



RUSSIAN RIVER RECORDER

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HISTORY OF THE DRY CREEK NEIGHBORS CLUB: 1909-2009

by Ann Howard & Kay Robinson • Page 14



THE RUSSIAN RIVER RIDERS AND HOOF BEAT PARK

*by Charlotte Anderson and Eileen O'Farrell
Borgwardt, edited by Marvin Bowers • Page 8*

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

AN ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW WITH NORMA RAFANELLI COUSINS

by Shonnie Brown • Page 10

ARTIFACTS: NOSTALGIC TOYS FROM THE 1930'S TO THE 1960'S

by Holly Hoods and Jeanette Marie • Page 4





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RUSSIAN RIVER RECORDER

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Museum and Historical Society*

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In This Issue

In this, our last issue of 2009, we welcome three new contributors to the pages of the *Russian River Recorder* - Marvin Bowers, Shonnie Brown and Jeanette Marie.

The Rev. Canon Marvin Bowers, a retired Episcopal priest who served as vicar and then rector of St. Paul's Church for 35 years, graciously agreed to write for the *Recorder* after he saw, in the Museum's newsletter, a request that any member wishing to contribute to the *Review* and/or *Recorder* would be most welcome. We gave Rev. Bowers, well known to our readers for his excellent articles in the *Healdsburg Tribune*, material researched and written by longtime contributor, the late Charlotte Anderson. He took this material plus an article written by Eileen O'Farrell Borgwardt, who is an active member of the RRR, and gave us a very interesting and informative accounting of the history and present status of the Riders. Thank you, Fr. Marvin, for sharing your talents with us.

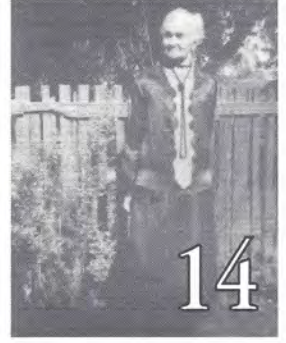
We also welcome as a contributing writer Shonnie Brown, whom many of you know as the author of those informative and well written articles about your friends and neighbors which are published in the *Healdsburg Tribune*. Her interview with Norman Rafanelli Cousins, a member of a well known and respected Healdsburg family, gives us a fascinating account of an immigrant family, their success and their involvement in the community. We know you will find this article a most enjoyable read.

Ann Howard and Kay Robinson, two very faithful and devoted Museum volunteers, together researched the 100 years' history of the Dry Creek Neighbors' Club to share with us the many achievements and good works chronicled over the years. Ann and Kay, both officers of the club, Ann serving as president and Kay as secretary, have contributed previously to the *Recorder*. In this collaborative effort we acknowledge their many hours of work and their talents for bringing history to life.

Research Curator Holly Hoods has put together a wonderful holiday exhibit in the Museum's main gallery - a nostalgic look at the toys of the past. In celebration of this event, she has written three interesting articles showcasing toys of the 1930's, 1950's and 1960's. She was joined in this effort by a new contributor to our pages, Jeanette Marie, whose article tells us about a very special doll loaned to the Museum by Ron Kron. The unique ceramic doll belonged to his mother Grace Seeman Kron of Alexander Valley. We know you will enjoy reading about these unusual and historic toys. Please visit this wonderful exhibit, Magical Toyland, soon.

The *Recorder* staff joins me in wishing you a Happy and Blessed New Year.

Arnold Santucci
Editor



4 Artifacts: Child's Tea Set, Handmade Wooden Toys, Original Plasticine Figures and Porcelain Doll

by Holly Hoods

In conjunction with the new exhibit, "Magical Toyland", Research Curator Holly Hoods gives us a fascinating history of three special toys loaned by Museum members. The fourth history of a very special doll belonging to Grace Kron was written by new volunteer Jeanette Marie.

8 The Russian River Riders and Hoofbeat Park

by Charlotte Anderson and Eileen O'Farrell Borgwardt, edited by Marvin Bowers

New contributor, the Rev. Canon Bowers, has put together a most interesting history of the Russian River Riders and its home base, Hoof Beat Park, as researched by the late Charlotte Anderson, a frequent and faithful contributor to the *Recorder* and with an article written by Eileen O'Farrell Borgwardt. A slice of history from the 1940's to the present.

10 An Oral History Interview of Norma Rafanelli Cousins

by Shonnie Brown

The daughter of Italian immigrants, Norma Rafanelli Cousins, recounts to contributing writer Shonnie Brown her life growing up in Healdsburg, the Depression Years, her marriage, and her involvement in the community. Throughout the story there is revealed the closeness of the family and their love of the land. Shonnie Brown, a new contributor to the *Recorder*, does an admirable job of catching the essence of the story.

14 History of the Dry Creek Neighbors: Club, 1909-2009

by Ann Howard and Kay Robinson

A well researched and beautifully written history of a women's organization that is celebrating 100 years of service to the community. Both Ann and Kay have written previously for the *Recorder* and in collaboration have produced a very admirable work.

ARTIFACTS: CHILD'S TEA SET, HANDMADE WOODEN TOYS, ORIGINAL PLASTICINE FIGURES

by Holly Hoods



Child's Tea Set

Loaned by Kay Robinson

This lovely pink flowered toy tea set was a Christmas present given to Kay (Schmidt) Robinson of Healdsburg by her parents, Don Schmidt and Patricia Kay (Phillips) Schmidt, in about 1957. Kay would have been 8 years old when she received it. The tiny tea service includes child-size dishes, cups, bowls, creamers and a platter. The tea set is still in impeccable condition, because, Kay admits, "I never played with it!"

Kay's parents, Patricia Kay Phillips (1921-1998) and Don Schmidt (1920-2001), were married in 1943. Born six years later in 1949, Kay grew up at 5675 Dry Creek Road with her sister, Diane (Schmidt) Carriger, and brother, Brian. Their grandparents, Harold Frederick Phillips and Arla Marie (Wagers) Phillips, lived across the road at 5796 Dry Creek Road from 1921 to 1977.

Kay and her siblings are fifth generation in Dry Creek Valley, descendants of pioneer settlers, Duval Drake Phillips and Mary McCloud, who came to Dry Creek in 1856. D.D. and his partner, Samuel Heaton, purchased a total of 137 1/4 acres from the Piña family, owners of the Tzabaco Rancho land grant, for \$1112.82 1/2, according the surviving deed records. The family resided in the Piña (Phillips) adobe, which is now the oldest house in Dry Creek Valley.

This year, the Dry Creek Neighbors' Club is celebrating its 100th anniversary. Kay Schmidt Robinson as club secretary continues the neighborly tradition, exemplified by the "Kind Words, Kind Thoughts, Kind Deeds" motto of the club. Her grandmother, Marie

(Wagers) Phillips, and her mother, Patricia (Phillips) Schmidt, were both members of the group before her. The Healdsburg Museum salutes the longstanding spirit of friendliness and cooperation of the Dry Creek Neighbors' Club and commends Kay for her vital volunteer work with that group and our Museum organization, as well. See more of Kay's toys and photos in our holiday antique toy exhibit, on display through the end of January. Read more about the history of the Dry Creek Neighbors' Club in this issue of the *Russian River Recorder*.

