



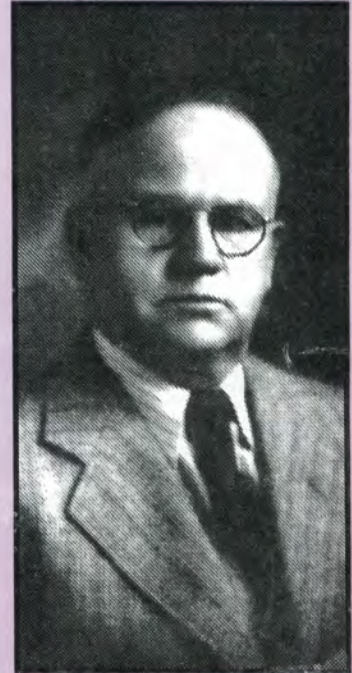
RUSSIAN RIVER RECORDER

AUTUMN 1999 • ISSUE 66

An Official Publication of the Healdsburg Museum and Historical Society



Nercilla Jones Harlan



Dr. J. W. Seawell

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**A History of
Healdsburg General
Hospital: A
Community Effort**
by Marie Djordjevich

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Interviewed by Holly Hoods



IN THIS ISSUE

Autumn 1999, our third issue this year. And it was an extremely interesting one to put together.

Lincoln and Johnson Streets. You'll find her report not only interesting but most informative.

The Healdsburg General Hospital has a fascinating history, culminating in the community taking back the hospital this past year. Marie Djordjevich, our curator, does an excellent job of giving us the highlights of this history. It is interesting to note that the first hospital is now the very popular Camillia Inn on North Street. Also check out the medical artifacts on page 3, most interesting.

Celebrating one hundred years of Cliving, Clarence H. (Barney) Barnard gives us a vivid picture of his life and times in an oral history interview conducted by assistant curator Holly Hoods. This is an example of how important oral histories are, not only for the Museum's archives, but for the community as a whole.

Congratulations and Best Wishes, Barney!

June Maher Smith again has done a yeoman's job in bringing us the history of another historic home - the beautiful Dr. J.R. Swisher mansion at

Arnold Santucci,
Editor

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An interesting and detailed account of the beautiful mansion at 642 Johnson Street.

7. A History of Healdsburg General Hospital: A Community Effort

by Marie Djordjevich

Our Curator, in her usual fine and professional manner, shows us, through its history, how the Healdsburg General Hospital has always been a community endeavor.

10. Clarence H. (Barney) Barnard at 100 Years

An oral history of Barney's Life and Times, interviewed by Holly Hoods.

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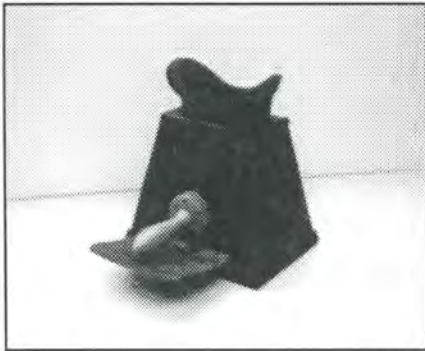
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*The Official Publication of the Healdsburg
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MEDICAL ARTIFACTS

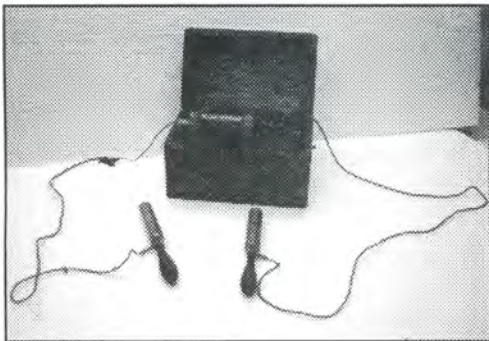
The Healdsburg Museum has in its collection a number of early medical devices. They are pictured here:



Early Flourscope viewer (forerunner of x-rays)



Heat lamp; was used for treatment of arthritic joint diseases



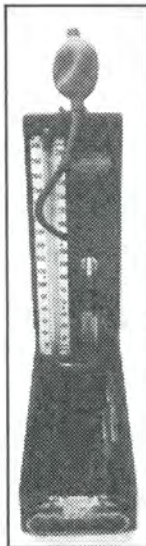
Tesla Battery, used for electrical stimulation



Vibrator for aches and pains



Breathing Apparatus



Blood Pressure Machine



Glaseptic Nebulizer - inhaler



The Swisher Residence, circa 1900. Dr. Swisher's son is seated on the porch.



