



SHARPSTEEN MUSEUM

OF CALISTOGA HISTORY

NEWS

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

VOL. 40, NO. 4 ■ June/July 2022



Moments of the past that are still practical today are offered in the regional dances performed by Ballet Folklórico El Valle St. Helena.



The display of artifacts from Carlos Renteria, the leading Charro equestrian in Napa Valley for over 50 years.

100 attend Mexican Heritage Exhibit Opening

By Eden Umble
Special Exhibit Chair

The Grand Opening Fiesta to commemorate the launch of our Cosas de Nuestra Casa Mexican Heritage Exhibit was a tremendous success!

One hundred people attended the day's festivities which included loteria games and prizes for the kids, Mother's Day flowers for the moms, a raffle, and spirited regional dances performed by Ballet Folklórico El Valle

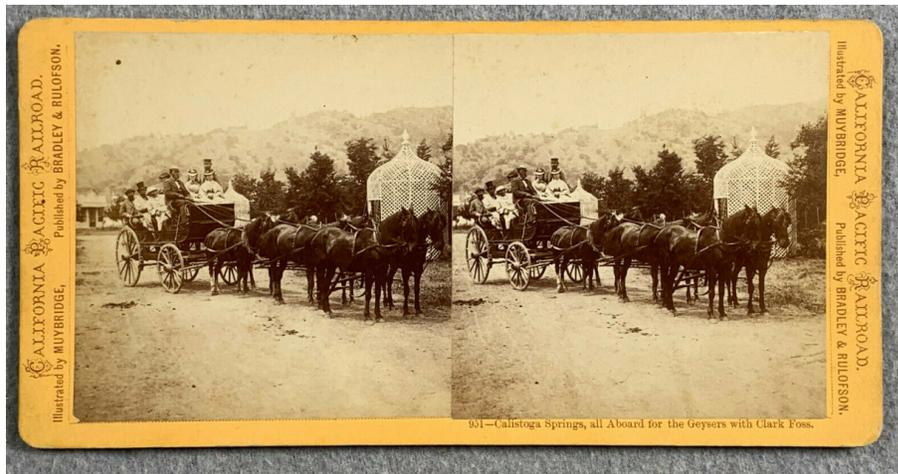
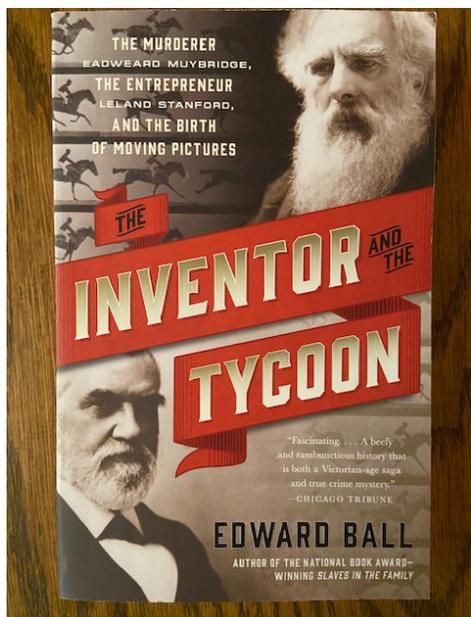
St. Helena.

One very special guest was Carlos Renteria, resplendent in his charro suit, who shared stories of his fascinating life and proud history as the leading Charro equestrian in Napa Valley for over 50 years. The personal items he lent to the exhibit – an ornate saddle, family pictures, trophies, and a charro suit complete with sombrero and gleaming silver belt buckle – are one of the most popular

See **EXHIBIT** pg 3



Exhibit chair Eden Umble (left) and Vice Mayor Irais Lopez-Ortega gathered artifacts from valley families to fill museum cases with items reflecting the Mexican heritage of Calistoga.



Stereoview taken by Muybridge, circa 1870, shows Clark Foss loaded up with passengers exiting Calistoga to Clearlake, provided by Gwen Becker.

Murder, mayhem, mystery when Muybridge came to town

By Kathy Bazzoli
Book Store Chair
Lorne Glaim – Co-Chair

The murderer Eadweard Muybridge; the entrepreneur Leland Stanford. Keep in mind this

happened in Calistoga. The book titled “The Inventor and the Tycoon” by award-winning author Edward Ball is a read you must have. Also, keep in mind Stanford was a close friend of Sam

Brannan, owned his own cottage at the original Springs grounds, stabled and raced his horses here and ultimately became owner of the Springs grounds as well as other properties in Calistoga.

