



RUSSIAN RIVER RECORDER



*Dolls-Dionne Quintuplets in swing and Shirley Temple.
(Courtesy of Mary Lou McClaughey)*

Antique and Collectible Toys A World of Wonder

*They tell the story of civilization
in miniature ...*

1906 Earthquake Community Cohesion in the Face of Calamity



*The Gobbi Building located at 314 Center Street.
(Photo from Museum's archives, donated by Jack Recyca)*

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- R. S. Logan, Healdsburg's "other" Civil War Hero
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- Healdsburg's Hazel Hotchkiss Wightman, Tennis Ace
- Reminiscing, Down Memory Lane



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RUSSIAN RIVER RECORDER

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and Historical Society*

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In This Issue

Winter 1996 !

The 1996 Winter Issue of the Russian River Recorder, the third we have edited with the help of our Publications Committee, brings you an interesting array of articles - the devastation brought by the 1906 earthquake to the Healdsburg area, an introduction to the interesting life and times of a world tennis champion, an account of the Native American collection found in the Museum, some reminiscing about days gone by and, of course, a definitive article about toys and their role in the scheme of things. Plus an introduction to Healdsburg's "other" civil war hero, Robert S. Logan.

Our very capable curator Marie Djordjevich gives us an insight in the world of toys and what they meant throughout the ages, in celebration of the Museum's annual exhibit on toys. The exhibit will be on display through February 2. We hope you will check it out.

Our assistant curator, Holly Hoods, now attending Sonoma State University pursuing a degree in history and archaeology, brings us a fascinating and well researched account on the effect of the 1906 earthquake on the Healdsburg area. Check out the advertisements published in the Healdsburg Tribune following the quake.

Dorothy Jackson, a Museum volunteer and a resident of Healdsburg since 1989, tells us about the life and times of Healdsburg's Hazel Hotchkiss Wightman, the world tennis champion. For the past few years Jackson has been taking writing classes at Santa Rosa Junior College and through Friends' House in Santa Rosa. Her big goal is to publish a book *Four Years in Four Corners* about her experiences operating a country store in New Hampshire.

Tom Nardi, a Healdsburg native and a devotee of the Civil War and its history, writes about Robert S. Logan, a Civil War hero who settled in Healdsburg in 1881 and operated a shoe store. Mr. Nardi tells us he became interested in Logan and his life after discovering Captain Logan's five star medal at a garage sale.

Susan Bierwirth, vice-president of the Museum's board, and an ardent volunteer, has a doctorate in Anthropology. With her extensive knowledge, she shares with us information about the Museum's Native American inventory. A scholarly and fascinating report.

We are indebted to Patricia Phillips Schmidt, a member of a pioneer Healdsburg family, for sharing with us her "memories".

We hope you enjoy this latest edition of the Russian River Recorder. Give us an insight on what you would like to see published in future issues.

Arnold Santucci
Editor

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Healdsburg's Second Floral Festival, May 1896.
Alice Haigh (Dixon), center, was the Queen.
Seated l to r: Zoe Bates (Fuller), Nettie Barnes (Crisholm)
Standing l to r: Violet Luedke (Smith), Edna Biddle (Stone),
Nellie Petray (Lawrence), Lena Zane (Purvince).
Pages: left - Bert McDonough; right - Van Whitney, Princess - Julia Mebrtens.

Reminiscing

by Patricia Phillips Schmidt

Just Yesterday

In the days preceding World War II when radio had just been created a few years prior, before TV, of course, to say nothing of computers and Internet, the main entertainment was "talk" and not the TV kind.

It was conversation and family. When the two came together, all the children squeezed in among the adults, being raised to be "seen and not heard". Many people, then children, heard, learned and digested the stories of their parents and grand-parents' youth and many received their education by listening.

In presenting these remembrances, we hope you will let your imagination return to that era when Healdsburg was new and life, though slower, was not without its excitement and romance.

Grandma Was a Staunch Tee-Totaler

And a member of the W.T.C.U. When walking downtown she had to pass a number of saloons which she stiffly walked by looking neither left or right. The saloons were in the area

now occupied by the Payless and Kragen stores. It was low and swampy, as was much of Healdsburg and the saloons were set back quite a way. They were only accessible from the street by crossing bridge like structures. One particular day grandma had her three year old son with her. As she got to the first bridge, her little darling escaped her grasp and ran across the bridge into the saloon through the swinging doors. Mortified, Grandma had no other course than to straighten her back, go through the door, grab up her little boy and hurriedly retreat.

In later years this became a favorite family story.

Many Years of Flooding

Last winter when the skies let loose and Healdsburg was inundated with the run off it was only a repeat performance of many years of flooding. The Indians probably ran for higher ground for centuries realizing it was their rain gods acting up again.

Those of us who grew up here in the '20s and '30s remember the many creeks that ran through the downtown area, all of which have been paved over long since. Most of these small creeks originate from drainage off Fitch Mountain and join up with creeks that used to be called "sloughs." Renewed efforts to contain the winter's run-off continues to plague city fathers.

