



## Healdsburg Water Carnival

by Holly Hoods

The Healdsburg Museum and Historical Society will have a big presence at the upcoming Healdsburg Water Carnival on July 14<sup>th</sup>. We don't plan to have a float this year, but we will host a large booth displaying historic photos and a scale replica of the original 1909 Water Carnival. (This is the popular diorama that Jon Lacaille, Maggie Bates and Edwin Ellis handcrafted for last year's "Russian River Good Old Days" exhibit.)

We also need your help. **We need friendly volunteers willing to dress in 1900-1960 period clothing to greet the public, answer questions about the Museum, help set up and clean up, and sell Instant Wine Cellar tickets.** We need lots of helpers, so we can all take short shifts. Please talk to Holly Hoods or Meredith Dreisback if you can help.

Based on Russian River festivals from the early 1900s, the Healdsburg Water Carnival tradition was revived in 2011. More than 6,000 people turned out last year for a day of old-fashioned fun. The event also helped raise \$30,000 for installation of the dam to create the swimming area at Memorial Beach. The event's success represented a turnaround for Memorial Beach. The California Park and Recreation Society also recognized the



Carnival with a "Champion of the Community" award for Sonoma County Regional Parks.

"The Water Carnival is part of Healdsburg's history, and thanks to the generous support we received last summer, the Carnival will be part of this community's future for years to come," County Supervisor Mike McGuire stated. "This year's event will be bigger and better than ever."

The 11 am parade will be led by Sandy the Swan, a replica of an iconic float from the 1909 Water Carnival. Floats will follow Sandy down the river as spectators cheer from Healdsburg Memorial Bridge, the river banks and Memorial Beach.

After-parade fun includes a vintage bathing suit contest, a whiskeroo (best facial hair) contest, world rock music of Kazamoze, wine barrel races and a rubber ducky dash with the grand prize of two round-trip tickets to San Diego on Alaska Airlines. Water Carnival activities are free and run until 4 pm. The day ends with a 5 pm concert by Jazz Mafia.

### Calendar

#### July, 2012

- 11 HMVA Meeting, 9:30 am  
Museum Research Center
- 12 History Lives Dinner, 6:00 pm  
Trentadue Winery
- 16-31 Museum Gallery Closed  
New Exhibit Installation
- 17 Board Meeting, 8:30 am  
Museum Research Center

#### August, 2012

- 1 HMVA Meeting, 9:30 am  
Museum Research Center
- 1 "Ancestors of Mexico" Exhibit  
Opening Reception, 5:30 pm
- 3 Volunteer Picnic, 6:00 pm
- 21 Board Meeting, 8:30 am  
Museum Research Center
- 25 Instant Wine Cellar,  
2:00 - 5:00 pm, Sbragia Winery
- 26 Antique Fair on the Plaza  
9:00 am to 4:00 pm

### Healdsburg Museum

221 Matheson Street  
Healdsburg, CA 95448  
Telephone 707 431 3325  
Fax 707 473 4471

[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



Two years ago Frederick DeVries, a descendant of the pioneer Sondheimer family, visited the Museum from Pennsylvania and was thrilled to discover that we had information about his ancestors in early Healdsburg. In 1857 Emmanuel Sondheimer and his business partner Henry Engle purchased the general store and post office being sold by City founder, Harmon Heald! Sondheimer and his wife Sallie were here only 7 years, but had a big impact. E. Sondheimer was one of several prominent Jewish men who started businesses in Healdsburg before 1867, including Hertel, Cohn, Bloom, Meyer, Goldstein and Rosenberg. These early Jewish settlers also contributed the cultural development of the community by serving as library trustees, establishing debating, theater and literary societies and founding the Masonic Lodge in 1857.



*DeVries-Sondheimer descendants*

This led to a very special visit to the Museum this June when the extended DeVries/Sondheimer family traveled to California to celebrate grandson Malachi's Bar Mitzvah. They drove up from Oakland to meet at the Museum to have me show and tell them everything I could about the pioneer Sondheimer family in Healdsburg. It was exciting to meet the family and share their roots in Healdsburg. They donated a wonderful enlarged photo of the Emmanuel and Sallie Sondheimer family to the Museum. With a map showing Sondheimer's store at the NE corner of Healdsburg Ave. and Plaza St., the group headed downtown, proudly wearing the "1857 Healdsburg Pioneer Descendant" ribbons I presented to them.

