Holiday Toy Exhibit Set to Open
by Holly Hoods, Executive Director/Curator

We celebrate the holidays at the Museum by offering annual vintage toy exhibitions. This year we will present, “Zoom! Toys On the Go.” It promises to be an eye-dazzling feast for kids and adults who love bikes, trikes, wagons, trains, planes, trucks, pedal cars, tractors, motorcycles and airplanes. Thanks to the generosity of the Steve and Glenda Castelli family, we will showcase some of the early 20th Century transportation-themed toys from their collection.

The Castelli toys will share the gallery with Wayne Padd’s running O Scale Model Train and miniature train village. The scale-replica 1905 Healdsburg Plaza buildings, built by Jon Lacaillade, will be trimmed for Christmas. There will also be contemporary “toys on the go” available for kids to play with.

Our exhibit opens on Friday, November 25 at 4:00 pm to coincide with the Downtown Merchants’ Holiday Open House.

Make a visit to the Museum a part of your holiday traditions. Zoom on in!

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<td>14 – 24 Museum Closed for Holiday Toy Exhibition Installation</td>
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History Matters  

by Holly Hoods  
Executive Director/Curator

There has been a fascinating wave of interest in the Fitch and Carrillo families lately at the Museum. You may recall that these local families date back to the 48,880 acre Sotoyome Rancho of the early 1840s, before Healdsburg was anything resembling a town.

Marissa López, Associate Professor of English and Chicana/o Studies at UCLA, contacted the Museum this month regarding a literary article she is writing, called "Picturing Mexican California in the Age of Realism." Her article, which will appear in the journal American Literary Realism, is about oral histories of Mexican women from early California and how we can read them the same way we look at photography from the period. Our Josefa Carrillo de Fitch will be featured in Professor López’s article. She has promised us a copy when it is published.

Museum Volunteer Wayne Lindahl has been working on Carrillo/Fitch genealogy and publishing his research on the Museum’s Ancestry.com webpage. Wayne graciously came to the Museum to share some research with Ryan Campbell, the four-times-great-grandson of Captain Henry Fitch and Josefa Carrillo de Fitch. (Ryan and his wife were visiting from Seattle.)

Ryan had not done any prior genealogical research, but told us that he learned some family history from his grandfather, David DeGeus. When I heard the name “DeGeus,” I got excited. I knew that DeGeus was the name on one of the first graves we had restored at Oak Mound Cemetery. The DeGeus plot had been badly disrupted by the root ball of a tree, which dislodged two tombstones, including the stone of Leonard DeGeus. Ryan wanted to visit the grave. I was all too happy to show him the “before” photo and direct him to the gravesite of his great-grandfather, Leonard DeGeus.

It was serendipitous that Jim Dreisback, our Oak Mound Cemetery Restoration Project Manager, was already working at the cemetery. I was able to reach Jim and ask him to meet Ryan and his wife. Jim was able to talk to them about our restoration work and experience the profound gratitude from Ryan in person.

Ryan Campbell in front of his great grandfather Leonard DeGeus’ newly restored grave while on the phone with his grandfather David DeGeus

Ryan called his grandfather, David DeGeus, from his great-grandfather Leonard’s restored gravesite. Ryan was moved to tears. Hearing the story from him, I was too.

President’s Corner  
by Jim Brush, Board President

There has been great attendance at our exhibitions, especially our current "School Days: Then and Now" which runs through November 13. Our holiday exhibition, "Zoom! Toys on the Go," opens on November 25 and will be fun for the whole family.

We have @100 volunteers who donate more than 12,000 hours each year to help make your visit interesting. Their combined effort makes the Museum a truly valuable resource for our entire community.

We hope to see you soon.

Welcome Our Newest HM&HS Members

Jon B. Eisenberg  
Nancy & Karl Seppi  
Robert R. Smith, Nicole Pasion & Sophia Reyes  
Bertha Vieyra  
Mike & Christine Welty
HMVA News  

My HMVA co-chair, Ann Howard, is resting at home after heart surgery. She is getting better every day. We wish her a speedy recovery and return to HMVA.

The move to our new storage facility has entered a new phase. Whitney and a crew of volunteers spend Thursday afternoons re-sorting and finding proper homes for the artifacts. Special thanks to Meredith Dreisback, Diane Carriger, Kay Robinson, Phyllis Chiosso Liu, Carol Peterson, Pat McCracken and Margaret Dean for their hard work.

