



HM & HS 2009 ANNUAL MEETING

by Charlotte Anderson

The annual get together of the HM & HS members will be on **Thursday, January 22, 2009, at the Villa Chanticleer Annex.** Doors will open at 6 p.m. for a social hour and the receiving of pot luck dishes by Ed Head and the rest of the kitchen crew volunteer assistants. Dinner will be served at 7 p.m. followed by a short program.

POT LUCK ASSIGNMENTS: Last names beginning with **A through L bring hot dishes** and **L through Z bring salads.** Dessert will be provided, but anyone wishing to bring a special dessert is welcome to do so in addition to the "regular assignment"! **Don't forget to bring a serving utensil for your dish as well as your own "place setting" of plate and eating utensils.**

Transitions

by Ann Mahoney, *Outgoing HM&HS President*



People are naturally resistant to change, and the institutions they run are slow to change as well. A historical society, dedicated as it is to the preservation of history, may be one of those institutions most resistant. But over the course of the last two years, our Museum's Board of Directors has agreed to reconfigure governance in a fundamental way.

In June 2007, Bruce Eldredge, a representative of the American Association of Museums (AAM) and current Executive Director and CEO of the Buffalo Bill Historical Center in Cody, WY, came to Healdsburg at our request to evaluate the HM&HS's governance. We knew that the

Museum was being managed/governed in a manner that was ultimately unsustainable and inefficient, "volunteer fatigue" being one of the primary problems. Mr. Eldredge reviewed a packet of documents and reports we prepared according to AAM specifications, and thus was familiar with our operations before he spent two days with us, talking to board and committee members and our curators. After completing his on-site review, he met with the Board, the curators, members of the Administration Committee and other interested volunteers, and explained his findings and recommendations. That was followed several weeks later by a written report detailing what he felt the museum should do to bring its governance into the 21st century.

The recommendations ranged from the trivial (change "Board of Directors" to "Board of Trustees") to the substantive (hire an Executive Director to ensure the museum is professionally run and less dependent on volunteer labor). While the Board rejected being called Trustees, we agreed, after hours of discussion, including two off-site, facilitator-led, all-day meetings, to begin the search for an Executive Director (ED), which search is currently under way. It is probable that we will have hired him or her by the end of January 2009.

It has been my privilege to serve as the president of the HM&HS for the past two years as we wrestled with the ramifications of such a basic change in how the museum is operated, as well as the usual run of problems that needed solutions. The next steps, adding an ED and implementing other suggestions made by the AAM, will prove challenging, but I am confident they will be carried out with the same dedication and collegiality the board manifested as we worked to reconcile the differing views on staffing.

(The Museum President's message is continued on page 4)

Calendar

JANUARY, 2009

- 5 HMVA Meeting **back at City Council Chambers**, 9:30 am
- 21 Board Meeting, 9:30 am
- 22 Annual Meeting, 6 pm, Villa Annex

FEBRUARY, 2009

- 2 HMVA Meeting, 9:30 am
- 7 Steelhead Festival in Plaza (Museum to have table display)
- 18 Board Meeting, 9:30 am

Healdsburg Museum

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Healdsburg, CA 95448
Telephone 707 431 3325 - Fax 707 473 4471
www.healdsburgmuseum.org
HealdsburgMuseum@sbcglobal.net
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

Jim Hotchkiss (James M. Hotchkiss, Jr.) sent us a complimentary copy of his new book, *A Pair of Kings and a Joker*. It is a biography of his grandfather, William Josephus (“W.J.”) Hotchkiss of Healdsburg, an entrepreneur in the canning, lumber and farming businesses in the Russian River Valley early 1900s. The span of the book includes family intrigue and the building of the Golden Gate Bridge. For information about obtaining a copy for yourself, contact Jim at jim.hotchkiss@sbcglobal.net or 925-253-4975.

Alexander Valley resident Bruce Johnson read last month about the Museum’s decision to return Isabel Simi Haigh’s piano to the Simi Winery. Upon learning of Simi’s interest in creating a display about former winery owner, Isabel Simi Haigh, in their tasting room, Bruce contacted Dany Tamburrino, the Visitor Center Manager. Bruce offered to loan a large, framed, hand-tinted photo of Isabel Simi to Simi Winery to accompany the piano for their new display. Dany was delighted. Isabel’s Crown upright piano was donated to the Museum in 1995 by Mark Ghiglieri, who had been Isabel’s private nurse from 1979-80. The piano, originally acquired by Isabel Simi Haigh’s father Guiseppe, had been a surprise gift to Isabel in approximately 1904. It was installed in the family residence at 68 Front Street until Mark Ghiglieri inherited it from her estate in 1982. The City of Healdsburg has approved the transfer of ownership of the piano to Simi Winery where it will be restored to useful—playable—service and given an honored place.

