

A MAGICAL MUSEUM TALE

by Sue Ross

Life on the first floor of the Museum *often* seems infused by magic. Staff has often marveled at the frequent instances where whomever or whatever it is we need



Nancy Weyand Hart and Sue Ross

at any particular moment seems to walk in the door unannounced . . . *as if conjured by magic.*

Last month was one such instance, and perhaps speaks to the fact that it sometimes pays to work late. Something quite out of the ordinary occurred one night as I was getting ready to leave . . . It was 7 pm and I was just closing up when a lovely couple tapped on the door . . . out-of-town visitors wishing to see the Museum. There was something special about them so I welcomed them in, but was unprepared when Nancy Weyand Hart stood beaming before the large photo of Founder, Edwin Langhart, and with a broad grin said, "*That's my Uncle Zeke!*"

I felt catapulted back in time! Nancy had come to Healdsburg for a brief visit with her children. The daughter of Edwin Langhart's late twin sister Arline, she had not been to Healdsburg since before the Museum moved to our current home and wanted to show her friend "the museum my uncle founded."

We spent an hour and a half discussing how it sprang into existence due to her uncle's vision, foresight and conscientious collecting. She expressed unbridled delight with our development and was pleased to see "what my uncle helped build and how he's been honored."

I called Holly at home knowing she would appreciate meeting Nancy, a Langhart family archivist in her own right. Good fortune smiled and they met that evening after dinner. (Holly later said their connection went deeper than I had expected, but that is another story for another time.)

Touring our new exhibition, Nancy's smile illuminated the Gallery. She signed our Guest Book while I filled her arms with the *Review*, *Russian River Recorder* and books on Healdsburg to take home to Honolulu.

Noticing our donations box, Nancy asked if I would accept a contribution, pulled out her checkbook and in a pen's stroke became the charter member of our new **CENTENNIAL CIRCLE**, truly turning the wheel of history "full circle."

Our newly reestablished ties to the Langhart family are moving forward through Holly signaling a new chapter in the Museum's history. We welcome the next generation of Edwin Langhart's family as part of the bridge between our past, present and future and hope to see Nancy and other Langhart family members at our September 12th **CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION & INSTANT WINE CELLAR**. We hope to see YOU there as well, for . . . a *little bit of magic is always worth sharing!*

Calendar

AUGUST, 2010

- 4 HMVA Meeting, 9:30 am (Museum Research Center)
- 7 Exhibition continues: **Dressed for All Occasions: 20th Century Fashions from the Healdsburg Museum**
- 17 Board Meeting, 8:30 am, City Hall
- 29 Antique Fair - Healdsburg Plaza

SEPTEMBER, 2010

- 1 HMVA Meeting, 9:30 am (Museum Research Center)
- 12 Instant Wine Cellar Drawing and Centennial Celebration (2 to 6 pm, Museum Side Yard)
- 21 Board Meeting, 8:30 am, City Hall
- 29 Antique Fair - Healdsburg Plaza

Healdsburg Museum

221 Matheson Street
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 Center open by appointment:
Thursday – Saturday

From the Director's Chair Turning the Page of History *A Heartfelt Call to Action by Sue Ross*

A wise man once told me that we are the masters of our destinies. From deciding where to eat or what to wear - to determining how to live our lives - we are constantly making choices.



As organizations are extensions of individuals, they similarly choose elements defining what makes them unique and important. HM&HS chose one specific ideal when it embarked upon its five-year Strategic Plan – to become *the best* among regional history museums.

We have come far in realizing that vision and commitment to excellence. Our dedicated staff and volunteers work tirelessly, and the results of their concerted efforts are being noticed by visitors and local residents. Welcoming young and old, long-time residents and newcomers alike, we bridge generations and cultures as an integral partner to Healdsburg's civic, educational and business communities.

Ours is a living, breathing entity – a bustling center of community involvement and participation – an extended family. It is where studying yesterday helps us better understand who we are today, and might yet become tomorrow. When relating stories of the past we honor those who lived it, creating a continuum where wisdom and experiences are savored and shared.

Moving to Healdsburg I enthusiastically accepted the challenge of “bringing the Museum to the next level.” What began as a job became a personal commitment fueled by the warmth of the community. Everyone I met welcomed me saying “*just ask*” should I need assistance.

