



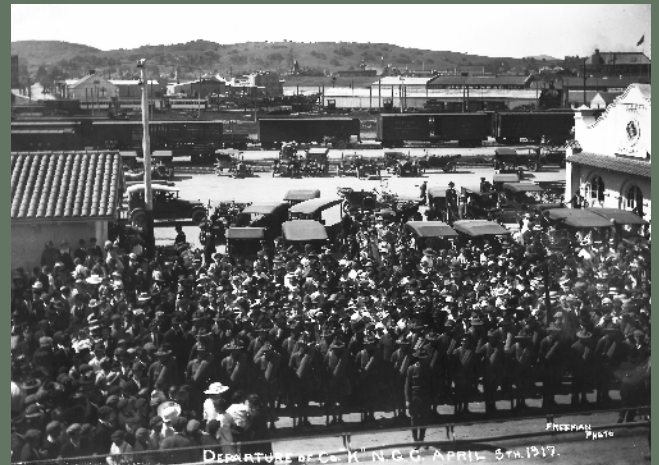
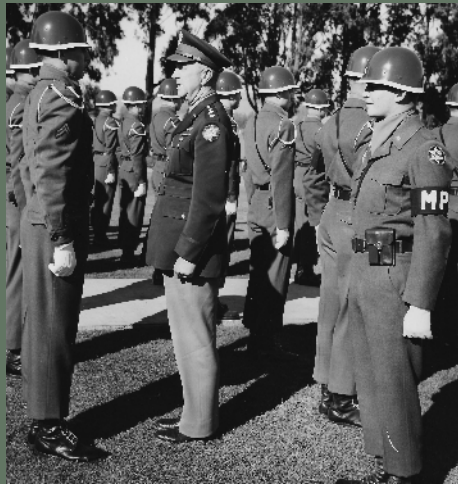
**Petaluma Historical
Library & Museum**

Petaluma **M**useum **A**ssociation

Preserving the Unique History of Petaluma and Providing
Educational and Cultural Services to the Community

Quarterly Newsletter

Pass in Review: A Tribute to America's Veterans (Opens May 3 to July 26)



See inside cover page for
photo identification

Spring/Summer 2015

VOLUME 25, ISSUE 2

On the Cover

PASS IN REVIEW: A TRIBUTE TO AMERICA'S VETERANS

by John Benanti

THE COVER OF the newsletter celebrates the men and women of the military who have served their country. The photos are from the museum's collection. The museum celebrates their service and honors their sacrifices with the current exhibit.

In the upper left is a World War II era photograph of a troop inspection at Kenilworth Park. In the upper right is a photo taken April 5, 1917 of Company K awaiting departure at the train station at Lakeville and East Washington Streets. The photo in the lower right dates from 1943 and depicts a USO sponsored event for service men in Petaluma. On the lower left is a photo of Company C of the National Guard taken in front of the old Petaluma city hall. The photo dates from 1904. The old city hall was located where the A Street parking lot is today. It was erected in the 1880's and demolished in the 1950's, by which time it had become outdated. (Con't on page 9)

PMA 2015 Election Underway

Look for your PMA 2015 Election ballot in your mailbox. The deadline for returning it is May 21st, a week before the Annual General Meeting (see below) so the Election Committee can tally up the votes.

Allow us to repeat the message on the ballot: "You may read this ballot and wonder why there are five open Director positions, yet only two candidates listed. You may ask yourself, why should I bother to vote? Here's our two-fold reply: The PMA believes it is important to direct your attention to the fact that it is perpetually challenged to fill its board with interested individuals to help fulfill our goals. Second, those individuals who are serving on the board benefit from your vote of confidence as they undertake another year of board service, knowing they have your support."

Annual General Meeting on May 28

PMA bylaws require an Annual General Meeting to occur every May. This year we will hold it on Thursday, May 28th, at 6:00 p.m. It's an opportunity to learn the election results meet your outgoing and incoming PMA Board of Directors, and bring your questions, comments and concerns about the PMA to your board and fellow members.

Petaluma Museum Association Board

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Treasurer: Jaana Nieuwboer

Recording Secretary: Kit Schlich

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Liz Cohee, **Museum Coordinator**

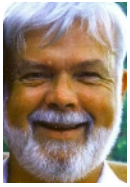
The Petaluma Museum Association Newsletter is published quarterly and distributed to our members. Many thanks to all our contributors and to our proofreaders and volunteers who help with our mailings.