RRR



Left-right, Ruth Domenicbelli, Donna Rosa, Cberyl Osborn, Magaret (Keck) Peters, Nancy (Peters) Yost, Katy (Schmidt) Robinison at Kay's 6th birthday, 1955. All of them still live in Sonoma County



Kay Schmidt, 1954

Sources:

Interview with Kay Robinson, December 2009.

Tzabaco Rancho history file, Healdsburg Museum.

Tzabaco Vineyards family history section @ Drycreekgrapes.com.

ARTIFACT: FERN NABER'S HANDMADE WOODEN TOYS FROM THE 1930'S



Handmade wooden toys from Uncle Emil.

Fern's uncle, Emil Forsstrom, her mother's brother, was gradually going blind when he made the wooden toy figures for his niece, so the shapes are slightly irregular. He had meticulously built small display ships to scale before the onset of his blindness. Fern lovingly points to the wobbly, hand-drawn faces on the 14 seated people he made, plus 2 round tables, 2 standing people, 15 chairs, a dresser and a wood and metal swing. They are a treasured part of Fern's childhood and are still appreciated by her children and grandchildren. We are grateful to Fern and her family for sharing them with us. **RRR**

Sources:

Interview with Fern Naber and Gene Naber, December 2009.

"Mom's Memories," Fern Naber, 1993.

Currently on loan to the Healdsburg Museum for our annual antique toy exhibit, these handmade wooden toys were created for Fern Calender (Naber) in the early 1930s. Fern was born in 1923 to Gene and Frances Calender. She grew up with two brothers, Marvin and Glenn, and sister, Ruby, in the countryside near Kingsburg, California (below Fresno and near Selma – the raisin capital of the world). There Fern enjoyed a happy, rural childhood.



Fern Calender (Naber) with her older brother, Marvin, in the late 1920s.



Fern in washtub on bath day, 1920s.
"It must have been a Saturday," she laughs.

ARTIFACT:

GUMBY, POKEY, MINGA - ORIGINAL PLASTICINE FIGURES

LOANED BY HOLLY HARMAN



Gumby, Minga and Pokey in Museum display

These colorful plasticine figures were created by animator Art Clokey and used in his pioneering work in "claymation." The characters were brought to life using stop-motion clay animation, which is very exacting work. It takes 1,440 still-frame pictures to make one minute of clay animation.

The character "Gumby" first appeared in Clokey's 1955 abstract short film *Gumbasia*. His TV debut was on *The Howdy Doody Show* in 1956. Gumby was reportedly inspired by a suggestion from Clokey's first wife, Ruth, that he base his character on the Gingerbread Man. Gumby's legs and feet were made wide to help the clay character stand up during stop-motion filming. The famous slanted shape of Gumby's head was inspired by Clokey's father's cowlick hairstyle. Gumby was green because it was Clokey's favorite color.

Gumby got his own Saturday morning show in 1957, and starred in 223 episodes. Female performers (Ginny Tyler and Norma MacMillan) supplied Gumby's voice during the early episodes. New episodes were added from 1961 to 1963, at which time Dallas McKennon became the voice of Gumby. Production of the Gumby series continued through 1966-1968, and Dick Beals voiced the role of Gumby.

Gumby's best pal, Pokey, is a talking orange pony (voiced variously by Art Clokey and Dallas McKennon). They struggle with the Blockheads, a pair of humanoid, red-colored figures with block-shaped heads, who wreak havoc at all times. The Blockheads were inspired by the Katzenjammer Kids, who were always getting into mischief. Other characters include Gumby's dog Nopey (who responds to everything with a forlorn "nope"); Prickle, a yellow dinosaur, who often declares himself as a detective, sporting a pipe and a hat in the likeness of Sherlock Holmes; Goo, a flying blue mermaid who spits blue goo-balls and can change her physical shape at will; Gumby's mother Gumba; Gumby's father Gumbo; his sister Minga; Denali (a mastodon); Tilly (a hen); King Ott; and Professor Kapp.

The first bendable Gumby toy came out in 1964. The popular characters have been featured in merchandise, books and film, and continue to be appreciated by kids of all ages. Thanks to Holly Harman, Art's stepdaughter, for sharing her outstanding collection of Gumby and Friends with the Healdsburg Museum this year. Art Clokey passed away January 2010. RRR

Sources:

Gumbyworld.com website.

Interview with Holly Harman, December 2009.



Art Clokey and Gumby. AP photo.

ARTIFACT: GRACE KRON'S TURN OF THE CENTURY PORCELAIN DOLL

By Jennifer Harris



Agnes and Grace Seeman, Alexander Valley.

early 1900s; and three types of ceramics were used to make the doll's head, hands and feet. The three types of ceramics were: porcelain and/or china, Parian (white bisque) and bisque (white porcelain).

For many years Ron has stored the doll upstairs in the attic, along with other artifacts and toys that he had kept from his childhood, including his and brother Delbert's teddy bears.

The doll and both of the teddy bears are currently on display at the Healdsburg Museum's "Magical Toyland" Holiday Toy Exhibit, along with other toys that belonged to Grace Seeman Kron. The exhibit will run through February 28, 2010. **RRR**

Sources:

Darbyshire, Lydia. *The Collector's Encyclopedia of Toys & Dolls*, 1990.
Interview with Ron Kron, November 2009.

On loan to the Healdsburg Museum from longtime Museum supporter, Ron Kron, this antique doll belonged to Grace Seeman Kron, his mother, who was born on October 1, 1904. Grace was born in the Alexander Valley and grew up with her sister Agnes on the family's 45 acre prune ranch. She attended Healdsburg High School graduating in 1922. Grace lived nearly all of her life in Alexander Valley.

The antique china/porcelain molded blonde haired doll has beautiful rosy cheeks and is pictured without both ceramic arms. Ron has kept the right arm at home...but would like to find a left arm to replace the missing one.

The 20 inch high ceramic doll is exquisite, featuring all natural clothing fibers, such as wool, cotton and leather; and according to Ron, the skirt, vest and undergarments were most likely made by his mother or grandmother, who both enjoyed sewing clothing. Delicate hand embroidery decorates the flowing pink wool skirt, and leather boots peek out just beneath the hem of the skirt. The bodice/vest is mauve and matches the darker coloring of the embroidery on the skirt.

According to *The Collector's Encyclopedia of Toys & Dolls* published in 1990, this doll was produced between the 1860s and



Grace Seeman Kron's Porcelain Doll.

THE RUSSIAN RIVER RIDERS AND HOOFBEAT PARK

by Charlotte Anderson and Eileen O'Farrell Borgwardt, edited by Marvin Bowers



Junior Russian River Riders Mounted Color Guard at FFA Parade, 1965

Prior to her death in March of this year, Healdsburg Museum and Historical Society member Charlotte Anderson researched newspaper articles about the Russian River Riders (RRR) in the Museum archives and began to write an article, the completed portion of which is presented in a slightly edited form below as Part I, Russian River Riders, 1944 - 1950's. When I visited the current president of the RRR, Reid Borgwardt and his wife Eileen to share Charlotte's research with them, they in turn shared with me an article written by Eileen about the more recent history of the RRR. An edited version of Eileen's article is presented below as Part II, Russian River Riders from 1950's to Present.

