Wayne Padd’s O scale model trains on exhibition.

“Model Trains Spectacular”
New Holiday Toy Exhibition Opens on November 24

This year’s annual holiday toy exhibition will feature model trains of many scales and styles. Spectacular model trains will be featured in small town winter settings from the mid-1940s to the 1960s. Highlights will include: famous passenger trains—Santa Fe El Capitan and New York Central’s 20th Century Limited; Southern Pacific and Northwest Pacific freight trains; tank and box cars carrying wines from Healdsburg’s Roma and Foppiano wineries and Asti’s Italian Swiss Colony winery, as well as replicas of the Healdsburg Train Depot and the Roma winery building, now Hudson Street Wineries.

Many of the trains and accompanying scenes will be from the collection of Wayne Padd, who has been entranced with trains big and small since he was

(cont’d page 4)
It has been a challenging time in Healdsburg and Sonoma County with the fire emergencies overshadowing all normal activities. I closed our Museum for one week, deciding that most people would—and should—have higher priorities. Some of our Museum volunteers lost their homes in neighboring communities; many were evacuated from, or voluntarily evacuated, their properties. Rattled researchers called to reschedule their appointments; a Garden Club cemetery tour and a school field trip were postponed.

The Museum and the Museum Collections buildings were never in direct danger, as Healdsburg was not under mandatory evacuation orders, nor was there fire anywhere in the City limits, but it has been all around us. We still continue to be on edge, watchful and wary, as containment of the Tubbs and Pocket fires continues to improve.

Right now, the Sonoma County Historical Archives storage building at Los Guilicos in Santa Rosa remains in the danger zone, with local historians concerned. Everyone agrees that the firefighter and first responder forces have been outstanding, but there is much territory for them to cover.

As my husband and I listened to KSRO news updates and monitored CalFire and Healdsburg City updates, we learned that we were one street away from a voluntary evacuation zone. So we prepared to be prepared. We packed a few changes of clothes, bottles of wine(!), our dogs and their supplies, but had to prioritize what else we wanted to take. I discovered that what we primarily wanted to save was “history.” We packed the car with a few boxes of cherished materials. The essential items were our family photographs, genealogy, personal papers, great-greatfather’s chiming mantle clock from 1920s, antique family jewelry and my MA thesis research. Everything else seemed expendable, which was liberating in a way.

It reminded me in a profound way of how important the preservation of history really is and how essential the work of our Museum and Historical Society is, to be the primary steward of that cherished local history.

We feel grateful and fortunate to live here in this wonderful community and county. All best wishes for strength and recovery in the weeks and months ahead.

It is with a heavy heart that I write this column. First, there was the shock of arriving at the Museum for my usual first Sunday of the month afternoon receptionist duty to find John Guilfoy not there and the Museum unopened. It was inconceivable that he would not have shown up for his shift. I eventually learned the sad news that John had died the day before. John was part of our Museum family who, along with his sisters, was a hard-working volunteer. He will be greatly missed.

Then the fires…We probably all know someone who has lost their home. To see so much destroyed so close to home is overwhelming. There are no words to express our sorrow. Thankfully, the Museum still stands as a haven and we hope it will continue to preserve our history, so that our children, grandchildren and even great grandchildren will be reading “Flashbacks” in 25, 50 and 100 years from now which will describe the Great Fires of 2017 and the recovery of our communities.

Toward that objective, it is the time of year that we send solicitation letters for our annual appeal. Approximately, 20-25% of the Museum’s operating revenue is generated by year end donations in response to the annual appeal. We appreciate that many of you have contributed to our fundraising events, business partnerships, membership dues and made other donations throughout the year. We hate to keep asking, but we must. We love the Museum and want it to continue as a vital part of the community. Therefore, please respond generously to the annual appeal to the extent you are able. Thank you.

Welcome Our Newest HM&HS Members

Jeffrey Demarest and Martha Noble
Mark McMullen
Russ Pinto
Stephen Taylor
A big thank you to the volunteers and Board members who supported the Oak Mound Cemetery reception. From car shuttle to bar tending, you did a great job!

Our museum family was sad to learn of the passing of volunteer John Guilfoy. Our sincere sympathy to his family and especially to his sisters, Jane Guilfoy and Martha Brooks, who are also Museum volunteers.

The past week of fires in California has affected so many people with horrific loss of life and property, and thousands of acres of woodland. The lives of the firefighters, pilots and support crews, many from other states, have been stretched to the limits. The organization and cooperation within such an operation spread out so thin is unbelievable to me.

As of October 16, I feel very fortunate to have seven weeks of recovery from surgery behind me and am gaining more endurance every day. I was able to help pack our camping gear, etc., in our van in case we needed to evacuate.