Dr. James Riley Swisher was the original owner of this impressive beautiful Queen Anne home which has graced the corner of Lincoln and Johnson Streets for many years. Just how many years is debatable. Sources differ on the year, or years, of its construction. According to one source, local contractor James Terry built the home around 1894 using

**The
Dr. J. R.
Swisher
House
at
642 Johnson Street
by
June Maher Smith**



three sets of mail order house plans to guide him. However, the *Healdsburg Tribune* in its December 28, 1899 issue states that contractor A.F. Rath is "building a fine residence for Dr. J.R. Swisher in north Healdsburg." The city tax assessment figures seem to support the latter. The value of improvements on Dr. Swisher's

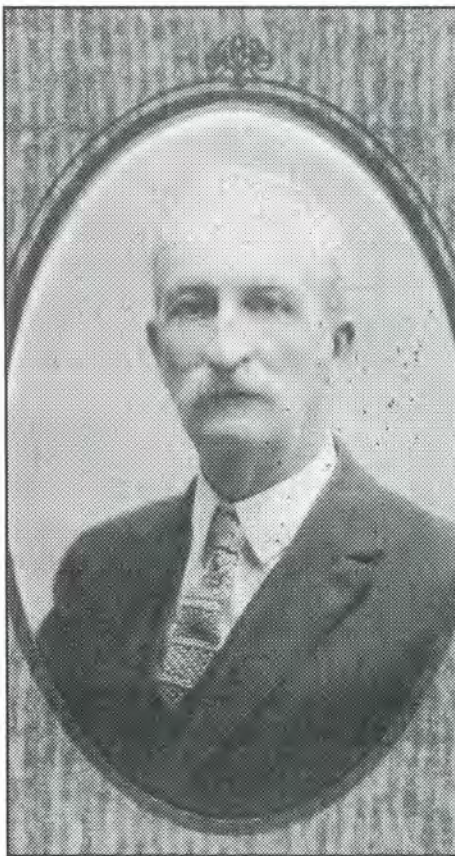
Please see page 5

land jumped from \$1600 to \$2500 on the 1900 tax rolls and went up again to \$3500 the following year. Local lore tells us that Dr. Swisher allowed some of his patients to pay their medical bills with labor, such as adding a new fireplace or otherwise upgrading or making repairs in his home. At any rate, this lovely three-story home built of virgin redwood (which the doctor personally approved) is still one of the most striking residences in Healdsburg.

Dr. Swisher was born on a farm near Danville, Illinois on July 5, 1849, attended public schools and then studied agriculture and engineering at the University of Illinois. After teaching a few years in both Illinois and Indiana, he came to California in 1875 and enrolled in the University of California Medical Department. He received his M.D. in November of 1877 and immediately came to Healdsburg where he joined the practice of Doctors Thomas Seawell and Samuel Rupe. In 1879 Dr. Swisher married Bessie May Thomson of Healdsburg and they became the parents of a daughter before Bessie's untimely death in 1883. The couple had planned to go to Europe the following year, she to study art and painting, he to study more medicine. Dr. Swisher went alone and spent two years studying throughout Europe and Great Britain. He resumed his Healdsburg practice when he returned in 1886.

Within two years he had married again. His bride was Mary Frances Ryan, daughter of Healdsburg pioneer settlers. They soon had four offspring and thus it was that the Swishers moved into their new home with their family of five children. Mary Swisher loved to entertain and was noted for her elegant parties. She frequently wore kimonos, was interested in painting and art, and must have had musical talent because she gave piano lessons.

Dr. Swisher was popular with the town's children because they knew he carried candy in his pockets to pass around. He kept a carriage, horse and driver ready to take him on house calls day or night. They were housed in the carriage house, now a residence, which faced Lincoln Street. In winter a single horse was tied to the back of the carriage. He then could com-



Dr. J. R. Swisher

plete his journey on horseback in case the weather prevented the carriage from making it to the patient's home. Again turning to the city tax assessments, we see that the Swishers' personal property in 1898 included his library, office fixtures, a piano, two wagons, three horses and a cow. In the early 1900s Dr. Swisher owned one of the six automobiles in town. He was a member of several local fraternal organizations and was a highly respected citizen of Healdsburg.

