



Russian River Good Old Days

“Russian River Good Old Days,” curated by Holly Hoods, is now on display in the Museum gallery from February 16 - June 30, 2011. This exhibition celebrates water fun on the Russian River before 1975, featuring a scale diorama of the Healdsburg Water Carnival of 1908-9 created by Jon Lacaillade, Pam Vana-Paxhia, Maggie Bates, Edwin Ellis and Ann Howard. Also on display are artifacts and photographs from beloved Russian River resorts of the 1910s -1950s; early bathing costumes and boats; water skiing and swimming and paintings of the Russian River by local artists of the early 20th Century.



John Lacaillade with scale model of NWPRR Bridge



Water Carnival, 1909

There is also a community photo and story board in which community members participate in the exhibition by sharing memories and photos. Production is underway on a professionally-recorded audio tour composed of 12-14 audio clips to accompany the exhibit. Each audio clip will present 2 minutes of interpretive information about a selected artifact or photo on display. The audio tour script, researched and written by Curator Holly Hoods, will be narrated, recorded, mixed and mastered by Elizabeth Holmes.

Calendar

MARCH, 2011

"Russian River Good Old Days" exhibit through June 30

2 HMVA 9:30 a.m. Museum

10 History Lives/Pioneer Award: Honoree Arnold Santucci, Trentadue Winery

15 Board Meeting 8:30 a.m. Museum

27 Ted Calvert "Healdsburg Chronicles" 2:00 p.m. Museum

APRIL, 2011

5 HMVA 9:30 a.m. Museum

6 Healdsburg Chamber of Commerce Trade Show Villa Chanticleer 5-7 p.m.

19 Board Meeting 8:30 a.m. Museum

MAY 2011

29 Antique Fair Healdsburg Plaza

Healdsburg Museum

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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

It is exciting and gratifying to see such positive response to our new exhibition “Russian River Good Old Days.” Be sure to come see it and *please bring one of your*

friends who has never been to the Museum. The exhibit celebrates the River and its central role in the recreational life of northern Sonoma County. Jon Lacaillade, Pam Vana-Paxhia, Maggie Bates, Edwin and Lisa Ellis, Ann Howard, Mel Amato and Bob Rawlins are to be especially thanked for their design and production assistance. The exhibition also features loans from Sue Witter, Russ Green, Lisa and Edwin Ellis, Frank and Arnold Lelouarn, Eric Drew, Bob Maher, Martha Brooks, Jane Moore, Bob Stevens and Russ Naber. People keep adding stories and bringing photos of their fun days on the River, so it is truly a community exhibit.

The opening reception was great fun and well attended, despite it being a stormy night! The reception was enhanced by the delicious finger food, including Consignment Cottage’s historically-appropriate picnic fare. We were also treated to music from the good old days of early 1900s French vacation resorts, like Villa Chanticleer and Bellevue Villa. The crowd lingered as accomplished accordionist Lisa Ellis entertained us with French folk tunes.

Two editors who have served the Museum with longtime dedication and intelligence are both retiring. I have to thank Arnold Santucci, age 91, for his 14 years of service as editor of the *Russian River Recorder*. Arnold and I have worked together the whole time I have worked at the Museum. I have learned a lot from him and always strived to write up to his standards (and his deadlines!). I appreciate his talent, dedication and savvy on behalf of the Museum. Barry Stallard, the quick witted and patient 6 /12 year editor of the *Review*, has also decided to retire to spend more time on his own pursuits. He has done an excellent job of improving the *Review* and producing a newsletter of consistent quality. It has been wonderful to work with him. We are fortunate to welcome a new *Review* editor, Peter Leary. Peter, a longtime Museum member, works as a tasting room/wine club manager at Limerick Lane Cellars in Healdsburg. He is also married to the Museum Curator and would like to use his computer graphic skills to benefit the Museum. Welcome, Peter! *Russian River Recorder* editor TBA!



Collections Corner

by Meredith Dreisback

Russian River – Good Old Days! Doesn’t that bring back memories, no matter how young or old you are? You might remember picnicking, canoeing, fishing, flirting with the boys and girls, water skiing, horsing around with friends, and of course, swimming. Life on the river wouldn’t be complete without cooling off in the river on a hot summer afternoon or seeing who could swim to the other side the fastest.

Swimsuits were the fashion of the day for life at the river. The Museum’s collection has two wonderful ladies’ suits, circa 1900. Both are one-piece, with a “dress” over the top of knee-length “shorts”. One is made of black, light-weight, wool, trimmed with white. Full-length stockings complete the swim ensemble. At the turn of the century, ladies were very modest as they splashed in the water. The label inside reads: “Swim Easy”; made by Myers Manufacturing Co., Los Angeles, Calif. and belonged to the donor’s (Jane Jensen) mother.

