

RUSSIAN RIVER



R E C O R D E R



The Magnolia Cannery, Circa 1888

Canneries

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Of Special Interest

EXHIBITS

Coming soon to the Healdsburg Museum

An exhibit highlighting the history of Healdsburg's Schools. One-room school houses, old curriculums, and school memorabilia will be explored.

Watch for "School Days" in Healdsburg, this Spring at the Museum.

Recorder Staff

Editor: Darla Meeker

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Gift Problems?

Having trouble deciding what to buy that special person this Christmas? Come by our Museum gift shop.

We feature:

- Sterling silver jewelry made by a Pomo Indian artist
- Many assorted books
- Children's toys
- Antique replica jewelry
- Paper dolls dressed in historical costumes
- And much more!

Healdsburg Historical Society

Ed Langhart, Founder

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Staff

Claire Rithner 431-3325
(Assistant Curator)

MUSEUM NEWS

Claire Rithner

This has been a difficult, but busy summer at the museum. I can not say enough to express my thanks to the Museum and, Historical Society Board members, as well as to the many other faithful volunteers, who have helped guide me through this transition period. I am constantly amazed by what a team effort this museum really is, and at the hundreds of volunteer hours so many dedicated people give to it.

For my first official project, I decided to attempt an inventory of the museum's artifacts. This, like all such undertakings, was started with naive enthusiasm, since the duration of such a project could be endless. However, with the help of several very dedicated volunteers, slowly, but surely, each artifact is being listed and will eventually be entered into a database on the museum's computer for easier access. We are constantly astounded by the many lovely and interesting items which are held in the collection. If you are interested in helping document our treasures, please call me at 431-3325.

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

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------|
| Eleanor Zak | Muriel Nesbitt |
| Rollo E. Darby | June Smith |
| Dan Zastrow | Jeff Spingola |
| Elaine Foppiano | Marie Sparks |
| Gabe Fraire | Lori Brown |
| Marie Shelton | George Greeott |
| Dick De Geus | Pat Retana |
| Healdsburg Senior Center | |



Museum Fills with Toys of Christmas Past

Hannah Clayborn

For hundreds of years children have awakened with joy on Christmas morning to find gifts waiting for them under the tree. Scattered among the boring socks and books were usually a few treasured items, wonderful new toys which helped make the day so glamorous. The exhibit galleries of the Healdsburg Museum are now filled with those joyful children's delights, antique and collectible toys and dolls, some of which have survived 150 Christmas mornings.

Featured this year are many kinds of toy stage sets, a classic general store from the 1880's, a British Military fort from the 1930's, a prize-winning Victorian doll house, and a charmingly unique doll house handmade from orange crates for a lucky little girl in the 1930's. As always, an exquisite collection of dolls are arrayed, including old china head dolls with leather

bodies, bisque head dolls with human hair, celluloid and composition dolls from the 1920's and 1930's including, "Scarlett O'Hara" dolls by Madame Alexander from the movie *Gone With The Wind*.

"Frontier Justice"

Peggy Rawlins, Museum Trustee

Gaye LeBaron intrigued and fascinated her audience of appreciative Healdsburg Museum supporters on November 5th with a wide range of tidbits in the life and times of Sonoma County. The Museum Trustees fund-raiser dinner was a success by all counts.

Sonoma County was settled by Yankee traders and Rebel frontiersmen. The land around Sebastopol and the Russian River was an area of Confederates from Missouri, Kentucky and Tennessee. Petaluma and Sonoma were Yankee strongholds populated by merchants from the East Coast.

After the Civil War, there was an active group in the Russian River Valley called the "Knights of the Gold Cross," better known as the Ku Klux Klan. As late as 1922, there were reports of 50 fiery crosses burning on Petaluma Hill Road.

Meanwhile, in 1920, when two telephone company girls were raped in San Francisco. Sheriff Petrie and two detectives came to Sonoma County looking for the culprits. The men accused of the crime shot and killed the Sheriff. The murderers were later taken from jail by vigilantes and hanged.