When Dr. Swisher retired in 1930 due to blindness he was a well-loved physician who had devoted 52 years of his life to his practice in Healdsburg. He died on January 31, 1934 after a long illness. His widow, Mary, subsequently moved to a home nearby on Grant Street where she passed away in 1939. They both are buried in Oak Mound Cemetery.

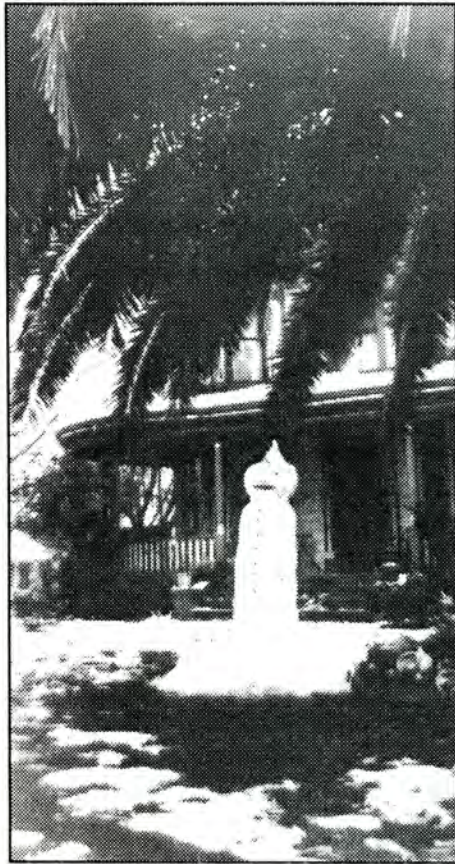
The ensuing years brought changes to the home. In the 1950s owners Mr. and Mrs. Duffee converted the interior into three apartments. Later his sister, Beatrice Jamison, lived

there and rented out rooms. John Elvin bought the building in 1981 and sold it in 1989. The new owners, Cathryn Fairlee and Gregg Neilson, brought their talents to work on the home and gave it a new life both inside and out. They moved into the house and began their five-year plan of improvements and replacements. These included: replacing the original roof and gutters; repairing the porch, including new stairs; designing new gingerbread and other exterior features to replace the missing or altered originals; and painting the exterior in five colors. The unflattering cyclone fence around the front yard was removed and two palm trees were planted (as shown in a 1900 photo).

Inside, Cathryn and Gregg brought the house back to its original floor plan, eliminating the apartments. This involved an incredible amount of detail work. Mouldings and baseboards had to be restored and missing areas reproduced. They corrected the plumbing and electrical systems and made the chimneys safer. Floors, including the staircases, were refinished and recarpeted. Historical wallpaper and paints were used throughout and the missing original light fixtures were replaced with appropriate ones. Central heating was installed, and the pocket doors were restored. Their plan brought back the beautiful home. Cathryn and Gregg lived there a few more years and then moved to another home on the west side of town.

Last year Liz and Richard Pembroke bought the Dr. Swisher home and began giving it their own brand of T.L.C. During the past 14 months they, too, have used their artistic talents to refinish, redo, remove, and add to much of the interior. They have paid close attention to details and have strived to maintain the original look by the use of older materials and reproductions that fit the era. They even found a fireplace in a corner of their master bedroom and retiled it. All four fireplaces now have gas log fixtures so they are usable once again. The kitchen has a new hickory floor. The whole interior reflects their love of light colors and has a bright and airy ambience. They have more plans for improvements to the interior, and they haven't even started on the large third-floor "billiard room." Both of them are artists, and they plan to set up their studio on the third floor in that large room.

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Snow man, made by Riley Swisher, in front of the Swisher Residence, January 15, 1932

Passersby can easily see and admire the work the Pembrooks have done outside. The exterior stairway which led to an upstairs apartment is gone. There is a new picket fence at the sidewalk along the front and side of the home. Another new fence closes off the backyard from Lincoln Street and encloses a lush lawn area with trees. In the future a garage will be built at the end of the driveway. Colorful flowers at the front gate make an inviting entryway.