Today I am asking! We are standing together at a crossroads suspended between yesterday and tomorrow. Gazing back upon the 100 years our landmark building has graced the corner of Matheson and Fitch we also look ahead towards a future of continued innovation tempered by good judgment, for even as we plan that future we must secure the present. Sustaining current operations and moving forward both require your help.

The Museum relies upon our community to make individual and collective choices that will support our ongoing efforts to protect, preserve and present Healdsburg's rich past. **YOU are our strength, and I ask that you stand solidly behind us and beside us!**

For those who both love our history and recognize the importance of our work please consider renewing or increasing your membership levels and invite friends to join. Volunteer your time and come celebrate our building's Centennial at the grand party and IWC fundraiser September 12th from 2 – 6 pm.

For those who can, please etch your names in history through our CENTENNIAL CIRCLE and join Edwin Langhart's niece, Nancy, on our donor's wall. Of course, we always appreciate contributions to our Endowment and Annual Funds.

HM&HS and the history it represents belong to YOU. Help keep it strong and vibrant by supporting our efforts to give our citizens a cause and focus to celebrate Healdsburg this year. *The choice . . . is yours.*

WE'VE GONE HIGH TECH - CHECK US OUT!

- **Coming soon:** New Audio Tours in the Gallery (many thanks to John Bippart)
- New website launching mid-August (announcements will go out via email around August 17th)
- *We have a Facebook Page now:* (Search Bar type in: Healdsburg Museum and Historical Society) Give a “thumbs up” and become a fan!

History Matters by Holly Hoods

This August 1st is my 14th anniversary with the Healdsburg Museum and Historical Society. I am still enjoying the ride and hope you are still enjoying riding with me. Edwin Langhart founded the historical society 20



years ago with a core group of supporters, and so many people since then have contributed to the growth, strength and health of this organization. From the beginning, there has been a wonderful can-do spirit. I am honored to be a link in the chain of preserving the history of the larger Healdsburg community. Today many of the key volunteers who worked alongside me when I started in 1996 are in their 80s and 90s. Thanks for all you have done for the Museum and continue to do (even though you say you are “slowing down.”). *You know who you are.* You are my inspiration to keep striving to improve the research department, to try to write informative historical articles, get more organized, and develop engaging exhibits and activities to keep the “museum spirit” and the interest in local history alive. I appreciate every single volunteer, of course, but I particularly want to acknowledge how much I respect my elders in this organization. I wouldn't be here without you, and neither would this Museum.

I have been working lately to find content for a publication that the *Tribune* will be publishing about the

Museum building centennial. Thanks to Victoria Taneyhill, Isabel Ramirez and Marilyn Haywood for helping me with all the typing! Bethany Jump and Marilyn Haywood helped create history hunts for kids to explore the current fashion exhibition, and Bethany created a display in the glass case downstairs. I have also been busy with research, which means that I am running way behind in my oral history transcriptions. Recent research requests have included: the Chinese in Sonoma County in the 1880s, Healdsburg Avenue buildings in the 1900s, the Lytton Home in the 1950s, the Hedrick family of the 1880s, the Healdsburg Machine Shop, a former blacksmith shop at 444 Healdsburg Avenue, Craftsman architecture in Healdsburg, and the 75th anniversary of the Healdsburg Elementary School building.

Now more than ever, it seems we are trying to do more with less. Please continue to support our work through your financial contributions and donations of artifacts, photos, local family information. There are many ways to get involved and share your caring.

HMVA NEWS by Ann Howard



The reception for the new fashion exhibit held July 7 was a grand success! Thank you, Lea Gilg and Cathy Anderson, for coordinating the refreshments and to all who brought them. Anna Darden took charge of serving wine.

IWC tickets are on sale and volunteers are still needed to sell at the **Saturday Farmers' Market**. Check the list on the board or call Bob Rawlins.

Volunteers are also needed to help Bob Rawlins and Al Loebel at the Museum's booth at the **Plaza Antique Sale** on **August 29**. Vintage items are needed to sell.

