

CAMEL



TRACKS

Year 2008

Phone (707)745-5435

email: info@beniciahistoricalmuseum.org

website: beniciahistoricalmuseum.org

Mar./Apr.

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Membership

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

Happy 80th Birthday Ann !!!



It is probably unique, even for Benicia, which has a history of unique events - reaching the terrific age of 80, giving yourself a Birthday Party and inviting the whole city! That's what's happening in the life of Ann Hansen. The day is Tuesday, April 8, 2008, - all day - place - Stone Hall at the Benicia Historical Museum.

Hoping to double the current membership number of 390, Ann issued this invitation early this winter at the Benicia City Council Meeting and is preparing for the event.

The current Executive Director of the Museum, a job she took on at age 79, this native of Minnesota has led a rather unique

life herself. One of 13 children of George and Clara Calhoun, she was a member of the Sisters of St. Benedict of St. Josephs, MN for 20 years, teaching, serving as a hospital administrator and school principal, among many other assignments.

Feeling that there were other callings for her life, she left the convent, drove cross country in the winter and became a teacher in Berkeley, CA. There she met and married Lynn Hansen, moving on to become a business person, a council member and later the first woman mayor of Pinole, CA.

In Benicia, she is a member of St. Dominic's Church, and actively involved in city and philanthropic organizations, serving with dedication and boundless energy.

After her husband's short illness and death, she resolved that she would never be alone on her birthday. She orders a dozen red roses, displays Lynn's last birthday card for her, and presides over cake, coffee, champagne, and celebrates. This year - everyone is invited, and she's counting on doubling the present membership of the museum.

While you are celebrating with her, you can see and hear about major new events at the museum - the building of the Spenger Garden behind Stone Hall, preparation of Building 7 with ADA compliance and the upcoming Industrial Exhibit, the return visit of the HUNLEY, the expanded area for the Galilee and the Scampo, both early and historic boats of the once thriving port of Benicia. And she will tell you that the Benicia Historical Museum is a good museum, on the verge of becoming a GREAT museum, and Benicia's best kept secret is on the way to becoming Benicia's shining star.

The Museum Welcomes our New Members

Michelle A. Belcher
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Jen Roger & Chris Burgin
*

Richard & Darlene Cahoun
*

Dan & Fran Coyne
*

Karen & Gary Everson
*

Rick & Julie Ganfield
*

Sarah Ganfield
*

Lisa Globke
*

Kathy Hawkinson
*

Paul & Anne Ligda
*

John & Inger Lofgren
*

Peter G. Meyerhof
*

Toni Owen
*

Sam Powley
*

Maria Rosales
*

Robert M. Shelby
*

Pat Tovey
*

Cathy Watson
*

Donald Yokum

Doña Benicia

Thomas C. Benet

Supporting

George & Manuela Calhoun

Barracks

Doris Laux

Curator's Corner

The month of March is designated as Women's Month. I have chosen to feature two women who have left their mark in Benicia in significant ways.



There are those who have never met these women or even heard about them. I would like to introduce to you Gladys Beulah Thompson Wold who died at her East Third Street home on February 22, 2000. She left behind two children, Karen Burns and Douglas Wold, four grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren and her legacy of community service and historic preservation.

She was a graduate at UC Berkeley, owned and operated the Benicia Five and Dime Store at 918 First St. and was honored by Solano Community College for her many years of service to education and community. She was one of only two non-teachers to be awarded honorary membership to the Delta Kappa Society International Teachers Scholarship

Foundation.

Gladys received other recognitions in her lifetime, but her finest achievement in Benicia was co-authoring the nomination of 20 Arsenal buildings, including the Commandant's Residence and the Camel Barn buildings. The nomination was granted by the National Register of Historic Places, the U.S. Department of the Interior and the National Parks Service in Washington, D.C.

Gladys Wold co-founded the Benicia Historical Museum with Harry Wassmann and earned the Museum's History Honors Award in 1998 for her contributions to the city's history.

She had said that her love with Benicia history started when she read about the love affair between Concepcion Arguello and Russian Nikolai Rezanov

Carolyn Quandt was a longtime resident, teacher and historian and she died on July 4, 2000 after a long illness. Left behind were three children and five grandchildren. She taught at Mills Elementary and Mary Farmer schools for more than 40 years. She remarked that she hadn't taught 4th grade for 40 years, she taught 40 years of 4th grade!

She integrated the concept of environmental education in her teaching and brought history alive for her students. She incorporated literature, history and science in an extended study of the California coast. The students will always remember their trips to Fort Ross every year

In addition to her classroom activities, Quandt developed the California Studies Program for gifted and talented students at Mary Farmer.