Crossing The Russian River

In early days, Healdsburg was without bridges. To cross the Russian River there were various ferries, the main one being run by Hudson who later became a state legislator in Sacramento. He set up business in the area of today's old Memorial Bridge. Otherwise people had to get across in any manner they could, mainly at "crossings".

Crossings were a place in the river which were usually lower than some other spots. Many people misjudged the depth and swiftness of the water and perished because of it. In later years wooden bridges were built, but in years of much rainfall, many collapsed. It was a constant problem of building and repairing. What a celebration there must have been when the old Memorial Bridge was completed.

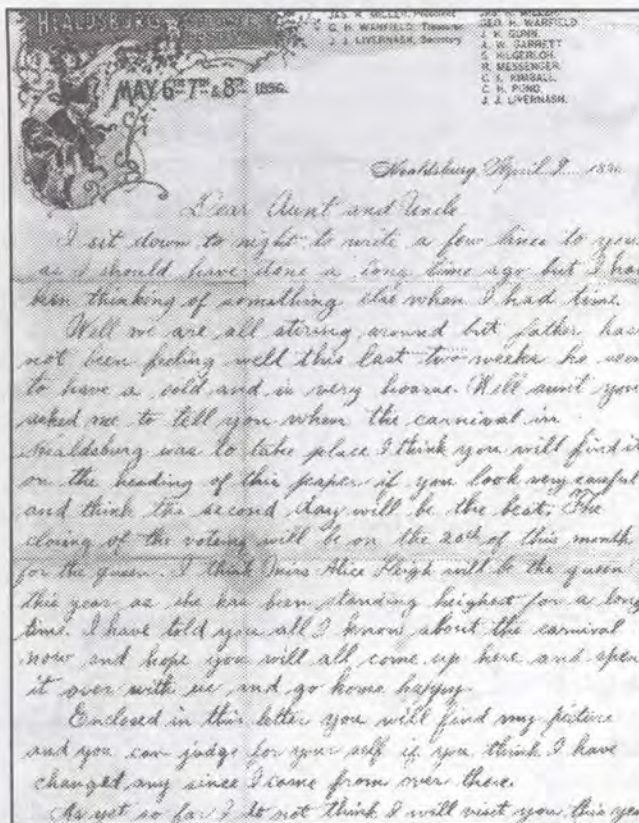
Bull and Bear Fight

Great-grandfather told of his attending the Bull and Bear fight. It was the last one held in the area, circa 1858.

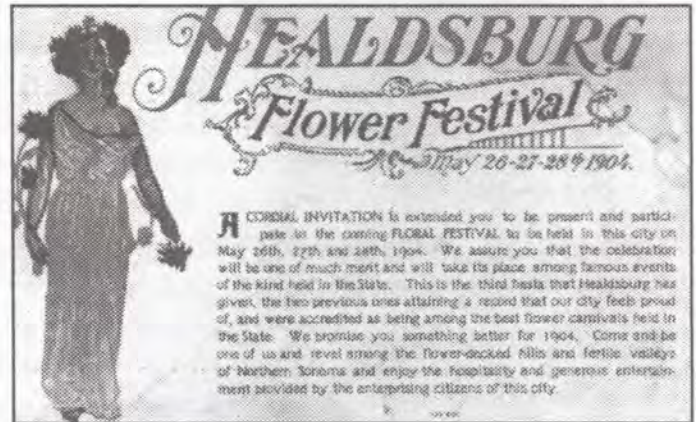
The Mexican horses wore silver decorated saddles and harnesses and the men were dressed in silver-trimmed shirts, pants and large sombreros.

Artifact - May Day Festival

In 1857 Healdsburg celebrated its first May Day Festival, complete with knights and jousting tournaments. This event, probably started by Col. Roderick Matheson, was tabled for a while after he was killed in battle during the Civil War. In 1877 The May Day Knighthood Tournament returned in full. This tournament continued until 1895, when it was suggested that a floral show be added. With the addition of the floral show, a Queen and her court were elected, and they soon outshone the spectacle of the knights. Though the floral festival seemed to be a big success, only two more followed, one in 1896 and one in 1904.



Letter, Healdsburg Museum Collection April 19, 1896



Advertisement, Healdsburg Flower Festival 1904
Healdsburg Museum Collection

Document

Letter
Healdsburg Museum Collection #573-1a
Healdsburg, April 9, 1896

Dear Aunt and Uncle

I sit down to night to write a few lines to you as I should have done a long time ago but I have been thinking of something else when I had time.

Well we are all stirring around but father has not been feeling well this last two weeks he seems to have a cold and is very hoarse. Well aunt you asked me to tell you when the carnival in Healdsburg was to take place. I think you will find it on the heading of this paper if you look very careful and think the second day will be the best. The closing of the voting will be on the 20th of this month for the queen. I think Miss Alice Heigh will be the queen this year as she has been standing highest for a long time. I have told you all I know about the carnival now and hope you will all come up here and spend it over with us and go home happy.

