Our next exhibit, “Lake Sonoma: Before and After,” will focus on the early history of upper Dry Creek Valley and the construction of Lake Sonoma and Warm Springs Dam, the largest environmental undertaking in the history of Sonoma County. We will present these events from many perspectives. This exhibit will showcase local Native history through the eyes of the Mihilakawna (Dry Creek) Pomo. A multi-media computer kiosk created by David and Sherrie Smith-Ferri of the Dry Creek Pomo tribe will be the highlight of this section.

We will also display materials donated to the Museum by F.M. “Milt” Brandt and the well-organized advocacy group, Citizens for Community Improvement, who led the battle for Lake Sonoma. SSU Graduate student Lauren Carriere will install a (cont’d on page 8)

### Calendar

**May, 2015**

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>“Friends of Bob Rawlins” Reception, 4:00 to 7:00 pm, Museum Garden</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>AAUW House Tour, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm,</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>HMVA Meeting, 9:30 am Museum Research Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>11-28</td>
<td>Closed for Exhibit Change</td>
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<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Board Meeting, 5:30 pm, Museum Research Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Antiques, Arts &amp; Collectibles Fair, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm, Healdsburg Plaza</td>
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<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>“Lake Sonoma: Before and After,” Reception, 5:30 pm</td>
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**June, 2015**

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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>HMVA Meeting, 9:30 am Museum Research Center</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Langhart Dinner, 6:00 pm, Tayman Park</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>Board Meeting, 5:30 pm, Museum Research Center</td>
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### Healdsburg Museum

221 Matheson Street
Healdsburg, CA 95448
Telephone 707 431 3325
Fax 707 473 4471

[www.healdsburgmuseum.org](http://www.healdsburgmuseum.org)
info@healdsburgmuseum.org

Museum Hours:
11:00 am - 4:00 pm
Wednesday – Sunday
CLOSED MONDAY and TUESDAY

Research Center
open by appointment
Thursday – Saturday
History Matters  by Holly Hoods, Curator

The Museum’s research library has attracted researchers with particularly interesting history in the past month. I am currently helping Marley Chang with family history research for her high school Cultural Heritage Project. Marley is the great-granddaughter of the famous Sonoma County Sheriff James A. Petray who was killed in the line of duty by fugitive gangsters in 1920. The three fugitives were subsequently captured and jailed. Days later, they were lynched at the Santa Rosa Rural Cemetery by a well-trained squad of masked avengers – reportedly all Healdsburg friends of Petray’s. No one was ever caught or prosecuted for the lynching.

I have also been assisting the photo editor of the Hotel Healdsburg/H2 Hotel magazine with photos and background history of Russian River water recreation in Healdsburg for their upcoming publication. There are so many good photos in the Museum’s collection that it’s hard to choose!

Bonnie Cussins Pitkin has been at the Museum researching logging and mill history on Mill Creek Road. She was happy when I connected her with Frank Zak who has extensive information about local mills. She was even happier to tell me that Daniels School at the end of Mill Creek Road just got a new roof thanks to a grant from the County Landmarks Commission. Restoration continues to progress on the old one-room school. Call Bonnie (433-3301) if you would like to see the progress or contribute to the restoration fund.

We had fun with new Museum member Linda Honeysett researching the history of her property on Rio Lindo Road. We found that her cabin was built as part of the Post resort in the late 1920s and once belonged to John “Botch” Foppiano. (Foppiano was caught bootlegging on the property in the early 1930s.)

Congratulations are in order for former Museum intern Megan Wells for the completion of her thesis for a Master’s degree in Cultural Resources Management at Sonoma State University. I was honored to serve on her thesis committee and couldn’t have been prouder at the thesis defense where she presented her research which is based on her interviews of Museum volunteers and staff. The title of her thesis is “Staying Relevant: A Case Study of the Healdsburg Museum & Historical Society and Community Inclusion.”

President’s Corner  by Jim Brush, Board President

I join the many friends in the Healdsburg Museum & Historical Society in bidding a fond farewell to Bob Rawlins, who supported our community in so many ways and exemplified true volunteerism. Bob was able to express his wishes to our organization and so we will be hosting a reception in his honor at the Museum on May 1, 4:00 to 7:00 pm.