PART I, RUSSIAN RIVER RIDERS, 1944 - 1950'S.

Having been chartered as a club in June, 1944, the more than 60 charter members of the new horse riding club met and selected a name. The selection was made from 17 names submitted in a contest. Miss Josephine Cerrick of the Healdsburg High School faculty was the lucky winner of a year's dues for the name she submitted: Russian River Riders. Thus, the Russian River Riders (RRR) came into being with Sid Grove as chairman. The first ride was when about 15 "cowboys" from the group gathered at the S. T. Grove ranch in Alexander Valley to assist neighboring stockmen in rounding up cattle. Mrs. Grove served lunch to the horsemen. On August 13 a group led by Art Smart and Joseph Azevedo rode to Mt Jackson via Sweetwater Springs. The RRR held their first Horse Show and Sheep Dog Trials on June 10, 1945, at Recreation Park. Sid Grove was manager, Warren Richardson ringmaster, and H J Moncrief veterinarian. In early 1946 club members competed in an event at the Lee Scheidenberger ranch on Mark West Springs Road. Sid Grove on "Boots" won 1st place in the stake race and Bill Rued on "Midnight" took 2nd. Placing in the trail race were Mrs. R. Wood, and Sally and Schuyler Lee Richardson.

On December 5, 1946, the RRR met at Tayman Park Clubhouse to elect officers. Board members included Dr. Charles Campbell, Clement Vanoni, Frank Z Towle, Kelley Kirksey, Helen Butterman, Obed Bosworth, and past president Jack Spinelli. Ernest Cornell, Hazel Hopper, P.A. Sterns and William Maher were also early Board members. Margaret Towle was secretary with

Mrs. Spencer Green as her assistant. Bill Stine chaired a committee to get property for the club. In their articles of incorporation with the state the charter members stated that the goals of the RRR were to promote good sportsmanship, fun, competition and education among equestrians.

In March 1947, 16 club members left the co-op dryer in Healdsburg, led by Lex Murray. The ride went through the White O Ranch on Westside Road (now the Bishop's Ranch conference center) and on to Porter Creek. New board members that year included Milt Brandt and Jake Boatman. Other activities that year included the annual Horse Show and Sheepdog Trials and, as a fundraiser, a vaudeville show, "The Revels of 1947".

Sid Grove led the 1948 ride to Potter Valley. Riders camped for a week on the Cahil Ranch and took daily rides, the longest of which was an overnight, 120 mile round trip to Hull Mountain. In June the club sponsored a horse show at Fenton Acres on Westside Road (now Rochioli Winery). Event winners included Syd Kelley, Smokey Grove, Michael Rochioli, Donny Ford, Frank Devincenzi, and Sally Richardson. A ride in March 1949 went around Fitch Mountain. Following lunch at the home of Shorty Cornell, the ride continued up Dry Creek and back to town via Norton Sky Ranch and Lytton Home (now Lytton Adult Rehabilitation Center). Each year RRR members rode to Lytton to attend the Easter Sunrise service. This Easter ride continues to this day. It was also in 1949 that the RRR purchased the five acre parcel at the corner of Kinley Drive and Dry Creek Road which would become Hoofbeat Park. See Part II below for more about Hoofbeat Park

In the 1950's the RRR continued to organize and sponsor trail rides, shows, play days, and fund raisers. The Grove family, Sid, Sandy, and Smokey, and the Azevedos won many ribbons and trophies during this time. In 1957, at the 13th annual Horse Show, the club added four English classes. Carl Thrift was in charge of gymkhana events, Sid Grove in charge of Western events, Dorothy Wood the English events, and Betty Weston in charge of the Grand entry.

PART II, RUSSIAN RIVER RIDERS FROM 1950'S TO PRESENT

Hoofbeat Park is owned and operated by the RRR. It consists of a full size arena, 120 x 60 feet, a warm up arena, a round pen, twenty corrals and a clubhouse. All this is situated on five acres at the corner of Kinley Drive and Dry Creek Road which was sold to the club for \$10 in 1949 by Earl and Ruby Frampton. The clubhouse was constructed in 1952. The story goes that Sid Grove, Charlie Gardner, Bob Pfaff and Bob's father went to Hunter's Point in San Francisco and picked up a war surplus kit building for \$3000 and the building was constructed by club members over the next three years. Much of the money to purchase the building came from the family of Doris Golden, the Framptons' daughter.

Continued on page 9

The RRR was large and active from the 1950's through the 1980's. Members included adults and youth. Most members were from farming families and the park had a different feel and look from today. The fences around the arena were higher and there were cattle chutes, since roping seemed to be one of the favorite activities. There was an active junior club and whole families rode at the Park. According to long time RRR member Carol House, Ted and Priscilla Jones, Lori Moore and a lot of other kids started having horse shows. On almost a daily basis, the area was used by four local girls: Mary Lyons, Sharon Esaia (Conley), Margo Burrell (Cooper), and April Bennett (Lance). These girls could ride their horses at breakneck speed, bareback, and jump over anything. They put in countless hours and became very proficient. Several times they were asked to help other people with their horses, getting rid of some bad habit or changing a horse's attitude. These girls rode in local parades representing 4-H and RRR during the 50's and 60's. They were coached by California State Champions Ruth and Al Pritchard, and they appreciated the excellent advice of long-time local cowboy and good hand, Buck Bennett, who later went on to operate a horse boarding stable in Healdsburg.

By the late 1980's and 90's the number of farming families declined in Sonoma County, and the character of RRR membership changed along with the demographics. Fewer horses lived in a pasture behind the house and more were boarded at stables. Owning a horse got to be an expensive proposition. Club membership declined and coping with maintaining ownership of the club property became a challenge. One bright spot was the Hoofbeats Pony Club founded in 1989. The Pony Club is part of the United States Pony Club organization.



Russian River Riders Clubhouse opening, 1957

With the enthusiastic leadership of Dennis Toth and Pam Bacigalupi the club grew. Judy McHerron, a USPC national examiner, was the club's instructor



Mortgage burning for RRR, November 1965: Herman Jackson and Sid Grove.

and mentor. She brought a more English bent to the club. She taught members dressage and show jumping as well as basic horse care and management. Hoofbeats Pony Club, now led by Joan Starrett, continues to meet regularly at the park and to participate in our regions excellent program of leadership and equestrian skill and knowledge for young people.

Judy McHerron was one of the stalwart few that kept the club alive. For over fifteen years, including at present, she served on the RRR Board and was instrumental in keeping the park from falling into disrepair. She put together horse shows, clinics and work parties to make money to replace the stabling, the arena footing and fencing, as well as making repairs and additions to the clubhouse and grounds. Since 2000 the club has begun to grow and thrive again. In addition to the Hoofbeats Pony Club, the arena and clubhouse are used by several 4-H clubs and the Board of the Healdsburg Future Farmers Country Fair. The park is also the site of the annual North Counties 4-H show, organized by DeAnna Fincher, horse project leader of the Healdsburg 4-H.



