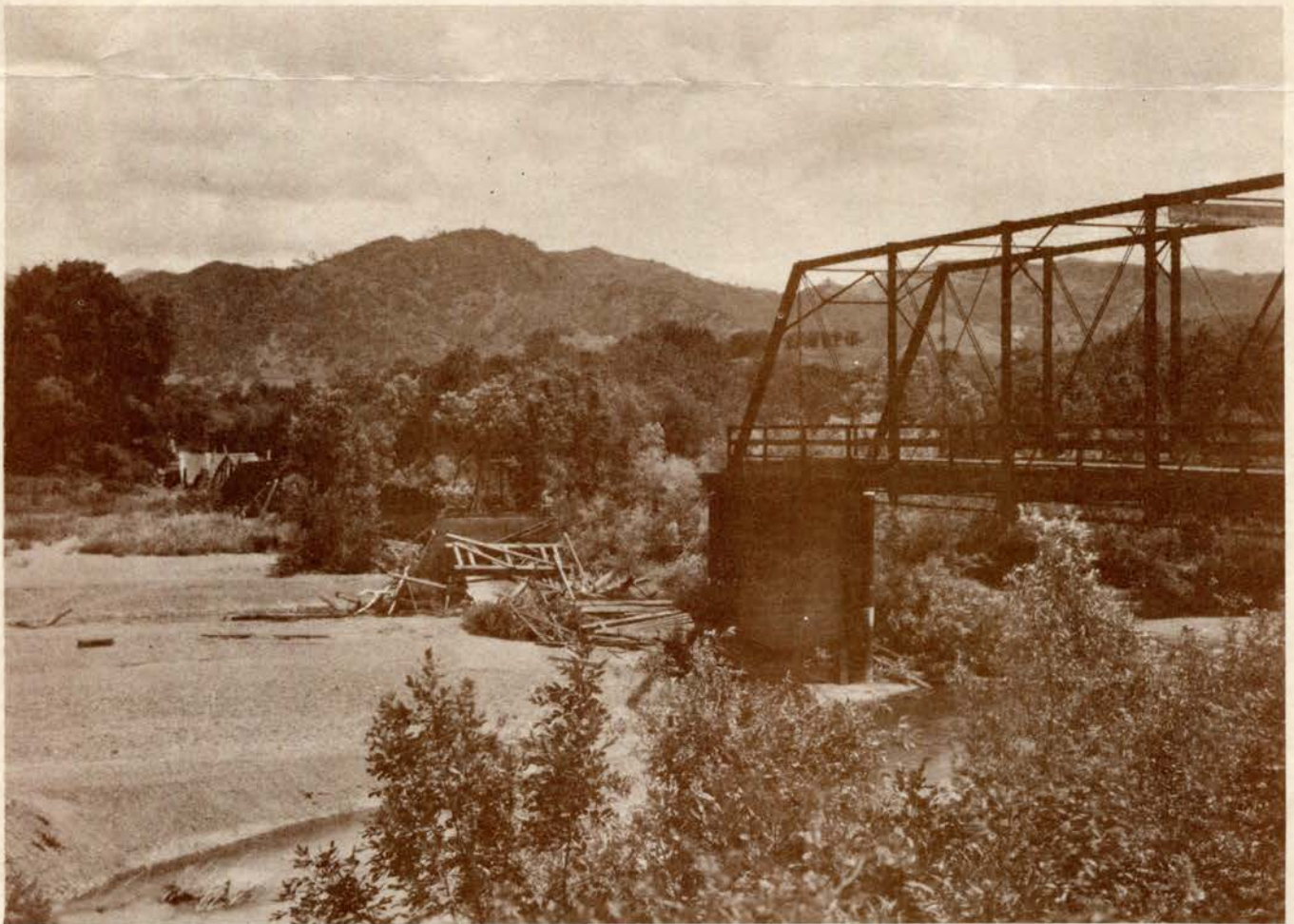


RUSSIAN RIVER RECORDER

Published by
HEALDSBURG HISTORICAL SOCIETY

APRIL 1977



Alexander Valley Bridge Over Russian River
April 19, 1906

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133 Matheson St. Healdsburg, Calif. 95448

Issue No. 4 April, 1977

TWO FOOT TWO, EYES OF BLUE

The dolls have taken over the museum for the past month and their popularity has attracted visitors from near and far. This special collection, belonging to Verna Lafon, ranges from tiny "Frozen Charlotte" dolls to others that are lifelike in size and looks, and all are beautifully dressed and groomed.

