



RUSSIAN RIVER RECORDER

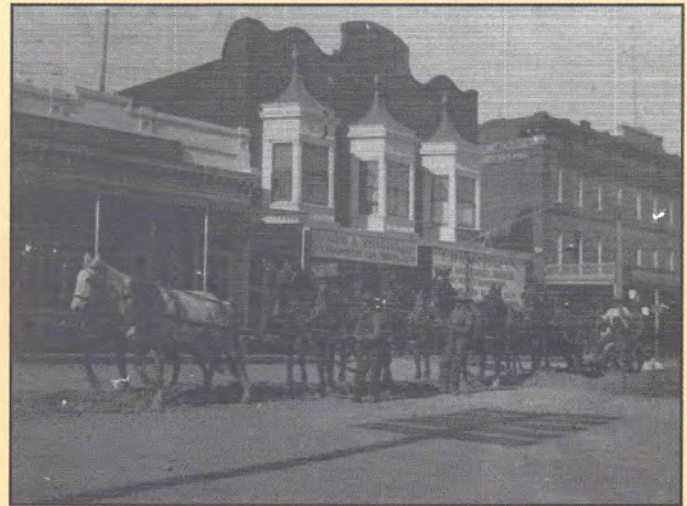
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An Official Publication of the Healdsburg Museum and Historical Society

Healdsburg 1900 - 1929: An Overview

by Marie Shobe

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*Digging trenches for water lines on West Street
(Healdsburg Avenue) across from Plaza, circa 1900*



W. T. Albertson in Healdsburg's first automobile, July, 1900

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Reminiscences of Shirley Truitt: Changes in the Countryside Since 1900

*Edited by Holly Hoods
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Entertainment and Sports, 1900 - 1929

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Artifacts and Photographs
Healdsburg 1900 - 1929
by Marie Shobe



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RUSSIAN RIVER RECORDER

*The Official Publication of the Healdsburg
Museum and Historical Society*

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IN THIS ISSUE

The years 1900 to 1929 saw many changes in the Healdsburg area .. from the horse and buggy to the automobile which in itself brought on many aspects of this change. Our extremely capable curator Marie Shobe has given us a fascinating overview of these three decades. An interesting sidelight, Marie points out that "while the Healdsburg area remained an agricultural community, downtown Healdsburg and its people had a sophisticated flavor." Sounds familiar ?

Following in this vein, our Research Curator Holly Hoods gives us an edited version of life at this time from Shirley Truitt's unpublished memoirs. Truitt, 80 years ago, recorded his memories in a handwritten notebook. Life was certainly geared to a slower pace then, as you will see.

Our newest contributor, Charlotte Anderson (Charlotte has been a contributor

in the past but now she has taken on an assignment as an associate contributing writer), researched an important aspect of life during this period — entertainment, which relied on such ventures as theatre and musical programs, both amateur and professional, and finally the movies. The latter became increasingly important as a viable venue. And sports — Healdsburg residents were always, it seems, involved in sports, team as well as individual. You'll find her accounts most informative and well documented.

And don't forget to check Marie Shobe's "Artifacts and Photographs" article which helps to set the tone of this issue of the *Russian River Recorder*.

Arnold Santucci

Editor

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PHOTOGRAPHS

ARTIFACTS AND PHOTOGRAPHS HEALDSBURG 1900 - 1929

by Marie Shobe

FASHIONS

1900's

Women's fashions changed rapidly. By the 1880s corsets and bodices were very tight. Heavy skirts hugged the knees, and bustles pushed out skirts behind. As more women began working in outside jobs, in the mid-1890s tailored, mannish suits with gored skirts were popular, but waists were still tiny (with help from the corset!). By the 1900s lightweight fabrics were being used, but the body was pushed into an S shape, with breasts pushed up and together, and the behind shoved out in back.



*Dress, 1920's - Donated by the Rena Phillips Estate.
Red, silk chiffon sleeveless dress with beading.
Sequined headpiece also.*



*Dress, 1900 - Belonged to Rosalie Sherriffs,
donated by Leona Cunningham.
Two piece black silk and lace outfit - skirt and
bodice, with petticoat underneath.*

1920's

After the solemnity of the war years (WWI), 1920s fashion reflected a more youthful, carefree spirit. Female liberation was mirrored in the clothing style - the corset was discarded, legs were exposed and freed, breasts were flattened and hair was cut short. Clothes became simpler and lighter weight, and feminine curves were replaced by vertical lines. By 1925 waists had dropped and surface decoration had begun to make an appearance. In the mid to late 1920s fashion focused on a slender, youthful look. The look was boyish, totally flat, rectangular and mid-calf length.

ARCHITECTURE



*W. Ferguson Jr. House, 417 Haydon
Street. Neo-classic, built 1908.*

The end of the 19th century in keeping with the Victorian era architecture was visually exuberant. The style included asymmetry and decoration. By the turn of the century tastes moved away from such exuberance and a transitional, less ornamental neo-classic style emerged, clarified by elegance and dignity in design. Neo-classic houses had little decoration and sweeping roofs and porches with simple columns. Also popular in the early 20th century was the craftsman style, which stressed continuity with the outdoors. This style incorporated large porches and natural building materials, and was characterized by broad-based porch pillars, overhanging eaves, sweeping rooflines and exposed exterior beams.



*Sherriffs House, 439 Matheson Street.
Craftsman, built 1920*



*W. T. Albertson in the first car in
Healdsburg, July 1900*

FIRST AUTOMOBILE

In 1900 W.T. Albertson brought the first car, a Stanley Steamer, to Healdsburg. He bought the car in San Francisco, brought it across the Bay on a freight ferry one Saturday morning, and started for Healdsburg. He took the winding roads leading from town to town - going sometimes north, sometimes east, sometimes west. He became lost, and reached Santa Rosa in the evening. He stayed in Santa Rosa overnight and started again the next morning, reaching Healdsburg before noon. This was the first car, and soon the automobile fairly conspicuous around town.

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WATER CARNIVAL

Healdsburg citizens from the beginning took great pride in their Plaza and loved to gather for festivities. From 1857 to 1895 they held a "May Day and Knighthood Tournament", with a May Queen, and "knight" competing in various games. In 1895, 1896 and 1904 they had a Floral Festival, complete with a decorated Plaza and a parade with flowered carriages and bicycles. Taking advantage of the nearby Russian River, Healdsburg replaced the Floral Festival with the Water Carnival in 1905. By 1908 it had grown into a sensational summer event. It had a queen and her attendants, large decorated floats on the river competing for prizes, diving exhibitions from the top of the Railroad Bridge, and nighttime fireworks by the riverbanks. The whole town turned out for these events, as well as all the summer tourists and vacationers..