The house even has its own ghost. Both Liz and Richard have separately been aware of a "presence" in their bedroom. They believe Mary Swisher has visited them there, as that was the room where she read to her children before their bedtime. On one occasion they both heard footsteps on the stairs coming up to their room. They are not fearful; they say Mary is a friendly ghost and is probably just visiting to see how they are treating the home she loved.

We are thankful to have this beautiful old home in Healdsburg AND to have it so well cared for, restored and maintained by its previous owners, Cathryn and Gregg, and the present owners, the Pembrooks. These two couples have given us back one of the most stunning homes in town. The restoration took much time and talent and it still continues! ♦♦♦

(Author's note: In the early 1900s when my mother Rossaline Mason Maher was a child she lived next door to the Swishers and played with their youngest child, Ruth. She remembered in a taped interview, "Sometimes when Dr. Swisher made a house call Ruth and I would ride in his red automobile. The passenger door was at the back of the car." — J.M.S.)

Dr. Swisher allowed some of his patients to pay their medical bills with labor, such as adding a new fireplace or otherwise upgrading or making repairs in his home.

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Dr. J. R. Swisher

A History of Healdsburg General Hospital: A Community Effort

by Marie Djordjevich

"This hospital, which is one the citizens may well be proud of, should be supported by the people of Healdsburg. It belongs to the people and is for their benefit. The very fact that a town of this population is able to support such an institution has won for northern California an enviable reputation in medical circles" (Healdsburg Tribune, 1932).

In 1998 the long history of Healdsburg General Hospital almost came to a close. Due to the dedication and commitment of a few people, with the backing of the Healdsburg Community, the hospital survived. This was just the latest chapter in a hospital history that has run for many years. Always the hospital has had serious support from an active and interested community



*Healdsburg General Hospital, circa 1921,
the T. S. Merchant House*

Drs. Seawell and Sohler combined their small hospitals into one with the help of Nercilla Ames Jones (Harlan) and her husband Charles. Nercilla, a former army nurse, and her husband Charles Jones, a former WWI army medic, came to Healdsburg in 1919 and immediately began offering their medical talents to the community. The T.S. Merchant building on the southwest corner of Johnson and Lincoln was secured and converted into a hospital building. The Merchant building was erected in 1891 by T.S. Merchant, and occupied by his wife Mary until 1920 when it was bought and jointly owned by Drs. Seawell and Sohler, and Nercilla and Charles Jones. All previously separate operations became combined into what was known as the first Healdsburg General Hospital.

Nercilla and Charles operated the hospital successfully until 1929, when it was partially destroyed by fire. The fire resulted from a defective flue. The blaze was discovered at 2 pm, and all seven patients at the hospital at that time were evacuated to the A.E. Bowers building adjoining the hospital. The fire destroyed the roof and upper walls of the building, and equipment was damaged by smoke and water. The building itself was subsequently razed because of the damage.

A New Healdsburg General

Ira H. Rosenberg offered the old Rosenberg residence on the southwest corner of East and North Streets for temporary hospital use until a plan for a new hospital could be developed. Dr. Seawell, Nercilla Jones, Charles Jones, Ira Rosenberg, Dr. Sohler and Fred Young joined together and spearheaded a community drive for funds to begin construction of an up-to-date modern hospital. Pooled from a group of 45 citizens, the funds reached \$50,000 in only 10 days!



Dr. J. W. Seawell



Dr. F. E. Sohler



Nercilla Harlan

Early Beginnings

The first hospital in Healdsburg began in 1908 with a five room sanitarium established by Dr. J.W. Seawell in connection with his home on North Street (the present day Camellia Inn). Dr. J.C. Condit also established a small hospital in the Fox Building in connection with his office in 1915. In 1918 Dr. F.E. Sohler moved from Geyserville to Healdsburg and purchased the Condit business. He conducted it in the same manner as Dr. Condit until 1920, when the two sanitariums were combined into one hospital in the old T.S. Merchant building on Lincoln and Johnson Streets.

"The old building was the type of hospital that is commonly used in the smaller towns in this state, and served its purpose during the time that it functioned as well as any building of that type could" (Healdsburg Tribune, 10-3-29).