Enclosed in this letter you will find my picture and you can judge for your self if you think I have changed any since I came from over there.

As yet so far I do not think I will visit you this year for I think I can find plenty of work around about here to keep me buisy but I am not sure yet I have work on this ranch to last until about the last of June if nothing happens. Well, it is after ten o'clock now and I will have to go to bed soon so I will close for this time so good bye.

From your nephew
Robert Haley
Healdsburg, Cal

Please excuse bad writing and poor spelling. Write soon.

Hazel Hotchkiss Wightman, Tennis Ace

by Dorothy Jackson

In the northeast corner of the Healdsburg Plaza is a monument that was dedicated June 22, 1963 to four local world sports champions: Ralph Rose, shot put; Hazel Hotchkiss Wightman, tennis; Dr. Edward I. Beeson, high jump; Robert A. Boehm Jr., inboard motorboat hydroplane. One of Healdsburg's own, Hazel Wightman, held the Triple Crown of women's tennis for three straight years; 1909, 1910, 1911; by winning the singles, doubles and mixed doubles championships. She was known as the "Queen Mother" of U.S. tennis. In her impressive career, Hazel Hotchkiss Wightman won 45 U.S. titles and a number of Olympic medals. She was the captain of 13 Wightman Cup teams.

Wightman was born on December 20, 1886 in Healdsburg. She grew up on the W.J. Hotchkiss ranch on Eastside Road, about a mile below the Windsor vineyards. Her father was a partner in the Miller and Hotchkiss Cannery and Fruit Drying Company on Fitch Street near the train depot. Barely five-feet tall, Wightman competed with four brothers in baseball and football. Her first tennis court was a rough rectangle of gravel, divided by a rope stretched from her house to a rosebush.

The family moved to Berkeley in 1900 while her brother, Homer, was attending the University of California, and it was there on the University court, that Hazel Wightman developed her game. As there was only one court on campus, she and her brothers usually played on a gravel court in their backyard. "The ball didn't bounce well on gravel," she said, "so we tried to hit the ball in the air as much as possible." A practice that, no doubt, contributed to her spectacular success.

In 1902 at age 15, she won her first tournament. In 1909, she went east to play her first tournament on grass, and won the U.S. Women's Singles Championships. In the same tournament Wightman teamed up to win both the women's and mixed doubles titles. At that time, she went on to win the U.S. Women's Singles Championship 1910-1911.

In 1911 she was graduated from the University of California and the following year married George W. Wightman, a Bostonian, and moved to the east coast. She went into semi-retirement from tennis to raise a family. The next 20 years saw five children, and later another women's singles title, 16 other national titles, two Olympic gold medals (tennis was an Olympic sport in 1924), one Wimbledon doubles title, and three Wightman Cup victories. The famed "Wightman Cup" was donated by Hazel Wightman in 1919 for English and American Women's team play, although Great Britain didn't send a team over until 1923.

Wightman played as captain of the American team five times between 1923 and 1931, and non-playing captain eight times between 1933 and 1948. In 1952, she shared her ninth Women's Veterans' Doubles Championship—her 43rd national title.

Wightman shocked spectators by being the first to wear sleeveless dresses and jaunty head scarves on the courts instead of the traditional ankle-length skirts and broad-brimmed hats.

In later years she coached tennis, and continued to teach youngsters the fine points of the game until her death in 1974, at age 88. By the end of her life, she modestly referred to herself as "just a little old lady in tennis shoes."



Hazel Hotchkiss Wightman, circa 1907

What a role model as a mentor, tennis champion, teacher, and mother of five. . . and she came from Healdsburg!

Throughout her life, Wightman's Boston house was a hospitable oasis for up-and-coming players—from Helen Wills to Arthur Ashe. Once 14 players stayed there while playing in a nearby tournament. As a mentor, "Mrs. Wightie," as she became known, influenced every major American female star, including Maureen Connolly, Alice Marble and Althea Gibson. Even at 65, spending eight hours on court was common for her.



Dolls, circa 1940's and 1950's
 (Courtesy of Mary Lou Hobman (top) and Mae Malone (bottom))

Antique and Collectible Toys

A World of Wonder: 1920-1960

by Marie Djordjević

Exhibit on display through February 2

"They tell the story of civilization in miniature, since practically every major scientific discovery, every important historic event, and every whim of fancy in the world of fashion is chronicled in the realm of toys." (Foley)

Toys. What does the word evoke? What memories does it bring back? What fantasies does it create? What dreams does it produce? What things did or do toys teach? In whatever form toys are an integral part of a child's everyday life. Toys take their character from both the world around and the world of imagination. Household appliances, occupational equipment, transporta-

tion, farm animals, steel girders, Presidents, people themselves, events, and more, all inspire the toy maker to create. And all inspire the toy player to imitate the world around and create new worlds of wonder.