The Centennial Celebration and IWC will be held **September 12** from 2-6 pm to celebrate the Museum's 100th. Fitch Street will be closed between Matheson and Plaza. There will be jazz bands, the American Legion's distinguished Color Guard, an "Art of Winemaking" booth, "Reflections on History" displays, catered food and wine, a silent auction, time capsule, viewing of the new fashion exhibit, 100th birthday cake and the IWC drawing. Banners will be hung and a mass mailing is planned. This will be the Museum's major fundraising effort with the first hour a VIP reception and champagne toast in the Research Center. A Donors Wall will be unveiled. Attendance is limited to 500 and tickets are \$45. IWC raffle tickets will be on sale, along with a limited number for a special drawing that day.

Many volunteers will be needed before, during, and after - directional signage hung and removed, men to

deal with fencing, tables and chairs. During the event servers and wine pourers will be needed for the VIP reception the first hour. Outside - greeters, ticket sales with cashiers and runner, ID checkers of wrist bands, security/first aid with HPD, silent auction security, then cashiers and runners, a porta-potty monitor, display guards, food and beverage team leader to manage caterers and wine pourers, and roving "ask me" people. Two shifts (2-4pm) and (4-6pm) will be designated for some of the duties. Duty in the Gallery is also needed.

Event Chair and Board President Kent Mitchell is working closely with Executive Director Sue Ross and Event Planner Marva Wiedemer in the coordination of this major event. Please contact Ann Howard at 473-9803 or write alhoward@alhoward.org **soon** to offer your help and talents on September 12!!

Meet Your Members by Bob Rawlins

The Museum office is HM&HS central control, so to speak, and home to the many workers who keep things humming. Meet Isabel Ramirez who recently joined the staff as a temporary member.



Isabel was born in Santa Rosa but grew up in Cloverdale where her father worked for Vinmark, a wine related business. In Cloverdale High, she was a member of the FHA Heros Club, a group devoted to helping seniors developing home making skills. She

was also on the staff of the School yearbook, preparing collages to illustrate the many student activities. After graduating, she worked for several years at Ray's Food Place in Cloverdale, gaining experience as a courtesy clerk in the produce department, running the floral department and, finally, doing price comparisons at other grocery stores in the area.



Learning of a community service job at Goodwill Industries, Isabel began a long term of service at the Cloverdale Boys and Girls Club. She tutored youngsters in math and headed the creative arts department teaching arts and crafts to young children. She was also involved in the SMART program for young children, teaching them practical aspects of life such as the dangers of drugs, first aid, CPR and the like. Ultimately she was in charge of weekend events at the Club.

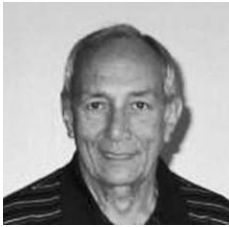
With a young three year old daughter, Nyomi, to raise Isabel applied to the welfare-to-work program and had her first interview with Executive Director Sue Ross at the Museum on a Thursday. Sue was greatly impressed with Isabel's credentials and hired her on the spot to begin working at the Museum the following Monday.

Isabel is bilingual, has impressive computer skills and has been of immense help by creating brochures, quickly learning Past Perfect, our data entry program, creating labels for exhibits and generally lending a helping hand wherever needed.

We sincerely welcome Isabel to our staff and hope that she will be with us for a long time.

Photo Preservation Project History

by Al Loebel



In the minutes of the last HMVA meeting was the statement that there are now over 15,000 photos that have been scanned into our database. I was elated to see such a huge number. I thought it was a good time to reflect on just

how we got to this point.

Back in 2001, soon after I moved to Healdsburg, I visited the Museum with the hope that I might do some volunteer work: maybe receptionist or something. Holly Hoods found out that I had a computer background and that was the end of that! I was asked if I'd like to manage a project for which the Museum had a \$10,000 grant, but didn't know how to get it going. The anonymous grantor wanted to see the Museum's rich photo collection preserved and donated the money to that end, but it was sitting in a savings account awaiting the right opportunity. I was delighted to take on this task as it looked to have a much larger long term impact than I might otherwise have been able to contribute.

I started out by having a computer built to my specifications and then buying a couple of printers and a scanner. But that's just the hardware part of the equation. I did some research and came up with a software product called PastPerfect that was designed specifically to manage small museums. It had all kinds of whistles and bells I didn't care about at the time. My concern was that it had robust photo identification and storage capabilities. We acquired this software and I started in on the daunting task.

After scanning and preserving the first few thousand photos, it became obvious that it was a task I could not complete by myself. It looked like there were between 10,000 and 20,000 photos to be scanned, so I needed a cadre of volunteers to help. Asking volunteers to help with the job required that they have some kind of user manual to use as a learning tool and also as a reference when they got stuck. So I embarked on the task of writing and "test driving" a user manual.