Then, in the 1940's, that "very nice businessman", Vincent Rossi, planned a casino at the Villa Chanticleer. Instead, the former Al Capone bodyguard was discovered murdered in the trunk of a car before his plans for the Villa were realized.

Such was frontier justice in Sonoma County, according to Gaye LeBaron.

From the Recorder's Desk

This issue contains the first article to be researched and written by the Museum's new curator, Claire Rithner. It also marks a change in editorial staff. After providing Recorder readers with many fascinating articles about Healdsburg's colorful past, Verna Lafon has passed on the quill and scroll to us, while continuing to serve as a volunteer for numerous other Museum and Historical Society activities. Thank you, Verna.

Upcoming Recorder articles will feature one-room schoolhouses in the outlying Healdsburg area. If you have information, photos or anecdotes to share, please write or call the Museum, so that we may give Recorder readers an accurate and interesting account of these historic schoolhouses.

Celebrations

Surprise your family and/or friends with a birthday or anniversary greeting printed in the Russian River Recorder. With this issue we are introducing a new feature to make it easy and fun to remember special occasions. With a donation of \$5 or more to the Healdsburg Museum and Historical Society your (short) message to a friend or loved one will be printed in the R.R.R. Send your check in time for the next issue. The deadline is March 1, 1994.

Join the fun and honor a friend in the Celebrations column.

- *Happy Birthday to Grant Canfield from his family*
- *Welcome home, Gloria and Jim Cameron*
- *Happy 27th Birthday, Tom Cooper*
- *In celebration of Marion S. Murhamer's 100th birthday*
- *Happy 50th Anniversary, Pat and Don Schmidt*

Healdsburg's Cannery Row:

An overview, 1890-1920

Claire Rithner

Although most people think of Healdsburg as "wine country," at one time it was a very integral part of California's canned food and fruit packing industry. Healdsburg's rich soil and strategic location on the Northern Pacific Railroad line and close proximity to the ports of Oakland and San Francisco made it an excellent area for the processed food industry to develop.

Nationally, the Civil War encouraged the spread of the canned food industry as both sides attempted to find a way to feed their troops. Canneries emerged in the Northern states to fill the large orders of the Union Army. However, the war interrupted the productivity and shipping lines of the eastern canning establishments, helping to foster the industry on the west coast.

By the 1870's, California farmers were realizing the uniqueness and fertility of the climate and soil nature provided them. Many began planting fruit orchards in place of the familiar wheat crops of the Midwest. The incredible productivity of these crops made fruit canning almost a necessity in order to absorb the huge

amount of excess produce. The coming of the transcontinental railroad made it possible to ship these various fruits, both canned and fresh, to distant parts of the country. By the turn of the Century, fruit and vegetable processing was the second largest industry in California.¹

The first cannery north of Petaluma was established in Windsor in 1886. In Healdsburg, canneries and food packing plants began popping up in the late 1880s. By 1890, Healdsburg had three fruit processing plants: The Magnolia Cannery, Van Alen Cannery, and Russian River Packing Company. Up through the nineteen-twenties, many different plants developed over the years. Most of them were clustered along the railroad tracks since locating there was strategic for shipping. Healdsburg shipped thousands of cases of fruit and vegetables to the East Coast and Midwest, as well as over-seas to Europe and Australia.

Healdsburg citizens had a lot enthusiasm for their canneries. From 1890-1920, they were considered one of the most important industries in the area. The Tribune proudly proclaimed that Russian River Valley fruit was considered just as good as San Jose's Golden Gate Brand by East Coast buyers.² Because of the great many jobs seasonally provided by the canneries (some



Magnolia Cannery (circa 1888)

employed as many as 400-500 workers) and the capital those employment opportunities provided, they were regarded very favorably. Sometimes socials and parties were given by cannery owners at the end of the season to help foster good feelings for next year. In 1888, T.S. Merchant, the owner of the Magnolia Cannery, gave a large dance party for his workers and the business community; an invitation to this affair was highly coveted!³



The Van Alen Cannery (circa 1887)

As was typical of cannery communities in California, some of the plants in Healdsburg were corporately owned, while others were owned by a single individual or by a group of farmers who were trying to cut out the middle men. Healdsburg Canning Company was owned by the largest canning corporation in the state, the California Fruit Canner's Association (CFCA), which later became California Packing Corporation, and more recently changed its name to its product name, Del Monte. Healdsburg Canning Company was located on Matheson Street right next to the train depot.

