



MAGICAL TOYLAND

by Holly Hoods

Come and experience childhoods' past and delight in the wonderful world of make-believe. We invite you to visit the Healdsburg Museum's "Magical Toyland," this year's showcase of vintage toys and games from the Museum collection and the community.

The highlight of this year's exhibit will be Nydia Goode's extraordinary dollhouse, all decorated for Christmas. This magical dollhouse is exquisitely detailed, fully furnished and remarkable in every way. Nydia has been collecting finely-crafted miniatures since childhood, so it is truly special. It has never before been publicly displayed, so we are indeed fortunate that she is sharing this delightful miniature world with us. We know you will be captivated by her imagination and creativity.

Visitors to the gallery will also experience a miniature winter wonderland, a Victorian-era child's bedroom on "The Night Before Christmas," and many other toys and games from the 1860s to the 1960s. The entire exhibit experience is further enhanced by a special audio tour narrated by Elizabeth Holmes.

This year's exhibit will also feature several "hands-on" toys and activities. We realize that it's tough to bring kids to a toy exhibit where they aren't allowed to play with anything!

Make a visit to the Museum part of your holiday traditions.

Calendar

December, 2012

- 5 HMVA Meeting, 9:30 am
Museum Research Center
- 18 Board Meeting, 8:30 am
Museum Research Center

January, 2013

- 2 HMVA Meeting, 9:30 am
Museum Research Center
- 13-29 Museum Gallery Closed
New Exhibit Installation
- 15 Board Meeting, 8:30 am
Museum Research Center
- 17 Annual Meeting and Potluck
Dinner, 6:00 pm, Krug Center
- 30 "Healdsburg: 100 Years Past
and Present" Exhibit Opening
Reception, 5:30 pm

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 am - 4:00 pm
Wednesday – Sunday,
CLOSED MONDAY and TUESDAY

Research Center
open by appointment
Thursday – Saturday

History Matters

by Holly Hoods, Curator



The late Perry and Barbara Beeson's son and daughters have just sold the Beeson family ranch at 335 and 425 Dry Creek Road, which had been in the family for close to 100 years. The Beesons' heritage in Healdsburg and Sonoma County dates back several generations, so the selling of the ranch to new owners is bittersweet. Jane Beeson Smith called the Museum recently with a proposal for us to take custody of a historically significant artifact that has been at the Beeson ranch for years. It is an original mill stone from the March and Heald mill at Mill Creek! This mill was, indirectly, the reason that Healdsburg is named "Healdsburg."

Built for William March by Samuel Heald in 1849, the mill was the first flour and saw mill in northeastern Sonoma County. Samuel bought a share of the mill and was soon joined by his brothers Thomas and *Harmon, who founded the town of Healdsburg in 1857.* Valentine "Felta" Miller purchased the mill by 1852 and operated it with his nephew George Miller and Richard Lewis. In 1868 Miller sold the mill to Stephen Soules. It operated until 1881 when the machinery was moved into a new steam-powered grist mill built by John Hassett in Healdsburg. In 1889 it was sold to the Mothorn family, repurposed as a barn and used for parties, weddings and dances.

Perry Beeson, a descendant of the Miller, Lewis and Mothorn families, retrieved the mill stone from the creek as a young man and had it transported it to his Dry Creek Road ranch where it remained for decades. Paul Bernier, longtime friend and vineyard manager for the Beesons, has graciously offered to transport the mill stone to the Healdsburg Museum where, fittingly, we will mount and display it in front of the Museum building near the former Beeson dental office next door. We sincerely thank Jane Beeson Smith, Pam Beeson Frazier, Perry Beeson Jr. and Paul Bernier for their generosity.

SAVE THE DATE!
ANNUAL MEETING
and POTLUCK DINNER
JANUARY 17, 2013

President's Corner

by Ted Calvert, Board President



2012 has presented challenges to the Museum, yet we have been able to sustain a constant membership growth.

Our most significant resource - people - has provided an extraordinary outpouring of energy, commitment, and love for the Museum and the Healdsburg community.

Our Curator, Holly Hoods, is the face of the museum and our ambassador to all. Her sixteen years with the Museum have delivered priceless value to local "living" history.

Our growth has also been enriched by the strengthening of our staff. In 2012, Meredith Dreisback became our Assistant Curator.

