Miller in the restoration and preservation of their home at 301 Tucker Street. Restoration on the 1100 square Queen Anne home, referred to as the Thomas Field House, dating back to 1868, was begun in August 1990. Only minor changes were made in the original structure. In 1993 the Millers started building the addition. On the west side of the house part of the old kitchen roof plank walls were removed and the new two story wing was added. This included a kitchen, breakfast room, upstairs bedroom and bathroom and two small balconies. The exterior was designed to match the original 1901 bays. The interior also continued in the Victorian style. The Millers are now in the final stages of landscaping. In the front of the south bay China Roses "Mutabilis" have been planted and to the left tea roses "Msr. Tellier", both antique roses appropriate to the Queen Anne style.

Healdsburg Historical Society

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