Another long running and successful cannery was the Enterprise. Started by Pete Dirvin with his wife and three employees in 1897, he gradually made a name for

himself locally and expanded from his home spun "Dirvin Cannery" to the much larger Enterprise. Enterprise was unique in that it offered canning services to individual families who didn't want to go through the laborious process of preserving their own excess fruits and vegetables. No doubt many a Healdsburg housewife praised the Enterprise Cannery each winter as she reached for her homegrown, but professionally packed, peaches and tomatoes.

Tension between growers and cannery owners was sometimes high. Growers angered canners by bringing unsuitable produce which was not fit to sell as fresh, but was equally unsuitable for canning. Growers and canners each thought the other asked unreasonably low or high (depending on who was buying and selling!) prices. In 1893, Van Alen Cannery refused to open its doors due to what they considered unreasonably high prices charged by the growers. Van Alen was owned by W.F. Beck & Company of San Francisco. This company operated three other canneries besides the one in Healdsburg. They claimed that shipping fees out of Healdsburg made the overhead of this cannery particularly high, making it necessary for them to get a cheaper rate on the produce. The Tribune sometimes felt it necessary to encourage growers and canners to work together. In 1899, an article stated; "If the canner will remember that the grower must live, and should also put something aside for a rainy day; if the grower will remember that of every dollar's worth of canned goods packed not over 25 per cent represents fruit...there should be no trouble in canner and grower working harmoniously..."⁴

Inside the canneries, work hours were long and the conditions were often harsh. Because of the rush of the season, workers were often asked to stay evenings and nights to get the fruit processed as



Workers at the Magnolia Cannery (circa 1888)

quickly as possible. Sometimes operators stood in water which collected from the processing, and chairs were a luxury.

Since most of the food operatives were not employed at the canneries for the entire year, the plants had to recruit workers each season. Some of the canneries needed hundreds of workers at the peak of the "pack" season. Each year, local papers were filled with pleas for more food operatives to help at the plants.⁵ Although migrant labor was used in Healdsburg food processing plants, many people felt it preferable to use local women and girls for the fruit preparation. Community-based plants such as the Magnolia Cannery understood that hiring "Healdsburg First" encouraged community support for its product and business and kept money within the town.⁶ Classism also played a role to discourage outside help. In 1906, the Tribune's usual cannery update carried a plea for local people to help process the incoming produce, "Everyone who possibly can should give their help as it offers good remuneration and obviates the necessity of bringing in a class of labor which often later becomes a care on the community and is largely of undesirable personnel." At least as far as the Tribune was concerned, Healdsburg should remain untainted by migrant labor. However, by 1920, the Enterprise reported that the Healdsburg Packing Corporation had built several

cottages across the railroad tracks from their plant in order to house the "transient" laborers they employed.⁷

In canneries throughout California, women constituted the majority of the food operatives. Most of them were young women and girls who worked at the plants to earn extra money prior to marriage. The Tribune even bragged one year that all the women handling the fruit at the Galloway Brother's packing house were "young ...and handsome." However, some women did work in the canneries after they had married and had children. At one point, a child care center (They referred to it as a "kindergarten") operated to care for the laborer's children. This "kindergarten" accepted infants as well as older children.⁸