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These are the Healdsburgers who invested in the hospital in 1929:

Erma Alexander, A.F. Breiling, Frank Buffi, Romeo Cerri, Joseph Cuneo, George Day, Albert Esaia, A. Ferrari, Rose Foppiano, John B. Foppiano, Knights of Pythias, F. Ferrero, Harvey Frost, Julius Giorgi, J.M. Hendricks, Nercilla Jones, Charles Jones, Stanley Jones, Everett Lampson, J.H. Miller, Sophia Minaglia, John Minaglia, W.G. Moore, M.D., E.J. Murray, Fred McConnell, W.H. McCutchan, R. Nardi, Frank Nervo, Nettie Nichols, E.M. Norton, Rachel Passalacqua, Stella Peckham, George Peckham, M. Raabe, Ira H. Rosenberg, E.G. Roehm, Guy Rose, J.W. Seawell, J. Walter Seawell, M.D., G. Sodini, F.E. Sohler, M.D., Masonic Lodge, George Warfield, H.P. Warren, Fred Young.

San Francisco architect E. Eugene Barton was hired to design the building, and construction was started within weeks. A drawing of the structure was exhibited at the Brown-Wolfe drug store, and a blue print of the floor plans were displayed in the display window of the *Healdsburg Tribune*. Effort was made to employ local contractors and to purchase building materials locally. The building contract was awarded to Witter and Hertz (local contractors). The new building was erected on the site of the Merchant building at the corner of Johnson and Lincoln Streets.

"In opening this institution, Healdsburg General Hospital, Inc., feels that they have given to the people of this community a hospital that is far superior to the average hospital in any town two or three times the population of Healdsburg; in fact, they feel that it is superior to any institution, large or small, north of the bay, with the exception of the state institutions" (Healdsburg Tribune, 10-3-29).

By October the building was finished. It was a one story, concrete and fireproof building, and was "one of the best and most modern equipped institutions in the north bay section" according to Drs. Seawell and Sohler. The new hospital facility included 10 private rooms, and two-bed wards, and a room signal system. It was fully and modernly equipped: it had a surgery, delivery room, nurses' office, solarium, waiting room, kitchen, dining room, emergency ambulance entrance and a small nursery, located in the north surgical wing. The main entrance was on Johnson Street, and the ambulance entrance was on the north side. This hospital was one of the first hospitals of its size to be inspected and recognized by the American College of Surgeons. Nercilla Jones, RN, was hired as director of the hospital. She served the hospital and the community until 1965.

The original capacity of 14 patients became 25 by the addition of a wing to the west and some doubling up in rooms. The hospital served patients from all over Sonoma County and beyond, including patients from

The first Board of Directors of the hospital included President Dr. Seawell, Vice President Dr. Sohler, Secretary Helen Latimer, and Directors Charles Jones, Ira Rosenberg and George Warfield.

Annapolis, Boonville, Philo and Cloverdale. This hospital existed for 43 years, but during the last of those years citizens knew the hospital would have to be replaced with a larger one.

University Address

Ownership of the Lincoln and Johnson building began with the original 45 donors, but came to rest with Drs. Emerson Meyer, Clinton Robinson and Frank Sohler, Jr. (of San Jose). The hospital was sold to Chanco Medical and Electronic Enterprises, Inc. in 1968. The new owners immediately began planning for a more modern facility. They searched for a site and acquired a large parcel of the former Duttle estate, which had been purchased by the James Cuneo family. Land clearing began in late 1969 on four acres on University Street. Chanco named Rapp Construction of Santa Rosa as general contractor for the 41,000 square foot hospital. The cost was estimated at \$1-2 million.

"This is a facility which we have needed desperately. We never thought, even in our wildest dreams, that Healdsburg would have a new private hospital, but here it is" said Mayor Jack Quinby, at the groundbreaking ceremony for the new hospital.



Healdsburg General Hospital, 1929

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The new hospital was very modern and up to date. It was a 62 bed facility, with plans made for future expansion of 150 more beds. The hospital included two major surgeries, orthopedic, cystoscopic. It had: conventional x-ray and diagnostic x-ray units; centers for physical therapy, inhalation therapy; an extensive laboratory and sterilization; two lounges each for doctors and nurses; technical medical care unit stations; a pharmacy for in-hospital use; a kitchen, with an adjoining dining room for 36; an emergency ward at the ambulance entrance; and a large administration center. There was a separate wing for intensive care and pediatrics; a maternity ward at the end of the bedroom wing: labor room, delivery, bassinets, isolation bassinets and doctors and nurses lounges and stations.

