



“El Día de los Muertos” Exhibit

Opening Reception November 1st - 5:30 pm

Special Display During Final Week of “Ancestors of Mexico” Exhibit
by Holly Hoods

The Healdsburg Museum is pleased to once again present “El Día de los Muertos” (“Day of the Dead”), a week-long display created by students of the Healdsburg High School M.A.Y.O. (Mexican American Youth Organization) club.

Día de los Muertos is a holiday that is celebrated throughout Latin America and especially in Mexico. Rich with symbolism, color and tradition, the festivities commemorate the links between the living and the dead, as celebrated in the Catholic holy days of All Saints’ Day on November 1st and All Souls’ Day on November 2nd. It is believed that the souls return each year at this time to visit their loved ones and enjoy the pleasures of life. People celebrate for three days, creating altars with offrendas (offerings) to the dead at home and at the cemetery. The offerings consist of candles, flowers, religious icons, sugar skulls, incense and things that the deceased loved ones enjoyed in life, including favorite foods and drinks, photos and sentimental objects.

We are proud to offer this opportunity for the talented high school students of MAYO club to share their cultural heritage and create altars at the Museum. A reception with traditional refreshments, hosted by the students, will be held at the Museum on Thursday, November 1st, 5:30 – 7:30 pm. Don’t miss it!

The exhibit will be on display November 1st – 8th.



Special Day of the Dead Ladies

Calendar	
October, 2012	November, 2012
3 HMVA Meeting, 9:30 am Museum Research Center	1 “El Día de los Muertos” Opening Reception, 5:30 pm
16 Board Meeting, 8:30 am Museum Research Center	7 HMVA Meeting, 9:30 am Museum Research Center
	11-22 Museum Gallery Closed New Exhibit Installation
	20 Board Meeting, 8:30 am Museum Research Center

Healdsburg Museum

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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 “Ancestors of Mexico” exhibit will be on display through November 8th. It features history and cultural traditions, handcrafted textiles and pottery from Mexican artisans, photos and memorabilia on loan from local Mexican-American families, plus historical artifacts and photos from the Museum’s collection. We have had an overwhelmingly positive response to the exhibit and festival (see page 4.)

Great news! Last month I reported that the Koziel Family Trust has pledged \$1,000 to help get the Museum’s online photo archive launched: 16,000 historical photos viewable on our website. I commented that another \$1,000 would make it possible and added that “if you can help make this dream come true, please contact the Museum.” The next week we received the following letter from Liz Branstead of Clemson, South Carolina:

Dear Holly,

It’s been a few years since I was last in Healdsburg and since we met. At that time, we exchanged photos that my great grandfather, Charles Edwin Piatt, a Healdsburg photographer, took in the late 1800s.

In your column for the September 2012 HM&HS Review, you noted that you need \$1,000 to “get the Museum’s online photo archive project launched.” My sister Patricia Branstead, and I want to make a joint donation for this project.

C.E. Piatt was primarily an itinerant photographer going out to the farmhouses and fields in the nearby towns and counties and taking photographs of families and businesses. Lizzie Piatt managed the business. She was also active in the Healdsburg Methodist Church. When her parents, Rev. Joseph Smith and Martha Beeson Millsap retired from their Illinois church, they came to Healdsburg and became active in the Healdsburg church and community.

As a result of Charles Piatt’s passion for photography, he inspired and taught his grandson, Robert Beeson Branstead everything he knew. Bob Branstead, my father, was chief of the Soil Conservation Service, Dept. of Agriculture, photography department in Washington, DC and won

a national award for his photographs. Piatt’s great-granddaughter, Patricia Branstead, is an artist who works with photography and owns Kozo, a fine arts materials store in Denver, CO. Her son, Drew Ganyer (the Piatts’ great-great grandson) is a cinematographer in Hollywood. The Piatt photography influence is strong and we’re proud of its beginnings in Healdsburg. Enclosed is a \$900 donation from me in honor of Charles Edwin and Julia Elizabeth Millsap Piatt and their pioneering photography business. My sister, Patricia Branstead, is sending you a donation of \$100 to complete the \$1,000 full donation.

President’s Corner by Ted Calvert, Board President



The Healdsburg Museum is a world class community organization, attained through the excellence of our staff: Curator Holly Hoods, Assistant Curator Meredith Dreisback and Administrative Assistant Kathi Engler, whose tireless efforts have given us a museum and research center which affords us access to the information of the history, cultures, and heritage, unique only to the Healdsburg area.