There are many types of toys, in all shapes and sizes, for different ages and personalities. Two well known and loved toys that are sometimes considered gender specific, though they are not necessarily, are dolls and toy soldiers. Many a boy has played with dolls, and girls have definitely battled away the hours with toy soldiers. These two toys have an extremely long and interesting history, and both still appeal to young and old alike.

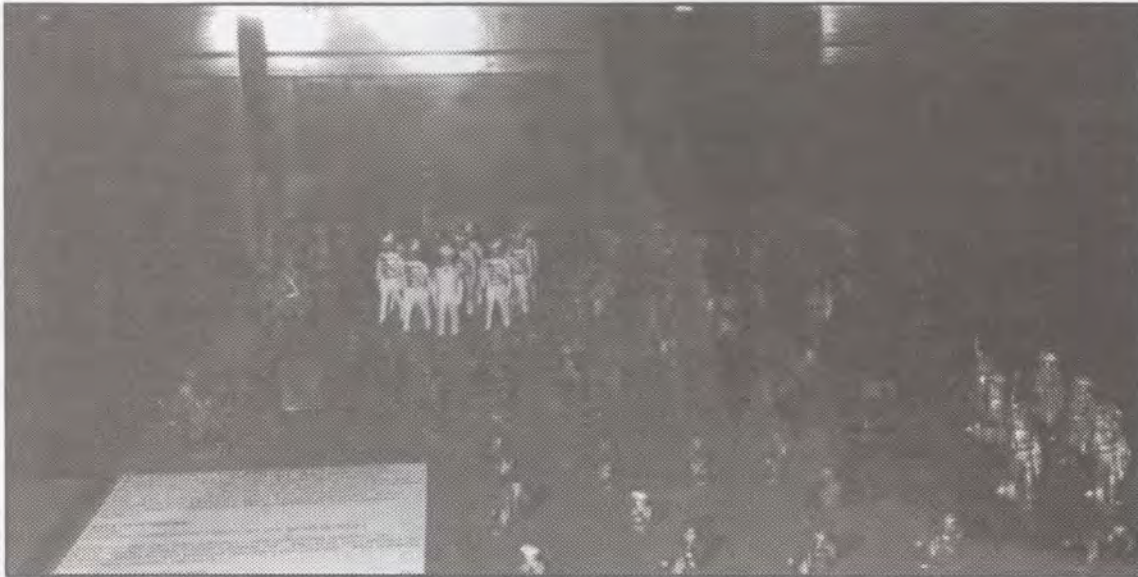
A Doll's World

"The story of dolls is an endless tale so closely interwoven with every facet of the romance of toys..." (Foley)

Dolls, perhaps the most popular toys, have existed from the earliest times. Ancient civilizations made dolls (an Egypto-Roman rag doll dating from the third or fourth century AD was found in a child's grave). There are documentary and pictorial records that show that in medieval Europe dolls were the playthings of the titled and wealthy. As the 19th century saw a more relaxed attitude toward children, (prior to the 19th century, children were viewed as miniature adults, and were dressed and treated as such. Slowly though, children began to have their place in the family as children) dolls became increasingly common among all social classes.

While doll historians state that it is difficult to define the modern period for doll manufacture, the period from 1920-1960 has become highly collectible. Dolls from manufacturers such as Madame Alexander, Lenci and Steiff fall in this category (and are still in production). Dolls are modeled after many different things, whether a baby or child itself, a historical figure, or especially a celebrity figure. In the 1930s celebrity dolls became extremely popular. Characters from movies such as Shirley Temple were patented. Live celebrities, such as the Dionne Quintuplets spawned not only the patent version, but unauthorized versions as well.

Throughout their long history dolls have been made of many different materials. Wood and rag dolls were among the earliest made, and these materials were frequently used because they were cheap and fairly accessible, and could be hand made. As dolls became more and more commercially made, materials such as wax and porcelain were used, and later celluloid, composition (usually sawdust or wood pulp mixed with an adhesive like glue or plaster) and plastic.



Toy Soldiers
(circa 1930's - courtesy of Bob Rawlins)

Life of a Toy Soldier

"Despite the advances of the atomic age, the lure of the tin toy soldier has never faded completely..." (Foley)

Interestingly enough, the toy soldier has a history as long as the doll's. Toy soldiers have been made at least since the Middle Kingdom of Egypt 2500 years ago. A bronze soldier of Roman origin, and tin armored knights have been discovered, dating from the Middle Ages. However, it wasn't until the 18th century that large sets--versus individual pieces--were produced. This is when tin became the material most used. The toy soldier craze at this time was started with the exploits of Frederick the Great, King of Prussia from 1740 to 1786. His victories and his war strategy skills created so much discussion that when tin soldiers were introduced a huge craze developed.

