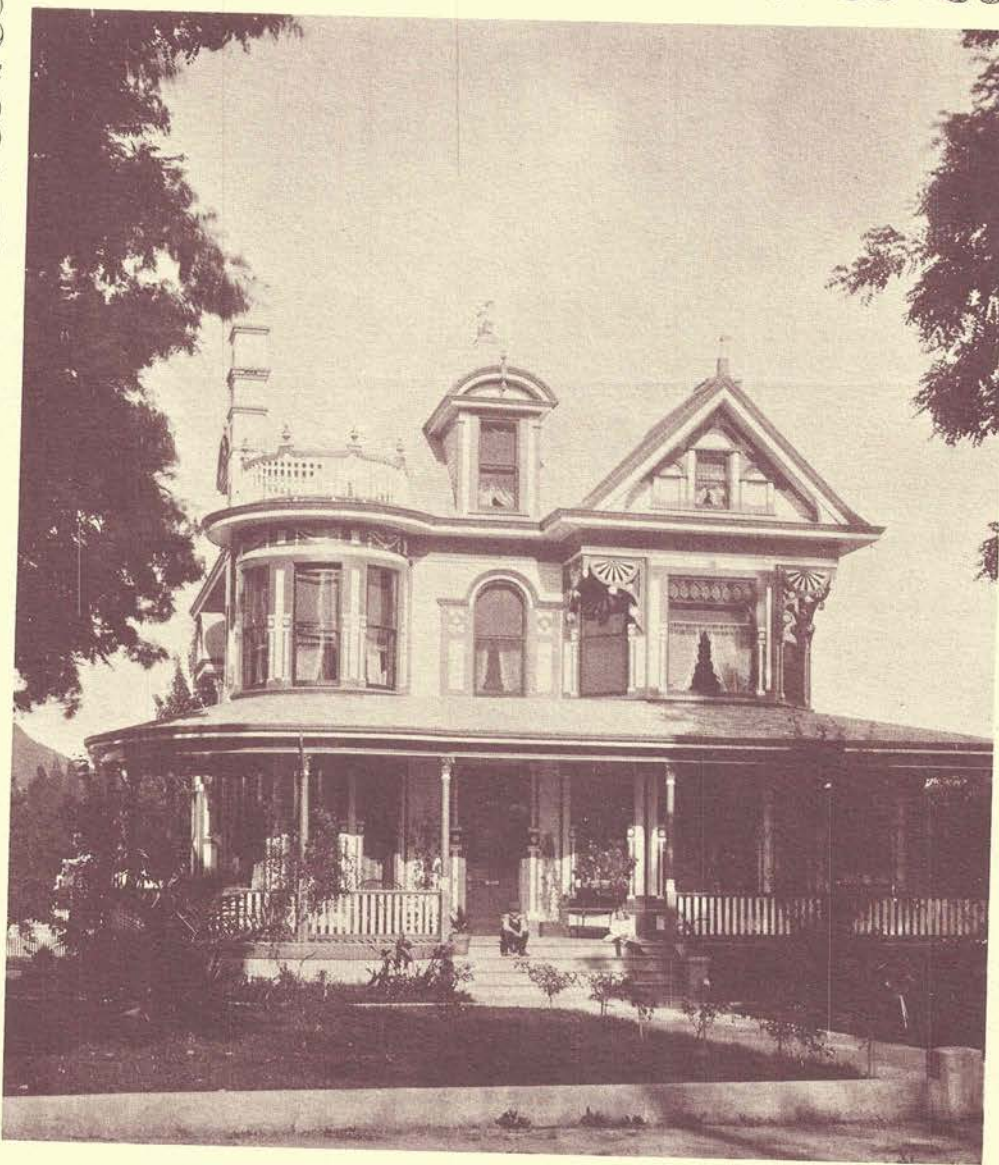


RUSSIAN RIVER RECORDER

Published by
HEALDSBURG HISTORICAL SOCIETY
APRIL - MAY
1981



Dr. Swisher's residence, 636 Johnson Street, Healdsburg, Ca.,
Dr. Swisher's son on porch. ca. 1900