The IWC raffle and History Lives event were a smashing success. Thanks to all the volunteers who make this important fundraiser possible. A crew led by Mel Amato tackled the final job of packing and delivering wine to the lucky winners.

A final note: our historic newspaper collection is on line at the CDNC. Thanks to the many donors and volunteers who made this two year project such a success.

Dear Friends

Thank you, everyone, for your cards, energy-filled messages, emails, phone messages, prayers and lighted candles. I felt and needed all of your energy.

I am home as of September 21 and gaining strength. Thank you for the gifts of delicious soups, pastas, desserts, fruits and vegetables, flowers, phone calls, visits and shared meals.

Edson has been amazing, but such a team we have been for 48 years! He’s taken over meals and household chores since we’ve come home.

The successful surgery took place on September 2 – inserting a long stent graft into my enlarged descending thoracic aorta through the groin. The DIC bleeding disorder that I also had been treating the previous months with transfusions in Santa Rosa Memorial ceased after surgery! So, my two medical conditions together are ranked as rare. All of the doctors and nursing staff at Santa Rosa Memorial and Stanford are amazing, as they deal with each individual patient’s unique situation nonstop day and night.

I was up and walking when I left ICU on September 9. Suddenly, I had a setback, a spinal inflammation scare, and with all the tests and precautionary antibiotics, left me worn out for an extra week. Luckily everything turned out well.

Now I enjoy being up and about more, walking outdoors, helping with chores and working my way through a tall stack of loaned books. Our Dry Creek Valley views, sunshine, birds, deer, turkeys, including a fox(!) are the best medicine.

I met with the Santa Rosa and Stanford cardiologists on October 5. Unfortunately, I am not out of the woods yet. I still face more complicated surgery in early 2017 to replace the ascending aorta, and possibly the valve, as they extend up and out of the heart.

All else about me is clear and healthy. When I asked the cause, the response was, "Just one of those things." I am so fortunate and thankful to live in this age of modern medicine and surgery and truly dedicated professionals.

Work and Play  

Am I the only one who thinks the digitization of our historic newspapers is a health hazard? Fascinating, but dangerous. I can sit down to search one thing, which leads to another thing and before you know it, wow, it’s past my bedtime!

So much else was set in motion this year, too – the great progress made in restoring the Oak Mound Cemetery, the restoration of the Museum building exterior and a brand new collections facility. While the Cemetery grounds work is suspended through the winter, there is still ongoing work in scanning cemetery records and making them available online. A great deal of work also continues, out of the rain, in both buildings. Our loyal collections elves continue to bring order and organization to the shelves and to the computer records for each and every object. At the same time, a cohort of Museum elves is working downstairs to refresh the files and bring library-quality organization to our many resource books. Visiting the Research Center, you might even notice that there is more elbow room, too, as the back room begins to be re-invented.

The hustle and bustle has already begun for our last exhibit change of the year. Down with the
“School Days” and up with Holi-days. This promises to be a season of delight. We are privileged to welcome an exclusive selection from Steve and Glenda Castelli’s collection of antique toys. I can hardly wait to see what changes might have been made by Wayne Padd to the O scale running model train and Healdsburg village he has so wondrously created. And, of course, the magic of winter will visit the Matheson Street diorama, thanks to the artistry of Jon Lacailade and Maggie Bates.

We hope to see you and your family and friends here for the Thanksgiving weekend opening.

Oak Mound Cemetery Update

All is well at the Oak Mound Cemetery. The work that has been put into the project this past year has yielded amazing results. The new display case that holds the map of the historic section of the cemetery is welcoming visitors and hopefully assisting them in finding specific gravesites. The fountain renovation is continuing to move forward with a project completion later this month.

There are still a lot of pieces of the puzzle that need to come together, but with the help of so many talented people, confidence continues to prevail. I once again want to thank the following individuals and companies for their support: Jerry Eddinger, Eddinger Enterprises; Joe and Jim Belli, The Belli Corporation, Westec Tank; Scott Cavallo, The Welding Shop; Stan Johnson, Stan Johnson Pool Construction; Joe Lickey, Denny’s Electric; Jerry Engelke, Engelke Construction; Bill Domenichelli, Domenichelli Masonry; Yaki Lara, Allied Alarms; and EP&C Inc. Plastering.

The Kiwanis Club, Healdsburg High School Key Club, Boy Scouts and Rio Lindo Academy are all interested in returning next spring to continue their maintenance efforts.

