



History Lives Pioneer Award Dinner

Reminder! *by Cindy Martin*

As a member of the Healdsburg Museum and Historical Society you should have received your invitation to our Pioneer Award Dinner coming up on March 12th at the Villa Chanticleer. This year we will be honoring a long time Healdsburg business owner and someone who has literally helped build this very special town of ours. While raising his family and running his masonry business, Gene Domenichelli still found time to be involved in helping with sports, school and civic duties in Healdsburg. He has left his mark on our town both in stone and in his generous spirit. Please join us in honoring one of our true pioneers. This special night always sells out, so order your tickets early or call the Museum if you did not receive your invitation.

Wrap-up of the 2009 Annual Meeting

by Al Loebel

The Museum's Annual Meeting for 2009 was held on the evening of January 22 at the Villa Chanticleer Annex. It was attended by 68 people who partook in a social hour, a potluck dinner and a program that included the election of new officers and board members and the presentation of a Historic Restoration award.

A huge thank you has to go out to all those who made it possible. The decorating committee of Charlotte Anderson, Catherine Curtis and Ann Howard did a great job. The beautiful flowers for the tables were donated by Perry Beeson, Jr., Carol Nelson and Charlotte Anderson. The kitchen crew, once again ably managed by Ed Head, consisted of Doreene Zanzi, Sue Phillips, Barbara Baxter, Kaye Stallard and Pam Vana-Paxhia. And Loraine Plass

outdid herself by pouring wine, not only during the reception hour, but during the whole evening. Thank you all for the wonderful services you provided.



Satisfied members enjoying dinner

The formal program was kicked off by Ann Mahoney, outgoing President, and Holly Hoods, Research & Acting Curator. Both made presentations. Ann talked about her two year tenure as President and our accomplishments, plus the challenges and opportunities the Museum will be facing. Holly talked enthusiastically about the plans for 2009 as well as how hectic the last several months have been, working without our Curator, Dan Murley, who's been out on medical leave.



President Kent Mitchell

The new slate of Officers that were elected are Kent Mitchell, President, Ted Calvert, Vice President, Ann Mahoney, Past President, Bob Rawlins, Secretary, Stan Becker, Treasurer and Anna Darden, Assistant Treasurer.

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Calendar

FEBRUARY, 2009

- 2 HMVA Meeting, 9:30 am
- 7 Wild Steelhead Festival, Plaza, 10 am - 4 pm
- 18 Board Meeting, 9:30 am

MARCH, 2009

- 2 HMVA Meeting, 9:30 am
- 12 History Lives Dinner, Villa Chanticleer
- 18 Board Meeting, 9:30 am

Healdsburg Museum

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Museum Hours: 11:00 - 4:00 pm
Wednesday – Sunday,
CLOSED MONDAY and TUESDAY
Research Archives open by appointment:
Thursday – Saturday

Research Report *by Holly Hoods*

One of the highlights of the “Toys, Games and Creative Hobbies” exhibit was last month’s tour by 30 kindergarten, first and second grade students from Redwood Adventist Academy. I asked Bill and Alice Cordtz to come in for the tour to help show some of the artifacts that they had loaned for the exhibit. Their son David Cordtz’s circus was a big hit, especially with Bill’s accompanying story. Bill also charmed the kids and parents alike with his lively demonstration of a working marionette. He explained how they were made and eventually came to be in his collection.



Bill Cordtz demonstrating puppet manipulation

Alice showed how intricate the marionette costumes were and what repairs she had made to the originals to prepare them for display.



Alice Cordtz explaining puppet preparation

Everyone loved it. Special thanks to volunteers Bob Rawlins, Anna Hansen and De Andersen for assisting that day. De was tremendous at maintaining order, wielding an impressively authoritative “teacher voice” I never knew she had, a remnant from former second-grade teacher days. Anna, a high school volunteer, walked in the door just after the big group arrived. I

tossed her a camera and asked her to take pictures, which turned out great (as you can see). Bob stepped in just in time to prevent a tangled marionette from turning into a snafu and to un-jam the hugely popular slot machine. Teacher Carol Serna was so impressed with the exhibit that she came back the next day with her son, Nick. Since then some of her students have returned with their parents.

Four people contacted the Museum in response to my Oral History “help wanted” request last month. Thank you for volunteering, Cindy Demostene Martin, Ernestine Nicoletti Reimann, Eric Smith and Don Parker. I look forward to working with you and certainly welcome your help! I am creating a new oral history orientation worksheet to help the volunteers get a little guidance on oral history procedure without having to attend meetings. More help is always appreciated if you care to join us.

Next week Justin Whittaker and Joe Brighente will be filming a short segment at the Museum for their new website “MyHbg.tv,” a locally-oriented site devoted to nonprofits and their news. The two, who worked together at Access Healdsburg, want to present short videos, photos, information and announcements to link residents in our area with the local nonprofit organizations and their websites. Justin and Joe propose to film a monthly artifact feature at the Museum (2-5 minutes in length) and host it on their site. We briefly discussed a few other ideas, like oral history clips and a “then and now” photo feature. The first artifact in the new series will be the Pomo fishing weir, donated to the Museum over a decade ago by Amy Neel, and currently on exhibit as part of the permanent display. I thought it would be a perfect tie-in with the February 7th Wild Steelhead Festival, especially since the four-foot wide fishing weir will NOT be part of the Museum’s fishing display at the Plaza event.

