



RUSSIAN RIVER RECORDER

WINTER 2018 • ISSUE 138

An Official Publication of the Healdsburg Museum & Historical Society

Mervyn David Silberstein

...Through One Man's Lens



In This Issue

This issue of the *Russian River Recorder* pays tribute to the legacy of Healdsburg photographer Mervyn Silberstein (1885-1957). The Silberstein collection in the Healdsburg Museum connects us to the history of our area like nothing else.

Donated by Silberstein's proud daughter Gloria Silberstein Brown (1928-2014), the Silberstein photographic collection consists of approximately 623 photographs and postcards, including some duplicates, that were taken in Healdsburg from 1903 to 1913. His subjects included agriculture, athletics, downtown scenes, industry, people, residences, resorts, the Russian River, scenic views and transportation.

Silberstein's mastery of his craft included his composition, manipulation of light, tone and shadow to convey mood and feeling. He developed his own photographs, learning to play with light and time to enhance the contrast. Silberstein's candid photos of children playing are especially fine, not just because of their lighting and composition, but for their naturalness. Candid photographs of children in the early 20th century are somewhat rare. His formal portraits and scenic views were also excellent.

An accomplished photographer, Silberstein also became an enthusiastic camera collector. He used not only an Ansco Vest Pocket No. 2 and a Kodak Vigilant 62, but also a Blair 5x8 plate camera and a Seneca 5x7 view camera, later adding an Argus 23mm and finally, a Polaroid. Gloria also donated his cameras to the Museum.

Former Museum Curator Daniel F. Murley was fortunate to meet and interview Gloria Brown in person when he worked at the Museum in the early 2000s. Fascinated by Silberstein's life and body of work, Dan was also impressed by the artistic qualities and historical value of Silberstein's photography. We have reprinted his article about Silberstein from the Autumn 2007 *Russian River Recorder*.

Images of Healdsburg over time provide an important record of the past. If you appreciate these pictures of Healdsburg from over 100 years ago, please consider sharing your own pictures of the area for us to preserve for the future.

We appreciate your support. As always, we hope you enjoy this issue.

Holly Hoods, Executive Director/Curator
Pamela Vana-Paxhia, Editor



RUSSIAN RIVER RECORDER
The Official Publication of the
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reprinted from Russian River Recorder, Autumn 2007



Source: Healdsburg Museum Collection
Mervyn David Silberstein, 1913

Silberstein's Photographic Legacy

by Holly Hoods and Pamela Vana-Paxhia

Healdsburg's celebrated early 20th century photographer Mervyn David Silberstein was born in 1885 in San Francisco and grew up in Healdsburg with his parents, Jacob and Hannah, and younger sister, Ethel ("Daisy"). They were respected Jewish leaders in the business community.



Source: Healdsburg Museum Collection
Jacob and Hannah Silberstein

His father owned a successful dry goods and men's clothing store, The Grangers Store, at the southeast corner of (what is now) Healdsburg Avenue and North Street. The family lived upstairs.

While attending Healdsburg High School, Silberstein discovered what would become a lifelong passion in photography. He purchased his first camera at his father's store. He playfully embellished many of his photos with cartoons and captions. By the time Silberstein graduated from high school in 1903, the self-described "Camera Fiend" was already a cartoonist and writer for the *Sotoyome Sun* and later, the *Healdsburg Enterprise*.

In 1905 while working for the *Enterprise*, Silberstein founded the *Sotoyoman*, a monthly publication created by Healdsburg High School

students. He initially served as both editor-in-chief and staff artist.



Source: Healdsburg Museum Collection

Jacob Silberstein's dry goods and men's clothing store

Eventually Silberstein opened his own camera store and conducted commercial photography work. During this time, he produced many real-photo postcards. His images were also often used in promotional material by the City of Healdsburg and the Healdsburg Chamber of Commerce.



Source: Healdsburg Museum Collection

An example of Silberstein's promotional material showing Lucy Lozinto Smith held by her uncle Jim Shakley, c.1907.

In 1911 the elder Silbersteins retired and sold their business. The entire family subsequently relocated to San Francisco. Unfortunately, Jacob became ill shortly after the family's arrival and ultimately died in 1913 of pneumonia. Hannah remained in San Francisco until her death in 1926.

After relocating to San Francisco, Silberstein pursued a career in advertising for which he did graphic design, then called commercial art.

One company that employed Silberstein was FTD (Florists Telegraph Delivery Association), the country's first flowers-by-wire service. Silberstein is credited with creating their longstanding logo, the Greek god Mercury in a winged cap and winged sandals with a bouquet of flowers held in his outstretched arm. It debuted in 1912. Although the logo has undergone many transformations, it is Silberstein's most enduring commercial creation and remains one of the most recognizable logos today.



Source: FTD

A variation of the enduring FTD logo created by Silberstein

During this time, Silberstein also served as a correspondent for several San Francisco newspapers, including some articles promoting Healdsburg.

Silberstein continued to pursue his photographic work on the side. In the 1910s and '20s he developed a passion for photographing San Francisco's Chinatown, for which he achieved most of his fame. Silberstein became fascinated by its places and people, especially the children. Like an ethnographer, he enjoyed documenting them dressed in their traditional holiday finery worn for festivities and Chinese New Year. Silberstein became so intrigued by the costumes that he began hand-coloring his prints after enlarging them with a soft-focus in the 1920s. For years Silberstein continued to hand-color the hundreds of prints he exhibited and sold, marketing them both as postcards and as

charming framed "Chinee-Graphs," a title unfortunately tinged with the casual racism of the era.