*Souvenir Water Carnival pin with ribbons.
This pin was made for the 1908 Water Carnival.*

PRUNE BELT



One of the many little labels/advertisements for prunes

In February 1924 the directors of the Chamber of Commerce proposed a cash prize contest to secure an appropriate slogan for the city of Healdsburg. The purpose of this idea was to generate some excitement and publicity for the town of Healdsburg. Entries had to be ten words or less; the winning prize was \$100. Healdsburg garnered much publicity throughout the U.S. from the contest, which was one of the Chambers objectives. Healdsburg received hundreds of entries. Merrill Miller of Visalia (a former Healdsburg resident) submitted the winning entry which read, "Healdsburg, the buckle of the prune belt". By 1923 prunes were the biggest and most steady cash crop in the Healdsburg area.

THE HIGH SCHOOL

In 1888 a free public high school opened in Healdsburg with 15 students enrolled. They studied in a room in the public grammar school building. Because of growing enrollment in 1907 the High School started using the old Healdsburg College building (located between Plaza and Matheson Streets). More and more students began attending high school so when the College building became overcrowded, a new school was built on the corner of Fitch and Grant Streets in 1918.



Old Healdsburg College building when it was the high school, 1915



*Healdsburg High School on Fitch and Grant Streets.
Built in 1918; photo taken in May 1919*

HISTORIC



Hop Kiln

OVERVIEW

Healdsburg 1900 - 1929: An Overview

By Marie Shobe

Introduction

Harmon Heald, an unsuccessful gold miner, but an extremely entrepreneurial man, founded Healdsburg in 1857. Arriving in the what is now northern Sonoma County area in 1852, Heald saw a well-worn and -traveled road to the gold mines leading north-south (approximately now Healdsburg Avenue). He decided to set up a small store right there and sell to traveling miners and people in the area already - like those working in the lumber mills and the native population. Soon, he had enough business to expand the store. In the meantime he also bought up Rancho Sotoyome land, and in 1857 laid out his town. Healdsburg originally was eight acres of subdivided land. Heald laid out the town on a north-south axis around a central Plaza. He donated the Plaza park, as well as land for a school, cemetery and churches to the community. The rest of the lots he sold for \$15 each. In 1867 the town was incorporated under state law, and the first city council meeting was held.

Early growth of the town was rapid. The population grew from 300 in 1857 to 1600 by 1869. By 1880 the population had reached 2000. By 1877 five additions to the City limits had been established. Commercially Healdsburg developed around the central plaza, and between 1880 and 1906 the downtown area grew steadily. Early residential growth patterned that of the commercial: North, South (Matheson), Tucker, Haydon, University, Fitch, East and Center Streets - all close to the commercial core - were the first to grow. "North Healdsburg", the area north of Piper Street along West Street (Healdsburg Avenue), also developed both commercially and residentially.

With the early rapid population growth came the belief that Healdsburg was going to be the "San Francisco of the North". Many Healdsburg citizens anticipated the growth of a large city. Healdsburg in the late 1800s and early 1900s looked to San Francisco for style and trends. As a result, while the Healdsburg area remained an agricultural community, downtown Healdsburg and its people had a sophisticated flavor.



Digging a trench line for water lines, January 1900.

The early years of the 20th century marked a time of growth municipally, agriculturally and recreationally for the city of Healdsburg.

Municipal Growth - Utilities

The first part of the 20th century marked a time of great municipal growth for the town of Healdsburg. It was at this time that much of the city's modern infrastructure was established. In 1898 Healdsburg's City Council wanted to make both the water and electric systems municipally owned; however, the establishment of water and electricity was a struggle for the city, a struggle that started in the 1800s and carried on through the first years of the 1900s.

The first piped water into downtown occurred in 1875 when the City granted a franchise to F.T. Maynard, John Fritsch, and Mr. Bowman of Petaluma to lay iron pipes throughout all city streets. They agreed to give the city free of charge water for the extinction of fires, an agreement that was to last for fifty years.

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1893 saw the first electricity in the city when Baron Von Schilling began the manufacture of electricity as a sideline at his grape must plant. The use and spread of electricity developed slowly as Healdsburg moved away from coal oil and gas. The development of both water and electricity was through privately owned enterprises, but by the end of the 1890s the city of Healdsburg looked to make them both municipally owned.

Water

The owners of the water plant, F. and A. Koenig, were offered \$8000 by the city for their franchise. They counter-offered for \$12,000. The City insisted on \$8,000; Koenig came down to \$10,000. The City then countered with \$9,000, which was accepted. The City then took over the water plant, which consisted of an old pumping plant at the river, a reservoir above Oak Mound cemetery and a primitive system of pipes serving a small amount of customers. The city contracted James Stanley for \$32,096 to make improvements to the water system. This covered the installation of additional water mains only.

By 1904 water demands had grown so much that the Water and Light Committee decided to build another reservoir next to the existing one above Oak Mound cemetery. In June 1922 a bond election was authorized for new water mains to be laid under the streets, and the streets to then be paved.

Electricity

Municipally owned electricity did not happen as easily as water. The same time that the council offered Koenig \$8000 for the water plant, it offered A.H. Babcock \$5000 for his electric light plant. Babcock refused to sell (even when the city upped its offer to \$7500), and the city went forward with plans to build its own plant. The city called a bond election for \$80,000, and the issue carried 362 to 63. The bonds were sold to Shepard & Co. of New York. The bid to build the electric light plant was given out to the California Bridge Co..

Babcock, meanwhile brought suit against the city and secured an injunction against the building of a new plant. The *Healdsburg Tribune* advised a boycott of Babcock's company, asking people to return to coal oil lamps and gas (15 companies agreed to cut off their electricity, and City Hall actually cut its electric lines). The city also decided to fight, and began regulating light pole sizes and power wire sizes, both in excess of Babcock's supply. Babcock folded, and construction was started on a new hydro-electric plant at the Gird Ranch. In February of 1900 the water valves were opened at the Gird Ranch, and power flowed to Healdsburg.

By the beginning of 1902 electricity demands were so high that other alternatives were sought. The City could not agree on what to do, so consumers suffered through low voltage and dim lights. By 1904 the City felt that they should start supplying power for industrial purposes as well as consumers, so the City started buying power from outside companies.

In 1920 the hydro-electric plant at the Gird Ranch was wearing out, and pipe lines from the spring were leaking. In addition, the City was purchasing (from the California Telephone and Light Co.) as much electricity as it produced at the Ranch. During the next years, copper wire replaced aluminum, a three-phase current system replaced the two-phase, and other sources of water for hydro-electric power (including the Geysers) were sought. In early 1924 the city contracted for purchase all of its energy requirements of electricity at wholesale rates. It gave up manufacturing electricity and sold its equipment and water rights. It kept its distribution rights within the city and with the other consumers along the former supply lines.

