



A Very Successful Antique Fair

by Al Loebel and Bob Rawlins



Salesman Bob Rawlins hard at work!

As you probably know, the Museum sponsors the Antique Fair on the Plaza. In previous years it was held 3 times, but in 2009 it was only held twice – once near Memorial Day and once near Labor Day. This seems to have worked out well, so plans are to do the same next year. In addition to sponsoring the Fair, we have a booth where we sell items donated by members. This is just another way that we attempt to raise money for Museum projects.

(continued inside on page 4)

Exhibit News by Holly Hoods

At the end of September we said goodbye to the quilt exhibition. Thanks to Bob Rawlins, Ann Howard and Meredith Dreisback for their help with taking down the exhibit. The current display, “Celebrating the Grape,” is a tribute to old-style winemaking and the early wineries of the area. Janet Sbragia Pisenti conceived the exhibit and

executed it with my help. I conceived and executed a complementary exhibit, “Barrel making: the Art of the Cooper.” Janet and I are grateful to the following people for their assistance: Joe Lenci, Ed Pisenti, Bryan Cook, Laura Parker, Victoria Taneyhill, and Mark Schieb. Our friend George Greeott donated many of the artifacts in the displays to the permanent collection of the Museum. We appreciate his generosity. The wine and barrel-making exhibits will be followed by the annual Toy Exhibit in late November. Please let us know if you have interesting vintage toys to loan for our display.

15th Annual Instant Wine Cellar

by Mark Gleason, IWC Committee Chair

This year’s Instant Wine Cellar was attended by 87 people who gathered to enjoy good food, wine and music as several lucky raffle winners were selected during drawings



Grand Prize winners Mr. & Mrs. David Scatena on the Museum’s lawn. Over 100 generous local wineries and businesses donated wine, merchandise and gift certificates valued at \$21,800. (continued on page 5)

Calendar

OCTOBER, 2009

- 7 HMVA Meeting, 9:30 am
- 17 Wilson Winery HM&HS Museum Fundraiser, 1 to 4 pm
- 20 Board Meeting, 8:30 am

NOVEMBER, 2009

- 4 HMVA Meeting, 9:30 am
- 12 Endowment Fund Lecture, Alexander Valley Hall, 5 pm
- 17 Board Meeting, 8:30 am

Healdsburg Museum

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www.healdsburgmuseum.org
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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

For the past month I have been immersed in Wilson Winery history. The old “tin barn” out at 1960 Dry Creek Road turns 100 this year and the Museum is part of the celebration. I am creating an exhibit for the winery and writing an article about its history for the *Russian River Recorder*. Built by Ernest Gaddini in 1909 as “Gaddini Winery”, this winery became “the Healdsburg Wine Company,” a Scatena/Massoni/Belli partnership in 1911. The Healdsburg Wine Company managed to obtain yearly permits to legally sell “sacramental and non-beverage” wine during Prohibition, emerging as one of the few winery survivors in Dry Creek Valley after Repeal in 1933. The business continued selling bulk blended wine through the 1950s, but then shut its doors after a final sale. About eight years after it closed, Chris Fredson, the son of one of Sonoma County’s three oldest winemaking families, returned the winery to operation in 1968. The Wilsons purchased the property from Donald and Leonard Fredson, Chris’s sons, in 1994. Researching this ownership trail, looking for information and photos, has led to meeting some of the nicest, friendliest people, descendants of the previous winery owners, including: Nick, Dan and Mike Belli, Lorraine Castelli, and Bob Fredson. Norma Passarino and Charles Bacigalupi are also part of this wonderful group whose relatives once owned this winery. What fun this research has been (and I still haven’t cracked open a bottle of the wine yet)!



Wilson Winery 100 year old barn

A few months ago, Bob Evans donated his files of many years of research and photos on Pine Flat history. Bob was a daily presence at the microfilm reader/printer for two years prior to writing his book on Pine Flat. The files have yet to be catalogued, but researchers have already been delving into them. I could use help with

cataloguing if you care to volunteer for the task. Ideally the person would already be interested in Pine Flat.