Source: Healdsburg Museum Collection

Children in Chinatown, 1911, a popular theme of Silberstein's hand-colored "Chinee-Graphs."

Silberstein's photography of Chinatown has been displayed in three exhibitions in San Francisco.



Source: Healdsburg Museum Collection

Silberstein at work in Yosemite National Park, 1910

Active with the Camera Club, Silberstein regularly conducted personally guided tours to national parks including Yellowstone and Glacier National Parks and to Alaska. He created both still photographs and films during these trips which he subsequently used to market future excursions.

Silberstein met his future wife, Lillian Ruth Swanson, a native of Minnesota, during one of his trips to Yellowstone. They married in Santa Rosa in 1926 and had one child, Gloria (Brown), born in 1928. Together, Silberstein and Lillian worked in the travel agency business leading many group tours.



Source: Healdsburg Museum Collection

Lillian Silberstein and daughter Gloria cuddling some kittens.

Silberstein David Silberstein left a personal and artistic legacy in his photographs, albums and postcards of life in Healdsburg a century ago.

Sources:

FTD.com.

Healdsburg Enterprise November 25, 1911; March 29, 1913.

Healdsburg Tribune August 13, 1908; March 8, 1911; January 4, 1926; January 18, 1926; January 22, 1926; January 29, 1926; February 9, 1926; March 20, 1926; April 11, 1927; September 12, 1957.

San Francisco Call March 26, 1913.

Sotoyome Scimitar December 20, 1905; May 27, 1909.

Treasures from the Mervyn Silberstein Photographic Collection



Source: Healdsburg Museum Collection

This view was taken from the second-story building at the northwest corner of Healdsburg Avenue and Plaza Street, looking southeast. The grand 1884 City Hall is seen just left of center on the far side of the Plaza. At that time, the Plaza boasted a covered bandstand in the center with a flagpole flying an American flag, approximately where the Sanborn fountain is located today. The palm trees, trendy in early 1900s California, were still only a few years old.



Source: Healdsburg Museum Collection

This photo was taken in approximately 1907 from the second story of the old City Hall that was located at the southeast corner of Matheson and Center Streets, where Oakville Grocery is today. The covered bandstand in the center, seen earlier in the above photo, was torn down by the Ladies Improvement Club in 1901 to discourage the public drinking that accompanied the Plaza band concerts. The citizens responded by building an even larger bandstand.



Source: Healdsburg Museum Collection

In 1858, Jacob Heald and John Raney erected Healdsburg's first hotel, the Sotoyome House, in the 300 block of Healdsburg Avenue where Hotel Healdsburg stands today. It burned down, as did another subsequent wooden structure. In 1870, B.C. Wright erected a two-story brick hotel building on the site, soon adding a third story. In 1893, John McDonough expanded the hotel to twice its original size. Silberstein's photo shows the hotel in its prime.



Source: Healdsburg Museum Collection

This photo was shot from the southeast corner of North and West Streets, looking southwest down West Street (Healdsburg Avenue.) The Sotoyome House (aka "Hotel") is in the center on the west side of the street. This photo was reproduced and sold as a post card by Mervyn Silberstein. (Note his father's variety store in the photo at the front left corner of the picture.)



Source: Healdsburg Museum Collection

Silberstein took beautiful photos of Healdsburg for the Chamber of Commerce's promotional brochures. This image was published in the 1909 brochure. It shows three newly-built Queen Anne cottages on the south side of North Street. All of them are still standing today, although the middle one was relocated to the south side of Plaza Court at Fitch Street.



Source: Healdsburg Museum Collection

This photo shows the Crocker Sanitarium, constructed in 1904 for Geyserville native, Dr. Harry Bosworth Crocker. Built in the Mission style with a U-shaped courtyard, its architectural design incorporated the most up-to-date early 20th century medical beliefs. Every room, for example, had a window to receive sunshine and fresh air which was considered a part of good health. Dr. Crocker and his wife Inez advertised "modern treatment for invalids" and "curing the liquor habit without any suffering." Within two years, the sanitarium was converted to a more successful tourist hotel and later, in the 1930s, to The Palms apartments. Located at the southeast corner of Matheson and University Streets, it still stands today.



Source: Healdsburg Museum Collection

The early 20th century shopping experience shown in this Silberstein photo of the interior of Garrett's Hardware captures the amazing array of merchandise to be found. Employees Vern Chaney and Clyde Van Deveer (left to right) are pictured.



Source: Healdsburg Museum Collection

Silberstein documented many early 20th century wineries in Healdsburg. Oliveto Winery was located on the west side of Healdsburg Avenue at the base of Powell Avenue. This distinctive brick building still stands today and was recently renovated and repurposed as an office building for Gallo of Sonoma. In 2014, the Museum presented owner Matt Gallo and architect Alan Cohen with a Historic Restoration Award for their work.