We put out a plea for volunteers to help with the project, stressing that some computer skills would be helpful, but that we'd train those that didn't have the requisite knowledge. Needless to say, we ended up with some folks who really tried but couldn't quite make it,

some who were stars and everything in between. Kay Robinson was the star of the stars. Kay had recently returned to her roots in Healdsburg after retiring from a career with State Parks. Not only did she have very good computer skills, but she knew everyone in town from her growing up days, which made identifying some of the people in the photos a lot easier.

One day our President, Jeri Myers, suggested that the Board of Directors might like to see the progress being made on this significant project. She arranged to have the next board meeting held in the Research Center at the Museum. She gave me 10 minutes on the agenda to show the Board our progress to date. I spread out a few of the maroon binders we'd settled on for storing the printed copies of the scanned photos, so that the board members could peruse them. The feedback was immediate and very positive.

I received a call from Jeri the very next day, telling me that the anonymous donor of the \$10,000 was a board member and she was so impressed with what she'd seen that she was now willing to have her name associated with what we were doing. That generous lady was B. J. Green, who at the time was the Chair of the Endowment Committee. B. J. and her husband Russ are still members and supporters of the Museum. The above story about her wanting to remain anonymous and then allowing her name to be used, has been told many times with many variations, but the way I explained it here is the way it really happened.

Along the way, I was asked to be a member of the Admin Committee and then a Board Member. I didn't think I could do it all, so I asked Kay Robinson if she would take over the management of the Photo Preservation Project. She agreed and it was one of the best decisions I've ever made. Kay continued to recruit and train volunteers, updated the user manual as needed and most importantly, remained the main scanner herself. We celebrated milestone after milestone, being especially joyous when we reached the lofty number of 10,000.

The museum has about 40,000 index cards that represent untold hours of work by June Smith and lots of others, culling important birth, death, marriage and other items from old newspapers. It is a treasure trove of information for research. It was always our desire, motivated by Bob Rawlins, to find a way to computerize these cards. Kay devised a way to do this and this addition to the original photo preservation goal is now well under way.

Early on, we discovered the many other ways that we could use the capabilities of the PastPerfect software system. It is now the repository for our entire membership database as well as information about our collection. It has turned out to be a wonderful product and we're very happy to have stumbled upon it for one

reason, even though we're using it for several other things today.

So there you have it. With an initial investment of under \$10,000, we have successfully saved over 15,000 photos. No longer are people coming in and going through the originals, potentially damaging or even stealing them. Yes, that has happened – we think that we got them all back, but don't know for sure.

My thanks to B. J. Green for starting us off. And thanks to Kay Robinson for the stellar job of keeping it going and improving it after taking over for me. And a huge thank you to all of those volunteers who have contributed to this project over the past 9 years.

Canyon School 1913-2010 by Ann Howard

All because of daffodils did I get a chance to visit the renovated home that was once Canyon School at 1717 Canyon Road. I left a note for the family asking to pick the wilting bright yellow daffodil blooms so I could dye some wool yarn a bright yellow. Owner Ranae Perry called back agreeing to my request. When I arrived in the drizzling rain, she was there to greet me, and invited me to tour of their lovely home.



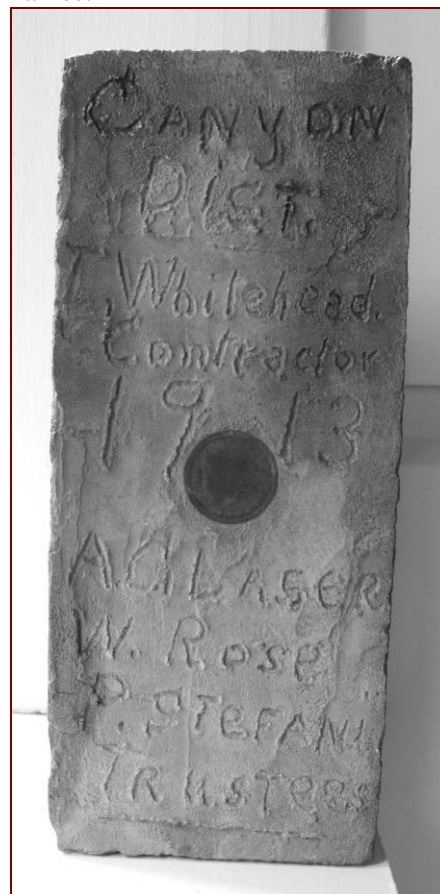
1717 Canyon Road – previously Canyon School
(not known why or when the bell tower moved to the back)