If you would like to contribute any news or item of interest to our newsletter you can email to mary@petalumamuseum.com

Deadline for submission is July 1, 2015
Newsletter editor: Mary Rowe

Petaluma Museum Association
20 Fourth St.
Petaluma, CA 94952

Dear PMA Members,



We're approaching a new fiscal year on July 1, 2015 and before that the election of new PMA officers and directors. These results are announced at our annual general meeting, to be held this year on Thursday, May 28, 2015. Your vote is important to the success of the PMA because these selections provide your guidance on where you want your museum to go. This year there are serious questions about how far and how fast you want your museum to go. Last June when I became your President I offered the following goals and objectives and received unanimous approval. I have noted in bold where I believe we are in accomplishment of these objectives:

Goal: "To make the PMA financially sound, operationally professional and the PHL&M a center for cultural activity in Petaluma."

Objectives:

1. Operational:

- a. Standardize an Annual Plan Template, and begin conformation with the 2015 Plan and Budget.
An improvement, a Planning and Budgeting Template was circulated for discussion and approval at the January 12th BOD Meeting, and a third semiannual program is in preparation..
- b. Conduct annual city wide membership drives beginning in 2014
Other, lower hanging fruit have held our attention to this point.
- c. Conduct an expanded city-wide support and donor drive in 2014
We have increased our outreach to potential donors but are not yet ready for a full- fledged drive.

2. Professional:

- a. Complete implementation of the strategic plan.
As we have successfully implemented our committee structure we have also implemented our strategic plan. Much needs to be done and it is outlined in the 'to do' lists for each standing committee.
- b. Complete artifact records and undergo an independent inventory in 2014.
This effort is making great progress but is very complex. I hope to see completion this calendar year.
- c. Secure credentialed status with the American Alliance of Museums.
This depends on further implementation of our strategic plan and artifact records, so is underway but not yet ready.
- d. Hire a professional executive director and curator by 2017.
I believe this effort is on its timeline. It depends on sufficient cash flow to support a \$50k per year professional. Our Development Director is building a successful grantsmanship program and preparing other income raising programs."

We're making good progress on these objectives but the question, "Are these the right objectives?" is always valid. Your comments as members of the PMA can help your officers and Board of Directors validate our objectives and are always more than welcome.

Warmly,

Harry Nieuwboer
President, PMA

Regular Features

Petaluma History & Commentary:

"The Most Terrible Crime in Sonoma County History"

Museum Highlights

Volunteer Spotlight

Program of Public Service (insert)

Museum Collection Update

Petaluma History & Commentary

by Skip Sommer

The Most Terrible Crime In Sonoma County History

THIS STORY BEGINS in San Francisco in the early fall of 1920, the dawn of the Roaring Twenties with wild jazz dancing and newly enacted Prohibition. For several months, three men had been preying on dance halls and boxing matches in the city, picking up young girls, plying them with bath-tub whiskey and “compromising” them in a shack on Howard Street. Four of those young women (one was from Petaluma) went to the SF police, and Detectives Miles Jackson and Lester Dorman were assigned to the case.

The three SF hoodlums—George Boyd, Terry Fitts and Charles Valente—were tracked to a small hotel in Santa Rosa owned by Peter Guidotti, and the detectives contacted Sonoma County Sheriff, James Petray, to ask his cooperation in an arrest. On December 6th, the lawmen confronted the three suspects and informed them they were under arrest. However, before they could be cuffed, pistols were drawn from hiding and the hoods murdered all three lawmen in cold blood.

Sheriff Petray had stationed his own men around the exterior of the hotel and, upon hearing the shots, they rushed inside and the three criminals were quickly overpowered and shoved behind bars in the Sonoma County Jail. Photos were taken and the four abused young women, who had been waiting in cars at the arrest

site, identified the three hoods, thus adding rape to the first-degree murder charges the men were expected to face.



Young girls at dance hall

Word of the murders spread quickly throughout Sonoma County, and that night, huge crowds (estimated in the thousands) chanted in front of the jail, and additional police officers from Petaluma were called to help out with crowd control. The murders were labeled by the press “the most terrible crime in the history of Sonoma County.” Petaluma Argus Editor, Emmett Olmsted, editorialized “Popular sentiment favors a rope and a tree for the guilty parties.”

