

CAMEL



TRACKS

Year 2011

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

Jan. / Feb.

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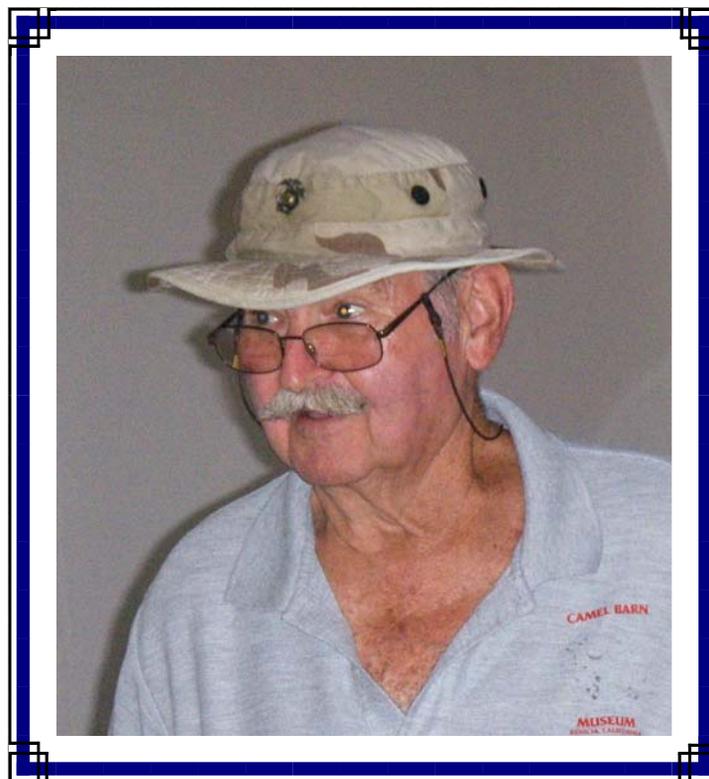
Computer Consultant

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

Our Ron Rice



Most of us know that Ron Rice has been a docent at the State Capitol, a volunteer fireman and was curator of the Benicia Fire Museum, but Ron always had time for the Benicia Historical Museum. Ron has been a docent and tour guide for almost 25 years. The 3rd and 4th grade classes will never forget his stories during the many school tours that he gave his colorful version of our local history. During the beginning of the museum when the buildings had to be rehabilitated, Ron and his firemen were there to help. Ron, thank you for your loyalty, hard work, time and of course all those stories.

Beverly Phelan

The Museum Welcomes our New Member

♦
Susan G. Sullivan

Supporting Level

♦
Irma ward

Museum Docents

Louis Alfeld

♦

Brita Bautin

♦

Tania Borostyan

♦

Sonny Flores

♦

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

♦

Jessica Sargeson

♦

Carol Scott

♦

William 'Bill' Scott

♦

Margo Spaulding

♦

Susan Sullivan

♦

Bill Venturelli

THE YEAR BEGINS ANEW

And so the museum has finished its 25 year celebration. Many hands made for the successes we accomplished. I am so proud of the dedicated volunteers who have given so graciously of their resources and time. While fundraising is always a major focus to helping achieve our goals, it is our gifted staff, volunteers, and membership that make this Museum so exciting.



Our former Executive Director left us last month with many dreams accomplished. Her ability to fundraise was a strength that will be

missed. Our search began last September when Ann announced her retirement. Our board has been working hard on putting a recruitment plan in place to allow for the selection of our new director. We are moving forward as always and look forward to announcing a new director in the coming months.

As our new year has begun we have many wonderful plans in place to dazzle our members and community. From events to exhibits to educational programs, our mission is clear. This year is chalked full and we hope to see you all here, as we enlighten the public about the history of this unique city.

David Galligan
Board President

Curator's Corner

Beginning a new year is always an exciting challenge! New plans for exhibits, receiving new donations to our collection and meeting the everyday challenge of accessioning the entire collection of artifacts and photos. We all love it in the Collection Dept.!



In celebrating the 25th Anniversary last year, it was evident that the museum has put together many events, programs and exhibits for Benicia residents and others to enjoy and experience. Our exhibits this last year included the Boy Scouts 100th Anniversary Exhibit, the Patwin Exhibit, the Do You Remember Exhibit, our cooperative exhibit of Structures and Light with Arts Benicia, the Fire Exhibit and our latest Children's Work Is Play which will run until January 30th. It took many volunteers to present these exhibits and they are to be commended for their time and hard work.

The volunteers in our Collection Dept. are Roberta Garrett, Bob Kvasnicka and intern Miranda Gregory. Our exhibit volunteers are Jim Lessenger, John Halliday, Senan Kennedy, Toni Haughey, Donna Shehan and Bob and Leslie Kvasnicka. Work on the museum's collection goes on every day and progress is made every day. We all take part in the work of collecting, preserving, storing and exhibiting artifacts and photos of the history of this wonderful city of Benicia.

Our most recent donations to the museum's collection were from Manuel Lopes of the Benicia Antiques store in downtown Benicia. Among the items was a diploma from the St. Augustine's College once located around East 3rd and Military.

