

# SHARPSTEEN MUSEUM



# NEWS

CALISTOGA HISTORY  
MUSEUM

Volume 34: Number 6

October-November 2016 Newsletter

## Still QWERTY After All These Years...



From the Gilded Age  
to the Era of Swing--  
Typewriters from 1896  
through the 1940's.



From the private  
collection of museum  
member Jim Flamson.



New Exhibit Preview  
Fri., Nov. 4<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 - 7 PM

Q W E R T Y

Jim Flamson started collecting typewriters by accident in 1974. He had just moved back to Calistoga to take over his late father's insurance agency on Lincoln Ave. His father had an old typewriter sitting in the windowsill in the front of the office, and Jim couldn't help but notice how many people stopped while walking by to look at it. A few months later, someone came in and asked if he would like another typewriter to go with the one in the window. Of course he said "Yes", and as they say, the rest is history.

Over the past 42 years, Flamson has accumulated over 50 typewriters, ranging in age from 1896 through the 1940's. The collection includes typewriters such as Chicago, Underwood, Remington, Olivetti and Woodstock. He is currently researching the history of each typewriter, and will have that history available for review when the collection opens at the Sharpsteen November 4<sup>th</sup>. There are some very interesting stories!

Around 1440, Johannes Gutenberg invented the Printing Press. In 1575 an Italian printmaker, Francesco Rampazzetto, invented his instrument to impress letters in paper, he called this the "*scrittura tattile*". It would take almost another 150 years for a typewriter of sorts to appear. In 1714, Queen Anne of England granted a patent to Henry Mill, a British Subject and Engineer, for an "artificial machine for impressing of letters singly or progressively whereby all writings whatsoever may be engrossed in paper...". Although a strong beginning, the Mill machine proved to be lacking.

In 1808, Italian Pellegrino Turri invented the first typewriter, developed specifically for his close, blind friend, the Countess Carolina Fantoni da Fivizzano.

1867 brought a new "writing machine" developed by Christopher Latham Sholes of Wisconsin. His typewriter is considered the ancestor to all standard typewriters developed thereafter. Realizing the machine's shortcomings, Sholes partnered with Glidden and introduced the QWERTY keyboard. Sholes brought in Remington culminating with the first commercial typewriter being introduced to the US in 1874.

*Continued on page 3*



## 28<sup>th</sup> IWC a Succes\$\$



Photo by Sue Mauro

Thanks to the hard work of dozens of volunteers, this year's Instant Wine Cellar was a huge success. The weather was relatively mild; Mayor Chris Canning provided a lively commentary; and four Calistoga AVA wineries- 2880, Canard, Chateau de Vie and Laura Michael- provided guests with samples of their finest wines. The delicious creations of the Hospitality Committee complemented the wine offerings, as did the iced coffee provided by J. Kirk of *Yo El Rey*. Live and silent auctions and the always-popular raffle baskets accompanied the Instant Wine Cellar drawing. The two grand prizewinners, Lucille Doyle and Judy Pickett, have each bought raffle tickets for many years. Although the accounting is not quite complete, the event should net nearly \$19,000, up from last year's \$13,000,

*Continued on page 4*

# Message from the President

Dear Sharpsteen Members,

I have returned from the garden where I harvested tomatoes, onions, garlic, and basil for tomato sauce. While I was down there I had a chance to reflect on how good the vegetable quality and yield was this year. The year was also a good year for membership and fund raising at the Sharpsteen Museum.

On August 27, 2016, we held our annual Instant Wine Cellar fundraiser. With the help of many museum volunteers, Pat and Dave Larsen chaired this event to a very successful conclusion. One of the exciting parts of the night was watching our city mayor, Chris Canning work the live auction to a very favorable result. Another was Fred Bott of Ace Hardware- rushing around showing off the various raffle baskets while the tickets were being drawn. Thank you to everyone who participated in this event. Thank you to the merchants and wineries that donated their products for prizes; it is greatly appreciated. What resulted from your participation and donations are almost \$19,000 into the museum funds and 25 new members.

