

# RUSSIAN RIVER RECORDER

Published by  
HEALDSBURG HISTORICAL SOCIETY

JULY 1979



HEALDSBURG CHRISTIAN CHURCH DEACONS ABOUT 1910.

Front Row L to R: F. W. Cooke, E. C. Sandborn, Allen Gallaway, Rev. Hilton, Henry Ferguson, C.M. Mumma.  
Back Row L to R: Henry Shriver, Ernest Bean, E. I. Beeson, Lewis R. Green, Sr., Joe Miller, James Skee, Nelson McNeil, Clem Mothorn, Jay Hassett.

RUSSIAN RIVER RECORDER

Published by

HEALDSBURG HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Post Office Box 952, Healdsburg, Calif. 95448

(PLEASE NOTE NEW ADDRESS)

Issue No. 13

July, 1979

A warm welcome to our new Curator HANNAH CLAYBORN. Hannah is also in charge of the docent program at the museum; and as we well know, our members have done an excellent job serving as receptionists. In this regard, Hannah has the following message:

There will be an open meeting of all regular and substitute museum volunteers on Tuesday, August 14 at 7:30 p.m. in the Town Hall (located behind the Museum). There will be a training session and discussion of new projects underway at the Museum. If you are now working in the Museum, or are interested in doing so in the future, please plan to attend. Healdsburg has a rich history--be part of it! If you need transportation, please call 433-4717 or 433-9362.

Hannah expresses her appreciation for the cooperation extended to her by our membership. She will be speaking to us briefly at our July 26 meeting and telling us the importance of beginning our oral history program as soon as possible.

The Edwin Langhart Museum Board of Trustees would like to thank sincerely the following people who have so kindly donated items to the Museum.

- Margaret Luce: Silver napkin ring, photographs of Colonel Roderick Matheson and Hazel Hotchkiss Wightman, and other items;  
Dr. Perry Beeson: Gaff used in Mill Creek;  
Leoni Americo: Old leather bull-whip;  
Hallick's Books: Box of old photographs;  
Peggy Cadd: Old newspaper clippings and 1916 document with numerous signatures;  
Hannah Enzenauer Scruggs: Lovely old photo of Hannah Enzenauer (1854-1912) in carved wood frame. (This photo was owned by Charlotte Enzenauer and donated to the Museum by her daughter).  
C. Raymond Clar: Two books which he authored--Out of the River Mist, and Quarterdecks and Spanish Grants.

---

The Edwin Langhart Museum is looking for items that might have furnished a Victorian sitting room. Most specifically, we are interested in finding: an old painting (1860 to 1900); an old regulator clock; draperies suitable for that era; small pieces of Victorian furniture; fireplace mantle (detachable). We are also looking for artifacts that relate to the Chinese population in Healdsburg from the 1850's on. Our storage room needs such items as wooden clamp hangers, old sheets, desk file holders, and shelf paper. If you have any of these items and don't need them, the Edwin Langhart Museum would be grateful to receive them.

---

\*\*\*\*\*  
PLEASE SEE PAGE 7 FOR INFORMATION ON OUR JULY 26TH MEETING

## SOTOYOME CITY INSTEAD OF HEALDSBURG?

The whole idea never really got off the ground but for a while in the spring and summer of 1888, there was considerable talk of changing the name of Healdsburg. The objection centered on the last four letters of the name.

Healdsburg was growing fast in the 1880s. There had been but two wineries in the town, for example, at the beginning of the decade. By 1888, the town had a dozen. New residents were pouring in from the East, real estate was booming.

Three men felt the excitement perhaps, more than most local residents. Julius Alexander, C. H. Pond and Frank Merritt decided to pool their resources and buy out the ENTERPRISE newspaper. Almost before the masthead could be changed to include their names, they published this newsstory:

"The name of Sotoyome could not be more fittingly applied then to our city, nestled in the most fertile and picturesque portion of Sonoma County....The very air seems to be laden with fragrance and sweetness that proclaims nature's preference for her favored garden spot. It should be called what it is, Sotoyome City, the valley of the flowers."

The secret word here is "city". Alexander and his friends felt Healdsburg had outgrown "burg" status. They may have read through a list of the great cities of America and found no use of "burg" in Chicago, New York, Boston or Philadelphia. (Maybe they skipped Pittsburg.)

A native-son named "Rankins" wrote from Westport, Mendocino County, on May 16, 1888 to protest:

"Now in my opinion, it would be showing the grossest disrespect to the wishes of the oldest residents and particularly to the memory of a man who, in 1851, settled and established a business at the present site of your beautiful town....Let the good old town be, let its name stand forever, and aye, let it be Healdsburg."