Source: Healdsburg Museum Collection

The Oliveto Winery, with Domenico Lorenzini as principal owner, was active from 1898 to Prohibition in 1918. Silberstein photographed these fermenting tanks at the Healdsburg winery c. 1908. Some 2,000 tons of grapes from Sonoma, Mendocino and Lake Counties were crushed annually. The wine was shipped from Healdsburg and sold from the Oliveto depot in San Francisco.



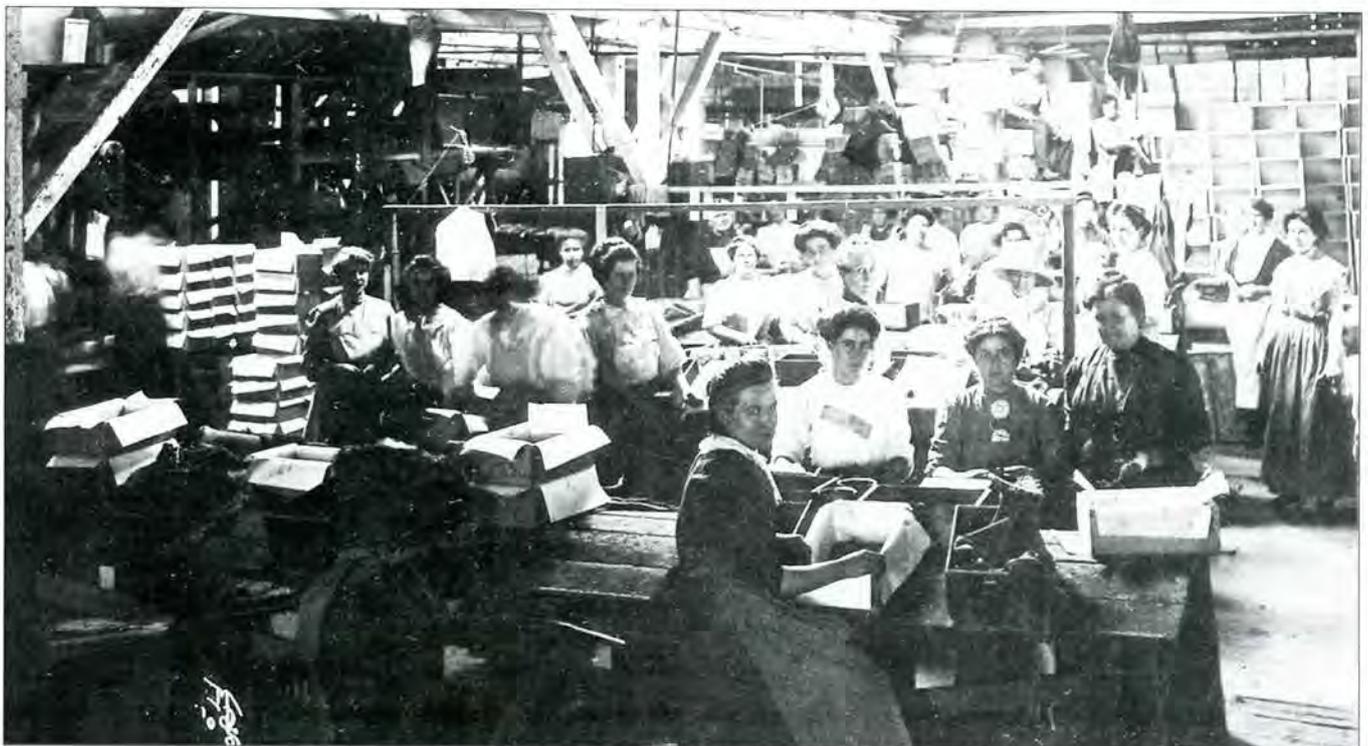
Source: Healdsburg Museum Collection

The sheer volume of prunes handled by Sheriffs Brothers Packing House, one of the largest in Sonoma County, is demonstrated by this c. 1900 Silberstein image of a worker shoveling mounds of the sticky dried fruit. During a bumper crop, approximately 5,000 tons of prunes went through this fruit packing facility in the south end of town near the railroad tracks. Sherriffs Brothers sold the business to California Prune and Apricot Growers in 1922.



Source: Healdsburg Museum Collection

Hops were first planted in the area during the 1870s, introduced by Amasa Bushnell near Forestville. By the 1880s, the main crops of the area were hops, grapes and prunes. During a typical hop harvest in the early years of the 20th century, whole families camped near the hop yards, and parents and children spent all day picking hops. Sticky hop blossoms would be stripped from tall vines and transported to the kilns where they were dried and shipped to be used in the brewing of beer, adding a distinctive bitter flavor. There were many hop kilns in operation around Healdsburg.



Source: Healdsburg Museum Collection

Silberstein's c. 1900 photo of a fruit packing house interior provides a window into the world of typical women's work at the turn of the 20th century. There was a high seasonal demand for labor at packing houses and canneries when fruit and vegetables were ripe and ready to be processed for sale. The washing, sorting, pitting and cutting of fruit was usually performed by women. Hiring preference at these businesses was given to white female local residents. Men manufactured and loaded the cans and crates.