But, what to do with my volumes of family histories and Geyserville research? I realized I have some Geyserville history in scanned photos of artifacts and old homes and research notebooks as back up for the same stored in Geyserville. My mind was racing all week—what to do to protect so much here and in Geyserville.

The challenge for me has been how to protect personal historic research from fire, earthquakes, floods or computer crashes. Besides backing up the information, I must personally come up with better solution…and soon.

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Tribute to John Guilfoy

With surprise and sadness, we bid a fond farewell to our dear friend and Museum volunteer, John Patrick Guilfoy, who passed away unexpectedly on September 30, 2017, at age 63.

A native of San Francisco, John attended St. Brendan’s School and St. Ignatius College Preparatory, graduating in 1972. He trained in sheet metal fabrication in the 1970s and worked as a journeyman in the Bay Area during the early ‘80s.

John valued his local roots and was close to his family, moving to Healdsburg in 1985. He is survived by his siblings Mary Dekker, Martha Brooks, Jane Guilfoy and Daniel Guilfoy. John leaves behind many nieces, nephews, great nieces, great nephews, as well as a plethora of cousins and friends from many walks of life. John was also a valued member of the Camp Rose Players, joining the Fitch Mountain community theater group shortly after he moved to town.

We appreciated John’s many volunteer contributions at our Museum, where his sisters Martha Brooks and Jane Guilfoy volunteer as well. Genial John welcomed visitors to the Museum gallery on a regular Sunday shift, plus generously filling in wherever he could. He helped with exhibitions; volunteered with the Antiques and Arts Fair; pitched in with our cemetery restoration. John was actively engaged in a life of purpose and service to the very end. He will be greatly missed by our Museum family. We are grateful to have known him.
Cemetery Restoration Celebration and Fountain Dedication

by Holly Hoods, Executive Director/Curator

The Healdsburg Museum & Historical Society invited the community to Oak Mound Cemetery for a restoration celebration and fountain dedication on Thursday, October 5, 2017. An enthusiastic crowd of approximately 75 people joined the Museum staff and Board members at the historic fountain. We gathered to celebrate the restoration of our pioneer cemetery, thank project supporters and witness the (re)dedication of the 1876 cemetery fountain.

Activities started at 4:00 pm with refreshments and self-guided tours, assisted by Claire O’Neill and Kay Robinson. We welcomed the attendees and presented some historical background about the cemetery and fountain.

After being thanked and applauded himself, Project Manager Jim Dreisback thanked the many businesses and individuals who had helped make the successful project possible. We were pleased to see several of the participating business owners in attendance. We thanked the volunteers who worked on the information kiosk and historical map that is installed at the entrance. We acknowledged the people who had worked to compile and digitize the historical cemetery records into a searchable database, as well as the volunteer who had conducted a tombstone inventory to map the locations of the damaged or toppled tombstones. The donors to the Cemetery restoration project also received our kudos. More than 140 people have made financial contributions, ranging from $5 to $25,000.

Thanks to Kay Robinson, Stan Becker, Jeanne and Phil Hartlaub, Ronnie and Tom Devitt, Katherine Bottini, Lauren Carriere, Jim and Meredith Dreisback, Phyllis Chiosso Liu and Ed Liu, Peter Leary, Carol Peterson, Whitney Hopkins and Jane Bonham for helping with the event.

Our commitment to the ongoing maintenance of the cemetery continues, but we wanted to celebrate the milestone of the fountain restoration. Thanks to everyone for their support, particularly Project Manager Jim Dreisback.

Please be sure to visit the cemetery, appreciate our town’s ancestors and the beautiful history park we have in our community.

Model Trains Spectacular  (cont’d from page 1)

a six-year old in Buffalo, NY and first rode the New York Central Railroad.

We will also feature Shirley Truitt’s handmade ¾-scale replica of the “California,” a steam locomotive that set speed records when it was introduced in 1865. What is particularly impressive about this train is that ironworker Shirley Truitt fabricated all of the parts himself working from the original train plans, fashioning a model 1/16th of the full size original. Shirley worked on this model as a hobby over 11 years, from 1948-1959.

Please stop by our exhibition as we stay open late to participate in the Downtown Merchants’ Holiday Open House on Friday, November 24.

Make a visit to the Healdsburg Museum part of your holiday tradition!
Oak Mound Cemetery and Fountain Restoration

Our very special thanks to the following businesses and individuals for their generous contributions of labor and/or materials.

