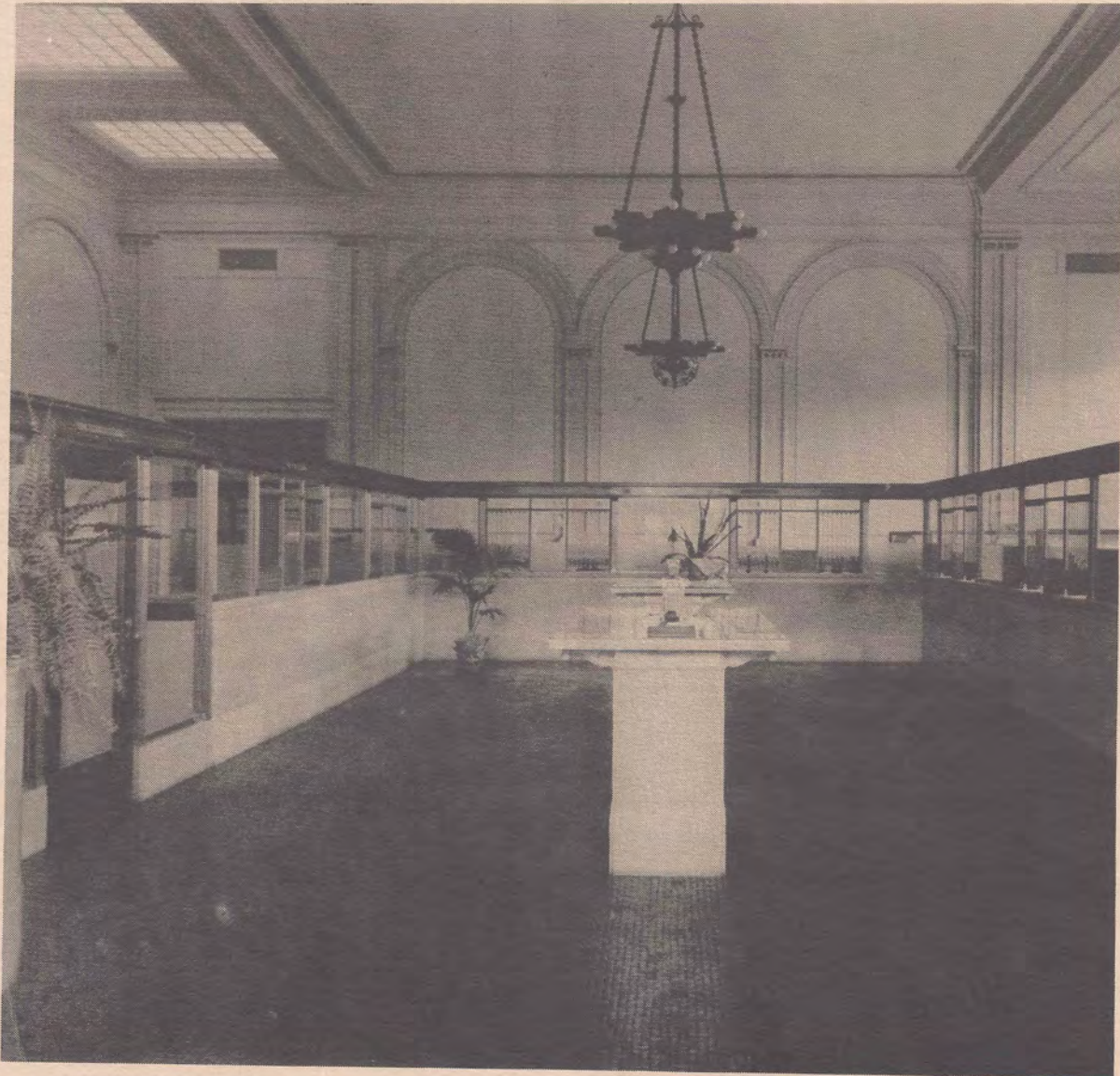


# RUSSIAN RIVER



# RECORDER



**HEALDSBURG MUSEUM & HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
*FALL 1991* *ISSUE 41*