Source: Healdsburg Museum Collection

The San Francisco and North Pacific Railroad (SF&NP) provided the first standard gauge rail service to Sonoma County and became the southern end of the regional Northwestern Pacific Railroad. Owned by Peter Donahue, the SF&NP began railroad construction northward from Petaluma in 1869. Service was extended to Santa Rosa in 1870, Healdsburg in 1871 and Cloverdale in 1872. The California Northwestern Railway Company was formed in 1898 as part of Southern Pacific Railroad and the company leased the SF&NP. California Northwestern was merged into the Northwestern Pacific Railroad in 1907. This photo also shows the original Healdsburg train depot, c. 1905.



Source: Healdsburg Museum Collection

In 1898, Chicago-based Porter Brothers Company, wholesale merchants in green and dried fruits, erected a fruit packing house west of the railroad depot. The handsome building was 48' x 80' with two stories and a basement, boasting the largest prune grader in the county. This packing house joined the booming Fontana Packing Company and the Russian River Packing Company already operating near the railroad.

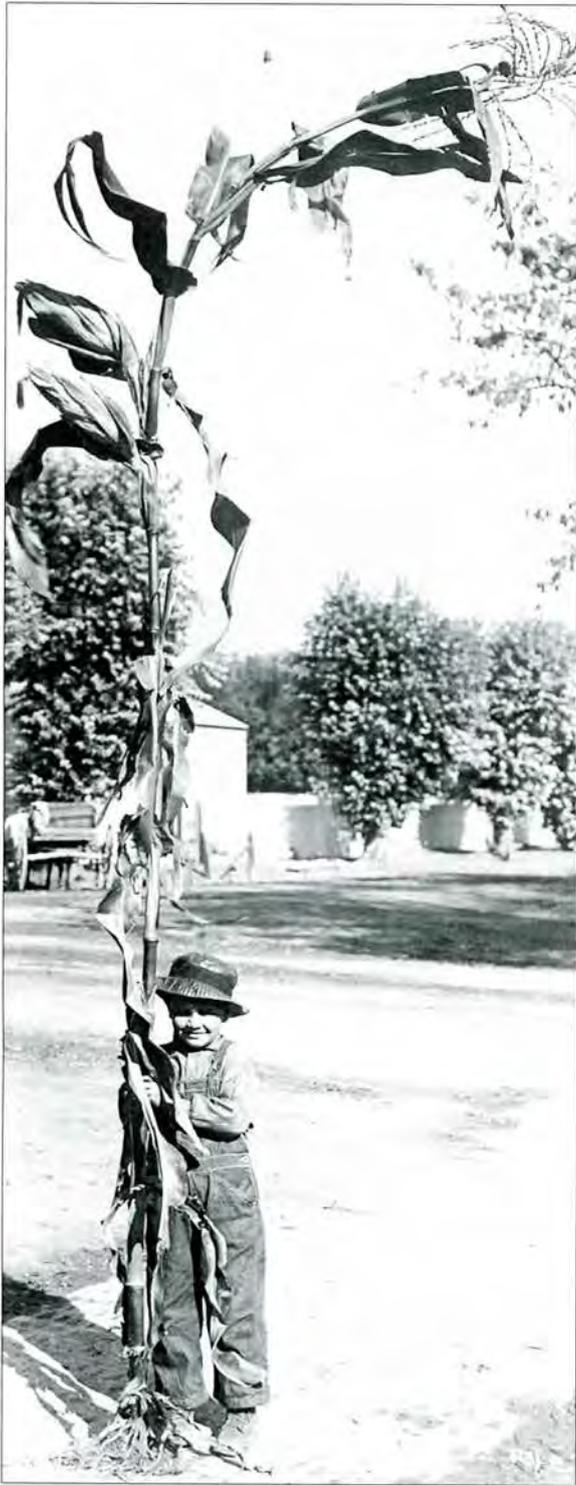


Source: Healdsburg Museum Collection

Silberstein enjoyed capturing the rhythms of local life, such as this group of fashionable folks waiting for the train, c. 1905, and this 1909 shot of a San Francisco-bound Northwestern Pacific Railroad locomotive, silhouetted over the Healdsburg train bridge. The railroad depot was a major hub of activity when Silberstein lived in Healdsburg. Passenger trains to and from San Francisco arrived twice daily, with one carrying mail and a special passenger excursion train on Sunday. A northward daily freight train from San Francisco rolled through as well. Freight trains left Healdsburg once a day headed to San Francisco, cars loaded with local produce and lumber from the canneries and mills.