Sewer

Unlike water and electricity, city sewage developed slowly. Outhouses and cesspools were the earliest method of disposal. In April 1900 city council president H.H. Pyne indicated his desire to install a sewage disposal system. He appointed a "sewer" committee consisting of T.S. Merchant and Col. John Favour. This committee spent the year 1900 investigating other like communities throughout California and reported on their sewer system findings to the Healdsburg council.

Until 1911 various types of sewer plans were discussed, including dumping sewage into the Russian River. In 1904 a septic tank disposal plant was discussed. In 1905 an engineer was hired to come to Healdsburg to advise the council on a sewer plan. In 1908 an unofficial vote was taken of the city to see if people favored a city bond for a sewage disposal system. The vote was 342 in favor and 160 opposed. But nothing was done for the next two years.

On April 11, 1910 a bond election was held for \$45,000 to install a sewer system, but voters turned it down 122 against to 72 in favor. In 1911 a modest system was proposed, for a plant costing \$4240. The plant site, which consisted of three septic tanks and three flush tanks was located on West Street (Healdsburg Avenue) where the Chamber of Commerce now sits. The first lines were only in the town's business section downtown, but mains were extended to the resident sections as funds permitted.

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In June of 1922 voters approved \$1500 for laying sewer mains underneath the streets, and at the same time voted \$8500 for water mains to be laid as well. The streets were then paved. The sewer system struggled through the 20's under increasingly larger loads.



Railroad Impact

The railroad line to Healdsburg opened in July 1871. The advent of the railroad meant many things to the town of Healdsburg. While stagecoaches brought people to the various spring resorts in the area, the train could bring even more people, as well as more economically diverse visitors. And since the tourist population was able to expand due to the train, the recreation opportunities offered by the Russian River at Healdsburg created a virtual "vacationland". Meanwhile, as farming and ranching expanded and outgrew the local markets, adequate transportation for heavy and bulk goods was sorely needed. The train provided a way to send produce and livestock and agricultural products like wine to greater distances.

Agriculture

Agriculture was a main factor in the development of the Healdsburg area. Rich soil from the Russian River and its tributaries, combined with the mild climate, gave rise to a variety of different crops. By the turn of the 20th century agriculture was well established in Healdsburg. Apples, peaches, pears, walnuts, tomatoes were all grown, but it was the famous triplets - hops, prunes and grapes - that were grown at varying times with great success.

Wine Grapes

Count Agoston Haraszthy planted wine grapes in Sonoma County in the 1850s. He also introduced European varieties to the area. From 1880 on, both grapes and hops were vital agricultural products. Many Italian immigrants had settled in the area (especially the Dry Creek Valley) and set about creating vineyards using the skills they brought with them from the old country. From the 1880s to the 1920s the town of Healdsburg was the center of the largest wine-producing region in Sonoma County.

In 1900 there were 25,000 acres of grapes planted in Sonoma County. Each acre had an average of 680 vines totaling 17 million county vines yielding 10 million gallons of wine. In 1913 there were 150 wineries producing 11 million gallons of wine. Prohibition in 1920 negatively effected the wineries, but the grape market actually rose. From 1920 to 1924 local grapes were shipped by rail to other parts of the country; but this rise was only temporary, and in 1924 the price of grapes fell steadily. Many of the wineries shut down completely during this time, and many small wineries disappeared. Some wineries barely managed to stay afloat. Many vineyards were torn out and converted to prune orchards. Prohibition lasted until 1933.



Picking hops at the Quinn Ranch

Hops

Hops were first brought to Sonoma County in 1858, and by 1900 they were well established. The hop is a perennial plant that grows on long vines. When the hop flowers were ripe, the vines were torn from their high trellises, the flowers were picked and then dried in special hop kiln buildings. The hop business was a risky business; the world market set prices.

World War I and Prohibition combined to create a wild ride for the Sonoma County hop market. During World War I the United States wartime liquor laws reduced the alcohol content of beer to 2.75% and shut the breweries to save grain. After the war, the demand from England for California hops to get her breweries back up and running created a mini-boom in the county hop industry between 1918 and

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1919. Then with the start of Prohibition in 1920 hop production dropped drastically.

Prunes

By 1924 Healdsburg was promoting itself as the "buckle of the prune belt". Prunes were long established by then, having been introduced to the area by Luther Burbank in the 1870s. By the turn of the 20th century prunes were well established in Healdsburg, and already quite productive. A 1909 Chamber of Commerce promotional material read that there were thousands of acres of prune orchards surrounding Healdsburg.

Prunes were shaken from the trees and picked off the ground in the orchards, dipped in lye to crackle the skin, and laid out in large wooden trays to dry in the sun. As early as 1905 various markets and competition allowed for the growth of "prune pools", in which member growers would pool their crops and hope to receive a better price from the packers. In 1917 the California Prune and Apricot Growers Association was organized, and it became the largest pool. Its mission was to achieve better stability in the market for dried fruits, and to set higher product standards. When Prohibition hit in 1920, prunes were the big winner. Many people began pulling out their vineyards and hop plants, and replanted them to prunes.

Expanded Markets and a New Industry

As mentioned earlier, the coming of the railroad really effected Healdsburg fruit, wine and hop industry in a positive way. Markets nationwide were opened up to the town that were before unreachable. Wine could be shipped to San Francisco and beyond. Dried hops could reach more buyers. And a new industry developed around fruit packing.

The first packing and canning plants opened in Healdsburg in the late 1880s, and the industry flourished until the 1920s, with both large and small canneries and packing houses doing business. In the 1930s smaller plants folded because the cost of mechanization made operation unprofitable. Bigger plants continued to operate, packing up Healdsburg's fruit and shipping it out to buyers.

Cannery and packing work was seasonal based on the harvesting of the crops. Once the rush began, companies started recruiting workers. Most of the workers were women and girls. Hours were often long and hard due to the seasonal nature of the work. Workers were pushed to get the fruit processed as quickly as possible. It was then shipped out by railroad cars. Most of the packing houses were located on the railroad line.

Resorts

The Russian River region, from Healdsburg down to the ocean, was once a vacation paradise, a "playground for the world." The region covers about twenty-one miles and at one time was lined with a multitude of vacation and summer homes and resorts. Hundreds of families from all over the Bay Area (San Francisco, The East Bay, the Peninsula and Marin) and from the Redwood Empire in the north would either make weekend trips to the area, or settle in



the Russian River section for the summer. Many mothers and children spent their vacation in summer homes along the river, the father traveling to be with them on weekends. Local people also enjoyed the river, and took advantage of the many recreational activities - such as swimming, boating, sun bathing, fishing, and canoeing - offered by the resorts.