These first tin soldiers were made in Nuremberg in 1760. They were the creation of Andreas Hilpert, a master craftsman in tin and pewter. The first figures he made were flat and were placed in stands. These tin soldiers were easy to produce and paint, so they were made in large quantities. They were also fairly inexpensive to make, so lower prices created a large market. Soon, soldiers dressed in uniforms of other countries were made, as well as soldiers of nearly every war in recent times. Production of tin toy soldiers spread to other parts of Germany by the early 1800s. Germany held a monopoly on production; however, in the late 1860s hollow soldiers were made in England, and these became popular in Great Britain. Attempts by other countries to break the German monopoly ensued. A reason behind the success of the

German market was due to the establishment of the Nuremberg scale, which determined that the figure of grown man was not to be more than one-and-one-third inches, with all figures corresponding to this scale. Because of this, there was an equal playing field - battles were fought between soldiers of the same size.

Over the years then toy soldier was made from many materials: wood was an extremely popular material all over Europe, paper became popular in Europe and America during the nineteenth century, lead, tin, and most recently plastic. While many toys seem to come and go, the toy soldier has remained steadily popular.

"There is more than a little of the child in all of us..." (Foley)

Today, both dolls and toy soldiers can be found in toy stores and departments everywhere. Their appeal has remained constant, and they have fueled the child's imagination for centuries. They also have appealed to adults, for both dolls and toy soldiers are now avidly collected.

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Robert S. Logan

Healdsburg's "Other" Civil War Hero

by Tom Nardi

Readers have long been aware of the life and military exploits of Colonel Roderick Matheson - entrepreneur, family man, adventurer and Civil War hero. Matheson, one of Healdsburg's shakers and movers, was destined to secure a position at our nation's capitol and help shape our land had he not been felled by a minnie ball while leading a charge in the battle of Crampton's Gap, Maryland, on September 14, 1862.

Look a little deeper, though, and you begin to realize Healdsburg had more than one Civil War personality, albeit, none could match the gallant and illustrious journey of Matheson. A man who survived seven major battles, including Gettysburg, and lived to tell about them. A feat that even Matheson couldn't match.

His name was Robert S. Logan. Born in Glasgow, Scotland in 1835, Robert S. Logan and his family immigrated to Pennsylvania about 1845. There, Logan learned his trade as a cobbler. He was involved in his community and was instrumental in founding the Republican Party. In 1856, he was chosen as a delegate from Westchester County, Pennsylvania, to the National Convention in Pittsburgh.

Sometime between 1856 and 1860, Logan moved to Sandusky, Ohio; then, onto Cincinnati, where he met and married Barbara M. Smith. They were expecting their first-born in June of 1861 (Jessie Logan, born June 2, 1861) when tensions between the North and the South broke out with the Confederate bombardment of Fort Sumpter on April 12, 1861. Soon, state after state seceded from the Union and full scale civil war broke out. President Abraham Lincoln called for 100,000 men to serve three months to quell this outburst. These men were soon to find out this was no short term affair.

Answering the call to duty, Robert enlisted as a private in the 5th Ohio Company E Volunteers in April, 1861. He also served as a private in the 181st Ohio Volunteer Infantry, as well as a First Lieutenant in the 5th Ohio Volunteers. Information gleaned from the National Archives in Washington, D.C. provides us with a glimpse of his wartime exploits. Due to his valor and ability to lead, Logan quickly rose through the ranks. By early 1862, he was promoted to the rank of Captain of the 5th Ohio Regulars. His war time



Robert S. Logans, Jr., center, with apron, is shown in front of his store located at West Street (now Healdsburg Avenue) and Matheson Street. Third from left is Robert Logan Sr.. (Photo from Museum Archives, circa 1886)

records also indicate field hospital stays for unspecified injuries. There is also mention of wounds for which he would, later in life, receive disability payments.

In all, Logan served in seven major battles, including Winchester, 1862; Pt. Republic, 1862; Cedar Mountain, 1862; Antietam, 1862; Gettysburg, 1863; and Chancellorsville, 1863. Logan fought until the end of the war. He was finally mustered out of service on July 14, 1865, three months after the surrender by Lee at Appotomax Courthouse. After the war Logan moved back to Cincinnati, Ohio where he proceeded to have three more children: Rob, Jr., 1865; Harry, 1867; and Thomas, 1870. Emma was born during the war in 1863.

In 1876, Logan moved his family to San Francisco. Then, in 1861, he settled in Healdsburg where he founded and operated a shoe store. He and his wife Barbara were active officers in the Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.). They attended many of the veteran reunions held around the country. These reunions began in Indianapolis in 1866. They reached their peak in Boston in 1890 with an attendance of 409, 489. Finally, by 1942, at Grand Rapids, a mere 16 veterans attended. Today the G.A.R. exists as the Sons of the Union

Veterans. Logan also founded the Healdsburg Cadets.

Around town, Logan was a renowned fisherman. He also grew loganberries at his home on 433 University and boasted to the local newspaper that he made the equivalent of \$850 per acre by selling this specialized crop to the citizens of Healdsburg.

In 1908, due to unspecified war-related health problems, Captain Logan elected to enter the Veterans Home in Santa Monica, California. Santa Monica and its fishing piers became his home until 1910 when he returned to Healdsburg.