Verna has been collecting dolls for six years, receiving some in critical condition, and she has become expert in restoring them to nearly new again. The "Splashme Doll" is of particular importance, as it was created by "Gene George", a trade name used by Mrs. George H. Warfield, who produced and distributed these dolls nationally, as early as 1918.

It is hoped that other local collections, not necessarily historical, will be available for showing at the museum. This would make it possible for many to see and appreciate a hobby that, perhaps for lack of exposure, doesn't receive the attention and regard that it should.

* * * * *

Some of the recent acquisitions at the museum received from our members include two gold trophies of importance, from Marge Reynolds and Eleanor Schwab; excellent historical photos from Anna Smith, Elva Grant, and Jack Lewis; an 1890 typewriter from Major Phillips, a collection of household items from Laura Wagele and Maxine Bell that includes a unique silver butter dish, a coffee grinder, and something seldom seen, an old iron footscraper. An extensive collection from Bob Hasset includes a number of early day newspapers, a county atlas of 1877, commercial paper, documents, and photos. Two seventy year old washing machines came from Mrs. Ray Shelley; an oak chair with rawhide seat from Francis Sten; a Farmer & Mechanics Saving Bank from Fran Branern; a century-old upholstered chair from Raymonda Croce; a book "Pen Pictures from the Garden of the World" from Mrs. E. Howse; and from Helen Latimer a valuable collection including two paintings of the Geysers done before 1864, copies of letters from Lorenzo D. Latimer and a photo of Judge Latimer with his brothers. The speaker at our last meeting, Sherman Boivin, sent us a copy of "Cemetery Records, 1846-1921" for the Museum.

EARTHQUAKE SPECIAL

"Tuesday evening, April 17th, 1906, was as fair and pleasant as one could desire, but later in the night the atmosphere grew warm and sultry, and surplus covers were thrown off. This was the only indication of unusual conditions.

"At 5:13 Wednesday morning the shock occurred. It started quite gently, but quickly increased, until it became absolutely terrific in its force. It was accompanied by a fearful noise, atmospheric and subterranean, interspersed with the crash of falling buildings.

"Chimneys went down by the hundreds and weak structures collapsed. Along the Russian River and Dry Creek bottom lands the earth opened in small and large fissures, through which in some instances, subterranean water spouted. In places the ground was left in ridges.

"Near the Bidwell place, on Russian River, ten or twenty acres, covered with timber, was badly fissured and many trees were torn up. The long bridge crossing the river in Alexander Valley was thrown down, and many fissures were made.

"Rocks were heaved from their beds on Fitch Mountain and rolled down into the river.

"Many farm houses were more or less injured. The residence of M.V. Frost was lifted from its foundation, and is practically ruined.

"Such a tremendous seismic disturbance has never, within the memory of man, been felt in this valley or county. Shocks were felt at intervals for several days, but they were slight, and did no damage, though causing considerable uneasiness among the timid ones.

"In Healdsburg the Odd Fellows' fine building, Whitney's Drug Store, the Cohen brick adjoining the Odd Fellows' building, the Grangers' building, and S.J. Hall's brick building, are all total wrecks. Every brick building in town was more or less damaged, some of the more serious being the Union Hotel, Carl Muller's building, Henry Fox' Masonic Block, the Kruse building, the saloon of Quim Sewell, Red Mens Hall, the Sotoyome Hotel, Dr. Biddle's house, Fontana & Co. and many, many more.