We are very busy these days planning exhibits, events and programs. In doing so, it amazes me how many local residents and businesses we come in contact with every day -- children and their teachers, families researching history and places and folks who just enjoy coming to see our current exhibit, "Fitch Mountain Everlasting." Please take some time to also check us out online (www.healdsburgmuseum.org) or on our Facebook page and see what is going on.

I hope you’ll also join us at our annual Langhart Award Dinner on June 6 to honor this year’s recipient, Stan Becker, another volunteer who has contributed so much over the years.

HMVA News  by Ann Howard, HMVA Coordinator

As coordinator of HMVA, I attempt to keep up with all of the exciting projects that our 100+ volunteers, board of directors, and staff are involved with at the Museum. Our current line-up includes the cemetery maintenance project, newspaper digitization project, new lighting in the research room, visiting researchers, fundraising efforts, annual event planning, exhibits, community outreach programs, increased publicity, publications. There are also a few large issues being seriously discussed, such as maintenance of our historic building and collections, and additional climate-controlled storage.

I encourage all of you to reach out to others in our community to become members and join our volunteer team.

Bob Rawlins found his extended family at the museum for twenty years. I found mine here for the past ten, with Bob as my mentor. As I helped his
daughter Teri and her husband Bill at Bob’s home after his passing on March 30, I find I still have many questions to ask him. He had a rich past serving 30 years in the US Navy and many interests (Navy cachets, cancellations and first day covers, i.e. “stamps,” maritime history) and hidden talents like braiding wool rugs. Bob was also Mr. Fixit at the Museum. His invoices from 1994-2000 read, “MR. FIXIT, We’ll fix it or bust it trying.”

The “Friends of Bob Rawlins” event will take place at the Museum on May 1 at 4:00 pm. Bob told me, “Don’t wait too long, because folks will forget me.” I responded, “Bob, no one will forget you.”

Wishes and Wants

by Jane Bonham, Office Manager

The Museum has been abuzz lately, putting our mission of conservation and preservation into action. For every need or wish, we find friends near and far ready to help. A shining example is the work to clear out the overgrowth at the Oak Mound Cemetery. What a dramatic improvement!

Other, smaller projects are in the works at the Museum, too. The City of Healdsburg is replacing the two downstairs doors, which had begun to show the wear and tear of years of rain, wind and sun. The east side, not in public view, has been replaced with fiberglass. The west side is a public entrance and so, in keeping with standards for historical buildings, that door must be replaced with wood and has been specially ordered. There are several volunteer projects ongoing to conserve delicate old paper archives, such as letters and maps.

Have you been frustrated with our aging microfilm readers? Then you’ll be happy to learn that one is now up and running. By the time you read this, I hope, the cranky paper feeder on the other machine will also have been repaired. It won’t be too long now before we won’t need to rely only on these old friends and researching will be wonderfully accessible online!

Recently I worked with a Litton descendant who had made a six hour round trip to the Museum. Alice Litton and I “met” on Ancestry.org when I was researching a RRR article. In our email chat, I described the Research Center and she decided to visit. There is much information to be found about the family, but when Alice learned of the digitization project she happily decided she could wait a few months to continue her research online.

Alice was delighted to hear of the growing interest in caring for Oak Mound Cemetery. Her family plot has three graves, but only one is marked. She would like to provide headstones for her grandfather and great grandmother. So here’s how, Alice: Contact North Bay Monument in Rohnert Park. Gary Galeazzi, the owner, will be helping us replace toppled headstones in the cemetery. His grandfather, Massimo Galeazzi, founded Santa Rosa Monument Company in 1901 and merged with business partners, Fisher and Kinslow of Santa Rosa Marble Works to form North Bay Monument in 1933. These men and their descendants created nearly every tombstone and mausoleum in Oak Mound Cemetery from the 1870s to the present.

I’ve found several new friends from researching that article. More on that next month!

2015 Langhart Award Recipient: Stan Becker

In 1976, former Healdsburg City Clerk, Edwin Langhart founded the Healdsburg Museum & Historical Society. His dedication to preserving the rich history of Healdsburg made possible the ongoing collection, preservation and study of artifacts, photos and documents for generations to come. The Annual Langhart Award recognizes the same tradition of volunteer service and dedication to Healdsburg's history that defined Edwin Langhart. Each year, previous winners of the award select one or two Museum volunteers to receive this prestigious honor.

This year, we are proud to announce that the Committee’s unanimous choice is Stan Becker, a very deserving, well-loved and active volunteer. Stan retired to Healdsburg, but didn’t retire from working for a cause: the Healdsburg Museum & Historical Society.