In February, 1912, while working in his garden, Captain Logan recovered a treasured memento of his wartime days, which he had lost in 1895. It was a five-pointed star bearing the dates and battles in which he fought. The center of the star is decorated with the numeral 5, which indicates that he served with the 5th Ohio Regulars. The star itself signifies the 20th Army Corps. Its silver (tines) represent the 3rd Brigade; the gold center, the 2nd Division. In 1915, Captain Logan once again entered a veterans home, this time in Yountville. He died of pneumonia on February 15, 1917, thirty-six years after making Healdsburg his home.



*Flat mortar, bowl mortar and hopper mortar with mano and pestils.
(Photo by Susan Bierwirth)*



*Top left: Series of 4 Excelsior points showing varied intensity of reduction.
Top right: Tool blank
Bottom: 2 Rattlesnake arrowheads and 2 spear points.
(Photo by Susan Bierwirth)*

The Museum's Native American Inventory

by Susan Bierwirth

As you may remember from the Spring 1995 issue of the Russian River Recorder, Sherrie Smith-Ferri, former Curator Claire Rithner, our present Curator Marie Djordjevich and I have been working on an inventory of the Healdsburg Museum's Native American collection. The work was partially funded by a grant from the Sonoma County Community Foundation.

We started by cataloging and photographing each of the artifacts. In March of this year Greg White and Michael Jablonowski, archaeologists from Sonoma State University, came to look at our collection. They spent four hours talking with us about our prehistoric artifacts - particularly the ground and chipped stone. Both men have worked extensively with the archaeology of this area. They were able to give us a general idea of the age and provenience of many of our artifacts.

One clue to provenience can be obtained from examination of the material used in tool manufacturing. Many of the chipped stone tools (knives, arrowheads, etc.) used locally were made of obsidian. Obsidian, or volcanic glass, is an excellent material for tool making because it is sharp and easily worked. It is found locally in Napa and Lake Counties, near Mts. St. Helena and Konociti. Since the magma in every volcano has a different mineral composition, the obsidian from each volcano may differ in appearance and composition. Obsidian from Napa Valley tends to be dark and waxy, while obsidian from Lake County is greyer with small white inclusions. Identifying the source of the obsidian is only a general clue to where it was used since native peoples collected raw materials from a moderate distance and obsidian tool blanks were often used as trade items.

White and Jablonowski were also able to identify some of the raw materials used in manufacturing ground stone tools in our collection (grinding stones, pestles). The raw material used for grinding stones is usually large and heavy; hence these artifacts were less likely to be transported from their source.

The archaeologists were able to tell us the age of many of our artifacts based upon their shape and technique of manufacture. They identified a number of obsidian bi-points that were produced and used by local Native Americans from about 7000 years ago until historic times (approximately A.D. 1300). Archaeologists believe that these Excelsior points were hafted (attached into a handle) and used as spears and knives during hunting. The points were shaped like a bay leaf when new, but many of the points appear to have been retouched frequently during use, leaving only the base of the point intact in its haft until the hunters returned home. White and Jablonowski pointed out changes in edge shape and technique of retouch above and below the haft area. Until recently these different shaped artifacts were thought by archaeologists to have been produced in differ-

ent shapes rather than representing discard at different stages of reduction.

The shape of spear and arrow points is a very good indicator of age. Spear points tend to be larger (especially at the neck or haft) and older than arrowheads. They were made to be used with a spear thrower, or atlatl as it was called by Australian aborigines. White and Jablonowski also identified several small obsidian points that were made locally after about A.D. 700 to be hafted on an arrow and shot with a bow. These Rattlesnake points are characteristic of the late prehistoric Pomo culture. They were used to hunt a variety of large and small game and fowl.

The archaeologists also gave us a lot of information about out ground stone artifacts whose shape also varied over time. They told us that flat grinding stones were used with small, ovate manos for processing nuts or seeds. Flat stones were common early in the local archaeological sequence, before acorn processing predominated. Native Americans living in upland areas continued to process seeds after valley residents had switched to acorns as a food staple. Mortars with deeper bowls are typical of the grinding implements used between 500 B.C. and A.D. 1300. These deeper mortars are associated with the processing of acorns, particularly in the lowlands of the area. A third form of grinding stone is very shallow and found in late prehistoric (after A.D. 1300) Pomo and Wappo sites in the area. Known as a hopper mortar, the stone was used with a bottomless basket over the bowl. Long pestles were used to grind acorns in the shallow bowl. Sometimes broken pestles were reshaped for continued use, in the same way that the Obsidian bi-points were recycled.

Thanks to the information that White and Jablonowski shared with us we have removed all of the non-local artifacts from our permanent display. We are working on new labels for the current display and this summer we will be renovating the entire Pomo/Wappo exhibit. Unfortunately our session with the archaeologists revealed that our collection of local Native American artifacts is relatively small. If you have Pomo or Wappo artifacts that you know were collected and/or used locally - and you are ready to donate any of them to the Museum - we would be delighted to talk to you.