Cynthia Allen presents wreath of appreciation to Healdsburg Mayor Doug Badger, 1964.

RRR vice president Tom Thomason is a professional saddle maker and has his shop at the Hoofbeat Park clubhouse. His frequent presence on the grounds gives the park a human face. He and his wife Barbara, who has been a member of the RRR for forty years, are stalwart supporters of the club. In recent years they have organized trail rides and barbecues at the Gallo Family's MacMurray Ranch and Fox Ranch. Reid Borgwardt is the current president of RRR. As a child, Reid used to ride his horse from home on Lytton Springs Road down Norton Road to the well used, well loved Hoofbeat Park. For more information about current activities you may contact Reid Borgwardt at (707) 433 1098 or borgwardt@jps.net. RRR



Charles Gardner rides Sunny Day at Horse Show, 1960.

AN ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW WITH NORMA RAFANELLI COUSINS

by Shonnie Brown

FAMILY BACKGROUND

My father, Alberto Rafanelli, came from Portoferraio, Isle of Elba, Italy, where Napoleon was exiled. His father was a shoemaker and the family was very poor. Dad completed his early schooling and trained as a carpenter. He joined the Italian Navy at age 17, and in 1904 at the age of 18, he deserted the Navy by jumping ship in Norfolk, Virginia. From there he traveled to Boston and then to Philadelphia before he came to San Francisco. He did eventually get all his documents to become a legal citizen.

My mother, Letizia (Tonneti) Rafanelli, was born in 1882 in Orentano, Italy, about 15 miles from Lucca. She was from a family of winemakers and immigrated to San Francisco with her brother because she wanted to be prosperous and knew she would not get ahead in Italy as a female in a winemaking family. She and her brother came straight to San Francisco. He soon returned to Italy after making sure that my mother had a small, pearl handled pistol for her protection, which she never had to use.

My father had two brothers and a sister. His sister remained in Italy, but the two brothers, Cesare and Dominic, also immigrated to the United States. Dominic was trained as a carpenter/cabinet maker in Italy and Cesare was trained as a machinist and worked as such for the Italian Navy. My father came here first and sent money for Cesare to come. Then Dominic came and they all met up in San Francisco.

My father worked as a carpenter in San Francisco building houses after the 1906 earthquake and also rebuilding the Fairmont Hotel after its destruction. He made this table and the chairs we're sitting



Check presented by Dave Rafanelli family to Norma Rafanelli Cousins Endowment Fund at Healdsburg District Hospital.

in now. He drew blueprints for homes, did the rough work and Dominic did the finish work. Dad also built his own home in the Daly City area.

My mother lived alone in San Francisco after her brother left and went to work for a cigar factory for six or seven years until she met my father, her first love. I never did ask them how they met, but I know that she was 27 and he was 25 when they married in San Francisco in 1910.

THE MOVE TO HEALDSBURG

I don't know what in particular my mother had heard about northern California, but she did know there were grapes here. She and my father took a ride to Sonoma County and she fell in love with the vineyards. She was the one who pulled for the move here and she got her way. They didn't know anyone in Healdsburg when they arrived. Their first home was a rental on Ward Street. My older brother Vince was seven or eight years old and my brother Americo was a toddler when they moved here in 1919.

My father had wanted to move to Sacramento, but my mother said: "No way!" She was not going to Sacramento. She had heard about the opportunities for winemaking here. Their first piece of

property was between where Parkland Farms is now and the Passalacqua ranch. Uncle Cesar and his wife also moved up, but there was no water on the property. The two wives had to haul water from a neighbor. So they got rid of that land pretty fast. After that experience, my dad always said, "Check your water first before you buy any property!"

They then bought 15 acres off University Street extension from Hannah Frampton. Then another parcel from the Landers family. Then a third parcel from the Colsons--until they had 35 acres total in the area where the high school is now.

Dominic also moved here when Pop first came and stayed for two or three years. The two brothers started a carpentry business together and this is how their original business card from the early 1920s read:

RAFANELLI BROS.
Carpenters and Builders
Repairing
Phone 41 Healdsburg, Cal.

Cesare got a job in the Healdsburg Machine Shop, which was owned by Scalione and Ferrari who he eventually bought out. Cesar was the only one there who was really a machinist. He made all the Healdsburg crushers and they have patents for the crushers and wine pumps. He also holds a patent for a bung faucet from 1935 and a juice extracting machine from 1939. My father still had to work building houses for quite a few years and it was Mother who really got Pop interested in farming. The men they hired would never satisfy her, so she did most of the work and then she taught Pop everything. Mother was the one who planted the vineyard and tended the grapes. She taught my dad how to make

Continued on page 11

Continued from page 10

brandy, sherries and ports, and he became very good at it, learning quickly. Even Uncle Cesare asked Pop, "Where did you get her?"

When my dad bought that first 15 acres from Mrs. Frampton in about 1920, there was nothing on it but an old barn, which he converted into four rooms: three bedrooms and a big kitchen. This is where I was born in 1922. They hated to have a baby in that house, but it was spotless. Mom didn't want to go to the hospital to deliver me. She had a white Spitz dog. The doctor agreed he would come to the house if Mom agreed to two conditions: that she would keep the dog out of the bedroom and that she'd give him a shot of brandy after my birth. When I was born, Pop was working for the Gondola family. Mrs. Gondola once told me that on the day of my birth my dad was the happiest man in Healdsburg.

LIFE IN THE BARN DURING THE DEPRESSION

We lived in the old barn during the Depression years--up until the time when I was 14 years old. Water was pumped out of a well. We used a huge tub to take our baths. We had an outhouse and there was no electricity for the first six or seven years. My mother used a scrub board in the big tub to wash clothes. She'd hang all her wash out on the outside line. And in winter, they'd string a rope in the kitchen. She got what she wanted and she worked hard for it.

Both my parents worked the land using a horse pulled plow. Pop also had two mules, Tom and Jerry, to work the field. One day a car backfired and scared one of them so bad that it dragged him from where Monte Vista is now to our old barn on University. Luckily, the earth was soft so he only got nicks and scratches. Boy did he sell those mules fast! But I loved to ride Belle the horse--she was a honey!

We had all kinds of animals: chickens,



Letizia and Alberto Rafanelli, Bob and Norma Cousins and Steven Rafanelli, Vincent's son.

tame rabbits, ducks and turkeys, along with the two horses, two mules and a huge vegetable garden. My mother always wanted a cow. She did the milking, while Pop was all thumbs. I also remember her killing a chicken, wringing its neck and dipping it in hot water to get all the feathers.

We were pretty self-sufficient during the Depression. We had to make do, but we were always happy. Mom used a wood stove with a wood oven. They cut down their dead trees for wood. And she even baked cakes in the oven. We always had dinner together at 6:00 p.m. and lunch together at noon on weekends. My mother made pasta, gnocchis, frittata and chicken soup with vegetables. But I didn't like eating our pet rabbits.