This year Jackie Lang, our Education Chair, coordinated the "Party On" summer reading program for children, a joint project between the Sharpsteen Museum and the Calistoga Library. All the events were well attended. Thank you Jackie for your leadership on running this educational reading program.

Mildred Hagstrom, one of our members who participated on the Arts and Crafts Committee among other things, passed away. As part of her trust she bequeathed \$5,000 to the Sharpsteen Museum. The museum has received that check and will apply it to projects Mildred cared about. Rest in Peace Mildred.

The museum has received a wonderful letter from this year's scholarship winner Jacqueline Aviña Espinoza. She wanted to thank us again for the generous \$2,000 scholarship and tell us that she is now enrolled at CSU Sacramento. She seems to be adjusting well to college life- taking difficult classes, joining community service groups, decorating her dorm with her best friend and making new friends. Looks like her parents have done a good job bringing her up to be a responsible person. The Sharpsteen Museum is pleased with this year's scholarship winner's progress.

I'd like to introduce you to Sue Morton, who is our new Luncheon/Coffee Chair. Her first Coffee was on September 27, 2016 and featured Aaron Harkin from Calistoga Hills Development as our speaker. This was a very informative discussion about the changing landscape of Calistoga. Our next Coffee is in mid-October and will feature a presentation from the Pepperwood Preserve. Mark your calendar on December 7, 2016, for our Holiday Luncheon at the Calistoga Inn starting at 11:30 am; cost to be approximately \$35-\$40.

I don't know if you have been in the museum lately and experienced the disco lighting, but every so often some of our lights think they are still in the '70s and become strobe lights. So with the help of the City of Calistoga the museum has ordered 21<sup>st</sup> century lights to replace the blinkers.

Have you paid your membership dues for this year? A big thank you goes out to Shirley Blomquist for organizing and running our membership drive.

Now that Fall is upon us and my tomato sauce is ready for the winter meals, it is time to plant a winter garden and hope the vegetables do as well as the summer ones did. And, I will be looking forward for the 2016 vintage Napa Valley wines.

Happy Halloween and Happy Thanksgiving.

Alan Rogers, *SMA President*



## 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

Kathy Bazzoli - first VP

Shirley Blomquist - second VP

Pat Haynes - Recording Secretary

Rick McCloskey - 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 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*

Norma Adams, Christine  
Amey, Jeanne Baswell, Jan  
Bleumers, Jeffrey & Lorene  
Cauffman, Gene & Kelly  
Croman, Brian & Hollis  
Fennan, Rochelle Franson,  
Ron Golden, Joanne La Casse,  
John Martin, Martha Nabor,  
Michael Nastari, Helen  
Newmiller, Irene Ojdana,  
Diana Patrick, Kathy & Jack  
Paulus, Glenn & Cathy Pope,  
Jo Richard, Jan & Ron Risi,  
Sabrina & Terry Rogers,  
Shelly Rodriques, Herb  
Salinger, Karan & Ron  
Schlegal, Shawn & Linda  
Thomson, and Helen Yost

## *In Memoriam*

Edie Parker



"Like" the Sharpsteen Museum page on Facebook and get  
up-to-date info about the Museum.

# Gift Shoppe

It's Holiday Time!!! From Witches & Scarecrows . . . to Santas & Reindeer . . .



This is our favorite time of year when we can offer you Halloween through Christmas at the best prices available anywhere in town.

*Witches at the ready,  
Spells to be made,  
Scarecrows & pumpkins  
Make your holiday parade  
Santa and reindeer  
Best wishes galore  
All for your choosing  
Through our front door*



You won't find quality holiday items like these anywhere, lots to choose from at the best prices. (Just ask DeeDee Butler). Remember, we don't have the overhead of retail stores; this savings is passed on to you. Members receive an additional 10% discount on purchases over \$5.00. (Credit card purchases require a \$10 min.)

Happy Halloween, Happy Thanksgiving & Merry Christmas!!!