Source: Healdsburg Museum Collection



Source: Healdsburg Museum Collection



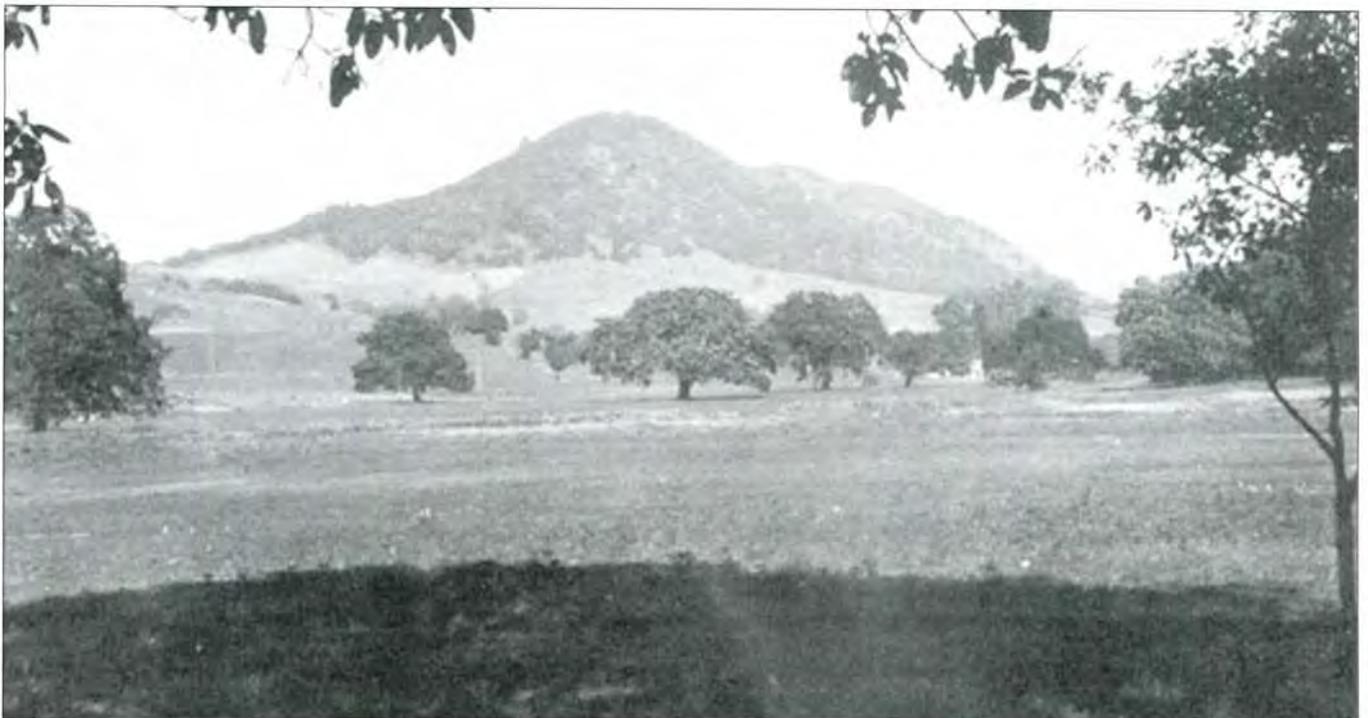
Source: Healdsburg Museum Collection

These Silberstein photos of children at play help remind us what a rural town Healdsburg still was in 1910. Because they aren't formal portraits, they shed a little light on the lives of local children of the era. At left, a grinning barefoot boy in hat and overalls proudly displays a towering cornstalk three times taller than he is. At right, a hobby horse is being offered hay in play by a tiny child also in overalls, already old enough to know that feeding hay to a horse is part of rural life.



Source: Healdsburg Museum Collection

This Silberstein photo of kids looking into the window of a downtown toy store captures their youthful excitement. The merchant placed a bicycle and rocking horse on the sidewalk to entice potential customers.



Source: Healdsburg Museum Collection

Fitch Mountain was a favorite subject for Silberstein's camera. This northern view shows the oak trees that once dotted the landscape at the base of Fitch Mountain.



Source: Healdsburg Museum Collection

In the early 1900s, most Native people worked and lived on ranches in exchange for wages and crops, supplementing their diets with whatever traditional foods they could still hunt and gather. This dignified family group portrait, photographed by Silberstein, is a valuable historic document because it also shows their dwelling. They worked on the Grant and Minaglia ranches on what is today Bailhache Avenue.



Source: Healdsburg Museum Collection

This 1907 photo is captioned "Indian Belles at home near Healdsburg, Cal." The three women each cuddling a puppy and the young girl standing in the background are attired in modern store-bought American dresses and hats, yet they seem to be living in traditional Native camp setting near the river. Native Pomo and Wappo people of this area learned to live in two worlds and this Silberstein photo depicts this situation well.



Source: Healdsburg Museum Collection

These posed portraits of school sport teams are compelling for historical details, especially the athletic equipment and fashion, such as the Healdsburg Grammar School girls' basketball team in their bloomers and middy blouses with giant bows, 1910. This 1901 boys' Healdsburg High School track team had two future Olympic world record-setting champions in its midst: high jumper Ed Beeson, with arms folded fifth from the left, and shot put star Ralph Rose, with shot put cocked in the center of photo. Silberstein was also a member of the team and is fourth from the left.



Source: Healdsburg Museum Collection



Source: Healdsburg Museum Collection

Silberstein's face is a bit blurred in this photo that he took with a tripod and a timer. He is at the Geysers in the center of a group of six women, all well equipped with "Geyser ponies," as the stout walking sticks recommended for the hike were nicknamed. The Geysers was a celebrated tourist destination as a scenic natural wonder. This photo shows why. Silberstein's mother Hannah is pictured at back right, but the others are unidentified.