Ripples from these murders spread throughout Sonoma County. All three officers were married, with families, and Sheriff Petray had been a very popular man. County residents let the law know that they were aroused to

the point of eliminating the “gangsters, vagrants and worthless characters” from all of Sonoma County and soon, every city started a campaign to eliminate dance and pool halls, prize fights and other places wherein “the trash” congregated. Ordinances were quickly enacted.

But the killing didn’t stop there. Although crowds around the jail had been dispersed three times during the first few days, other more seriously driven and experienced men were making secret plans.

The December 8th headlines in the Petaluma Argus stoked the fire: “Evidence shows that the men had planned to kill officers!” The Sonoma County Grand Jury wasted no time in indicting the killers with three counts of first degree murder (the speed of that action was unprecedented.) and the Argus, taking note of the local uproar, editorialized: “There are, in Petaluma, a few young men, mostly of the smart-alec type, who should take a lesson from these gangsters being rounded-up and thrown in jail. The GOOD men of this community will find a way to rid the city of this trash.”

And then, on December 10th, this Argus headline: “BOYD-FITTS-VALENTE HANGED BY CITIZENS,” adding “Expenses of trial saved and the earth is well-rid of them.” The men had been pulled from their jail cells at 12:30

a.m., bound, and driven to the entrance of Santa Rosa's I.O.O.F. cemetery, which sported a huge old oak tree. The gangsters were quickly and quietly hanged from one large branch. (Mysteriously, the street lights weren't working that night). All of the estimated 100 men who had stormed the jail were wearing gloves, their coats inside out, plus black hoods upon their heads. They had rushed the jail door and pointed guns at all the deputies therein, including acting Sheriff Phillips. They took the cell keys from the Sheriff's pocket.

The lynch mob had been very well rehearsed and all the action was accomplished in the relative quiet of early morning. The lynching was over quickly and the dead men were cut down from the oak by 3:00 a.m. The next



Typical teen dance costumes 1920's

day, December 11th, only five hours after the lynching, Argus Editor Olmsted placed an enlarged photo of the men—hanging from the tree—in his front window, in Petaluma, along with a section of the rope (!) Word spread quickly and crowds

gawked for days afterwards.



The marathon dance halls of the 1920's

Acting Sheriff Phillips and his assistants were summoned to a Board of Supervisors inquest into the lynching. Phillips testified: "The leader of the lynch mob, while holding a gun to my head, said to me, 'We are your friends. We don't want to do you any harm.' But, we're all friends of Jim Petray too and we aim to take care of this." They had cut the phone lines to the jail and had placed armed guards at each street corner along the route to the cemetery. All license plates had been removed from the cars involved.

Astonishingly, all the lawmen were exonerated of complicity. The lynching was so professionally done, it was suspected that Officers of the San Francisco Police had aided in the planning. This charge was adamantly denied by the San Francisco Police Commissioner and nothing came of that rumor.

Of note, just hours after the lynching, on the morning of December 11th, in Healdsburg Square, a welcoming crowd greeted a few men in black hoods, back from Santa Rosa, with horns honking. One woman

was quoted as saying to her hooded man: "I couldn't have been more proud of you, if you had gone to France and killed a hundred Germans." Editor Olmsted wrote in an editorial: "We felt that the actions of the vigilantes were justified, as . . . in many cases, the law has been lax."

The entire country watched this story unfold as California's Governor

Stephens demanded that the lynch mob be punished. On December 15th, the Acting Sheriff was forced to make a statement: "The moving picture companies, wishing to film inside the jail, will not be allowed in." That same day, County District Attorney Hoyle appeared before the Grand Jury and testified: "We have not the slightest clue as to the identities of the vigilantes."

On December 17, 1920, Reverend Winning of the Petaluma Methodist Church, preached:

"The rotten dance halls of San Francisco were the beginning of this. Girls became crazed over this seemingly harmless pastime of dancing. Young girls are being ruined, while Petaluma has made a joke of the law, in regarding the prize fight. Popular opinion must close the dance halls and prohibit the prize fights here."

(Con't on page 16)

MUSEUM HIGHLIGHTS

Our Culturally Diverse Exhibit by Faith Ross

By the time you read this, our exhibit *The Many Faces of Petaluma* will be dismantled and the loaned items returned to their owners and our own artifacts put away.

