2015 Langhart Honoree: Stanley Becker

On Saturday, June 6 we will formally recognize the 2015 Langhart Award recipient, Stanley Becker, during a reception and dinner at the Tayman Park Golf Course Clubhouse.

This award, recognizing outstanding service to the Healdsburg Museum & Historical Society is named for Museum’s founder, Edwin Langhart, who exemplified volunteer service and dedication. The award recipient is chosen each year by a committee of previous Langhart award honorees. Stan is this year’s unanimous choice.

After an extensive career in television and broadcast equipment design and product development, Stan and his wife Blanche moved to Healdsburg in 2001. An active Museum volunteer, he has assisted the Museum in many valuable capacities over the years. Stan’s initial volunteer effort was centered on participation in the photo preservation scanning project. He eventually designed a virtual photo archive which allowed (cont’d on page 6)

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<td>3 HMVA Meeting, 9:30 am Museum Research Center</td>
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<td>6 Langhart Award Dinner, 5:00 pm, Tayman Park Golf Course Clubhouse</td>
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<td>16 Board Meeting, 5:30 pm, Museum Research Center</td>
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<td><strong>July, 2015</strong></td>
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<td>1 HMVA Meeting, 9:30 am 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
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

As I write this month’s column, we are busy gathering material for our next exhibit about Lake Sonoma and Warm Springs Dam. We are particularly thrilled about the opportunity to showcase the history and culture of the Dry Creek Pomo tribe through the installation of a new multimedia Pomo history and culture kiosk. This impressive display was created by David Ferri and Sherrie Smith-Ferri of the tribe with IMLS grant funds. Another exciting segment of our exhibit is a scale model of the old Skaggs Springs Resort built by talented Museum volunteers Jon Lacaillade and Maggie Bates. Skaggs’ Hot Springs resort, which operated from 1860 through the 1940s, today lies beneath Lake Sonoma.

As excited as we are about our newest exhibit, I am a little sorry to say goodbye to the “Fitch Mountain Everlasting” exhibit. It has been rewarding to engage with so many people who care about Fitch Mountain. Thanks again to our Museum Board members Phyllis Chiosso Liu and Ted Calvert for organizing and hosting an interesting, educational and fun Fitch Mountain presentation to accompany the exhibit last month.

Abby Osborn, news editor of Healdsburg High School’s newspaper, The Hound’s Bark, contacted the Museum recently to learn about the history and background of the Dr. C.W. Robinson Grove on the HHS campus. According to Abby, “the redwood trees there have been suffering from the current drought and one has even been cut down. We would like to raise awareness of the importance of our sacred space and were hoping that some history would heighten the significance of the trees.” Thanks to our searchable computer database at the Museum, I was able to quickly find references to the Robinson Grove. In the Museum collection, courtesy of Melinda Langhart Hill, we have a Healdsburg Tribune photo and article all about the 1966 Arbor Day surprise dedication ceremony of the redwood grove in honor of long-time high school trustee, Dr. Clinton W. Robinson. Abby appreciated the information and photo, plus my tip to seek out the 1966 yearbook in her school library. We are always happy to help students make relevant connections with the past. I look forward to reading Abby’s article.

President’s Corner  by Jim Brush, Board President

Jim sent this month’s message while on vacation with his wife Nancy from the Italian central region of Umbria.

As of this moment Nancy and I have been traveling for two weeks all over Italy. It is interesting to see so many historic places and experience traditions carried on for so long. Yesterday, in Gubbio, they were getting ready for La Festa dei Ceri which has been held in a similar fashion for many centuries - something I hope happens with our Future Farmers’ Parade. We went to a Farmer's Market in Umbertide a couple of days ago and it is much like Healdsburg's own market. The towns and cities we visit welcome our presence and are happy to share their beautiful surroundings with so many visitors.

Visiting so many antiquities reminds me of the importance of the past and the influence it has on our lives. The communities here embrace the preservation of buildings and traditions and their role in the fabric of their lives. While they incorporate many modern techniques, they seem most proud of the way they raise and prepare their food from farm to table and the results are fantastic. There are so many aspects of the different villages we visit that remind us of home and what we appreciate most in our own daily lives.