My brothers and I had to walk to the old Healdsburg Elementary where St. John's is now. When we came home from school, we had to go right out in the field. Americo was a true farmer. I just sat under the vines and did my homework. I was pretty spoiled by my brothers, especially Americo.

PROHIBITION AND BOOTLEGGING

We lived in the barn until my freshman year in high school. It was during

Prohibition and Pop did some bootlegging. The government allowed each family to make 200 gallons of wine per year for family use. My dad sold gallons and quarts. He bootlegged pints of brandy. Bootlegging really helped us through the Depression. Pop's first winery was a little secret room off their bedroom in the barn. And my nephew, David (Americo's son), has the original still on display in the caves at the *A. Rafanelli Winery* today in Dry Creek Valley.

My mother didn't like alcohol and would never drink it straight. She mixed half water and half wine. She'd never have a cocktail, but she bottled brandied cherries. I used to say: "Mom, you're a 'Prohi!'" Once Pop told us: "You wouldn't believe all the people I've made secret compartments for in Healdsburg." He wouldn't tell us any except one--Santi Catelli in Geyserville. He could tell us about Santi because Santi had been caught so often. The Feds by-passed my dad. He treated them and everyone else to his wine. When a customer bought a gallon of wine, he'd give them a pint of sherry or port. And my mother would make walnut biscotti for Pop's customers to snack on. Pop used mostly Zin, but he blended his wine. I don't know of anyone who makes wine like that anymore. He made good Zinfandel, Petite Sirah, Burgers and Golden Chasselas.

My dad spoke really good English and became very Americanized. During the Depression he couldn't pay the family bills right then and there, but Mr. Garrett (of Garrett's Hardware) would tell him to just wait 'till the crop came in. Pop would truck grapes down to San Francisco or up to Eureka. Vince and Americo helped, and later David. While they'd only get about \$15 per ton here, they'd get \$80 to \$82 per ton selling to restaurants or families out of the county. One customer was a judge in San Rafael. After Prohibition, Pop got licensed. David still has the sign that says *A. Rafanelli Bonded Winery*.

Continued on page 12

THE POWELL AVENUE HOUSE

They found this place on Powell Avenue in about 1921 and my dad started work on the house in 1936 or 1937. My two brothers told Pop: "We just can't let our sister be raised in a barn." The property ran from the Frampton Place to the University Street extension and down University almost to March Avenue. Powell Avenue was outside of town and a dirt road at that time and this was the highest spot on the property. It cost \$4,000 to build the house and the family did most of the labor. All the materials for the home were bought in town--from Garrett's Hardware and Healdsburg Lumber Company and the furniture came from Montgomery Ward. The local Bank of America just said: "Pay us whenever you have time."

In my backyard I still have some of Pop's original Zinfandels and Golden Chasselas, which are now about 90 years old. The original cuttings must have come from the other old Italian families, like the Foppianos and Buchignanis. Though he was planting grapes and bootlegging wine during Prohibition, he didn't really start the winery until after Prohibition ended in 1933. During those Depression years, they also had prunes, apricots and cherries that they planted and sold.

THE EVOLUTION OF ALBERTO RAFANELLI'S WINERY AND PROPERTIES

Pop liked buying land. We remained in the barn until our move to this house on Powell Street when I started high school. We kept all that land (35 acres) and the barn winery until Healdsburg High School wanted the property for expansion in the 1950s. When we were still in the barn, Pop also bought the Le Baron ranch, which was three or four miles north of the Dry Creek Store. Then he purchased the old Plaza Theatre on West Street (now Healdsburg Avenue); Then the newspaper and book

store where the Flying Goat is now. It's last owner was Mary Zandrino. And finally, the 75 acre Foppiano Ranch on West Dry Creek where my nephew David runs the *A. Rafanelli Winery* today.

My dad really wanted to rebuild the Plaza Theatre, but the city wouldn't allow it. A hobo broke in, smoked a cigarette and the theater burned down. It was empty for a couple of years and then the Aven was built on North Street.

The Le Baron property had grapes on the hills and prunes on the flat land. We kept it until about 1946. In 1951-52 after the Le Baron ranch sold, Pop bought a six-room house up in Albion for \$5,300--for all three of us kids for a vacation home. The Foppiano property was purchased in 1955.

After Pop bought the Foppiano Ranch, he turned it over to Vince and Americo, but we all knew that Americo was going to be the farmer and Vince went on to have a career in real estate in Santa Rosa. Pop developed cataracts in both eyes. The first surgery wasn't successful, and he had to have that eye removed. When Pop sold our original 35 acres to the high school, they let him lease back 15 acres for his winemaking. He, in return, let the Healdsburg High School Ag Class do the grape pruning, and Americo worked the land and picked the grapes until the high school needed that section in the 1950s. Pop really quit making wine after he left the barn, and he retired in the late 1950s. After retirement, my parents continued to live in this Powell Avenue house.

All the flat area of West Dry Creek was basically prune orchards until the 1960s. When grapes made their comeback, Americo converted the land to vineyards. Recalling the look of our old barn, he transformed the old, existing Foppiano barn into the *A. Rafanelli Winery*. David worked with his dad until Americo's death in 1986 when David took over the winery. About 10 years ago David built beautiful

caves in the side of the hill on the winery property.

My dad was a very generous man. During the Depression he was approached by an elderly couple who wanted a loan of \$2,000 so that they could keep their house. Mom said their land in Fountain Grove wasn't good grape soil. But Pop said that he'd let them live there and then, because they didn't have any heirs, he would take the land back after their deaths. Mom and Pop sold it several years after the old couple died.

MY HIGH SCHOOL YEARS

The population of Healdsburg was about 1,500 when I was growing up. I went to all Healdsburg schools. We were having our Healdsburg High School Class of 1940 reunions every five years, but several years ago Milt Brandt said, "Why don't we just have it every year at my place?" So, we had the reunions yearly at Milt's, even after he was gone. We continued our reunions up until two years ago when just too many of our classmates were gone.

I loved sports in high school. We had great athletes. I was a forward in girls basketball and Gladys Engelke was the guard. Mary Brandt was a year or two behind us, but she was the baseball catcher and I was a shortstop. We didn't win a lot of games, but we sure had fun.

Americo graduated in 1938 and was awarded the Greyhound Trophy for scholastic and sports excellence. He was such a good underhand pitcher.

I was close to both my brothers and got to do a lot of things with them. I wasn't allowed to date until I was 18. When Pop was owner of the old Plaza Theatre, my friends and I loved the balcony seats. Medico Drugs on Healdsburg Avenue had a fountain where Mary Brandt, Gloria Selze and I would get 'hickeys'--three scoops of sherbet with flavoring and whipped cream on top.

Continued on page 13



Bob Cousins at Powell Street property.

My closest friend was Jeannie Thompson who lived on Johnson Street and married an Air Force Captain. Her dad was a policeman. We had an especially close class because so many of us stayed here in town: Gladys Engelke, Helendale Barrett, John and Joe Barrett, Mabel Biocchi, June (Maher) Smith, Catherine Curtis, Louise Buchignani, Dorothy Osborn and Ernie Palmieri--to name a few.