Workers were paid by the "piece," which meant their earning capacity depended on how many peaches they sliced, or plums they pitted. In 1917, workers made approximately ten dollars per week. Despite the labor shortages, strikes, work stoppages, and slow downs appear to have been rare in Healdsburg. With the exception of one strike in 1900, in which the workers won a concession from management for a raise from ten cents a box to twelve, workers in Healdsburg seem to have been fairly docile. This was not uncommon for canneries of the early part of the Twentieth Century. Most of them did not begin to unionize until after they were



Canning Peaches in Healdsburg (circa 1900)

mechanized, which took place in the late twenties and early thirties.⁹

Once canneries began mechanizing their equipment, a trend toward urbanization of them developed. The expensive equipment encouraged the growth of larger canneries, which sought to extend their canning season as long as they possibly could in order to use their machinery for as long as they possibly could each year. This fact hurt rural communities such as Healdsburg as centralized, urban canneries began drawing produce from a wide area.

Gradually, in the 1930's, Healdsburg's canneries declined. Plants which had been institutions within Healdsburg's economy for decades began closing their doors for good. In 1934, the *Enterprise* wrote a short history of canneries in Healdsburg, wistfully looking back to the days when jobs at the canneries were available to all and any who desired them.¹⁰ Certainly, this was a time not so far in the past, but one which would never come again. This industry, like so many others, had moved to the urban centers; but for a time Healdsburg residents could brag that they canned the best produce in the world. And many did, to all who would listen.

Footnotes

¹ Vicki L. Ruiz, *Cannery Women, Cannery Lives: Mexican Women, Unionization, and the California Food Processing Industry, 1930-1950*, Albuquerque: University of New Mexico, 1987, p.22.

² Healdsburg Tribune, December 28, 1899, 13:5.

³ Healdsburg Enterprise, October 3, 1888, 3:4.

⁴ Sonoma County Tribune, August 10, 1893, 2:3; Jos. T. Brooks; "Forty Cents to the Grower," *Sunsweet Standard*, vol. 7:4 (September, 1923), p. 7. For quote see: Healdsburg Tribune, December 28, 1899, 13:5.

⁵ See, for example: Healdsburg Tribune, July 19, 1900, 1:4 and June 21, 1906, 1:1; Healdsburg Enterprise, October 13, 1917, 1:3; Sonoma County Tribune, August 11, 1892, 3:4.

⁶ Healdsburg Enterprise, December 5, 1888, 2:2.

⁷ Healdsburg Tribune, June 21, 1906, 1:1; Healdsburg Enterprise, July 31, 1920, 1:2. See also: Gabriel A. Fraire, *I Remember ...Healdsburg: Histories of the Healdsburg area as remembered by local residents*, Healdsburg: 1993, pp.45-46.

⁸ Healdsburg Tribune, October 13, 1898, 1:1; Sonoma County Tribune, July 16, 1891, 3:4.

⁹ Martin Brown and Peter Philips, "The Decline of Piece Rates in California Canneries: 1890-1960," *Industrial Relations*, Vol. 25:1, (Winter 1986), p. 87.

¹⁰*Ibid.*, p.85; Healdsburg Enterprise, May17,1934,4:4.

Autumn Fest A Winner

Phil Smith

The Society's Fall fundraiser had a new name and venue and a pleasant result: fun for the participants, financially successful for the Healdsburg Museum. Autumn Fest (nee Zinfandel Hop) was held in early October at Mr. and Mrs. Staten's Field Stone Winery in Alexander Valley on a warm Sunday afternoon and earned more than \$4,200, while grossing approximately \$6,500.

'90 Petite Sirah, '91 Zinfandel, '89 Cabernet Sauvignon, '92 Gewurztraminer and '91 Chardonnay poured by Field Stone, beer and ale (Red Tail) donated by the Mendocino Brewing Company and soft drinks donated by the Calistoga Water Company complemented the hors d'oeuvres and other food from Costeaux Bakery.

Along with the quantity of food served from Costeaux's, Food Chairman Ellie Zak enlisted Chefs Marny and Bill Caldwell, Mary Jane Garrett, Susan Bierwirth, Ginny Canfield, Judy Babin and Fern Naber to provide more. The Caldwells, Judy Babin, Thelma Frey and Peggy Rawlins kept the food table attractively and well stocked throughout the event.

