

SHARPSTEEN MUSEUM



NEWS

CALISTOGA HISTORY
MUSEUM

Volume 34: Number 3

April-May 2016 Newsletter

New Exhibit in May- Treasures From the Button Box



The Sonoma County Button Club, in celebration of its 70th year, is proud to present "Treasures from the Button Box", opening in May at the Sharpsteen Museum.

The exhibit will feature clothing buttons from the late 1700s to the 1960s. These small works of art capture a long-ago world, recalling memories of old clothing and forgotten ancestors, while evoking the pride, independence and quality of small manufacturers. The Industrial Revolution of 1760 to 1840 brought a wider variety of button materials to more people. Buttons were stashed in a basket, box or tin and passed down through the generations, often with stories about the folks who wore them.

Since the late 1930s serious collectors have created an elaborate button classification system, establishing 1918 as the cutoff year between old and modern buttons. Reference books have been published and clubs across the United States and around the world meet to study, trade and buy buttons. Collectors attend state and local button shows (the public is always welcome) as well as the National Button Society's annual show, entering their 9" x 12" "trays" of favorite buttons in competition for a coveted first, second or third prize.

The public is invited to come by and meet members of the Sonoma County Button Club as they unveil their collection of buttons at the "Preview Party" on Friday, May 13 from 5:30 to 7pm. Enjoy some light refreshments and live music as well.

Patsy Hahn, *Special Exhibits Chair*

New at the Sharpsteen:

❖ Are you chilled during these late winter nights? Come and see what folks did in the 1800s to solve this problem. Each of the cottage beds now has a wonderful ceramic bed warmer (which would be filled with hot water), thanks to donor Sally Manfredi.



❖ A set of three photographs of a Wappo woman and child, taken by I.C. Adams in 1907. This beautiful framed triptych has been hung next to the dollhouse.



Bev Barnes,
Collections Chair

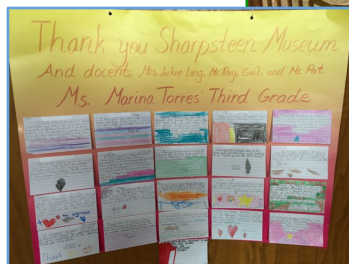
Calistoga Kids Visit the Museum

Over 100 Calistoga third and fourth graders had the opportunity to visit the Sharpsteen Museum during the past few weeks. Students were able to journey back in time with the "awesome" Native American Basket exhibit. They were also enthralled with the restored "epic" train. Ben's Oscar and Disney movies continue to excite our young visitors with one declaring she "wanted to live in the museum



and sleep in Ben's Mickey Mouse chair".

Jackie Lang, *Education Chair*



Students included a note about their experience in these "thank you cards".

Message from the President

Dear Sharpsteen Members,

The rains have been wonderful for our community. The month of March was the wettest this area has had in recorded history. This much needed rain has brought green back to the hills, made the fruit trees flower, and has made it easy to till the soil for this year's vegetable gardens. Spring is a time of rebirth and growth and we can see some of this beauty in the garden at Sharpsteen Museum as the plants are flowering and flourishing. With all this rain the museum has been pleased to have no leaks, thanks to the installation of a new roof this last summer by the City.

This is my fourth consecutive year as president of the SMA and the operations of the museum have run smoothly. These operations have run smoothly not because I was president but because of our Board of Directors and committee chairs. I would like to thank these volunteers for their continuous hard work and dedication to the museum. As you know, our fiscal year ends May 31st. This year, Bill Hahn, Kent Domogalla and Doug Cook have resigned their positions on the board effective June 1. I have been blessed to work with them all these years and am thankful for their contributions of time and dedication to the museum. Our museum has benefitted greatly from their service.

Bill Hahn and his Nominating Committee have completed their work and now you, as a Sharpsteen Museum member, get to vote. Please vote and mail in your ballots or place them in the ballot box at the museum. Ballots are included with all mailed April-May newsletters.

If you missed our last museum coffee hour, you missed a very informative talk by Richard Dwyer, the new owner of the Francis House (Old Calistoga Hospital). He and his wife Dina went over their plans for this property. You can follow the progress of this interesting project on their web site: thefranchishouse.com. Our next coffee hour is on April 14, 2016, in the museum at 10am.