Annual Steelhead Festival

by Charlotte Anderson

On Saturday, February 7, in the Plaza, Healdsburg will hold its annual Steelhead Festival from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Healdsburg Museum & Historical Society will have a table with photos, artifacts, brochures, and our Healdsburg book! There will be many activities featured that day from



Rose Demostene's catch

informational materials on the river, dam, and fish to actual fishing for trout in the Gazebo pond! Buses will also be provided for those who wish to go to the Warm Springs Dam, the Clausen Fish Hatchery, and the Milt Brandt Visitor Center. It will be a day full of fun and learning for those of all ages!

Meet Your Members *by Bob Rawlins*

We continue this series to highlight the members who donate time to HM&HS to meet and greet the visitors to the museum exhibit gallery. Meet Phil Hartlaub who generally can be found at the reception desk on the first Saturday of the month, a prime visiting day.

Phil was born in Chicago, Illinois, the last of ten children in the family. Phil’s father was a coal broker, in those days coal being the most utilized source of home heat. At 14, Phil left home to join the Marionist Order, a Catholic order in which he became a “brother.” He completed his education in the order and then taught high school in St. Louis, Milwaukee and East St. Louis for ten and a half years. In 1965, he attended a summer program for high school Physics teachers at Stanford University in Palo Alto and decided to move to California. He left the order, married Jeanne Leal, settled in Burlingame and continued his teaching career teaching math and physics at Burlingame High School until 2000. Phil and Jeanne have a daughter, a physical therapist at Memorial Hospital, and a son who writes for the SF Chronicle.

Phil and Jeanne had relatives in Santa Rosa and, in 2000, decided to move north. They found a house in Healdsburg. Jeanne is a nurse working for Kaiser Hospital in Petaluma. I asked Phil how he had connected with the museum, but he couldn’t recall exactly. It just seemed like a good thing to do to stay busy. Phil still stays busy. He teaches math at Santa Rosa Junior College and is currently taking a guitar class at Healdsburg High offered by the junior college. He also a skier (downhill) and can be seen riding his bicycle around the area.

Phil, thanks for your service to the museum, especially taking the reception duty on Saturdays.

Annual Meeting Wrap-up (continued)

The balance of the board will consist of continuing members Mel Amato, Mark Gleason, Charlotte Anderson, Dan Maraviglia, John Cross, Joe Norton, Frank Zak, Al Loebel and Carla Howell, as well as

newly elected members Darci Rosales, Louise Fowler and Celso Rosales. The 2009 Nominating Committee was also elected and consists of Anna Darden, Dan Maraviglia and Mel Amato.



Ann Mahoney receives service plaque

A highlight of the evening was a presentation of an award made by Fran Schiernebeck to Linda Barber and Jack Cunningham. They were awarded a plaque for the wonderful historic restoration of their home at 325 Fitch Street.



Award winners Linda Barber and Jack Cunningham

This event is always fun. It’s a potluck, so the food is always terrific. Please consider attending next year.

GROUNDHOG DAY HISTORY

by Charlotte Anderson

Groundhog Day, February 2nd, is a popular tradition in the U.S. It is also a legend that traverses centuries, its origins clouded in the mists of time with ethnic cultures and animals awakening on specific dates. Myths such as this tie our present to the distant past when nature did, indeed, influence our lives. It is the day that the Groundhog comes out of his hole after a long winter sleep to look for his shadow: if he sees it, he regards it as an omen of six more weeks of bad weather and returns to his hole; if the day is cloudy and, hence, shadowless, he takes it as a sign of spring and stays above ground.

The groundhog tradition stems from similar beliefs associated with Candlemas Day and the days of early Christians in Europe, and for centuries the custom was to have the clergy bless candles and distribute them to the people. Even then, it marked a milestone in the winter and the weather that day was important.

According to an old English song:
*If Candlemas be fair and bright,
Come, Winter, have another flight;
If Candlemas brings clouds and rain,
Go Winter, and come not again.*

According to an old Scotch couplet:
*If Candlemas Day is bright and clear,
There'll be twa winters in the year.*

The Roman legions, during the conquest of the northern country, supposedly brought this tradition to the Teutons, or Germans, who picked it up and concluded that if the sun made an appearance on Candlemas Day, an animal, the hedgehog, would cast a shadow, thus predicting six more weeks of bad weather, which they interpolated as the length of the "Second Winter."

Pennsylvania's earliest settlers were Germans and they found groundhogs in profusion in many parts of the state. They determined that the groundhog, resembling the European hedgehog, was a most intelligent and sensible animal and therefore decided that if the sun did appear on February 2nd, so wise an animal as the groundhog would see its shadow and hurry back into its underground home for another six weeks of winter. The Germans recited:

*For as the sun shines on Candlemas Day,
So far will the snow swirl until the May*

This passage may be the one most closely represented by the first Punxsutawney Groundhog Day observances because they were references to the length of shadows in early Groundhog Day predictions.