RUSSIAN RIVER RECORDER

Published by

HEALDSBURG HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Post Office Box 952, Healdsburg, Calif. 95448

Issue 20

April/May, 1981

* * * * * *PRESERVING HEALDSBURG'S WORLD FAMOUS CRAFT: POMO BASKETS* * * * * *

HIGHLIGHTING the Thursday, May 28 meeting of the Healdsburg Historical Society will be a variety of presentations about Pomo baskets. Dr. Richard Lerner, Anthropologist with the Corps of Engineers and Charter Member of our historical society, will show beautiful, color slides he took of elaborately decorated Pomo baskets in the collections of the American Museum of Natural History and the Museum of the American Indian (Heye Foundation) in New York and the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C. Most of the baskets were collected out here between the 1880's and early 1900's, and have been in storage there since.

Prof. David Peri, of the Anthropology Department at Sonoma State University, will describe work which he has been supervising under a contract from the Corps of Engineers to rescue plants used to manufacture Pomo baskets, from areas to be flooded by Warm Springs Dam, and to establish preserves which will provide a continuing source of materials for this world famous craft.

Concluding the program will be a special guest, Mr. Lawrence E. Dawson, Senior Museum Anthropologist of the Lowie Museum of Anthropology, University of California, Berkeley. Mr. Dawson, who has been on the staff of the Museum since 1952, has been studying California baskets since 1956, and is now recognized as the world's foremost authority on the subject. He has pioneered in historical studies of California baskets, and has expanded his basketry studies to include all of Western North America. Mr. Dawson will discuss relationships of Pomo baskets to other basketry traditions. He has also agreed to help identify and provide information about any baskets which people have in their own collections. If you've been wondering about just where your baskets came from, or if they are really Pomo baskets, THIS IS YOUR CHANCE! "I would be particularly interested in seeing baskets from the Healdsburg-Alexander Valley area," Mr. Dawson told us, "since I've seen very few Southern Pomo baskets in museum collections."

SEE YOU ALL AT 7:30 P.M., THURSDAY, MAY 28TH IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL

(NOTE DIFFERENT MEETING PLACE)

HEALDSBURG CITY HALL

Healdsburg's three-story brick and stone city hall, located on a lot 61x66 feet in size at the corner of Matheson and Center streets, was built in 1885. The contractor was E. G. Hall, who was given the work at a meeting of the city board July 6, 1885, on his bid of \$12,500.

After the contract was made and the foundations about to be put in, it was found that the architect had drawn the plans for the Center street frontage 4 feet larger than the lot itself. An attempt was made to buy the necessary four feet from L. A. Norton, owner of adjoining property, but the Colonel demanded \$400 for the strip, which the city refused to pay. The plans were altered and the construction went ahead.

The city had another lot on Center street called the Moreland property. When it was decided to build on the corner, the other lot was put up for sale and was disposed of to Barney Gobbi for \$1100. At the same time the board offered the building on the city hall site for sale, and later obtained an offer of \$34.50 for it, which was accepted.

The building was completed and accepted by the city in 1886, and the departments moved in. During its early history, the building not alone housed city offices and departments, but for some time prior to 1910 had the public library, or "reading room" within its walls. It likewise for quite a period housed the post office. A shooting scrape occurred on the ground floor of the building at one time, and bullet holes in woodwork can still be found if you ask somebody to show them to you.

The Healdsburg Tribune and Enterprise Diamond Jubilee Souvenir Edition
August 26, 1940, page 64.

SAM MEYER

Sam Meyer was one of the best known merchants in Healdsburg and also one of two pioneer merchants, the other being Wolf Rosenberg. Sam Meyer began business in Healdsburg in 1859 when there were only three or four stores. At that time the existence of the stores in Healdsburg depended upon traffic from Lake and Mendocino counties, as there were no adequate stores south of Eureka and north of Healdsburg at that time.