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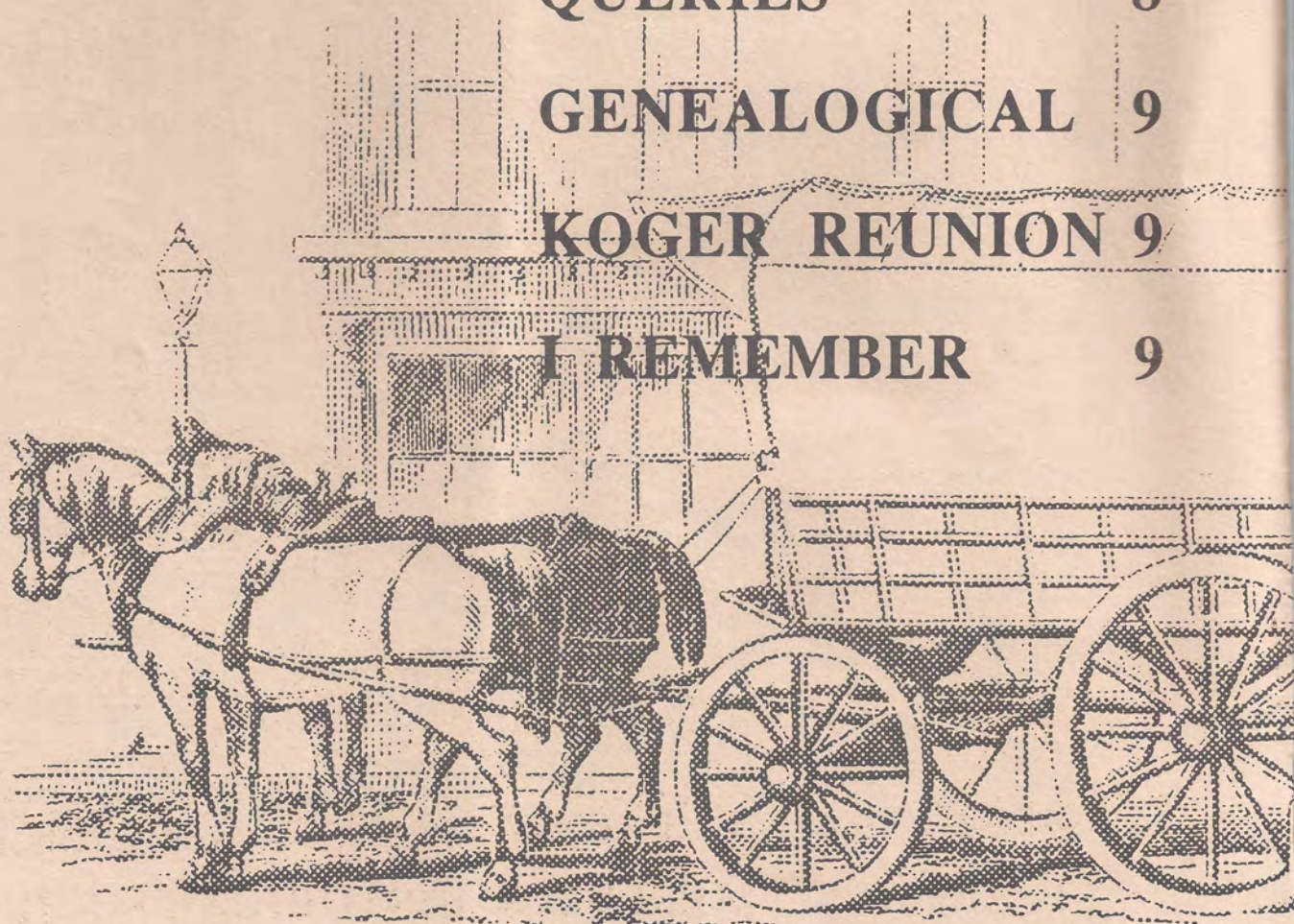
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# I WAS THERE