This exhibit brought people together from different ethnic and cultural backgrounds to assemble an exhibit that told the story of their arrival in Petaluma and surrounding areas. Through pictures, written history, oral history, music, dance and yes food, we learned what brought the various ethnic groups to this area, what cultural practices and ideologies came with them and helped form our community. We saw how some groups learned new trades and were able to prosper in a new country. Through the displays, some people were reconnected with family members by seeing their picture in a display or seeing a grandparent or great-grandparent name listed as one of the earlier settlers in Petaluma. Other people got a history lesson by reading the display boards. We put out chairs to encourage reading. It's hard to share the history of people in one or two sentences. (Con't next page)



Jazz Concert - The doRiaN Mode - Photo credit Jim Johnson



B'Nai Israel Jewish Center's 150th Anniversary with Rabbi Ted Feldman and Scott Gerber playing with the Gan Israel Pre-School Singers. Photo credit Jim Johnson



Ballet Folklórico of Petaluma



Coro Allegro - a mixed voice folkloric musical group



Faith Ross with the Los Gu'Achis Band



Native American Dancers out in the garden court

Museum Highlights Cont.

Our Program of Public Service Schedule of Events read like a smorgasbord of ethnic diversity. The exhibit ran from February through April 26, with wonderful events and sharing of cultural customs, dance and food. The Portuguese community shared their wine as well as foods. All events and activities were well attended.

Ethnic groups represented included Irish, Indian, Chinese, Italian, African Americans, Portuguese, German, Norwegian, Japanese, Danish, Mexican and Argentinian.

Thank you to all the people that were involved in this exhibit and believe me there were plenty. Katherine Rinehart was my connection to many of the people that participated. Solange Russek, Jeanne DeLucca, and Linda Shoemaker-Christensen were very instrumental in putting the exhibit together.



Yes, the exhibit may be dismantled, but some new friendships have been formed and I believe that we are left with a true sense of community and respect for our diversity.

The Saint John's Episcopalian Church in Petaluma, Part 2

by Beatriz Lagos

SINCE THE BEGINNING of the Episcopal Diocese in Petaluma, many of its rectors improved the diocese, and its energetic congregation continued supporting their work through decades up to the present. Now we are able to recognize fifth and sixth generations from those first traditional families who keep alive their love for their church. Some members left the community and moved to other parts of the world, but often they returned to visit, seeking Saint John's spiritual Episcopalian refuge. Together, rectors and their congregations survived the consequences of two world wars while actively helping their community spiritually and materially.

The 20th Century and the beginning of the 21st brought a host of changes in science, philosophy and social attitudes, as well as a shift in relations between same-sex individuals and the role of women and homosexuals in a modern world. Many religious groups were impacted by these changes. In 2006, the Episcopalians of Petaluma's Saint John's—like many other California churches—suffered division among its congrega-

tion. More than half of its members under Rector Miller's direction dissented from new Episcopalian policy by not accepting women and homosexuals as priests and bishops. This faction decided to lay claim to the church and everything pertaining to it, producing a schism. More than 100 opposing members had to legally fight that decision, but the cause of inclusion ultimately prevailed. On July 2, 2009, a decree stipulated that the dissenters return the 118-year Episcopalian Saint John's building and its assets.

The Rev. Daniel Green said in his 2014 Priest in Charge Report: "I am thankful that the end of a Year of Discernment issued in the call to me to serve as the 21st Rector of Saint John's, Petaluma. Most of all, I am grateful for the grace of God that has brought this congregation back to life out of schism." Reverend Green is loved and respected by his congregation for his dedication and the joyful way he shows doing his daily work for God.

PASS IN REVIEW – A TRIBUTE TO AMERICA’S VETERANS

by Faith Ross

Over the years the museum has had several wonderful military exhibits. This exhibit will show a different side of war. Yes, you will see some information about our country’s triumphs in battle, but what you will see or hear through most of this exhibit is about the men and women who were in those wars. Some came home whole and readjusted to their communities without physical, psychological or emotional scars. Others came home, less than perfect and are being helped through various programs that use the arts (expressive and performing) to help them transform or change their perception of the world and give them hope and a positive way to express themselves.