The previous owner had made the old school house into four rooms. Ranae and her husband Bruce opened up the room once again like the original school room with high ceiling to create their kitchen, dining area and living room with fireplace. They joined a separate building in back of the school by creating a hall way to two bedrooms and a bath.



The original Canyon School built in 1913
(photo courtesy of the Sonoma County Library)

As a bonus Ranae mentioned that she had the cornerstone, and I immediately asked if it had a date – 1913! I quickly got my camera and could easily read the names:



**Canyon Dist.
T. Whitehead
Contractor,
1913**

(coin)

**A. Glaser
W. Rose
P. Stefani
Trustees**

**Cornerstone for
Canyon School
1913**

A very worn Liberty coin dated 1861 about the size of a nickel is embedded in the large, brick-size block of concrete.

This building is another fine example of a local, old country school that has been preserved as a home, along with Hamilton School in upper Dry Creek, Washington School on Dutcher Creek Road, Manzanita School on Dry Creek Road just west of Healdsburg. And, I now have a small skein of bright yellow yarn!



HEALDSBURG'S 100: Local Businesses Keeping Our History Alive

Please patronize these fine Healdsburg businesses supporting the Museum, and Healdsburg's rich history. (* PREMIER BUSINESSES* donated an additional \$400.)

\$100 + Members – present your GOLD STICKERED card to receive a lovely gift from:

ALADDIN'S DRY CLEANER
105 Terrace Blvd. (433-1116) - \$4 off first \$20 order

BRANDT INSURANCE AGENCY
250 Healdsburg Ave., 3rd Fl. (473-2722)
Post 11/1 Norman Rockwell Calendar & Brandt Ins. Pen

BRUSH, BERNARD & MITCHELL CPAs
101 North Street (433-8800)
"Specializing in small businesses, tax returns & Quick Books"

ONE-O-ONE
101 Plaza Street (433-2800)
5% discount on purchases

OPTIONS GALLERY
126 Matheson Street (431-8861)
25% off purchase of \$50 or more

POWELLS SWEET SHOPPE
322 Center Street (431-2784)
A free truffle

SILVEIRA'S BUICK GMC
985 Healdsburg Ave. (433-5541)
10% discount on body, parts & services

SHAWN WIDICK DENTISTRY
704 Healdsburg Ave. Ste A (433-6907)
Free toothbrush

EXCHANGE BANK
1031 Vine Street (433-0404)
Free cloth grocery bag

HEALDSBURG SENIOR LIVING
725 Grove Street (433-4877)
A small bag of thoughtful gifts

KRECK DESIGN SOLUTIONS
524 Healdsburg Avenue (707-433-6166)
Free website review and 5% off first project

Alliance Medical Center - 1381 University Avenue (431-8234)
"Accessible, caring and high quality healthcare services"

Amoruso Printing - 401 Center Street, Suite G (433-9045)
5% off all printing services

Barbara Bourne Photography
14D Healdsburg Avenue (707-486-9420)
10% off any framed photograph in the gallery

Barrett Group Property Management
313-A Tucker St. (529-3669) - *Free rental evaluation*

B-Real - 311 Healdsburg Avenue (433-1557)
5% off on purchases

Carranza Creations - www.carranzacreations.com (431-0365)
Free nature photo greeting card

Consignment Cottage (High End Consignments)
44 Mill Street (433-3180)
10% off furnishings, collectables, jewelry

Dr. Charles D. Elias, LCSW, PhD
1083 Vine Street, Ste. #506 (707-433-3955)
Free hour consultation - individual or business counseling

Elizabeth Holmes VoiceOvers & Narration
1083 Vine Street, #508 (707) 431-7720
20% off on all voice-over work through 2010

Fowler Associates (Real Estate & Property Mgmt.)
175 Foss Creek Circle (433-0405)
Free consultation for property valuation

Garrition Tile Company - 646 Chiquita Road (431-1866)
Free consultation and estimate

