



Message from the President

Dear Sharpsteen Members,

Now that the first month of 2019 has passed and we have received much-needed rain, how are you doing with your New Year's resolution? Are you still following it or did you even make one? Whatever the case, why don't you make a resolution to visit your Sharpsteen Museum more often? The SMA board and the city are continuing the refurbishing of the museum inside and out.

I would like to share with you a story Kathy Bazzoli wrote about one of our visitors who gave the museum a second look:

"We had a group tour yesterday early am. 2 couples came in late about 1:00. One of the men told me he had visited the museum about 8-9 years ago and was not much impressed apparently. He only came because the group from the morning was so impressed; they told him he had to go back. (By the way, Lorne took this group and received a huge applause when he finished up his initial welcome & presentation.)

As this particular gentleman, Bob, walked in the door, he told me they only had a few minutes. Of course that is a clue that means *I don't really want to be here*. I took them through Ben's room & on to the diorama; spent a good 15-20 minutes since the others had lots of questions. 30 minutes after that I checked on them and Bob was only as far as the train exhibit. I said, 'Hey Bob, I thought you only had a few minutes!' He went on to tell me how incredible our museum looked, he noticed the restoration of the diorama, the larger windows & restoration of the train exhibit & Spiers window, the painting of the museum exterior & interior gift/book store area, he saw everything and was beside himself, could not say enough. Of course, I thanked him profusely as if I had done all of this myself. He even mentioned the new set-up of the interior of our Brannan Cottage & mentioned how well the Cottage garden looked. He loved our Horseless Carriage exhibit & noticed the mudwagon for the first time. It was so cool- Bob told me he will most definitely be back and will tell everyone he knows that the Sharpsteen is a go-to destination!"

We are proud of what we have accomplished. As a member of the Sharpsteen Museum, please come by, see our improvements, and share our pride. Make a resolution to bring your family, friends, and houseguests to the museum to have a "Bob Experience".

Alan Rogers, *SMA President*

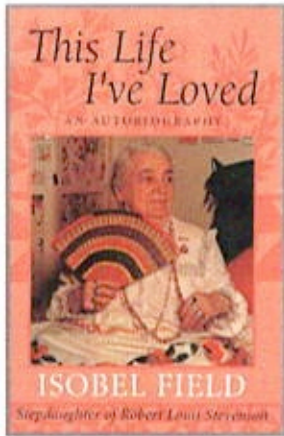


Museum Booth at 2018 Christmas Faire a Success!



Many, many thanks to all the museum volunteers who worked on the very successful 2018 Christmas Bazaar! Lots of wreaths, hand-embroidered dish towels and catnip mice flew off the tables. The 50th anniversary of the Calistoga Holiday Bazaar will take place on December 7, 2019 and it would be wonderful if we not only had another sell-out but if we had more to sell! The dish towels sell almost immediately, and so our goal will be to entice more embroiderers to work on them throughout 2019. We hope last year's talented embroiderers will help out again and that new volunteers can be found. Please get in touch with Emma Mazzola at 942-6649 if you are interested in this project. Or, you can always send an email to: info@sharpsteenmuseum.org and we'll make sure your message gets through to the embroidery department. Thanks! Pat Haynes, *Christmas Bazaar Chair*

Notes from the Book Store



New to our shelves and our chosen title to highlight is "This Life I've Loved", an autobiography by author Isobel Field, stepdaughter of Robert Louis Stevenson. Originally published in New York in 1937, this book was republished in 2005 with the assistance of the RLS Museum in St. Helena. Photos have been added to the original script as well as an Editor's Epilogue to give the reader the last pieces of the main characters.

Although Isobel (Belle) was born in 1858, her autobiography begins with her earliest memories and ends with the death of RLS in Samoa in 1894. Born in Indiana, her childhood was spent in the rough mining camps of Nevada; on to school in San Francisco and Oakland; travels to Antwerp, Belgium and Paris, France, where while vacationing in Grez as a child in 1876, she and her mother Fanny would first meet RLS.

She was with Fanny and RLS when they married in San Francisco in 1880, spent time with them during their honeymoon on top of Mt. St. Helena, lived with them in Hawaii where she was accepted as a member of the court of King Kalakaua, lived in an actors boardinghouse in Sydney, Australia, then to Samoa from 1890 until 1894; ultimately moving back to the mainland where she died at her family home in Montecito, California, on June 27, 1953 at the age of 94.

This is Belle's life in her own words-- from first recollections through travels, marriage to artist Joseph Dwight Strong in San Francisco where they enjoyed a bohemian lifestyle, birth of her son Austin, a scandalous divorce and remarriage.

After first reading Belle's story in 1937, Gelett Burgess, 19th & 20th century artist, author and poet, is quoted as saying, "If I had but a one-foot book shelf, *This Life I've Loved* would be always there, right between *Arabian Nights* and *Alice in Wonderland*."

Known as a unique and witty storyteller, Belle's story is a love affair with life and one that she never quit.

Over 300 pages with photos, price is only \$18.95, less 10% museum members discount. If you would prefer this title shipped to you directly, simply go to our web site (sharpsteenmuseum.org) and send us a message. A \$3.99 per copy shipping charge and applicable sales tax will be added.

Thank you for your continued support of the Sharpsteen Museum.

Kathy Bazzoli, *Book Chair*, and Lorne Glaim, *Co-Chair*

Membership News:

Attention **BUSINESSES!!!** We have exciting sponsorship levels available for Businesses to support our museum. These opportunities include:

- **Friend of the Museum** (\$100 level) which includes all the usual benefits of membership including discounted admission to the IWC (Instant Wine Cellar)
- **Sponsor** (\$250 level) which also includes recognition in our Newsletter
- **Patron** (\$500 level) which also includes a logo and link on our website
- **Angel Instant Wine Cellar** (\$2500 level) which includes six FREE tickets to our IWC event. Plus a special 'Angel Table for six' for you and your friends at the IWC event, and Special Recognition on our website including logo and link.

Please contact DeAnn at 707-328-4891 to discuss recognition opportunities, or email deann.wylie@sharpsteenmuseum.org for more information. We want to work with you and appreciate your continued support!

DeAnn Wylie, *VP/Membership*



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

Tel: (707) 942-5911 Fax: 942-6325
Email: info@sharpsteenmuseum.org
Museum House Tel: 942-5916
Museum Hours: 11 am-4 pm daily,
except Thanksgiving and Christmas.

BOARD MEMBERS:

Alan Rogers- President
Kathy Bazzoli- first VP
DeAnn Wylie- second VP
Marcia Ciarlo- Recording Secretary
Barbara Lencioni- Treasurer
Marilyn Glaim- Docent Chair
Jackie Lang- Education Chair
Bev Barnes- Collections Chair
Pat Larsen- Ways & Means Chair

The Sharpsteen Museum Newsletter is published bi-monthly by the Sharpsteen Museum Association, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

Editors: Gail Sharpsteen & Kathy Bazzoli

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.

Volunteer Position Available Newsletter Editor

Edits newsletter submittals and prepares for printing (every 2 months). Must have good English skills and be familiar with Word or other page layout programs. Please email info@sharpsteenmuseum.org for job description and application.

Welcome New Members

Friend of Museum
Pacific Union College

Sponsor
Cal Mart

Supporting Members

Julie Kaplan
Maureen Grinnell
Douglas & Stephanie Allan
Joseph Clark
Eva Schlosser
Barbara Robben

In Memoriam

Bob (Robert) Bennett