EVERETT IVERSEN



## WORLD'S RECORD HOLDER TOPPING THE BAR IN FINE FORM

Edward Beeson, the California man-on-springs, has just shattered all records for the running high jump. He cleared the bar at the remarkable height of 6 ft. 7 5/8 ins., breaking the record of 6 ft. 7 ins. held by George Horine. The above picture shows Beeson "rolling over" the handkerchief while making his wonderful jump.

I recently received a few copies of the Russian River Recorder, and I read with interest Alice Grove's article in the fall 1990 issue giving quotes from the Healdsburg Tribune and a mention of the merger of the two Healdsburg banks. Possibly you may be interested in a first-hand account as I was there when it took place.

When I was a senior at HHS in the class of '28, I planned to become a dentist as Dr. Eddie Beeson was my idol. He taught me a very little bit about dentistry and let me do some experimenting with false teeth in his office. Of course, you know that he held the world's highjump record at one time, and Guy Rose also had held the world's shotput record around the same time--quite something for such a small town to have two world champions.

After SRJC Mr. Joe Miller of the First National Bank persuaded me to try banking for a year, so I went to work for that bank as a bookkeeper. There went my career as a dentist.

At that time the bank issued its own paper currency, and I remember it came in big sheets; and I was allowed to take them to the

Healdsburg Tribune and cut the sheets into individual bills. Do any of you remember how large those old bills were? All the tellers then had not only paper currency but real gold and silver coins as well. Our salaries were paid to us in cash. No paychecks, no withholding, no Social Security; and, of course, my salary was so low I paid no income tax.

In addition to Mr. Miller, those connected with the First National Bank at that time were Dr. Weaver, Mr. Wattles, L. J. Hall, Pat Dennes, Bill York, Lydon Mothorn, Minna Hagstrom, Marian Auradou, August Wagele, and myself.

The consolidation did take place; and those I remember at the Bank of Italy at that time were George Warfield, Roy Haley, Elmer Sandborn, Frank Sillano, Ernie Demostene, and Evelyn Cerelli. Others who worked at the bank when I was there were Eleanor Richards, Gertrude Frey, and Ned Auradou.

In the early 30's we underwent the bank moratorium in which, after the closing, withdrawals were limited to very small amounts. It became illegal to own gold coins

except in small collections. We all took an across-the-board salary cut even though bank pay levels were extremely low. Also a one-week unpaid vacation was temporarily required.

The Warfields were close friends of Janet Baynor when she was in her heyday, and they introduced each one of us to her. That was a thrill.

A. P. Giannini came through on a loan inspection tour, and he met each of us individually. Several months later I was doing vacation relief work at the Geyserville branch when he walked in. He saw me and said, "Iversen, what are you doing here?" Image that. I was about as low on the totem pole as you can get, and yet he not only remembered my name but where I should have been as well. His memory was remarkable. Later I got to know him and his daughter Claire Giannini Hoffman, fairly well.

Despite what it said in the Tribune about no reduction in personnel because of the consolidation, the bank was substantially overstaffed; and some were encouraged to take transfers. A few voluntarily left to pursue other interests. At some point Mr. Miller became manager of B of A's Richmond branch. Gus Wagele first went to Cloverdale; and before moving to Germany to manage a subsidiary interest there, he became VP and statewide head of consumer loans. I took quite a few transfers which I shall not bore you with and finally spent the last 28 years at world headquarters where I retired in 1976 as executive VP responsible for all the bank's loans worldwide.