Few people took the entire proposition very seriously. The new owners of the ENTERPRISE tried again to stimulate its readers into action with an editorial on the subject. If some way could just be found to dispose of the "burg".

Considering that this was a time of intense civic pride, Alexander and his two partners did have some grounds for wanting a change.

But more to the point might have been their worry that a small newspaper with growing pains, wanted to upgrade its image! Maybe a new name like "Sotoyome City Times".

Fortunately, the journalistic daydream did not survive the summer. In retrospect it is easy to understand why. Who could pronounce the word "Sotoyome" other than local residents? Imagine the problems radio or television announcers would have with it today.

WF Heintz

\* \* \* \* \*

Remembering Upper Dry Creek Valley by S. Duvall Bell

THE SEWING MACHINE MAN---1908-1909

Once a year the sewing machine man would come by our home at Pena Creek, peddling his wares and services. He traveled in a small delivery wagon which was completely enclosed except for the driver's seat, which was covered above by an extension of the roof of the main body of the wagon, and was drawn by one horse.

The articles offered for sale were needles, thread, buttons, beeswax, scissors and nearly all articles needed for sewing by hand and for Singer and White sewing machines he had practically all the necessary repair parts, shuttles, bobbins, belts, etc. He made the repairs at your home, also sharpened scissors, etc. He arranged to make the last stop for the day at our home, where he stayed overnight. My father had unhitched the horse and put it in the barn to feed. The man slept either in his delivery wagon or in the hay in the barn. My mother served him supper and breakfast. If I remember correctly, I believe my father charged him 75 cents for the overnight stay for he and his horse. My mother would select her sewing needs up to 75 cents, so no money was needed in the transaction and the sewing machine man was on his way for another day.

\* \* \* \* \*



Granger Building – 1906.



Dr. Mack Stone on left, Rennie Haigh on right. About 1921.

## WHO ARE WE AND WHAT IS OUR PURPOSE?

The purpose in forming the Healdsburg Historical Society (By-laws, Article II) is as follows:

"To record the history of the Healdsburg area through the collection and preservation of all historical materials. To actively foster the appreciation of our local history through programs and activities."

The Edwin Langhart Museum (formerly the Healdsburg Museum), was established in 1976 as the Healdsburg Bicentennial Committee's ultimate goal, of which Mr. Langhart was Chairman. Current Trustees (appointed by the Mayor) are: Brad Witherell, Chrystal Langhart, Bernice Auradou, Billie Jo Haley, and Bob Jones.

The Edwin Langhart Museum is part of the City government, which provides the building and pays for the utilities, alarm system, and telephone. Mr. Langhart served as a volunteer Curator. Since his passing, the City of Healdsburg has hired a Curator, Hannah Clayborn. Ms. Clayborn is a City employee, and as such her salary is provided by the City. Because our museum is a part of a municipal corporation, contributions to the museum are tax deductible.

The Healdsburg Historical Society, founded in 1976 by Ed Langhart, was organized to further the idea of a proposed museum. Acting pursuant to approved by-laws, this group functions through elected officers.

Volunteer members of the Society serve as docents/receptionists at the museum, under the

direction of Museum Curator Hannah Clayborn. The Society has received a tax-exempt status from the state and federal government. It has an established Museum Memorial Fund to accept donations for growth of the Edwin Langhart Museum, to provide particularly for enlarged future quarters.

It is important to keep in mind, and it is therefore being pointed out, that Mr. Langhart's thoughts and goals in establishing the Museum and Historical Society were to have them work hand in hand in a harmonious and productive manner in order to accomplish the preservation of Healdsburg's history.

We can be proud of our membership, now totaling at the 400 mark. We have members who reside in many different states and enjoy keeping in touch with a community which in many instances was once their home town.

Our museum has been the repository for many old and valuable items given by members and others who wish them to be preserved and who wish to give others the opportunity to view relics from Healdsburg and articles which belonged to pioneer families of the area.

Under the direction of the Museum Board of Trustees and the Curator these valued articles will continue to be cared for in the same manner as was established by Mr. Langhart.

The Museum Board of Trustees and the Healdsburg Historical Society are most grateful for the continued support given by members of the community.

HEALDSBURG'S GREATS (in the World of Sports)

Healdsburg holds a special place in our world's history, for seldom do five great star performers in the field of sports hail from one community! Those of us who are sports fans feel a deep sense of pride when we recall the names of the following record breakers:

RALPH ROSE - Known as the greatest shot putter of all time.