People traveled to the river area by various means over the years. Early it was by stage, then by train to depots (the Healdsburg depot was opened in 1871) from which horse-drawn buses would take them to resorts. Later, people were met at train stations by autobuses. When people began owning cars (the first car came to Healdsburg in 1900), they drove themselves, though in some cases ferrying across the bay was needed.

Healdsburg's Fitch Mountain region, through which the Russian River flows, developed into a popular resort area after the turn of the 20th century. 1905 saw the first road built from Healdsburg to the mountain at Camp Rose. Later, a road was built from Healdsburg to the mountain at Villa Chantecler, as well as a road from the Villa to the river. In 1921 these roads became public roads and were rebuilt. They were connected on the mountain's east side to form a continuous six mile loop, with both ends reaching Healdsburg. As a result, the mountain became more accessible to the populace.

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Camp Rose

Attorney J.W. Rose established Camp Rosa in 1905 on Fitch Mountain. He set up tents and built a boarding house, and had 150 visitors the first season. Rates that first year were \$7 per week at the boarding house, \$8 per week for boarding and tent care. \$1 per week was charged to those who brought their own tents. In 1912 owner Carlyle Ray sub-divided the lots. Cottages were built on the hillside, and many of these were purchased by out-of-towners for summer use. A permanent Inn was built with a store, tents and a dance platform.

Villa Chanticleer

Villa Chantecler/Chanticleer, also on the mountain, was at one time the leading French resort north of San Francisco. Frenchman Pradel established the Villa in 1910 when he built several cabins and a screened in dining pavilion. He marketed his resort to the French organizations in San Francisco.

Del Rio

Del Rio Woods was also established in the early 1900s on the eastern slope of the mountain. Robert Cook and Joseph Pohley developed it. Several acres of the property were set aside for the public and private property owners to use as a park, and several lots were sold to Bay Area families who then erected summer homes. The remaining land was sold to Thomas Scoble, who proceeded to build a road to the top of Fitch Mountain, and sell off most of the public park, where subsequently many houses were built. An office and a store were built on the property. Swimming, horseback riding and picnicking were enjoyed activities.

Fitch Mountain Tavern

Fitch Mountain Tavern was built in 1908 along the Russian River on Fitch Mountain one and a half miles from downtown Healdsburg. Built by Mr. A.M. Ewing and his wife, the tavern had wide verandas and a rustic look. The property was subdivided and cottages for summer residents and visitors were built. Many local residents lived there during the summers as well. In 1913 a large dining room was added. Large automobile parties frequented the tavern, sometimes up to sixty at a time. The Tavern eventually stopped being popular, and in the late 1920s plans were made to demolish it and build a 100-room hotel in its place. In 1929 the old Fitch Mountain Tavern was demolished and the land cleared.

Conclusion

Healdsburg at the beginning of the 20th century was a growing town in many ways. While its resident population remained fairly steady from 1880 to 1940, it expanded in other ways. Its mod-

ern infrastructure was developed, and water, electricity and sewer became part of the City's responsibility and domain. The summer and tourist population increased greatly, as Healdsburg and its resorts - especially those on Fitch Mountain - became hugely popular vacation destinations. The railroad offered new opportunities for market growth, and by the turn of the century, when Healdsburg's agricultural mainstays were well established, products could be carried farther away than ever before. In spite of setbacks like Prohibition, 1900 to 1929 marked years of progression and expansion for the city of Healdsburg.

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HISTORIC



Harry Truitt, circa 1900

MEMOIRS

Reminiscences of Shirley Truitt: Changes in the Countryside Since 1900

Transcribed by Elizabeth Selby
and edited by Holly Hoods

At 80 years of age, thirty years ago, Shirley Truitt recorded his memories of 1900 Healdsburg in a handwritten notebook. His son, Harrison Truitt Starr, donated Shirley's writings (and other artifacts from Healdsburg's early Truitt/Madeira families) to the Healdsburg Museum in 2002. This article is excerpted from Shirley's unpublished memoirs.

When I was 10 years old, in 1900, life was much slower and therefore easier. For a while I lived on a farm at Healdsburg, Cal. with my aunt and uncle. We had no paved roads in the country or in the smaller towns. Even San Francisco had horse cars and wood sidewalks on Market St.

The farmers worked long hours, usually from sunup to sundown. They ate 3 large meals each day. For recreation they attended the various lodges

such as the Masons, Odd Fellows, Knights of Pythias, and the Grange in the smaller communities. On Saturday night they would drive to town and go to Muller's Beer Garden, have beer and pretzels and then attend the band concert in the local park. On Sunday they went to church or called on friends.

People did not travel great distances in those days. The horse, bicycle and train, besides walking, afforded transportation. During this period of my life, 8 to 10 years of age I would walk a lot with my Grandfather [George] Madeira. He was a fine walker and knew every animal, bird, flower, shrub, weed, tree and stars. We walked many nights together and camped out at night.

The people around 1900 led a peaceful life. My Uncle Roland had a theatre and quite often a show would come to town. The circus would come every two or three years. I remember when I was younger—6 years old or so—about 1896, my mother and her brothers all sang, played some instrument. My mother joined a musical group who called themselves "The Royal Albanians," whatever the hell that means [the Albanian Literary and Military Society]. They would play and sing at churches and picnics. Church groups would



The Albanian Literary and Military Society, circa 1885

go on camp trips and camp outs for a month or two. Hunting groups would go out the same way. I have seen 16 to 25 deer hung up for butchering when I have been on one of these trips.

We had no racial or religious problems in those days. There was only one Chinaman in town and his name was "Joe Wah Lee." I can still see him. Everyone liked him except me. I was afraid of him. His funny dress and long queue. Due to the vineyards there were many wineries and these were run by Italians. The Italians went to the Catholic Church. We had a 7th Day Advent Church and 2 or 3 protestant churches. We had a number of Jews and we were all friends. Many a time the Catholic Priest had dinner with us, even though we were not Catholic. My mother was a Methodist but my father kept away from all of them. The Rev. Stanton of the Methodist church was often at our house, as well as Lou Meyer, then Rabbi. There were no animosities, all were treated alike.

We also had many Indians living on the river banks. Dry Creek had many and the Russian River had large numbers. My

father was the town teamster and when a cow or a horse died far any reason at all my father would haul it out to the Indians. They would cut it up and say "Harry Truitt heap fine man."