The Twenty Second Annual Langhart Award Dinner will take place on June 6 at the Tayman Park Clubhouse. The reception will begin 5:00 pm followed by dinner. Speakers will include: Kent Mitchell, Holly Hoods and Jim Brush. Catering will be provided by Fig & Vine Catering. Tickets are $85 per person. Invitations to this special evening will be mailed shortly.

For additional information, please contact event co-chairs Janet Sbragia Pisenti (546-0295) or Diane Bertoli (433-1164).
Oak Mound Cemetery Getting Facelift

HM&HS, with the direction of longtime volunteer Jim Dreisback, has taken on a monumental project to reclaim the heritage portion of Healdsburg’s Oak Mound Cemetery.

To date we have already benefitted from the hundreds of hours by experienced workers with the proper tools to remove many years of overgrown vegetation.

Now we are preparing to remove larger trees that have fallen or are dying and improve the appearance of many of the older areas. We need your help in the form of contributions to our goal of raising $100,000 to be put into a fund solely for this project.

There are some specific problems that will take large machinery to rectify. There are also plans to restore some monuments and the fountain. We also plan to publish a layout of the Cemetery with names and locations so people can find and recognize places of interest. Most importantly, we would like to continue this endeavor far into the future and maintain the beauty of this precious place in our community.

To learn more, please visit our website at www.healdsburgmuseum.org or on our Facebook page.

We hope that you’ll consider joining our early donors and make a contribution to the Oak Mound Cemetery Maintenance Fund. A form is provided below.

We thank Jim Dreisback for his many, many long hours of coordinating the activities. Thank you to Matthew Thompson, retired City of Healdsburg arborist, Jay Tripathi of Gardenworks, Inc, and Bob Hopkins of River Ranch for their expertise in guiding our efforts. Special thanks to Western Tree Removal Specialists, Munselle Vineyards LLC, RAWAH Vineyards, Robert Young Vineyards, Hopkins River Ranch, Bevill Vineyard Management, Redwood Empire Vineyard Management, Peterson Land Management, Inc., The Ratto Group, Tri-Valley Vineyard Management, Aaction Rents and Big John’s Market for contributing to the huge clean-up effort.

Go out and visit the Oak Mound Cemetery at 601 Piper St.

Enjoy a stroll through history.

Oak Mound Cemetery Fund Donors

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Diana Duggan
Kathleen Eagan
Doris Golden
David Harmeson
Tom Jordan
Cynthia Livingston
Lucinda Martin
Jo Ann Michetti
Mr. & Mrs. Arnold Santucci

I support the Oak Mound Cemetery Restoration Fund.

Enclosed is my tax-deductible gift of: ☐$100 ☐$250 ☐$500 ☐$1,000 ☐ Other $_______
☐ Check enclosed, payable to: Healdsburg Museum & Historical Society (HM&HS)
☐ Charge my credit card: ☐ VISA ☐ MASTERCARD ☐ AMERICAN EXPRESS

Credit Card Number. ___________________________ Exp. Date ____________

Name: _____________________________________________

Billing Address: _______________________________________

City/State/Zip: _______________________________________

May we list you as a donor? ☐ Yes ☐ No

I want to make this gift in honor of: _______________________

Return this completed form with your payment to: HM&HS, P.O. Box 952, Healdsburg, CA 95448
Newspaper Digitization Update

by Whitney Hopkins

Our newspaper digitization project continues to make progress. We have seen a very generous show of support from both Museum members and the community at large. Collectively, nearly $50,000 has been contributed to this project. Our current estimated cost of $51,000 is slightly higher than the original estimate due to a higher than anticipated number of pages to be processed.

All of the Healdsburg newspapers including the Healdsburg Enterprise, Healdsburg Tribune, Sotoyome Scimitar and Russian River Flag will be scanned and then run through DocWorks software to make them searchable. Dr. Brian Geiger, our liaison for the California Digital Newspaper Project at UC Riverside, reports that there is a backup of newspapers right now which is slowing the digitization process. We are in line and soon we hope to be at the front of the line.

We also hope to digitize the Geyserville Press (1940-1960). It is estimated that this additional paper will cost $2,000. If you would like to help us with this effort, please send your donations.