The following week we had another special visit from out of town: Shelley Norton Icaza and her husband Carlos, visiting from Massachusetts. Shelley and I connected a couple of years ago on Ancestry.com when I was seeking background biographical information about her late grandfather

Clifford Porter Norton for a Museum display I was creating. C. Porter Norton was an accomplished magician who toured and performed on the Vaudeville circuit with his wife (and later his second wife) during the 1920s. Ed Groves of Lake County generously donated many of Norton's personal effects and professional magician artifacts to the Museum several years ago. Shelley was delighted to gain a window into her grandfather and grandmother's career. She got copies of everything we had and promised to share more photos she has with the Museum. It was a great connection.



*Carlos Icaza and Shelley Norton Icaza*

We also had a very welcome surprise visit from 97-year old former Healdsburger Stewart Wade who came by to make good on his promise to record an oral history interview with me when he was in town. Still active in real estate in Hawaii, Stewart attended Daniels School in the Mill Creek/Venado area in the 1920s and Healdsburg High School in the 1930s. His excellent memory impressed us both! I was particularly moved his story of being taken in by Healdsburg High School principal Edwin Kent and his wife after Stewart's father died during the Depression and his mother struggled to support three children. Stressed by money worries and struggling in school, Stewart was invited to live with the Kents and focus on making friends, joining clubs and sports and getting a good education. He was president of his class when he graduated.

**President's Corner** by Ted Calvert, Board President  
Congratulations to



Healdsburg employer and resident Edgar Deas as the 2012 History Lives honoree. In the thirty-two years I've known Edgar, wife Judy and family, they continue to give back to the community. Their journey has been remarkable and you'll hear it on July 12<sup>th</sup> at the awards dinner.

As an author I realize the time and effort that goes into writing the text and creating a DVD to go

with a book. I am overwhelmed by the quality of the audio tour for our current exhibit "Healdsburg: War and Peace!" Thanks to Elizabeth Holmes and Holly for creating the text, music overlay and historical information included. Please ask for an audio tour handset when viewing the exhibits. You won't be disappointed.

The Board of Directors is seeking a sponsor to help fund the hiring of an Administrative Assistant. We need someone with strong organizational-computer-people skills for a minimum of sixteen, flexible hours.

Those who know of contacts/affiliations to foundations who award grants to nonprofit museums and can help us reach these grantors, please contact me at [ted.calvert@yahoo.com](mailto:ted.calvert@yahoo.com) or 707-433-2211.

Also please consider adding the Healdsburg Museum to your estate planning.

The Healdsburg Museum is a unique, one-of-a-kind museum, special to our community, vital to keeping our history, heritages, culture and current stories alive, available and rewarding to all...

## HMVA News

*by Ann Howard, HMVA Chair*



The weather was perfect for Holly and Peter's BBQ at the Museum during the Twilight Parade on May 24<sup>th</sup>. I worked at the Dry Creek Neighbors Club fudge booth (our 63<sup>rd</sup> year at the Fair, for as long as the Fair, since 1949). We wrapped 350 pounds of fudge in half-pound packages. All proceeds are used for scholarships (since 1954). The bright pink booth represents the familiar pink cake box.

Thank you to Bob Rawlins, Rawleigh Fjeld (many donations), Pam Vana-Paxhia, Jon Lacillade, Ted and Kay Robinson, Jane Bonham, Catherine Curtis, Ann Mahoney, Darci Rosales, Ted Calvert and Meredith and Jim Dreisback, for working the Antique Fair on the Plaza on May 27<sup>th</sup>. Rawleigh's knowledge of antique/vintage items is invaluable, and her sales techniques were lessons to observe. Rawleigh and Bob will co-chair our tables August 26<sup>th</sup>, after which Bob will retire. We need someone as co-chairperson with Rawleigh in 2013.

Bob invites all of you to sign up and help him sell IWC raffle tickets every Saturday at the Healdsburg Farmers Market from 9 am to noon. IWC is our biggest fund raiser, and we need your help. The grand finale will be held August 25<sup>th</sup> at the

beautiful Sbragia Winery in upper Dry Creek Valley. Holly will coordinate the silent auction. Donations including vacation packages are needed along with volunteers to help that day.