ED BEESON - Made history with his high jumps.

HELEN HOTCHKISS - Known throughout the world for her spectacular skill on the tennis court.

A. E. HAIGH (Alias Jack) - World Champion ring catcher with a lance while riding a fiery steed at full tilt.

ROBERT A. BOEHM - Broke the world record for 135 inch inboard hydroplanes.

Above are listed the names of five world champions (all from Healdsburg). Yes, Healdsburg is unique and rightfully proud in having produced five star performers who became world champions.

\* \* \* \* \*

The following article appeared, as written, in the CALIFORNIA HISTORIAN, Volume 25, Number 4, dated June, 1979. This magazine is circulated throughout the State and is published by the Conference of California Historical Societies, located at the University of the Pacific, Stockton, California.

IN MEMORY

"Word was recently received that Mr. Edwin Langhart, who won the Individual Award of Merit at the Annual Meeting of the Conference last June for his efforts in organizing the Healdsburg Historical Society and the creation of their outstanding museum, died suddenly in February. We are so glad that Mr. Langhart had his award when he could appreciate it. He was known as "Mr. Healdsburg" and was most highly esteemed in that area of California. Congressman Don Clausen of Santa Rosa, a real friend of history, had a flag flown over the Capitol in Washington, D.C. at the time of his funeral and it was then sent to Mrs. Langhart in Healdsburg."

The Healdsburg Historical Society gratefully appreciates the publication of the foregoing article.

\* \* \* \* \*

The two following articles are from  
Dr. William C. Shipley's Tales of  
Sonoma County

### "THE KINGDOM OF HEALDSBURG"

The Kingdom of Healdsburg was not like the Kingdom of Heaven, from everlasting to everlasting; it was transitory, for a day only, but what a day. This temporary monarchy was way back in the 80's, perhaps it was on May 1, 1886, in the days when men were brave and ladies very modest.

J. M. Alexander and C. B. Pond were editors and publishers of the Healdsburg Enterprise at that time, R. K. Truitt owned and operated the local theatre, A. W. Garrett and Ed Haigh, all these and many other prominent citizens most of whom are long since gone to their home on high, were on the committee or took part in the pageant.

Felix Mulgrew, a local realtor and assemblyman, was chosen King, as Rex Felix I, and that exquisite young lady, Ann O'Connor, a particularly charming and beautiful brunette was his queen for the day. King Felix and Queen Ann had knights, ladies, chamberlains, curriers, heralds, ladies in waiting, pages, jesters and men at arms, in fact all the personnel of a royal court. They were dressed in gorgeous costumes of the time of King Arthur of the Round Table and made a dazzling and colorful spectacle. The King and Queen were seated on a royal float drawn by four white horses and decorated with flowers, greenery and bunting; each wore a golden crown made of gilt paper and pasteboard, emblazoned with colored glass for jewels, and carried scepters of more or less the same material. The illusion was perfect.

They made an inspiring sight when surrounded by their court, mounted on gaily caparisoned fiery chargers, knights with lances and banners, preceded by four mounted heralds with trumpets. Old King Cole had nothing on them when it came to splendor.

The cavalcade formed downtown and headed by the incomparable Sotoyome Band, marched majestically between lines of cheering subjects out Matheson Street to Seaman's pasture where the tournament was to be held.

"The field of the Cloth of Gold" was not in it compared to the Kingdom of Healdsburg when it came to a gorgeous display of youth and beauty, brave men and fair ladies, pomp and ceremony. The royal cortage drew up opposite a grandstand that had been erected for the spectators, the band played, the knights paraded and a fanfare of trumpets called for attention, when King Felix I, supported by his gracious, smiling Queen, read the royal proclamation declaring this a holiday to be given over to pleasure and feasting. All sorrow and dull care was banished from the realm; joy and gladness were to reign supreme.

A series of decorated arches had been erected from which a pendant supported an iron ring which could be easily picked off with a lance. The knights who were to ride for glory this day would poise their lances according to ancient custom and at the sound of the bugle would charge full tilt, ride under the arches and endeavor to catch the rings with their lances as they passed by.

It was a great tournament, a wonderful display of skill, daring and horsemanship. The knight who succeeded in getting the most rings with his lance was the winner and hero of the day and received an



appropriate gift from the hands of the lovely Queen. Prizes were awarded to the other contestants in order of their skill for there were some 20 riders in the lists that memorable day.

