



## Langhart Event to Honor Ann Howard and Janet Pisenti

by Darla Williams Budworth



*Ann Howard*



*Janet Sbragia Pisenti*

The 19th annual HM&HS Edwin Langhart Celebration will be held on Saturday, May 12, 2012, at Seghesio Family Vineyards, 14730 Grove Street, Healdsburg. For the first time ever, it will be an afternoon affair. The festivities will start at 2:30 pm with a wine reception in the Grove, followed by an early dinner at 3:15 pm in the Redwood Room. The purpose of this annual event is to remember our Museum founder, Edwin Langhart, and to honor two outstanding volunteers, Ann Howard and Janet

Sbragia Pisenti, for their hard work and dedication to the Museum.

Ann Howard, a native of Ida Grove, Iowa, resides in Dry Creek Valley and is an active member of the Dry Creek Neighbors' Club. Ann joined the Museum in 2004 and began volunteering as a receptionist in the upstairs gallery, which she still does today. She has worked closely with the curators to help with Museum exhibits, publications and events, including creating a display of antique

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### Calendar

#### April, 2012

- 4 HMVA Meeting, 9:30 am  
Museum Research Center
- 15-1 Museum Gallery Closed  
New Exhibit Installation
- 17 Board Meeting, 8:30 am  
Museum Research Center

#### May, 2012

- 2 HMVA Meeting, 9:30 am  
Museum Research Center
- 2 "Ancestors of Mexico" Exhibit  
Opening Reception 5:30 pm
- 12 Langhart Celebration  
Seghesio Winery 2:30 pm
- 15 Board Meeting, 8:30 am  
Museum Research Center
- 24 FFA Parade and BBQ  
Museum Garden 5:30 pm
- 27 Antique Fair on the Plaza  
9:00 am to 4:00 pm

### Healdsburg Museum

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[www.healdsburgmuseum.org](http://www.healdsburgmuseum.org)  
[info@healdsburgmuseum.org](mailto:info@healdsburgmuseum.org)

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

**Research Center**  
**open by appointment**  
**Thursday – Saturday**

## History Matters

by Holly Hoods, Curator



Earlier this month, I had the honor of hosting seven members of the Cummings family at the Museum. They were visiting Healdsburg to celebrate the 90<sup>th</sup> birthday of Barbara Cummings Bergstrand. Besides the birthday girl (who now resides in New Jersey), the group included: Barbara's daughter Sue Bergstrand from Kansas City, KS; Barbara's son Richard and wife Joan from Seattle, WA; plus Barbara's sister Doris Cummings Clark and her husband Robert from Tulare, CA, and their daughter Laurel, who has become the family genealogist. It was a real treat for me to share historical photos and newspaper articles and spend the day helping them make new discoveries and enjoy precious family time together. The Cummings family has roots in Healdsburg that date back to the 1860s and branches that include the Coffman and Luce family lines.



Barbara Bergstrand isn't the only one around here with 90 birthday candles to blow out. Ernie Palmieri also reached the 90<sup>th</sup> milestone this month. The popular former bartender celebrated in grand style with over 100 family and friends. And yes, they served cocktails! Let's toast to his continued health, happiness and longevity.

Recent research has included: the Samuel Hays family, the Lorenzini family and the founding of Oliveto Winery, local house builder George Day, the Boy Scouts in northern Sonoma County and the old Northwestern Pacific railroad turntable.

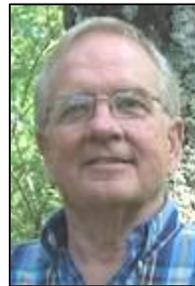


Assistant Curator Meredith Dreisback wrote in her column about some intriguing new donations to the collection. Let me add my additional thanks to: Norma Maffei Fradenberg for donating a souvenir thermometer from the old 339 Club bar and a

Sonoma County map, George Goobanoff for an original 1941 Harvest Festival program, Don Arata for a copy of *The Opperman Story: the Legacy, the Men, the Business* by Karen Nicola, Barbara Cummings Bergstrand for a woman's bathing suit and man's two-piece (!) bathing suit from approximately 1900, Marta Caylor for pages from Lulu Madeira Powell's 1880s scrapbook, and Bob Luttrell for an 1869 deed between Ransom Powell and Mrs. R.A. Matheson. We appreciate every donation.