We have excellent museum exhibits FREE four times a year (many one-of-a-kind artifacts are loaned for exhibition). Our exhibits, from our earliest past to present, begin with the one-of-a-kind basket weaving displays of the indigenous peoples, and progress to the Spanish occupation of Alta California Missions, the Mexican colonization ranchos, the Anglo-European influence which led to the evolution of California into the thirty-first State of the United States, and then to more recent customs and traditions that have created a greater mix of cultural heritage.

Most notable today are our world class wines, which attract people from all over the world and are building our economy. Our vineyards and our Russian River water wonderland are instrumental in the growth of our community and embrace both our present and past. Our community is special – unique, and it is the museum’s preservation and presentation of Healdsburg’s history, cultures, and heritage (our roots) that constantly remind us of the importance of this uniqueness which has totally contributed to the evolution of present day Healdsburg.

Please visit your museum, get involved in its culture, help write history and help your community.

The Board of Directors is looking for a new vice president whose leadership will ensure the future preservation of our community's historic character and culture. This person should have previous executive board experience.

Those of you who have personal contacts or affiliations with foundations who award grants to nonprofit museums and can help us reach these grantors, please contact me at ted.calvert@yahoo.com, or call 707-433-2211.

Please consider adding the Healdsburg Museum to your estate planning. Thank you.

HMVA News

by Ann Howard, HMVA Chair



I am excited about the stunning exhibits Holly and crew are creating that invite our community to participate, resulting in more visibility and more visitors. Summertime is also when our receptionists and volunteers want to take vacations, and with extra days

in the September and October calendars, a number of our receptionists (and Holly!) are working multiple shifts at the desk. We must keep the Gallery open two shifts a day, five days a week. Please invite your family members and friends to become receptionists for an interesting two and half hours each month to welcome the public who are eager to view our fine exhibits.

Raising funds is also a top priority for our non-profit organization, and we encourage your fresh ideas for museum-related events and guest speakers. We welcome sponsorship of exhibits, events, publications, or special projects. I'm finding it easier to tell my friends about activities at the museum, encourage them to visit as exhibits change, and invite them to get involved in any way they can. I encourage everyone to pass out the new rack card that also lists the 2012 exhibits. Holly and Meredith are supported by our 125 volunteers who, with amazing talents, step forward and perform an immeasurable number of tasks. A number of individuals, of all ages, who need community service hours, often continue volunteering in some way after completing their required hours. Sending an occasional S.O.S email for help with a special project

or event is often answered with, "I can do that for you." Thank you, everyone!

Edson and I are off on a trip to the East with an itinerary packed with visits with friends, genealogical research, great food and, of course, visits to as many local museums as we can schedule.

Welcome Our Newest HM&HS Members

Cynthia Adam

Roy Doolan

Jan and Wayne Goodrich

Alex and Martha Hunt

Elvis Has Left the Building...

Or has he? It seems that Elvis (and a few other characters) are making an appearance in the Museum Gift Shop. During the special "El Día de los Muertos" exhibit, we've expanded our Mexican folk art merchandise to include several nichos and a couple of lovely ladies (see cover). Stop by and take look. There're loads of other great new items for you to check out – pottery, table linen, tinware, bags. You're bound to find something you'll want for yourself or to give someone else!



Remember, all of our Mexican folk art goes away at the end of our "Ancestors of Mexico" exhibit on November 8th. One way or the other, Elvis will leave the building.

Antique Fair Wrap Up

by Bob Rawlins

Sunday, August 26th was a great day weather-wise for the last Antique Fair of this year. The Museum table was up and mostly stocked by Pam Vana-Paxhia and me when the usual crowd of dealers literally forced money upon us for the unusual items often found at the HM&HS table. Lead by Rawleigh Fjeld (poised on a crutch to protect her injured ankle), the sales crew of Jane Bonham, Leah Gilg, Ann Howard, Louise Fowler, and Catherine Curtis ably managed to unclutter the sales table. We carted a lot less back to storage than we had brought in the early hours of the day. This sale raised \$2,000 for the HM&HS Treasury. Thanks to all who donated and purchased.

Ann Howard has been warning you for months that this would be my last sale as Chair or Co-Chair. I've since turned in my key to the storage locker and retired the "Barn Sale Bob" sobriquet. Rawleigh will continue to chair the event, but she has physical limitations and needs someone with a bit of "muscle" to co-chair. She has great knowledge of

antiquities and her co-chair will learn much. I sincerely hope someone will step forward to help - the Antique Fair is an important source of funds and one of many HM&HS faces to the public. I'll certainly be glad to help the next co-chair get up to speed. If you're interested, please contact the museum.