Their names - well, many of them have been forgotten but the following still remain on memory's page: R. K. Truitt, George Haigh, Ed Haigh, James Seawell, Guy Wolcott, Sommers Brumfield, Bailhache, Strong, Grant and many others. Of course there were peanuts, popcorn balls, pink lemonade, candy and other devices for refreshment benefitting such an outstanding celebration.

It was a great day that has gone down in history as an event that had never before been equaled and only once since, when on May 1, 1896, another similar event took place when Miss Alice Haigh was Queen and her brother Jack distinguished himself with a perfect score of ring catching, thereby establishing himself as one of Healdsburg's four great stars (the total has now reached five). The charming and beautiful Queen Ann taught in the public school in the late 80's and early 90's, then became Mrs. Wood Wattles. She was admired and loved by all who knew her.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

The next meeting of the Healdsburg Historical Society will take place on Thursday, July 26, 1979, commencing at 7:30 p.m. Members will meet at the Town Hall, located directly behind the Edwin Langhart Museum. This will be our first general meeting held there. William L. Beedie, of Windsor, will present a program on the Hop Industry, primarily up to the time of mechanical means of harvesting. He will bring along his outstanding collection of slides. Mr. Beetie's book, entitled Windsor History and Happenings, is on sale at our Museum. MARK JULY 26TH ON YOUR CALENDAR.

\* \* \* \* \*

Officers and Directors of the  
HEALDSBURG HISTORICAL SOCIETY

- |                                   |                                 |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Jan Harrison.....President        | Ed Collins.....Corresp. Sect'y. |
| Penny Heitz.....Vice President    | Robert C. Jones....Director     |
| Major Phillips....Treasurer       | Dan Dowling.....Director        |
| Pat Schmidt.....Recording Sect'y. | Jack Relyea.....Director        |
|                                   | Rose Demostene.....Director     |

Newsletter Editor: Jan Harrison

\* \* \* \* \*

\*\*\*\*\*60 YEARS AGO\*\*\*\*\*

Masonic Temple burns in midnight conflagration - blaze starts in heating plant on second floor - lodge rooms, 2 doctors' offices, furniture store and undertaking

firm suffer loss - damage heary.

Lieut. E. I. Beeson returns from Camp Fremont and will open his dental offices here again.

First airplane visit to Healdsburg piloted by Lieut. Fred Young.

## "A LOCAL SPITFIRE:

Way back in the mid 80s, there lived, in the old home town, a rather outstanding girl the boys called "Spitfire." She had as peppery a temper and as sarcastic and fluent a tongue as any female of the species since the days of Zantipe, the shrewish wife of poor old Socrates.

If any of the boys wanted a bit of fun or wished to start a verbal cyclone, all they had to do was cross her path, make an ugly face, poke a finger or stick at her or merely say "spitfire" and the riot was on in full fury. She would even scrap with the other girls in the school yard or on the way to and from school, but her special hatred was the pestiferous boys. Her temper was set to a hair trigger and sometimes it went off automatically. Otherwise she was a perfectly normal girl.

One day, Ellie Truitt, Charley Dodge and several other boys of about their age got her cornered in front of Truitt's Theatre on Center Street and proceeded to annoy her with remarks, grimaces and gestures intended to arouse her ire. Well this worked differently for, seeing that she was treed, so to speak, she became silent, backed into a corner to protect her rear and flanks and

while she looked daggers, her black eyes ablaze, she kept her lips tight shut but worked her mouth from side to side, up and down, in and out, vigorously for several minutes while all the time the semicircle of teasing boys closed in nearer.

When she was all ready with a mouthful of saliva and the boys were within easy range and off-guard, she let drive all she had full in their faces. This barrage was unexpected and overwhelming, so, while the boys were engaged in clearing their vision, coughing, spitting and wiping their countenances, she gave several of them a few vigorous rights and lefts to their jaws and made good her escape while they were busily engaged and temporarily confused.

It was a great battle, one girl against several boys and the girl, due to her quick strategy, came off victor. After that episode when any of the boys wanted to tease her they did it at a safe and respectful distance. It is believed that the girl's name was Florence and her folks lived on Center Street.

Healdsburg has produced more than its share of celebrities, artists, musicians, champions in sports and other lines - even famous beauties, but it produced only one Spitfire.

## "AN UNLUCKY BET"

When we think of fine horses and flashy carts, buggies, surries and coaches, we recall the names of the Paxtons, the Warfields, the Wattles, the Lathrops, the Gums, the Zanes and the Van Allens.