Sonya Spencer, *Buyer & Gift Shoppe Chair*  
Josepha Walpen, *Co-Chair*



Still QWERTY, *continued from front page*

Sholes was sure his typewriter would be hugely popular and sell strongly in the US. The standard price was only \$100.00 (as much as \$2100.00 today). Unfortunately, many believed it to be strange, crass, uncouth and nearly offensive. Longhand was the accepted ritual and should remain so.

Many inventors in Europe and the US jumped on board with similar inventions during the 19<sup>th</sup> century, but successful commercial production with the "writing ball" is given to Danish pastor Rasmus Malling-Hansen in 1870.

There were more inventors and strategists throughout these decades. Prior to the accepted name "typewriter", inventors used the label "typographer machine", "Scribe Harpsicord", "Type Writing Machine", and in Italy, "*tachgrafo* or *tachitipo*".

Whatever the name, whoever the inventor, the typewriter became a must-have for not only businesses small or large, but for personal use in homes.

How many of us still use a typewriter? The technology, yes, the actual machine, not so much.

Come back with us and share the revolution of the typewriter. Preview Party is Friday, November 4<sup>th</sup>, 5:30-7 pm. Come and meet Jim Flamson, enjoy some appetizers and a glass of wine.

Patsy Hahn, *Special Exhibits Chair*

## What's New at the Museum?

On your next visit, look above the Virgil Williams painting to see two beautiful watercolors of Ethelwild Ranch painted by Virgil's wife, Dora. These pieces are on loan from Stephanie Hamilton, whose family has owned this property, located outside of St. Helena, for 140 years.

Bev Barnes, *Collections Chair*



which was the previous high.

In addition to our own Museum volunteers, our thanks go out to all of the wineries, local merchants and friends who contributed wine and merchandise to this year's event. Pat Larsen, *Ways & Means Chair*



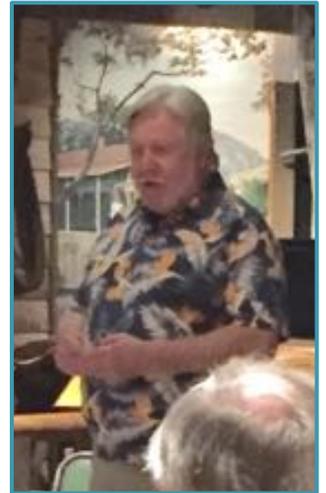
Photos courtesy Calistoga Tribune

## Author Bruce Bradley Draws Record Crowd



Attendance of 42 at the Sept. 17<sup>th</sup> "Meet Author Bruce Bradley" book signing event broke all records for past "Meet the Author" days. Previous record of 30 was held by "Indian Baskets of Central California" author Ralph Shanks, in 2015.

Bradley also broke the record for event book sales, previously held by author Joe Pelanconi. His book "Quick-silver Mining in Sonoma County" sold 20 copies during the 2014 event. Bradley inched him out selling 21 copies of "Hugh Glass".



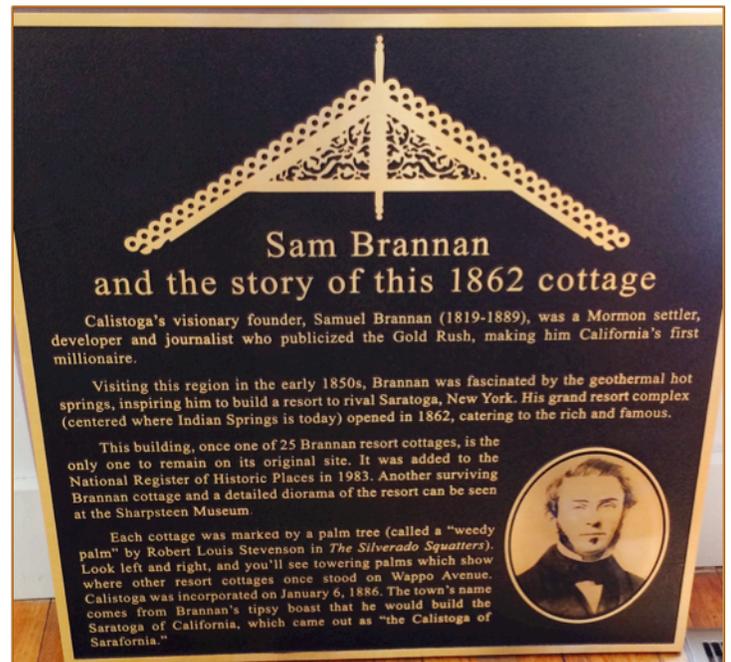
## Brannan Cottage Inn Honors Samuel Brannan with Historic Plaque