## President's Corner

by Ted Calvert, Board President



Our new grant writing program is progressing well. There are definitely sources of funds for small museums. (One small Northern California historical society that we reviewed had received \$2.4 million in grants over the last eight years!)

**Members: Can you help us reach potential grantors?** We are currently targeting the following foundations: Ayrshire Foundation, Bothin Foundation, Cisco Systems Foundation, Coleman Foundation, Fleishhacker Foundation (after 2013), Koret Foundation, Marin Community Foundation, PG&E Foundation, and Wells Fargo Foundation. Please let us know if you know anyone affiliated with these foundations.

The Ancestors of Mexico Celebration of Mexican Families of Healdsburg is also progressing nicely. This event will include family history storytelling, Baile Folklorico/Aztec dancers, Mariachi/Trio and a cook-off among Mexican restaurants. Local families of Mexican heritage are being asked to join in by contacting the museum or Co-Chair Jeanne Leal-Hartlaub at 473-9656 or [jlhrn@att.net](mailto:jlhrn@att.net) or contact Facebook/Becky Ramirez-Oseguera at 431-2123.

Please let us know if you would be interested in sending in your family's information.

There is no local service organization that does what the Healdsburg Museum & Historical Society accomplishes. We strive to be the best regional history museum possible.

## Welcome Our Newest HM&HS Members

Mark Hays  
Marilyn Bruner Howell  
Mike Lorenzini  
Scott Taylor

## HMVA News

by Ann Howard



At the request of the HM&HS Board of Directors, I have created a list of HMVA 2012 Goals:

- 1) Recruit HMVA volunteers and receptionists.
- 2) Develop a receptionist training program to increase the professionalism of our receptionists. A receptionist who is knowledgeable about each exhibit and the Museum, the Historical Society, and HMVA history is in the best possible position to recruit new receptionists and new HM&HS members.
- 3) Encourage volunteers to talk to family, friends and their favorite organizations about HM&HS to increase public awareness and visitation resulting in increased memberships and donations.
- 4) Encourage volunteers to share fundraising/event/community partnership ideas with HM&HS staff and board members.

Regarding item number 2, I was able to complete the audio tour and read the labels for the current exhibit during my once-a month duty at the desk. For added fun, I also completed Holly's History Hunt. A slow trip around the Gallery is also a way to check the displays, and have a presence when visitors are present. We are fortunate to have the audio tour available for in-depth information about the displays. Receptionists have been asked to note on the desk calendar how many handsets are used each day.

Each receptionist is the first person the public meets when they visit our museum. Please familiarize yourself with each exhibit and enjoy the audio tour. The wonderful art objects for sale in the Museum Store are only available for the duration of the exhibit through April 15<sup>th</sup>. Since each artist is donating a percentage of their sales back to the museum, every purchase supports both the artist and the museum. Please have a look and think of future gifts.

Kay Robinson finished the tally of volunteer hours for 2011 including receptionist's hours for a grand total of 12,108 hours! Bob Rawlins was the leader with the most hours of 1,278 - over one-tenth of the total! And, as Bob stated at the recent HMVA meeting, the recorded total is probably only half of his hours served.

PLEASE keep track of your hours. I record mine on a monthly basis under each category (i.e.,

HMVA meeting/work, Review/RRR writing, exhibit, receptions, etc.). The number of volunteer hours is especially important when applying for grants.

Holly and I enjoyed creating a small exhibit for the huge quilt event hosted by the Senior Living Center on March 3<sup>rd</sup>. With the assistance of Aleena Conway, our student intern, we displayed four quilts, one patchwork pillow, and sewing accessories.

More than one hundred quilts were on display along the hallways, many owned by the residents. Quilt expert, Julie Silber, (remember the museum's quilt event in August, 2009?) kept the crowd chuckling for three and half hours as she discussed at least 25 beautiful quilts brought by owners that day. Each was displayed on a black felt-covered easel like a huge painting for all to admire.

Senior Living Center's Executive Director, Tony Fisher, is already planning another quilt event for 2013 and Julie liked the idea!