The Healdsburg Museum & Historical Society members should be proud of what we are accomplishing here at home to preserve our history and keep it relevant to our community. We believe the lives of our citizens and the environment that surrounds us will benefit for many centuries to come from the activities and services this organization provides.

Thank you for your support.

HMVA News  by Ann Howard, HMVA Coordinator

We welcome new volunteers Carol Petersen and Tom Rhodes.

Our dedicated Schmidt sisters, Diane Schmidt Carriger and Kay Schmidt Robinson, have completed the first phase of organizing all of the oversized maps and papers in the ten drawer map case in our storeroom. All have been inventoried, entered into a database, placed in protective sleeves, and sorted into categories. The
drawers are stuffed! The next step is to enter all 625 documents into PastPerfect.

On May 1, the “Friends of Bob Rawlins” event took place in the Museum garden. It was a fine celebration of his life. Bob’s daughter Teri Rawlins Cardell invited the 100+ guests to share their memories of him. Teri and her husband Bill came to understand and appreciate how important the museum community was to Bob and how involved he had been with every aspect of the Museum for the past twenty years.

Many attendees also enjoyed the display of photos and memorabilia about Bob in the lower hallway display cases. He was a Captain in the U.S. Navy (1947-1977), Commander of numerous submarines and is now known as the Admiral of HM&HS.

Wishes and Wants
by Jane Bonham, Office Manager

I want to change the title of this column; I wish I knew what to call it instead. It has served me well for the past year, but it doesn’t fit well any longer. The Museum community is as active as a beehive with ideas and visions blossoming into realities, who could wish for more? Membership and other supporters continue to step forward, leaving little wanting.

I thought of “Conversations” because I’ve had wonderful feedback from readers. Recently Susan Andrade wrote to me with more information about Healdsburg women artists at the turn of the 20th century. Her great grandmother, Adelia Ottmer Blazer loved to paint. Susan’s uncle, Carl Flournoy, described to her the occupants of the Rochdale Building, which Adelia owned at that time (near current day Oakville Grocery). Bill Ware ran a grocery store downstairs and a Russian-born artist named Herman Dietz painted and taught from an upstairs studio. Paternal grandmother, Esther Goode, informed Susan that it sent tongues a wagging that unescorted girls would go to the mountains and seashore to paint with a man.

Along that line, I thought of “Postcards” or “Snapshots.” These are influenced by the work I’m doing for the current exhibit: scanning hundred-year-old postcards and slides from the 1980s. How many of us knew what a hot spot Skaggs Springs resort was? Some of the pictures chronicling the raising of the dam are poignant reminders of the conflicts of the time and some bring to mind something from sci-fi or modern art. Once again, an exhibit blooms before our eyes, seemingly from nowhere, but truly from the rich historical resources of the Museum and our community.

As I reread what I’ve written, a title of “Museum Musings” comes to mind. But it is a bit dramatic and perhaps would better fit a gossip column. More next month: This column is under construction.

An Interesting Update

In addition to our new exhibit, “Lake Sonoma: Before and After,” we have made some noteworthy changes on the west side of the gallery. Talented Museum volunteers Jon Lacaillade and Maggie Bates have added years of time and created new elements for the scale model of the Plaza. This historically accurate miniature streetscape has been updated from 1886 to 1905.

A number of significant changes took place during those short intervening years. Four buildings were replaced with new structures, electric and telephone lines were installed and overhead street lights were connected. The Plaza landscaping also had a major overhaul with the introduction of palm trees. The area’s first automobiles made their debut on Healdsburg streets. Changes in the fashions of the day are reflected in the townspeople’s clothing.

As with all of the other elements in this display the impressive likenesses are sourced from our extensive collection of historic photographs.
Family History Essay Contest Winners

by Phyllis Chiosso Liu

It was very difficult to choose the winners of the Family History Essay Contest this year, because there were so many outstanding entries. The committee of retired teachers and Museum staff read hundreds of children’s stories about their families’ past and after much deliberation chose the winners in each category.