Another February 2nd belief, used by American 19th century farmers was "Groundhog Day – Half your hay." New England farmers knew that we were not close to the heart of winter. If the farmer didn't have half his hay remaining, there may have been lean times for the cows before spring and fresh grass arrived.

The ancient Candlemas legend and similar belief continue to be recognized annually on February 2nd due to the efforts of the Punxsutawney Groundhog Club. Punxsutawney had its first Groundhog Day in the 1800s. The first official trek to Gobbler's Knob was made on February 2, 1887.

On February 2, Phil comes out of his burrow on Gobbler's Knob---in front of thousands of followers from all over the world---to predict the weather for the rest of winter. The spirited crowd, some clad in furry groundhog hats or even full-length costumes, chants "Phil! Phil! Phil!" After fireworks and a long night of rock music draws to an end and the hour of the ceremony nears.

What Groundhog Day entails is a lot of revelry, although alcohol has been banned from Gobbler's Knob, the site just outside town where Punxsutawney Phil appears. "We couldn't care less if he sees his shadow," said Bill Cooper, president of the Punxsutawney Groundhog Club, "It's a people holiday."

Over the course of the years, Phil has had numerous noteworthy appearances at Gobbler's Knob and elsewhere.

---During Prohibition, Phil threatened 6 more weeks of winter if he wasn't allowed a drink.

---In 1981 Phil wore a yellow ribbon in honor of the American hostages in Iran.

---On 1993 Columbia Pictures released the movie *Groundhog Day* starring Bill Murray.

---In the years following the release of the movie, record crowds numbering as high as 30,000 have visited Gobbler's Knob in Punxsutawney.

---Phil appeared on the OPRAH Winfrey Show in 1995.

Tidbits from the Past

A Grand Park

(*Healdsburg Enterprise*, August 14, 1889)

About a mile from Guerneville the remarkable redwood forest of Colonel J. B. Armstrong begins, and the best of it covers 400 acres, with as much more of excellent redwood land adjacent. This best portion has been untouched and shows what the Guerneville woods must have resembled in their plenitude and prime. I have never seen finer redwood, even nearer the coast, where the best forests are supposed to have been. The trees stand with great evenness, and are of uniform size. The largest are from 40 to 47 feet in girth, and from 275

Endowment Fund Contributions:

Generous Contributions from:

Mr. & Mrs. C.L. Miller, Laura Tietz, Mary Brandt, Clay Green, Susan Arbios,

In remembrance of:

Bud Rose - Alma, Shirley & Rick Buchignani

Welcome New Members:

Carol Novak

Spelling correction, our apologies:

Joel & Harlene Wright

to 320 feet in height. There is very little other growth. No fire has ever done noticeable damage in the forest; no fallen trees are seen, and no sheep or cattle are allowed to pasture there. It is like a park. Colonel Armstrong's intention is to have this 400 acres kept in some manner for public use, so that it shall never be destroyed, only the necessary cutting required to keep it at its best being done. The exact shape that his plans will take is not yet made public, but it pleasant to know that a citizen of California is able and willing to reserve so large a tract of redwoods, so well situated, within a few hours' ride from San Francisco. A hundred years from now its interest and public value may well be almost beyond computation. - Corr. S.F. Call

What a Girl Should Learn

(Healdsburg Enterprise, March 20, 1884)

What a girl should learn, as set forth by the Springfield "Union"

- To sew.
- To cook.
- To mend.
- To be gentle.
- To value time.
- To dress neatly.
- To keep a secret.
- To be self-reliant.
- To avoid idleness.

- To mind the baby.
- To darn stockings.
- To respect old age.
- To make good bread.
- To keep a house tidy.
- To control her temper.
- To be above gossiping.
- To make a home happy.
- To take care of the sick.
- To humor a cross old man.
- To marry a man for his worth.
- To be a helpmate to a husband.
- To take plenty of active exercise.
- To see a mouse without screaming.
- To read some books besides novels.
- To be light-hearted and fleet-footed.
- To wear shoes that don't cramp the feet.
- To be a womanly woman under all circumstances.

(Ed: Guys, dream on.)

Board of Directors: Kent Mitchell (President), Ted Calvert (Vice President), Ann Mahoney (Past President), Bob Rawlins (Recording Secretary), Stan Becker (Treasurer), Anna Darden (Assist. Treas.), Mel Amato, Charlotte Anderson, John Cross, Louise Fowler, Mark Gleason, Carla Howell, Al Loebel, Dan Maraviglia, Joe Norton, Darci Rosales, Celso Rosales, Frank Zak.

The mission of the Healdsburg Museum and Historical Society is to record the history of the Healdsburg area through the collection and preservation of historical materials; to actively foster the appreciation of local history of the Healdsburg area through educational programs, activities and historical research; and to provide finances for, and to support, operate and manage the Healdsburg Museum, Edwin Langhart, Founder.

Membership Dues:

Harmon Heald: \$1000 Josefa Carrillo: \$500 Edwin Langhart: \$250 Gold: \$100 Family (2 or more): \$40
Business: \$75 Individual: \$25

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