



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 5

In the interim period more work had been done inside the museum. An old stagecoach, the last vehicle from the famous



Ben

old Spier Stage Coach line that went to Lake County, has been loaned by the

Native Sons. We are now restoring it. Other exhibits have also been built and we have a plan going now that will take at least 2 years to complete. We are using a means of display which employs the diorama principle which provides a gallery for modern art.

The question has come up frequently of how the idea of the diorama occurred to me-- how it was inspired. It was simply one of expediency. It

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Holiday shopping & gift ideas

Our museum shop has a terrific assortment of gifts for everyone on your list. Fascinating books on local lore, children's books & toys, cook-books, handmade items, ornaments, and so much more.

And for that hard-to-shop-for history buff, we have the perfect present that's truly meaningful: A Gift Membership to the Sharpsteen Museum. Membership levels start at \$35 or \$25 for seniors. For more call 942-5911.



Mementos of the past that are still practical today are offered in the Sharpsteen's gift shop. Hand-stitched tea towels, doilies, children's toys and books retelling the history of Calistoga.

What's really normal in past two years?

By Alan Rogers, President

After evacuating from our home over the last four years of wildfires, Dina and I decided to self-evacuate before this year's fire season. We have just arrived home after a two month stay in Southern California. Driving down our driveway we were pleased to see the green grasses and the threat of fire gone, for

now. We felt normal at home in Calistoga. Normal? When have our lives been normal during the last two years? So, what is normal at the museum? We had an election, and I was elected SMA President for the tenth time along with most of the same board members. Normal!

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Elementary students and staff from Middletown Adventist School visited us on September 27.

ROGERS

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The Museum opened up on a part time basis with docent volunteers. Normal! We had a special exhibit to view. Normal! The train exhibit was still running. Normal!

Adorable elementary students and staff from Middletown Adventist School visited us on September 27th. To quote personal tour guide docents, Jeannie Williams and Chair Jane Bennett, “they were great, so much energy & enthusiasm. They loved the train exhibit—we provided the quarters.” All told, the group consisted of 4 adults & 16 curious and excited students. It feels good to know we are be-

coming normal again, bit by bit. This was our first school tour in a very long time, something we have missed.

We’re planning to get back to normal with: Meet the Author, the Museum Antique Roadshow, the Instant Wine Cellar, Coffee Hour, no mask requirement and having the museum open seven days a week.

I would like to welcome Eden Umble as our new Special Exhibits Chair and Social Media Consultant. You can read about some of her work in this newsletter.

As our forty-third year winds down I would like to thank all the volunteers who have worked many hours to keep this gem of a museum open and

thriving.

During the first year (1978) of the museum, one of the top songs was Staying Alive. Today the museum is still alive and well as one of the heartbeats of Calistoga.

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.

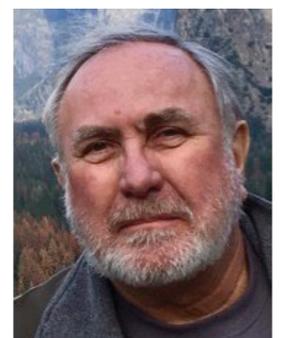
As we get closer to ending another year, we humbly ask you to continue your membership and/or to consider a year-end donation to the Sharpsteen Museum. We are an all-volunteer organization, with no endowment, and rely on the generosity of others.

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 using our website: www.sharpsteen-museum.org

A very normal Merry Christmas and Happiest of New Years



UPDATE from Eden

Special Exhibits Chair

I couldn't be more excited and proud to join this extraordinary organization as a volunteer handling the roles of Special Exhibits Chair and Social Media Consultant.



Calistoga's history has always been a passion of mine. Learning more about the wonders within the walls of the Sharpsteen, and sharing the fascinating stories that make Calistoga an unique place in Napa Valley, is a thrill. Here's an update on what's in the works!

Calistoga's Latino heritage exhibit looking for items to illustrate life

Our May 2022 Special Exhibit, the first one I'll be curating, will celebrate Calistoga's Latino heritage.

While we're just starting to envision this exhibit, we invite the community to contact us if you have collections of items which could help illustrate the rich, diverse historical contributions stemming from the Mexican-American culture.

Everything from folkloric costumes & cultural artifacts, to elements of winemaking, ranching, culinary arts and history are welcome for consideration.

I can be contacted by phone,



Cesar Chavez
Photo by
Victor Aleman



Mariano Vallejo and Family

942-4643, or email: eaumble@gmail.com, or leave a message for me at the Museum.

LAST CALL TO BID ON AN EARL THOLLANDER

This beautiful still life, painted by our currently featured artist and donated by the Marstens, could be yours.

At press time, the high bid is \$600.

Final bids close very soon, and every cent benefits the Sharpsteen.

Stop by the exhibit area to place a new bid on "Still Life with Artichokes & Canned Pears."



