

CAMEL



TRACKS

Year 2008

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

CELEBRATION DAYS AT THE MUSEUM



The merciless sun finally tempered its heat as the last volunteers who had been setting up for the activities returned to the grounds for the festivities. Friday evening turned out to be lovely as music from the Flute/Piccolo trio floated across the patio and garden and friends and members of the

Museum gathered to celebrate. And celebrate they did. They rode the golf cart down to the Powder Magazine; they wandered through the museum and visited the spectacular new Industrial Exhibit.

They drank their Humanitas wine or Sparkling Cider from glasses bearing the gold likeness of the fountain and feasted on wonderful shrimp and lamb chops from Venticellos. The spirit of the evening was evidenced in the toast given by Glenn Boatman, the Project Manager of the Garden. And this was only the



Jim Lessenger



Beverly Phelan, David Galligan and Glenn Boatman

beginning of a momentous weekend. Saturday and Sunday the sun came out with a vengeance as if to make us pay for the lovely evenings. During the dedication of the Spenger Garden, it was almost too hot to carry out the ceremonies. But by smartly abandoning any formal dress the participants were able to cope. The moment of unveiling the

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The Museum Welcomes our New Members

David Archer

♦
Dan Donahue

Robert M. DuBois

♦
Nancy G. Harper

Gloria Lambousy

♦
Rev. Patrick O'Neil

Cheryl A. Spence

♦
Kellie & Michael Sweeney

♦
Judy A. Wilson

Supporting

Gerry & Leonide McKay

♦
Allen Green

Museum Docents

Megan Ching

Brita Bautin

Kimble Goodman

Elly Harkins

Kathryn Heyer

Debbie Johnson

Gloria Lambousy

Larry Lauber

Jim Lessenger

Jeff Matthews

Elizabeth Murphy

Lorraine Patten

Ron Rice

Bruce Robinson

Kyleigh Suro

Eve Thorne

Jim Trimble

Phyllis Malicki

Chris Valentino

Donna Worthington

Celebration

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dedication plaque by David Galligan, President of the Board, culminated great efforts by Glenn in securing just the right stone (one and a half tons). It was hoisted down into place with a crane supplied by our good neighbor, Column Concepts.



Lois Flood

Terry Giorgetti, a niece of Catherine and Paul Spenger told inspiring stories about her aunt and uncle.

After the dedication of the Garden, Lois Flood of Danville performed beautiful Isadora Duncan dances. She is a great credit to the memory of Isadora who changed dance for all time. She endured the heat to perform beautiful renditions of very classic dances and to inaugurate programs on our patio. She was the very first to perform in this beautiful venue. However, the evening brought the brilliant performance of the Volker Strifler Band who were the first band to perform and prove that we have a great venue for concerts. It had cooled off enough to encourage people to get up from their seats and dance in the aisles. It was a tremendous performance.



The Industrial Exhibit Dedication followed the ceremony on the patio. People were awed by the spectacular display that had been created through the design of Toxey/McMillan. We are so

fortunate to have formed the alliance that exists between them and us to keep our exhibits on the highest professional level. Al Middleton represented Valero, sponsors of the exhibit, at the dedication. and addressed the group on behalf of Valero. David Galligan presided at the ceremony.

Throughout the weekend, we heard Civil War era music to complement the presence of the H.L. Hunley submarine. John Dangerfield and John Nevins entertained the guests with their



John Dangerfield and Glenn Boatman

wonderful stories and factual history of the antics of the Hunley and its crew of eight sacrificial lambs. We were also treated during this time to the melodious tunes of Kevin Frazier and his saxophone. Kevin is a local artist with tremendous talent and charms the audience with his performance.

There is no question. We did celebrate!

Curator's Corner



This photo is in the Museum's archives. We would like for someone to identify the photo and receive a free book on Benicia history. Please call Beverly at 745-5435.