The Museum hosted a special Awards Night on April 29 to honor these young writers and their families. Gabriel Fraire, Healdsburg’s Literary Laureate, spoke to the students, giving them words of encouragement and inspiration to continue writing. Each student was presented with a beautiful certificate created by Maggie Bates. The top three winners in each category were also awarded cash prizes of $10, $15 or $25. The students read their essays out loud to a standing room only crowd. It was a wonderful evening celebrating the history of families as a bridge from the past to the present.

2nd and 3rd Grades
1st place – Julius Skamarack
2nd place – Eva Munselle
3rd place – Kellen Collins
Honorable Mentions – Sophia Turic, Ross Fitzpatrick, Tricia McMahan
All of the above students attend St. John’s School

4th and 5th Grades
1st place – Miles Ridder
2nd place – Ella Holland
3rd place – Kiran Meyer

The above students attend West Side School.
Honorable Mentions – Amiel Mengistal, Carson Kunz, Shane Fai
The above students attend Windsor Christian Academy.

6th, 7th and 8th Grades
1st place – Nicholas Di Loreto, St. John’s
2nd place – Nadya Rued, West Side
3rd place – Austin White, Emily White – tie, West Side
Honorable Mentions – Joelle Lienart, West Side; Mario R. Prado, St. John’s

Thank You to Annual Appeal Donors
Mary Brandt
Judy & Edgar Deas
Tim Fowler
Cynthia Iverson
Carole & Robert Rinne
Jay & Lynne Rosenthal

Meet Our New Intern

by Lauren Carriere

I grew up going to museums with my family, and I was always intrigued by the past. At my undergraduate university, Cal Poly Pomona, I was introduced to the field of archaeology and realized that I could have a career focused around studying the people of the past. During my undergraduate studies, I was able to do archaeology in the Mojave Desert and in Southern Peru. After I received my degree, I started working for California State Parks as an interpreter in Santa Cruz County. I learned a lot about what it is like to work in a museum.

I have just finished up my first year of the Cultural Resources Management Master’s degree at Sonoma State University. Through the program, I have focused on museums in addition to archaeology. Now I will be joining the Healdsburg Museum team to create a display about the people involved in the Warm Springs Dam studies, specifically the archaeologists.

If I have not already met you, I look forward to meeting you in the upcoming weeks.

Thank You to Ben Madison for a Matching Donation from Chevron
Continuing Progress on Cemetery Project
by Jim Dreisback, Project Manager

Restoration work continues at Healdsburg’s Oak Mound Cemetery. As an organization we have taken on the challenge of reclaiming the heritage section of the cemetery. After several days and a total of 500+ work hours of donated labor, it is actually beginning to resemble a historic cemetery!

The most recent project involved the removal of large, dead trees that were posing a safety concern, along with the removal of a 100-year old oak tree that had fallen many years ago causing considerable damage to the grave site belonging to the Grant and DeGues families, relatives of the Fitch family. These were lofty goals, but they were accomplished with help from key individuals and companies. Many thanks go to Jeff Kowell of Image Tree Service for the very generous donation of a huge amount of equipment and a considerable amount of labor required to remove the downed and dying trees and that giant root ball. Thank you to Atlas Tree Surgery, Inc. for recycling the root ball, Mike Biaggi for his talented skills operating his excavator, JR’s Concrete for disposing of damaged concrete and my tireless volunteer, Matthew Thompson, who not only knows all about trees, but is also pretty handy with a shovel!

We invite you to visit the cemetery. Even though there is still much work to be done, I think you will find the heritage section of the Oak Mound Cemetery is a truly magical place.

We invite you to join others who have recently donated in support of this worthwhile project. Your support will help us get one step closer to a heritage cemetery of which we can all be proud.

Thanks to Our Cemetery Project Donors
Katherine Bottini
Elizabeth Branstead
Darla & David Budworth
Dixie Duffey
Peachie & Norm Dunlavy
Doris & Vernon Evans
Robert Gallaway
Lois Grace
Ed & Elvira Hahn
Janet Pisenti
Jill Ridder
Ted & Kay Robinson
Jim Silveira
Barry & Kaye Stallard

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)
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Return this completed form with your payment to: HM&HS, P.O. Box 952, Healdsburg, CA 95448
online access from the Museum’s web page. This project morphed into putting the Museum’s entire historic photo collection online. Stan also led the Museum’s current effort to digitize its collection of historic newspapers and make them accessible online. As a longtime Board of Directors’ member, Stan has served at various times as the Assistant Treasurer, Treasurer and President. He is also a champion of the Museum’s largest fundraising effort, the Instant Wine Cellar raffle. A frequent raffle ticket seller at the Healdsburg Farmers’ Market, Stan is currently serving as the Instant Wine Cellar event chair for the second time, this time with co-chair Jim Brush.