Mr. Meyer was in co-partnership with brothers and cousins, controlling bulk of trade. After a few years, he began business by himself. On August 14, 1879, the paper reported that Sam Meyer bought the Downing property on the east side of the Plaza and the Masonic Block on the west side of the Plaza. The town talk had it that he paid \$3,000 for one side and \$7,000 for the other side. The paper quipped, "Can't tell what Sam is going to do till he does it!"

Sam sold everything in his store, in fact his advertisements stated as much. One advertisement was "The Schuttler Wagons are the best in the World." Sam Meyer, Agent.'

On September 7, 1893, Mr. and Mrs. Meyer celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary at their home at 219 North street. (Presently the Hawthorne Apartments).

On December 14, 1893, the paper reported "Exciting mishap Tuesday evening. Sam Meyer's home narrowly escaped destruction by fire. The clothes which were hanging to dry in the laundry situated on the ground floor, took fire and before the blaze was discovered, they (laundry) were all consumed and the walls were badly charred. Damage: \$300.

Sam Meyer announced his retirement in 1895 and began to dispose of his stock. He stated that he planned to live in Healdsburg until he died. However, less than a year later, on August 7, 1896, Sam bought his son's Harry H. Meyer's Popular

Furniture Store. He was soon advertising furniture, wallpaper, shades, paints, oils, glass, hardware, and mechanical tools. Harry H. moved to Sonsonate, South America and began to make his fortune in the hotel business, his first hotel being the Salvador Hotel.

In San Francisco, on Sunday, June 6, 1897, Sam Meyer was wed to Mrs. F. Goldstein by Rabbi J. Nieto. "This second venture on the too often troubled matrimonial sea will beyond question be one of fair weather and favorable winds from port to port. Sam raised a family of respectable and respected citizens, who have flown from the parental nest and left him to shift for himself." One of the respectable citizens was Louis Meyer. In the little attic storeroom of the Sam Meyer building on West Street, presently the TV Mart, in the year of 1888, Louis Meyer, then 18 years of age and the oldest son of Sam Meyer, moved away some wagons and harrows and an old pile of bootjacks, unpacked a brand new printing plant, cases, type, press and a makeup table. This all happened in February and on March 21 the wheels of the press turned and the Sonoma County Tribune made its first appearance on earth.

The paper blessed the new marriage stating, Sam Meyer "possessing one of the most homelike and handsome residences in Healdsburg and with the characteristic Hebrew love of home and its comforts-- it is not good for man to live alone." "Mrs. Meyer is one of Healdsburg's most respected ladies. She has raised a family of worthy and honorable children. Both Mr. and Mrs. Meyer are vigorous and youthful appearing." After their honeymoon trip to Monterey, Salinas, Mt. Hamilton, Palo Alto and other places in California, the Meyers returned to their handsome home. The paper also stated that previously "seldom able to find him in store, now secured lady of his choice, during business hours he will attend to business and leave courting to others."

On May 22, 1902, the handsome residence of the Meyers of North Street narrowly escaped destruction by fire at 9:30 in the evening while the Meyers were downtown. Before the blaze was under control,

considerable damage resulted from a defective chimney. The fire was discovered by Mrs. Cochran.

The matrimonial seas may have been smooth, but Meyer's business found rough water at times. An injunction suit was brought against Sam Meyer by L. Dotta in 1903 for storing explosives.

The Meyer family moved to San Francisco on December 13, 1906.

From all accounts Sam Meyer was a well respected and well liked citizen of the City of Healdsburg. The paper treated him kindly and with humor at times. It can be assumed that he provided for his family well as stated in the following account, "James W. Seawell purchased Meyer Estate property facing plaza on October 30, 1913. Store buildings are J. H. Herrin, the Tribune, the Sonoma Meat Company, Bert Haigh, M. M. Rosenberg, the Si Hilgerloh Saloon and George H. Hayes Cigar Store for \$50,000. Rumored new improvements in the way of stores and banks." It is interesting to note that both his residence at 219 North Street and his store, presently the TV Mart at 328 Healdsburg Avenue are still standing and contributing influences on our community today.