"Fortunately no lives were lost, J.G. Taylor the harness man was imprisoned by falling debris and seriously injured. William Day and True McCord of this city were killed at Santa Rosa.



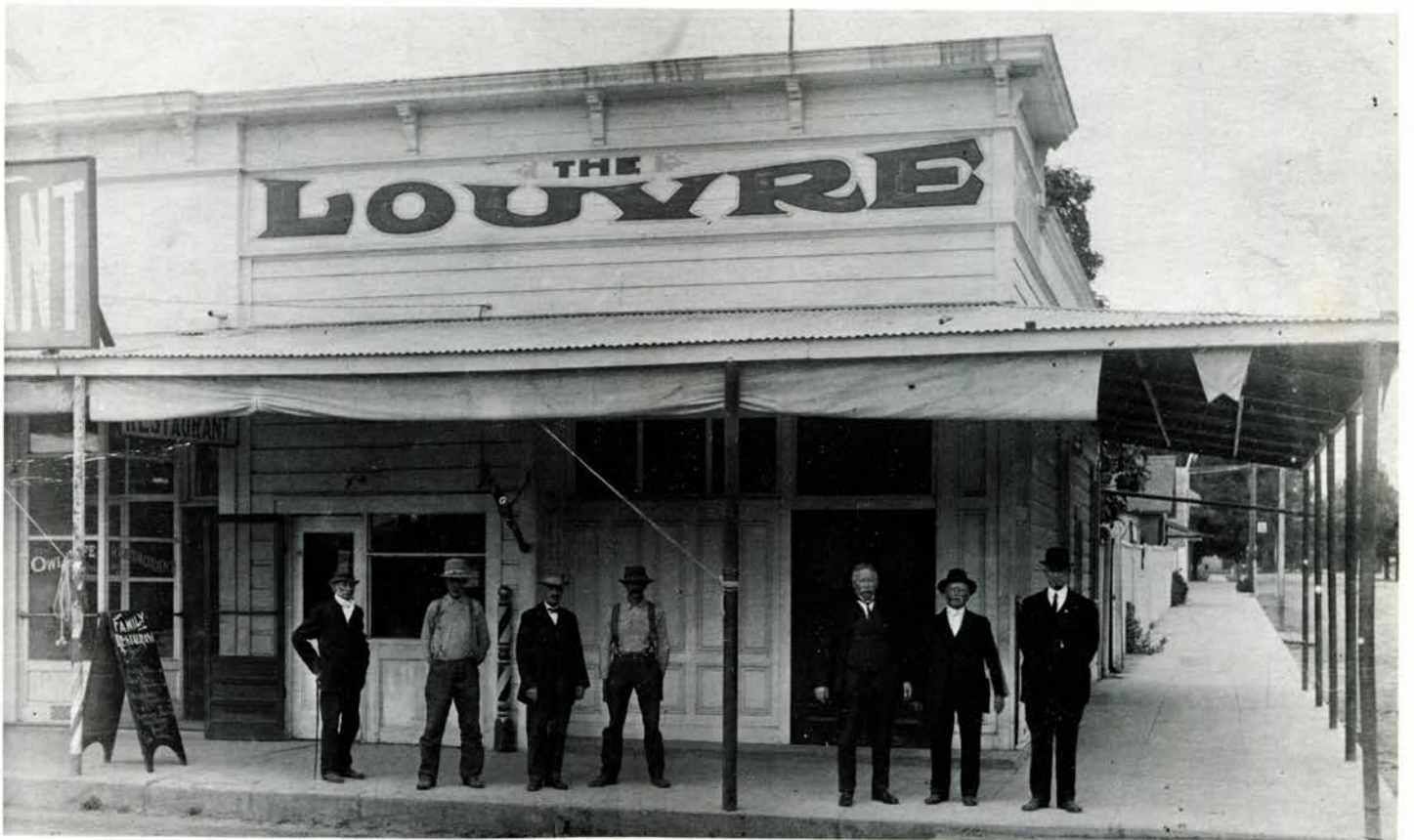
Odd Fellows Hall, April 19, 1906



Park View Apartments, 314 Center Street, April 19, 1906



Fitch Mountain Tavern, 1½ miles from Healdsburg
on South Fitch Mountain Road, about 1922.