Those who chose not to accept transfers and instead chose to remain in Healdsburg and enjoy the fine quality of life there were undoubtedly the wiser ones. ∞∞∞∞



THERE WAS A DAY  
WHEN THE WHOLE  
STATE WAS ON FIRE

Does this recent Press Democrat headline sound familiar? It begins, "Is history supposed to repeat itself?" Supposed to or not, it frequently does. Here are some excerpts from old issues of the Tribune.

SEPTEMBER 28, 1945

Aided by a southeast wind Thursday, eleven houses were entirely destroyed on the east slope of Fitch Mountain by fire, which is said to have originated on the lot occupied by the Berghoff home about 2 pm, burning that house and sweeping up nearly to the top of the mountain taking every house and its contents in its path with the exception of the Lorraine McConough house.

It was but an hour after the fire first started until all the damage was done. In ruins are the homes of Beck, Albert Catana, Leland Stanford, P. Fratessa, A. Girtaner, Caroline Trotman, Charles Leoni, John Nelson, Rhode, McEvoy, and Donohue. All were furnished and were said to be occupied, though in many of them nobody was home at the time. (sic)

OCTOBER 5, 1945

After fighting fire under extreme difficulty for three days and nights, the grass and brush fire which swept through the thickly settled Camp Rose tract above the highway early Thursday afternoon of last week, destroying 11 summer and year-round houses, and on up the brushy mountain, was brought under control by crews of State Forestry rangers, soldiers from camps in the county, and a large number of volunteers from this vicinity, Saturday night.

Not since the start of WW II have there been so many fires in this area. (sic) ∞∞∞∞

SOCIETY NOTES  
FROM THE PRESIDENT

Phillip Smith

This year has been very busy for the society and satisfying as well. Our annual meeting was well attended, and the annual Preservation Award was introduced.

We were successful in our efforts to secure a favorable loan from the city of Healdsburg which enabled us to employ a part-time employee to assist the museum's curator. Additionally, proceeds from prior fundraising events permitted us to purchase and implement an excellent computer system which has also proven to be of great help to the curator (and a valuable tool for the society as well).

The Spring at Dinner Madrona Manor was a success both fiscally and socially, and will be repeated in 1992. The Zinfandel Hop, while not as financially successful as in the past, was well received by all who attended and will likewise be repeated in 1992.

Next September we will host the California Historical Society's northern regional meeting. This three-day event, attended by representatives from various historical societies throughout the state, will require a good deal of time and planning by all of us. Don't be surprised when you are called upon to lend a hand.

Normally our annual meeting is held in January. Since the museum is scheduled to open a new show the first week in February, the 1992 annual meeting will be held on Thursday, February 6, at the Senior Center. This will give you an opportunity to view the displays while they are still fresh, be present when the Preservation Award and citations are presented, hear a good speaker, attend the business meeting and elect officers, and potluck it with old friends.

My second term as president expires at the annual meeting. Therefore I'm taking this opportunity to thank all of you--members, officers, directors, committee chairs, and friends--for your help, support, and thoughtfulness during my tenure. It has been a pleasure to have worked with you. ∞∞∞∞

## ZIN HOP RAFFLE 1991-92

Norbert Babin

The Zinfandel Hop raffle was a success again this year. Congratulations to our winners Alice Grove of Healdsburg, Willis Hiatt of Citrus Heights, Bertha Baldwin of Pleasant Hill, and Marion Penry of Healdsburg. We are able to contribute a little more than \$2,000 to assist the museum in performing its services to the community.

Because our friend Felix Lafon so graciously provides us with the raffle tickets, and the prizes which are awarded are fully donated to the society (this year by Evans Ceramics and others), every dollar which we make on the sale of raffle tickets goes directly to the museum to defray expenses on items which make the museum an institution which makes us all very proud. Unlike many other good causes, you can be assured that your contribution goes directly to the cause--the improvement of the museum. I hope that all of you who buy raffle tickets understand that your contribution serves a worthwhile endeavor, and there is always a chance of winning a great prize.