Muybridge, aside from killing his wife and her paramour in Knights Valley, was a photographic technological genius responsible for (at Stanford’s request) proving that a running horse did in fact have all four hooves off the ground at one time.

“Fascinating...A beefy and rambunctious history that is both a Victorian-age saga and true crime mystery.” –Chicago Tribune

“Engrossing...A fascinating story full of strange & surprising details.” –The NY Times.

“Superb, Leland Stanford and Eadweard Muybridge were an odd couple. A beautifully written account of the collaboration of these two ambitious, contentious,

See MUYBRIDGE pg 6

Instant Wine Cellar uncorks 34th year

By Pat Larson
IWC Chair

Looking for a chance for an infusion of premium Napa Valley wines for your cellar?

Now in its 34th year, the Instant Wine Cellar is the Sharpsteen’s major fund-raiser, helping to support the general operations of the entire organization.

As we did last year, we are raffling off an “Instant Wine Cellar” of five cases of premium wines from Napa Valley producers and – as always – a

couple of additional surprises. You can help by donating wine and buying and/or selling raffle tickets.

The live drawing will be held on August 27 at the Museum. Tickets are \$10 each, or 5 for \$40 and are available at the Museum, via a downloadable form on our website (www.sharpsteenmuseum.org), or by calling or



emailing me at (510-410-4558) dirofdev48@gmail.com. Tickets purchased by August 15 will be entered into an Early Bird drawing for a special prize. Please contact me if you can donate wine or assist with ticket sales.

EXHIBIT

Continued from page 1

parts of the show.

Attendees also commented on the Dia de Los Muertos altar created by Exhibit Team Member Irais Lopez-Ortega, along with Alicia Pimentel and daughter Alejandra Pimentel, which honors the memory of lost loved ones with traditional sugar skulls, black draping, saffron colored flowers, photographs and symbols of the afterlife.

The exhibit team includes Placido Garcia Hernandez, who also dressed for the occasion in his handsome charro suit, and Julia Garcia who was out of town for the opening, but whose presence was felt in many ways, from her handmade embroidery to her many contributions throughout the exhibit.

Four classic Mexican movie posters lent by Steve Sando of Rancho

Gordo in Napa add a touch of glamour to the look of the displays.

Cosas de Nuestra Casa / Things From Our Home can be viewed at the museum through October 2022.

We look forward to seeing you soon.



The Dia de Los Muertos altar created by exhibit team member Irais Lopez-Ortega, along with Alicia Pimentel and daughter Alejandra Pimentel.



Carlos Renteria, left, loaned his saddle decorated with silver for the special exhibit.

Renteria was joined by Placido Garcia (right) who also wore his traditional charro outfit.



Alicia Pimentel, Eden Umble, Irais Lopez-Ortega, Placido Garcia, Carlos Renteria, and Alejandra Pimentel created Cosas de Nuestra Casa/Things From Our Home.

SHARPSTEEN MUSEUM
OF CALISTOGA HISTORY

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Email: info@sharpsteenmuseum.org
Museum House Tel: 942-5916
Museum Hours: 12 -3 pm M-F
11 a.m.-4 p.m. Sat/Sun, closed
Thanksgiving and Christmas.

BOARD MEMBERS:

Alan Rogers: President
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Eden Umble, Media/Exhibits

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.

Meet the Docents:

Extraordinary new docent Lloyd Best answers call

By Jane Bennett
Docent Director

Ladies and gentlemen, please meet new extraordinary docent Lloyd Best. Lloyd has been a docent for a few months, has lived in Calistoga since 1994. He is married to Jennifer (we have our fingers crossed that she will also become a docent!)

A few months back, the Sharpsteen ran a flyer in our local Calistoga Tribune asking for new docents. Thankfully for us Lloyd answered that call.

Lloyd is a retired Mathematics Professor from Pacific Union College and wanted to become more



New docent Lloyd Best.

involved in the Calistoga community. He feels that volunteering at the Sharpsteen fills that need.

The 30' diorama of Brannan's original Springs grounds is his favorite part of the museum. He loves how the people and animals are all in motion (a must-have created by Ben Sharpsteen), even the sheets are flapping in the breeze. Lloyd also enjoys the maps displayed, old original layouts of our city.

Probably the best part for Lloyd is that he now has a new best friend - fellow docent Doug Webb.

Best friends can happen when least expected. Friendships are another reward for volunteering at the Museum.