Geared for Growing Landscape Services
12020 Old Redwood Highway (473-4333)
Free consultation - Residential or Commercial Space

Grande Bella...All Things Beautiful
302 Center Street (707) 431-2910
10% discount on purchases

Healdsburg Community Health and Fitness
1500 Healdsburg Avenue (433-9500) - *One-day Free Guest Pass*

Healdsburg Lumber
359 Hudson Street (431-9663 x 16)
A "wearable gift" such as a T-Shirt or hat

Holly Harman Design, WineLabelDesign.com
1083 Vine Street #344 (494-0314)
Free consultation plus 10% off first project

Larry Orr, Realtor - 338 Healdsburg Avenue (433-2000 x 112)
\$1,500 discount on any CA real estate fee

Law Offices of Ann Thomas, Esq.
638 Healdsburg Avenue (433-4266)
Free half-hour estate planning consultation

Ledger Domaine - 649 Healdsburg Avenue (433-2552)
25% off a personal tax return

Mackenzie Digital Art - 222 Center Street (431-8402)
Free consultation & 10% off on first project

Memorial Beach Veterinary Hospital
15 Healdsburg Avenue (433-6916)
"We know you care so we set our standards high"

Phelps-Baskin Investment Group, Inc.
(Property Rental) Menlo Park, CA (650) 208-9634
Free Wine Country map

Summit State Bank - 1001 Vine Street (568-4937)
Free piggy bank to jump-start your savings

U&I Landscaping Services
12976 Old Redwood Highway (431-9133)
Free consultation - commercial or residential space

UPS Store -1083 Vine Street (433-0396)
Packaging, Shipping, Documents, Supplies
Color Copies (usually \$.79/pg.) for \$.39/pg.

Contributions in Memory of:

Evalyn & Nick Scatena
from David & Betty Scatena

Steve Lorenzen
from Dave, Darla & David Budworth

Mike Shannon, Helen Shannon & Jim Mazzoni
from Wendy & Herb Steiner

New Members

Centennial Circle

Nancy Weyand Hart

Centennial Event Sponsors

**Exchange Bank, Simi Winery,
The City of Healdsburg, Big John's Market**

Antique Fair This Month by *Bob Rawlins*

The locker is pretty well stocked for the coming Antique Fair on the Plaza, Sunday August 29th from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and the Museum will have its usual spot at the northeast corner (Center and Plaza Streets). We can always use something unusual so, if you have such a small antique to donate, please deliver to the Museum office. If you have a larger item to be picked up, please notify the staff (431-3325) and I will arrange to do so during the last week of August. HM&H is a non-profit organization and the value of your donation is deductible if you itemize on your tax report.

We will definitely need sales help during the sale, generally two persons per two hour shift as follows: 8 to 10 am, 10 am to noon, noon to 2 pm and 2 to 4 p.m. If you would like to try your hand at convincing passers-by they should buy something they may not really need, please sign up on the list posted in the Museum office. Or call the office (431-3325) and ask one of the staff to write your name in the spot you prefer. It's interesting, challenging, and always fun. Do stop by the Museum table - you might find something you cannot live without.

Youth Advisory Team

This sharp team of youthful advisors--ages 8, 9 and 12, has been consulting with Holly Hoods to help the Museum test and improve the history scavenger hunts for kids. Our current focus is the Fashion Exhibition.



**(L to R): Caitie, Andy and Faith DeShazo Couchot
Youth Advisory Team - August 10**

WE STAND CORRECTED!

So sorry! Dave Budworth's name was missing from our IWC Committee list. Thanks Dave for being our wine "pickup guy!" Darla also mentioned that the Fall/Autumn Fest she spoke about was not sponsored by Trentedue at Hop Kiln and the Fest Ed Head worked on was years later. *Thanks for keeping us on-track, Darla!*

Board of Directors: Kent Mitchell (President), Ted Calvert (Vice President), Ann Mahoney (Past President), Darci Rosales (Recording Secretary), Stan Becker (Treasurer), Bob Rawlins (Assist. Treas.), Mel Amato, Anna Darden, Kathi Engler, Rawleigh Fjeld, Louise Fowler, Mark Gleason, Holly Harman, Ann Howard, Al Loebel, Celso Rosales, Karen Tynan, 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

Newsletter Editor: Barry Stallard, Printing by Amoruso