In the past the raffle has provided the museum with a computer, and this year a video camera will be obtained with special facilities for reproducing documents and the like. We are working on a plan so that the computer can communicate with other museums and sources of information. It is certainly our hope that all of you will take the opportunity of visiting the museum and learning about all the services it provides for the benefit of individuals, companies, and the community.

I conclude this note by giving the initial pitch for your support for the 1992 Zinfandel Hop raffle. Hopefully we will be able to increase our contribution to the museum, as every dollar counts. While we have not decided on the prizes or the format for the raffle yet; as you all know, each of you will be receiving a letter from me in June or July of 1992 requesting your support for the raffle. Please keep in mind this upcoming request for your contribution to our museum. Please help.

∞∞∞∞

## PRESERVATION AWARDS

John Hoag

The nominations for the 1991 Healdsburg Preservation Awards in residential and commercial categories are being studied by the Preservation Awards Committee.

The selection committee is comprised of Dr. John Hoag, member of the society board of directors; Hannah Clayborn, museum curator; Jack Jones, designer; Rene Gumucio, architect; and John Taylor, member of the Planning Commission and owner of an historical residence. The nominated historical residences and commercial properties will be checked by the committee and building experts during the month of November.

This year there will also be awards for residences, not necessarily historic, which have been rejuvenated and maintained by individuals in such a way as to make Healdsburg a lovely residential community. The 1991 awards will be announced at the annual membership meeting of the society, scheduled in January, 1992.

∞∞∞∞

## THANK YOU

Thanks to the following businesses for their generous donations to the Zip Hop:

Mike's Produce, Healdsburg;  
Molsberry's Family Super, Healdsburg;  
Safeway, Healdsburg; Downtown Bakery and Creamery, Healdsburg; Costeaux French Bakery, Healdsburg; Franco-American Bakery, Santa Rosa; Vadnais DeLuxe Foods, Healdsburg; Perrier Group, Mesa Beverage Co., Santa Rosa; Clover Stornetta Farms, Petaluma; Shoffeit's Products Corp., Healdsburg; The Chocolate Rose, Rohnert Park; Peter Rabbit's Chocolate Factory, Santa Rosa; Consuming Passions, Santa Rosa; Pay Less, Healdsburg; Dry Creek Vineyard, Healdsburg; Lytton Springs Winery, Healdsburg; Quivera Vineyards, Healdsburg; Seghesio Winery, Healdsburg; Davis Bynum Winery, Healdsburg; Hop Kiln Winery, Healdsburg; Mendocino Brewing Co., Hopland

∞∞∞∞

## NEW MEMBERS

Betty Phillips Fulham  
Barbara Jason  
Sylvia Seventy



## SYMPATHY

Many of us watched and listened to the news of the terrible fire in Oakland, but when we learned that one of our former Healdsburg residents and member of the society had lost his beautiful home, saving nothing but his car; we were able to feel the real tragedy.

Dr. Donald Grant, you have our deepest sympathy. ∞∞∞∞

## MUSEUM NEWS

### DIRECTOR'S DESK

Hannah Clayborn

We have had a relatively quiet summer at the museum. As the quilt exhibit winds its way to a close, it still brings rave reviews from visitors.

Museum staff took advantage of the respite from the normally frenetic pace by spending a good amount of time redesigning our artifact cataloging systems to suit our new computer. We have become fairly proficient in computerese and find the new system a wonder and a great time saver after years of manual work. All of the publications which you receive from the museum (fliers, notices, etc.) are now done in-house on the Macintosh.

The new part-time employee hired by the society, Leslie Hawkins, has turned out to be a very valuable addition to our museum, and we hope she stays a long time. Leslie is a graduate in art history from UC Santa Cruz and hopes to eventually find a career in an auction house or a museum-related field.

As fall turns to winter, we now gear up for our busiest season of the year. We hope to see you at the museum at one or all of our upcoming events.