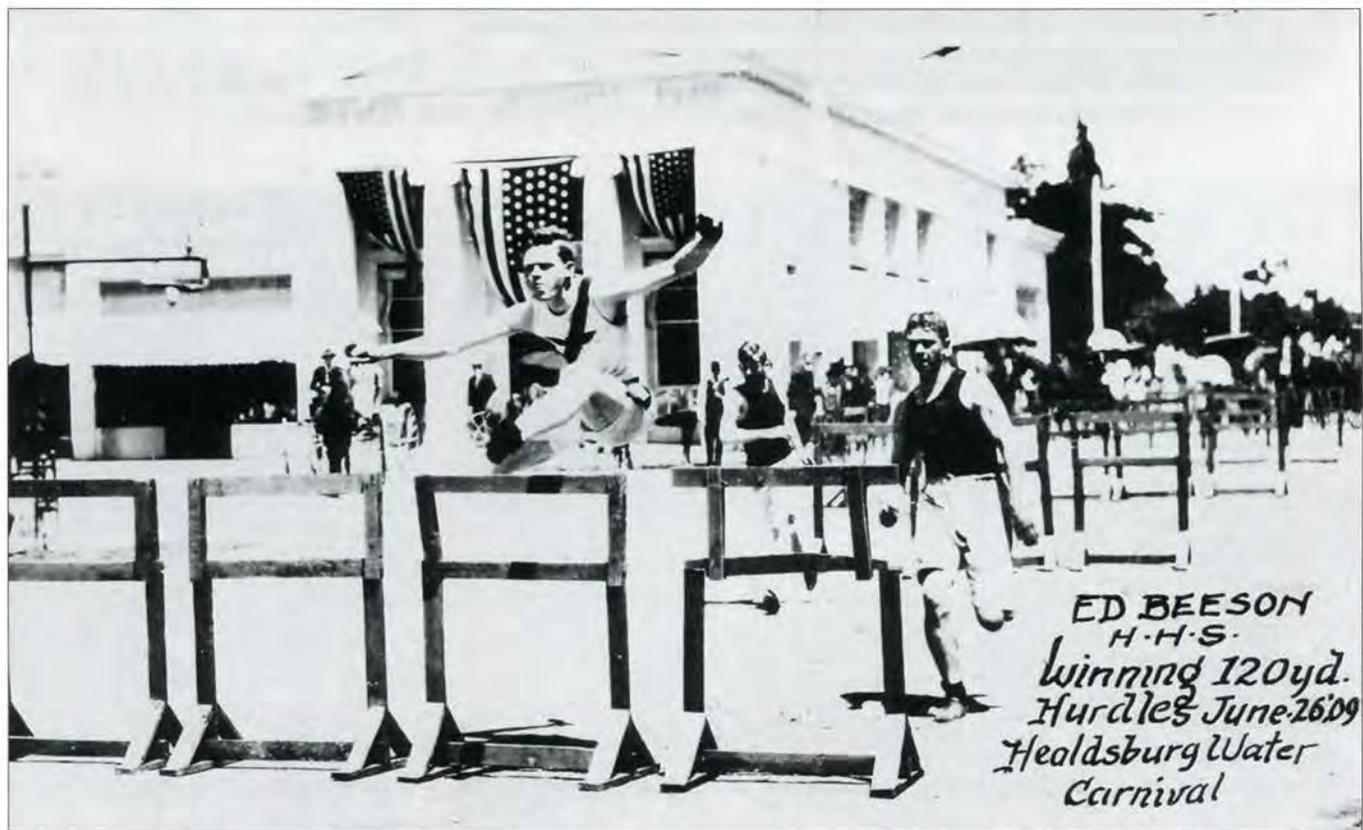
Source: Healdsburg Museum Collection

Many of Silberstein's photos show him and his friends in rowboats on the Russian River, one of the most popular local recreational pastimes. This one is entitled "On a Sunday Afternoon." Notice that the ladies wore long white gowns with hats and parasols. Men wore straw "boater" hats like this gentleman, who may be Silberstein himself using his tripod and timer once again.



Source: Healdsburg Museum Collection

Silberstein's father, Jacob, was chair of the decorations committee for the May 1904 Flower Carnival in Healdsburg. This grand welcoming gateway was created in the center of Matheson Street, across from the still-standing Kruse building. The carnival featured a parade of floats, carriages, automobiles, bicycles and mounted riders, decorated with flowers and greenery. Prizes were awarded. A Floral Queen, Isabelle Simi, was elected by ballot at five cents a vote.



Source: Healdsburg Museum Collection

The Healdsburg Flower Carnival was eclipsed four years later by the Russian River-centered Water Carnival. This June 1909 festival included exciting displays of athletic prowess, such as firemen's relay races and a 100-mile hurdle race, as seen here on Center Street. Healdsburg High School student track star Ed Beeson not only won this hurdle race, but grew up to be an Olympic champion and set a world record for high jump in 1914.



Source: Healdsburg Museum Collection

As these June 1909 photos show, the Healdsburg Water Carnival was a grand spectacle and a huge success. Thousands gathered along the auto bridge and in seats and benches along both banks of the Russian River to view the much-heralded water parade portion of the carnival. According to newspaper accounts of the day, the elaborately-decorated floats and boats drew applause and cheers from the delighted onlookers. The Russian River figured prominently in the recreational lives of the residents of Healdsburg and northern Sonoma County, appearing in many of Silberstein's photos.