Brannan Cottage Inn recently unveiled a bronze plaque celebrating Calistoga founder Sam Brannan and the story behind the 1862 landmark. This National Register of Historic Places icon is the only Brannan resort cottage still on its original site and just one of three surviving Brannan Cottages including the one incorporated into the Sharpsteen Museum. Visitors are welcome for impromptu

tours of the Inn anytime. The Inn's reports that dozens of passers by each day enjoy learning about Brannan and the cottage's origins by reading the plaque.



(At right) BCI owner Amar Patel and staff members (L to R) Kathleen Bakula, Peter Patel, & Eden Umble.



Photos Courtesy Brannan Cottage Inn

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

I used to think of museums as mere repositories of beautiful collections. But what I have discovered is that museums are the people who keep the museums going. The docents who volunteer their time to keep the Sharpsteen open 363 days a year are the real heart of our museum. Without them, the museum would be an interesting but static collection.

The docents bring their collective experiences and memories to help bring the museum alive to the visitors. Anne Scott is one of our docents, and during the months of July and August when many of us had to leave town for summer trips, Anne stayed and filled in 15 of the empty shifts. What a relief to know that Anne was willing to do these solo shifts so that we never had to put a sign up saying, "Closed for summer vacation."

Not only did Anne put in the shifts, she had a way of making the visitors feel extraordinarily welcome. One visitor who came with a group, took the time to write Anne a note expressing her "delight in the excellent tour you gave us of the museum. Every single one of the 14 of us remarked about how they enjoyed you and the displays. Your talk was so informative and clear for our old ears. Not one of them except my husband and I had heard of the Sharpsteen and promised to tell friends and their families to visit you." Few visitors take the time to write, but almost everyone stops to thank the docents, and often someone dashes back through the door to say, "Please tell our docent how much we enjoyed the tour."

The Docent Prize Drawing for July and August: Lorne Glaim received a \$50 certificate for Cal Mart and John Clark won a \$50 certificate for Calistoga Inn.

Best of the Best Docent team for July & August :

Bev Barnes	Linda Hanson	Jo Ellen Noble
Kathy Bazzoli	Pat Haynes	Biserka Potrebic
Shirley Blomquist	Gisela Huesmann	Ellie Robinson
Ray Branstetter	Jackie Lang	Anne Scott
John Clark	Pat Larsen	Sonya Spencer
Judy Cornils	Ellie Leake	Rita Tucker
Al Derrick	Sylvia Marciano	Josepha Walpen
Donna Dill	Barbara Maxfield	Wendy Watson
Lorne Glaim	Emma Mazzola	DeAnn Wylie
Bill Hahn	Kathy McCloskey	
Patsy Hahn	Sue Morton	

Gold Star Awards to those docents working the most shifts this period: **15 shifts-** Anne Scott; **10 shifts-** Lorne Glaim; **8 shifts-** Pat Larsen; **6 shifts-** Jackie Lang, Josepha Walpen; **5 shifts-** Ray Branstetter, Judy Cornils, Sylvia Marciano, Wendy Watson.

Marilyn Glaim, *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 Docent Sylvia Marciano, Calistoga born & bred. We asked Sylvia about her time with the museum, and she tells us:

"Being born in Calistoga, and living here all my life, you would have thought I would have been involved in the Sharpsteen Museum from its beginning. Actually, I did not become involved until 2007. I needed a new project to keep me occupied, and I thought the museum was that project.