Our Latest Digitization Donors
John & Diane Carriger
Ted & Kay Robinson

Happy Anniversary!

by Holly Hoods

May, 2015 will be the 25th anniversary month of the opening of the Healdsburg Museum & Historical Society in the former Carnegie Public Library. This milestone represents an impressive fundraising and planning achievement in the history of our Museum and the City of Healdsburg. More than $500,000 was raised by then Museum Curator/Director Hannah Clayborn and the Board of Directors in partnership with the City of Healdsburg, Museum members, local service clubs and the greater Healdsburg community.

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Gauer were the major sponsors whose matching grant enabled HM&HS to be able to repurpose and retrofit the former library to house the community’s museum. Eddinger Enterprises managed the conversion of the historic property, working with many local contractors while preserving the essential architectural integrity of the 1911 building, a landmark listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The names of the many people and businesses who contributed to this effort are engraved in brass outside the front entrance doors to the Museum. Please take time to read their names when you next visit the Museum. Thanks to them, this gem of a building still houses our history 25 years later.

To commemorate the occasion, we will be recording oral history interviews with Hannah and other key participants. If you’d like to be included, please let me know (holly@healdsburgmuseum.org or 431-3325).

You might know someone who has never visited the Museum. This is a perfect occasion to bring them to visit this building that the community loved enough--and pitched in--to save 25 years ago. The Museum will be open and celebrating all weekend, May 1 to 3. There will be a lot going on. On Friday, May 1, we will be hosting a “Friends of Bob Rawlins” reception from 4:00 to 7:00 pm in the Museum garden in honor of our friend, Bob, a dedicated longtime Museum volunteer who passed away last month. Sunday, May 3 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm the Museum will serve as the starting point for the annual AAUW Healdsburg Homes Tour. Be sure to check out the final weeks of our current exhibit, “Fitch Mountain Everlasting,” which will be on display through Sunday, May 10.

Welcome Our New HM&HS Members
Margaret Dean
Daniel Ditzler
B.J. Fogg & Dennis Bills
Sandra Follmer
Linda Honeysett
Mark & Carol Peterson

Shopper Alert!

On May 24 from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm the Antiques, Arts, and Collectibles Fair will be staged on the historic Healdsburg Plaza. The fair has become a celebrated event, popular with tourists and local residents alike. It is almost sold out to the vendors. We just need your support. Bring your friends and join us.

The fair has become one of our biggest fundraisers and helps to fund the Museum’s operating budget.
Remembering Bob

On Monday, March 30, 2015, the Museum lost one of its most devoted volunteers, Robert D. Rawlins. Bob joined the Museum in 1994 following a distinguished 30 year career in the US Navy.

Through the years, Bob wore many different volunteer hats: Board President, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, receptionist, handyman, frequent committee member/chair. He seemed to always have his finger on the pulse of the organization.

Bob was often a force to be reckoned with - frequently opinionated, sometimes outspoken. Whether you agreed with him or not, Bob always had what he believed were the best interests of the Museum at heart.

In accordance with his wishes, we are proud to host a “Friends of Bob” reception on May 1 from 4:00 to 7:00 pm in the Museum Garden. Please join us.

Here are some recollections of and tributes to our friend Bob.

When I think of Bob, I think of the Museum because Bob was everywhere, all the time – climbing up ladders, picking up mail, keeping the audio tour system going, hawking Instant Wine Cellar tickets at the Farmers’ Market, chairing the IWC event, serving as Treasurer, going back and forth to Sunsweet and the Villa to pick artifacts up and then store them again, working as a Sunday receptionist and just generally Mr. Fix-it and “go to” man.

When I needed a substitute for my receptionist duty, I would ask Bob. After the third time I asked him, he wondered, “Why do you always ask me?” I replied, “Because you always say yes!” and that is how I think of Bob and the Museum -- he always said YES to the Museum!

Phyllis Chiosso Liu

When Tom Brokaw authored the book entitled “The Greatest Generation” he was referring to people like Bob Rawlins. Bob epitomized those WWII heroes whose love for our country, self-sacrifice and courage defeated Nazism.

In later years Bob dedicated a good portion of his life to help preserve the culture of our wonderful town, Healdsburg, with his tireless devotion to the Healdsburg Museum & Historical Society. Besides being an outstanding citizen and a very nice man he was also a great salesman as evidenced by the number of tickets he sold each year for the Museum’s largest fundraiser - the Instant Wine Cellar. We will all miss Bob, but take comfort in the wonderful legacy he has left behind.