I lived on a fruit farm. At prune time we shook the trees and picked the prunes out of the dirt clods for 5 cents per box. It was hard work and it hurt your back and knees. I have made as much as \$1.50 for 10 hours work. In those days you never picked a prune off the tree, it must be ripe enough to either fall off of its own accord or by shaking the tree. A wagon would come around and you would put your full box on the truck and take an empty box. The prunes were taken to a dip of hot caustic soda. This softened the skin. They were then poured back into the box and taken out to the dry yard where they were spread on tray for sun drying. In good weather this required 4 to 6 days. Many the night I have had to get up with my uncle and grandfather when it rained and cover the trays to prevent the drying prunes from getting moldy and spoiling.

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For all of this we had to sell our prunes to a monopoly, even in those days, and we received 5 cents per pound at best. Today the Sunkist racket dries the prunes electrically and chemically, packages them in fancy boxes under a lot of advertising and charges you not less than 35 to 50 cents per pound. (I paid 77 cents recently.)

Our peaches and apples were dried in much the same manner. Peaches and apples were picked off the trees and sold to the local canneries. In those days you could walk along the creek below our farm and see hundreds of birds and animals, particularly deer. We could fish any place and hunt almost any time of the year. There were no "no trespassing signs" or "keep out signs", "beware of dogs" etc. You could always pick a peach, cherries, berries or apples to eat with no one bothering you. Of course if you picked in large quantities the farmer would object.

People did not buy from stores as we do now. The women on the various farms would can or bottle certain fruits and vegetables and trade with one another. One farmer would butcher a hog or a steer and all of us would share in it. Money was not used except for taxes. We never heard of the Federal Govt. and were not interested in political problems until election time when politics was taken very seriously. They would have big bonfires and whoop it up for their candidate.

I remember my father [Harry Truitt], who was a strong Democrat, going into a saloon and calling out any Republican whom he would beat up. Frequently when he tried to take on too many they would gang up on him.

When a person died, the women dressed the dead person and prepared him for burial. There was no undertaker with his high prices. The local furniture store usually built an ordinary coffin and the local livery man furnished the hearse. If one belonged to a lodge they usually performed the burial service. Births were handled by women who had a young child being fed at the breast. They delivered the baby and took care of both mother and the baby. Doctors were only called in for special cases. No doctors or hospitals like now. Of course, mother and infant death rates were much higher than now. The average country boy remained on the farm; few left and went to college. High School was tops for most. If a man wanted to learn a trade he served an apprenticeship of at least four years and learned how to do the job. He did not have to go to college and earn a degree by playing on the ball team in order to wield a broom!

We did not have electricity in those days in the smaller communities. We used wood and or coal for fuel. There was no piped gas; for lights we used candles and coal oil. (Kerosene to you). I remember when my uncle installed a large acetylene generator to furnish gas for the large house we lived in. Water

was either hauled up from a well by the bucket. There was no such thing as piped water. To furnish water for the horses and cows you had a windmill that pumped water into a tank. If this mill was near the house you may have water from the tank at your kitchen sink and inside toilet and bathtub if you had them. Toilets were the usual wood type built over a hole in the ground. We would pour lime in the hole once a week and when it filled up, cover it and move the toilet to another previously prepared hole. Taking a bath was a big problem as all water had to be heated in large 10 gallon wash tubs and then carried to a larger tub where you bathed, one after another in the same water. This performance was a once a week job and always on Saturday night.

There were no refrigerators or ice. You stored your food in a hole near the well or in a deep basement. Our barn was about two city blocks from the house. We usually had a cow and two horses. We kept a buggy, a buckboard and a carriage at the barn. We raised our own hay and stored it in the loft above. The town had a combination City Hall, Post Office, Court and Jail. When some tramp was arrested and put in the single cell we would all go down and look at him as though he were an animal in the zoo.

There was little or no lumbering in the forests near us and even today the forests are beautiful. Most of the lumber we used came from Pine Flat about 16 miles northeast of us. We had a local sawmill that had a

steam engine and boiler to operate it as did the flour mills, wineries and other places requiring power. There were no electric motors in those days. In the large cities the power companies had not stolen the water and built dams to generate AC by water power. There was still competition by the power firms. D.C. power was in general use.

The telephone was a curiosity. Business houses and private homes did not have a phone. There was one at the railroad station. In 1902 when my Uncle Frank died, my Aunt had to drive to the R.R. station about 3 1/2 miles to send a message by phone to my Mother. She could only talk to Santa Rosa and the telephone operator there could call San Francisco. As my mother did not have a phone, the message was delivered to a grocery store at Oak and Laguna Sts. who in turn went to my Mother's place and told her. It was not until 1915 that I ever used a long distance phone. I phoned from Montreal to New York. What a thrill. During the Panama Pacific Exposition in San Francisco in 1915 the first phone call between New York and San Francisco was made. I had the pleasure of listening in on these calls which were public each day at the Fair.

We made our first trip by car to Lake Tahoe in July 1916. Except between San Francisco and Auburn there were no paved roads. All were dirt, sharp curves, steep hills and narrow roads. It was a real

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pleasure. You would come around a curve and there would be 2 or 3 deer. Birds were plentiful and the red squirrels and chipmunks were seen by the thousands. Today with the high speed race track over the mountain you never see an animal.

The county around Monte Rio on the Russian River was ruined by the picnics that used to be run by the railroad. The redwoods were cut down for stores and summer cottages and people from San Francisco and the

surrounding districts would weekend and vacation there. Then came the automobile and the country became a mess: no more deer or small animals, bird population reduced. Pollution became the watch word. The country around Healdsburg remains much the same as it was except for the highways. You can't stop and picnic as you once did, someone always had a sign up, private property, etc. However you can drive along the byroads and the country is still beautiful.



*Truitt's Theater and Opera House, Center Street, circa 1910.
Shirley Truitt, owner, second row in center.*

Entertainment and Sports

By Charlotte Anderson

(An important component of any community is how the members of the community enjoy a leisure and cultural life. In the following two articles, Charlotte Anderson brings to life the various venues the residents of the Healdsburg area took part in either as participants or as spectators. - Editor).

Early Theaters

Healdsburg has a wonderful history of theaters and various halls used for theatrical events, dances, and even skating! Nosler's Hall on Center Street was used in the late 1800's for social dancing and skating. Powell's Theater, "improved in 1878," accommodated presentations on the stage as well as festival occasions. On March 1, 1878, the presentation was the Santa Rosa Amateur Minstrels with "new songs, jokes, and sidesplitting farces." This was followed by a social dance with music by the Santa Rosa String Band. Further, in 1906 Fox's Hall, the theater room of the Masonic Building was leased by Mr. Clyde Van Deveere for a "dancing hall and public entertainment."

Although, as stated above, there were several "theaters" and places for dancing, Truitt's Theater on Center Street south of South Street (Matheson) seemed to be the most active. In 1888, it was featuring social dances, dramas, musical concerts, various minstrel shows, lectures, skating, and other entertainment. In 1891, the Healdsburg Minstrels gave their first performance at Truitt's Theater. A big street parade took place followed by a concert in the Plaza during the day, and the minstrel show was in the evening.

