

HM&HS Annual Membership Meeting

by Bob Rawlins

Well folks, it's time again to gather and hear what has been accomplished in 2010, a very interesting year, and what is planned for the next twelve months. The evening is always festive with good food and fellowship. All members and prospective members are welcome.

The meeting is **Thursday, January 20, 2011 at the Villa Chanticleer Annex.** Doors open at 6 p.m. for a social hour and receipt of pot luck dishes by the kitchen crew with dinner at 7 p.m.

POT LUCK ASSIGNMENTS: Last names beginning with A through L bring a hot dish/casserole; those with last name of M through Z bring salads. Wine, dessert and coffee/tea will be provided but anyone who wishes to bring a special dessert is free to do so. Be sure to bring a serving utensil for your dish/salad as well as your own "place setting" of plate and eating utensils. We will provide wine glasses.

Following the dinner, we will elect officers and directors for the 2011-2012 term, learn which home and/or building the Historic Homes Committee chose to honor, and be informed with reports from the President and Curator. Do plan to attend and feel free to bring a friend and/or a prospective member. We need volunteer help in three areas: 1) to decorate the tables at 1 p.m. in the afternoon; 2) to help in the kitchen and with serving; and 3) to help with the clean-up at the end of the meeting.

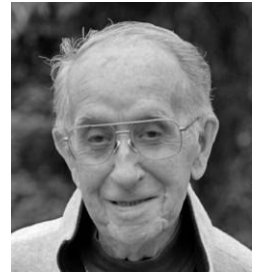
Ann Howard has been circulating lists at the HMVA meetings and will do so again on January 5th during the meeting at 9:30 a.m. at the Museum office. If you cannot attend the HMVA meeting, please call Ann at 473-9803 and tell her on which list to add your name.

History Lives/Pioneer Award Dinner

Honoree Chosen by *History Lives Committee*

Your History Lives Committee is once again formulating plans for the 2011 event which will be held on Thursday evening, March 10, 2011, at Trentadue Winery. We chose Trentadue again because we felt it "worked" well last year and that all of you who attended approved of that venue – right?

The most important facet of the evening is the honoree and this year the choice has been a unanimous one with the only dissenter being the honoree himself! He was one of the originators of this event 13 years ago and because he has always played an active role in the production of the event, we quickly and vigorously overrode his dissent!! Ever since **Arnold Santucci** arrived in Healdsburg with his wife, Vi, in 1950, he has been a major asset to the community by actively promoting its growth and overall well being. To recognize and honor his contributions to our community, Arnold Santucci, will be the recipient of the 2011 History Lives Pioneer Award on March 10, 2011. More details of the event will follow after the first of the year.



Calendar

DECEMBER, 2010

- 1 HMVA Meeting, 9:30 am
(Museum Research Center)
- 10 Animal Shelter hosting Open House at the Museum to celebrate 50th anniversary – 4-6 pm
- 21 Board Meeting, 8:30 am, City Hall
- 25 **Closed for Christmas**

JANUARY, 2011

- 5 HMVA Meeting, 9:30 am
(Museum Research Center)
- 18 Board Meeting, 8:30 am, City Hall
- 20 Annual Member Meeting, 6 pm
Villa Annex

Healdsburg Museum

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Healdsburg, CA 95448
Telephone 707 431 3325 - Fax 707 473 4471

www.healdsburgmuseum.org
info@healdsburgmuseum.org

Museum Hours: 11:00 - 4:00 pm
Wednesday – Sunday,
CLOSED MONDAY and TUESDAY

Research Center open by appointment:
Thursday – Saturday

History Matters *by Holly Hoods, Curator*



The current exhibit, “Magical Toyland: Model Trains, Teddy Bears and More” opened on November 26th, with an unprecedented number of visitors (more than 150 in a single day!). For the first time ever, we stayed open until 8:00 on the Friday after Thanksgiving to participate in the Healdsburg downtown merchants’ evening Holiday Open House. Bob Rawlins, Pam Vana-Paxhia and new volunteer Nicole Collins, age 12, helped us host a warm and welcoming event. It was gratifying to see so many families come in on opening day. Christian Kallen filmed a short video clip of the exhibit and the Santa Train in motion. He also wrote about the toy exhibit and the Museum, which have been featured in the new web news service, Healdsburg Patch.com. Be sure to check it out! It is a great new source of local news online. Already Christian has written several articles to inform people about the Museum.



Teddy bears enjoying tea

Be sure to visit the toy exhibit and listen to the new audio tour, produced and narrated by Elizabeth Holmes, Fred Campbell and me, with recorded interviews with George Goobanoff, Sue Christiansen and Jim Dreisback, Tina Castelli and Fred Campbell. The audio tours have become a popular enhancement to exhibits, with the audio equipment purchased through the generosity of the John and Betsy Bippart family.