Ross Clendenen of Bella Winery just spent several productive hours looking through photos of Dry Creek Valley for a Bella Winery display. On the same day I had a friendly visit from three grandsons of Frank Sullivan, the skilled contractor who built the Museum building—then the Library--in 1911. The Sullivans promised to send me a photo of our building’s builder.

Kudos to Barry Smith for tackling the resurrection of a locally-made, but severely dried out 1870s Western saddle from the Museum collection, recently “discovered” in the inventory of the Villa Chanticleer storage room. The beautiful, hand-tooled, leather saddle with wooden stirrups will be put on display after “Toys, Games and Creative Hobbies” ends at the end of January. Thanks to Barry’s mother-in-law, Mary Wattles Brandt, for approaching him with my request.

The visitor response to the new exhibition has certainly been flattering. As Ann Howard and Charlotte Anderson’s columns attest elsewhere in the *Review*, several key people really helped, namely Bob Rawlins, Ann Howard, Bill and Alice Cordtz, Jan Pisenti and Charlotte Anderson. I tell you, talented teamwork is everything!

This exhibit was inspired by my memories of the mid-1990s when I first came to work for the Museum. I remembered Curator Marie Djordjevich Shobe’s creative and exuberant toy exhibits (engineered by Bob Rawlins), and the Christmas warmth and festivity spread throughout the Museum by the volunteers when Betsy Bippart and Mary Jean Elze led HMVA. Recognizing that some members have questioned the Museum’s decision years ago to devote the majority of the upstairs gallery to permanent local history exhibits (with smaller, changing temporary exhibits), I decided to try out an idea I had. I always thought that it might be possible to “work around” the history displays with strategic fabric draping and the removal and replacement of artifacts, so that is what I did, filling up the entire upstairs gallery, while leaving most of the history displays in place.

Thanks to George Greeott, Elizabeth Holmes, Darla Budworth, Chris Baldenhofer, Charlie Scalione, Kay Robinson, De and Bill Andersen, Bill, Alice and David Cordtz, and the Carla Hoag and Elizabeth Cleaveland families for the loan and/or donations of their toys, games and hobbies. I also appreciate the store “Fabrications” on the Plaza for helping to publicize the exhibit by featuring a window display of toys, historical photos of kids and toys, and one of Bill’s antique marionettes. Bill and Alice purchased all the fabric to restore the marionette costumes at Fabrications.



June Maher (Smith) and Catherine Hearing (Curtis), 1926, ages 4 and 3, sharing toys and tricycle at 229 East Street. This and other photos of local children and toys are on display with the toy exhibit through January 2009.

HMVA News by Charlotte Anderson

So many thanks have to go out, not only for December, but the whole of 2008. Thanks to all who have volunteered as receptionists throughout the year and special thanks to those of you who have doubled and

tripled your commitments. We couldn't keep the gallery open without you! ☺

Speaking of the gallery, if you haven't seen Holly's "Toys, Games and Creative Hobbies" display, you MUST come in. There is so much to be seen by adults and children alike; the exhibit in itself is creative as artifacts, photos, and toys are everywhere you look! Due to the enthusiastic response, the exhibit will be extended through January.

The response for help to put up the Christmas tree and train was gratifying, as was the plea for Open House "greeters." It truly was a magnificent job accomplished by one and all.

Hope to see all of you at the Annual Meeting January 22! Meanwhile, Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year to all you wonderful members and volunteers!

Meet Your Members by Bob Rawlins



HM&HS is blessed to have a number of members who have held down the important job of gallery receptionist meeting and greeting visitors for many years. Meet Donna (Paldi) Garvey, a longtime member who regularly (wo)mans the reception desk.

Donna was born in the "thumb of Michigan" in the harbor town of Sandusky, a Great

Lakes shipping point for iron ore. She played the flute in her high school orchestra and graduated as Valedictorian. After high school, she worked for a time as a legal secretary in Sandusky, then moved to Detroit where she took a secretarial job with Detroit Edison and attended Detroit Business University.

During that time, her high school sweetheart George Paldi joined the Navy and when his ship, an aircraft carrier, was due to spend some time in San Francisco, George asked Donna to meet him there where they were married. George completed his service, then San Francisco City College and worked in the insurance industry. The couple lived for a time in Stanford, Connecticut when George was with the home office of his company, Guardian Life, in New York. Eventually he became a general agent with his own firm back in San Francisco. There, Donna worked for Robert Wallace, Furrier, whose store was across the street from the City of Paris, for those old enough to remember that store. The couple was then living in Marin County where their three daughters were born. In 1978, George and Donna built a home in Dry Creek Valley and moved there. Sadly, George died eight years later at age 60.