Throughout the year, the Museum has grown in value, stature, and outreach. Our 25 Museum events and income opportunities must be organized, chaired and run. Our dedicated staff and volunteers contribute time, talent, and treasures in order to create these successful events.

One of the most memorable events was the "Ancestors of Mexico" Festival. It attracted a crowd of 500+ to the plaza and 130+ visitors to the Museum - a one-day record attendance!

Another major achievement was the extensive renovation of the Museum's Research Center. It served several long standing needs and created a much more useful facility.

Our accomplishments in 2012 have been numerous. Whatever challenges we may face, we expect to prosper even more in 2013. I encourage you to visit the Museum, become involved, and support the efforts of our 125+ volunteers. Volunteering rewards not only the individual, but the entire membership of our community.

Finally, please consider adding the Healdsburg Museum to your estate planning.

HMVA News

by Ann Howard, HMVA Chair



How many of you still have a bump on your middle finger from writing with a pen or pencil? Mine is less prominent since using a computer. But, when Holly decided to donate wooden toy tops to the Healdsburg S.O.S (Supporting Our

Soldiers) holiday care packages being mailed to the soldiers before their return from Afghanistan, we decided to add a handwritten note to personalize the gift. "These wooden tops were handmade by Jon Lacaillade, blessed for your safe return and sent with love and appreciation for your service by the Healdsburg Museum staff and volunteers" was written on the back of Holly's museum calling cards. Each top will be inserted in a little gift bag with the note tied to the ribbon. I can feel that bump again.

The colorful "Ancestors of Mexico" exhibit has been replaced with "Magical Toyland." Creativity among our volunteers for our newest exhibit has surpassed all of our previous efforts.

Hope to see you January 17th for the Annual Meeting and Potluck Dinner at the Krug Center. Please drop off raffle items at the Museum, and let me know how you would like to help.

Please remember to record your volunteer hours into the Research Center computer by year's end. This statistic is vital when applying for grants.

Thank you again, all of you, for sharing your many talents with HM&HS.

Generous Donation

The Healdsburg Museum & Historical Society is grateful to the Tietz Family Foundation for their \$1,000 donation toward putting the Museum's historical photographs online. The Museum has developed a searchable database of 16,000+ historical photos. This contribution will help to make this very popular resource accessible to many more people through our website.

Milestone Birthday for E. Walter Murray

We are pleased to announce that (Elmer) Walter Murray will be turning 100 years old on December 24th. That's right, 100!

Walter's mother came to Healdsburg at age ten with her parents in a covered wagon. The family camped on the corner of Chiquita Road and West Street (now Healdsburg Avenue) before buying a nearby ranch. In 1917 they built the charming bungalow at 632 Healdsburg Avenue where Walter still resides today.



Walter is one of the ten charismatic local seniors featured in Gina Riner and Vivienne Sosnowski's 2006 "Enduring Spirit" community arts and history project. He worked for many years at Healdsburg's Sunset Laundry across the street from the Chamber of Commerce.

In a 2006 oral history interview for "Enduring Spirit" Walter recalled: *"My parents and uncle built the house where I've lived for [97] years. They had me drive the first nail so I would always remember my part in building the house. During Prohibition I unloaded 1800 sacks of beet sugar from the freight car during the day but by nightfall the bootleggers stole it to make wine."*

A party in Walter's honor will be held on December 9th from 2-5pm at St. John's Catholic Church in the Parish Hall, 217 Fitch Street.

Happy birthday to a wonderful guy!



"Jerry's Barn" oil painting by John Farnsworth

Current Artist

by Pamela Vana-Paxhia

Museum visitors over the past year have probably noticed a change in the Gift Shop. In addition to our regular merchandise, we have periodically added selected works from local artists and craftspeople.

The artist we are featuring during this exhibit period is talented Healdsburg resident, John Farnsworth. John produces oil paintings covering a wide array of local scenes in plein air style along with some interesting still life studies. He is a member and student at the Art Students League of New York. He has also participated in numerous workshops in California.

While on display in the Gift Shop, John is generously donating a portion of these sales to HM&HS.

Have You Started “The List” Yet?

by Pamela Vana-Paxhia

You know the one. The holidays are just around the corner and we all have lots of gift giving “opportunities” ahead of us.

