

CAMEL



TRACKS

Year 2010

Phone (707)745-5435 email: info@beniciahistoricalmuseum.org website: beniciahistoricalmuseum.org

Sep. / Oct.

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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

Costume Ball

Mark Your Calendars!

Saturday, October 30th @ 8:00PM

Join us for an evening of fantasy and fun!
Come to our first ever Costume Ball



Watch for more details
or call 707-745-5435

www.beniciahistoricalmuseum.org

The Museum Welcomes our New Members

Bill & Bonnie Brewer

Kennis A Buringrud

Malcolm Deck

Maggie DeJesu

Supporting Level

Allen Green

Ann Hansen

Fred & Pat Paine

Museum Docents

Louis Alfeld

Brita Bautin

Alexandra Borostyan

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

Donna Worthington

Bill Venturrelli

Notes from Ann Feeling Groovy!



How many of you remember the song "Feeling Groovy" in which you are told "...Slow down, you're moving too fast"? I think we have probably felt groovy a lot this year! Have we been moving too fast? Perhaps! But I was absolutely delighted at Mary Marino and Louise Martin's report on our activities for our anniversary year. They ticked off 26 successful events, adding that we have only 15 to go. You may have missed some of the 26 but you will want to be a part of the remaining activities.

There are two special events coming that I want to call to your attention. They will both be on the same day – they are really so important! On September 12th at 2:00 p.m. we will dedicate our new Fire exhibit. It is certainly a great tribute that during these very trying economic times we have succeeded in opening two new exhibits in one year. The Fire exhibit is through the generosity of Rose Hadaway who pledged \$5,000 for the exhibit and Valero Refining who through their education grant gave the additional \$5,000 needed for it. Rose donated her father's uniform for the display. Incidentally, Rose and our president, David Galligan's wife, Gloria are sisters so they will be special guest at the dedication.

Immediately after the dedication guests are invited to Stone Hall to celebrate 50 years of marriage with Beverly and Jim Phelan. Anyone who has spent time at the museum is aware that out of that 50 years Beverly has spent nearly half of it in service of the museum. During that time Beverly has earned the respect and appreciation of countless members, volunteers and board members. She has gained much knowledge and honed her skills under the guidance of Harry Wassmann so that she was able to take over as curator when Harry retired.

A very important event that we hope you will come to is the annual membership meeting on the 26th of September. At that meeting you will vote on the slate of Board members and hear the reports for the past fiscal year. It is your opportunity to zero in on the operations of your museum and its progress towards becoming the best little museum in California and beyond. We are very proud of the museum, the increased interest by the community and the giant steps we have taken in the past few years.

The biggest event to come is our Costume Ball which will be held on October 30th. While costumes are encouraged, you can come without dressing up in costume but we think it will be a lot of fun. We will be getting more details out to you but we want you to save the date! Our friends at the Rellik Tavern are assisting us with the libations.

Curator's Corner NEW EXHIBIT OPENING ON SEPT. 12, 2010-FIRE & FIREFIGHTERS

So many things are happening in the Collection and Exhibits Department! We have planned exhibits to install and others to embellish. Our priority right now is completing the Fire & Firefighters exhibit. The interactive is in place and operational, we have a display case of firefighting items in place, we need to obtain proper mannequins to use for the firefighting uniforms, we have an ax from Yuba Mfg. fire department, a red fire alarm box and a hose from decades ago to hang on the walls. The exhibit will be opening on Sunday, September 12 at 2 p.m. The speaker will be our new Fire Chief Steve Vucurevich. Rose Hadaway, a local realtor, is a major sponsor of this exhibit.



We have just installed an exhibit on the First Presbyterian Church, the first Protestant church in California. Included in the exhibit is a portrait of Rev. Sylvester Woodbridge, his bible from 1850, a communion cup from the church and his first sermon. The Museum also has in its exhibit area a pew from that church. Not on exhibit is ¼ of the bell tower from the church.

We are also working on embellishing present exhibits. We have more photos of General Vallejo and his family, new military uniforms to put in the Benicia Arsenal exhibit, new camel collection, new Victorian items in the Victorian living room and more will be exhibited in the coming weeks.

Our most recent donation is a very large painting of a dam with tainter gates and cranes that were manufactured at Yuba Mfg. in Benicia. It will be on display in the Industrial Exhibit building. The donor is Bill Scarrett of Benicia with the help of friend Sam Willis. This is a wonderful addition to our industrial story.

We are extending our contribution to Arts Benicia's Structure and Light exhibit on the Yuba Mfg. site. It will close the week of Sept. 13. Our next exhibit for that space will be a toy exhibit which will cover the period up to the 1950s. If you have any items to contribute to this exhibit call Beverly 745-5435 and let her know. There will be a notice in the Benicia Herald soon on what items we are looking for.

