

# SHARPSTEEN MUSEUM



# NEWS

CALISTOGA HISTORY  
MUSEUM

Volume 37, Number 2

February/March 2019

## 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



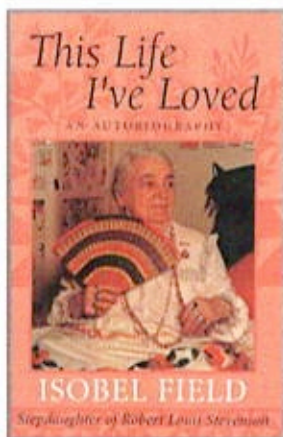
## Museum Booth at 2018 Christmas Faire a Success!



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 50<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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, 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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*



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

Tel: (707) 942-5911 Fax: 942-6325

Email: [info@sharpsteenmuseum.org](mailto: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](mailto:info@sharpsteenmuseum.org) for job description and application.

## 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](mailto:deann.wylie@sharpsteenmuseum.org) for more information. We want to work with you and appreciate your continued support!

DeAnn Wylie, *VP/Membership*

## 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



# Docents: We Couldn't Have Done It Without You!

Welcome to two more new docents- Ron Yost and Lauren Thollander.

Ron is not quite a brand new docent. He signed on a year ago, but on a trip down a mountain in Tahoe he and his snowboard crashed, and Ron spent the next few months dealing with an injured foot. Will he snowboard again? Yes, of course. He and his wife like to spend time at their cabin in Tahoe, but the snowboarding will be approached with care.



Though Ron also loves to travel in both America and Europe, he makes sure to sign up for shifts whenever he is in the valley. Calistoga is where he spent the last years of his professional life, and he wants to give back to the community. From 1987 to 2003 he was the counselor at Calistoga Junior and Senior High Schools. He misses the students but says meeting the visitors in the museum helps fill the need to connect with people. His favorite part of being a docent? "I like to listen and learn from guests," he says. He also likes to learn about the history of the town and the museum. "I never bring a book of my own to read during the spaces between visitors. I pick out one of the museum books and read it, so I have new things to share."

Lauren and her husband have lived in the valley since 1975 when they came to work at the Heritage School for Boys in Franz Valley. At Heritage and here in the Calistoga Unified School District, she has done "everything except teach", including driving a school bus, volunteering in the classrooms, and being a member of the school board for eight years. Lauren always chose jobs that allowed her to spend time at home when she was raising her son.

Even though she volunteers for several non-profits, she finds time to travel, sometimes in



unusual ways. She and her husband did Vietnam on motorcycles, and they made a trip to Alabama, this time with Lauren riding behind her husband on his motorcycle. They've also visited, by more conventional means, Portugal, Ireland, Costa Rica, Africa, New Zealand- and the list goes on!

With an already full life, why did she come to the museum where she volunteers for more than the usual number of shifts? She has friends at the museum and finally just decided it was time. Lauren loves talking with visitors, comparing notes on places they've been, and she values learning more about the history of the town she has lived in for so many happy decades.

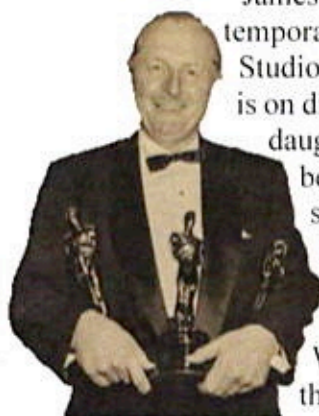
Marilyn Glaim, *Docent Chair*

## Best of the Best Docent Team for Nov.-Dec., 2018

Christine Amey	Lorne Glaim	Sue Morton
Bev Barnes	Marilyn Glaim	Patricia Murphy
Kathy Bazzoli	Bill & Patsy Hahn	Jo Noble
Gwen Becker	Linda Hanson	Ellie Robinson
Jane Bennett	Pat Haynes	Anne Scott
Ray Branstetter	Gisela Huesmann	Lauren Thollander
Geri Burquez	Jackie Lang	Rita Tucker
Judy Cornils	Pat Larsen	Wendy Watson
Al Derrick	Sylvia Marciano	DeAnn Wylie
Donna Dill	Barbara Maxfield	Helen Yost
Claire Flickinger	Emma Mazzola	Ron Yost

Gold Star Awards to those docents working the most shifts: **10 shifts-** Lorne Glaim, Wendy Watson; **9 shifts-** DeAnn Wylie; **7 shifts-** Judy Cornils, **6 shifts-** Jane Bennett; **5 shifts-** Christine Amey, Ray Branstetter, Donna Dill, Jackie Lang, Sylvia Marciano, Anne Scott, and Lauren Thollander.

## Special Event Planned This Spring



James Algar is shown here clutching and in temporary custody of 3 Oscars won for the Disney Studios 60 years ago (April 6, 1959). One of these is on display in "Ben's Room" at the museum. His daughter, Museum member Laurie Algar, will be here sometime this spring to present stories about James' 43-year career with Disney and his friendship and collaborations with Ben Sharpsteen on various projects. Date and Time TBD. Watch the web site for details (or sign up on the web site for email alerts).



Photo by Donna Dill

Geri Burquez and Marilyn Glaim are among docents and guests enjoying the annual Christmas Luncheon in December at the Calistoga Inn.



## GIFT SHOPPE



It's hard to keep track sometimes of the ever-changing inventory in our Gift Shoppe. Of course, the standard best sellers such as the decorative towels & Treasure Boxes are constantly being restocked- but with new designs. Some items we offer come as a one-time-only purchase; 2 sets of which are now available- an 11-piece oil & vinegar set complete with a bread bowl and 8 small dishes for dipping; another is an 8-piece set of decorative porcelain napkin holders.

Check it out, vintage silver spoons and flatware, Fitz & Floyd salt & pepper shakers with matching platters, and lots of new fun things in our children's section- from kaleidoscopes to rag-doll making kits to dominoes, slimy putty, rings, twirlers, flying birds and even Whoopee Cushions. We strive to keep our gift store always changing. Your suggestions are welcome.

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

## CALENDAR

### FEBRUARY

**Wed. Feb. 6, 5:30 pm.** SMF Meeting, Museum House.

**Wed. Feb. 13, 10 am.** SMA Board Meeting, Museum House.

### MARCH

**Wed. Mar. 6, 5:30 pm.** SMF Meeting.

**Wed. Mar. 13, 10 am.** SMA Meeting.

### APRIL

**Wed. Apr. 3, 5:30 pm.** SMF Meeting.

**Wed. Apr. 10, 10 am.** SMA Meeting.

### FUTURE DATES-

**Sat. Aug. 24-** IWC (Instant Wine Cellar), Boys & Girls Club, Oak St.

### Editors' Tips-

**Don't Miss Out!!!** Because the Sharpsteen Museum Newsletter is produced every other month, some news items and event dates don't make it in time for publication. To keep up with what's currently happening at the Sharpsteen, please visit the web site: [sharpsteenmuseum.org](http://sharpsteenmuseum.org) and sign up to receive email news & alerts. *It's so easy!*



CHANGE SERVICE REQUEST

Sharpsteen Museum Association  
311 Washington St., P.O. Box 572  
Calistoga, CA 94515

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