Thanks to observant walkers, Norma Passarino and John Crevelli, for alerting me to the location of several WPA inscriptions in the sidewalks around town. I needed to find and photograph them for an article for the fall *Russian River Recorder*. You can read about this and other examples of local public works projects of the Works Progress Administration during the Depression.

Thanks to Ed Head for bringing in Bob Daniels, who shared a 1950s photo of his father’s business: the former Daniel Brothers’ Lumber Company on Lytton Springs Road. Thanks to Jon Lacaillade for cleaning up the redwood slice for the barrel-making display. Thanks to Peachie Dunlavy for sharing photos of Jess Harrington with the Demostene family at Sausal Winery.

Dorothea Batchelder brought a visiting friend to the Museum to do a little genealogical research on her relatives, the Sanborn family, who arrived here in the 1870s. In a jiffy, we made the friend’s day by finding a previously unknown child in an obituary, thanks to the handy newspaper index and microfilm reader/printer. (Here’s to you volunteers who index the newspapers for the benefit of others! Here’s to Mel Amato for recognizing the importance of functioning microfilm reader/printer machines in historical research!)

Notes From the Director's Chair

by Sue Ross, Executive Director

“Honey . . . We’re Home!”

Well friends, it’s official! Charles and I are packing up our household to move to our new Healdsburg address on South Fitch Mountain Road. As we wrap up our lives in San Rafael, Charles has been working tirelessly packing up our belongings and carting our things to Healdsburg several times weekly. For my part, I stuff my PT Cruiser to overflowing with boxes, plants and small furnishings every day for my regular commute, reminiscent of “The Beverly Hillbillies.” Our old house is shedding evidence of our lives in Marin, while our Healdsburg home assumes its new identity. I am even spending several nights a week in town now, enjoying my new 3 minute commute.

There is an unquestionable difference in being able to live where I work, and work where I live. The Museum and the community which breathes life into its displays, publications, historic documents, events and programs have taken on new meaning. After all, this is now *my* town, and having a stellar museum is important to me at a deeper level than before. Now when I consider its importance, I realize that it not only tells the story of those who came before us, but marks our own stories as we, along with Healdsburg, evolve and flourish.

I look forward to participating in local activities, programs and projects; rather than standing on the outside, my nose pressed to the glass longing to join in the festivities as I get into my car to leave town before the fun begins. Charles and I also look forward to becoming active in local civic organizations. We thank all those who have so graciously welcomed us, especially the wonderful Museum Staff, Board, Members and Volunteers.

We'll be completely moved in by November - dog, cats and all - and look forward to enjoying the Holidays here, with our new friends and neighbors in *HEALDSBURG* - our new town!

Meet Your Members *by Bob Rawlins*

The real heroes and heroines of HM&HS receptionists are those who work the weekends, graciously giving up their time on Saturdays or Sundays. Meet Sandi McDonald Blasser who normally takes the afternoon shift on the third Sunday of the month.



Sandi was born in San Francisco but grew up in San Rafael after her father, a carpenter, and mother, a nurse, moved north. She attended Holy Names University majoring in history and English. Even so, she taught math and science for 30 of her 36 years of teaching. Sandi's

first assignment was a combined 3rd and 4th grade with 51 students at St Helena Catholic School. There, she met and married her husband, also a teacher. Sandi next taught at St Raphael's Junior High for four years then took time off to raise her daughter Shannon, who now heads the HR department for Hotwire, owned by Expedia. Sandi received a call asking her to substitute for just two weeks at St Anselems in Anselmo; she finally retired after 16 years at that school.

Not long afterward, with the family now in Healdsburg, Sandi was asked to teach for six months at St Johns in town. She taught math there and was also the Principal for another 11 years. Her husband is now Assistant Principal at St Vincent de Paul High School. Sandi finally retired in 2000, but then began working part time at St Vincent de Paul High School as research librarian. Sandi's other daughter, Mikaela, lives close by and will shortly bear Sandi's first grandchild. Son Robbie lives in San Francisco and works at a Catholic School.

Being a history buff, she visited the Museum, met Charlotte Anderson, and quickly volunteered for reception duty. We welcome Sandi to our loyal volunteer corps and thank her, especially, for being one of our Weekenders.

