

SHARPSTEEN MUSEUM

OF CALISTOGA HISTORY

NEWSLETTER

Vol. 41, No. 1 – Dec-Jan 2022-23

Holiday Shopping
& Gift Ideas
on Page 5

Message from President Alan Rogers

Dear Sharpsteen Members,

The Napa Valley is so beautiful this time of year as the grape vines go through their color changes and prepare to become dormant for the winter. As fall leaves us and winter begins, our museum is open for whatever season it may be. In March of 2020 COVID-19 struck and changed our way of life for over two years. We closed the museum and went into isolation as most of the world did. Since then we have gradually been able to be open daily with reduced hours. In the last twelve months our docents have volunteered numerous hours to keep the museum open every day of the week. During this time the number of visitors has steadily increased, and docent-led tours are on the rise. I would like to thank the museum board, committee chairs, and docents for your dedicated work at the museum to keep it open all seasons of the year. I hope you continue your service into the new year. It does take a village to keep this gem of a museum alive. We could use some more of you villagers to contribute your talents, even on a one-time basis, to make some small contributions for the museum. More hands make lighter work for all.

This year has been very productive and rewarding for the museum. Here is a partial list of what we have accomplished this year:

- Continued to improve the museum website - take a look www.sharpsteenmuseum.org
- Conducted numerous tours including elementary school and senior center field trips
- Ran a successful (not in person) Instant Wine Cellar with Lucretia Marcus the winner
- Displayed a colorful special Mexican Heritage Exhibit - *Cosas de Nuestra Casa*
- A steady increase in Attendance to the museum
- Improved sales in the museum store (books and gift items) - think Holiday gifts
- Ran another successful membership drive
- Had a profitable Christmas Wreath sale
- Kept the train running
- Revised the Sharpsteen Museum Association By-Laws, viewable on the web site
- Held two Meet-the-Author events with more to come

Napa Valley Case Files Justice in Wine Country by Raymond A. Guadagni

Torn Lilacs a True WWII Story of Love, Defiance and Hope by Henry Michalski

Continued See MESSAGE pg 2



MESSAGE continued from pg 1

- Did major maintenance to our outside landscape and installed a new irrigation system
- Awarded scholarships to Andrea Villaseñor and Joseph Valencia
- Kathy Bazzoli (First VP) was named 2022 Citizen of the Year by Calistoga Chamber of Commerce
- Held a silent auction for a vintage Brannan Cottage Quilt
- Welcomed and trained many new docents
- Held a successful election of a new Board (without a recount)
- With the City's help we replaced the porch floor and front steps of the Brannan Cottage

It is with a heavy heart I have to say RIP to all the museum members who have passed this year. I will especially miss Bill Hahn, my right-hand man for many years; Virginia Dooley who always had time to send me a birthday card; and Barbara Maxfield who always greeted me with a smile and a critique of my job.

As our 44th year winds down I would like to thank all the volunteers who have worked many hours to keep this wonderful museum open and thriving. If not for the support of our members, this could not have happened. Please help us to continue the vision of Ben and Bernice Sharpsteen and their beloved museum. As we get closer to ending another year, we humbly ask you to continue your membership and/or to consider a year-end donation to the Sharpsteen Museum. We are an all-volunteer organization, with no endowment, and must rely on the generosity of others. There is much to do, and work is needed to keep our museum vitality ongoing. A donation in any amount is always appreciated. Please make checks payable to "Sharpsteen Museum Assoc." and mail to P.O. Box 573, Calistoga, CA 94515. Or you can donate securely using our website www.sharpsteenmuseum.org.

Hope you have a very normal Merry Christmas and the Happiest of New Years.

Alan Rogers, President



Restored porch floor and steps of the Brannan Cottage.

BEST OF THE BEST

Team Docent for September & October

Trudi Angell	Marilyn Glaim	Lauren Thollander
Rose Beck	Sally Houk	Doug Webb
Jane Bennett	Cathy Keag	Lamar Webb
Lloyd Best	Pat Larsen	Jeannie Williams
Emily Buccianeri	David Lomax	Ron Yost
Judith Cornils	Michael Mannion	
Lorne Glaim	Jo Ellen Noble	

Interested in becoming a docent? We are always looking for smiling faces to greet visitors. Please contact Jane at (757)-536-1146. Yes, that is 757 area code, not a typo!

New Members

Josephine Arader Delille- Contributing

General Donations

Ray and Pat Branstetter
Melinda Harris
Marcia Phillips

In Memoriam

Virginia Dooley
Will Drew
Lori Innis

Visit us at sharpsteenmuseum.org to learn about joining, renewing or upgrading memberships, and the various ways you can make a donation or gifts in honor or memory of a friend or loved one.