Ken Spadoni

When I first came on the HM&HS Board, Bob was so helpful in showing me “the ropes.” He always seemed to be there when I needed an explanation or help. He had held just about every position on the board and knew the inner workings of both the board and the Museum. He was the “go-to” guy. So “go-to” that I feared for his safety when he was stretched out from a ladder above the stair well dusting the window ledges! Mr. Fix-it was always there to lend a hand and fix problems around the museum.

Ted and I appreciated his invitation to join him and five others at a winery tasting, an auction item he had won at the IWC. We had fun that day, thanks to a super generous person.

Will we ever find enough people to fill Bob’s shoes?

Kay Robinson
Short of curating the Museum’s exhibits, Bob held just about every volunteer job at one time or another. And he did them thoroughly and completely. One of the jobs that Bob had for many years was that of “Mr. Fix It.” Bob did more than just fix things. He was often actively involved in constructing supportive elements for various Museum displays.

Over time Bob realized that Jon is a talented carpenter and craftsperson. Much to his credit, Bob welcomed and encouraged Jon’s contributions to the Museum. He also became a frequent visitor to Jon’s workshop. They developed an easy friendship based on common interests and mutual respect.

Last year Jon had knee replacement surgery. While he was only in the hospital for a couple of days, Bob was one of his visitors. Jon and I were both touched that he took the time to stop by. Bob even brought Jon a small floral arrangement. Not one to be consumed with sentimentality, however, the accompanying card read, “Glad you’re doing better. Get back to work!”

Bob led a full, active and productive life filled with impressive accomplishments. He addressed each day and each project with vigor. He still had lots of plans for the future. We miss him.

Pam Vana-Paxhia and Jon Lacaillade

My fondest memory is of a Saturday before the Fair. We met at the Plaza to chalk 100 space numbers on the concrete so the vendors would know where to unload in the morning. When we arrived, we found the sidewalks covered with numbers from the day’s art show. Bob said, “Wait here for me.” He soon returned with a bucket of water and a brush. Bob, on his knees, erased all of the numbers so that we could put the Museum numbers down.

Bob left the world having made it a better place and that’s quite a legacy. My life is better because I won the respect of an intelligent person who helped me at a difficult time in my life. I shared real moments with him and that is what it’s all about.

Rawleigh Fjeld

I joined the Museum volunteers in September, 2004. When I finally met Bob, I said, “We’re related!” I must have said, “Raw-lings” as my mother’s family pronounces their name, because he immediately corrected me that his name was “Rawlins.”

Recently, new Board member Sally Freelen offered to write a proclamation for Bob “Rollins.” Not knowing Bob personally, I corrected her on the spelling of his surname. Sally responded that Rollins is an ancestral name in her family. So we three at the Museum must be related!

I looked at the Internet Surname Database, and a simple explanation is that the name Rawlings has medieval English origins with Germanic elements meaning “counsel, advice.” In England “the first recorded spelling of the family name is shown to be that of John Rawlynes…dated 1343 in the ‘Ancient Deeds’ of Warwickshire, during the reign of Edward III, known as ‘The Father of the Navy’ 1327-1377.” Looks like Bob had the love of ocean exploration in his genes!

Ann Howard

I first met Bob in 1996 when I was hired by former Museum curator Marie Djordjevich as a part-time assistant. I soon discovered that Marie preferred to have no one help on exhibits except Bob, “Mr. Fix It.” He was her right hand. They made an excellent team. She would conceive ideas for the exhibits and he would build them for her. We still use a railroad car display he made for one of her toy exhibits. It is painted “M&B RR” for “Marie and Bob Railroad.”

My job evolved into Research Curator. One
day I was hosting a high school class in the Research Center, teaching them about research methods. Bob strode in, carrying several power tools, and without looking at us or saying a word, proceeded to loudly saw and drill into the counter. We couldn’t hear a word over the noise. Shocked and annoyed, I asked Bob to come outside where I confronted him: “You don’t have to like me, but I need you to respect my position and to respect the research library! I have a roomful of people in there.”

Bob was floored. “I thought we were friends,” he said, “I do respect you. I didn’t notice that anyone was there. I’m sorry. I was just focused on repairing that counter.” I evidently did gain his respect and he mine. We worked well together from then on.

I will miss him.  

Holly Hoods

Bob was very devoted to the Museum and could be seen there daily. Volunteering there was his passion.