Learn the story of how the “Teddy Bear” was inspired by a political cartoon, how model trains originated, and how Dinky Cars dominated the 1950s miniature die-cast car market before Mattel introduced “Hot Wheels.” In addition to individual toys on loan, this year we are featuring large collections from George Goobanoff, the Bruce and Carmen Selfridge family, the Castelli and Beard families, and Eddie and Nicole Collins. The Teddy Bears’ holiday picnic boasts teddy bears on loan from more than 30 local people. The Victorian Christmas parlor showcases some of the earliest toys in the Museum’s collection (plus a beautiful mantle and fireplace handcrafted by Jon Lacaillade).

The gallery is aglow with dolls, games and amusements from the 1870s-1970s, including several “Hands on History” toys that kids can touch and try out. Come experience “Magical Toyland” for yourself.

Thanks to volunteer Marva Wiedemer for helping boost our exhibit and events by issuing press releases, updating our information on Facebook, and coordinating publicity! She and new volunteer Maggie Bates passed out flyers downtown inviting people to the exhibit. Their friendly smiles brought lots of people our way. The Museum’s annual toy exhibits always feature a large number of items on loan from local residents, so, in a sense, the exhibit is a gift to the community from the community. Attendance continues to rise as word of mouth spreads. Talented Maggie also helped bring people in the door by designing a colorful exhibit poster to display outside near the sidewalk. Jon Lacaillade built a hinged wood and Plexiglas sign to advertise the changing exhibits; it now displays Maggie’s poster beneath the Museum open hours sign. I was so happy to look out the window at my desk and see people walk by the Museum, stop and read the sign, and turn and head up the steps! Thanks to Jon and Maggie for their creativity and skill, and to Pam Vana-Paxhia whose idea it was in the first place. I am a fortunate person indeed to have the volunteer support, knowledge and talent that I have working beside me at this Museum.

Collections Corner *by Meredith Dreisback*



I have the most interesting collections story this month. Arnold Santucci called in October to say he had a donation: a wooden, painted cornice from the 1886 City Hall. Not only did he have the cornice, but a fascinating

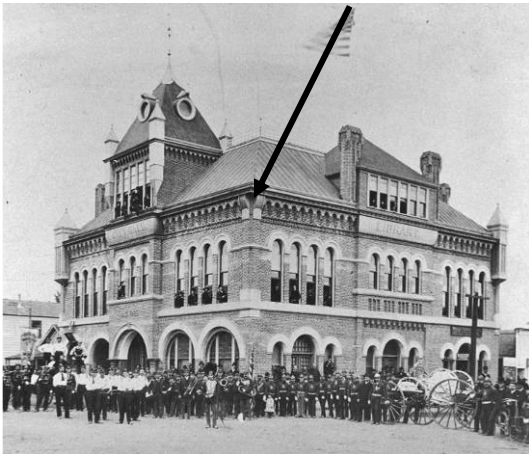
story that came along with it.

In 1960, when the City Hall building was being demolished, Jack Relyea, a former Healdsburg fire chief, salvaged the cornice piece, took it home and stored it in the corner of his garage. In 1990, Arnold and Vi bought Jack’s house, inheriting the cornice that had been securely attached to the garage wall. There it remained, collecting dust and cobwebs. Fast forward to 2010. Jack’s house now belongs to Leslie and Dan Weaver. At the suggestion of Vi, who felt the cornice had historical value, it was removed by the present owners and given to the Santuccis. When Vi was cleaning off the many years of accumulated grime, there, clearly written on the edge was “cornice old city hall”. This, however, is not the whole story.



At the time Arnold dropped off the cornice, Holly, Kay Robinson and I were on duty at the Museum. We were intrigued to find out just where on the building the cornice had been. Searching our photo collection database, Kay was able to pull up a City Hall photo. The three of us carefully scanned the picture, seeing lots of brick, yet no wood cornice. After a few attempts of enlarging the image, Kay's keen eye spotted the cornice on the northwest corner, perfectly matching what we had sitting on the floor at the Museum. This cornice piece is now on display at the Museum.

cornice



Thank you Arnold, Vi, Dan and Leslie. It is generous donations like this and the stories we learn that make our collection "come to life".

Research Report by Holly Hoods

One of my favorite things about my job is finding historical photos and pertinent information for people. I think folks would be surprised at how busy the research department of this museum can get. There are many reasons that people need and want local history to benefit their lives today. We have had several people visit recently looking for photographs to decorate a winery, jazz up a new restaurant, enhance a newspaper story about the restoration of the old Oliveto Winery building, and to launch a new website. Before the Dry Creek Valley exhibit closed, I got to meet Donn Reiners of Sacramento, a friendly and extremely knowledgeable local historian related to several pioneer families. He is a member of HM&HS, so he came to visit because he read in the *Review* that family photos and historical artifacts from the DCV hamlet of Reinersville were then on display, many of which he had donated. It was a real pleasure to connect with him and a treat for him to see his donations displayed. Membership in HM&HS is a great way to stay connected for locals who no longer live here, but are still interested in their hometown.