Original "Still Life with Artichokes & Canned Pears" by Earl Thollander bid is at \$600.

In Memorium

Bill Hahn
Dennis Leffler
Ingeborg Penn

General Donations

Robert Pegram
Construction

Memorial Donations

Dennis Leffler

Happy Birthday!



**Happy Birthday to
Ben Sharpsteen,
born Nov. 4, 1895**

Even though you are no longer with us in body, Your spirit lives on within the walls of your museum. We humbly thank you for your vision, heart, and determination.

IN HIS OWN WORDS

Continued from page 1

would be difficult to build, because of cost problems, space problems, maintenance, etc. the number of square feet in a building that would adequately show the exhibits that you would like to have in a small town like Calistoga.

To accomplish all of the things that we visualize should be done to make this an outstanding museum for the community will probably cost another \$100,000 and if we can accomplish it within a couple of years we will consider ourselves lucky.

All the Sharpsteens ask for is that the building shall be devoted to the

memory of Calistoga's pioneers and that it will be devoted to a period roughly speaking of 50 years from 1862 with the establishment of the Brannan Hot Springs up until the time in 1912 when the electric railroad came to Calistoga, a time which is still vivid in the minds of many people.

The Sharpsteens require that this building shall be used for museum purposes only and along the guidelines as indicated, and that it shall not be disrupted and changed to suit the whims of future generations who may lack an appreciation for the preservation of this valuable heritage. We do not wish to see it fall into the hands of inappropriate uses such as a bingo parlor, or an art gallery for modern art, and we expect the City of Calistoga to live up to the acceptance of this fact.

By the use of the diorama where we could compress space, and by using a scale of 1/2 inch to the foot (a six-foot man would be 3 inches tall) we found it possible to reconstruct the Brannan Hot Springs.

I had seen this done successfully at Disneyland and whereas I had played no part in the creation of that, the whole entity of it seemed well within my grasp. I was enamored with the acceptance by the public and its delight in miniature work.



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Calistoga, CA 94515
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Email: info@sharpsteenmuseum.org
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
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Jackie Lang: Education Chair
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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.

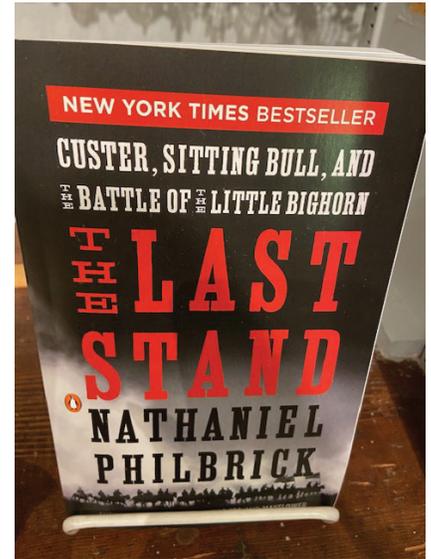
Two new books to inspire readers

Now available in our bookstore, two new inspiring recommendations for the discerning Christmas shopper. First you sit down with your children to share "Goodnight Moon" by author Margaret Wise Brown & illustrator Clement Hurd.

First published in 1947, this title quickly became a children's bedtime classic and remains so today. Priced at \$17.99 this boxed set includes a plush little gray bunny already dressed in pajamas to cuddle as you share the gentle words and lulling illustrations.

Once the babies are tucked into bed, it's your

turn. We suggest "The Last Stand," a New York Times Best-seller by renowned author and historian Nathaniel Philbrick. The story of Custer, Sitting Bull and the Battle of the Little Bighorn. Philbrick brings a wealth of new information to his subject as he details the collision between two American icons - George Armstrong Custer and Sitting Bull



- one that both parties wished to avoid. The author brilliantly explains how the battle that ensued has been shaped and reshaped by national myth. Yours for only \$18.00. Don't forget your

member's 10% discount! Shipping is available, please contact us for cost.

Merry Christmas to all and to all a good night.

BEST OF THE BEST

Team Docent for September & October
The following dedicated docents greeted visitors during September & October of 2021.

Christine Amey
Bev Barnes
Jane Bennett
Lloyd Best
Sara Boggs
Ray Branstetter
Judith Cornils
Lorne Glaim
Marilyn Glaim
BJ Hopgood
Sally Houk
Cathy Keag

Pat Larsen
Michael Mannion
Jo Ellen Noble
John Rickman
Lauren Thollander
Doug Webb
Jeannie Williams



Take a few minutes to shop the bookstore when you're looking for presents from children to adults.



The Wreaths Are Back!

After a year off the “Crafty Ladies” are back to create the popular fresh wreaths and other hand-crafted items for the holiday season. They will be available for sale at the front entrance to the museum on Saturday, December 4, from 9:00 am-1:00 pm. Also planned but not confirmed at press time, a second sale on Saturday, Dec. 11, same place and time.

Come early for the best selection.



ADDRESS CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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

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