Fall is a wonderful time to visit Oak Mound Cemetery. It is the perfect place to escape the hectic pace of everyday life and enjoy the beauty and serenity of this community treasure.

Thanks to Our Latest Cemetery Restoration Project Donors
Joanne Nelson in memory of William Freeman
Carol Novak in memory of Kent Mitchell

Contributions in Memory of:
Methven Brown from: Rick & Shirley Buchignani
Alice Buchignani from Frank Pastori & Family
Ray Puccioni from Ron & Arlene Kron
Kent Mitchell from Lynn & Richard Ganz
Della Faloni from John Saini & Family

SAVE THE DATE!
January 19, 2017
Healdsburg Museum
Annual Membership Meeting

Internship Update by Lauren Carriere

This semester I am taking an oral history internship through the Museum. Museum Curator Holly Hoods is supervising my internship. Holly began the internship with an introduction to oral histories. Oral histories are conducted in an interview format to encourage the interviewee to share their experiences, memories and stories. An oral history is different than a conversation; the interviewer’s job in an oral history is to ask thought-provoking questions, listen to the interviewee and ask follow-up questions.

It is not until the oral history interview is completed that the bulk of the work really starts for the interviewer. They must transcribe everything that was said in the interview. This process can take a considerable amount of time and concentration.

As part of my internship, I was able to conduct an oral history interview. I interviewed Ray Holley, managing editor of the Healdsburg Tribune, Windsor Times, Sonoma West Times & News and Cloverdale Reveille. Holley was a great subject for my first oral history. He was enthusiastic, told intriguing stories and had thoughtful answers to my questions. The most interesting part of conducting the interview was that I just met Holley about five minutes before our interview began. I went from knowing small bits of information from my pre-interview research to feeling like I knew his personality, his passions and some of his life story. It was a great learning experience for me and I am excited to conduct more interviews in the future!

Be sure to check out my oral history with Ray Holley in an upcoming issue of the Russian River Recorder!
Historic Preservation Award Nominations

Every year we present Historic Preservation awards to the owners of one or more deserving local commercial or residential buildings. Nominations are made by community members who appreciate the work that the owners, architects and contractors have done to preserve our architectural heritage.

The categories of merit include Historic Preservation, Historic Restoration and Lifetime Maintenance. The Secretary of the Interior’s preservation standards serve as our guidelines.

Two years ago we added a new category with slightly less stringent requirements. The “Adaptive Re-use” award requires that at least 80% of the materials and footprint of the building be preserved. This award recognizes that contemporary uses often require some adaptations to the structure in the creative repurposing of a vintage building. We want to encourage such projects which give years of new life to old structures, contributing to Healdsburg’s architectural character.

Nominations will be reviewed by the Museum’s Historic Preservation Committee. The awards will be presented during the Museum’s annual membership meeting in January.

Please submit your nominations to the Museum, Attn. Historic Preservation Committee no later than December 12.

Collections Corner

Our very earliest issue of a Healdsburg-specific newspaper that’s now online as a result of our historic newspaper digitization project is the December 27, 1865, issue of The Democratic Standard. We are pleased that now all of the historic newspapers we had on microfilm up through 1990 are now searchable online through the California Digital Newspaper Collection (http://cdnc.ucr.edu/cgi-bin/cdnc). In addition to The Democratic Standard, they include the Russian River Flag, Sotoyome Sun, Sotoyome Scimitar, Healdsburg Enterprise and Healdsburg Tribune.

Have you looked at the CDNC? It’s a lot of fun, not to mention educational. I recommend it!

Also, exciting for those interested in Healdsburg’s earliest history as a town, the CDNC has just added the Sonoma Democrat, the very first newspaper in Santa Rosa courtesy of the Sonoma County Library. Similar to Healdsburg’s first newspaper, its name reflects the politics of the Santa Rosa and Russian River valleys, which were settled in the 1840s and 50s by farmers from Missouri, Kentucky and Tennessee.

Although Healdsburg was not officially incorporated until 1867, its founding date is considered to be 1857 when Harmon Heald mapped, named and recorded “Healdsburg.” In the 1857 Sonoma Democrat references can be found to Healdsburg, including advertisements for local goods and services. In November, 1857, H.P. Swain advertised his services in the Sonoma Democrat as resident dentist in Healdsburg, noting that he would “perform all operations upon the Teeth, putting in from one to an entire set.”
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