

# CAMEL



# TRACKS

Year 2010

Phone (707)745-5435 email: [info@beniciahistoricalmuseum.org](mailto:info@beniciahistoricalmuseum.org) website: [beniciahistoricalmuseum.org](http://beniciahistoricalmuseum.org)

Nov. / Dec.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**David Galligan**

*President*

**Mary Marino**

*Vice President*

**Ian Toner**

*Treasurer*

**Cathy Forbes**

**John Halliday**

**Toni Haughey**

**Larry Lauber**

**James Lessenger, M.D.**

**Timothy G. Lynch, Ph.D.**

**Bruce Quandt**

**Jim Trimble**

### MUSEUM STAFF

**Ann Hansen**

*Executive Director*

**Tania Borostyan**

*Office Manager*

**Charles Pregeant**

*Complex Caretaker*

### VOLUNTEER STAFF

**Harry Wassmann**

*Curator Emeritus*

**Beverly Phelan**

*Curator*

**Roberta Garrett**

*Registrar*

**Jim Garrett**

*Multitask Volunteer*

**Mary Marino**

*Spokesperson/ Education chair*

**Lorraine Patten**

*Museum Educator*

**Toni Haughey**

*Gift shop manager*

**Lou Alfeld**

*Docent Coordinator*

**Rhonda Hicks**

*Concert Coordinator*

**Fred Paine**

*Computer Consultant*

The mission of the Benicia Historical Museum is to engage the community in the evolving history of Benicia and the Arsenal and their influence in the development of our country.

The Museum complex is the center where history is seen, enjoyed and preserved. Through exhibits, events and educational programs we enlighten the public about the history of this unique city.

*Revised and adopted 2006*



## CHRISTMAS TREE LOT

### NOBLE FIR, GRAND FIR AND DOUGLAS FIR



**GRAND OPENING NOVEMBER 26**  
**THE LOT WILL BE OPEN SEVEN DAYS A**  
**WEEK THRU DECEMBER 24.**  
**TIMES 10:00 AM TO 8:00 PM,**  
**THIS IS A FUNDRAISER FOR GENESIS**  
**HOUSE AND THE MUSEUM.**

### The Museum Welcomes our New Members

Rev. John Marie Bingham  
Rev. LaSalle Hallissey, O.P.

Karen E. Schlump

### Friend Level

George E. Steinmetz

### Supporting Level

William & Marie Earp

David & Gloria Galligan

Elaine Gessert

Marilyn Lott

Alan Schwartzman

Jim & Chris Trimble

### Patron Level

Scott & Chris Strawbridge

### Museum Docents

Louis Alfeld

Brita Bautin

Tania Borostyan

David Galligan

Kimble Goodman

Toni Haughey

Gloria Lambousy

Jim Lessenger

Mary Marino

Leonide McKay

Elizabeth Murphy

Lorraine Patten

Bruce Quandt

Ron Rice

Barrie Robinson

Eric Sargeson

Carol Scott

William 'Bill' Scott

Margo Spaulding

Bill Venturilli

## Notes from Ann



As we wind down another year and prepare for a new one many things come to mind. I realize that this will be one of my last times writing this as your executive director. So I am not just winding down another year but another phase of my life. As many of you already know, I announced at the membership meeting in September that I will be retiring on my 83<sup>rd</sup> birthday April 8, 2011. In the meantime, there are still a lot of things happening and much work to be done. I hope that our recognition of our 25<sup>th</sup> year has enhanced appreciation for our "Best little museum in California and beyond"

You will read elsewhere in this edition about the Christmas tree lot which we are initiating this year. We expect that it will be very successful and that it will be an annual fund raiser. As you will note, we are partnering with Genesis House. We have the space, they have the manpower and we will share the expenses and the proceeds. Working with Genesis House in the past has always been a good and rewarding experience.

The holiday season brings not just the Christmas tree lot but time for celebrating fellowship which we do at our annual membership dinner pot luck on the first Sunday in December. The Historical Society joins us for the sumptuous repast during which we enjoy the Melody Choral Singers in concert. This is a very enjoyable festivity to start the holidays. I hope that all who possibly can will join us. This is a fun time when everyone enjoys themselves. We also collect nonperishable food for CAC, so please remember to bring some cans of food with you.