Beverly Phelan

My Internship



I first heard of the Benicia Historical Museum Internship in the summer of 2006. I knew right away that as far as summer jobs went- this was the one for me. Although that summer I did not get the job, I became a member of the museum and stayed up to date with the goings-on. I became a docent and volunteered whenever possible. This summer I was lucky enough to get the internship. It was thrilling to see the behind the scenes workings of a museum first-hand. Throughout the summer I worked with some of the nicest people I have ever met. All of them were ready to teach and to help me in any way they could. My co-workers became my friends. I feel so grateful to have had this opportunity. Thanks to all for a wonderful summer!

Katie Heyer

BE MEMORIALIZED IN THE GARDEN

- \$500 will memorialize you or a loved one as donor of one of seven benches
- \$5,000 will memorialize you or your company as donor of the sun dial, yet to be installed.
- \$100 will memorialize you on a brick around the fountain - just a few left



VOLUNTEERS REVISITED

Louise Martin and Kasma Kelley did outstanding work in being the “cement” of the weekend structure. Louise spent weeks outlining the needs and organizing the lists of volunteers. She was assisted in the last phases by Katie Heyer and Mary Marino.

It was astounding to see the number of volunteers needed and how so many people rose to the occasion. Complete grounds layout and setting up stands and equipment was accomplished through Louise and Kasma’s efforts. We cannot say “thank you” enough to them. There are many people to thank and while I run the risk of missing some, I am going to list all that I can. If I miss some, it may be that they did not sign in or in some other way dodged our procedures. If I miss you, don’t hesitate to let me know and I will make amends. Thanks.

First I want to mention the wonderful service groups. Since I do not have the names of all those who volunteered for the specific groups, I will mention the club and their leader who represented them.

Rotary: Scott Reep

Kiwanis: Sam Jones

Soroptimists: Fran Harkins

AAUW: Joan Eignor

Knights of Columbus:

Lions: Mike Matthews

NCWA: Jan Rogers, Dennis Mayme, John Dangerfield, John Nevins

Camille Agnew
Mike Baldwin
Nicole Bibel
Cathy Billings
Adam Bilotti
Brad Bogel
Dona Bovey
Helaine Bowles
Pat Brighton
Emily Buchan
Ann Burginrud
Marilyn Cech
Tiffany Chan
Faye Cheng
Teddy Chung
Isabeau Clark
Lois Denny
Bob DuBois
Marie Earp
Joan Eignor
Emily Emminizer
Bobbie Enderlin
Dwayne Evans
Marlene Faysal
Melissa Fedornak
Robert Flourney
Jim Garrett
Roberta Garrett
Patti Gavin
Debbie Gee
Sharea Giger
Kimble Goodman
Kathy Griffin

Kyla Hamling
Mary Hammonds
Sam Hammonds
Brian Harkins
Bridget Harkins
Elly Harkins
Fran Harkins
Susie Harper
Katie Heyer
Melissa Houseman
Siu-Yuan Huang
Aggie Jackson
Debbie Johnson
Kasma Kelley
Tori Klug
Bob Kvasnicka
Daniela Lanza
Mary Latone
Larry Lauber
Jackie Lawrence
Takara Leonard
Triya Leong
Leslie Lessenger
Brandon Lew
David Lieban
Jared Lieban
Malcolm Lieban
Taylor Lovelace
Nancy Mahoney
Phyllis Malicki
Tom Malicki
Anne Marino
Mary Marino

Jamie Mather
Maria Teresa Matthews
Olivia Maxwell
Gerry McKay
Leonide McKay
Stacie Mensing
Kathryn Montague
Laura Morgan
Danielle Nahal
Michael C. Nasr
Chris Nino
Chelsea Reed
Bruce Robinson
Larisa Sandu
Kyleigh Suro
John Patten
Lorraine Patten
Elizabeth Patterson
Ella Pennington
Blake Peters

Jim Phelan
Erik Quiroz
Monica Rhee
Ron Rice
Olivia Rivera
Bonnie Silvera
Christina Strawbridge
Scott Strawbridge
Angie Strychacz
Allyse Terrell
Rob Thomas
Daniella Tucker
Marilyn Valdez
Chris Valentino
Irma Ward
Ashley Wellman
Colleen Williams
Vince Yovino
Nancy Zakar
Megan Zeuli