Bob and De Andersen mentioned how exceptional Holly and Elizabeth Holmes' audio tour is for "Healdsburg: War and Peace." I realized recently when I was on duty that I could listen to the tour after greeting visitors. Receptionists, you can do the same to familiarize yourselves with each exhibit and read the labels. It also sets a good example for the public to use the hand-sets.

Cilla Marshall, Calendar Girl, needs permanent receptionists to fill out our schedule on Sundays. (See our "Sunday Help Needed" ad.) Cilla thanks all of our receptionists for being so accommodating when openings need to be filled and for participating in all of the mailings.

Ann Mahoney read the June HMVA News and mentioned that she has a bracelet constructed of Heath ceramic buttons. I enjoyed attending the California State Button Society Annual Show in San Mateo on May 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. Saw many friends and dealers who had thousands (maybe millions!) of buttons to hunt through.

## "Healdsburg: War and Peace" Exhibit and Audio Tour

*by Holly Hoods*

The "Healdsburg: War and Peace" exhibit continues to attract visitors from all over, including six tours by Third Grade classes this past month alone. Assistant Curator Meredith Dreisback created a history hunt for the exhibit that we have been using to educate and entertain the students. Instead of listening to a lecture about the exhibit, we have students pair up in teams of two to explore the exhibit and answer fun questions about the displays.

We hope you have a chance to visit the exhibit and experience the free audio tour, created by Voice-over Narrator Elizabeth Holmes, Recording Engineer Fred Campbell and me. One unique and incredibly poignant feature on the audio tour is a brief recording by 92-year old Sig Rosenthal, a soldier in the U.S. Third Army, describing the horror he encountered at newly-liberated Buchenwald concentration camp in 1945. We are greatly honored by Mr. Rosenthal's participation in the exhibit and audio tour and by his permission to display photos that he took at that time. His daughter-in-law Lynne Rosenthal, an active Museum volunteer, helped us make this historically significant connection.

## Sunday Help Needed!

Do you think the Museum gallery should be open to the public on Sundays? Well, so do we! But we can't do it without volunteer help. Two of our Sunday receptionists are retiring. **We will have to close the Museum on Sundays if we can't fill their positions.**

We are looking for a couple of volunteers who are willing to staff the Museum gallery for 2 ½ hours, one Sunday a month. You don't have to be an expert local historian. We just want friendly, dependable people who can be trained as hosts and greeters in the gallery.

If this hero could be you, please contact Holly or Meredith at the Museum.

## Just a Few Seats Remain!

Edgar Deas will be honored at the History Lives dinner on Thursday, July 12<sup>th</sup> at Trentadue Winery. Edgar and his family have been long time supporters of both the museum and many community endeavors.

The gala event will get underway with a champagne reception, followed by dinner and a program.

**For additional information or to purchase tickets, please contact Stan Becker at 433-5111.**

## SAVE THE DATE!

### 2012 Instant Wine Cellar

### "A Taste of History" Celebration

Saturday, August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2 to 5 pm

### Sbragia Winery

Contact Lockie Gillies at [Lockie.gillies@gmail.com](mailto:Lockie.gillies@gmail.com)

or the Museum for more information

**GET YOUR TICKETS NOW!**

## Antique Fair News

*by Bob Rawlins*

We had a great day for this year's first Antique Fair on the Plaza Sunday May 27<sup>th</sup> - good weather, a large array of "stuff" to sell and plenty of buyers and lookers strolling by. Pam Vana-Paxhia, Jon Lacallaide, Meredith and Jim Dreisback, and I had the tables set up when the dealers stopped by early looking for the unusual which we often have. Rawleigh Fjeld, Jane Bonham, Lea Gilg, Ted Calvert, Ann Howard, Ann Mahoney, Darci Rosales and Catherine Curtis all helped sell and did a marvelous job moving our goods. We cleared \$1,380 in sales,

better than in recent sales plus our sponsor's fee of \$1,000. It was a fun day for all!

Since we did so well, we urgently need to restock the larder with equally fine material. Rawleigh Fjeld and I are co-chairing the next event on August 26<sup>th</sup>. Contact Rawleigh at 707-431-1146 to arrange pickup or drop small items off at the Museum office at any time. The equivalent value of your donation is deductible if you itemize your income tax. Such a deal - don't miss out!