On Saturday January 8, 1972 the opening and dedication of Healdsburg General Hospital at 1375 University Street took place. This opening gave the general public an opportunity to tour the facility before operations actually started. Up to 2000 visitors jammed the facility for the opening. They were given a brief history of the construction, tours were held, and refreshments served. That day, Bell's Ambulance Service moved patients from the old facility at Lincoln and Johnson to the new hospital. 19 patients, some needing oxygen, were moved in just under three hours. "This hospital is so good it's almost worth getting sick to get in," joked Dr. Edward Neal, Master of Ceremonies at the hospital's opening. Dr. Neal was instrumental in pushing through the hospital's completion, giving much of his time and effort to the project. When the hospital was opened, new nurses were added to the staff and technical education programs were conducted for the advanced medical services which were to be offered at the new hospital. Once again, Healdsburg had a cutting edge hospital facility.

Latest Chapter

"This is not your average small town hospital. It's a gem in this community, with some of the best staff in the state" (Dr. Daniel Rose on HGH, Healdsburg Tribune, March 3-11, 1998).

The latest chapter in the history of Healdsburg General Hospital unfolded dramatically. In March of 1998 Columbia/HCA, the giant healthcare corporation that took over the hospital in 1995, announced that Healdsburg General Hospital (HGH) would have 90 days until it was closed, due to growing debt. The announcement stunned the community, and leaders rallied to find a solution. An ad hoc committee to "save Healdsburg Hospital" was formed, and strategies were developed.

A proposal made by Nuestro Hospital, Inc., an incorporated non-profit favoring non profit status for the hospital and led by Dr. Daniel Rose, was made to Columbia. The outline of their plan included financing of the project through an issue of 30-year bonds, a professional team to manage the hospital's operations and a 12 member Board of Directors. Columbia accepted the proposal, the City of Healdsburg agreed to lend its tax exempt financing to Nuestro, Inc. to issue bonds for the purchase of Healdsburg General Hospital, an alliance was formed with UC Davis

that would allow the hospital to access sophisticated educational and telemedicine programs, hospital supporters raised nearly \$500,000 in 100 days from the community, and Edward C. Bland was hired as the new CEO of Healdsburg General. "You have a very strong, healthy hospital here. I've accepted the challenge to help keep it open," Bland declared (HT, Sept. 16-22, 1998).

The community in Healdsburg once again proved that they appreciate and want their general hospital. The hospital as well returns that spirit. Carla Bonetti, Community Relations Director recently stated, "We want to create wellness as an attitude in the communities that we serve" (HT, June 30-July 6, 1999). The history of Healdsburg General Hospital and its community is still unfolding. ♦ ♦ ♦



A room at the Healdsburg General Hospital, circa 1940

Sources

ephemera file, "Medical/Dental", Healdsburg Museum research library material (files, clippings, scrapbooks, etc.) on Nercilla Harlan, donated by Doreene Zanzi, now at the Healdsburg Museum

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3-14-29
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March 1998
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Press Democrat

2-5-67

speech, Opal Crew, 1984, 1st reunion of "Old General Hospital" staff (Lincoln and Johnson Streets)

I Remember:

Clarence H. (Barney) Barnard at 100 Years:

An interview by
by Holly Hoods

Beginnings

"I was born September the 22nd, 1899 on the edge of Fitch Mountain. [My family lived] out Mill Creek, and then we moved to the Flat Ridge, between Cloverdale and the coast, when I was almost three years old.

My dad was Benjamin Franklin Barnard and my mother was Margaret Oliva Snider. They met in Westport, and was married, then they come to Healdsburg in a horse and buggy. He did tenant farming; he grubbed--cleared land out on Mill Creek, I think from Buchignani, for a dollar a day and ten hours, to put in orchard and vineyard.