In 1899, the Lady Minstrels of Healdsburg provided a great performance which included a quartet singing "Where Will You Hear As Good Again." The quartet was Mrs. D. Wightman, Miss Lora Warer, and Messrs. Myers and Snook. The Shellford sisters and Misses Williams and Bale "brought down the house."

Meanwhile, in 1897, The Projecting Kinetoscope was "holding forth in the Gobbi Building" and "attracting good attendance nightly." The "views rep-

resenting a moving train and the New York Fire Department in action are particularly good although the Corbet-Courtney fight is the piece-de-resistance."

In December 1912, Truitt sold the theater to James Hanson of San Francisco, "a cousin of Geo. Hanson, the local cigar manufacturer." The theater was remodeled with the "intent of giving the people of Healdsburg a place where they can enjoy good performances in warmth and comfort." It was then called Hanson's Opera House. In May 1915, Charles E. Naylor became the new owner and manager and changed the name to the Healdsburg Opera House. On May 14, 1915, the grand opening was held featuring a "dansant" or soiree in the evening.

In 1878, Mc Manus and Powell's new hall was named Liberty Hall. Opening day featured a skating carnival in the afternoon and a grand ball in the evening. In 1918, Fred Lencioni's Victory Theater merged with the Liberty, and in 1919, the Liberty Theater, now owned by Hartman and Tucker, was being enlarged. Klingel Bakery moved to accommodate enlargement to a "large theater with good seating capacity, all modern conveniences, and the most scientific heating and lighting. Two of the latest type power picture machines have already been purchased" and the "finest obtainable films are to be shown."

Live and Local

In February of 1904, Healdsburg's first amateur theatrical group made its appearance in part of the Kruse barn on Johnson Street. The company was made up of the following young people: Russell Wolcott, Holland Cooke, Carl Ulrich, Alfred Kruse, Geary Coombs, Lewis Byington, Inez Smith, Ethel Kruse and Alice Ulrich. The price of admission was "five cents, and in lieu of coin the doorkeeper will accept two syrup cans or three grain sacks. The proceeds from the performance will be devoted to securing costumes, etc., and it is the intention to give a performance twice a month."

In 1923 at the Liberty Theater the Red Men Minstrels put on a program of

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jokes and songs featuring local talent. In 1926, the Young Ladies' Institute of the Catholic Church presented "the great four-act drama 'The Spider and the Fly' under the direction of Berkeley Haswell, one of the recognized directors of the Little Theater Movement."

The Kiwanis Minstrels and Review was performed in 1925 in the Liberty Theater. Principals included Miss Norma McPherson, George Imrie, Walter Towle, Clarence Barry, Elmer Sanborn, Clarence Driver, and "our city dads."

In 1928, the Kiwanis' annual charity show presented the musical comedy "The Oriental Yank" featuring local talent: Lucille Kunz, Elmer Sanborn, Evelyn Cerialle, Mrs. B.L. Baldwin, Mrs. Lenore Campbell Keesling, Eddie Byrn, Floyd Darby, J. Irving Rhodes, James Brown (Kiwanis president), and Elmer Stenquist. The girls' chorus featured Clara Hammarberg and Verne Day. Others were Marjorie Adams, Ruth Adams, Verna Boucher, Mildred Boulden, Eleanor Clark, Eleanor Butts, Anna Day, Nelda Elliott, Katherine Elliott, Lucile Esaia, Helen Sinclair, Evelyn Stevens, Matilda Rosa, Lois Walker, Gertrude Tate, and Gladys Frost. The boys' chorus included Ned Auradou, Cecil Fewel, Louis Foppiano, Earl Gibbons, Woodley Frampton, Hal Conant, Arthur Ross, Harold Ross, Elmer Stenquist, Ed Lyons and Lloyd Johnson.

Also as "live entertainment," the Sotoyome Band was holding a series of open-air concerts in the Plaza on Sunday afternoons during the summer. In addition, during the summer the Lytton Boys' Band played weekly on Saturday nights in the Plaza.

In the 1930's, the schools were having dramatic performances. One such activity occurring in May of 1930 was the Healdsburg grammar school's operetta "Polished Pebbles" performed on a Friday afternoon and evening. The entire cast of principals and choruses then repeated the performance in Santa Rosa as a feature of the seventh annual Sonoma County music memory contest at the high school. The principals included Arthur McCaffrey, Alice Louise Bowers, Phyllis Mothorn, Carol Frisch, Betty Frampton, Jeannette Beeson, Alvin Hensley, Jimmie Miller, and Katherine Scariba.

Theaters in the 1920's

Hartman and Tucker's temporary theater operated at the Ladies' Improvement Club House on Center Street. Mrs. Hartman booked "all of the newest photoplay films now to be had" for viewing.

On March 11, 1920, Healdsburg's "handsome new playhouse, the Liberty Theater, held its premiere." "One of the largest amusement seeking crowds that ever gathered in Healdsburg assembled to view two of the latest film sensations, two vaudeville acts, and a special musical program on the magnificent new orchestration organ. In April 1920, Mrs. Frances Hartman assumed full interest and control of the Liberty Theater, holding it until 1924. In April 1924, R.E. and B.B. Byand of the California Theater Company bought it, and in August sold the Liberty to Hyman Harris and L.B. Harris, representatives of Pacific Coast Showhouses.

In 1923, the Liberty Theater was featuring "films, plays, skits, ariel feats, and vaudeville." An example of a typical week's fare in April of 1923 follows:
FRIDAY AND SATURDAY-Jack Boyle's Famous Police Story *The Face in the Fog* with Lionel Barrymore, Seena Owen, Lowell Sherman (a Boston Blackie crook story); *A Pair of Kings* with Larry Seemon, a riotous comedy; and hear Carrie Hetherington on the new orchestra organ.

SUNDAY-three shows! Circuit Vaudeville at 2:15, 7, and 9 p.m.

MONDAY-Todesca and Todesca Trick Cyclists, and on the screen *The Man*

from Hell's River with Eva Novak, Irving Cummings, Wallace Beery. Also Fox News and Gold Bug Comedy.

TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY-*The Old Homestead* with Theodore Roberts, Harrison Ford, Kathleen O'Connor and *The Steeple Chaser*, a mermaid comedy.

FRIDAY- "Spooks" put on by the McDonough Stock Company.

1925 continued with the varied fare, but also included one special entertainment, Bud Fisher's cartoon musical comedy "Mutt and Jeff at the Races," billed as "NOT A MOVING PICTURE" and "the gayest of all fun entertainment, stimulating a nation with its laughter."