Instant Wine Cellar

by Pam Vana-Paxhia, photos by Ann Howard

The Instant Wine Cellar (IWC) fundraiser is our largest and one of our most popular events. Hundreds of bottles of wine are donated from some of Sonoma County's finest wineries. The resulting donations are divided into three separate 100+ bottle "cellars." On August 25th, the raffle drawings were held as part of the "Taste of History" celebration at Sbragia Family Vineyards. It was a great event with wonderful food and wine, exhibits from our collection, an array of silent auction items and, of course, the raffle drawings. The combined generosity of our donors and patrons generated over \$20,000 which will help fund our operating expenses.

Congratulations to our 2012 Instant Wine Cellar winners:

First Prize Cellar - Darci and Celso Rosales

Second Prize Cellar - J. Taylor

Day of Event Cellar - Bruce Carlsen



“Ancestors of Mexico” Festival on the Plaza

by Holly Hoods

The "Ancestors of Mexico" Festival brought people together to celebrate and honor the Mexican culture and history of this area. It was exciting to see such a multi-generational, multi-cultural crowd of 400+ people enjoying mariachi music, traditional Mexican dance and costume, refreshments, Museum displays and a raffle. The MAYO (Mexican American Youth Organization) club sold food and drinks to raise money for their school year activities.

Special thanks to event co-chairs Jeanne Leal-Hartlaub and Gabriel Fraire, Dance Coordinator Yolanda Girón, emcee Abel De Luna De Haro and committee members and event volunteers; Celso and Darci Rosales, Phil Hartlaub, Toni Saunders, Auria Correa, Rawleigh Fjeld, Luz, Luci and Diego Garcia, Ann Carranza, Sharon Santos-Cowley, Mike Cowley, Ann Howard, Meredith Dreisback, Ted Calvert, Maggie Bates, Lea Gilg, Ann Mahoney, Porfirio Madrigal, Karen Fraire, Bobette Barnes, Julianne Tozer, Gordon Waterbury, Kip and Betty Miller, Peter Leary, Darla Budworth, Bob Rawlins and Pam Vana-Paxhia.

Many Thanks/Muchas Gracias to Our Generous Sponsors

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We could not have done it without you!

“Ancestors of Mexico” Festival on the Plaza

photos by Gabriel Fraire, Ann Carranza



<p style="text-align: center;">Contributions in Memory of: Robert (Bob) Meyer - from John & Christine Pedroncelli Louis Colombano William McCutchan John & Rita Lawson DHG Management Co. LLC De & Bill Andersen Art & Diane Lafranchi David & Betty Scatena Ann Mackey Bill Auradou Christina Denihan Nanci & Lee Gunnerson Frank Pastori Linda Rochioli - from Joe & Vivienne Rochioli Andrew Foppiano - from Joe & Vivienne Rochioli</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Contributions in Memory of: Steve Metrulas - from Tinsley Laboratories Sam & Goldie Imbimbo George & Mary Lou Clough Flo, Sarah, & Liz Kellner Terry Contas Dolly Bellerio - from Alma, Shirley, and Rick Buchignani Laurence & Peggy Cavallo - from Alma, Shirley, & Rick Buchignani Judy Crandall - from Nelson & Jane Weller Jimmy Carter - from Dennis Drowty & Carol Noack</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Contributions for the General Fund from Kathy Metrulas Sylvester Richard & Ida Hartman Helen Straessle</p>
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Collections Corner

by Meredith Dreisback



I am often amazed at the history of many of the Museum’s objects, especially the age associated with them. We recently received an octant from Charles and Helen Bacigalupi. In researching more information about the instrument (also known as a reflecting quadrant), I discovered they can date as far back as 1699 when Isaac Newton invented the first one. However, actual credit for the invention of the octant was given to John Hadley and Thomas Godfrey around 1730. In 1767 the sextant “experienced significant development and improvements and was the instrument of choice for naval navigators”, working in conjunction with the octant. By 1780, the octant and sextant had almost completely eliminated all previous instruments. Now the question arises, how old is the octant in the Museum’s collection? With more research and using clues on the instrument we may be able to get close to a date.

There is a paper label on the lid, albeit

somewhat difficult to read. Will this paper label be a clue to dating the octant? Perhaps there are more details on the octant itself that will lead us to a date. If anyone reading this article would like to do more research on this octant, please give me a call (431-3325). You could be our own “History Detective” just like one of the team from the popular PBS television show.



I would like to thank Jon Lacaillade for repairing the wooden storage case that came with the octant. When the octant arrived at the Museum, the case was in pieces. Thanks to Jon’s woodworking expertise, he was able to reassemble the case. He even made a “new” latch to match (exactly!) the existing one.

Have you or anyone you know used an octant?

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