The palate and stomach were not the only body parts pandered to. The Carl Vast Group catered to the ear with a very listenable selection of music.

A silent auction, arranged and coordinated by Verna Lafon, contributed in excess of \$1,500 to this year's earnings. In addition to the many item donors, Verna was assisted by Betsy and John Bippart, Fern and Fred Naber, June Smith, June and Bob Jones, and Roberta Alexander.

Two last-minute donations, a magnum of Cabernet from Field Stone and a gift certificate from Madrona Manor, prompted

a brief but spirited live auction, and added dollars to the coffer as well.

Norb Babin ran his annual raffle and at the same time helped support the post office and paper industry. Norb's efforts generated in excess of \$1,400, thanks in no small part to his personal donation and the fact that a couple of winners donated their winnings back to the Museum.

A very special thanks to Judy Babin for taking care of decorations, Felix Lafon for providing the tickets at this own expense, Temple Smith for handling the "door", Michael Lovett of Mendocino Brewing Company, Roger Hull, Manager of Field Stone Winery, Bob Pusey of Calistoga Water, Carol and John Muir for hosting committee meetings for the seventh or eight straight year at Madrona Manor (a perk if anyone wants to be on the Autumn Fest committee in '94), curator Claire Rithner for administrative assistance, and all the Historical Society's members and friends who purchased tickets thereby supporting the event.

We thank these donors for a successful silent auction at this year's Autumn Fest:

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| Roberta Alexander | Rena Phillips |
| Bessie Cunningham | Eleanor Zak |
| Barbaar Beeson | Zelma Ratchford |
| Ethel Eggert | Ginny Canfield |
| Nancy Baker | Verna Lafon |
| Dorothy Dessmeyer | Susan Bierworth |
| Bob & Frances Rithner | Rhea Bain |
| Nancy Bauer | Melinda Hill |
| June Smith | John Cross |
| Gaye LeBaron | Bank of America |
| Healdsburg Nursery | Samba Java |
| Vadnais Deluxe Foods | Toyon Books |
| Tzabaco Clothing | Downtown Bakery |
| Bistro Ralph | Aonymous |
| | Healdsburg General Hospital |

President's Address

Bill Caldwell

Dear Members,

Time is flying by rapidly, and the end of the year is coming quickly. Some important events are before us. The Christmas Antique Toy Show will open November 24. A special reception for members and friends will be held December 1, from 5 to 7 p.m.,. Our annual meting will be held January 27, 1994.

We are really excited about the Christmas Antique Toy Show being prepared by Hannah Clayborn, Claire Rithner and Elaine Maryse Solari. It is going to be bigger and better than the previous shows. The toy show draws a tremendous number of visitors, both local and out of town. The reception is a time when we can enjoy the show in the evening with refreshments and a time to fellowship with each other and get into the Christmas spirit.

We are looking forward to our annual meeting. We will be electing officers and board members, enjoying a delicious pot luck dinner, and listening to and viewing an interesting program. The program for our annual meeting will be presented by Earl Osborn, former principal of Healdsburg High School. The subject is the prison of war camp located in Windsor on Windsor Road, about one half mile east of Eastside Road during World War II. Earl worked at the camp assigning prisoners to work on ranchers in the Windsor-Healdsburg area. A short documentary video produced by Channel 50 featuring local people will be the center of the presentation. It is entitled, "The Enemy Lived Next Door."

Our nominating committee has made the following recommendations for officers and board members next year.

- President: Norbert Babin
- Vice President: John Cross
- Recording Secretary: Phil Smith
- Correspondence Secretary: Fern Naber
- Treasurer: Richard Iverson
- Board Member for two year terms: Verna Lafon, Don Reukema, Eleanor Zak, Thelma Frey, Peggy Rawlins, and Betsy Bippart
- Board members for one year terms: Susan Bierwirth, Ginny Canfield, June Smith, Darla Meeker, and Bob Curtis.