Young Ranch Hand

We was living on Mr. Ed Norton's property and he owned a place on Palmer Creek and a cabin. That's where we lived, and how we came to go out to the Flat Ridge. It was 3,000 acres then. Now it's 6,000, I think. We was there seven years. We had cattle on the upper--to high land--Pepper's Ridge, they called it; and we had sheep on the lower part, on the Flat Ridge.

Dad bought me an old saddle horse--didn't weigh over 800 lbs--when I was six years old, and bought a little boy's saddle. I had to help him. I was the only boy in the family, you see.

*"I've had
a full life
and I'm
glad I'm as
old as I am"*



*Barney Barnard at age 99
(Photographed at Bodega Head)*

I opened gates, and gates too big for me to open, he'd open. I'd stay behind the stock. That's how we got by.

1906 Earthquake

I was in that two story log house on the Flat Ridge and I was sleeping across the main front room. Dad came running across to see how I was making it. The log house was put together with pins and it squeaked and groaned. I didn't know what an earthquake was, you know--mountain kid. He opened the door and the dresser rolled right in front of it. He rolled the dresser out of the way and came over to see if I was all right, and Boy, was I glad to see him! I thought the old log house was falling down. It held up, but it really shook the devil out of it.

Citrus Fair

It took us three days to drive the sheep to Cloverdale. It was in February and the Citrus Fair was on. The Citrus Fair in them days was in one room, and they used to raise quite a few oranges around Cloverdale. They pyramid-

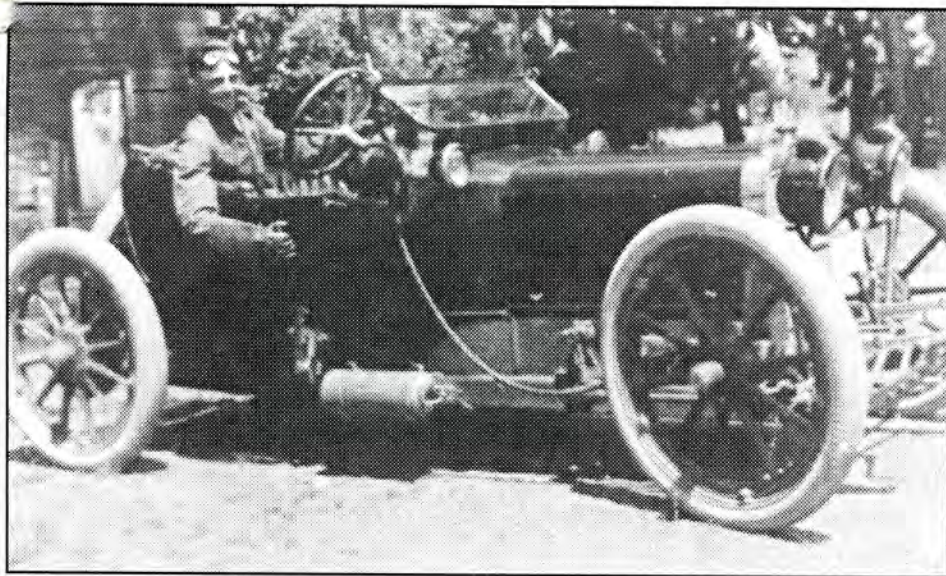
ed 'em up, you know, like that, and I never seen so many oranges! Dad bought me a little white ball with about a 3 foot rubber on it, and you could throw it, and it would come back to you. Boy, did I take that back to show my sister what the flat-lander kids were using!

A Practical Education

I wasn't in high school. I had to quit two months before I graduated from grammar school. It took three teams to run the ranch. That was before the tractors. Dad had one hired man, and he couldn't afford two, so I'd have to stay out of school a week or two weeks, especially putting in hay. They raised lots of hay in them days, for the horses.

I was supposed to go to Sweet's Business College after that. We sold the ranch in Alexander Valley and bought a ranch in Dry Creek Valley, and Dad got the pneumonia that winter (1918), so he couldn't work. So I had to prune 25 acres of vineyard myself, and then in

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*Barney Barnard in his first auto in 1916 on the Barnard Ranch in Alexander Valley.
The car is an American Scout, in the Stutz Bearcat class.*

February I had to start ploughing, in those days with steam. . . So my education has been practical experience. I tell you, a lot of these guys has got all the common sense educated right out of them!