Walking Point Foundation is a not-for-profit organization that helps veterans of Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan to process their wartime experiences through the arts. The founder, Thomas Bird, has been instrumental in connecting us with other organizations to create this exhibit. He has connected us with the Yountville Veterans Home which will provide art (paintings, sculptures, stories) from some of their residents. The Pathway Home, a treatment center for war-related stress, has loaned us some masks and other art created by veterans as a medium to explore the roots of PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder). Several women’s groups have connected us to women veterans who will share their art and stories about being in the military.

We will highlight the accomplishments of some of our local veterans- medals earned during wars and their lives today. On May 25, Memorial Day, we will show two movies in honor of our veterans – “Dear

America – Letters Home from Vietnam” and “*Taking Chance*”. On display will be the uniforms, papers and other artifacts (mostly Generals and Admirals) collected by one of our own teenagers, Will Twomey. Ron Matteri is a local philatelist (stamp collector), who will share the causes of several wars as illustrated through postage stamps. To help us understand how our area was protected or fortified against invaders, John Martini, author, historian and lecturer, will tell us about the Golden Gate National Recreation Area Seacoast Fortification. Park Ranger, Federik Penn will tell us about the Buffalo Soldiers at San Francisco’s Presidio, Sequoia and Yosemite National Park.

On May 3, 2015, the opening reception is planned for this exhibit. By the time you read this article, it may have already happened. Kim Kelley, accomplished singer and songwriter from Napa will provide the music and Michael Pritchard, comedian, actor and speaker will be our host. This should be a wonderful afternoon in our garden area (weather permitting). The guests at this event will get to see our exhibit before it opens to the public on May 7. For additional information about Kim Kelley or Michael Pritchard go to our website.

The schedule of events will be on our website at www.petalumamuseum.com or come by to see the exhibit and get a Program of Public Service Brochure with all the museum’s activities.

A big thank you to Solange Russek for helping to coordinate this exhibit, along with Ron Mateteri, Will Twomey, Don Davison and Steven Kemmerle (Petaluma’s latest Good Egg).



Clint wearing his VFW Cap
photo by Mary Rowe

My friend, Clinton Grove by Solange Russek

When I first met Mr. Grove, I was immediately taken by his spry way of moving about like he was floating on air! Not bad for a man of 94!

Clint came to the PHL&M to purchase tickets for the 2013 Spring Concert. He told me that he was honoring his late wife Lorraine (Bolla) Grove’s membership with the museum, along with her membership to the Petaluma Garden Club. He shared with me that he was born in 1918 in the Sumner/Tacoma area of Washington State and that he served in WWII in the Navy.

I asked Clint if I could interview him about his life and how he found his way to Petaluma California in 1942. One thing that struck Clint about Petaluma was “It was laid back!” Clint also enjoyed the nice weather of the Bay Area and was not interested in returning to ranching and the rain of Pacific Northwest.

Clint gave me a copy of his book; “One Remained on Station, One Found its Way Home” The chapters take you on a journey through American and World history.

I hope you will read Clint’s book, I can’t wait for the movie to come out!
Con’t next page

The following are three excerpts from Clint's book.

Prologue:

"The reason for this particular story was because of the urgings from shipmates, friends, family and most of all, the younger generations who have a serious interest in what went on during that period of time and circumstance. The author's only hope is that you find it interesting and that you will be able to read the entire work without becoming bored".

Chapter 18 - On Our Way to Join the Final Battles of the Pacific

Pearl Harbor - "We were anchored somewhere near the center of Task Force 38, or known sometimes as Halsey's Fifth Fleet. It was the largest armada of ships that the world has ever seen since the days of the Spanish Armada. We could look in any direction, and see ships as far as the horizon:

battleships, carriers, destroyers, cruisers, supply ships, tankers, all in groups, usually with a carrier and a battleship surrounded by the smaller ships and auxiliary vessels, from horizon to horizon. I might add that on a clear day, the horizon was as much as twenty miles distance. You cannot judge ocean miles compared to land miles. Out there, twenty miles would seem a lot closer. Anyway, be that as it may, this was a sight I was privileged to see, the likes of which the world will not ever see again. After spending a few days there, we found ourselves designated Task Force 38.9 and, with other ships, found ourselves making a voyage to our old unforgettable Pervis Bay in the Solomons."