Of course additional nominations can be made from the floor at the meeting. I will remain on the board as past president for two years.

I'm looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the above events. I have been honored and have enjoyed being your president these two years.

If you need a ride to any Museum events, please call 431-3325

Welcome: New Members

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| Virginia Prince | Mrs. Lani Stites |
| Mary Wright | Barbara Young |
| Alan Zimmerman | Kara Naber |
| Margaret Frampton | Dorothy Dissmeyer |
| Leandro and Mary Jeanne Lewis | |
| Gabriel Fraire and family | |
| Finigan Financial Services | |
| Bank of America | |

Memorial Donations

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| In Memory of: | Donor |
| Kirt Zimmerman | Bernice Auradou |
| Kirt Zimmerman | Bill Auradou |
| Cleone Stevens Tilley | Irene & Keith Lampson |
| Cleone Stevens Tilley | Don & Leonida Frediani |
| Cleone Stevens Tilley | Renata Gasperi |
| Cleone Stevens Tilley | Marjorie W. Reynolds |
| Cleone Stevens Tilley | Rhea Bain |
| Bera Beeson | H. Donald Grant |

Contributors Honored

On September 21, 1993, the Historical Society hosted a reception at the Museum honoring those who contributed to the Curator's Fund. Individual donations ranging from \$10 to \$5,000 totaled over \$25,000. Supporters from as far away as Florida and New Jersey added to the Fund as well as those from many communities around the Bay Area.

Nearly 50 members enjoyed wines donated by Riverside Farm, Domaine St. Georges, Simi, Chateau Souverain and Rodney Strong. Society President Bill Caldwell welcomed the members and thanked them for their generosity. Museum Board Chairman Rhea Bain added her thanks to the many contributors who made it possible to keep the Museum open.

Progress Report on Museum Transition Plan

Grant Canfield

On October 4 the Historical Society's transition committee met with the Healdsburg City Council to review a proposal to transfer the administration of the city's Healdsburg Museum, Edwin Langhart Founder, to the Healdsburg Historical Society. Because of a shortfall in city revenues, the Council concluded that it would be necessary to curtail the city's support of the Museum thus eliminating the position of curator. In the proposal presented by the Historical Society, most of the Museum's expenses, including operational and salary costs, would be carried by the Society. Routine maintenance, utilities and insurance would continue to be provided or paid for by the city. The museum building, the collection, and improvements would continue as the property of the city.

Some of the other provisions include the transfer of funds accumulated in the

Museum account to the Historical Society for the establishment of an endowment fund and the waiver of an account due the city.

Under the reorganization, the present Museum Board would be dissolved and the Historical Society's Board would become the sole governing body of the museum. Current Museum Board Trustees Peggy Rawlins and Thelma Frey would join the Historical Society Board upon revision of the existing by-laws to accommodate additional members.

Following the working meeting with the City Council, the Mayor requested that the proposal move ahead as soon as possible. The Historical Society will be represented in the negotiations with the city by Mark Gladden, Esq., who is providing his services to the Society on a pro-bono basis.

Gift Shop

Eleanor Zak

"Tis' the season to be jolly" -- an often heard phrase in the festive season we anticipate each year. I hope you take an opportunity to see the museum Christmas show and, by all means, browse a bit in the gift shop. This year we have the addition of sterling silver jewelry made by local Native American craftsmen. Hopefully, you will find an interesting gift item for that special person on your list. All proceeds from the gift shop go directly to benefit the Museum and the community

Healdsburg Museum - Docent Report

Susan Bierwirth

Although the docents at the front desk are the most visible volunteers to the average Museum visitor, the contribution of the office volunteers is essential to the maintenance of the Museum. June Smith coordinates the activities of these docents and spends one day a week at the Museum.

June has been volunteering at the Museum for nearly a decade. She researchers and answers a variety of phone and mail queries on Healdsburg history.