Watch for the grand opening of the renovated permanent display this summer. We will be hosting our second annual summer open house on July 13 in conjunction with the renovated exhibit.



The Odd Fellows Hall, April 19, 1906

Community Cohesion in the Face of Calamity:

The 1906 Earthquake in Northern Sonoma
County, California

by Holly Hoods

"Such a tremendous seismic disturbance has never, within the memory of man, been felt in this valley or county."

Healdsburg Tribune, April 26, 1906

"That we have been dazed, confounded and discouraged goes without question. But we have much to be thankful for, even in our loss. Let us have the courage of our convictions, revealing our faith in our own beautiful valley and the county of Sonoma, to restore it again to its former condition."

Healdsburg Tribune/Enterprise, April 21, 1906

It took less than one minute on Wednesday April 18, 1906 for a natural disaster to transform the Bay area and much of Sonoma County into chaos. At 5:13 that morning, slumbering residents were startled awake by a fierce jolt which grew into a 48-second seismic shudder of tremendous intensity. The shaking was accompanied by an ominous subterranean rumbling, punctuated by the noisy crashes of buildings collapsing, brick chimneys falling down, and glass shattering. A great cloud of dust emanated from the rubble and billowed skyward. In the aftermath, the shaken survivors ran outdoors, hugged their loved ones, took stock of their situation, and immediately reached out to help their neighbors.

Due to the widespread catastrophe, Governor Pardee declared the next day a legal holiday in California.

The quake did not injure all parts of Sonoma County equally. Historian William Bronson reported that "no American city was ever hit harder by an earthquake than Santa Rosa was in 1906" (1958:132). Santa Rosa, undeniably the hardest-hit local area, was described after the earthquake as "a complete wreck." Every business house was in ruins, as well as the County court house, the Hall of Records, the Carnegie library and the new Masonic hall. There were over one hundred dead. In the absence of a court house, Sonoma County supervisors held their first meeting after the disaster outside on the sidewalk.

Word came quickly that Sebastopol, Glen Ellen, and Sonoma were also devastated, but Petaluma and Ukiah were minimally damaged. Comparatively, Healdsburg considered itself fortunate: although numerous business houses and residences collapsed in town, no lives were lost. The Odd Fellows' Building, the Cohen brick building adjoining the Odd Fellows' building, S.J. Hall's brick building, the Red Men's Hall, the Grangers' building and Whitney's Drugstore were completely destroyed. The roof fell in at the *Healdsburg Tribune* office and covered the entire plant with debris, so the *Tribune* staff had to collaborate with members of the *Healdsburg Enterprise* to jointly publish an earthquake edition of the newspaper. Other severely damaged buildings downtown included the Union Hotel, Carl Muller's building, Henry Fox's Masonic block, the Sotoyome Hotel, the Kruse building and Quim Sewell's saloon.

The *Tribune* reported the estimated losses of nearly 50 businesses and business owners, which ranged from \$100 to \$15,000. The average loss was \$1,800, yet "the business men of this city have taken their losses with good spirit, and the work of rebuilding is progressing as rapidly as possible" (*Healdsburg Tribune, April 26, 1906*). Every brick building in town was more or less damaged, and every family in town lost from \$25 to \$300. The Odd Fellows' Hall sustained the worst damage and represented the largest individual loss in Healdsburg. This structure--"the handsomest building in the city"--had been completed only a few months earlier at a cost of over \$20,000 (*Healdsburg Tribune/Enterprise, April 19, 1906*). Except for a three-story apartment in the rear which somehow survived, the building was a total ruin. The collapse of the building spelled economic disaster for the businesses who rented shop space within the stricken structure. One such merchant, druggist C.D. Evans, was able to salvage only a little of his stock and some fixtures from his pharmacy before moving his business to the Rose Building next to Passalacqua's grocery store. Estimating his loss at \$700, he no doubt soon regretted the generous credit terms he had previously granted his customers. Four days after the quake, a desperate Evans posted the following notice in the paper: "PLEASE CALL AND PAY. THE ALMOST COMPLETE DESTRUCTION OF OUR STORE LEAVES US IN BAD SHAPE AND WE EARNESTLY HOPE ALL THOSE WHO ARE IN OUR DEBT WILL CALL AND GIVE US WHAT ASSISTANCE THEY CAN".

Probably the most dramatic episode in the quake aftermath in Healdsburg was the rescue of John G. Taylor, the harness maker. Taylor was pinned under a mass of roof and bricks that fell from the Muller building next door onto the harness shop where he was working. He was trapped by fallen timbers for over an hour, seriously but not fatally injured. The April 19th *Press Democrat* reported that "many willing hands" engaged in the rescue work to save him. Outside of the Healdsburg town limits, several large stone hop houses caved-in during the quake; one with disastrous consequences. An Indian man and woman, not identified by name in the *Press Democrat*, were killed on the Storey ranch when the hop kiln building they were sleeping in collapsed on top of them. It took would-be rescuers an hour to dig their bodies from the rubble. In yet another unfortunate accident, two Healdsburg residents, Fred Miller and J.O. Anderson, were killed outside of town while working at the quicksilver mines near Guerneville. When the earthquake struck, they were being hoisted from the mine shaft and were just a few feet from the surface. Evidently, a huge rock, dislodged from the mountainside above, rolled down the slope and into the shaft, striking the skip and sending it and the men 400 feet to the bottom of the mine shaft.