If you have not been to the museum in awhile, come by and enjoy our history. We would be happy to give you a tour of all our museum buildings, just give us a call!

Beverly Phelan
Curator

The Molfino Photo Collection Exhibit

Opens February 6th at 2:00P.M.

The museum is very fortunate to have a large collection of photographs taken by John Molfino in and around Benicia in the early 1900's. This collection comprises almost 1200 negatives of which 400 are early glass plate negatives.

John Molfino had a lifelong passion for photography. The photos were taken with various cameras from 8" X 10" portrait cameras on glass plate negatives to small box cameras shooting 2" by 3" negatives. No matter what the format, his work shows great technical competency as well as an appreciation for the aesthetic qualities of the photographic arts.

While other photographers worked to produce commercially saleable images with mass appeal, Molfino's work captured everyday life. His photo's are of neighbors, kids playing in the snow, homes and business being built, high school sports, and most importantly, family.

He also was able to capture the major events of the time including the San Francisco earthquake, President Taft's visit, the great Solano County historical pageant in 1923, fire in Martinez, WW I recruitment drives, etc.

The museum's collection of Molfino photographs spans almost 40 years of life in Benicia and the Bay area. The comprehensive collection not only gives us a perspective on changes to our community but also documents John Molfino's growth and change as an amateur photographer.

The Molfino exhibit will open on February 6th at 2:00P.M. Besides viewing the exhibit, the book "Views Around Benicia" will be on sale. This book tries to capture a sampling of Molfino's work. Through it we hope that you can appreciate what a unique treasure the museum has in this large collection of one photographer's work taken over his lifetime.

We owe a debt of gratitude to this barber with a flair for photography. His work allows us to step back in history to the start of the last century.

Bob Kvasnicka

Seed of an idea grows to nice profit for the museum.



Selling trees may have seemed like a long shot but necessity is the mother of invention.

When funding from the City was reduced, due to budget cuts, we

looked for fundraising ideas which could be done yearly. A tree lot seemed like a great idea.

Getting the trees wasn't difficult. Running the lot and staffing it was the challenge. We invited Genesis House to look at the opportunity to gain from a joint venture and 500 plus trees later, both organizations have added a tidy sum to their funds.

The spirit of Christmas permeated the area with the incredible customer service given by the men from Genesis House.



Residents were thrilled to be able to purchase their trees in Benicia. The fact that their money went to two non-profits was a bonus.

We are already planning for next year with special water stands for all the trees and additional activities for families to enjoy.

Santa will probably be making guest appearances next year along with other surprises.



Thanks to all of you who supported this new venture.

Toni Haughey

Kleinkopf Exhibit

The stories of the California Volunteers and the execution of Private Peter Kleinkopf will be told in a new museum display set to premier at the end of January. The California Volunteers were a force of about 15,000 men recruited during the Civil War to patrol the western United States, especially California. Theirs is a largely untold story of service, sacrifice, and dedication to the Union cause. All 6 regiments of infantry and 3 regiments of cavalry came through the Benicia Arsenal and received their arms and equipment from the very buildings our museum occupies.

Kleinkopf was executed during the summer of 1863 for being a deserter and for attempting to kill a fellow soldier for his money. The execution by firing squad is the only one to occur in the West during the war.

The display is prepared by Beverly Phelan, Museum Curator, Jim Lessenger, who wrote a pamphlet on the execution, and John Halliday, Civil War history enthusiast. It will consist of story boards, and photographs, and a display of rifles and minié balls—a bone-shattering bullet developed during the war. The pamphlet will be on sale at the book store.

Jim Lessenger

Silver Coins



These 99.9% fine silver coins were sold when the museum opened in 1985. Now that our 25th Anniversary is over, we are selling the coins at a discounted price of \$15.00

Museum Requests

- A Leaf blower
- A hand vacuum cleaner
- Foam core
- A carpet sweeper
- Small paper cutter
- Lawn mower (working) with a bag.

Calendar of events

The Naval Heritage of Mare Island

Lecture by Dr. Tom Snyder
Sunday, January 23 @ 2:00 p.m.
Stone Hall
Free

Men of Worth in Concert

Saturday, January 29 @ 8:00 p.m.
Stone Hall
Tickets \$20

John Molfino

Views of Benicia

Exhibit opening
Sunday, February 6 @ 2:00pm
Museum
Free

Celebration of Love Poetry Contest

Sunday, February 13 @ 2:00 p.m.
Stone Hall
Free

Stone Hall Comedy Series

Presents:

JEFF APPLEBAUM & Kellen Erskine
Saturday, February 26 @ 8:00 p.m.
Stone Hall
Tickets \$20

Stone Hall Comedy Series

Presents:

MIKE PACE & Maggie Newcomb
Saturday, March 26 @ 8:00 p.m.
Stone Hall
Tickets \$20

Stone Hall Comedy Series

Presents:

ROCKY LAPORTE & Andrew Norelli
Saturday, April 30 @ 8:00 p.m.
Stone Hall
Tickets \$20