Alexander Valley Ladies Aid - Lucy Lange and Kathy Monson
Allied Alarms - Yaqui Lara
American Legion Post #111
Amoroso Printing
Aaction Rents - Colin Grill
The Belli Corp., Westec Tank & Equipment - Joe Belli
Beeville Vineyard Management - Duff Bevill
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Katherine Bottini
Clendenen Vineyard Management - John Clendenen
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Jean Wallace
The Welding Shop - Scott Cavallo
Western Tree Removal Specialists - Justin Greer
Westside Vineyards - Mr. and Mrs. Joe Rochioli, Jr.
Wilbur-Ellis Corporate - Kyle Truesdell
Tributes
The Healdsburg Museum & Historical Society is grateful for the following memorial and honorary gifts received between December 1, 2016 and October 15, 2017:

In Memory of

Charles Baranzini, Jr.
Norma Passarino

Helendale Barrett
Mike & Judy Belli

Barbara Baxter
Nancy Cook

Donald Blumenthal
Jeanne & Phil Hartlaub

Frank Carvalho
Ron & Arlene Kron

Frank Carvalho, Jr.
Ron & Arlene Kron

Anita Colombano
Shirley & Rich Buchignani
Rita & John Lawson

Bettie Crandall
Marcia Teuschler

Norma Rafaelli Cousins
Lois Grace

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Norma Passarino

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Lois Grace

Mary & George Zandrino
Nancy & Karl Seppi

In Honor of

Phil & Jeanne Leal Hartlaub
Kathleen Karmendy
Lucille Walsh

Jon Lacailade & Pam Vana-Paxhia
Maryl & Wayne Lindahl
How did Healdsburg residents celebrate Thanksgiving, and give thanks, in the past? There are various accounts of communal Thanksgiving events in Healdsburg over the years. Here is an article from the Russian River Flag newspaper on December 7, 1876, recalling “Thanksgiving in Healdsburg.” (For the complete article, please check the California Digital Newspaper Collection. https://cdnc.ucr.edu/cgi-bin/cdnc)

Thanksgiving in Healdsburg

Union Service
At 11 o’clock, a large congregation assembled at the M.E. [Methodist Episcopal] Church South to attend the union service and listen to the Thanksgiving sermon by Rev. Wm. Angwin. Mr. Angwin is a fine speaker, and is comprehensive and concise in the handling of his subjects. His sermon on this occasion, patriotic and eloquent, was listened to with attention, and highly spoken of by competent critics. In order that those who were not present may yet enjoy its benefit, we publish it almost entirely on the first page of this issue and recommend its perusal.

The New England Dinner
At 1 o’clock, the doors of Liberty Hall were thrown open and during the afternoon and evening the public feasted on the turkeys, roast pigs, mince and pumpkin pies, etc., supplied by the ladies of Healdsburg and vicinity for a New England Thanksgiving Dinner for the benefit of our public library. More zealous ladies never engaged in getting up a public dinner in Healdsburg than those connected with the one mentioned above. For days previous, they canvassed the town, and surrounding country for miles, for provisions, going out in person with their buggies. Much attention and good taste was bestowed on the arrangement and adornment of the tables; the cooking was first-rate, and the supply of provisions abundant to the last.

Following are the ladies who took hold of the matter from the first, canvassed, had charge of tables, and carried it through to the close: Madames H. K. Brown, S. P. Mead, J. W. Bell, Lyman Dutcher, Wm. Vaughn, J. Forsman, Ransom Powell, C. E. Hutton, N. W. Bostwick.

Concert in the Evening
An audience of about four hundred assembled at the Hall in the evening and listened to a program of choice and well performed concert pieces, performed for the benefit of the Library. The audience was delighted with the performance and applauded freely. Mrs. Anita Grant, Sonoma’s favorite, in two popular pieces called forth the most enthusiastic demonstrations of approval.

To Messrs. Winter, Gladden, and Morrill, the excellent management of the concert is mainly due. After the concert, C. E. Hutton, President of the Board of Library Trustees, thanked the audience for their attendance, the concert people for their efforts, and announced that the Thanksgiving dinner was not yet over. The attention of the audience was then directed back to the tables for a couple of hours.

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Board of Directors: Ronnie Devitt (President), Jim Brush (Past President), Eric Ziedrich (Vice-President), Phyllis Chiosso Liu (Recording Secretary), Phil Hartlaub (Treasurer), Barry Stallard (Assistant Treasurer), Rawleigh Fjeld, Lockie Gillies, Ann Howard, Jeanne Leal-Hartlaub, Carol Peterson, Kay Robinson, Ken Spadoni (Directors)

The mission of the Healdsburg Museum and Historical Society is to record the history of the Healdsburg area through the collection and preservation of historical materials; to actively foster the appreciation of local history of the Healdsburg area through educational programs, activities and historical research; and to provide finances for, and to support, operate and manage the Healdsburg Museum. Edwin Langhart, Founder.

Membership Levels:
Friend: $30  Family (2 or more): $50
Contributing Member: $100  Supporting Member: $250
Sustaining Member: $500  Benefactor: $1,000

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