Our roads of today are designed for automobiles, and even the horses of today ride in trailers when on these roads. In the old days when paved highways were unheard of, only horse and buggy dirt roads were in existence.

Wolf Rosenberg and T. S. Merchant were excellent horsemen as well as proud owners of a high-spirited speedy horse to lightside bar Brewster buggies.

Some of the gambling boys in town bet Mr. Rosenberg \$250 that he couldn't drive his horse to Santa Rosa in an hour and fifteen minutes. The boys thought this would be an easy win. Mr. Rosenberg quickly accepted the bet and soon began his record drive. Judges in Santa Rosa were telegraphed as to the time of departure. After completing the required distance in just one hour and fifteen minutes, Mr. Rosenberg happily accepted the \$250 in prize money.

Now T. S. Merchant, being exceptionally proud of his horse Gladdy, wanted desperately to show him off. He felt his horse was second to none in Sonoma County, and so the boasting began. His goal was to tempt a bet, and he succeeded. Once again, a \$250 bet was made and the time was cut down to exactly one hour for the trip from Healdsburg to Santa Rosa. Naturally, the local betting boys were certain Mr. Merchant would fail and thus give them a chance to recoup their previous loss.

Mr. Merchant hitched his horse to a very light cart and began his journey. The departure time was telegraphed to Santa Rosa as was done when Mr. Rosenberg took on a bet.

Fifty-nine minutes later, Mr. Merchant and his horse appeared at the judges stand. Needless to say, the local betting boys had learned a double lesson.

We're extremely happy and proud to publish the names of our recently acquired members, which are listed below

**\*\*THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT\*\***

Hannah Clayborn	Norma McClellan	Harry (Bill) Hill
August Consiglieri	Shirley Osborn	Ann M. Hill
Mrs. L. J. Cooley	Thomas R. Passalacqua	Dr. John W. Hoag
Paul Crabb	Barry Smith	Dorothy Hogue
Angelo Dinucci	Sally Brandt Smith	Lois R. Jones
Linda Dugan	E. Jean Taylor	Helen Maize
Mary Lou Eddinger	Molly J. Thrift	Joan Martin
M. M. Henderson	Constance Cooke Wisecarver	Robert Matteucci

\* \* \* \* \*

AND WHAT A SHOW IT WAS!

A BUS TRIP

(and oh whata bus!)

If you were there--we know that you are aware.....

If you were unable to go--then we know you're sorry you didn't show.

For many were the complimentary remarks following our Society's May 16th fashion show. 200 members and friends put in their appearance and were so glad they did. Stunning models dressed in old yet still magnificent frocks and coordinates of past eras graced the walkway of the Federated Church and brought a great deal of pleasure to a room full of people. The most common remark following the show was "when will there be another fashion show?" Mrs. George Warfield had this to say--"Never has anything so beautiful been seen in the City of Healdsburg". Carol Barbieri and Penny Heitz share the credit for putting the entire program together, and their efforts were complemented by the outstanding performance of the commentator, Rose Demostene. The hospitality committee, headed by Evelyn Iversen, topped the evening off by serving delicious cakes and coffee, supplied by members. Our appreciation to each of you who made this such an outstanding success. A special thank you to those of you who loaned your garments; and to the models--you were great. Photos taken may be ordered at the Museum.

The old saying that "we'll try anything once" certainly held true on June 2nd when 40 members boarded a bus and journeyed to the Willits Museum. We had the right day, we had the right time, but we didn't have the right bus. Because of a large gathering in Santa Cruz and the need for the bus company's full line, we found ourselves on board a patchett school bus as we relaxed in unreclining seats and drove through a beautiful 105° temperature and had a perfect opportunity to recall and experience exactly what it was like prior to the invention of air-conditioning. Aside from a few inconveniences, we did, in fact, have a great time and each and every passenger proved just what good sports they really are. The Willits Museum is everything we heard it was, and then some. They have one great advantage, and that is "space" with which to create their displays. Following lunch at Fjords in Ukiah, we visited Grace Hudson's Sun House. Despite the heat of the day, the tour was most enjoyable. A stop at an A & W Root Beer stand gave us the added energy we needed to organize a good healthy singing group (headed by Major Phillips), and we covered all the tunes of yesteryears as we made our way back home. It was a fun day, but next time we'll get the right bus.