Source: Healdsburg Museum Collection



Source: Healdsburg Museum Collection

In 1910, a San Francisco Frenchman Auguste Pradel and his wife Victorine bought 130 acres on the north side of Fitch Mountain. They established a resort to cater to San Francisco's large French immigrant community. The Villa became the leading French Resort north of San Francisco with accommodations for 200 guests. Silberstein took several photos of large groups at the resort happily enjoying French cuisine, wine and the language of home on the Russian River.



Source: Healdsburg Museum Collection

Silberstein captioned this photo himself: "A Smile From Healdsburg." Perhaps he intended to make a postcard of it one day, but he never did. The image perfectly captures the spirit of Healdsburg boyhood summer fun, friends and camaraderie on the river.



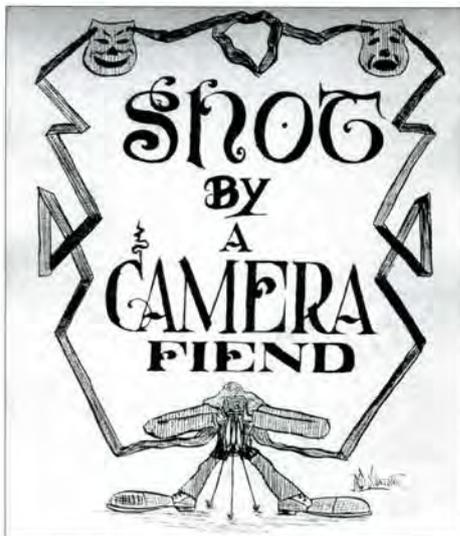
Source: Healdsburg Museum Collection

"A Swell Elegant Bunch" - Mervyn Silberstein, Nette Luce, Harvey Frost, Ruth Drake and Will Livernash

Cherished Moments: Young Mervyn Silberstein in Healdsburg

by Daniel F. Murley

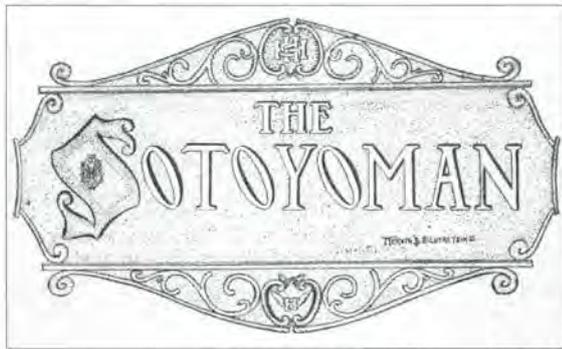
reprinted from Russian River Recorder, Autumn 2007



Source: Healdsburg Museum Collection

"Shot by a Camera Fiend" M.D. Silberstein

The young man gently laid his straight pen down on the blotter and leaned back slowly in his straight-backed wooden chair. After a moment of reflection, he retrieved the black lacquered stem and dipped the metal point into the jar of India ink. A new balloon appeared above one of his comic drawings. A few more rapid strokes on the paper, another quick dip in the ink and more tiny words filled the balloon. Now satisfied, he dropped the pen, leaned back further and smiled down at the detailed graphic before him. Mervyn D. Silberstein was putting the finishing touches on another cartoon creation which would grace the pages of the new publication he had helped create for the graduating class of 1903 of Healdsburg High School.



Source: Healdsburg Museum Collection
The 1903 "Sotoyoman"

The booklet was called "The Sotoyoman," a name whimsically chosen by the originators from the now legendary Sotoyome Rancho of 50,000 acres granted to Henry and Josefa Fitch in the 1840's. The title seemed to have some regal ring which tied the high school boy and his classmates to a romantic time past and reminded them of the historic beginnings of their little northern California town. Though not quite Camelot, humorous comparisons were definitely made by Mervyn and his imaginative (not imaginary) friends.



Source: Healdsburg Museum Collection
Annie Muller, Will Livernash, Lily Cooke and Mervyn on the Russian River

It was here that Mervyn, the son of local dry goods merchant, Jacob Silberstein, would find joy in the artistic and literary pursuits which would serve to guide the direction of his life and career choices. In fact, it was probably at his father's store at the corner of Powell (now Plaza) and Center Streets where young Mervyn probably purchased his first camera. That building across from the Plaza which housed Silberstein's and the Red Man's Hall was severely damaged in the 1906 earthquake, but the

business survived in the downtown district until Jacob sold out his interest in 1910.



Source: Healdsburg Museum Collection
Healdsburg Tribune Advertisement, 1904



Source: Healdsburg Museum Collection
J. Silberstein's store beneath the Red Men's Hall, 1905

Though involved in his solitary artistic pursuits Mervyn found great enjoyment and inspiration in frivolous outings with his close friends. Many of his most humorous and inventive creations combining photography and cartooning came from these adventures along the Russian River or out at Lytton Springs resort.



Source: Healdsburg Museum Collection
Mervyn in his "studio" room

The friendships he fostered would also be of great importance in his life, for his male friends were also talented products of the close-knit community. There were probably two young men in particular with whom Mervyn related, though for widely differing reasons.