## SAVE THE DATE!

New Exhibit – “Ancestors of Mexico”  
Reception – Wednesday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> 5:30pm

### “Ancestors of Mexico” Exhibit by Holly Hoods

A new exhibit focusing on the Mexican history and heritage of northern Sonoma County will open on May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Many immigrant groups have significantly shaped and influenced the Healdsburg community. This year we will be spotlighting stories of the people whose families came from Mexico. These stories will range from José German Piña, the young Mexican boy who once owned all of Dry Creek Valley in his *Tzabaco Rancho* to the *Bracero* Program of 1942-1964 that provided legal entry to the United States for over 4 million guest workers from Mexico. The exhibit will feature photos and memorabilia on loan from local Mexican-American families, plus historical artifacts and photos from the Museum's collection.

My goal is to create an informative, colorful and entertaining exhibit that will interest people of all ages and ethnic backgrounds. Planning is also underway to hold a Mexican heritage celebration in June. Please contact me if you can help with the event or if you have anything to loan for the exhibit. Additional details on both the exhibit and the heritage celebration will be provided in next month's *Review*.

## May 24<sup>th</sup> Parade Watching Party and BBQ

It's time again to join fellow Healdsburg Museum members and their guests in the Museum garden for our annual Future Farmers' Country Fair Parade-watching party and barbeque. Bring a lawn chair and your appetite and enjoy tasty food made by Chef Peter Leary.

This year we will be proudly serving delicious grass-fed beef hamburgers and hot dogs of the highest quality from John Ford Ranch along with homemade salads and desserts. We will also be serving local wines, soft drinks and water. Enjoy the fun, food and fellowship and cheer on the parade! **Please reserve your place in advance so that we know how much food to buy. The full meal with beverages and dessert is \$20. RSVP by May 19<sup>th</sup> by calling the Museum 431-3325 or sending an email to [holly@healdsburgmuseum.org](mailto:holly@healdsburgmuseum.org).**

We look forward to seeing you there!

## 2012 Antique Fair Alert

*by Bob Rawlins*

HM&HS will again be at its usual table on the Plaza for the Memorial Day Antique Fair on Sunday, May 27<sup>th</sup>. The storage locker is pretty bare for this sale and we need your donated items to lure passers-by to stop and spend at the museum's table. Items from your past or your mother's or grandmother's past, things you "needed" in the 1950s, but don't use anymore are all potential additions. China, glassware, jewelry, hats, tools, lamps, small items of furniture - we all have old stuff cluttering our closets and cabinets. It's time to "unclutter" for a good cause.

Please call Bob Rawlins @431-1109 for pickup of larger items or to discuss what you have to donate. Deliver small collectible items directly to the Museum. We can provide a receipt for your donation to deduct its fair market value if you itemize on your tax return.

The Antique Fair is an important fundraiser for us. Please help as much as you can.

## History Lives Dinner Set for July 12

### Edgar Deas to be Honoree *by Arnold Santucci*

Retired business executive, Edgar Deas, will be the 14<sup>th</sup> community leader to receive the Healdsburg Museum and Historical Society's History Lives/Pioneer Award. He will be honored at a dinner scheduled for Thursday, July 12<sup>th</sup> at Trentadue Winery.

Edgar, a long time supporter of the Healdsburg Museum, is a firm believer in giving back to his community. He has done just that over the years in his business activities and community involvement.

Invitations to the History Lives/Pioneer Award dinner will be issued in May.

## Langhart Event

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buttons from her own extensive collection. Ann is also a tireless researcher and dedicated scholar of Geyserville history. Since 2010, she has been the HMVA (Healdsburg Museum Volunteer Association) Coordinator, a role she enjoys and takes very seriously. With her leadership, HMVA is flourishing. Two years ago we celebrated the 100th Anniversary of our museum building in the former Healdsburg Carnegie Library. Ann was the person who coordinated the volunteer activities behind the scenes and helped make the celebration a great success.

Janet Sbragia Pisenti was born in Healdsburg and grew up on her parents' ranch in Geyserville. She is a graduate of Healdsburg High School, class of 1954, and has many ties to the local community. She became a Healdsburg Museum volunteer in 2002. A gifted writer and researcher, Janet has authored and published several Sbragia/Pisenti history books. She has also written numerous feature articles for the *Russian River Recorder* on topics of local history including: Bells' Ambulance, Rosenberg and Bush's Department Store and our beloved Schwab's Shoe Store. Janet started out working upstairs in the gallery as a receptionist, and then came downstairs to the research center where she currently puts in many hours a week as head of the historical newspaper indexing crew. Janet and I work together to prepare all of the Museum donation acknowledgments - a very important job. Janet has also created her own agricultural displays in the gallery, serves on the exhibits committee and is a former Board Member.