Summertime and I Always Think of Pie

by Ann Howard

Donna (Rood) Rose of Geyserville recently loaned me photographs of her Suttan-Feldmeyer-Rood family of Geyserville to scan. Her great-great grandfather Bernard W. Feldmeyer (1847-1914) built many of the early commercial brick buildings and wooden homes in Geyserville. He and his business partner, Julius Stamer, also built one of the earliest wineries (1884). Both had come from Germany.

Donna's great-great grandmother Nancy "Elizabeth" (England) Suttan Putnam (1860-1950, photo to right) was first married to Charles Suttan, then to Edward Putnam.



One of Elizabeth's four children, Pearl Isabelle Suttan, married Clemens Feldmeyer, son of Bernard and Wilhelmina "Minnie" Feldmeyer, a favorite citizen for whom a street in Geyserville is named. Their daughter Dondaline married Clark Rood, and their son William "Billie" and Barbara (Eagle) Rood are Donna's parents.

Often when I have a chance to look at a series of old family photographs, I find one that really stands out,



unique among the typical studio portraits. Here is Elizabeth in her kitchen in Geyserville in the 1940s baking summertime, or anytime, pies.

Photo Preservation Project *by Kay Robinson*

Perhaps you have wondered what progress has been made on the Photograph Preservation Project. By May 2008 the major bulk of the photographs, approximately 13,300, had been scanned and recorded. The recording took place within our museum software, PastPerfect, a database searchable by name and subject.

The "Project" began when Hannah Clayborn, former Curator, oversaw the sorting of all of the photos into subject folders and boxes. In 2001 Al Loebel became involved with the Museum and brought with him an extensive information technology (IT) background. He had a computer built, bought a scanner

and a couple of printers, located and purchased the PastPerfect software and started scanning. The major boost to the program was from an anonymous donor (later to be revealed as BJ Green) who gifted the funds for the hardware and software. Al himself scanned the first 4,000+/- photos in order to develop the process and create the manual.

I came on board in August, 2003. By late 2004 it was evident that Al's new job as Board President would consume more time and he sought a replacement Photo Project coordinator. I took over in 2005 and worked with the existing scanner-volunteers and brought a few more on board. Hoping not to miss any names, those who have also been part of the Photo Project are: Pat Muscat, Al Loebel, Jenny Allen, Madeline Wallace, George Clough, Bob Rawlins, Ann Mahoney, Judy Johnson, Marge Summerville, Ivano Mayorga, Bob Rawlins and Bob Davis.

By May 2008 we had scanned and entered about 13,300 photos from those 53 boxes. But the project hasn't ended there. Small batches of photographs continue to be donated as well as other caches being uncovered at the Museum. One large box of Healdsburg Tribune photos from the 1960s and 1970s was recently located. These need to be sorted and then individual photos will need to be accessioned, scanned and entered into PastPerfect. Volunteer Victoria Tanneyhill is working on the sorting now.

One very helpful improvement in the process was the addition of a second monitor, made possible by volunteer and museum member Wally Schultz. The second monitor facilitates being able to view photographs (in Photoshop) and records (in PastPerfect) simultaneously. Wally provided the monitor and the technological know-how for making this possible.

A related new project of digitizing the card catalog newspaper index cards has begun. The cards are scanned in sets of six. The PastPerfect entry then records the significant events (births, deaths, marriages, property sales, etc.). The researcher can see on the scanned cards where to find the article, by newspaper name, date and page/column. All of these databases - for photographs, objects, archives (index cards) and library - are merged so that with one search a researcher can find all collections related to the subject of the search.

I thank all of the volunteers to date who have helped on this project. Thousands of hours are represented in the finished product...but who said anything about being finished!?!?! If you'd like to help out, we'd love to train you!

Antique Fair Report (continued from page 1)

The latest Fair was held on Sunday, August 30. The weather was perfect with a large crowd ready to buy or bargain. Volunteers began to set up at 6:00 am. By 6:30 am, while still in the early stages of setting up, dealers were trying to buy from us. The official opening time wasn't until 9:00 am, but that didn't stop us from selling early. We had a lot of unusual items to sell and, with our share of the sponsorship money, we pulled in about \$3,000 for the Treasury and a total of \$5,000 for both sales. This is clearly an exercise that is worthwhile to continue.