Source: Healdsburg Museum Collection

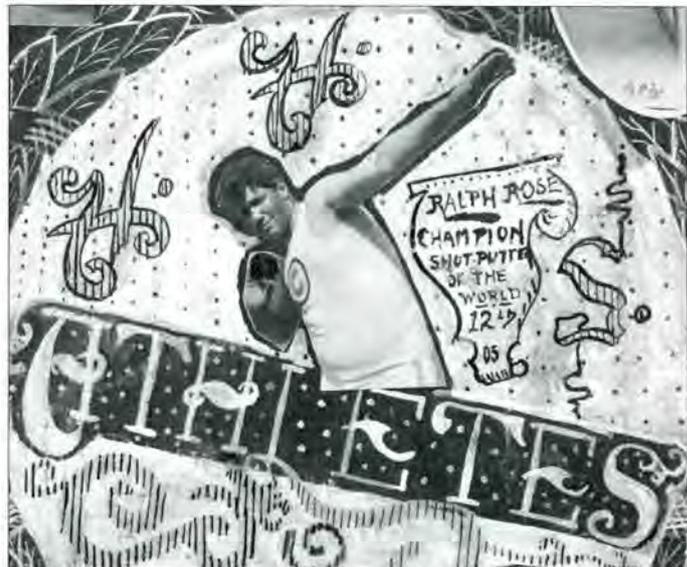
Trademark winged "H"

1910 Healdsburg High School Girls Basketball Team

One who cast a shadow over the whole town but in which Mervyn often shaded himself was the gentle giant, Ralph Rose. Though the friendship with Ralph probably existed from grammar school days, when both were on the Healdsburg High track team together, they became closer still. Contributing and creating to the future of both young men was a new toy Mervyn acquired from his father's store, a Kodak. Behind its fixed lens, Mervyn would find expression of his artistic talent and that lens' image would be constantly filled by Ralph's athletically inclined, rapidly developing physique.

From a lanky school boy star to the enormous finely-tuned Olympic champion, Ralph Rose's accomplishments would be captured by the constantly clicking shutter of his childhood chum. No better images of the young Olympian, who came from a small school to rise to the epitome of the track and field world, are more personal and captivating. From his antics off the field to his record setting performances, his growth and development were chronicled in the photographs and newspaper articles of Mervyn Silberstein.

All of Healdsburg and the track world mourned the death of this honored champion when he lost a bout with typhus in a San Francisco Hospital in 1913 at the age of 29. He was buried here in Healdsburg with hero's honors.



Source: Healdsburg Museum Collection

A tribute to Ralph Rose in Mervyn's memoirs

Mervyn was himself an accomplished track athlete and held the high school's record for the 50-yard dash which lasted for years after his graduation. When not competing in a meet himself, he would be recording the times and distances of others for the school publications.



Source: Healdsburg Museum Collection

Healdsburg High School Girls' Basketball Team, 1910

His other companion who would oftentimes lead away from the sports scene to more of the "sporting life" was Will Livernash. Will was from a relatively well-to-do family and his sister Lizzie Livernash was the editor and eventually ran the local *Healdsburg Enterprise* newspaper. Will, a dashing young lad, was also quite interested in music and "the fairer sex" as the term went in the early 1900s.



Source: Healdsburg Museum Collection
Will Livernash and friend, 1904



Source: Healdsburg Museum Collection
Mervyn Silberstein with sister "Daisy" and friend, c. 1909

It seemed that as many of Mervyn's photographic images were filled with the fleeting forms of young men in the fields of sporting events, so too were they decorated with the fine fashioned forms of young women in more gentle pursuits.

Many images show Will and Mervyn with "our gang" playing a tune in the parlor or paddling a canoe or rollicking on the nearby Russian River or visiting the other local "hot spots" such as Lytton Springs. Some of Mervyn's favorite subjects during this time after high school while attending Pacific Union College in Santa Rosa were his Healdsburg friends and family. Many images of his sister Ethel, (sometimes he refers to her as "Daisy") three years his junior, also appear to have been taken at this time.



Source: Healdsburg Museum Collection
"Daisy" Silberstein, 1911

Mervyn would move to San Francisco in 1911 and shortly thereafter came the death of his father Jacob in 1913.

Mervyn stayed in San Francisco for the rest of his life and pursued a career in the advertising industry but returned to Healdsburg frequently. He documented many sporting events in local papers, writing a baseball column, replete with illustrations, for the *Healdsburg Enterprise*. He also photographed and reported on the rise of another friend and Healdsburg sports champion Eddie Beeson, who went on to set the world high jump

record at U. C. Berkeley in 1914, a record which would hold for ten years.



Source: Healdsburg Museum Collection
Mervyn David Silberstein

Mervyn David Silberstein left a personal and artistic legacy in his photographs, writings and cartoons. These have given texture and insight into the lives of young men and women at the turn of the 20th century in this once small Northern California town. Mervyn died in San Francisco in 1957.



Source: Healdsburg Museum Collection

I am grateful for the generous contributions of time and material to Gloria (Silberstein) Brown of Palo Alto, California, Mervyn D. Silberstein's daughter. She has shared her remembrances and donated many of her father's images, scrapbooks and cameras to the Healdsburg Museum. It is from this colorful collection, I have been able to glean the information contained in this article. - DFM



Source: Healdsburg Museum Collection
Cartoon caricatures by Mervyn Silberstein, published in The Sotoyoman, 1903



Source: Healdsburg Museum Collection

Mervyn's Silberstein's zany sense of humor on display in this posed scene.

Third Class



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