Guest speaker will be Mayor Chris Canning.

Now, I need to get back to my garden to harvest some winter vegetables and repair my drip irrigation system to make it more efficient. Then, I will till the soil for some Forni-Brown & Welsh vegetables.

Alan Rogers, *President*



Mark your calendars now for the 28th annual Instant Wine Cellar fund-raiser at the Museum Plaza. Chairs Pat and Dave Larsen are planning some new activities in addition to the always-popular wine cellar drawing, raffle baskets and silent auction. We will need lots of help with wine and merchant donation solicitation and pick-up; raffle ticket sales; basket assembly; food preparation and event set-up and take-down. If

you can help out in any capacity, please contact Pat and Dave at 707-341-3313 or dirofdev48@gmail.com.
Pat Larsen, *Ways & Means Chair*



Sharpsteen Museum

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LIKE US ON FACEBOOK

Museum House phone: (707) 942-5916

Museum Hours: 11 am to 4 pm daily, except Thanksgiving and Christmas

BOARD MEMBERS

Alan Rogers – President

Bill Hahn – first VP

Shirley Blomquist – second VP

Pat Haynes – Recording Secretary

Kent Domogalla – Treasurer

Kathy Bazzoli – 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 non-profit organization, and mailed to 500 member homes and businesses.

Editors: Gail Sharpsteen and

Kathy Bazzoli

Distribution: Shirley Blomquist

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.

Welcome New Members

Richard Andriano

Bruce Bradley

Marsha Evans

Lorne & Marilyn Glaim

Tom Higgins

Sandra Price

Larry & Barbara Sawyer

In Memoriam

Lilia Gallion

Peter Mondavi



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

By the time this newsletter is sent off to the printers, labeled, and handed over to Laurie at the Post Office for delivery to the hundreds of loyal Sharpsteen members, the Annual Docent Luncheon of March 30th will have come & gone. Even though this event has not yet occurred, as I write this, did we have a good time? You betcha! Where did we celebrate the best-of-the-best docents? Calistoga Inn & Brewery. How was the meal? Absolute delicious perfection!! Could we have had more fun? No Way!! Hope you could make it, if not; there is always next year...

The Docent Prize program results: \$50 gift certificate to Sam's Social Club went to Jackie Lang, while Anne Scott took home a \$50 gift certificate to the ever popular Cal Mart! Congratulations!

1st-string Docent team for January & February 2016:

Bev Barnes	Pat Haynes	Jo Ellen Noble
Shirley Blomquist	Sandy Herlihy	Biserka Potrebic
Ray Branstetter	Gisela Huesmann	Ellie Robinson
John Clark	Jackie Lang	Anne Scott
Doug Cook	Pat Larsen	Sonya Spencer
Judy Cornils	Sylvia Marciano	Sierra Turner
Al Derrick	Barbara Maxfield	Josepha Walpen
Donna Dill	Emma Mazzola	Wendy Watson
Bill & Patsy Hahn	Sue Morton	Ingrid Zehntner

****Welcome new docents Lorne and Marilyn Glaim!****

Gold Star Awards to those docents working the most shifts this period: **13 shifts-** Josepha Walpen; **9 shifts-** Judy Cornils; **8 shifts-** Pat Larsen, **6 shifts-** Jackie Lang, **5 shifts-** John Clark, Lorne & Marilyn Glaim, Ellie Leake, Sue Morton and Ellie Robinson. *Salute!* Kathy Bazzoli, *Docent Chair*

Meet Our Docents

In each newsletter we will highlight one or more members that have donated their precious time to the museum.

Meet the indomitable Jo Ellen Noble, Sharpsteen Museum's very own force-of-nature.

Who knows what makes Jo Noble the person she is. Meeting her for the first time, you realize you are in the presence of an exemplary human being. We are thankful that Jo, along with her husband and 2 little girls, found Calistoga so many, many years ago and made it home.

Jo was born in Montana but raised in the San Juan Islands of western Washington since the age of 2 small years. Finding her way to Calistoga is a story in and of itself, but here we speak of "our" Jo.