If you would like to join this special team of docents, please contact Docent Director Jane Bennett @ 757-536-1146 or email directly to Jane at janemooringbennett@gmail.com

We look forward to meeting you. Thank you for supporting your award-winning Sharpsteen Museum, the Gem of the Valley.

VOTE RESULTS

Thank you to all the members who responded by voting for your new Board Members for the fiscal year June 1, 2022 – June 1, 2023. The winners are:

President :	Alan Rogers
1st VP:	Kathy Bazzoli
2nd VP:	Marcia Ciarlo
Treasurer:	Barbara Lencioni
Recording Secty.	Peggy Berlin
Docent Chair:	Jane Bennett
Ways & Means:	Pat Larsen
Collections:	Bev Barnes
Education Chair:	Jackie Lang
Media/Exhibits:	Eden Umble

We appreciate your involvement as members. We are always looking for volunteers to assist on committees and for any and all of the above chair positions. Docents are needed badly. We need to keep our doors open. Basic training is provided. Collections and Events (Ways & Means) can always use help. Anything you feel you can do, please let us know. With your help we have managed to stay alive since 1978, but we need more help to continue.

Please use our web site @ sharpsteenmuseum.org and use the contact page to leave a message. We will respond with humble appreciation.

*Our Best to you all,
Sharpsteen Museum
Board of Directors*

Stone bowl and grinding stone gone full circle, now back home

The Sharpsteen Museum recently received an almost round stone bowl and round grinding stone from Cal and Sandi Esselstrom of Brentwood, California. What makes this gift extra special is that it was given



to Sandi Esselstrom's grandparents by Ben and Bernice Sharpsteen many years ago. The round pieces have gone full circle and are back home.



On April 14 & 15th, the museum was excited to welcome over 100 Calistoga Junior High students.

Over 100 junior high students visit to study early settlers

If you happened by the Sharpsteen Museum on a recent Thursday or Friday in April, you may have heard the walls resounding with the enthusiastic chatter of students. On April 14 & 15th, the museum was excited to welcome all Calistoga Junior High students, over 100 7th and 8th graders divided into four groups with 4 visit times (AM & PM).

Students were participating in an integrated study of the early settlers,

transportation, and geology of the Calistoga area. Tours of the museum and the Bale Grist Mill, as well as nearby hikes were planned. Unfortunately, due to long-awaited rain, the hikes were postponed.

Meanwhile, the museum was hopping! Kent Domogalla and Jo Noble, with their extraordinary knowledge of early Calistoga, captivated the students. After an informative overview of history, students divided into groups to tour the

museum and work on assignments geared toward knowledge, interpretation, and opinions about this earlier time.

The historical perspective and museum knowledge of Kent and Jo was augmented by the interactions with museum docents Pat Larsen, Ron and Karen Yost, Rose Beck, Sally Houk, and Jackie Lang.

This amazing experience was made possible not only by our talented speakers, Kent and Jo,

and docents, but also by the organizational assistance of our own Kathy Bazzoli.

The museum appreciates the collaboration with Jeremy Grove, Junior High Science teacher/coordinator and Junior High teachers John Lowell (History) and Aide Zepeda (English).

It was so wonderful to welcome students back to the museum. We look forward to more opportunities to bring our history into our community.

MUYBRIDGE

Continued from page 2

and ultimately incompatible men.” –San Francisco Chronicle

This was Calistoga, your town, in the latter part of the 1870s. Soft-cover, nearly 400 pages including acknowledgments and index, with photos: \$16.95 each less members 10% discount. Will ship upon request for additional charge.

Your purchase supports the museum and helps us to keep our doors open. Thank you.

BEST OF THE BEST

Team Docent for March & April

Christine Amey
 Bev Barnes
 Kathy Bazzoli
 Rose Beck
 Jane Bennett
 Lloyd Best
 Sara Boggs
 Emily Bucchianeri
 Judith Cornils
 Lorne Glaim
 Marilyn Glaim
 Sally Houk

Cathy Keag
 Pat Larsen
 David Lomax
 Michael Mannion
 Patricia Murphy
 Jo Ellen Noble
 Lauren Thollander
 Doug Webb
 Lamar Webb
 Ron Yost

MEMBERSHIP

March 1 – April 30, 2022

Donation

**Restoration of Cottage
 Fence**
 Mary & Michael Harris

General Donations

Bev Barnes
 Kathy Bazzoli
 David Lomax
 Patricia Larsen
 Napa Valley
 State Park Association
 Beth Rubenstein



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