The above information gleaned from articles in the Healdsburg Tribune and Enterprise.

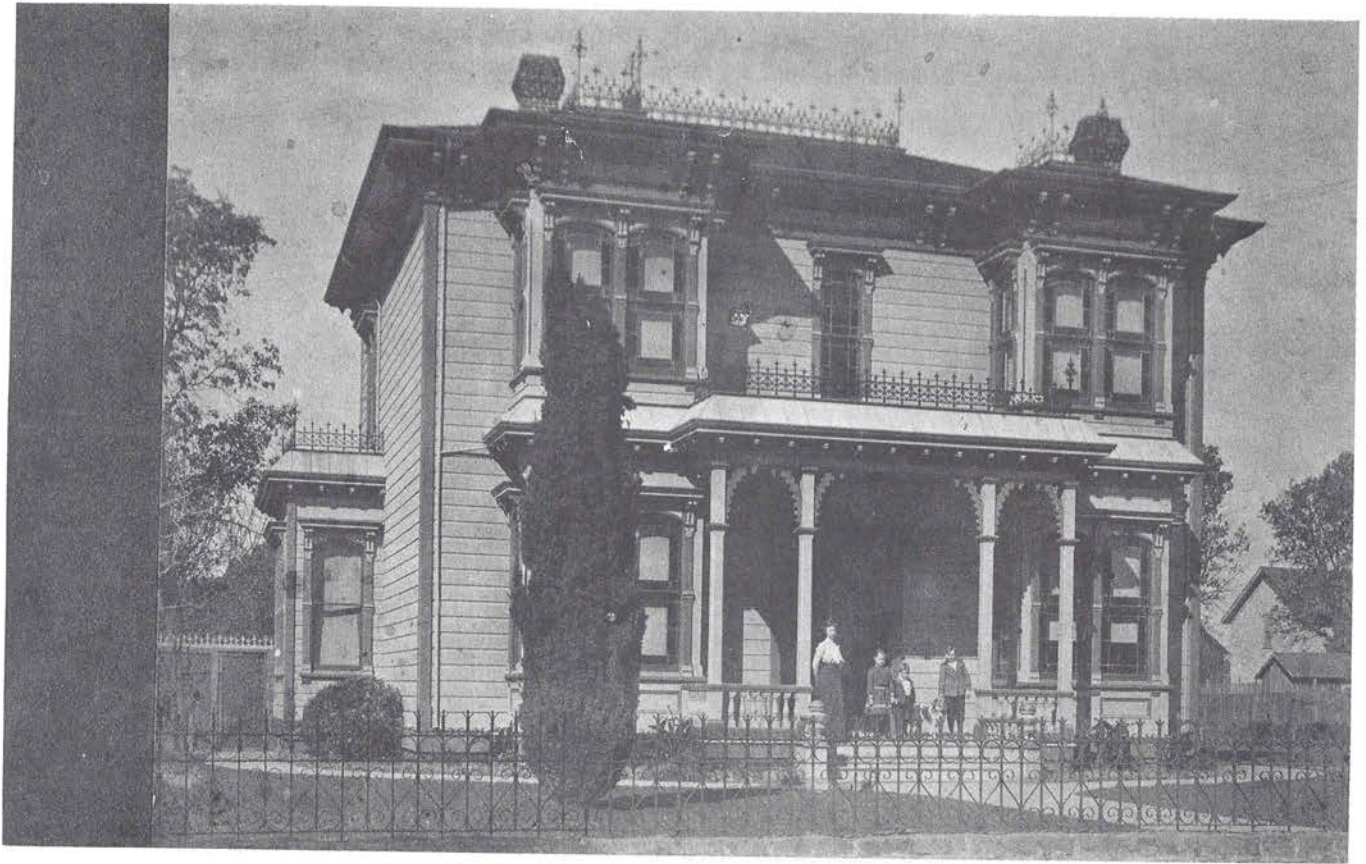
* * * * *

/ / / / CROCKER SANITARIUM / / / /

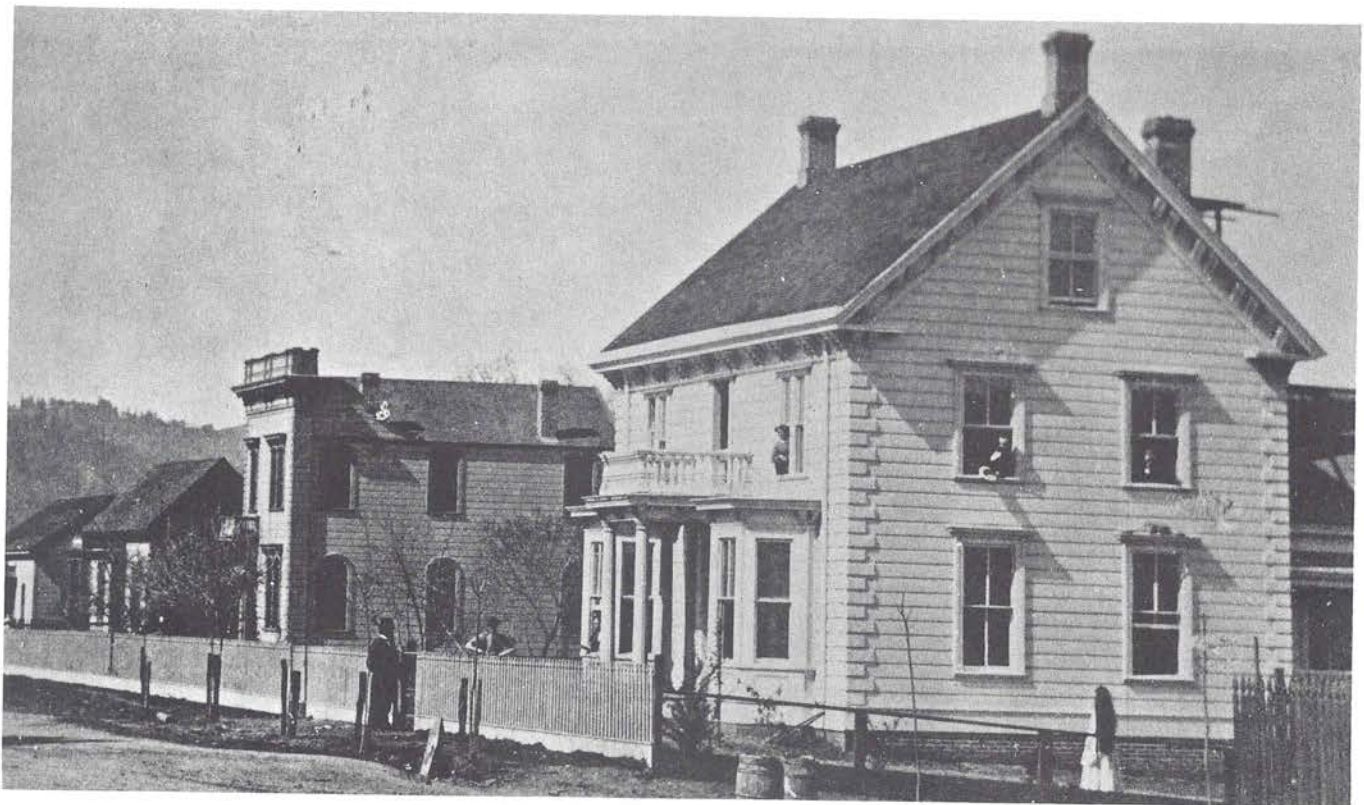
The Crocker Sanitarium was erected at the corner of Matheson and University streets in 1904 by Dr. H. B. Crocker, graduate of the California Medical College in 1900. Crocker was the first in his field to provide medical treatment and hospitalization insurance, charging \$1 a month to a stipulated list of subscribers who were thus protected in event of sickness. The sanitarium had a capacity of 20 patients.