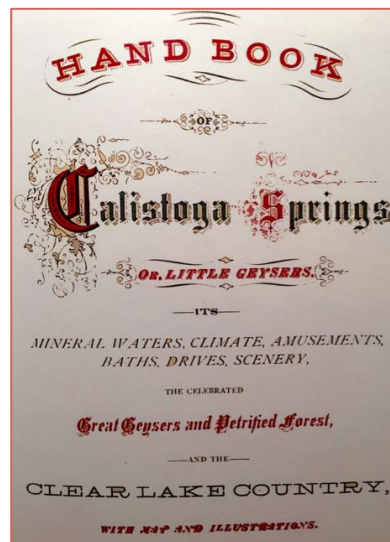
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Meet Sam Brannan

& Book Signing Day

Sat., April 23rd from 11:30 – 1:00pm

Calistoga Springs – The Saratoga of the Pacific
And so it begins, a journey into "The Handbook of Calistoga Springs", written in 1871:



It seems hardly possible that the tourist, who this morning was wrapping his cloak about him as a protection against the raw, searching ocean gales of San Francisco, should be luxuriating at noon in the sunny warmth of Calistoga, in the secluded interior, under the picturesque heights of the Coast

range; and after a journey of 4 hours from the City, be seeking the grateful coolness of the woods, and courting the mountain breezes.

This handbook includes over 30 beautifully descriptive pages, lithographs and foldouts of Sam Brannan's original hot springs resort, first opened in 1862. This book has been carefully reproduced and is now available for purchase only at the Sharpsteen Museum for \$14.50/copy, (members receive a 10% discount).

Join us on Saturday April 23rd, 11:30-1:00 as we host Mr. Samuel Brannan and his wife, Ann Eliza Brannan. Mr. Brannan will be speaking about his beloved Calistoga resort, how he came to name our town and, as California's first millionaire, built the first hot springs resort here. Have questions about Sam and his adventures? This will be your only opportunity to learn more straight from the man himself.

Purchase as many copies of "Calistoga Springs - 1871" as you like. Sam and Ann Eliza will be happy to autograph them for you, all you have to do is be at the Sharpsteen on the right day at the right time.

See you all there!

Kathy Bazzoli, *Book Chair*
Josepha Walpen, *Co-Chair*



Over time, Jo has been involved in a variety of careers, hobbies and volunteer endeavors. She is the only surviving member of the Sharpsteen's Incorporation board and has been a museum advocate since 1976, two full years prior to the museums being completed. In addition to her job as Assoc. Planner for the City of Calistoga, she served on the Boards of Napa County Landmarks, Calistoga Music Boosters, and American Field Service. Jo also holds the distinction of being the first "Citizen of the Year", awarded her in 1986 by our local Chamber.

Highlights of her museum Presidency include chairing the museum's "First 25 Years" celebration with a unique special exhibit that included 13 exhibitors, all Sharpsteen members. Jo is also known for her over-the-top museum floats always seen in our 4th of July Parades (remember the great Suffragette float?), and the annual Rummage Sale, once a huge fund raising event.

Jo has spent innumerable years in different capacities on our Board of Directors, has chaired events, committees, fund raisers-- her dedicated involvement seems endless. Jo tells us that she is most fond of the 10 years of chairing and developing the children's Summer Reading Program in concert with the Napa City/County Library, a program still going strong today.

Most importantly, Jo reminds us that Ben Sharpsteen believed the museum should be free because "those who are most in need of a cultural experience are least able to afford it."

Thank you Jo, for a lifetime of unselfish dedication and for being a stalwart protector of Ben Sharpsteen's dream.



CALENDAR

APRIL

Wed., Apr. 13, 10 AM. SMA Board Meeting, Museum House.

Thurs., Apr. 14, 10 AM. Coffee Hour.

Sat., Apr. 23, 11:30 AM-1 PM.

Calistoga Springs book signing.

MAY

Wed., May. 11, 10 AM. SMA Board Meeting.

Fri., May 13, 5:30-7PM. New Exhibit Preview Party.

JUNE

Wed., Jun. 8, 10 AM. SMA Board Meeting.

JULY

Wed., Jul. 13, 10 AM. SMA Board Meeting.

AUGUST

Wed., Aug. 10, 10 AM. SMA Board Meeting.

Sat., Aug. 27, 3-6 PM. Instant Wine Cellar.



CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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