Clint in front of Petaluma home

seemed to be moving in a very moderate fashion. You would see men walking along the beach. Some places you would see men sitting down doing something, and of course, without the sounds that went with it, it seemed like a rather quiet outing. I can

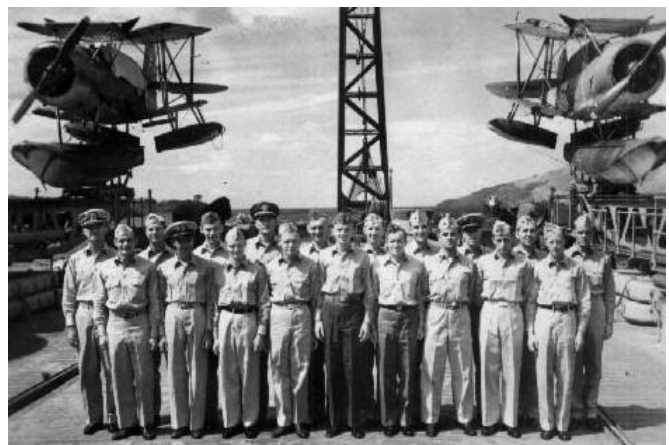
assure you, it wasn't anything like you would encounter in the movies

On one occasion at Angaur Island, I watched men go ashore from the landing craft and walk down the beach and others in single file moving rather slowly going up over a hillside towards where the actual fighting was taking place. What always stays in my mind was the fact that every once in a while one of the men walking on the beach would suddenly lay down. It took me a few minutes to realize that they were not taking a rest, they had been hit by sniper fire. In the movies, you would picture someone rushing over to them shouting and carrying on, but in this particular scenario some of the men looked around but most of them continued on to whatever or wherever they were going and in some places, even sat down probably waiting for orders. I'm sure some-

one took care of those men that so quietly lay down on the beach. We were told that a pile of tree trunks and debris on the beach was housing a sniper. I put the cross hairs on it and we fired into it several times, giving the appearance of completely demolishing it. Therefore, it was very surprising to see the sniper come crawling out of there afterwards. Looking back, I can say that, until the Borneo Operation, this was the only time that we were really close enough where I could see the landings taking place so clearly. I was told later that this was a very tough operation for reasons that I have already mentioned before. We spent some time there giving support fire wherever it was needed on the battlefield directed by our observation planes. When we were no longer needed, we moved on to some other operation that we hadn't been told about as yet."



Clint & Lorraine
Nov. 8, 1945



USS DENVER

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT by Mary Rowe

Vicki Keith A career in the military brings experiences and travel to a local Petaluman



Vicki was born in Kentucky and moved to Petaluma in 1963 when she was in 6th grade. She attended both Kenilworth Junior High and Petaluma High School. After graduating from PHS she went to SRJC for two years.

Not sure what direction she wanted go in her life

and after her father gave her three suggestions: 1) Get a job, 2) Decide on a career and 3) Join the Army she chose the latter much to her Dad's surprise. So at twenty years old she enlisted in the army in 1972 and was off to boot camp in Anniston, Alabama.

After taking some tests issued by the army it was decided that she would do well in the medical field. Vicki never thought about working in the medical field before joining the armed services but since that was what they suggested she was off to train in a new career.

Vicki stayed in the army until 1992 and travelled to many places all over our country and to other countries as well. She worked a variety of hospitals from M.A.S.H. 128 Units to large hospitals. Some of the places she went to were Fort Bragg, North Carolina, West Point, NY, Texas, Georgia, Germany, Korea and Saudi Arabia.

Vicki talked about her time stationed at a 400 bed hospital during The First Gulf War. She was an operating tech but she says they didn't see a lot of our soldiers coming into the hospital during the conflict even though they had prepared for it. At times things were very slow and there was a lot of down time. They did treat some Iraqi prisoners and she remembered how grateful they were to be given meals at the hospital. They also treated many children during the 6 months she was there.

Vicki remarked that a lot of injuries were due to vehicle accidents. Being out in the desert affects your visual perspective while driving and without good roads trucks going in opposite directions would either collide or have near misses.

After 20 years in the army Vicki decided to retire and return to Petaluma. She knew that she didn't want to continue with a career in the medical field and went

back to SRJC to learn computer and office skills. She was able to use her GI Bill to continue her education. She worked a lot of temp jobs during that time. One of her temp jobs turned into a permanent position. She worked at that job for several years until the company decided to downsize because of the economy and she was laid off.

Times were hard and jobs were scarce and after having to collect unemployment for a while she decided that it was time to retire for good in 2014.