The sanitarium building today is known as the Palms Apartments.

The Healdsburg Tribune and Enterprise Diamond Jubilee Souvenir Edition.
August 26, 1940, page 48.



King house, 619 Johnson Street. ca. 1890



Residence of W.W. Marshall, corner of North and Fitch Streets. March 8, 1873.

WALKING TOUR OF HISTORIC BUILDINGS

APRIL 26, 1981

An enthusiastic crowd of over 100 gathered at the Plaza on Sunday, April 26. The first building discussed was the Wells Fargo Building on Matheson Street. This building has housed many businesses since it was built in the era of 1901, presently Chris Decker Florists, Carlin's Shoe Repair and Town Square Realty. The present owners, Bob and Phyllis Heidelberger and Grandpa allowed the crowd to experience the grandeur of their home upstairs.

As the group walked to the next site, Hannah Clayborn told of the history of the L. A. Norton Building, one of the remaining buildings standing on the West side of Healdsburg Avenue. She emphasized that this building is basically the same structure as the Wells Fargo Building and could again regain its magnificence.

Hannah told the group to be sure and notice the TV Mart building across the street as underneath the plaster front is the original brick building of the Sam Meyer Store. Frances Etchell then led the group to view Sam Meyer's home at 219 North Street and told about Sam Meyer's life and times in Healdsburg. Jim Byrd, a restorer of victorian buildings, shared his expertise with the crowd in describing architectural details, styles and approximate dates on buildings as the tour proceeded along the streets.

Mrs. Hooper, 211 North Street, stopped her garden work and told about her home. Her home was built in 1869, the first owner being Ransom Powell, then Dr. J. Walter Seawell and Mrs. Hooper being the third owner in 112 years.

C. W. Marshall house was next viewed. This house is approximately the same age as Ransom Powell's and presently is quietly waiting restoration.

The group then walked over to Matheson Street. Dr. Francis Ritz carried on the discussion of three homes on the South side of

Matheson Street. Of particular interest was the Eli Bush home. Mrs. Nalley graciously invited the group into their lovely home. What a special treat!

Across the street is the A. W. Garrett home. Mr. and Mrs. Neilson, present owners, are planning to bring the home back to its "wedding cake" appearance.

The Crocker Sanitarium, now the Palms Apartments, was sighted on the corner of Matheson and University Streets.

The tour ended by walking up Tucker Street, where many lovely homes are, back to the Plaza.

This tour was such a lovely experience that more will follow.

* * * * *

COME TO THE ANTIQUE WEDDING FASHION SHOW

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY IS SPONSORING AN ANTIQUE WEDDING FASHION SHOW FEATURING ANTIQUE WEDDING GARMENTS, PHOTOS, AND MEMORABILIA. SEARCH IN YOUR TRUNKS AND CLOSETS FOR ANTIQUE WEDDING GARMENTS TO BE MODELED OR DISPLAYED IF TOO FRAGILE TO BE WORN. A DESCRIPTION OF ARTICLE, MATERIAL, DATE AND ANY INTERESTING PARTICULARS IS APPRECIATED. IF YOU HAVE ARTICLES OR ITEMS, PLEASE CALL VERNA LAFON 433-2668, JUNE JONES 433-1920, CLYDA RITZ 433-3278 OR HANNAH CLAYBORN 433-4717. FREZERS OF ICE CREAM AND SHERBERTS ARE ALSO NEEDED. CALL FRANCES ETHELL 433-6870.

THE SHOW WILL BE HELD ON MONDAY, JUNE 15, 6:30 P.M. AT BOB AND FRANCES ETHELL'S HOME, 1730 SCENIC LANE (TURN LEFT IMMEDIATELY AFTER VISTA VILLA SUBDIVISION ON POWELL AVE.). VICTORIAN WEDDING CAKE AND HOMEMADE ICE CREAM WILL BE SERVED. ADMISSION CHARGE OF \$2.50 WILL BENEFIT THE PURCHASE OF THE CROTYPE LABELING MACHINE FOR THE MUSEUM WHICH WILL GREATLY ASSIST HANNAH IN MAKING UP THE DISPLAYS FOR THE MUSEUM SHOWS.

TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE MUSEUM OR AT THE SHOW. THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO COME AND JOIN IN FOR A SWEET, ROMANTIC SUMMER EVENING.

MUSEUM NEWS

The Museum is now winding down the Pioneer Family Exhibit and gearing up for the Early Western Homemaking and Homecrafts Exhibit scheduled to run from June 1 through July. We will be displaying many interesting, and sometimes bewildering kitchen tools, as well as antique tableware, furniture, and crafts. We will also be having craft demonstrations, such as weaving, quilting, and candle-making at the Museum during the run of the show. The times and dates of these demonstrations will be advertised in the Tribune.

Again, if you have something that you would like to loan to the Museum for this exhibit, please contact me at the Museum by May 22 (or shortly thereafter).

We have had so many donations of artifacts since our last publication that space does not permit me to list each item - but this is a good sign and we appreciate the generosity of the following donors:

JOHN HANSEN
ROBERTA IVERSEN ALEXANDER
JUNE JONES
NORMA PASSARINO
FRANZ GOSTICHE
ROY LOWE
ROGER CHRISTENSON
JACK TROTTER
HEALDSBURG FIRE DEPT.
GEORGE BIANCHI
MRS. HOWARD LUCE STANLEY
MRS. D. W. WHEELER

SHERIDAN BALLARD
ROSE BENSON (DEMOSTENE)
AL BARBIERI
MRS. FRANCIS STEN
MAJOR PHILLIPS
ROGER REHM of Sacramento
DOUG HASSETT
JACK RELYEA
BUD CHRISTENSEN
CHARLIE SCALIONE
MRS. E.D. COOKE, of North Vancouver,
British Columbia

Special thanks are extended to PAT SCHMIDT who donated many clothes worn by her grandmother, Jane Allman Snider, including a velvet cape with jet beads. LAWRENCE BIAGI donated almost an entire set of 19th Century cooper's tools (barrel-making). GRETCHEN ROSENBERG loaned us a precious collection of Pomo baskets made by the Luna Sisters in Alexander Valley at the old Hall Ranch in about 1900. All of these items are now on display at the Museum.

In this issue we would also like to thank those invaluable people who donate their time by being receptionists at the Museum;

REGULARS

BERNICE AURADOU
JEANETTE BEESON
ROSE BENSON
FRANCIS BRANERN
IRMA CUNEO
MARJORIE EACHUS
DORIS FARRIS
MOLLY AND CARL THRIFT

BILL FLAEGER
JAN HARRISON
EVELYN IVERSEN
JUNE JONES
JOSEPHINE OSBORN
NORMA PASSARINO
ALETA RULOFSON
DOROTHY WALTERS

SUBSTITUTES

GERRI BARBIERI
MURIEL BRONNER
MARNEY CALDWELL
CLEONE CLAYBORN
ED COLLINS
GWEN HASSETT
VERNA LAFON

ETHYL OAKLEAF
CHARLIE SCALIONE
PAT SAINI
PAT SCHMIDT
NORMA VOSS
MARTHA WILLIG

We would also like to thank WALT SNIDER for doing the carpentry work needed to alter the second of our eleven foot antique display cases, and BOB SAUERS, who donated the wood needed to complete our new large exterior sign.

Hannah Clayborn,
Museum Curator

The Healdsburg Tribune, Thursday, May 31, 1900

BUILDING RECORD - Many new cottages will be erected in Healdsburg this season.