The Louvre, corner of Center & Matheson Streets,
about 1912. E.I. Beeson, Proprietor, on right.

PIONEER RECOLLECTIONS

By John S. Williams

(Editor's Note: This, the first of four articles by J.S. Williams, was written in 1914)

I have lived in Sonoma County more or less since the 14th of December, 1848. I came to Healdsburg from the ranch located about six miles below the town on Russian River in 1857. Healdsburg was a small town at that time and I was also a small specimen of humanity, but I recollect some things that occurred then better than I do those that happened long years afterward.

The old Sotoyome Hotel stood where the present one is now located. It was about one story and a half high and about the same in length as the present one. I think Billy Thurgood was proprietor. George W. Grannis was the first Wells Fargo company agent. His office was located in the main room of the hotel. James E. Fenno was the first jeweler and watchmaker in this town. He was also leader of the first band organized here. The old two Rs and two Bs (Russian River Brass Band) was the best band that ever tooted a horn in California in those days. I do not recall today but one member of that famous old band who is still among us - Charles Fitch, our well known townsman. J.J. Piper was one of our early day physicians, as also Doctors Bonham, Banford and Ormsby. Dr. Bonham owned the house and lot where John Clack now lives (where the Aven Theatre stands today). The brick, almost opposite, the John Daly building, if I mistake not, was the first brick building built in Healdsburg, at least the first of which I have any recollection. McManus and Powell built it, and it was occupied by McManus as a general store for a long time. A man by the name of Cox published the first paper in this town in an upper room of this building, facing on West Street. I do not recall the title of the sheet - have forgotten. Macy had the first drug store. It was about where Raabe's hardware store now stands. R. Hertel had a general store near where Byington now is. Harmon Heald's store was, I think, not many doors south of the Union Hotel. Henry D. Ley had a paint shop where the First National Bank now stands. Andy Skillman had a blacksmith shop where Swanson's meat market is now located. John Bailhache and L.A. Norton, attorneys-at-law, had their office on the corner now occupied by Neilson & Beeson. That side (of the Plaza) in those days was all home sites, also south from the City Hall, and running east toward the Catholic Church. There were no business houses on the

east and south sides of the Plaza at that time. Murry had the first photograph gallery, and it stood on wheels near Henry D. Ley's paint shop. He also was a red-headed school teacher at one time. I remember an incident that occurred to me at Shiloh (not the Battle of Shiloh) but an educational center located some three or four miles south of Windsor, now known as Shiloh Church. Mr. Murry was then the undisputed monarch of all he surveyed at that school. It was my first introduction to the institution. School was called. There were no electric bells in those days to remind us that the recreation hour was up and that we had to go into books. All of them went in but me. I took a seat in front of the door. Mr. Murry came around and told me to come in and have a seat. I told him there were too many in there now, and I would just as soon remain where I was. He insisted that I should come in and I insisted that I would not. So he sent Henry Groves after a package of inducements in the shape of switches, three or four feet long. There was always room enough in the Shiloh school house after that. John Mulgrew and I had the privilege of seeing the gentleman commit suicide, being eye witnesses to it, during the time he was in business here in '58 or '59.

(to be continued)

* * * * *

TERIYAKI DINNER AND INSPIRED YOUNG
PEOPLE BENEFIT THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

A full house of over two hundred members and friends of the Healdsburg Historical Society enjoyed a chicken teriyaki dinner served by the ladies of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, and thrilled to an inspiring performance given by the young people of the church. This was all part of a benefit for the Society arranged by Mrs. Don Davis and endorsed by President Tom Roscoe and the board. This unforgettable affair was held Friday, February 25th, at St. John's Hall, and as a result the Society was the recipient of more than \$400.