Well, we at the Museum Gift Shop are here to help you. I know, I probably wouldn’t have thought of the museum either, but it’s true. Sure, we’ve got a great collection of books on Sonoma County history; but we also have an eclectic assortment of great gift items, too. In fact, you won’t find some of our special holiday merchandise anywhere else!

This year we are focusing on a combination of stockings and stocking stuffers. We have a variety of handcrafted, traditional Christmas stockings made from vintage quilts. They not only make a great addition to the line up on the mantle, but they can also serve as a thoughtful alternative to all those boxes and wrappings that just get thrown away.

We have also added a new line of HM&HS T-shirts, handcrafted wine bottle stoppers, a variety of wood toy tops, tea light centerpieces in various sizes, decorative and highly detailed birdhouses, magnets, puzzles and wine barrel stave serving trays.



Examples of Holiday Merchandise

For the youngest gift recipients, we are offering special onesies with an "i'm going to make history" monogram, handmade wood rattles, baby bonnets and, of course, the iconic teddy bear.

In the spirit of the season, some of our craftspeople are generously donating **100% of the proceeds from the sale of their items to the museum.** That’s a real “win win” – You can buy a great gift for yourself or someone on “The List” and all of the money will go to the Museum.

Stop by and take a look – I’ll bet you’ll make a serious dent on that List...

And Another Great Idea...

Consider giving memberships to the Museum as your holiday gift this season. It will be remembered throughout the year. Choose from the membership levels listed, complete the form below and submit with your payment. An announcement of your gift will be sent to the recipient and an acknowledgement will be forwarded to you.

Your Name _____
Business Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____ Email _____

Membership Categories

Individual \$30	Sponsor \$250	<u>Special Categories</u>	<u>Business Memberships</u>
Family (2 or more) \$50	Patron \$500	Student \$15	Healdsburg’s 100 \$100
Gold \$100	Centennial Circle \$1000	Educator \$25	Premier Business \$500

Gift Recipient’s Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____ Email _____

Send with payment to:

Healdsburg Museum & Historical Society, ATTN: Membership, PO Box 952, Healdsburg, CA 95448

Contributions in Memory of:
Ellen Fitzsimmons Chaffey - from Shirley Buchignani
Sue Ankrom - from Ron & Arlene Kron
Carolyn Lucchesi - from Mary Brandt
 Arnold & Vi Santucci
Bert Behrens - from Marcia Teuschler

Contributions in Memory of:
Eleanor Zak - from Ann Amtower
Laurence & Peggy Cavallo - from Joe Lenci

Contributions for Endowment Fund
In Memory of:
Len & Bea Gilbert - from Paul & Elizabeth Gilbert

Collections Corner

by Meredith Dreisback



The Museum has been fortunate to receive a wonderful donation from Nancy Harvey, a descendant of the Gallaway family. Among the several items in the collection was a book, “The Library of Entertainment and Culture – Elocution, Oratory and Etiquette,” edited and copyrighted

in 1901. Doesn’t that sound refined and elegant?

The early chapters include short readings that guests would share with one another after dinner, in the parlor. These readings were described as



An evening of stories and music – in turn of the 20th Century style

“selections in Poetry and Prose, Representing What is Noblest, Purest, Most Beautiful and Entertaining.”

One chapter, particularly relating to the December holidays, included a poem by Lord Tennyson, Ringing of the Christmas Bells, a story by Washington Irving, “Charm of the Christmas Time” and a humorous writing, “He Got The Best of Old “Santy.” Can you imagine family and friends, dressed in their holiday finery, gathered together for an evening of stories and music?

What entertainment do you have planned for your holiday dinner?

The later chapters in the book were all about “Etiquette of Social and Official Life.” Sample letters for various occasions certainly showed how communications skills have changed since the 1900’s. One example (A Lover’s Complaint) that I found particularly amusing reads in part, “It is with pain I write you in aught that can seem like a strain of reproach, but I confess that your conduct last night both surprised and vexed me....but my peace of mind would be lost forever did I believe that I had lost one atom of your affection”. Wouldn’t you say that’s quite different from OMG, TBH, BISLY?

If you want to read some of these writings, letters or etiquette rules, stop by the Museum and I’ll be happy to show you the book.

Want to Help Save a Tree?

Then sign up to receive *The Review* via email. You will get your copy early and in color!
 Contact info@healdsburgmuseum.org and join the “No Print Review” list.

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, Kathi Engler, Francie Forchini, Louise Fowler, 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