Carolyn was a charter member of the Benicia Historical Society, Benicia Historical Museum and the Solano County Historical Society. She was a history buff who donated thousands of hours to the Benicia Historical Museum and the Fischer-Hanlon house.

She received various honors over the years including the California State Parent Teacher Association and the Vallejo Elks Club. Carolyn was also a recipient of the Benicia Historical Museum History Honors award.

The Museum honors these two women for their contributions to our city and to our Museum.

Beverly Phelan

From the Director NOTES FROM ANN

We have already lived one-sixth of our year and it has only just begun! It seems like we have zillions of balls in the air to juggle but juggle we do. You will find elsewhere in the Camel Tracks more detailed information about all our activities. There are a few things I would like to mention that we may not cover elsewhere.

We have had great success at a number of things. We seem to have started the year out with a bang! February was extremely busy. The National Civil War Association Winter Quarters was very successful with many more Benicia area citizens attending. We had great cooperation from Venticello's, Shoreline, Issy's, Baskin Robbins, First Street Café, and Main Street in our efforts to attract the Civil War devotees. We appreciate being able to use the high school classrooms for the presentations. The organization will

return next year again.

The Black Irish Band was terrific in concert. Often people wait till the last minute to buy their tickets. It was not a wise decision to make for this concert. We did have to stop selling tickets. There was no doubt that everyone present enjoyed the music and wanted more. This concert was by far the most successful we have had in the last year or two.

Our California's First Love Story celebration was again very successful. Peter Bray, local poet, was winner of this year's poetry contest.

If you have been here for any activities, you have seen evidence of work progressing in various areas. Some of the things we are working diligently on are:

Building #7 with modifications necessary to secure the artifacts since the public will soon have access to the building. Also, there are requirements for ADA compliance that are being worked on. Classes will soon be coming to the museum and hopefully the "hands on" area will be ready

for use when they do. If it is not, the activities will have to move to the front of the building.

With the help of Valero's grant, we are able to provide transportation and admission to the museum to Vallejo Title I fourth graders. We are very happy to do this to help reinstate the Social Studies in the elementary schools in Vallejo.

We are looking for volunteers for a number of activities. One, very important one, is the Founder's Day celebration on May 17th. Also, we have just completed the third Docent training for the year. We look forward to many more new docents. Remember, our own anniversary is May 19th. We are forming a committee to work on the 25th Anniversary celebration. Closer to home, the committees for the Taste of Pasta are forming and volunteers are welcome. And, of course, we will need dozens of helpers for the Hunley exhibition and the opening of the Memorial Garden and the Industrial Exhibit. Give us a call, you are needed!

Ann Hansen

DID YOU SEE THE MESS?



Early Monday morning, the big cats moved in! Dirt and brush and old tree stumps all met their fate as the men and dozers in sync with each other worked steadily to carve out the area that will soon be the Spenger Memorial Garden.

Loads of dirt were moved to the other side of the road so that John Halliday, Board member geologist, could sift through the rubble to determine if there were any memorable artifacts to be

recovered. Methodically, incessantly the work continues and the rumble of the machines keep tune with the work going on around the complex.

We have waited a long time -- nearly eight years for this day. Board members over the years have wanted the project to be brought to fruition. It didn't happen because of fluctuations in the Board and management, other projects moving ahead and the lack of expertise to put the plan together. Fortunately, all things have fallen in to place. Our present Board has been determined to see this project completed. Glenn Boatman, Chair of Buildings and Grounds, and a contractor well versed in building requirements and regulations mapped out the plan. He has worked with city personnel and has traversed the ins and outs of city and historic preservation regulations to bring forth a plan for a beautiful memorial to Catherine and Paul Spenger.

Catherine and Paul Spenger were strong supporters of the Museum. They shared so much with Diane and Harry

Wassmann for the hopes and dreams of the museum. It is the contributions of these early members and devotees that have made our museum possible. Without the ground work laid by them, we would not have the wonderful organization we have today. We are, therefore, extremely pleased to see work progressing. We hope that the garden structure will be completed and ready for planting in a matter of a few weeks. The dedication of the garden is being scheduled for the first week in September in conjunction with other festivities.

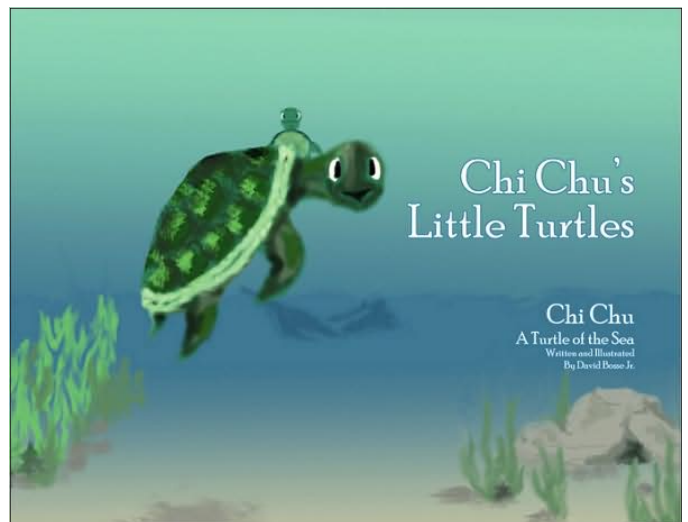
Perhaps by the time of the next publication of Camel Tracks, we will be able to announce the completion of the project.