* * * * *

The SONOMA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY will visit the Healdsburg Museum on Sunday, April 17th, at 1:00 p.m. Our Secretary, Jan Harrison, will be coordinating the event and will be calling on members needed to greet and host the visitors.

The following narrative is part of a series of articles written by JULIUS MYRON ALEXANDER in 1920 entitled "Once Upon a Time":

"Out in Alexander Valley, from where Sausal Creek flows into the valley extending far toward the banks of Russian River, was a dense thicket of willows. This was the hiding place for many wild cattle of the range. Here the Fitch and Alexander cattle would mingle until their identity was lost save in the ear marks and brand. It was a task, but a pleasant one, for the vacqueros of old to separate these wild cattle and get the Fitch's brand back to their range. To do this it was often necessary to resort to their "cabestro", or trained ox.

"The cabestro, like the leader sheep of a band, had been taught to pilot the way home. The old ox was gentle and was cared for at home as a pet. A hole had been bored through his horn, which served as a hitching post for the stubborn of the household, who would remain too long away from home. The old ox became very deft in the manipulation of his horn hitching post and like a compass, that horn would always point homeward. These wild cattle of the Sausal and other portions of the range, would be roped with the riata, tied to the "cabestro", which would lead them into the boundary of the home circle. Others of the wild would follow the bait to the trap, making it a home-coming celebration for the derelicts of the household.

"The making of ropes in those days was close to a science in workmanship. For the riata the hide of a steer would be cut into a large

circular piece and this would be cut into long strips. These would be fastened between two trees and oiled with the brain of the slaughtered beef. The heat of the sun would stretch the strips very taut. They were then moistened to make them pliable and plaited by fours, sixes or eights, into the riata of the Mexican vacquero. Hair ropes were also of common use and were made from the hair of the horse's mane.

This was of a finer quality than the tail hair, and was always preferred

for the making of ropes and the jaquima (in English called hackimore).

"Game was plentiful and the laguna just south of the old Fitch adobe home swarmed with wild geese and ducks and these were easy targets for the boys of the neighborhood.

"The Indians had a custom of making an annual drive of the deer and antelope of Fitch mountain. These would be surrounded by hundreds of Indians and driven to the cliff of rocks on the south slope of Fitch mountain and in a wild rush they would be crowded over the high bluff by scores to be slaughtered by the Indians in waiting at the foot of the precipice.

A TRIP TO THE OAKLAND MUSEUM

On Wednesday, May 25th, at 9:00 a.m. a bus will leave the Healdsburg Museum for a visit to the wonderful Oakland Museum. Those bringing sack lunches will enjoy the accommodations on the terrace. Sandwiches are available and by advance reservation, a restaurant serves lunch. Tickets will be on sale at our Museum until May 15th. The bus only holds 38 passengers, so get your tickets early.

Total cost: \$5.50 -- which includes bus fare and Museum tour

Bus will leave Healdsburg at 9:00 a.m. and return back by 5:00 p.m.

DEDICATION

HOP KILN WINERY AT GRIFFIN VINEYARD

6050 Westside Road

On May 1st our Society will assist with the formal dedication of the historic Walters' Hop Kiln as a registered California Historical Landmark. This is on the ranch known for many years as Fenton Acres. The dedication ceremonies will be at 2:00 p.m. with guests invited to arrive at 11:30 a.m. Please bring picnic lunches and a blanket to sit on. Turn of the century costume is optional. There will be period songs and other entertainment, including the Healdsburg High School Band. Tom Roscoe will be the Master of Ceremonies. Speaker at the dedication ceremonies will be Senator Peter Behr.

This will all take place on the ranch that was first settled by the pioneer A.J. Gordon in 1848. The greater part of the ranch remained in the family until purchased by Dr. Martin Griffin, Jr. in 1959. For those not familiar with the area, go down Westside Road about six miles to its junction with Sweetwater Springs Road. And there you are.

* * * * *

The Alexander Valley Community Hall was built in 1923 with the valley men donating their labor to build it and Stevens Lumber Co. donating the lumber. At the dedication of the hall, held July 14th of that year, Mrs. Belle Leroux, who was instrumental in its planning, acted as chairman. Soon after, she organized a Community Club that met there. It was a popular place for dances and valley activities.

