

SHARPSTEEN MUSEUM

OF CALISTOGA HISTORY

NEWS

This Member newsletter is a bi-monthly publication of the SHARPSTEEN MUSEUM ASSOCIATION, a non-profit organization.

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In His Own Words: **Ben tells us museum story**

Part 4

In about 1978, museum member W.S. Fullerton (or "Bud" as we knew him) conducted a lengthy interview and recorded it on tape. It is the only record in

Ben Sharpsteen's own voice telling how it all came about. It

was later transcribed and included in the booklet "About Ben" which is available in the museum bookstore. This interview will be printed in this and future newsletters as space allows.

About that time there were some people in Calistoga who were upset because the last remaining Brannan cottage was fast going to ruin and it would be but a short matter of time before there



Ben

Dan Bazzoli wins IWC grand prize, five cases of Napa Valley wine

With a dozen Board members as witnesses, Sharpsteen Life Member, local vintner and loyal supporter of the Instant Wine Cellar Ron Vuylsteke drew the winning raffle tickets on August 28 for the 33rd Instant Wine Cellar fund-raiser.

Winner of the Early Bird prize – a California poppy tote bag, a copy of Alexandria Brown's book *Lost Restaurants of Napa Valley and Their Recipes* and two bottles of Pope Valley Winery Merlot – was Hannelore Kreiden.

Ron was having so much fun drawing winners that on the spot, he donated a mixed case of wine as an additional prize, which was won by Jo Ellen Noble. The Grand Prize – five mixed cases of premium wines from Napa Valley producers – was won by Dan Bazzoli.

Several years ago Dan's ticket was pulled as the winner of the



Dan Bazzoli (above) with his win, five cases of mixed Napa Valley wines. Pat Larsen (below) reads names as Ron Vuylsteke waits to hear the winner's names.

IWC, but he donated it back to be awarded to another lucky winner.

Members and friends of the Museum really stepped up this year to support the raffle in the absence of the traditional public event. Over \$9,000 in tickets were sold, yielding nearly the profit made in past years on the raffle portion of the larger event. Many



thanks to all the wine donors, ticket purchasers and sellers. A special shout out goes to our top ticket seller, Docent Chair Jane Bennett.

Pat Larsen
IWC Chair

IN HIS OWN WORDS

Continued from page 1

would be nothing left of it to restore.

They demanded something should be done about it and the idea fell into the hands of the Chamber of Commerce which appointed John Wilkinson to see if he couldn't do something about it. He got a committee going to make some suggestions. It was coincident in my mind that Walter Fox owned the cottage with his partner Jack Lambrecht and they would be interested in a museum there, too.

However, I did not want to contribute a building to a commercial venture so I suggested that the city would acquire the property from Fox and Lambrecht and we could build a museum on that land and incorporate the cottage with the museum building.

The City of Calistoga, by this time, through its City Council, became aware of this movement and planning and insisted that the City of Calistoga was mature enough to handle this and that if land could not be acquired from Fox, then land the city owned on Washington Street adjacent to the Community Center could be used to build a museum and the cottage moved next to it. It would then be a city

sponsored proposition.

There would be considerable advantage to dealing with the city rather than the State of California. With the State headquartered in Sacramento it would have been difficult to iron out many little details whereas if we were dealing right here in the city we would be in a much better position.

As a result we, the



Ben's granddaughter, Gail Sharpsteen, is "roofing" one of the buildings in the diorama.

Sharpsteens, put a proposal to the City of Calistoga to erect a building at the estimated cost of \$75,000 and would then donate it to the city. In addition, we, the Sharpsteens, were also interested in the cottage and if a group of people could be organized to finance the moving of the cottage onto the property we would build within the new museum something that we considered most unique, something very appropriate for the city and this would be a diorama portraying the Brannan Hot Springs.



Bob Durbin is constructing one of the diorama's structures.



"State Historical Registered Landmark No. 685"

There had been 40 acres devoted to the original hot springs in the 1860s and we would portray it in miniature. This would be in one end of the building and the actual cottage at the other end of the building so that visitors not only could see what the old cottage looked like in the old days, both inside and out, but could also see how the cottage related to the

overall plan of the Hot Springs.

On the 28th of the past September, the City accepted formally this gift from the Sharpsteens and from the Sam Brannan Committee, which through voluntary subscriptions had organized the restoration of the cottage.

TO BE CONTINUED

Fan to gift original Earl Thollander work 'Frog in the Moon' at end of exhibit



Glen Bettencourt, seated, with Lauren Thollander. Bettencourt will gift an illustration to Lauren after Earl's show closes.

In mid-August the museum was contacted by member Glen Bettencourt from Napa.

He offered two Earl Thollander originals to be loaned during the Thollander Exhibit. Of course we said "YES".

Look down to the left of the photo, in the lower drawer and you will see an original illustration of a Gibson 1906, style O guitar, owned by Glen Bettencourt.

The illustration was created by Earl in March of 1977. This was to be used as an advertisement for Glen's guitar shop located in Vintage 1870 in Yountville during the time that Earl also had a studio there. The illustration was never used and has been stored away until

being loaned to the Sharpsteen. Both Vintage 1870 and Glen's guitar shop ceased to exist many years ago.

The second original art piece, *Frog in the Moon*, which Earl created for the children's book, "School for Julio", 1967 (pg. 19), you will see amongst the other children's books in our exhibit that Earl illustrated.

The day we met Glen at the museum, after meeting Lauren, he told her he would gift the *Frog in the Moon* to her at exhibit's end. I won't tell you that she was so overwhelmed by Glen's generosity that she cried (but she did).

It was a beautiful day.
Thank you Mr. Bettencourt!