Sue Fisher-Jones from Valero Refinery presenting a check for \$25,000 to Ann Hansen and David Gallan

Delightful Little Turtles

David Bosse Jr., one of the faithful city employees who services the museum under the Parks and Recreation Department, will be doing a book signing at Stone Hall on April 26th from 1:00-4:00 p.m. Chi Chu's Little Turtles is a delightful children's book dedicated to mothers and loved by all who read it. This story of the tenderness of a mother's love would make a great Mother's Day gift.



Peter Bray receiving the first price trophy for the poetry contest of the "California's First Love Story" and Guitarist Gordon Rowland who performed for the event.

LOOK FOR YOUR MEMBER

In this edition of the Camel Tracks, you will find an invitation to Ann's 80th Birthday party. Come to the party and enjoy friendship and good cheer. Be a responsible member by finding someone with whom to share your good fortune.

We value all of our faithful members and that is why we are appealing to you to help us double our membership by Ann's birthday. You have been witness to our activities and service to the community.

We know that you want to boost that service to help us on our way to becoming the greatest little museum in California and beyond.

If you are looking for a gift for someone, make it a membership to the museum. If you cannot afford a gift of a membership, talk with your friends and family and give them the opportunity to become a member. Fill out the form and mail a check to us. You will help your museum and you will make Ann's birthday the best she has ever had.

Thanks Eagle Scouts



One of the many Eagle Scout projects at the museum has been completed by Jamie Delahaye who celebrated his 18th birthday by working to install handicapped ramps in preparation for the opening of the Industrial Exhibit in Building #7 at the museum in September of this year.

The Important Month of May

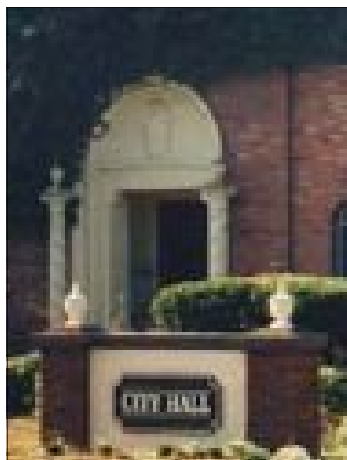
May is a significant month for the citizens of Benicia.

It was on May 19, 1947 that the city of Benicia was founded. We will be celebrating this important day, Founder's Day, at the Clocktower on May 17th. The museum in cooperation with the Benicia-Tula Sister City Association sponsors the Fiesta that celebrates the founding of Benicia by Robert Semple and Thomas Larkin. Buy your tickets early to a scrumptious dinner, auction and dance. You do not want to miss this.

On the very day that we celebrate the founding of our city, we celebrate the founding of our museum which was established in 1985. This year is our 23rd year. We are already planning for a great 25th anniversary in 2010.

Honor your city and your museum by taking part in the activities.

TEN GUN SALUTE TO THE CITY OF BENICIA



We salute the City Council and Staff of the City of Benicia for their contribution to the progress of the Benicia Historical Museum in our efforts to become the best little museum in the state of California and beyond. We are on the road to success and appreciate the help along the way.

Calendar of events

WOMEN'S APPRECIATION DAY
Monday, March 17, 2008
Stone Hall

ANN'S 80TH BIRTHDAY PARTY
Tuesday, April 8, 2008
Stone Hall

"CHI CHU'S LITTLE TURTLES" BOOK SIGNING
Saturday, April 26, 2008
Stone Hall
1:00 to 4:00 pm

FOUNDER'S DAY FIESTA 08!
Saturday, May 17, 2008
Clocktower

SPINNING WHEEL IN CONCERT
Saturday, August 16, 2008
Stone Hall
8:00pm

HUNLEY IN BENICIA
September 5, 6 & 7, 2008
Powder Magazine

MOLLY'S REVENGE IN CONCERT
Saturday, October 25, 2008
Stone Hall
8:00pm

A TASTE OF PASTA DINNER AND AUCTION
Saturday, November 1, 2008
Clocktower

MEMBERSHIP HOLIDAY POTLUCK
Sunday, December 7, 2008
Stone Hall