Benicia Historical Museum Board of Directors

David Galligan—exhibits, dedication, cleanup, Garden monitor
Dan Dempsey—Admissions, cleanup
Donna Worthington—Information/sales
Kellie McCormick—exhibit preparation, Information/sales
Doris Laux—Cash control
Lisa Argue—Assistant to Doris
Glenn Boatman—Project Manager, Rehabilitation of exhibit hall, Grounds management
Brita Bautin—garden planting, acquisition of supplies, exhibit building, cleanup
John Halliday—Cleanup supervision after event, military vehicle
Toni Haughey—building exhibit, cleanup, Admissions
Jim Lessenger—building exhibit, Grounds cleanup management, garden, exhibit hall, bar management
Louise Martin—Volunteer organization and management, grounds and garden setup, takedown supervision, Food management oversight, Supplies management
Jim Trimble—first class solicitor, PR with organizations and donors (not present for event – in Africa)
Bill Whitney—traffic and parking management

Staff

Beverly Phelan—preparation of exhibit hall, identification and research of artifacts and preparation for display, creation of exhibit, consultant for designers
Kellie McCormick—preparation of exhibit hall and artifacts, research photographs, artifact preparation, creation of exhibit, consultant to designers
Tania Borostyan—graphics, ticket & PR productions, assisted intern
Katie Heyer—assistant to Director, creation of forms, lists, reservations, general management of communications
Charles Pregeant – grounds cleanup and beautification
Ann Hansen—Oversight of projects and events
Anne Toxey & Patrick McMillan of Toxey/McMillan – designers and installers of Exhibit.

To all of you, we say a big “Thank You”.

OUR UNSUNG HEROES

LARRY LAUBER

Larry fell in love – with our garden. He saw that the planting was not being done timely and properly. Volunteers showed up and contributed their time and efforts as they could. But Larry really concentrated on it through each phase. He struggled with the hard soil and did back-breaking digging, mixing soil with compost and nurturing the plants along. He would spend whole days watching, weeding, planting, and watering. He realized that with all of us struggling to keep preparations moving for all the projects we had going special attention was needed in the garden. The structure was built but now it had to be populated with delicate plants – in the heat of summer. He was careful to follow the plan laid out by the designers and the planting committee and as a result we have a beautiful tribute to Paul and Catherine Spenger. Thanks, Larry, for your great dedication.

JIM LESSENGER

It would be difficult to find a project that Jim Lessenger was not a part of during our preparations for opening the exhibit

and the garden. Often, his wife, Leslie, was right there helping. From spearheading the cleanup the weekend before as dozens of workers spread over the grounds and did a phenomenal job of sprucing up the complex to helping with the building of the exhibit, he was there. In between the hard labor of these things, Jim can be found doing research for a book we will be publishing in the near future, doing docent training, leading tours, directing Boy Scout Eagle projects and spreading the word about our “best little museum in California and beyond”. Thanks, Jim, for all your work.

BRITA BAUTIN

Brita is another one who leaves her imprint on so many different spots in our organization. She went at finding materials for building the exhibits almost with a vengeance. She found the sources for many of the props needed. She planted in the garden and replanted when some plants didn't make it. She was here for the cleanup and the building of the exhibit, bringing her husband, Nick, and other volunteers along. Brita is also a docent and spends time in the gift shop. She has not forgotten her dedication to education and assists in the education program. She is leaving the Board this year but will be in the wings watching over us.

First Prize

Glenn Boatman is the happy recipient of the trophy for the Benicia Historical Museum's first prize entry in the Twilight Parade. Fillmore, the Spitting Camel, was absent for the accolades presented by Nancy Martinez of Main Street.



In Memorium



The Benicia Historical Museum lost a friend and former board member. Ray Shehan died on July 28, 2008. He served on the board from 1990 until 1996 and served as a vice-president and president during his term. Ray worked diligently for the Museum during the early years of development. Ray received the Museum's History Honors Award in 2003. He was the kind of person who was there to help whenever you needed him. He was a very talented and hard

worker for the Museum and he will be missed.

Calendar of events

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
Sunday, September 28, 2008
Stone Hall
2:00 pm

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

MEMBERSHIP HOLIDAY POTLUCK
Sunday, December 7, 2008
Stone Hall