In 1931 the hall was moved back from the road to its present location. The lot is 87 by 429 feet. Basketball was played at the hall when a girls basketball team was organized in 1929 and games were played until 1932. Members of the team included Irene Wasson, Mildred Kitchen, Winifred Wilson, Fern Wasson, Helen Martin, Adela Griffith, Maxine Patterson, Gladys Wasson, Lois Nugent, and Vivian Wasson. However the first basketball game played in the hall was in November, 1923, when a valley team consisting of George Penry, Russell Leroux, George Meek, Wilbur Peavler, Charlie Neussle, and Melvin Wilson played and defeated a team from the Healdsburg Grammar School. Teachers Margaret Grove and Gretchan Hall accompanied the Healdsburg team.

Saturday night dances were popular and drew crowds of three to four hundred who, in that first year, danced to the music of Lyttaker's orchestra. It was a favorite spot for people from Healdsburg and Geyserville. Refreshments or a light supper was usually served during the evening intermission.

JUST 100 YEARS AGO

"The erection of the Presbyterian parsonage has commenced. The lot is on Fitch street, and cuts off a portion of the public school grounds.

"Dr. Brotherton of San Francisco has moved with his family to Healdsburg and resides in Jesse Seaman's house on Matheson Street. Dr. Brotherton is an Episcopal minister.

"Joseph Jones, Geo. Jacobs, H.D. Parr, H.E. Carver, Geo. B. Pense, et al, have engaged in developing a placer claim at a point on Russian River called Horseshoe Bend, 1½ miles east of Healdsburg on Jirah Luce's land. The claim is one discovered and prospected in early days, but abandoned because of the scarcity of water. Some dirt yields 10 cents to the pan, which is considered rich.

"Dr. Gamble has commenced the erection of a two-story frame building on the corner of Powell and Center streets. The first floor will be divided into two offices and the second floor will be used by the Doctor as a residence.

"Ina B. Miller, widow of the late W.L. Miller, has purchased Oakwood Villa from its late owner, Capt. C.H. Barrett. This place, known as the Abbey farm, and lying about a mile and a half south of Healdsburg, will be improved to be one of the finest summer resorts in the state. It will be renamed "Riverside Farm". Jenkins, Terry and Shull are commencing the new cottages to be erected.

"J.F. Schwab has opened a boot and shoe shop in the building recently occupied by Krider and Laymance. Mr. Schwab formerly resided at Vallejo but he expects to remain in Healdsburg permanently.

"Little Charlie Raymond, aged about seven years, met with a painful accident when he fell from a hay loft and struck his head on some timbers on the floor. A gash was inflicted on his forehead and scalp requiring six stitches.

"The Christian Church in North Healdsburg appointed members A.J. Gallaway, W.H. Hall, and H.O. Ferguson to act as Trustees to receive from Lieuallen J. Hall a deed to the burying grounds situated on his land and known as the Big Plains burying ground. These trustees would also see to the fencing and other improvements on the ground.

ETHEL GATELY AND HER VOLUNTEERS
ARE THE MUSEUM

Without the services of our members who volunteer their time as receptionists, the Healdsburg Museum just would not be. Words of praise should go, not to the Museum, but to these members of our Society who make it possible, by their presence there, for visitors to come in and observe the collections on display. We must not take for granted the vital role they play in the operation of the Museum.

Ethel Gately has done an outstanding job in organizing the volunteer group and arranging their schedules. These people are:

Aleta Rulofson	Maxine Bell	Tillie Daniels	Gladys Barnes
Marie Taeuffer	Marny Caldwell	Bess Cunningham	Virginia Zobel
Carmel Bottini	Lucile Ware	Muriel Bronner	Inez Scalione
Evelyn Iversen	Irma Cuneo	Jan Harrison	Marian Anderson
June Jones	Martha Willig	Selma Plasberg	Alice Petersen
Dan Dowling	Pat Schmidt	Jeanette Beeson	Ed Collins
Charlotte Nalley	Charles Scalione	James Warnock	Mary Larson
Margaret Bell	Pat Saini	Bernice Roscoe	Nelle Vogt
Bertha Vranna			Gwen Hassett

If any of you would be interested in serving as a receptionist at the Museum for three hours in the afternoon, call Ethel Gately at 433-1401.