Thanksgiving is bearing down on us. We have been fortunate to receive so much help from so many organizations and individuals. We can account for as many as 250 volunteers. We calculated the hours to be 10,000 which is the equivalent of five full time employees. This accounts for our ability to function with one full time employee and two part time. Special thanks go to:

- Cynthia Giroux for the beautiful mural (Patwin Exhibit)
- Rellik Tavern (too many things to mention, certainly for the Costume Ball)
- Venticello's (for meals for Spenger Garden artists & many others)
- Benicia Grill (various times providing appetizers)
- Issy's (appetizers and gift certificates)
- Benicia Magazine (advertising, partnering for garden electrical)
- Wulff Electric (labor installing garden electrical)
- Roberta and Jim Garrett (endless hours in

- Collections & Construction)
  - Jason Blalock (assisting Jim Garrett, trenching for electrical, irrigation)
  - Doug Simpkins (dedication to transcribing Charles P Stone journal)
  - Louise Martin (managing the service for all events in garden and hall)
  - Chuck Pregeant (dedication to the care of the garden)
  - Tania Borostyan (driving force in keeping us on track)
  - Bob Kvasnicka (outstanding work on glass plate negative collection)
  - Amports (good neighboring assistance especially Bruce & Grady)
  - Valero Refining (strong financial support of education program)
  - Virgil Sellers (supervision of Patwin Hut construction)
  - Key Club (Kiwanis high school group, staffing)
  - Rhonda Lucille Hicks (superior concert series production)
  - Toxey/McMillan (guidance & supervision of exhibit installations)
  - Bonnie Weidell (organization of art exhibits)
  - Barrie Robinson (Solano County Fair Exhibit)
  - Beverly Phelan (endless hours in Collections & exhibits)
  - Dr. James Lessenger (exceptional Boy Scout Exhibit)
  - Toni Haughey (fundraising efforts)
  - Cathy Forbes (outstanding graphics and advertising)
  - Lou Alfeld (docent coordination)
  - Marie Earp (docent coordination and mailer production)
  - Jeanne Steinmann Benicia Magazine (Garden electrical and media support)
  - Laurel of the Monthly Grapevine

Obviously, we cannot function without all this support. Thank you all for everything you have done to make this a successful year.

## HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL OUR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

### *A personal Note from Ann:*

*I really appreciate your messages of condolences and good wishes on the death of my sister and sister-in-law as well as my friend's untimely death. Your support is a treasure to me.*

## Curator's Corner

In the last several months, the museum has been fortunate to have a volunteer who was willing to transcribe the Charles P. Stone journal of the 1850s and 1860s. The journal has been in the museum's collection for many years. Recorded in the Army journal are many post returns and other written information. Through the years, the ink has been fading and the museum has been very concerned about losing the information in the journal. Thanks to Doug Simpkins, this information has been put in digital form. It was difficult transcribing the very handsome but hard to read written word, but Doug persevered and the transcribing finally came to an end after nearly three months of work.



Doug earned a Bachelor of Science in History at Southern Oregon University in Ashland last year. He has worked with other museums and libraries and is currently seeking a job in the

history field. He has done a very valuable service for our museum and we are very thankful for his expertise and determination to get the job done.

Here is a brief history of the man whose journal we possess. In 1850, Charles P. Stone was appointed by the United Army Ordnance Office as head of Ordnance for the Pacific coast build of what was to become the Benicia Arsenal. Stone became its first Commanding Officer and served from 1851 to 1856. He became a general in the Civil War and later in his career as an engineer he built the pedestal for the Statue of Liberty. This man was a West Point graduate with a commendable record of service in the United States Army.

NEW EXHIBIT! Our next exhibit will be "Children's Work Is Play" and will include many dolls, trucks, games and other toys that are from our past and our children's past. We have Madame Alexander dolls, storybook dolls and even Tess and Dick Tracy's little girl! Our oldest doll is a boy doll made in Germany in the 1920s. There will be a play area for children included. The exhibit reception will be on November 28 at 2:00 p.m. Do join us!

## OH WHAT FUN!

On Saturday evening, October 30, an eerie Stone Hall decorated with a wide array of candelabra, including a gigantic Raven, cobwebs, and all things scary welcomed a crowd



of well clad visitors, from the dead all the way to Lady Gaga. The skeleton was joined by a Norseman, an aged Confederate soldier, Sherlock Holmes, Mary Poppins, and Esmeralda.