An excellent recent example of the value of the Museum's archives concerns a man in Oregon who emailed me looking for research help on his historical restoration project. This story also demonstrates the

powerful, freaky force of "Museum serendipity" at work. It is uncanny how someone will donate a photo or teach me some new historical information days before someone else happens to call to ask for information about that very thing! In early December, the week after Meredith and volunteers Pat McCracken and Marilyn Haywood started sorting and cataloging boxes of miscellaneous City papers long held in storage, Wes Melo wrote that he was looking for early photos and documentation about the 1919 Model TT Ford/American LaFrance Chemical and Hose Fire Engine, Healdsburg's first motorized fire engine.



1919 Model TT Ford

Wes, a lifelong volunteer firefighter, bought the vehicle from retired Healdsburg fireman Bob Taylor, and has spent a year doing a frame-up restoration to restore it to show quality condition. Wes sent along photos of the beautiful machine, which is the third antique fire engine he has restored. I started reviewing our early fire department records and found that bids for the fire engine had been solicited from various firms in 1920, including American LaFrance. Since Meredith, Pat and Marilyn had just been processing and handling some early City accounting records, I asked them to keep an eye peeled for fire truck bids. Meredith immediately broke into a huge smile and reached right into a newly-sorted box and pulled out a thick packet of papers. She had noticed the fire engine bids and put them aside because she thought they would interest me. She had no idea how much! The packet included the detailed original company specifications with the bid, an enlarged diagram in color, plus a black and white photograph of the prototype fire engine. Research doesn't get any more satisfying than that!

HMVA NEWS by Ann Howard



The Dry Creek Valley and Dry Creek Neighbors' Club exhibit has come and gone, along with the colorful Dia de los Muertos ofrendas (altars) displayed for two weeks by the MAYO Club (Mexican American Youth Organization) of Healdsburg High

School. A small reception was (continued on page 5)

THE HEALDSBURG'S 100

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Color Copies (usually \$.79/pg.) for \$.39/pg.

Contributions to Endowment Fund:

Sonne Pedersen (correction of November spelling),
Jerry & Alison Ogden

Contributions in Memory of:

Rose Demostene Benson - from Michael Bellagio, Ron & Arlene Kron, Barry & Sally Smith, John & Kathy Cross, Richard & Janice Nelson, Dale & Nydia Goode, Joe & Vivienne Rochioli, Holly Hoods, Mrs. Teresa Burkdoll, Donna Garvey, Patti Saini, Shirley, Alma. & Rick Buchignani

Monet Gomes Zunino - from Norm & Peachie Dunlavy

James Cameron - from Ruth Becker, Holly Hoods, Judy & Shirley Nosecchi

Mary Sanderson - from Barbara Faye Smith
Rachel Ann Seghesio - from Shirley & Alma Buchignani

John Delisle - from Ron & Arlene Kron
David Ready, Jr. - from Dale & Nydia Goode

Mary Sandrino - from Shirley Buchignani
Harold Lowers - from: Norm & Peachie Dunlavy

New Individual Members:

Christian & Karen Kallen, Bell's Ambulance Service,
P.J. & J.D. O'Brien, Phil Rapp

held for the Neighbors' Club on October 26 with Board members attending. Then the "biggest reception ever" of 100 or more was held on November 2 for members, the MAYO Club and advisors, families and friends, with plans to repeat next year. Thanks to Lea Gilg and Cathy Anderson for coordinating refreshments for both events provided by Lois Grace, Betty Miller, Billie Harrison, Louise Fowler, Ann Mahoney, along with apple juice and wine, and special bread and Mexican hot chocolate provided by the students.

Dave Budworth and Bob Rawlins helped Holly and Ann Howard take down the exhibit on Monday, November 15, and by the end of Tuesday, Kay Robinson, Joe Lenci, and Bob had the Gallery decorated for the Holidays. Dave and Darla Budworth have donated a fine faux tree with lights. Jon Lacallaide, Pam Vana-Paxhia, and Bob moved items to and from storage, the 300# brass cannon was lifted off the platform, and the heavy Fitch desk will be moved to a new location nearby. Pam gave the Venetian blinds in the Gallery their annual dusting using a new, safe, tall ladder that Bob purchased. Fern Naber tied tags on tiny candy canes to be passed out. Darla and Janet Pistenti decorated the second full-sized tree.

Pam and Jon are building shelves in the storage units, and Bob and Meredith Dreisback are consolidating artifacts to cut our annual storage costs by over \$2100.

On exhibit at the Museum



1902 Teddy Roosevelt cartoon



Toy train

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, 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