Coming Events for September and October



The Elliott Randall Band

Alternative Country

Saturday, September 11

Spenger Garden @ 8:00pm

"Twenty seven year old country-rock troubadour Elliot Randall is an emerging musical stylist who writes songs that "defy his tender years. He seems to have done it all and has the required levels of hurt and angst that far older songwriters take years to experience."

- Americana UK

An evening with: Will Durst

Thursday, September 16

Stone Hall @ 8:00pm

Las Vegas Review- Journal: "Enter Will Durst who just happens to be this country's best political satirist. A dapper chap with just the right sense of whimsy, Durst is an equal opportunity slayer of bloated political dragons, making him a solid choice for folks who enjoy witty and thought-provoking comedy. Simply in a league of his own."



Mumbo Gumbo

Genre-Bending Americana

Saturday, October 9

Spenger Garden @ 8:00pm

"As the name suggests, the New-Orleans-flavored septet blends many genres to create its sound. From soul to Zydeco and from ballad to boogie, the band has covered the gamut in its nearly 20-year history, during which the members have produced eight albums."

-Sacramento Press

NO HOST BAR ~ 8PM ~ DOORS OPEN 7:30 BUY TICKETS ONLINE

WWW.BENICIAHISTORICALMUSEUM.ORG, PHONE 707-745-5435,

BOOKSHOP BENICIA OR THE MUSEUM GIFT SHOP

For your membership discount please buy your tickets at the museum office

Docent! Docent! Where are the Docents?

We know that we are not unique in our need for docents. However, we believe our docents are unique and that theirs is a unique job. It is a special privilege to tell the story of everything Benicia to the guests who come to our museum.

The community has reason to be proud of what we have here. Have you seen a display elsewhere of all the flags that have flown over the state of California? One moves from the flags to the history of the Native American Patwins. I know the opening of the exhibit is past but it is ever new for me as I remember all the hands that it took to weave the mats that formed the hut – it was so exciting to see volunteers as young as seven working alongside of grandmas and grandpas as well as the wonderful high school teens and young college students. I watched every mat as it went from the worktable in the hall to the site of the hut upstairs.

The docent has the pleasure of telling the heartwarming story of the origin of the museum and the developments that have taken place and the excitement of Benicia being the first in so many things. So many times people are wont to say that it is not possible that this little place could possibly have had the first industry in the state of California. People are amazed when they learn that Benicia is the first incorporated city of the state. There are so many things that tell the story of what has made this wonderful place on the Carquinez Strait such a jewel in the history of our county, state and country.

Our docents hold the key to the success of our museum. Our docents are the ambassadors of the museum – they hold the key to the guest's pleasure. They are the ones who bring guests back with their friends and families. They have the opportunity to let everyone know that we are proud of our exhibits and we are proud to be the mouthpiece of the entire town to spread the word that here are the beginnings – the beginnings of Benicia, the beginnings of California, the beginnings and maintenance of the military in the western United States. Our docents are great contributors to all that is Benicia.

Come and be a part of this great venture – the best little museum in California and beyond!

COME CELEBRATE WITH BEV AND JIM

September 12th is the opening of the Fire Exhibit in the museum. We know you will want to attend the dedication. We are equally sure you will want to celebrate their FIFTIETH anniversary with Bev and Jim Phelan. The Board of Directors invites you to come to Stone Hall immediately after the opening of the exhibit to help celebrate with this wonderful couple who have done so much for your museum.

Your General Store

Remember the movies where you were given drama played out in the General Store? We don't promised you the drama but we hope you have noticed and visited our store – deviating a bit from the nomenclature of Gift Shop, we have chosen to call our new look the General Store. If you have not done so, we encourage you to make it a stop on your gift shopping tour. Toni Haughey who is the manager of the store has gone to great lengths to make it attractive to you and to give you shopping pleasure. Check out the book inventory and see the delight in the eyes of youngsters who spy fun things to add to their collections. The store is open Wednesday through Sunday from 1:00-4:00 p.m.

CHRISTMAS TREES

Watch for development of plans for the Museum Christmas tree lot.

GENERAL STORE

**Let us help you plan your gift
Shopping – get your member discount!**

ONLINE CAMEL TRACKS

If you prefer to get the Camel Tracks online, call our office at 707-745-5435 or email us at:

info@beniciahistoricalmuseum.org

VOLUNTEER CONFERENCE

**August 25th, 9am to 3pm
Martinez**

Docent Excursion

Native American Historic Walk

The Suisun Marsh Natural History Association has schedule a 2 hour field trip at Rockville Hill Park, October 16, starting at 9:30am. The interpretive tour will focus on the customs, life-styles, and religious ceremonies of the local Suisun Indians. Binoculars and walking shoes are recommended. This walk may be difficult for small children, as there is some uphill walking.

We will get together at the museum and carpool at 8:30am
There is a fee of \$5.00

Please call Phyllis Malicki at **745-3255**