YOUNG ADULthood AND MARRIAGE

My first job after high school was at the Reed and Bell Root Beer Stand where I was a car hop, all dressed in white. Mrs. Schieffer, my boss, checked my outfit every day. I had to go to a beauty shop for my hair. Had to wear white cotton slacks and top with a white crown on my head. I met a lot of fellas, but the folks wouldn't let me date yet. However, they never refused me going anywhere with my brothers.

My second job was at the Creamery (where Manzanitas Restaurant is now), which was owned by the Kramer family. My third job was at the local Ben Franklin store.

I met my first love and husband-to-be, Robert Cousins, while I was working at the Creamery. He was stationed at Hamilton Field with the 908 Engineers Air Force, and I met him through Americo's best friend, Kenneth Cadd. I was 23 and Bob was 26. Originally from Pennsylvania, after the service he became a foreman for a hydro conduit corporation which made huge concrete pipes. After we were married in

1946, we lived over on Linda View Avenue within walking distance of the Powell Avenue house where my folks lived.

Every morning I'd help Mom and Pop as he got older. I had power of attorney, and went back and forth between my home and theirs and took care of my dad's eye appointments. Pop always said that he should leave this home to me because I would keep it for awhile, which I surely have.

My brother, Vince, died of a heart attack in 1961 at age 49 and Pop died in 1963. Americo died in 1986. Americo's son, David, and David's daughter, Shelly, are third and fourth generation Rafanelli winemakers.

RETIREMENT YEARS AND LIFE TODAY

Bob always encouraged me to help take care of my folks, but he also suggested I take up golfing with him. He wanted me to take a lesson at Tayman Park with the pro who recognized my old baseball swing. "I don't want to change anything about your swing," the golf pro told me. So I joined the Women's Club and hit balls every day for many years. I just wanted to do the golfing for fun, but the Club wanted someone to beat Beulah McCaffrey. I reached the champion bracket and the third year I actually beat Beulah! So they sent me a plaque.

When Bob retired we spent time traveling and playing golf together. We did everything together. Bob played golf with the same group every day for about 20 years. Herb Selzle, John Whitton, Bob Simon and Bob Cousins were all four from German ancestry and were known around Tayman Park as "The Four Krauts".

In 1972 Helen Rosenberg (from Rosenberg and Bush Department Store) and Fritz Kennedy called me about starting a pink lady deal at the new Healdsburg Hospital. So I was one of the founders of the Healdsburg Hospital Volunteers, which has been a big part of my life for the past 37 years. I have been the historian (keeping the history--

newspaper clippings, etc.--of both the pink ladies and the hospital), the day chairman and the sunshine chairman (writing get well and birthday cards, etc.). There are about 50 volunteers, and we've given scholarships every year for nursing or medical education--at least two scholarships for college and one for continuing education for someone who's working here and really needs it.

David donated \$50,000 to the Healdsburg Hospital Volunteers in my name. We use the interest to buy equipment for the hospital--a wheelchair, an ice machine, a big TV counsel on wheels for the subacute care. I go in every Wednesday to work in the gift shop, deliver flowers and mail, help with the menus and help with certain paperwork. Other charter members were Bess Cunningham and Mary Frost. Although I'm the only charter member still volunteering, Barbara McCutchan, Norma Moniz, Connie Seymour and Mary Jean Elze each worked for about 20 years. Charlotte Damkroger just retired and Anita Allen is still volunteering at age 93.

My husband Bob died in 1988. I love dogs and have had two very special ones in the last 20 years. I took my former black lab, Zellerbach, into the convalescent home for pet therapy. Until fairly recently I had Sonoma, a yellow lab, and we walked a mile every day together.

When I think about my family, what was most special was the way that we were very close and we discussed everything. It meant so much to my parents to have us all together at dinner time. According to Pop, we were the happiest when we lived in the old barn during the Depression and didn't have anything. RRR



Norma Cousins with Queenie.

HISTORY OF THE DRY CREEK NEIGHBORS' CLUB

1909-2009

By Ann Howard, President, and Amy Robinson, Secretary, 2008-2011



Costume party held at the home of Mrs. Atlanta Eastlick on Pena Creek Road (now Yoakim Bridge Road) in about 1918-1919. Among the ladies are from the left: Delia Hartsock, Mrs. Nell Lambert, Mrs. Mary Widlund in the middle with white hair, Mrs. Lora LeBaron in back third from right, Mrs. Atlanta Eastlick with dark hair and dark buttons, Mrs. A. J. (Nannie) Galloway.*

*Now the modern home and business of the Brian and Gail (Okumura) Sullivan's Dry Creek Peach & Produce.
(Courtesy of the Healdsburg Museum and Historical Society)*

On November 17, 1909, the Dry Creek Neighbors' Club was organized when a small group of ladies met at the home of Mrs. James W. (Elizabeth) Hendricks, 7005 Dry Creek Rd., Healdsburg and was known as the Dry Creek Woman's Home Mission Society.

Mr. Lovick P. Shearer, pastor of the M.E. Church South, Healdsburg, was admitted to membership as he helped found the group, the only man ever to become a member. Dues were 10 cents per

meeting, and there were eight members. Officers elected that day were Miss Estella Hendricks, President; Mrs. W. E. (Nan) Richards, 1st Vice-President; Mrs. A. N. (Hattie) Clark, 2nd Vice-President; Mrs. Bonnie Rouse, 3rd Vice-President; Miss Mayme Hendricks, Corresponding Secretary; Mrs. Ethel Jensen, Recording Secretary and Treasurer; and Mrs. James M. (Elizabeth) Hendricks, agent for "Our Homes".



The James W. and Elizabeth Hendricks' home at 7005 Dry Creek Road (at Canyon Road), Healdsburg.

Then, as now, meetings were held in members' homes, and the motto is "Kind Thoughts, Kind Words, Kind Deeds" as proposed by Nan Richards. At a meeting held at the home of Mrs. G. R. (Elsie) Watson on December 30, 1914, the group reorganized as a ladies' aid society and changed the name to Dry Creek Neighbors' Club as suggested by Hannah Widlund. The work of the club didn't change much, and the custom of reading the Bible and singing hymns at each meeting continued.

During the years of 1909 to 1914 the club was busy helping others, an act that has continued through the years. In those first few years the new club made quilts for needy families and orphan-

Continued on page 15



Mayme Hendricks, first Corresponding Secretary, and her sister, Estella Hendricks, first President of the Dry Creek Woman's Home Mission Society, on November 17, 1909, at their home at 7005 Dry Creek Road.

ages, especially for the children at the Salvation Army Home at Lytton, to which they once also gave money to buy clothing for the children to wear to a fair. Canned fruits and jellies were also sent each year to military and other hospitals in the Bay Area.