One day Vicki's Mom brought home a flyer that she had gotten at the Senior Center about volunteering at the museum. She decided it would be good to get out and do something. She made the call and has been a great help to Solange scanning obituaries, articles and had also completed scanning a 160 page novella that Clara B. Ivancovich wrote soon after 1906 Earthquake.

On the Coverfrom page 1

Petalumans have been going off to war since shortly after the city was incorporated in 1858. Thousands of men volunteered for the Civil War although very few actually made it to Civil War battle sites. Most of them wound up being sent to military facilities in California to replace regular army personnel who were sent off to battle sites in the eastern United States.

The Spanish-American War and the Philippine Insurrection saw many Petalumans serve and several deaths. These actions paled in comparison to the two "great" wars of the twentieth century, World War I and World War II. Petaluma was impacted widely and deeply by the sheer numbers of citizens who served and the large numbers of those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

Both the Korean War and the Vietnam War impacted the community significantly and claimed the lives of locals. The sacrifices have continued into this century with Petaluma men and women serving in the Iraq War and the Afghanistan War.

Please visit the museum and tour the exhibit honoring the service personnel who have represented Petaluma and look for information about special events taking place in connection with this exhibit.



Congratulations to Paula Freund and Jim McCormick who were presented the Sonoma County Historical Society's 'Robert A. Thompson Award' for creating the "Petaluma Viticulture History & Heritage: Celebration of Wine & Community" exhibit at the Petaluma Museum.



This year's 2015 Good Egg Award was presented to Steve Kemmerle. Steve has spent many volunteer hours organizing the Petaluma Veteran's Parade each year. Steve is a Life Member of the PMA. We congratulate him.



Concert Tuesday, May 26, 8 pm
Jura Margulis, Russian Virtuoso
Performing works by Schubert, Liszt, Shostakovich, Scriabin

Complimentary Wine & Cheese for tickets: petalumamuseum.com or 778-4398
\$25 in advance, \$30 at the door
Ask about balcony seating
Presented by Sky Hill Cultural Alliance & the Petaluma Museum Association

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That Spring Cleaning Feeling!

by Solange Russek

There is something to be said about cleaning our Museum's basement and dark hidden corners.....

We found more stuff! Well not just stuff, but more artifacts from being a library prior to 1978 to brass fixtures, newspaper holders, door knobs and a wooden sign used upstairs that reads: "Employees only".

Other discoveries were in the wooden cabinet in the back of the basement, also known as the "Willie Evans Worlds' Fair Collection". The collection was hand made by Woodworker, Seaman, Vietnam Veteran and past PMA President Willie Evans. Willie showed great detail in a scale model with a full table top display, which we will be seeing in 2019 for the 80th anniversary of the 1939 Treasure Island World's Fair. Petaluma participated in 1939 World's Fair with a display about our poultry industry.

Another surprise find was Willies past exhibit titled: "We Regret To Inform You..." This exhibit was held in 1995 to honor the fallen men of Petaluma who gave their ultimate sacrifice in World War II. Willie's older brother "Russ" was killed in the Pacific Theater near the Philippines Islands in October of 1944. Willie collected the dreaded letter or Western Union telegram from the War department confirming the death or "missing in action" of the son, brother or husband. These WWII items will be on display during "Pass in Review" Military exhibit honoring all veterans May 3-July 26, 2015.

Will you be Spring Cleaning? If by chance you find any Petaluma History items that you would like to share with the Petaluma Historical Library & Museum, we would be happy to look at your discoveries! Please keep a few safety precautions in mind when cleaning areas that have not seen daylight in decades:

Mold: You may not see it, but the odor will let you know something went bad. Before opening any containers that may contain mold spores, wear a mask, open the container and let air out for a few days. This is especially important for anyone with a weakened immune system or respiratory illness.

Rodent droppings: Besides the dangers of mold, that box or truck could have made a great little "condominiums" for mice and rats. Please beware that dried rodent feces may contain The Hantavirus and any disturbance created by sweeping or vacuuming could be harmful. You may want to call a professional janitorial service or set some traps. If possible spray a mixture of 1 part bleach or disinfectant to 9 parts of water in a spray bottle. Spray the area well and let it sit for 20 minutes. Then you can sweep or use a wet shop vacuum.