Hannah M. Clayborn; Director/Curator;  
Healdsburg Museum; Edwin Langhart,  
Founder; 221 Matheson Street; Healdsburg, CA  
95448; 707/431-3325 ∞∞∞∞

## FABULOUS FIFTIES TOYS CHRISTMAS EXHIBIT

It was a time when lumbering, bullet-shaped rocketships could confidently navigate the stars; when a little boy's best friend was a clanking robot named Robbie; when kids kept a lookout for a masked do-gooder, and an ear cocked for his trademark, Hi-ho, Silver! These images recall the fabulously inventive, yet innocent, toys of the 1950's. Now in its eleventh year, the Annual Christmas Toy Exhibit at the museum will take a nostalgic look at a relatively recent era, the first plastic decade.

This year rockets, planes, and cars of the 1950's are fin to fin in the museum's main gallery, competing for space with robots, chubby-cheeked dolls, and gorgeously restored classic bicycles. The birth of television is not forgotten as memorabilia from shows such as Zorro and The Lone Ranger surround a 1954 Philco. The museum is decked in appropriate fifties furniture and seasonal trimmings, including--what else--an aluminum Christmas tree. The museum gift shop offers historic Christmas items for sale, including reproduction toys, cards, and collector's editions of antique and collectible toy books.

Toys of the Fabulous Fifties will run from November 26 through January 12, 1992. The museum is open Tuesday through Sunday 12 to 5 p.m. except Christmas and New Year's Eve and Day. Admission is free, but donations are appreciated. Group tours are available by calling 431-3325. ∞∞∞∞

## ENGINES IN AGRICULTURE

Plans for our spring, 1992 exhibit are progressing nicely. This photo essay and exhibit describing the effect of the steam and gasoline engine on local agriculture promises to be a fascinating study. Space limitations in our rotating gallery necessitated the use of some scale models of gasoline-powered farm machinery, but these scale models (made by the Early Day Gas Engines Club of California) are works of art in themselves.

This exhibit opens February 4, and will run through May 3, 1992. ∞∞∞∞

## DESPERATELY SEEKING PARTY ANIMALS

The museum board of trustees is planning a new annual fundraiser for the museum. Preliminary plans now call for an elegant dinner ball to be held sometime in the month of February, 1993. We need people to help plan and put on this ball. Hopefully this dinner ball will become one of the most imaginative and elegant events in the county, so now is the time for all good partiers to come to the aid of their museum by calling 431-3324! ∞∞∞∞

## ARTIFACT DONATIONS

The following generous people have donated artifacts to the museum collection since our last publication:

Beverly Pillsburg, Dr. and Mrs. Nicholas Grace, Amy Neel Gordon, Gertrude Hendricks, Margaret C. Brown, Jim Smith, Carol Ann McDaniel, Timothy J. Reese, Keith Lampson, Robert Taylor, Clarence Brockman, Ed Iddings, Rosinda Holmes ∞∞∞∞

## GIFT SHOP

Eleanor Zak

At this time of writing, I find it hard to even think of the holiday season. November, so far, is simply glorious. With guilty feelings, I'm enjoying this weather to the fullest.

Since my pet project is the gift shop, I must say a few words to entice you to visit as the holidays approach. Beginning in November the shelves of the shop will be filled with all types of toys, books, paper dolls, coloring books, and cards appropriate for gifts to your favorite friends and family. I encourage you to come and browse the fine selection of items. All proceeds of the gift shop are used for the benefit of the museum, which in turn comes back to you the Healdsburg community.

In closing I might add the gift shop does have some items on sale. The quilt books have been reduced in price with the closing of the quilt show.

A merry Christmas to all of you. ∞∞∞∞

## DOCENTS

Carol Clark

On September 28 the museum volunteers were given a lovely appreciation luncheon by the society. Mr. and Mrs. James Walters hosted the luncheon at their beautiful home in Dry Creek Valley. Most of the volunteers were able to attend this truly delightful event which we hope will be the first annual affair.