In the past two years Bob attended Latino community outreach fundraiser events which I hosted for the Museum. In 2012, the Museum presented Ancestors of Mexico exhibit & event. Bob volunteered to be at the Museum for the exhibit, while the rest of us organized the event on the plaza. That afternoon, 134 visitors came to the Museum. Bob was the "captain of the museum" that afternoon. It was the most visitors ever! He kept the Museum on a steady course.

Our Museum has lost "The Captain."  

Jeanne Leal Hartlaub

I don’t remember a Museum without Bob Rawlins. He was full of pride for the Museum and the Museum community. He was abounding in energy and, as always, assured in the correctness of his views.

I first got to know Bob when I volunteered to staff the early morning time slot at an Antique Fair. He knew many who walked by, greeting some and cajoling others to buy something. He and Rawleigh Fjeld worked in tandem, stirring up business and keeping the tables filled and sorted by value. At first I was only allowed to arrange items in spaces, but no more than that. After a while, I was trusted with more: Bob selling and collecting the cash and me carefully wrapping the new treasures for each buyer.

It felt so warm, companionable and fun, that I volunteered the next time, too!

Once I started working at the Museum, I saw Bob almost daily. In that way, I encountered the rascally, stubbornness and the grumpy, even rude sides of Bob’s personality. I felt I had to earn my wings at every step.

Our friendship was cemented over such a little thing: a letter opener. Bob would walk to the post office daily and bring back the Museum mail. Once back, he would settle down to open the mail, like the king in the proverbial counting house. He enjoyed knowing what was what.

After a while it became my job to take charge of the revenue items for recording. Often I would use the letter opener and, in the rush of the moment, put it back in the cup on my desk. When I did that and Bob came in to find it had moved, there was initially some tension because I’d moved “his stuff.” Then I started to keep it all the time, but when he came in, I’d walk over to give it to him with a greeting. That started to be funny to both of us. After that, we had a routine and that simple tool was passed back and forth with gracious greetings, smiles and the day’s news.

Bob will be missed, but never forgotten.  

Jane Bonham

“Lake Sonoma: Before and After”  

c_cont’d from page 1

display featuring the SSU archaeological investigations that accompanied the project.

The exhibit will also highlight some of the historic properties that were flooded by Lake Sonoma, including Skaggs Springs Resort, the Baxter White Oak Ranch and the Hallengren Ranch. Visitors will also see never-before displayed photos from the construction of Warm Springs Dam, contributed by Stan Chapman, who worked on the project, along with some obtained by Christian Kallen.

Of special interest will be a model of the old Skaggs Springs Resort, built by talented Jon Lacaillade, who replicates the various structures from historical photos with artistry and precision. Maggie Bates will be adding her own impressive features, including tiny signage and miniature guests of the resort, handcrafted and dressed in the fashions of the day.

Please join us for a Museum members’ preview reception at 5:30 pm on May 27.
collections corner by whitney hopkins

Marge Barnard recently gifted the Museum with a beautiful wicker hop basket. Marge’s paternal grandmother Maggie (Snider) Barnard (1876-1970) used the basket to pick hops in the early 1900s, possibly on a Westside Road hop yard.

Maggie Snider married Benjamin Barnard on November 5, 1894 in Westport in Mendocino County. Two days later she drove a horse and buggy to Healdsburg where Benjamin worked. The couple ultimately had five children and over time owned several different ranches in Alexander Valley and later in Dry Creek Valley.

Hop picking was an activity that families did together. Maggie Barnard picked hops with her children and siblings, and perhaps her parents. Many Healdsburg-area families picked hops, while other families arrived to camp in the area from San Francisco and the East Bay for several weeks during the hop harvest. Hop pickers were very important to the process since hops are extremely perishable and must be picked quickly once they ripen. A grower typically has a 30 day window to pick, dry and bale his harvest.

Hops were usually picked in August or September, depending on the weather. First harvested in Sonoma County in 1858 by Otis Allen and Amasa Bushnell, hops remained an important crop for nearly a century.

Hops grew on a high trellis system and produced long “bines.” Hop pickers would pluck the ripe hops off the bines and drop them into a basket. Later the tall bines would be cut down to allow pickers to reach the higher hops. The hops were then dumped into big sacks.

Since pickers’ pay was based on how many hops they picked, the hops were weighed in the field where a bookkeeper recorded the load for each worker. Hop pickers were typically paid 1 cent a pound.
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