Soon after I joined, I was asked to look at some old photos to see if I could identify a person. That's when I became hooked! I loved the old photos and soon was in charge of putting them in acid-free albums. With the help of Pierette Therene, who typed in all the information we could find on each photo, the project was completed in a few months. Those photos brought the past to life, and to me the most important part of the museum is to show, and bring old Calistoga alive again through its pictures.

I really enjoy volunteering here and love being a Docent. Some days I meet people from all over the world!"

What Sylvia doesn't mention is due to her ongoing efforts, our entire photo collection is now computer archived. A friend of Sylvia's gave her a brand new Apple. She then enlisted the aid of the Sisters at Holy Assumption Monastery who scanned and loaded each photo according to the historical identification assigned by Sylvia and Pierette. No small task indeed.

Then, in 2008, Sylvia was asked to take over as "Special Tours Chair". The museum can average as many as 900 visitors each month, but it's the special group tours that have added so much over time. These groups have come from all over the country including New York, Boston, Pennsylvania, even Iowa, Nebraska, Illinois and Washington DC, as well as enumerable groups from California- North to the South. From elementary schools to universities, car clubs, senior organizations, hospital groups, history clubs, with Sylvia's careful tending they just keep coming. "Build it and they will come", it's true.

We did some checking and found since the time Sylvia put her arms around "Special Tour" responsibilities on that fateful day in the Fall of 2008, she has brought in 263 tour groups totaling 6,944 visitors!

We put our arms around you Sylvia. Without you, life at the Sharpsteen would not be the same, nor nearly as much fun!

Not a Docent yet? Just talk to Sylvia.



## Call for Crafters!!!

Coming on Dec. 3, 2016 is the 47th Annual Calistoga Christmas Faire. (For 45 of those years, known as the "Calistoga Community Christmas Bazaar")

As usual the Sharpsteen Museum will have a booth selling craft and food items. It is time to get ready! The first meeting of the Crafts group, aka "The Crafty Ladies", met on Sept. 21<sup>st</sup> but it is definitely not too late to join in on the fun. New members and new ideas are most welcome!

The following sessions, usually on a Wednesday, will be held in the Museum House at 10 am:

OCT: 5, 19 and 26 (Wed.)

NOV: 2, 16 and 30 (Wed.)

DEC: 1 (Thurs.) and 2 (Fri.)

We also welcome donations of felt, wreath frames and small artificial Christmas trees (8" to 24").

Come join in on the fun! Any questions? Call Pat at (707) 942 6768.

Pat Haynes, *Bazaar Craft Chair*

## Coming Events

Our October "Coffee Hour" will feature one or more Park Stewards from the Pepperwood Preserve.

Date to be determined- call the Museum; check local papers or Facebook for more info.



ANNUAL

### SMA Members Christmas Luncheon

Calistoga Inn

Wed. Dec. 7, 11:30 am

(lunch served at noon)  
Menu choices and sign-up  
will be at Museum soon.  
Price to be \$35-40.

## CALENDAR

### OCTOBER

Wed., Oct. 12, 10 AM. SMA Board Meeting.

Date TBD, 10 AM. Coffee Hour

### NOVEMBER

Fri., Nov. 4, 5:30-7 PM. Special Exhibit Preview Party. See article on front page.

Wed., Nov. 9, 10 AM. SMA Board Meeting.

### DECEMBER

Sat., Dec. 3, 9 AM- 4 PM. Christmas Faire

Wed., Dec. 7, 11:30 AM. Annual SMA Christmas Luncheon- Calistoga Inn.

Wed., Dec. 14, 10 AM. SMA Board Meeting.

### JANUARY- 2017

Wed., Jan. 11, 10 AM. Board Mtg.

Tues., Jan. 24, 5:30-7 PM. An Evening with Diane Dillon.

For Sale - in Museum Gift Shoppe



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