\*\*\*\*\*HEALDSBURG HISTORICAL SOCIETY APPRECIATION DAY\*\*\*\*\*

As discussed and voted upon by members at our general meeting last January, our Historical Society will host an appreciation day. The date has been set for the first Sunday in November, that being the 4th. Most of you will recall our preview party held on December 12, 1976, just two days prior to our Museum being opened to the public. The Edwin Langhart Museum will not be open to the public on November 4th, but will be a "special" day in appreciation of you, our members. Wine, cheese and other refreshments will be enjoyed in the Town Hall, and it will be a chance for members to get together and have a good time. Jack Relyea is your Chairman for this event, and he is asking that you reserve this date on your calendar. More information will be forthcoming.

---

CONFERENCE OF CALIFORNIA  
HISTORICAL SOCIETIES  
CONVENTION

---

This year Sonoma had the honor of hosting the Conferences' State Convention (June 21 through 23). RUTH MARRA was installed as President on Saturday, June 23rd. It was a beautiful setting at the Old Petaluma Adobe with Dr. Coke Wood serving as installing officer. Of interest to our members is the fact that Ruth helped us greatly in our organization and we were fortunate to have her with us at our first meeting in January, 1976, when she accepted the invitation to be our first speaker. Also of note--Dr. Wood (Mr. California) spoke at our general meeting in November of 1977. It was just one year ago at the Convention in Bakersfield when Ed Langhart was honored as the recipient of the State's Individual Award of Merit. As a special treat at this year's annual meeting the dedication of Sonoma's Depot Museum took place. Mr. Jim Vanderbilt, Curator, as well as past President of the Sonoma Valley Historical Society, has done an outstanding job and the Depot Museum,

and the City of Sonoma can be rightfully proud. Mr. Vanderbilt was also one of our early speakers and assisted us when we first began our society. Several of our members were in attendance at the convention, including Major Phillips, Penny Heitz, Jim and Norma Voss, Jan Harrison, Harry Lapham (who was a speaker), Larry and Kathy Martin (Kathy is the daughter of Ruth Marra) and Hannah Clayborn. On Friday evening, June 22nd, we were given a special treat. We were the first public group ever granted admission to a special section of Jack London State Park, where we dined out in the open under the stars. That evening our Curator Hannah Clayborn appeared as a guest speaker and told us some very interesting facts about the famous author Jack London. We want to offer our congratulations to the Sonoma Valley Historical Society for the magnificent job they did in handling this entire affair, and a special thank you to their hard-working President, Brad Champlin.

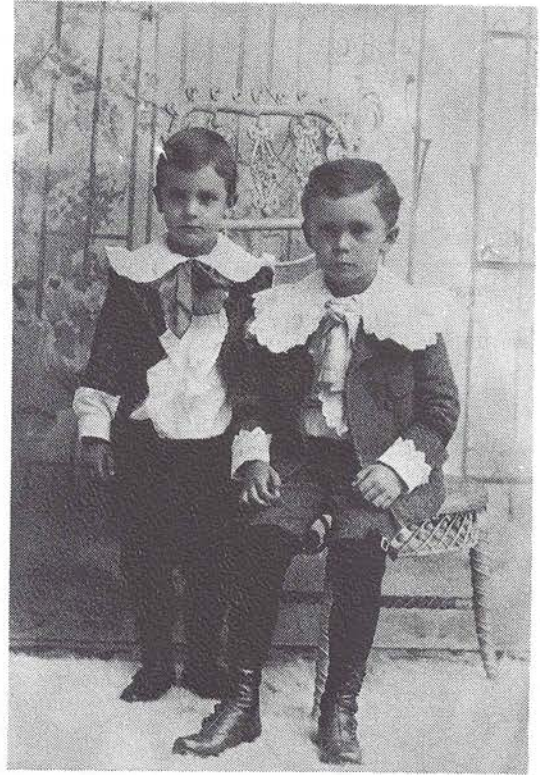
For those of you who have never attended an annual meeting, you don't know what you've missed. It is the time when all the historical societies in the State of California get together and exchange notes.

---

Editor's Note: We have a new mailing address--P.O. Box 952, Healdsburg, Ca. 95448. Third class mail will not be forwarded. Address for the Edwin Langhart Museum is 133 Matheson Street, Healdsburg, Ca. 95448.



Eloise (Prince) Liston, about 1910.



Joey Prince and Russell Wolcott (cousins) about 1901.



Taken at Skaggs Springs about 1908  
L to R: George S. Bell, George R. Somes, Amelia Ann Bell, Duvall Bell, Mollie Somes. (Man squatted in front not known.)