The evening’s festivities will begin at 5:00 pm with a reception followed immediately by dinner. Catering will be provided by Fig & Vine Catering. Tickets are $85 per person. Seating is limited.

If you would like to join us in honoring this outstanding volunteer, please contact the Museum (431-3325) or event co-chairs Janet Sbragia Pisenti (546-0295) or Diane Bertoli (433-1164).

Expenses for this special event have been underwritten by our recently deceased Museum volunteer and friend, Bob Rawlins.

Welcome Our Newest Members

- Pat & Priscilla Abercrombie
- Karen Callahan
- Tami & George Christie
- Nancy Davis
- Stu & Denise Matlow
- Max Machinery, Inc.
- Care & David Morgenstern
- Celeste Piaister
- Kiera Stewart
- Westside Union School District
Collections Corner

by Whitney Hopkins

Our Museum has many photographs in the collection which help to tell the story of Healdsburg and its residents - and we are always happy to receive more.

Recently, we received a donation from Moreland L. Stevens which includes a collection of photographs and an autograph book that belonged to Healdsburg native Edna Biddle Stone (1878-1963). Stevens’ grandmother was Edna’s cousin and since Edna never had children, her cousins inherited her belongings. The photographs and childhood autograph book, illustrate many Healdsburg social connections which Edna maintained throughout her life.

Edna Biddle was born October 17, 1878 in Healdsburg to Dr. Edwin Weber Biddle and “Belle” Allen Biddle. Coming to California from Oregon, her father was one of Healdsburg’s early dentists. Edna was raised in Healdsburg and attended school there. The Biddle house was located on the Southwest corner of Fitch and Piper Streets.

Edna participated as part of the court at Healdsburg’s Floral Festival in 1896. In 1901, at Healdsburg’s First Presbyterian Church, Edna married another Healdsburg native, Dr. Mack Voorhies Stone, a young Naval surgeon. First based at Mare Island, the couple also lived for a time in San Francisco and Berkeley, but eventually returned to Healdsburg. There Mack took over the medical practice of Dr. Weaver. With Mack’s Navy pension and his medical practice, the couple lived quite comfortably in Healdsburg at 329 Matheson Street, formerly the home of Dr. Weaver.

Edna and Mack Stone

Although Mack passed away in 1941, Edna continued as an active participant in Healdsburg life – a member of the Healdsburg Garden Club, the local chapter of American Red Cross, the Order of Eastern Star and the Republican party. While Edna never learned to drive a car, she enjoyed her garden and walked from her home to St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, Bank of America, her hairdresser and grocer. She took a Greyhound bus when she needed to go farther afield. Until seven months before her death when a hip injury required hospitalization, Edna lived at 329 Matheson Street.

One unique piece of Edna’s story is that she inherited a small farm near Los Gatos from her parents, known as the Biddle Ranch. She sold this land to John Steinbeck in 1938, while he was finishing The Grapes of Wrath.

Special thanks to Moreland Stevens for sharing information and memories of “Cousin Edna.”

Board of Directors: Jim Brush (President), Ted Calvert (Past President), Ken Spadoni (Vice-President), Phyllis Chiosso Liu (Recording Secretary), Phil Hartlaub (Treasurer), Barry Stallard (Assistant Treasurer), Rawleigh Fjeld, Louise Fowler, Sally Freelen, Lockie Gillies, Ann Howard, Jeanne Leal-Hartlaub, Larry Orr (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 Dues:
Centennial Circle: $1000  Patron: $500  Sponsor: $250  Gold: $100
Business Premier: $500  Business: $100
Family (2 or more): $50  Individual: $30  Educator: $25  Student: $15

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