1930's: A Taste of Things to Come

In February 1930, the Liberty Theater sold to T. and D. Jr. Enterprises which planned to modernize the theater immediately and equip it with "the world's greatest sound system, the Western Electric equipment." "A modern heating and ventilating system also is to be installed. The theater will be redecorated and, when all improvements are completed, will be the most modern theater in California for a town this size."

On Friday, May 2, 1930, the renovated Liberty Theater, now called the Plaza "due to the fact that the theater was situated so close to Healdsburg's beautiful Plaza, one of the outstanding beauty spots of the town," opened to a capacity crowd. Its "inaugural show, an all-sound program, included the feature *The Girl Said No* with William Haines." The first-nighters came away "much pleased with the presentation" and "with high praise for the acoustics." The same bill played on Saturday with both matinee and evening performances. Also on the bill were Charlie Chase in *Great Gods*, Waring's Pennsylvanians Vaudeville Act, a Disney cartoon and a "sound News Reel."

On Sunday and Monday, the program featured *Such Men Are Dangerous* with Warner Baxter, Catherine Dale Owen, Hedda Hopper and Albert Conti. In addition were *Adam's Eve*, a talking comedy, *Chinatown My Chinatown*, and Movietone News.

The Bishop Murder Case, a Philo Vance Mystery, was featured on Tuesday the 6th and Wednesday the 7th.

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The following week illustrated the quality of shows that were being obtained, including *High Society Blues* with Janet Gaynor and Charles Farrell; *The Divorcee* with Norma Shearer; *Montana Moon* with Joan Crawford, John Mack Brown, and Ricardo Cortez; *Caught Short* with Polly Moran and Marie Dressler; and *Framed* with Evelyn Brent and Ralf Harolde.

Finally, 1930 concluded a "personal" appearance by "'Leo,' the celebrated MGM star"! "'Leo,' the huge lion who roars his supremacy at the beginning of all Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer pictures from within the 'Ars Gratis Artis' scroll of the trademark design, will arrive in Healdsburg 'in person in all the grandeur and style that should surround the greatest star of the screen and the king of beasts. 'Leo' will strut his 'stuff' in front of the Plaza Theater at 5:30 p.m."

"'Leo,' and his entourage of two magnificent motor cars and one palatial motor truck, and a staff of five escorts, will be met on the outskirts of the city by the highway police and a committee. He will be escorted through Healdsburg to the Plaza Theater where he will be given the 'key to the city.' 'Leo' will then perform for his admirers for half an hour."

Thus the 1930's closed with new sounds (and a roar!), but still adhering to the fine assortment of entertainment that had become part of the town of Healdsburg.

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The Russian River Flag: 6-1-1871, p.3:2.

The Sotoyome Scimitar: 2-8-1924, p.1:2; 2-27-1930, p.1:2; 5-1-1930, p.1:4.

Sports Tidbits

Baseball

Over the years, a great deal has been written about the sport of baseball in Healdsburg, from the simple beginnings of a baseball league, through the years of the semi-professional ball players, and on to the formation of the twilight league. Highlighted here are the beginnings of a baseball league and a twilight league.

In May of 1880, a baseball league was organized with the following members: C.D. Carter, Ed. Beeson, George Miller, Geo. Hudson, Jerry Gladden, A.P. Mulligan, J.A. Hall, Fred Osborne, Sam McManus, James

McManus, Jim Reynolds, Wm. Fitch, Frank Allen, Eli Bush, John Warner, Geo. Davis, Giles Bush, and Will Hudson. "The league will be governed by the rules of 1880. Uniforms will be purchased, and any outside club that wants to get 'waxed' will please apply."

A group of boys under 18 years of age also organized under the title of Eureka Base Ball Club and also applied for admission into the league to play others of the same age category. These members were John McMullen, John Henry, Jno. Hickle, Ed. Hendrick, Millard Hall, Oliver Truitt, Eddie Hudson, Charley Powell, Ed. Sheridan, and Fred. Henderson. "The citizens have subscribed liberally to a fund to buy uniforms for the boys. The organization is a permanent one."

The formation of a twilight league of Healdsburg men to play baseball was organized in 1930. Their first game was on July 16, 1930, at the Recreation park. The teams were managed by Rollin McCord and Ed Kramer. McCord's team was as follows: Lampson, William Yanglin, Harry Dutton, Ed Butler, Ray Johnson, G. Conran, Claude Nosler, Ralph Tanner, John Jones, and Bill Maher. The Kramer team consisting of Pacific Gas and Electric company men were Chet Merrill, Ed Kramer, Johnny Morgan, "Tiny" Faronol, "Sheik" Rimmel, "Buck" Badger, "Coke" Parkerson, Art Gully, and Cliff Mell.

Golf

The Healdsburg Country Club was formed in 1922 at the instigation of Col. C.E. Tayman with the original officers being Col. Tayman, George M. Warfield, and R.B. Stevens. Women members were active golfers and bridge players. Thursdays were set aside as Ladies Day although women could play any day. The club purchased an additional 63 acres of the Luce tract on June 19, 1923, and the "new" course was opened with permanent greens. The club held many successful tournaments and events.

Marathon Races

In 1927, the marathon race started at the Ferry Building in San Francisco and went through Petaluma, Santa Rosa, and Healdsburg on up Highway 101 through Redwood country to Grants Pass, Oregon, a distance of 480 miles. The race was held in 1927 and 1928, but future hopes for such marathons were dashed by the Depression. These races were referred to as the "Indian Marathons" as Indians usually were the ones who ran that far and finished!

In conjunction with 4th of July celebrations in 1927, there was a "small sports program" as well as a "Fitch Mountain Marathon," a distance of 5.6 miles. This race began at West Street (Healdsburg Ave.) and Powell Ave. and finished at Matheson and West. The race was won by Manuel Cordova of Healdsburg. Other Healdsburg finishers included Monte Pavoni, Manford LeSage, Charles Holz, Halbert Conant, A. Elgin, George Littleton, Abe Cootes, Charles King, Verne Pickerell, P. Luna, and C. Marson.

The "small sports program" began in the "lower business block of Matheson St." The races ranged from the unlimited 220-yard dash to the 50-yard dash for fat men!

Winners were:

100-yd dash, unlimited—Bill Stine

220-yd dash—Franklyn Scott

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50-yd dash for grammar school students—Emil Giorgi
100-yd dash for fat men—R.M. Scott
3-legged race—Bud Laughlin and Arthur Reid
50-yd dash for boys under 10—Bud Laughlin
50-yd dash for girls under 10—Rosalie Puget
50-yd dash for girls over 11—Katherine Saraiba
440-yd relay, unlimited—Stein, Mollin, Robinson, Demostene
440-yd relay for grammar school boys—E. Scott and E. Giorgi

Other Programs Including Sports

Fourth of July celebrations were held throughout the years. In 1901, the following was advertised: Grand school, fraternal, and industrial parade; literary exercises at the park; grand parade of "Squeedunks"; athletic games and fireworks, firemen's tournament—to conclude with a ball in the evening.