Tour group from Elusa Winery leads to invitation for tour, tasting

Sunday, August 22nd brought us a special tour group from local Elusa Winery as requested by their Hospitality Manager, Tiffany Kuhn.

Wanting to ensure the Elusa staff was historically prepared to better serve their visitors, Tiffany asked for a tour and we eagerly complied having Docent Prof. Lorne Glaim lead the way.

Since the experience was such a success, Tiffany, after connecting with our Docent Chair Jane Bennett, invited the Sharpsteen Directors & Chairs to a complimentary tour and tasting at Elusa on September 3rd. It was a beautiful and delicious afternoon and very much appreciated by our museum volunteers.



Board and chair members enjoy a tour of Elusa Winery with hospitality manager Tiffany Kuhn.

New Members

Individual

Lloyd & Jennifer Best
 Michael Mannion & Sarah Boggs
 Vinny & Rianne Pasquariello
 Suzan Shaw
 Valerie Vicroy

In Memorium

Helen Ark
 Bruce Bradley
 Louise Nietschy

Increase in Renewal Membership Levels

Business

Czapleski Vineyards LLC Friend of Museum
 Lola Wines Sponsor

Individual

Jim & Shari Hanson	Supporting
Jillian Helmer	Supporting
Doug & Lamar Webb	Contributing
Jean Williams	Contributing

General Donations

Jim & Bev Barnes
 Annie Bazzoli-Lines
 Pat & Ray Branstetter
 Cal Mart
 Celia Cummings
 Linda & Manuel Hidalgo
 Sally & Truman Houk
 Julianne Laks
 Yiota Patriris
 Fay Pauls
 Mark Petersen
 Steven Rasmussen & Felicia Woytak
 Alan Rogers & Dina Corcoran
 Eva Schlosser & Bob Branstad
 Marilyn Stark

For the Period June 1, 2021 through August 31, 2021



Eden Umble is the new Museum Special Exhibits chair.

Eden Umble is new Special Exhibits Chair

Most locals know her. You only need mention “Eden” and everyone knows who you are talking about. She’s like Cher, only one name is necessary.

Eden is a 29-year resident of Calistoga, a marketing professional (she put Brannan Cottage Inn on the map), longtime Sharpsteen Museum fan and all-around Calistoga history buff who shares our fascination with Sam Brannan. She is also our new Special Exhibits Chair.

Considering Eden’s solid sense of history and creativity, as well as her dogged determination, we anxiously look forward to her first special exhibit slated to open May 1, 2022. More information will be posted in future newsletters, on our website and Facebook page.

Our must-see Earl Thollander exhibit will run through April, 2022, don’t miss it!

If you have any ideas of what you would like to see exhibited in the future, please send us a message via our website’s “contact” option. www.sharpsteenmuseum.org

We thank you for your constant support. Stay safe, we’ll see you again soon.

Files dating back 12-15 years shredded in big clean-up day

What an adventure! Our office space had become filled with boxes & boxes of old files, copies of copies of old files. Files dating back 12-15 years, it was getting stupid. It was hard to walk in, tripping hazards everywhere. This cleaning was a huge project spearheaded by our 2nd VP Marcia Ciarlo.

When first discussing this much needed project we had received references for “the best” shredders, Integrity Shred in Santa Rosa. OK, now who has a truck so we can pack, load and take to Santa Rosa? Drive to Santa Rosa

after making an appt., unload, etc. etc. An ordeal YES but one we were willing to pull off. However, after checking Integrity’s website (duh) we found they had a mobile unit that comes to Calistoga once a month. Hallelujah! We made the appointment for Wed., Aug. 25th at 8:00AM. They were right on time. Our boxes were staged. The 2 men picked up those boxes 2 at a time out of our office and shred they did. Impressive and unusually inexpensive.

Adventures at the museum never end. This is great!



Integrity Shred helped us clean out old files that we had collected over the past decades in a matter of minutes.



New-ish docent Emily Buccianeri.

Meet new-ish volunteer docent Emily Buccianeri

Emily Buccianeri first became a volunteer docent in the latter part of 2019 shortly before the COVID closure. Luckily for us she came back when we reopened this year. Emily comes from a generational local family and “loves Calistoga and its history.”

Wanting to learn more about our history and wanting to give something back to her community, of course she chose the Sharpsteen Museum to accomplish both.

She is still working full time but manages to give us a couple of weekend days each month. Full of constant energy and enthusiasm, you’ll need to come by and meet her personally. You will not be disappointed!



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Museum House Tel: 942-5916
Museum Hours: 12 pm-3 pm daily, except 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

Editor: Shari Hanson

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.

BEST OF THE BEST

Team Docent for July & August

The following dedicated docents greeted visitors during July and August of 2021.

Christine Amey	BJ Hopgood
Bev Barnes	Sally Houk
Kathy Bazzoli	Cathy Keag
Gwen Becker	Pat Larsen
Lloyd Best	Michael Manion
Jane Bennett	Jo Ellen Noble
Sara Boggs	John Rickman
Ray Branstetter	Lauren Thollander
Emily Bucchianeri	Wendy Watson
Judith Cornils	Doug Webb
Lorne Glaim	Jeanie Williams
Marilyn Glaim	

New Hours

We are open 7 days a week again. Even though we are unable to return to our pre-COVID hours, you can still find our doors open from 12-3 p.m. every day.

End up exactly where you're meant to be--
Volunteer at the Sharpsteen Museum!



Learn about Calistoga's past and become part of our future.

Be a Volunteer Docent— Have fun and give back to your community. You choose your day(s) and shift(s). For more information, please contact the Museum Docent Chair Jane Bennett at (757) 536-1146, or email her: janemooringbennett@gmail.com

Thank you for your support!!! Happy Trails!!!



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