Donna later began volunteering for her church, St. Paul's, the Museum and the Food Pantry. A good friend invited Donna to a dinner where she met Richard

Garvey, a retired submarine Captain and a handsome widower, whom she eventually married, thereby gaining three more daughters and a son. Dick passed away a few years ago, but Donna stays active with the Museum and her other volunteer activities: the Dry Creek Valley Association and the Santa Rosa Symphony League.

HM&HS is fortunate to have members like Donna Garvey who give so unstintingly of their time to the museum.

Holiday Toy Exhibit by Ann Howard

Congratulations, Holly, for organizing and orchestrating a fine holiday exhibit of old toys and collections! On the Sunday and Monday after Thanksgiving the museum was closed in order that Bill and Alice Cordtz could carefully set up the display of eighteen 1930s "fairy tale" marionettes. "Mr. Fix-it" Bob Rawlins, (who earned from Holly the new title of "Mr. Can-do") artfully hung the marionettes in the seven, shallow, west cases against draped fabric backgrounds neatly ironed by Janet Pisenti.

A portion of the permanent display on the west platform was removed and stored downstairs by Bob Rawlins, Frank Zak, and Holly. Bill Cordtz set up his son David Cordtz's circus Big Top and Corgi Chipperfields 1960s die-cast circus toys displayed against a cleverly hung gray fabric background, festooned with colorful circus posters.

On Monday December 1st a team of Holly's helpers decorated the gift shop, the Christmas tree on the center platform (hauled from storage by Mr. Can-do), set up the train, and arranged stuffed toys under the tree. The decorators were Pam Vana-Paxhia, De Andersen, Carol Nelson, Sandy Barrett, Betty Miller, Fern Naber, Barbara Baxter, Anna Darden, Norma Passarino, Kaye Stallard and June Smith. *(continued on page 4)*



Young visitor enjoying the skaters at Open House



Bill and Alice Cordtz, Ari Cordtz and "Fritz" the Leopard

Meanwhile, Bill and Alice had returned to finish the marionette display while Ann Howard cut and pasted the labels for them. She continued this job as fast as Holly could type out labels for all the loaned toys and those from the museum's collection on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. (Fact, not rumor, is that Holly stayed until 12:30 AM one night and to 2:00 AM another night fine tuning the display).

Bob Rawlins installed and secured a number of flat Plexiglass display cases that he had built on stands. He drove miles to get Plexiglass sheets and built an attractive barrier to restrain visitors from playing with the circus trucks.

Thank you also to HMVA chair Charlotte Anderson for the arrangements she made prior to her trip to Asia on November 18. She was fortunate to leave Thailand on time after a political demonstration tied up the main airport. Charlotte came directly to the museum for the opening on Saturday December 6! It was a grand success with rough estimates of 125-150 visitors or more.



Daisy sassing Fern Naber

Board Members and volunteers in attendance included Joe and Janet Norton, Chris and Phyllis Baldenhofer, Carla Howell, Mary Anne Gervais, Ann Mahoney, Anna Darden, Arnold and Vi Santucci, De and Bill Andersen, Lea Gilg, Donna Garvey, Barry and Kaye Stallard, Sandy Barrett, June Smith, Keith and Joyce Power, Cilla Marshall, Dorthea Batchelder, Pam Vana-Paxhia, Janet Pisenti, Mel Amato and Al Loebel. Before the Open House, Ed Head and Liz Loebel planted some bright red cyclamen in the planters to give a festive look. Thank you to anyone else who attended that we might have missed in the happy crowd!

Fern Naber not only tied the holiday tags on all the candy canes to be passed out along with balloons, but she brought her feisty alter ego, "Daisy," and entertained us as a skilled ventriloquist.

Bill Cordtz mesmerized children and adults alike while animating his marionette, "Fritz the Leopard." Son David and his wife, Ari Cordtz, and others of their family enjoyed seeing the collections displayed for the first time. The "hands-on displays," Frank Zak's 1920s nickel slot machine and Holly's 1910s cast-iron clown penny bank, drew lots of attention.