Monies to support various charities were obtained through dues, donations, bazaars and ice cream socials. In 1910 receipts from a social were used to install plumbing in the parsonage [pastor Shearer's], and in 1911 final payment on a buggy and harness belonging to the pastor were paid from monies raised at an ice cream social held at Pena School on West Dry Creek Road. At other times the club donated \$10 to help dig a well for a needy family, \$21 to a sick man, and \$10 was given to the minister for the hire of a horse in order that he could come to Dry Creek to preach. Church and Sunday school were held in the one-room Dry Creek School. In 1916 comforters were given to a needy family, necessary things were given to an Indian baby, and \$5.00 and a box were sent at Christmas time to workers at Angel Island.

During both World Wars members sewed for the hospitals and servicemen, and made many donations to the American Red Cross. It was in 1918 after a spirited discussion, that refreshments were restricted to two items, and anyone violating the rule was to be fined \$5.00, the fine donated to the Red Cross. According to memory of several members in the early years, the matter came up when one of the members, who was both generous and a good cook, offered guests such a "scrumptious" meal that others felt they could not compete. In September refreshments were done away with all together, but were allowed again at the end of the war. No comforters were donated to Lytton that year.

Unfortunately, the Secretary's records from 1922-1926 were lost, but those that survive are full



Mrs. Elizabeth Hendricks



Costume party mid 1920's

of charitable donations that would fill a thick ledger, bits of humor among the generosity, and many examples of friendship.

In the fall of 1926 the club authorized the purchase of three dozen serving trays, which we still use to serve refreshments. One dozen folding chairs were purchased in 1929 for the use of members when entertaining the club, with a one dollar rental fee charged for their use for other purposes. The purchase of club stationery with suitable heading was authorized. Members having reached the age of seventy were excused from entertaining if they so desired, a custom still honored today. Creative ways have always been devised in order to raise money, such as the birthday fund, when each member paid one penny for each year of their birthday. On occasion the club invited other clubs as guests, among which were the Sotoyome and Geyserville Literary Clubs and the Geyserville Monday Afternoon Club, and the various groups reciprocated.

After the war the club resumed making quilts and comforters for the Lytton Orphanage, and called a special meeting to finish comforters for an Italian family who lost everything in a fire. Even though membership was (and still is) limited to residents of Dry Creek Valley, the club's charitable contributions and interest reached far and wide. The \$10 sent to the Mississippi Relief Fund in 1927 is but one example. The club went on record as favoring the building of a \$75,000 tuberculosis hospital in Sonoma County. Refreshments were often the subject of discussions, it being difficult to keep them simple.

In 1927 the meditation by Annie Little Barry was adopted as our closing prayer and still recited. The club purchased books for use in the meetings, the books later sold to the members. Scriptures were read during those early years, and a program is still presented by members at the home of the hostess each month. An extensive collection of these annual program booklets from the early 1930s is found in the archives of the club. The club colors are blue and gold, and the club flower is the marigold. Because of

Continued on page 16

Continued from page 15

small attendance during the summer months in this busy farming community, business meetings were discontinued years ago during July, August, and September, but today a casual potluck picnic is shared during those months with husbands and friends invited.

In November 1929 the club celebrated their twentieth anniversary. It was also the fifty-second wedding anniversary of Mrs. James (Elizabeth) Hendricks in whose home the club was organized. The first president, Mrs. Estella (Hendricks) Traub, was also present and talks were given by several of the past presidents. A list of all the past presidents has been added to each year, and Kay Robinson, the current secretary and third generation member, is reviewing the records to create a list of all past members.

The club is one of the oldest women's clubs in Sonoma County. As a member of the California Federation of Women's Club for many years, the club often sent a representative to the Federation's annual convention. The Club Collect, which is recited at beginning of each meeting, was adopted by the club in 1952 while a member of the Federation. During WWII the club focused mostly on Red Cross and war work.

Dues in 1930 were 90 cents with \$24.11 cash on hand. In 1952 dues were \$1, but some members paid up to \$3. Dues went up to \$2 in 1963, then to \$5 in 1985; currently dues are \$15.00 a year. Members joined, moved on, or passed away, but remained at 30 to 35 as it does today.

In 1936 Mayme (Hendricks) Adams, Secretary, wrote a letter to the County Historian updating the history of the club's activity during the five years prior. Donations of time, charity, and cheer too numerous to list continued. Mayme added that during the annual "play day" in June 1934 the club presented "A Manless Wedding", which proved "successful as well as amusing." That year the club printed a cookbook of favorite recipes of the members. A capsule game was played during that period, but no information has been found to describe this game. Speakers on numerous topics or members sharing travel adventures were and continue to be invited to address the club.

In 1940 the club met in the home of Gertrude Hendricks, the historic adobe of northern Dry Creek Valley dating back to the Tzabaco Land Grant of the 1840s. Later the club met there when Floris Martin hosted the meeting and more recently when Melba Long lived there. In the spring of 2010 members will be allowed to tour the old adobe, the oldest landmark in the valley.



(Back l-r) Emily Ratbbone, xx, Lora LeBaron, Mary Eakle, Annie Snider, Ruby Henderlong, Mora Barrett, Emma LeBaron, xx, xx, xx, Lenore Keesling, Marie Phillips. (Front l-r) Charlotte Enzenauer, Lydia Goodyear, Emily Thayer, xx, Leila Schmidt, Delia Hartsock, about 1937 at Annie Snider's home at 4694 Dry Creek Road (since burned down).

In 1942 a poem was recited by Mrs. Nate Cox, which "aptly could be used to advertise the Buckle of the Prune Belt":

The prune's the thing that keeps you young,
And fills your cheeks with dimples.
They give you pep, increase your step,
And absorb all your wrinkles.

So eat them raw, or cooked or stuffed,
In puddings, cakes and pies.
They'll give your cheeks a ruddy glow,
And put twinkles in your eyes.



Clyda Ritz, member for over 50 years, at the fudge booth 2007

Continued on page 17

Beginning in 1955 the club began a scholarship fund, which is awarded to graduating seniors of Healdsburg and Geyserville High Schools each year. Money has been raised by selling homemade candies, especially fudge and chocolate-covered prunes, at the Healdsburg Future Farmers Country Fair each year since the fair began in 1949. In the first 25 years the club awarded approximately \$4,000 to seniors with the hope that the small monetary assistance would give them the knowledge that the club has both faith and hope for the future of their generation. By 1994 the grand total given as scholarships was approximately \$25,000. By 2008 the total had risen to \$32,500.

In 1959 the club celebrated its 50th anniversary and honored Mrs. Mayme (Hendricks) Adams, charter member and past president, who had also prepared the 50-year history of the club. The club was presented a scroll by the California Federation of Women's Clubs.

When Helen (Petersen) Glaser was Secretary in 1959, she added bits of humor to the monthly minutes that she wrote in the hardbound notebook. Not often was the refreshment noted in the past, but in December 1959 the prune cake served was an obvious local favorite. In April 1960 after a delicious pot luck luncheon, members relaxed in the living room where the president "tried to awaken us so as to conduct our meeting." In May response to the roll call was "my favorite diet, and after listening to what we should and shouldn't eat, candy recipes were exchanged." Another time she wrote that at the end of a meeting members were looking forward to the refreshments, "calories or no calories!"