Some of the volunteers recently attended training sessions given by Hannah to learn to index copies of old newspapers. The purpose of indexing is to add more information to the museum's research files. We will also have a short training session when the Christmas toy display is in place.

We are always looking for new volunteers, so if you have an extra afternoon a month and would like to spend it meeting people and supporting our museum; stop in the museum and leave your name. ∞∞∞∞



## QUERIES

The museum has received a request for information about the Dunne family which came to Healdsburg about 1850. John and his wife apparently farmed in the Dry Creek Valley. Their son Edmund became a lawyer, as did another son. Two daughters became Ursuline nuns in Ohio.

If you have knowledge of this family, please phone the museum at 431-3325.

Also, does anyone out there know why the Oriental School was called Oriental? We're waiting at the museum for the answer. Please call us at 431-3325 if you know. ∞∞∞∞



## GENEALOGICAL

Was your family here in Sonoma County in 1890? If you had relatives living in Sonoma County in 1890, you can help the Sonoma County Genealogical Society with its reconstruction of the 1890 federal census for Sonoma County. The society is attempting to identify all Sonoma County residents of that year. Almost the entire federal census for 1890 was destroyed by fire, leaving a gap which is extremely frustrating to genealogical researchers.

Any of the following information you can provide will be appreciated:

Your relative's name, sex, age, place of residence, birthplace, occupation, date and place of naturalization (if not born in the US)

Please forward your information to Sonoma County Genealogical Society, Project 1890, Post Office Box 2273, Santa Rosa, CA 95405-0273. Be sure to include your own name and address or phone number. ∞∞∞∞

## KOGER REUNION

We would like to alert Koger descendants of the Dry Creek, Healdsburg, area to the first family reunion which will be held in California next June.

Perhaps a note in your local publication would alert descendants of the Cornelius Bice family, including members of Grover, Sargent, Bell, Likins, Dillingham, Stapp, Soules, Stine, and Curtis families to mention a few.

In the past reunions have been held in Iowa, Missouri, Kansas, Virginia, and Kentucky.

James Koger, author of Kogers in America, who is in his nineties, and who keeps track of all major family members, will be present. He is eager to meet all William Koger's descendants.

Betty Sargent Neill (GGGG granddaughter of William Koger and GGG granddaughter of Cornelius Bice), 2769 21st Street, Sacramento, CA 95818 ∞∞∞∞

## I REMEMBER

Cecil Petray

### 1906

I remember the terrible rumble of the 1906 earthquake. As the tremor came and went by the house, the noise sounded like a high-speed train passing.

### 1908

My mother received her diploma from a correspondence school, having passed tests in taxidermy. As far as I know, she was the first woman taxidermist in Sonoma County. She developed a profitable business in stuffed deer heads mounted on a plaque, making buckskin from deer hides, tanning large hides with the hair for floor rugs, and stuffing small animals and one quite large sturgeon.