The other circa 1900 swimsuit in our collection was worn by Margaret Barnard. This one is made of heavy cotton knit; gray, trimmed with red. Needless to say, both suits, when wet, must have felt quite heavy. I imagine getting them to dry took quite a while, too. These two suits are on display as part of the current exhibit at the Museum.



Do you remember the swimsuit brand Catalina? Catalina began as an early 20th century swimwear pioneer when it created the wool knit suit, later incorporating new fabrics. When Lastex, the rubber-cored thread appeared in the 1930’s, Catalina used this new technology to provide elasticity, (in combination with knits, cottons, rayon, nylon and Lycra fabrics), in their latest swimsuit designs. My, what 30 years can do for swimwear...much more revealing (no more stockings, ladies), light-weight, synthetic material and quick drying.

What did you wear when you went swimming at the Russian River?

Contributions in Honor of:

**The following children at Christmas:
Megan, Will, & Sam Harry and
Jack, Abby, Lucy, & Anna Porter
Shirley Buchignani (Z)**

Contributions in Memory of:

**Rick Goff, John Delisle, Jeanne Gotelli
Jack & Doreene Zanzi
Sherman Crandall Peachie & Norm Dunlavy
Mrs. Lena Giorgi Sally Brandt Smith
Rose Demostene Benson Harry & Karen Bosworth
Alice Petersen Harry & Karen Bosworth**

HMVA News by Ann Howard



Oh, the great stories we heard at the Steelhead Festival! Meredith, Edson and I worked at the Museum's table from 10am to 4pm on Saturday, February 12, and De Andersen joined us about noon. We passed out Russian River Recorders and Reviews, along with fliers for the new exhibit Russian River Good Old Days.

Thank you to all who brought the delicious food to the opening reception on February 16 – Lois Grace, Billie Harrison, Kaye Stallard, De Andersen, Mary Brandt, Catherine Curtis, and Lea Gilg and Cathy Anderson, who also coordinated the refreshments. Rawleigh Fjeld and her friend/chef Gordon Waterbury researched picnic favorites of 100 years ago – peanut-butter stuffed dates, pigs-in-a-blanket to name a couple. Kent Mitchell, Ed Flesch and Edson Howard served wine, delivered by Mark Gleason, and fruit drinks. Bob Rawlins is always so helpful behind the scenes. 60 plus were in attendance, reliving and sharing their river experiences of decades ago.

Sandy Barrett, our calendar girl, 529-3669, has recently had a challenge filling all of the slots needed of our receptionists. A few have retired, moved away, or are on medical leave. Kaye Stallard has trained two recently, another is returning, and two new people expressed interest at the opening of the reception. The first Saturday-of-the-month afternoon permanent slot needs to be filled, and 2-3 more substitutes would be

welcomed. A receptionist needs to find his/her own replacement if the need arises, so our list of willing substitutes is very important.

Small, quality items that could be included in the next "brown bag" raffle baskets can be dropped off at the museum for Ann Howard to assemble. Also, ideas for exhibit-related, old-fashioned small toys or games, to be purchased or easily crafted, would be appreciated.

All of us can become ambassadors of the museum, which seems very easy with the current, outstanding exhibit! "A home run, the best yet!" exclaimed one visitor at the reception.

More Garden Remodeling

On the Fitch Street side of the Museum, there are 6 Holly Oak trees. Five of them are a nice stand of trees along the street. The other one was planted in the lawn close to the sidewalk. As they trees grew up over the last 25 years, their canopies have grown together. This has worked well for those trees planted along the sidewalk, but the one on the lawn looked misplaced and has shaded roses planted on the north side. We discussed this with Matthew Thompson, the City's Parks Manager, and he agreed the tree could be removed.

Many thanks go to Timo Alli, owner of My Father's Touch Tree Care, his crew and Cowan's Healdsburg Tree Service for removing the tree and grinding the stump at no cost to the Museum. We will re-seed the lawn in the area where the tree was removed. Hopefully, the roses near the sidewalk will thrive. Ed and I enjoy keeping the Museum's garden in tip top shape.

Your Volunteer Gardeners, Liz Loebel and Ed Head

Board of Directors: Ted Calvert (President), Dennis O'Neel (Vice President), Kent Mitchell (Past President), Darci Rosales (Recording Secretary), Stan Becker (Treasurer), Bob Rawlins (Assist. Treas.), **Directors:** Kathi Engler, Rawleigh Fjeld, Louise Fowler, Mark Gleason, Ann Howard, Ann Mahoney, Karen Tynan, Frank Zak, Sandy Beddow, Lockie Gillies, Larry Orr.

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): \$50
Business: \$75 Individual: \$25

Newsletter Editor: Peter Leary, Printing by Amoruso