Please join us on Saturday, May 12<sup>th</sup> for this afternoon celebration, delicious food & wine, and a lower price of just \$70.00. Help us thank Janet and Ann for their contributions to the Museum's success.

Invitations have just been mailed to the entire Museum membership and we look forward to hearing from you. Please return your response card by mail or email Darla Budworth at [threeds@sonic.net](mailto:threeds@sonic.net) by April 30 to reserve your seat, as attendance is limited.

**Contributions in Memory of:**

**Clarence Ruonavaara** - from Marcia Teuschler  
**Pam Saccomano** - from Alma, Shirley, & Rich Buchignani  
**Margaret Frampton** - from Ed Head  
**Eleanor Zak** - from Millicent Lawitzke  
**Charles Del Fava** - from Mr. & Mrs. Ron Kron  
**Dr. Nick Grace** - from The Herb Steiner Family  
**Rena Steele** - from Laurie Howe

**Contributions in Memory of:**

**Ester Garcia** - from Jack & Doreene Zanzi  
**Delbert Kron** - from Jack & Doreene Zanzi  
**Mary Alice Thomson** - from Jack & Doreene Zanzi

**Contributions for Endowment Fund:**

from Jean Taeuffer  
Persis McCarley  
Peggy Rawlins in memory of her son, **Geoffrey Lee Rawlins**

**Collections Corner**

by Meredith Dreisback



2012 has begun with a flurry of donations to the Museum. Each and every one has come to us with a story or has prompted conversation as to its history and connection to Healdsburg.

The Frost family has donated a beautiful wooden crib found in the Storey home on Westside Road. The crib has turned, side spindles and a carved panel that appears to be a headboard. Because the crib came to us in pieces, Jon Lacaillade took it to his shop to clean and re-assemble it. One question that came to mind was “Who is the Storey family?” In a search through the *Healdsburg Tribune* March 6, 1913 issue, I discovered George Storey arrived in California on March 26, 1847, ultimately settling on Westside Road in 1850.



The *Tribune* described Mr. Storey: “the deceased was a man of upright character and staunch citizenship, and was held in high esteem by all who knew him”. Just think, this man’s babies slept in the crib that is now part of the Museum’s collection.

We also received a prune drying tray. Boy did that stir up conversation. We have one in our collection

but it does not look anything like the one given to us by Denna Faloni. Some members speculated it was a tray from the dryers, not a field drying tray. Others said they have seen ones where the slats are spaced further apart; more narrow and run horizontal rather than vertical. Who knew there could be so many different tray styles for drying prunes? Did the different styles lend to better drying?

Our faithful donor, Roy Lowe, brought in a very interesting, small anvil that he made in 1952 from a rail that went into the mine shaft at the Contact Mine, Pine Flat. The miniature anvil is beautifully crafted with exact details of any full-size anvil.



Isn’t it amazing just what a person can find at a used book sale? Former Healdsburg resident Gary Muller recently donated a book, “A Second Reader” (1910) with the name Irwin Goodrich written on the front page. The Goodrich family had been neighbors to Gary when he was a young boy growing up in Healdsburg. At the time Gary dropped off the book, we did a quick search through the newspaper index for the Goodrich name. After reading the cards, he left with freshly renewed memories of the neighborhood family. All of these memories and recollections brought back because of a name in an old school book.

**Board of Directors:** Ted Calvert (President), Kent Mitchell (Past President), Darci Rosales (Recording Secretary), Stan Becker (Treasurer), Bob Rawlins (Assistant. Treasurer), Maggie Bates, Diane Bertoli, Joe Engler, Kathi Engler, Louise Fowler, Francie Forchini, Lockie Gillies, Ann Howard, Ann Mahoney, Larry Orr, Karen Tynan (Directors)

*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:**

Centennial Circle: \$1000 Patron: \$500 Gold: \$250 Gold: \$100 Family (2 or more): \$50  
Business: \$75 Individual: \$30

**Newsletter Editor:** Pamela Vana-Paxhia, **Printing:** Amoruso