## "Ancestors of Mexico" Update *by Holly Hoods*

The "Ancestors of Mexico" exhibit, celebrating the Mexican history and heritage of northern Sonoma County, will open at the Museum with a reception on Wednesday, August 1<sup>st</sup> at 5:30 pm.

Stories will range from José German Piña, the young Mexican boy who once owned all of Dry Creek Valley, 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, handcrafted textiles and pottery from Mexican artisans, plus historical artifacts and photos from the Museum's collection. It will be an informative, colorful and entertaining exhibit that will interest people of all ages and ethnic backgrounds.

We are also planning a family-oriented celebration on the Plaza Sunday, September 16<sup>th</sup>, in support of this exhibit. The event will include mariachi music, traditional dances by high school and elementary school students, homemade tamales and aguas frescas. September 16<sup>th</sup> is also Mexican Independence Day.

Please contact me or event co-chairs Jeanne Leal Hartlaub (473-9656) and Gabriel Fraire (336-681-7227) if you can help with the event or if you have anything to loan for the exhibit.

## Email The Review

Would you like to save a tree and your museum money? If you haven't yet, please sign up to receive *The Review* via email. You will get your copy early and *in color*!

Contact Stan Becker at [stan-becker@comcast.net](mailto:stan-becker@comcast.net) with your current email address and join the "no print Review" list.

*Contributions in Memory of:*

**Jean Craig (Buchignani)** - from Francesca Trouette  
**Bob & June Jones** - from LeRoy & Candy Danhausen  
**Hugh Seaton** - from Virginia Norman  
**Santina Cantarutti** - from Alma & Shirley Buchignani  
**Phil Wasson** - from Marcia Teuschler  
**James Vogt** - from Jack & Doreene Zanzi  
**Diane Butler** - from Jack & Doreene Zanzi  
**Margory Bennett** - from Mary Wollenbecker  
**Evalyn & Nick Scatena** - from David & Betty Scatena  
**Stratton Wiggins** - from Alma, Shirley, & Rick Buchignani  
**Stephen Zellerbach** - from Mrs. Stephen Zellerbach

*Contributions in Memory of:*

**Wes Sheehy** - from Barry & Sally Smith  
Marcia Teuschler  
Mr. & Mrs. Ron Purroy

Contribution for Endowment Fund  
Donation for **Barbara Bergstrand**  
Contribution in Memory of **Nina Arrabit**  
from Ed & Janet Pisenti

*Donations for Langhart Celebration*

from George & Mary Lou Clough  
Kent Mitchell  
Mike McGuire

**Collections Corner**

*by Meredith Dreisback*



The summer concerts in the downtown Plaza are once again bringing music to our town, each Tuesday evening. Music means musical instruments, which brings to mind the instruments in the Museum's collection.

Our collection has a clarinet that was donated to the Museum in 2010 by Judy Wendt Chagnon. As with every donation, there is always a story. Judy tells us this clarinet belonged to Charles McCord where, in WWI, he played in the U. S. Army Band. Lois Hoy (Judy's mother) took music lessons from Charles McCord in the 1930's.

In May, 1937, the Healdsburg High School band was invited to be a part of the grand opening ceremony for the Golden Gate Bridge. Lois Hoy, along with her fellow band members, walked across the bridge proudly making music for the festive celebration. Lois Hoy played this clarinet.

Other instruments in the "Healdsburg Museum Band" include a black lacquered and gilded zither, from the Combination Mandolin Zither Co., Philadelphia, PA, circa 1890.



There is a wonderful wooden accordion with mother of pearl keys and red cardboard/paper pleats, circa 1864. Our "band" is rounded out with an "Antonius Stradivarius Cremonensis Faciebat Anno" violin, circa 1736, a ukulele played by Rossaline Mason (Maher) from the Healdsburg High School Girl's Ukulele Club (1915) and a clarinet used by Solon Bailhache in the Sotoyome Band.

The current-day concerts are performed in the Plaza's bandstand.

The first bandstand in the Plaza was built in 1888 where Saturday night concerts drew crowds of several hundred people much like today. Music in the Plaza has always been, and continues to be, an important part of Healdsburg's summer entertainment.

**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