Our thanks to all of the folks who donated items to be sold. And special thanks to Bob Rawlins, Celso Rosales, Pam Vana-Paxhia and Al Loebel, who got up very early to help with the setup. Thanks also go to those who took a turn helping to sell during the Fair: Victoria Taneyhill, Nanci Gunnerson, Ann Howard, Catherine Curtis, Charles Elias and Sue Ross.

We will start the Antique Fairs all over again next year. Do put your donations aside as you clean out closets, attics and garages. I (Bob Rawlins) do have space to store items.

Having Problems Reading Census

Records On-line? by Ann Howard

If you have had problems reading some census records on-line, you should look again at those dark or blurred images. *FamilySearch.org*, the free on-line service, is digitizing census records starting with 1900. *Ancestry.com* offers viewing by subscription. In the past I could not read any of the names in the 1900 Geyserville census records on microfilm or on-line to help date some old photographs. Now I can read those records clearly!!

Suffragists Meet by Holly Hoods

(Reprinted from the *Healdsburg Enterprise*, May 20, 1911)

Despite the drizzling rain, which was falling on Wednesday afternoon, the members of the Women's Literary Suffrage Club were undismayed and met as announced. The club is composed of thoughtful women who are earnest in the cause of Equal Suffrage because they believe it to be the cause of right and justice. A number of selections were read and discussed and plans made for future work. It was decided that future meetings would be held on the first and third Wednesdays of the month at the hour of three p.m. The next meeting will occur on June 7th at the residence of Mrs. Watson on North Street and every lady in Healdsburg and vicinity who is at all interested in Votes for Women is urgently requested to be present.

Endowment Fund Contributions:

Generous Contributions from:

Linda Waggoner (endowment, Helen McCarthy (research), Jim & Heidi Meyer

In memory of:

Charlotte Anderson - Dr. Richard & Annette Wilber
Bob Barrett - Peachie & Norm Dunlavy, Mary Brandt
Robert Young - Judy & Edgar Deas

Cora Edith Irwin - Norm & Peachie Dunlavy
Helen Louise Berizzi - Norm & Peachie Dunlavy, Karen & Harry Bosworth
Vic Newfield - Karen & Harry Bosworth
C.Hollis Black - Teresa Ishikawa
Fred Holmes - Ron & Arlene Kron

Welcome New Members:

Colleen Merickel

15th Annual Instant Wine Cellar
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A Grand Total of \$18,000 was raised that will be used to carry out the Museum’s Mission: collecting and preserving local historical documents and artifacts, while fostering the appreciation of Healdsburg’s history through research services, educational programs, exhibits and publications.

A total of 15 prizes were awarded, including: two INSTANT WINE CELLARS, and one Event Only Special INSTANT WINE CELLAR. Other winners walked away with private winery tours, magnums of wine, and other fabulous donations. The Silent Auction saw intense activity as those present bid on several valuable and unique items including singular magnums of wine, “triplets,” winery tasting parties, and dinners at fine area restaurants.

The Grand Prize of a 149 bottle INSTANT WINE CELLAR was won by Mr. & Mrs. David Scatena of Stockton & Healdsburg. The Second Prize Winner of a 109 bottle INSTANT WINE CELLAR was Dr. Warren Kitchen of Healdsburg, and the 117 bottle EVENT ONLY INSTANT WINE CELLAR Winner Wine Cellar was won by Shirley Cantua of San Jose. We congratulate the winners (listed on our website) and thank everyone for making this year’s event a successful fundraiser and fantastic afternoon, especially this year’s IWC Committee who worked untold hours to make this year’s event a success: Stan Becker, Kay Robinson, Al Loebel, Carla Howell, and Mel Amato.



**Dr. Warren Kitchen,
2nd Prize Winner**



**Shirley Cantua, Instant
Wine Cellar winner, and
presenter Mark Gleason**

We wish Board Member Carla Howell well as she ends her term of office. Carla’s contributions are too numerous to list, but most recently she put together the wonderful IWC Garden Party and was responsible for the terrific poster publicizing the event. Carla, you will be missed – thank you for everything!

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, Louise Fowler, Mark Gleason, Al Loebel, Dan Maraviglia,, 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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