Another of our long-term Museum volunteers is Lola Ann Boring. Lola Ann has been working on the newspaper indexing project one morning a week for a number of years. Two new volunteers have recently joined the office staff. Katherine Popich has undertaken an inventory of the Museum's collections. Through her weekly efforts, we will have a listing of our objects and artifacts as well as a notion of where they are stored. Catherine Curtis has recently started at the Museum as a volunteer. She will assist with the newspaper indexing project. Although these women do most of the volunteer office work, docents from the gift shop take work upstairs in the Museum or give extra time to help with exhibits and research.

Thanks to the efforts of Betsy Bippart, Museum docents and volunteers will have more social and educational events this year - perhaps even a Docent Guild. Up until now, the annual fall luncheon put on by the Healdsburg Historical Society has been the beginning and end of the docent social calendar. Betsy was inspired to plan a pot-luck luncheon at her home for November 16th. This and other events will help to bring our docents into a more cohesive and productive body, benefitting the docents and the Museum. Call the Museum at 431-3325 for further details or to volunteer.

The Curator Fund

- The Final Report - The Good News

Robert C. Babin

When the Healdsburg City Council voted on June 21, 1993, to eliminate the position of Museum Curator as a paid city employee effective July 1, 1993, the appeal went out to the members

of the Healdsburg Museum and Historical Society, Edwin Langhart Founder, for contributions to the Curator Fund. The plan was to attempt to raise \$25,000, which would allow the Museum to remain open at least until July, 1994, with the hope that we could obtain that amount of money by August 1, 1993, which would then mean that the Museum would be without a Curator for only a period of a month or so. During the month without a Curator, it was assumed that Claire Rithner, the part-time assistant paid by the Healdsburg Museum and Historical Society, would be able to keep the Museum open and operating on a part-time basis. It was hoped that Hannah Clayborn, who had been employed by the City of Healdsburg as Curator for several years, and, who was very much in the forefront of having the City acquire the old Carnegie Library building for purposes of use as a Museum facility, and for the obtaining of donated funds for the necessary conversion of that building into our Museum, could and would stay on as the Curator, not as a City employee, but as a person who would be paid out of monies generated by the Curator Fund drive.

The good news is that the Museum has remained open for the same hours that it has been over the past year, and we were able to raise a little more than \$25,000. Although it did take slightly more than the five (5) week time limit originally proposed. Unfortunately, with having no funds to pay for a Curator for a month, and with the generation of a fund which represented only a portion of her former salary as a City employee, the Museum Board (the City's designated Museum manager) and the Healdsburg Museum and Historical Society did not feel that they were in a position to offer Hannah Clayborn the job as Curator. However, everyone who has known of the great job that she had done, was extremely pleased to learn that Hannah was doing consulting work for

other museums and setting out on a new career path as a consultant in the area of history, research, and museum operations.

In fact, having reached the Curator Fund goal, the Healdsburg Museum and Historical Society, Edwin Langhart Founder, has increased the hours and wages of Claire Rithner at the request of the Museum Board, and she has been designated as our Curator. A portion of the Curator Fund money is being used to pay Claire's wages. However,, in order to insure that our Museum continues to be the recognized cultural institution that it has become, and again at the request of the Museum Board, the Historical society has agreed to use a portion of the funds from the Curator Fund to engage the services of Hannah Clayborn, as an independent contractor, to coordinate and put on the Christmas exhibit at the Museum.

Therefore, your donations to the Curator

Fund are being used as effectively as possible to keep the Museum open and operating in a way that it will continue to be the greatest possible service to the community.

Another article in this edition of the Russian River Recorder will outline the plans of the Healdsburg Museum and Historical Society, Edwin Langhart Founder. We need to progress forward, and we look for your suggestions on the manner and means to be utilized when the Society assumes the responsibility for the operation and management of our Museum from the City and the Museum Board.

Finally, I would like to thank you all for your understanding, concerns, and financial contributions to the Curator Fund. Because of you, the Museum will thrive and the history of the Healdsburg area will be gathered and preserved for the future generations.