The air of expectation permeated Stone Hall as couple after couple and many singles floated, stumbled or snarled their way into the festivities. My mind wandered to the very first suggestions that developed into this spectacular event. Even a Scrooge would have loved the evening as guests munched on delicious lamb chops and other delicacies furnished by Venticello's or imbibed the wonderful bar concoctions of the Rellik Tavern. If there was a scowl on the face of anyone, it had to have been painted on.

Spotted on the dance floor were several very agile SF Giants, Marie Antoinette flirting behind her ermine fan, a dangerous

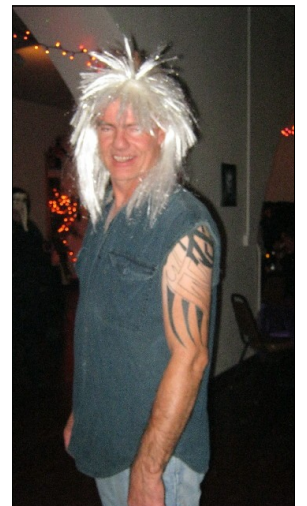


Pirate couple, and Joan of Arc. Gracefully gliding by were a country gentleman and his lady, was their horse and carriage parked outside? The creativity of the costumes at this our first Costume Ball was astounding. I do not have the vocabulary to describe the characters that ranged from Lady Gaga to the royalty of a prince and princess and my astonishment when I discovered that Lady Gaga was male, not female. From the elegancy of Mayor Patterson and Karen Hayes Hamilton to the skeletal remains portrayed by Greg Stern of Mouthman one's mind had difficulty wrapping around the scene unfolding.

Sean White, the Olympic Snow-boarder, {who confessed it was hard to dance in his heavy boots}, was right alongside a flapper, the Air Force Major and his "Genie", an Egyptian princess, and a gentle English maid.

Costume prizes went to Lady Gaga, 1st, the 1945 Times Square sailor and nurse, 2nd Prize and Beauty and the Beast, 3rd prize. If you weren't with us, you missed an "event", devilish music by DJ Souza Sounds, divine noshes by Venticello's, and decadent libations generously donated by Rellik Tavern, completed by costume clad barkeepers.

It was a grand affair! If you missed this "event" of the year- have heart - Save the date, Saturday, October 29, 2011 for the 2nd Annual Costume Ball



# GOLDEN BOUGH IN CONCERT



Sat. November 20, 2010  
Stone Hall  
2024 Camel Rd.  
@ 8:00 pm  
(doors open at 7:30 pm)  
Tickets \$ 20.00

Golden Bough has been crossing borders, both musical and cultural, for the past two decades. Having toured throughout America, Europe and The Orient, they have established themselves as one of America's premier Celtic bands. Golden Bough

continues to draw from the rich wealth of the Celtic folk tradition for their inspiration and "Song of the Celts" is a wondrous display of their musical talents."

John O'Regan, Radio Limerick, Ireland

## EXHIBIT OPENING RECEPTION!

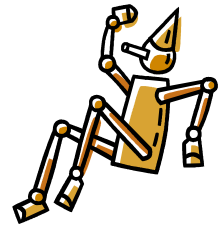
# CHILDREN'S WORK IS PLAY

Sunday, November 28-2:00 p.m.

Toys from 1920s-1970s-Dolls, dolls, dolls! Madame Alexander dolls, storybook dolls, German boy doll, bisque head dolls, games from the 1940s and 1950s, Joe Henderson's tricycle and other toys!



In time for the holidays! Museum General Store has old-fashioned toys and crafts for gifts! Refreshments will be served



## SPECIAL THANKS TO RELLIK TAVERN



FOR:

- USE OF THEIR RAVEN
- THE WONDERFUL BARTENDERS
- DONATION OF LIBATIONS
- PROFESSIONAL SUPERVISION
- ONGOING SUPPORT FOR THE MUSEUM

## Calendar of events

### Golden Bough in Concert

November 20 @ 8:00 p.m.  
Stone Hall

### Christmas Tree Lot

Nov. 26 to Dec. 24  
From 10:00am to 8:00 pm  
Museum Parking Lot

### *December Theme: A Small Town Christmas*

### Holiday Member Pot Luck

Joint event with Benicia Historical Society  
With the Melody Choral Singers  
December 5, 2010  
Stone Hall @ 5:00 pm

### Men of Worth in Concert

January 29 @ 8:00 p.m.  
Stone Hall