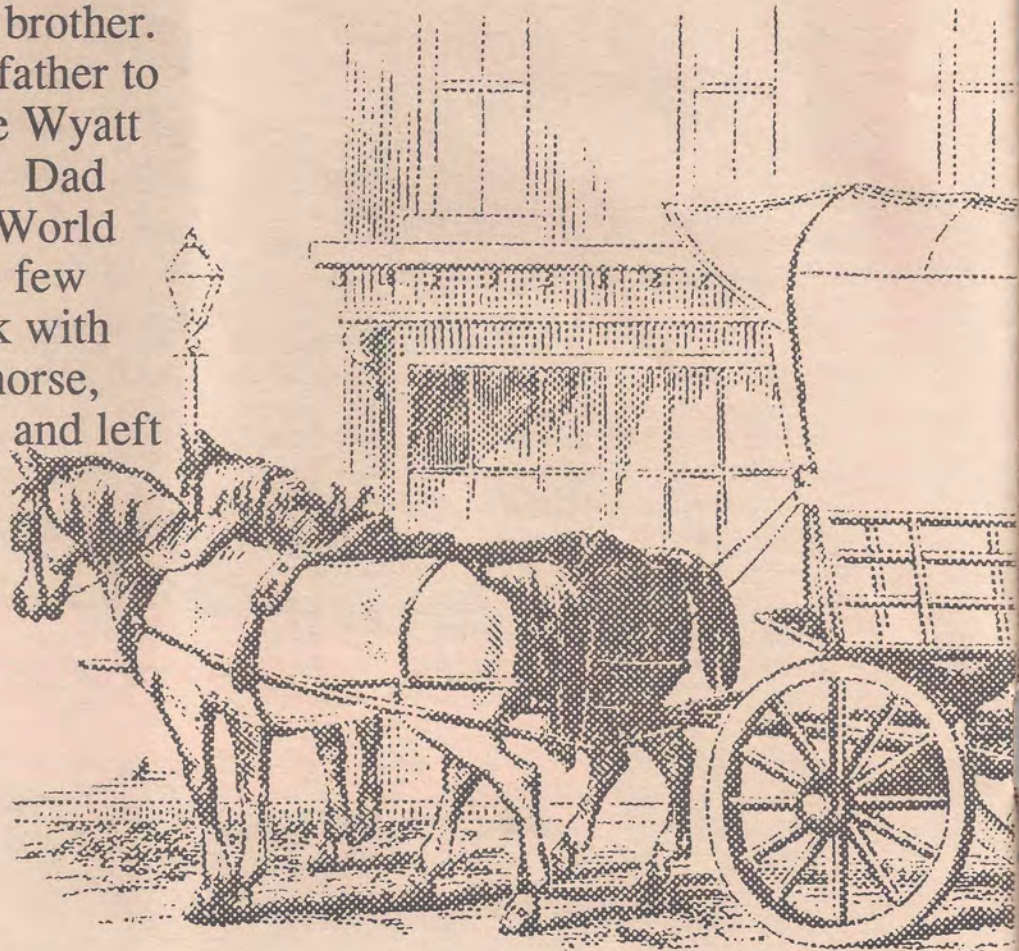
We lived on a ranch in the country, and my father worked for the County Road Commission part time. He

would leave before daylight in the morning and arrive home after dark at night. For the use of two horses, one wagon, and his labor, he received \$2.50 per day.

## 1910

In the northeast part of Healdsburg, at the home of a family named Worlds, I was swinging in the apple tree when I saw this old man cripple out to the outhouse. He was Wyatt Earp's brother. They had wanted my father to take care of him while Wyatt had a small job to do. Dad couldn't do it, so the World family kept him. In a few days Wyatt came back with two bodies tied on a horse, picked up his brother, and left town.

I remember Halley's Comet showing clearly in the night sky. I remember going into Healdsburg in the bed of a wagon, always seeing people at Kuck's Corner where the road goes into Alexander Valley, stopping at the Cerri and Maggenti Store across the street from the old Safeway store to buy imported Swiss cheese. I remember Lincoln Beachey flying the first plane to the Cloverdale Citrus Fair.



My father tells of the last grizzly bear killed in this area. Dogs bayed the bear in the roots of an oak tree in front of the Oriental schoolhouse. A Mr. Smith came with a muzzle loading rifle, waited until the bear growled at the dogs, and shot the bear in the mouth, killing him with one shot.

Geyserville was quite a rough town in the early days, three hotels, five saloons, one poolhall, two blacksmith shops, one butcher shop, and two combination grocery and hardware stores.

The story goes that on Sundays most of the men gathered in town for drinking, horseplay, and swapping stores. This Sunday a dog fight started; when over, there were five men laying in the street with gunshot wounds.

∞∞∞∞

## STAFF

Verna Lafon

Curt Sloan



## ENGINES IN AGRICULTURE

Opens February 4  
Healdsburg  
Museum