Russian River Resorts

When I was 18, 19, 20, we went to Guerneville in the summer. City people would come up, and the girls liked to dance with us country boys! I had cousins my age in Oakland, and I'd go down there. We used to go up to the dime dance halls; you'd give a girl a dime and she'd teach you all the latest steps. I got halfway good at it. And I met the wife in Forestville. There used to be an electric car-streetcar-that came to Forestville. She came up with her sister and two of her cousins. . . She could dance good. She had a way of holding herself on the floor--outstanding!

I had the car, see. I had that big Dort. I'd take four or five guys from town here and we'd go to old Mirabel or Guerneville Park. A lot of boys didn't have a car in them days and I'd take them. We liked Guerneville.

Prohibition

We lived in Dry Creek Valley when the Volstead Act was made, and we had a winery with a 200,000 gallon capacity. It was against the law to crush your grapes, but LeBaron, he was quite a gambler, and he had a big ranch just this side of us. He rented the winery and crushed his grapes and crushed 60,000 gallons in it. He come out all right!

We sold our grapes to Stefani winery in upper Dry Creek Valley: zinfandel, 14 dollars a ton. Now the same grapes are worth \$2000. They were pulling out every third vine in the vineyards then; planting imperial prunes. When Dad had a chance to sell the ranch, he did. He thought Prohibition would stay.

Years as a 'Catskinner'

In 1927 things started to get tough. The big Depression was '29. I knew a crane operator that worked for a lumber company. In 1926, I had the ranch out here that's a restaurant now, just outside Healdsburg. . . Madrona Knoll. I rented that and the party that owned it--the lease wasn't tight, and I got an awful bad deal. I ended up \$800 in the hole and had to pay it out. I got this job skidding logs as a catskinner in the Modoc. . . I spent four years

there. I sent the family--my wife and two babies--to live down here, and I spent the winter with about 125 lumberjacks. That's where I got to learn to talk like a lumberjack!

Hard Times

I came back to take over the home ranch. Dad had heart trouble, wouldn't support a hired man, and he couldn't work, so I took it over and I rented the Pressley Mothorn place. Beautiful home and they'd taken 90 ton of dried prunes off of it. Just to show you how things were in them days: the bank had loaned \$40,000 to him, and you know what it sold for? A professor come from the East with cash, and he bought it for \$9000.

That happened in the Thirties! Things was so cheap! Prunes, apples. . . I lost money on apples. Gee, it's pitiful! Wife and I would sell it to the Japanese in Sebastopol for \$3 a ton. Then I had the ranch rented, 50-50, so I had to give half of that \$3 to the Bank. People don't realize how tough things can get. I tell you, you'd work Saturdays and Sundays. You didn't go out to eat--you couldn't! If you broke even in a year's work, you were doing pretty good.



21 year old Barney Barnard standing on the bridge at Reno.

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Voice of Experience

The people that make the scientific study of the [Russian] River--the people from down below who don't live along the river--my experience has been that they've been so far wrong and technical, that if you'd just listened to some old timer, why you might get somewhere!

I'm an environmentalist. I don't believe in getting rid of everything. I believe in keeping them in balance just like nature did. Whenever you go against nature, you get in trouble!

When we lived on the Flat Ridge, there wasn't a coyote west of the Russian River. We lost a few lambs with the bobcats and we lost a yearling steer with a mountain lion. But that's all we lost in the seven years we was there, and we could stay in business. But now, like the Baxters! [Coyotes] killing sheep in the middle of the day while Tom was eating lunch, by God!



Barney Barnard skidding logs as a catskiner at McCloud, California, circa 1929

Right out in the open ridge! It put people out of business. It's a shame! We can't vote anyone on Market Street out of business, or tell them how to run their business, but they tell us up here! I'm glad I'm through farming nowadays.

I feel so sorry for the younger generation coming up. The radical environmentalists are spoiling the country. And we're doing nothing about it! It just worries me, that's all. But as I said, I only got my education through years of

experience. . . and I think that's the best teacher in the world. If you make a mistake one year, you're not gonna make the same mistake the other; you're gonna better yourself. So, I'm glad I've had a full life and everything. I'm glad I'm as old as I am.



Be sure to stop by the Healdsburg Museum table at the Autumn Fest to sign our birthday card to Barney. Help Barney celebrate his 100th . . . ♦♦♦



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