Thank You for Your Support!!!

HISTORY PAGE**Did you know??**

Master Historian and Sam Brannan Period Actor, Dean Enderlin, sent us this wonderful bit of historical information and we wanted to share it here.

"Chapter by chapter, I'm pulling together a history of every owner of our property north of Calistoga. The O'Brien family was one of the earliest, starting in the 1860s. While tracking the O'Brien children in newspaper school reports in the 1870s, I learned something. In October 1873, I found his daughters Mary (2nd Grade) and Nellie and Lizzie (3rd Grade) listed in some of the reports. Problem was that Mary was age 13, and Nellie was 12. In 3rd Grade? Lizzie was the only one in about the right age range at age 8.

Turns out, in the 1870s Calistoga (and California rural communities in general) used an earlier system known as the "graded school." Most schools only had three grades at the time, rarely four. In Calistoga's case back then, there were no grades higher than 3rd Grade in the original Public School. Something to keep in mind when trying to track children in the early school system.

One learns something new every day!"

Thanks Dean!

Sam's Letter to the Editor- from the "Arizona Weekly Citizen", 1885

My son, Samuel Brannan, is supposed to be killed by the Apaches. He left Tombstone on the 24th of October last for Moctezuma, in Sonora, Mexico, and has never been heard from since.

A notice or mention in your paper of the fact might aid to the discovery of his remains.

He was to have returned here last month and go to the Sierra Madre mountains with me. If he were alive he would have written. There is a mail from there once a week, and his route lay through the hostile country and he was alone. I have written to the postmaster at Moctezuma and hope to hear from them soon.

The Apaches are as far south in Sonora by this time as Trinidad and at Sahuvipa, and a month ago they were fifty or seventy-five miles south of Moctezuma.

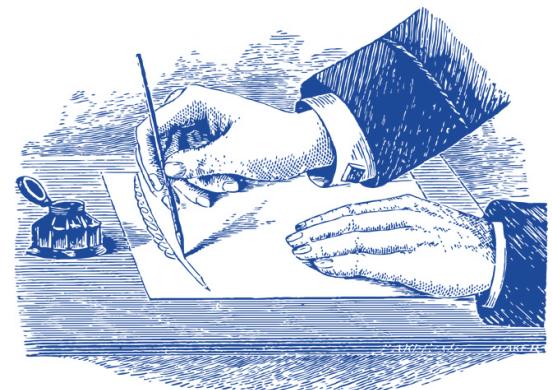
Yours respectfully,

Sam'l Brannan, Sr.

Nogales, December 6, 1885



Did you know?



NOTE: Sam Jr. was not killed, was found safe. He died in 1931 and is buried next to his father at Mt. Hope Cemetery in San Diego. He had been educated in Geneva, Switzerland as a Mineralogist and spent nearly 40 years mining in Mexico. He lost his fortune when the silver market collapsed in 1898. He never married and had no children.

*Kathy Bazzoli
Kent Domagalla*

Our Newsletter Enters the 21st Century!

If you love getting your news electronically, we have an exciting new option for you. Our newsletter will now be available in two formats: a printed copy in your mailbox, or a digital version via email (handy, and it saves a few trees). All you need to do is tell us if you'd like to be on our email-only subscription list.

Email not your style? Have no

fear, you'll still get our colorful newsletter by mail every other month (6 times a year). Our wonderful docents will be calling all members in the coming weeks to confirm your email address and ask which choice you prefer. Questions? Please call us at 707-942-5911 or email us at info@sharpsteenmuseum.org. We look forward to hearing from you!



The Museum will be closed on
Christmas Day, Sunday, Dec. 25.

Warmest Holiday wishes to all!



Another Great Event



On October 22, we were proud to host author Henry Michalski as he walked us through his family life & history in his newly released title, "Torn Lilacs – A True WWII Story of Love, Defiance and Hope". Author Henry made a fantastic presentation to those that were lucky enough to attend. And even luckier for us, the story has a happy ending!

"Torn Lilacs" is already in the works with screenwriters. Hollywood is knocking at Henry's door.

Author Michalski pre-autographed copies for us. If you would like to make a purchase (it's almost Christmas), please use our website and send us a message. We will ship a copy to you if it cannot be picked up at the museum. Cost: \$20.00/each less 10% for members, plus tax & shipping of \$4.20/each.

We are thankful for those that were able to attend - the experience was inspiring. We hope to see you all this coming year for more and more events!

Best wishes for a glorious holiday season.