Thank you to everyone who helped make the exhibit such a success. **Please spread the word to family and friends to visit the museum through the end of January!**

Transitions by Ann Mahoney

(continued from page 1)

I want to thank those officers with whom I worked over the past two years: past-president Al Loebel, vice-president Jim Brush, secretary Kay Robinson, treasurer Chris Baldenhofer and assistant treasurer Stan Becker. Thanks as well to hard-working Board members Mel Amato, Charlotte Anderson, John Cross, Anna Darden, Vince Dougherty, Mark Gleason, Carla Howell, Dan Maraviglia, Joe Norton, Jan Pisenti, Bob Rawlins, and Frank Zak. Thanks also to Candy Danhausen, who served as chair of the Administration Committee for the past two years. Being Admin chair is a tough job, and with the ED taking on the work that her committee did, Candy has the honor of being the last one. Helping Candy on this essential committee were Barbara Baxter, Mary Brandt, Louise Fowler, Mel Amato, George Clough and Ed Summerville.

The Healdsburg Museum Volunteer Association (HMVA) has my deepest appreciation. Its members serve as receptionists, help with the mail, work on the ground floor preserving and cross-referencing historical information, provide refreshments at exhibit open houses, and do everything and anything else needed. Charlotte Anderson, Fran Schierenbeck and Pam Vana-Paxia handled the laboring oars for HMVA this past year.

Endowment Fund Contributions:

In remembrance of:

Robert Carroll - Jack & Doreene Zanzi, Charles Burgans, Gloria Christensen, Joel & Marlene Wright

Betty Fraser - Mr. & Mrs. James Modini

Irene Baker - Carol Nelson

Berniece Hurlbert - Darla Budworth, Dennis Williams

Geoffrey Rawlins - Peggy Rawlins

Doris Corsberg - Carol Nelson

Maggie Wetzel - Dale & Nydia Goode

Ray Anderson - Bill & Barbara Barnes

Bud Rose - Joel & Marlene Wright

Welcome New Members:

Susan Nervo, Joe & Vivienne Rochioli, Marie Butler & Richard Pellegrini, Pamela Volente, Deborah Northal

Finally, I want to acknowledge and thank our curator Dan Murley, who has unfortunately been on Workers Compensation temporary total disability and absent from the ground floor for months, and research curator Holly Hoods who has done her usual fine work and, in Dan's absence, much more.

I know the entire museum membership joins me in wishing our proposed new Board president and vice-president, Kent Mitchell and Ted Calvert, as well as the rest of the 2009 board to be elected at the annual meeting January 21, the best of luck as we move forward.

I greatly enjoyed introducing myself as the president of the Healdsburg Museum when I was a newcomer to this wonderful town. I'll miss that, but will retain the friends I've met serving the Museum.

Oral History Help Wanted

By Holly Hoods

Right now there is no "Healdsburg Museum Oral History Committee." There is only me, so—about every two weeks--whenever someone calls to say, "The Museum really should interview So-and-So," I agree wholeheartedly, "You're right! The Museum *should* interview So-and-So." The to-do list is growing longer, the old-timers are growing older, and I must admit that this important work is more than I can handle without more help. Please consider joining me in forming a new Healdsburg Museum Oral History Committee by

agreeing to interview or transcribe an interview with a Northern Sonoma County longtime resident. I won't even ask you to attend committee meetings! Call me at 431-3325 or send me an email to convey your interest: **pastsleuth@aol.com**.

Nan Bucheister (professional medical transcriptionist) has just finished transcribing an interview with Vic and Helen Berizzi of Geyserville, recorded by Louise Bosworth Davis. Another professional in Hawaii has offered to help transcribe. Yana Cotler is also transcribing. Videographer Joe Brighte has offered to record oral history interviews to show on the local cable station in 2009. We thank Dr. Dave and Cathy Anderson and Jerry and Mary Lou Eddinger for reinvigorating our oral history program.

Welcome, Meredith Dreisback!

Thank you to the Museum board and Admin Committee for responding to my plea for temporary help with the collection and office. Meredith will be at the Museum Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. HOORAY! Volunteers Charlotte Anderson and Sandy Barrett have also helped with much-appreciated phone and office coverage so that I can get away for lunch or errands.

The Healdsburg Fire Department celebrated its 150th anniversary (1858-2008). We honor and thank all who have served the community as firefighters over the past 100 years.

Board of Directors: Ann Mahoney (President), Jim Brush (Vice President), Al Loebel (Past President), Kay Robinson (Recording Secretary), Chris Baldenhofer (Treasurer), Stan Becker (Assist. Treas.), Mel Amato, Charlotte Anderson, John Cross, Anna Darden, Vince Dougherty, Mark Gleason, Carla Howell, Dan Maraviglia, Joe Norton, Jan Piseni, Bob Rawlins, Pam Vana-Paxhia, 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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