In 1960 the club discussed the proposed naming of what was then called "Dry Creek Dam" by submitting the names "Skaggs Springs Dam" and "Soyotome Lake" to the county. The names eventually chosen were Warm Springs Dam and Lake Sonoma.



In honor of the 1976 Bicentennial Year, the club worked for three years on "Vintage Memories, Dry Creek, Neighbors and Friends" consisting of a collection of stories about the early days in Dry Creek Valley and surrounds. The picture of Manzanita School and children on the cover was sketched by Rosinda Holmes. Edited by Patricia (Phillips) Schmidt and published in 1979

to create an interest in local history, the club members hoped that the book would "act as a catalyst for others to write down family tales and histories, and memories of Healdsburg." Due to its popularity, the 750 copies at \$4.00 each soon sold out with the proceeds used for scholarships. The club is anticipating publishing an updated edition.

In 1975 a "Friendship Quilt" was made by the 35 members, each designing a square to "reflect the personality of its maker." In 1976, also in honor of the Bicentennial, a second quilt was made of squares designed by the members, and a pillow with embroidered names of all the members. This quilt won two blue ribbons, one each at the Sonoma District of the Federation of Women's Clubs, the other at the State Convention of the Federation. The two quilts and pillow were raffled off within the club to allow members to keep them within the club.



Quilt and pillow made in 1976 by club members in honor of the Bicentennial.

As reported in the *Healdsburg Tribune* on May 12, 1983, "The Dry Creek Neighbors' Club, after three years of work has come up with a design and one actual sign ready to put in the ground. The club's plan to erect four signs at strategic entrances to the fertile, grape-growing valley went before the Sonoma County Board of Zoning Adjustments and was unanimously approved." Another report noted that "the controversial dam at the northwest end of Dry Creek Valley has something to do with the signs. The dam



prompted 'a lot of acrid feelings' in the valley, and the Neighbors' Club sign project was a 'joint effort pulling everyone together'."

A contest suggested by the Farm Bureau and open to the public was proposed to choose a slogan for the welcoming sign. The winner, "ENJOY, PROTECT, RETURN," was submitted by Mrs. Marilyn Johnson, who has been a member of Dry Creek Neighbors' Club since 1960. A new sign was designed by the Winegrowers of Dry Creek Valley and installed in 2007 replacing the old signs in the four locations.



Cookbook published in 1995.

At a very early date Mrs. Atlanta Eastlick and her daughter Alice typed a cook book with a recipe from each member, but unfortunately a copy was not saved in the records. What became a very popular cookbook was published in 1995, a compilation of 540 recipes from Dry Creek Valley wineries, winegrowers, members and friends, including many old and cherished family favorites. A

beautiful water color painting of a quail in a wreath of grape vines, donated by local artist Marge Gray, graces the front cover.

Since 2002 members have made soft Teddy bears for the local hospital and fire station to give to help those in need cope in emergency situations. On the second Tuesday of March members cook and serve the traditional St. Patrick's Day meal of corned beef, cabbage, carrots, boiled potatoes, and green pistachio cake for 120 members of the Geyserville Chamber of Commerce since 2003. At our meetings we collect canned goods to be donated to the Shared Ministries Food Pantry in Healdsburg.

In May 2009 the club celebrated 60 years selling candy at the Healdsburg Future Farmers Country Fair and participated in the parade to celebrate the 100th anniversary of club; the float received second prize in the club category.



Dry Creek Neighbors' Club float in parade at the Healdsburg Future Farmers' Country Fair in May 2009

Because the club meets in members' homes, membership has always been limited to 35. Today among the membership are daughters and granddaughters of members of the past 100 years. Our current officers are Ann Howard, President; Lee Nalle, Vice President; Kay Robinson, Secretary; Sharon Pillsbury, Alternate Secretary; and Theresa Wistrom, Treasurer. Our longest-standing members are Aileen Steadman and Clyda Ritz (over 50 years); Marilyn Johnson, Frances Etchell, and Hilda Strom (honorary) (over forty); Alice Petersen (honorary), Bertha Carley, and Louise Madden (over thirty); Anne Rued, Barbara Petersen, Nadine Anderson, and Lois Bohn (over 20 years); Della Faloni, Beverly Pillsbury, Denna Faloni, Mary Jo Garrett, Gloria Cameron, Charlotte Damkroger, Bette Kiser, and Dee Rued (over 10 years). Most recent members are Mary Jane Corson, Celia Palacio, Sharon Pillsbury, Toni Foster, April Lance, Kay Robinson, Ann Howard, Lee

Continued on page 19

Nalle, Janice Torres, Theresa Wistrom, Anita Forchini, Charlotte Chavez, and Shirley Buchignani.

Down through the years the Dry Creek Neighbors' Club has continued to help others in many ways. We remain a community club consisting of friends and neighbors who enjoy meeting and working together on various projects in the hope that we may contribute to our surrounding community in a manner that will help lead the way toward an even more fruitful future for those who come after us (as written by Patricia Schmidt, 1974).

On November 12, 2009, members of the Dry Creek Neighbors' Club officially celebrated the 100th anniversary at the home of Theresa Wistrom at 1601 Dry Creek Road. Kay Robinson and Ann Howard shared many details gleaned from the early minutes and program booklets; memorabilia was displayed, followed by members sharing fond memories. The kind deeds of the club over the past century fill the many bound notebooks, and the celebration will last all year long. **RRR**

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HM&HS Healdsburg Memorial Bridge Resolution

Approved by HM&HS Board of Directors

December 15, 2009

WHEREAS, the Healdsburg Memorial Bridge has been the iconic gateway to the City of Healdsburg for 88 years; and

WHEREAS, the Healdsburg Memorial Bridge is only one of 15 remaining examples of, steel, Pennsylvania Petit, pin-connected, through-truss construction in the USA; and

WHEREAS, the Healdsburg Memorial Bridge has been documented with the State of California as an important historic element in the development of the County highway transportation system; and

WHEREAS, the Healdsburg Memorial Bridge is located on the site of the 1850's wagon bridge and is one of the most visual symbols of Healdsburg's past; and

WHEREAS, the Healdsburg Memorial Bridge is listed in the State of California's Historic Resources Inventory and is one of only 7 out of a total of 625 bridges in Sonoma County eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places; and

WHEREAS, the mission of HM&HS is "to actively foster the appreciation of the local history of the Healdsburg area"; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Healdsburg Museum and Historical Society considers the Healdsburg Memorial Bridge a structure of historical significance to the City of Healdsburg, County of Sonoma and State of California; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Healdsburg Museum and Historical Society strongly urge our City Council to thoroughly study the alternative for effective and safe rehabilitation of the Memorial Bridge for continued transportation use at its present site; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be conveyed by an HM&HS board officer to our City Council at one of its regular meetings on or before January 11, 2010.



These official pin ribbons were worn to judge the Russian River Riders Horse Show and Sheep Dog Trials, June 1946 and 1947. The printed purple silk ribbons, #416-17 and 18, were donated to the Healdsburg Museum by June Maher Smith in 1993. Her father, William Maher, was an enthusiastic member of the Russian River Riders.