1311 Washington St., P. O. Box 573
Calistoga, CA 94515
Tel: (707) 942-5911
Web: Sharpsteenmuseum.org
Email: info@sharpsteenmuseum.org

Museum House Tel: 942-5916
Museum Hours:
12-3 pm M-F; 11 am-4 pm Sat-Sun
(Closed Thanksgiving and Christmas)

BOARD MEMBERS:

Alan Rogers- President
Kathy Bazzoli- First VP
Marcia Ciarlo - Second VP
Peggy Berlin- Recording Secretary
Barbara Lencioni- Treasurer
Jane Bennett- Docent Chair
Jackie Lang- Education Chair
Bev Barnes- Collections Chair
Pat Larsen- Ways & Means Chair
Eden Umble- Media/Exhibits Chair

This Member Newsletter is a bi-monthly publication of the Sharpsteen Museum Association, a non-profit 501(3)c organization.

Shari Hanson- Newsletter Editor

MISSION STATEMENT:

The Museum's mission is to preserve and to provide for public exhibitions and study of the history of the community of Calistoga and the upper Napa Valley.

Cheery Gift Shoppe Wonderland

Yes, we have Christmas available for you right now! Our Cardinal Ornaments promise to give you cheer, hope and inspiration on a wintry day. That is their purpose and we have them for you. Wooden holiday trucks, ornaments wishing for blessings & holiday goodness. Angels needing a precious home on your family tree. Books to share with your children and grandchildren. Can you imagine sitting in your comfy chair with a fireplace lending heat, your babies sitting at your feet in wonderment as they watch the tree's lights? Sharing a cup of cocoa with you as you read a very special Christmas story? We all need this comfort. You will be making memories.

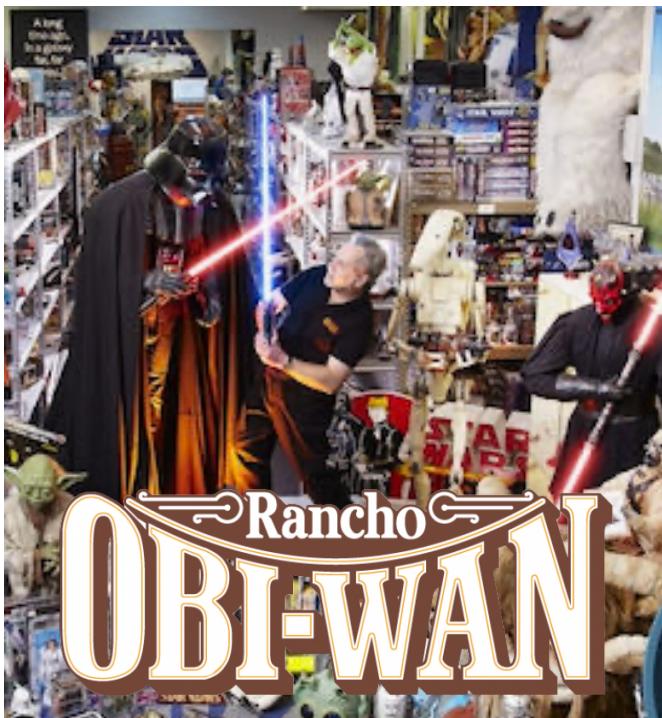
Finding a gift for that special someone is easy here, from books, to tea towels, to table linens, totes, treasure boxes, stocking stuffers, etc., all awaiting your glances. Shop locally- your purchases enable the Museum to keep the doors open 7 days a week!

Thank you for your constant support of your Sharpsteen Museum.
Blessings to all and to all a Good Night.

Becky Turner, *Gift Shoppe Chair*
Sierra Turner, *Co-Chair*



Our Next Exhibit: Star Wars Forever



**Coming in February:
An exuberant celebration of creativity,
anchored in the Star Wars Universe**

Star Wars spans multiple generations as a cultural phenomenon, and its iconography resonates with movie fans, enthusiasts, kids and parents alike. This exhibit, created in joyful partnership with Rancho Obi-Wan, the largest Star Wars museum in the galaxy, includes curated collections of Star Wars memorabilia that serves as a starting point of inspiration for creative expression and a sense of community. Our obsessive collectors Steve Sansweet, Dwayne Smith, and Marc Morita generously share their treasured objects with us, as they encourage us to dream up our own ideal universe of heroes, villains, and those in between. Exhibit runs February 20-May 5, 2023. Grand Opening details coming soon!

At the Museum
(outside)
Sat, Dec 3
9am-1pm



CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

1311 Washington St., P.O. Box 573
Sharpsteen Museum Association
Calistoga, CA 94515

Non-Profit	Organization	U.S. Postage	PAID	PERMIT #30	Calistoga
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