In 1930, the city held a "Progress Festival" on April 25 and 26, in celebration of "a season of civic accomplishments, in thankfulness for bright crop prospects, and in anticipation of even greater things to come." Band concerts during the day, a street dance at night, and athletic events were among the attractions. The "athletic" events for one of the days, during which time Lytton's Band played, were tugs of war, 50-yd dash, shotput, 100-yd dash, high jump, and first aid contest for P.G. & E. employees and teams. Events for others included wheelbarrow race carrying one passenger, three-legged race, rope climbing contest, relay race, and greased pig contest.

Bouts of Boxing

In the 1890's Healdsburg fans were cheering hometown boy Chris Merchant who was the amateur heavyweight champion of the Pacific Coast. Merchant was featured in a bout in Healdsburg on January 19, 1895. Two three-round preliminary bouts preceded the main event that night. "In a very scientific set-to in Nosler's Hall Saturday night, Chris Merchant defeated Ted Rooney, the all-round athlete who has also made quite a name for himself in the ring."

"There was a large number of spectators present and the receipts fully met the expectations. A twenty-foot ring was erected near the stage and the seats were arranged in a quadrangle around it. Two-thirds of the door receipts went to Merchant and the remainder Rooney got."

Boxing was being taught in 1895 by W.C. Bean, "the well-known boxing instructor." In December of that year he opened a school of boxing, teaching a class every Monday during the day and evening for six weeks.

In October of 1905, following a prize fight under the auspices of the Victor Athletic Club, at Fox's Hall, an event "not on the bills was brought out." According to the *Healdsburg Tribune's* article of 5 October 1905 entitled "Indecent Exhibition: Spectators of a Prize Fight Witnessed a Woman's Shamelessness," a man named Reese, "representative and traveling companion of an abandoned woman, announced that she would give an exhibition 'for men only' at the price of 25 cents a hear. No boys under 15 were allowed to remain, and the exhibition was given in the presence of a good crowd, the club receiving one-half the proceeds from the woman's shamelessness." (Author's note: I guess she fought against Reese, her "promoter"!) A scheduled second exhibition did not occur

for "through the active opposition of a few citizens, the man and his companion were warned that they would fall into the hands of the law, and they left town at the first opportunity."

Interest in the sport seemed to remain throughout the years, and in July of 1930, Art McCaffrey, matchmaker for the Healdsburg Sport Club, announced a boxing exhibition in the Women's Improvement clubhouse. The "card" was as follows: Douglas Bassett vs. Bud Laughlin; George McCord vs. Gene Murray; Jack Littleton vs. Robert McCaffrey; Leland Smith vs. Sequester Langhart; Benjamin Reid vs. Jess Murray, and Ernie Sharp vs. Ronald Carpenter. Johnny Murray refereed.

"BLUE ROCKS"

The Healdsburg Gun Club was quite active in 1897. In May of that year out in Dry Creek an event was held with Dr. Swisher, J. McCutchin, Merrieweather, Hazen, Lowry, Streinging, McGregor, and Cummings winning prize money. James McCutchin of Windsor won the Winchester gun, a prize for a 20-bird event. Another trophy called the "Baker and Hamilton trophy" was won by Bob Shane of Healdsburg.

In June of 1922, the Healdsburg Gun Club held its first public event with 150 persons present. There were 38 shooters entered in the "merchandise event" which J.D. Fair won with a score of 25 straight. C.A. Fredson, J.B. McCutchan, and Earl Frampton tied for second with 23 birds apiece. The "miss and out" event was won by Earl Frampton. In the doubles, C. Kimball and H. Mothorn tied with 20 of 24.

Guns were still blazing in February 1923 when good scores were turned in by Harry Tucker (29 of 30), Jim McCutchan (55 of 60), Jack Woods (43 of 50), Earl Frampton and Vernon Chaney (35 of 40), Phil Ponzo (26 of 40), Pat Dennes and Charles McCutchan (18 of 20), and Charles Byington (10 of 20). The local team sent team of five to compete in the Chronicle tournament in San Francisco, February 22, 1923.

Short Sports Tidbits

AMATEUR DRIVING CLUB

The Amateur Driving Club, organized in March of 1906, "consists of prominent young men of Healdsburg, who are more or less devotees of fine horses. The old 'driving track at Luce's park'" (bottom section of Tayman Park off South Fitch Mt. Road now) "has been leased and work is being done under the direction of Frank Petray to put the track in first-class condition. Eli Bush is president, C.D. Evans secretary, and Frank Hazen and Dr. H.G. Hewitt are trustees. The membership fee is \$5."

"AUTOISTS"

A gathering of "autoists" to select an organization committee met at Bosworth's Grove, Geyserville, in June 1908. It was a very successful affair. Every variety of machine was represented from "the wheezy little out-of-date coffee grinder to the luxurious and noiseless seven-passenger touring car." Attorney Leppo of Santa Rosa stated that the object of the club was the "improving of the highways threading the county." Everyone should cooperate in this movement, members agreed. "The auto was not here to occupy the road alone; the horse had his rights to the highway, and he should share the good road with the machine." In

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addition to Attorney Leppo from Santa Rosa and E.M Norton of Healdsburg, the organization committee included men from Sonoma, Kenwood, Geyserville, Sebastopol, and Cloverdale.

TENNIS

From an article in the *Healdsburg Tribune* in August of 1891: "The lawn tennis club of Healdsburg is organized with a membership of about thirty; the grounds have been procured and there is but one thing lacking-apparatus to play with!"

Healdsburg can be proud of the fact that it was home to Hazel Hotchkiss Wightman for her younger years. Born on a Westside farm and sister to four brothers, Hazel had a family who "managed to provide an atmosphere of competitiveness and high-hearted risk taking." Hazel Hotchkiss "can be said to have actually invented an entirely new style of play for women: she dared to play like a man!" In 1901 she won her first National Singles Title, and in the 1924 Olympics in Paris she won 2 gold medals (and at age 38 was one of the oldest athletes there). She was founder of the Wightman Cup for women's international tennis play. Hazel was considered "the Queen Mother of women's tennis of the 20th Century."

In 1930, a "definite action was on the way toward realization of a municipal playground for Healdsburg." The first unit was to be "two tennis courts, on the American Legion lot" on Center Street. The project was presented by the committee of Arthur Meese, Jack Neely, and Dr. A.M. Anderson, representing the Legion, and James R. Bowen, representing the Kiwanis Club.

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