* * * * *

IN MEMORIAM

Jirah Luce
Died February 13, 1977

Harold F. Phillips
Died February 26, 1977

William F. Cummings
Died March 13, 1977

"Memories are like having roses in December"

....Barrie

NEW MEMBERS who have joined the Society since last January are:

Aitchison, Lucille	Lewis, Roberta
Banti, Lois	McAuliffe, Mrs. J.
Barbieri, Al	Medford, Carl
Brandt, Joe	Meyer, Robert H.
Brandt, Jack	Nichols, Laura Jo
Buroker, Laurie	Olson, Dr. Byron J.
Collins, Ed	Olson, Eleanor
Conley, Dale	Owen, Lorraine
Conley, Jane	Petersen, Alice
Donaldson, Bernice	Petersen, Carl
Drake, Margaret	Phillips, Birdice
Frampton, Margaret	Phillips, Phillip
Frediani, Leo	Relyea, Bill
Frediani, Leonida	Reynolds, William
Gagliardo, Benny	Rosenberg, Ira
Grove, Jack	Saini, Michele
Hall, Ester	Sanderson, Mary
Heald, William R.	Sanderson, Wm. C.
Jones, Robert C.	Standifer, Raelene
Kneibler, Nell	Sweet, Elsie S.
Larson, Arthur	Trusendi, Bernice
Larson, Mary	Vellutini, Elsie
Lewis, Jack	Wetzel, Mrs. Harry

HUSBAND KILLED AT HOLIDAY BALL

The first homicide of record in Healdsburg was a tragedy occurring on Christmas Eve of 1857 at a Ball held in the Russian River House when young Jim Hollis was killed by a man named Domes. The Russian River House was located then on the corner where the Arctic Circle Restaurant is today.

Jim, who was working for the Brumfield family, had some months earlier married a daughter of William Kincaid. She had previously been married and had a daughter by George Clater. Jim and his new wife didn't get on too well and after six or seven weeks she left him. Domes accompanied her to the Ball that night, where they met Hollis, and during the intermission of the dance, and while many of those assembled were partaking of supper, the two men got into a quarrel and fight, knives were drawn, and Hollis was stabbed eight times. Bleeding from his wounds, he ran down the stairs and fell dead. In the fracas two prominent citizens, Richard Harrison and Gen. W.H. Hartman, were both severely cut on the wrists while trying to separate them.

The Grand Jury failed to find an indictment against Domes and shortly after his acquittal Domes left the county supposedly for the east, but in reality for Alameda County, where he soon after married Mrs. Hollis, the wife of the deceased, who had followed him to that county. The Grand Jury then found a bill against him for killing Hollis and he was soon in custody of the Sheriff. In February, 1859 Domes was convicted and sentenced to six years in San Quentin.

* * * * *

SPECIAL ALERT:

Now is the time to change your calendar for the general meeting of the Healdsburg Historical Society in May.

Because the regular meeting date falls on the evening of the Future Farmers Fair Parade, the meeting has been scheduled for Thursday, May 19th at 7:30 p.m., at the High School Library.

Gaye LeBaron, columnist and historian, will be the guest Speaker for the occasion and will talk about county history.

NEXT MEETING - May 19, 1977

* * * * *

Officers and Directors of the
HEALDSBURG HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Tom Roscoe	President	Major Phillips	Treasurer
Rose Demostene	Vice President	Carmel Bottini	Director
Carol Barbieri	Recording Secretary	Robert Hassett	Director
Jan Harrison	Corresponding Secty.	Jack R. Relyea	Director
		Ed Langhart	Director