San Francisco was undeniably the scene of the state's greatest devastation and loss of life, however, as raging fires swept through the city, devouring what the earthquake had spared. Early estimates of the number of disaster-related deaths in San Francisco reached a figure of about 450, but more recent research has suggested that as many as 3,000 people may have actually been killed, and property valued at \$1 billion destroyed. On a smaller scale, Santa Rosa's damage paralleled San Francisco's, as fire followed earthquake and hundreds were left homeless and hungry. According to Gregory's 1911 *History of Sonoma County*, the deaths and the cases of serious injury occurred in the brick hotels and rooming houses where victims were crushed in their beds (206). The earthquake's path of destruction was twenty to forty miles wide, running 200 miles from Salinas in the south to Fort Bragg in the north.

The word spread quickly that San Francisco and Santa Rosa had been decimated. In this time of crisis, many of the willing hands reaching out to help the quake victims came from northern Sonoma County, although communication was severely hampered between neighboring areas for the first week. According to a report from a Santa Rosa correspondent published in the April 19th San Francisco *Call-Chronicle-Examiner*:

On the north, conditions are fully as shocking as here. There is no communication by wire or railroad between here and Healdsburg. Besides the wires all being on the ground, the bridges crossing the Russian River at that point are in the stream. This makes all communication by rail from the northern part of Sonoma County impossible

Despite the initial hindrance of railroad disruption, the people of northern Sonoma County still found ways to help their neighbors in need. Many went by horseback or wagon to assist the residents of Santa Rosa, where the wrecked buildings would have covered "a two-mile distance if placed side by side". The night of the quake, Healdsburg City Treasurer E.S. Rowland assembled a stage load of supplies, including all of the lanterns in Healdsburg, for the relief of Santa Rosa disaster victims. The *Healdsburg Tribune/Enterprise* reported his activities approvingly, since "Santa Rosa is absolutely without any food supply whatsoever and are depending upon the adjacent country for their food supply".

The spirit of cooperation prevailed throughout the state of emergency. Although two looters, caught in the act, were shot by the militia in San Francisco, there were no instances of looting reported in Sonoma County, despite some residents' fears. An article in the *Tribune/Enterprise*, bearing the ominous headline "PREPARE TO PROTECT LIFE AND PROPERTY," instructed the people of the city of Healdsburg and vicinity to lock and secure their homes and be prepared to defend themselves and their property against invaders. A report had reached Healdsburg that "the thugs, thieves and rough element of San Francisco were taking to the country cities, and that the late train would bring some of this undesirable element to this city". Fortunately this rumored danger never materialized.

Historian Tom Gregory characterized the county's general outlook as "the indomitable desire to 'put up a good front' and be cheerful about it". Geyserville native Robin Lampson, 6 years old at the time of the 1906 earthquake, was so impressed by the generosity he saw during the disaster that he was able to vividly write about it nearly 70 years later. Despite his youth, Lampson recognized that he was witnessing something special, and that something similarly wonderful was happening in many neighboring farming communities. As soon as the railroad service was reinstated, the Northwestern Pacific left one or more empty boxcars each day at every station on its route, and appealed to the people of each community to fill these cars with any food or provisions they could spare. He explained that the community of Geyserville, with about forty homes around the small business section, in 1906 couldn't have had a total population of more than 400 if one included all the farms within a radius of four or five miles. Yet,

Within a couple of hours, men, women and children began coming to that boxcar with baskets and packages and arm loads of food. They brought loaves of homemade bread, mason jars of home-canned fruits and vegetables, sacks of potatoes, bags of dry beans, rice and sugar, and jars of fresh milk and newly churned butter. As the day wore on, people from the town and nearby began bringing in cooked chickens and roasts of beef, veal, and lamb. . . . This went on for many days, with a new box car arriving empty in the morn

ing and going south filled again at night. . . Practically every family unhesitatingly shared what it had with the disaster victims. . .

Pitching in and working together, the survivors immediately began to rebuild their homes, towns, and communities after the earthquake. Undaunted by the disaster, the people of northern Sonoma County looked courageously to the future. Their shared spirit of optimism was eloquently expressed in the *Healdsburg Tribune*:

While ruin and death startled and shocked and dazed us all, and people looked haggard from the effects of their fright and shaking up, no one has lost hope, and the world will go on as though the calamity had not come to us. In a few years all of the scars will have disappeared, the indomitable energy of the descendants of the Argonauts will have reconstructed the ruined cities, and progress and prosperity will be on every hand.

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