W.H. Pierce contractor and builder, a few days ago invited a Tribune reporter to take a ride in his brand new wagon, built by W.J. Downing, the wagonmaker and blacksmith on Center Street. The invitation was accepted. H.O. Ferguson's handsome residence on Tucker street was first visited, where Mr. Pierce is finishing a fine bay window and tower. This addition to the building furnishes two fine bedrooms upstairs with the bay window on the lower story. Temple Bailhache's new residence on Matheson street, finished three weeks ago and now occupied by parents, was next visited. We then drove to the corner of Fitch and Grant streets to J.S. Harmon's fine cottage and from there to Mrs. Newsom's cottage on Piper street. All these buildings are up-to-date structures, recently completed. Mr. Pierce says he has fifteen cottages in view to be erected this season, the first of which will be Gus Lund's, on the corner of Grant and Johnson streets. Healdsburg will score a decided step forward in the building line during the year.

Ed Ellis' cottage on East street, being erected by Contractor Rath, is nearly completed, and the foundation for a second cottage adjoining has been laid.

the new cottage being erected by J.H. Matthews on North street is nearing completion. Work on the three cottages for Fred Kruse on the same street, was begun last week. These new dwellings will be ornamental and will be noted improvements to the town. Two of the cottages will contain six and the other eight rooms. Contractor W.H. Chaney is in charge of the work.

Officers and Directors of the
HEALDSBURG HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Francis Ritz.....President
Verna Lafon.....Vice President
Pat Schmidt.....Treasurer
Joyce Trowbridge....Recording Sect'y.

Vacant.....Corresp. Sect'y.
Robert C. Jones.....Director
Major Phillips.....Director
Frances Etchell.....Director
Francis Branern.....Director

Newsletter Editor: Jan Harrison

NEW MEMBERS

Donald Edwards
Jane Moranda
Antoinette Aleman
Ben McCutchan
Barbara L. McCutchan
Norma Passarino
Donald Loveless
Mrs. H.T. Hoover
Wayne Puccinelli
Maxwell W. Young
Howard N. Young
Ralph E. Hamilton
Helen Bacigalupi
Nels Benson
Roger A. Bowlin

Alice Dale Elledge
Theresa D. Fasana
Norman Gaddini
Lois Grace
Dr. Nicholas Grace
Ralph Hamilton
Robert Maize
Helen Rosen
Elizabeth J. Smith
William Walters
Dorothy Walters
W. F. Dallam
Marcelline Osborn
Mrs. Charles Bacigalupi
Dallas Wright

The above are new members and have not previously been listed here.

The Healdsburg Historical Society gratefully appreciates the following donations to its Museum Memorial Fund:

IN MEMORY
WILLIAM ALFRED McCUTCHAN
\$100

CONGRATULATIONS IS EXTENDED TO

BARBARA ASHBAUGH
on her lifetime/patron membership

Thank you, Barbara, for your \$250.00 membership

////////////////////

THE EDWIN LANGHART MUSEUM IS CREDITED FOR USE OF ALL PHOTOGRAPHS IN THIS ISSUE

The editor would like to express sincere appreciation to Hannah Clayborn and Frances Etchell who did extensive research for articles appearing in this issue. Also a special thank you to Major Phillips for his assistance. Other members who should receive recognition for their efforts in assembling the newsletter include Ann Woltzen, Charlie Scalione, Bob Jones, Major Phillips, Hannah Clayborn, Francis Branern, and Jan White. These are the "Old Faithfuls" who most always are able to lend a helping hand (rather two).

Remember to visit the Museum and see the splendid job being accomplished by Hannah. Her many hours of dedication and labor have paid off.

Many members have renewed their memberships, thanks to the efforts of Membership Chairman and Director Major Phillips. Others, I'm sure, have meant to but may have forgotten. Please send your \$5.00 membership dues to the Healdsburg Historical Society, P.O. Box 952, Healdsburg, CA. 95448. THANK you.

WE'LL SEE YOU AT THE NEXT MEETING (AT CITY HALL) AT 7:30 P.M., MAY 28. ALSO, REMEMBER THE BIG FASHION SHOW SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 15TH.



Al Garrett's home, 403 Matheson Street. ca. 1896



Lieuallen J. Hall residence, Alexander Valley; Geyserville side of the river, half way to Geysers. Geyser Peak is in the background. ca. 1880