And when you are ready to donate Petaluma History, please keep the following in mind:

- Provenance: Where did the item come from?
- History connected to the item: How and where was it used and who used it?
- Please note names and places with pencil or archival pens. Sharpies tend to bleed through and ruin the photos.
- Please do not drop off donated items without receiving a temporary receipt of **Deed of Gift**.

PHL&M Basement Renewed!

by John Praetzel

Over the past four months, the Facilities Care and Maintenance Committee alongside the Collections Committee undertook a remodel of the PHL&M basement following a minor flood in December. After identifying several serious issues brought to light by the flood, plans were made to remodel the basement into a dual-use storage and work area. Work commenced in the latter part of January with the complete emptying-out of the basement, and the transfer of all items and artifacts to offsite storage locations. Once completely empty, the basement was given a fresh coat of paint and underwent two days of heavy cleaning by Dunrite Janitorial Service.

In order to alleviate the serious overcrowding which plagued the basement in the past, several large industrial-grade shelving units were installed to replace the smaller lightweight steel-shelving which could not fit our larger storage containers. Being large enough to fit even the largest of the PMA's storage bins, the new shelving affords a great deal more storage space than was previously available. This additional storage space, along with an overall consolidation of items stored in the basement has freed up enough space for a collections work area. This new workspace will allow the artifacts to be processed and catalogued in the basement, freeing up additional room in the collections office on the main floor.

In addition to the physical changes to the basement, several new policies are being written up for basement usage so that the circumstances which precipitated the flood do not happen again. It is the



hope that these improvements to the basement ensure that the space remains a usable, organized, and clutter-free storage and work area for years to come.

Special thanks to John Fitzgerald, Marissa Freidman, Paula Freund, Sarah Jochumson, Barbara Maxwell, Don Phoenix, John Praetzel, Simone Robinson, Russek Solange, Rod Washowich, Califas Painting, and Dunrite Janitorial Services; without whom this project would not have been possible.



Petaluma Museum Association
Board of Directors Meeting
Second Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m.
Open to the Public

Volunteer and Docent Meeting
Third Monday of each month
at 2:00 p.m.

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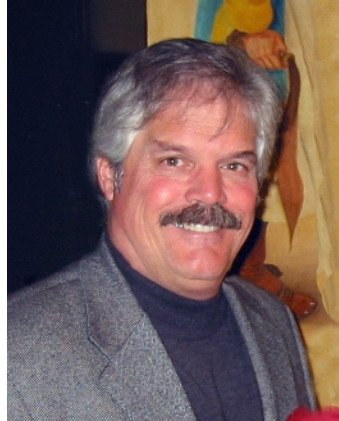
Support your local museum!

Please mark your calendars for these lectures happening in June

June 27, 2015 at 2:30 pm

JOHN A. MARTINI is a native San Franciscan and a life-long researcher into the history of California and the American West. He worked as a National Park Ranger for more than twenty-five years at parks around the country.

John's published works include *Fort Point: Sentry at the Golden Gate*, *Fortress Alcatraz*, *The Last Missile Site*, *Fort Baker through the Years*, and *Sutro's Glass Palace: The Story of Sutro Baths*.



After more than 25 years as a ranger, John retired to pursue a career as a writer, historian, researcher, and lecturer. He appears regularly on the History Channel, A&E Network, The Discovery Channel, and PBS history specials. He continues to volunteer for the National Park Service, notably on Alcatraz Island, at Lands End, and at Fort Cronkite in Marin.

June 28, 2015 at 2:30 pm

Ranger **FREDERIK PENN** is a 25 year career employee of the National Park Service . He is also a Vietnam veteran, having served with the 101st Airborne Div. in 1968.



Frederik grew up in a historical Civil War town in Northern Virginia where the landscape was steeped in folklore and historic waysides and it was there that his

father shared the stories of his experiences as a young soldier in the Korean War. Frederik moved to California in the early '70's and attended City College, Merritt College and the College of Marin where he enrolled in some of the very first Black History courses. His love of the Arts and

Humanities also inspires his love for jazz, blues and singing in supper clubs and lounges when he is not in uniform.

So it was only natural that his interest in historical narratives would spark a never-ending curiosity about, and research into, the legend and the legacy of the famous Buffalo Soldiers. YouTube has a video of him, talking with little kids at The Marcus Bookstore in San Francisco. He is also featured in a video installation at the Fort Point Historical Site and he has presented this information to church groups, historical societies, motorcycle clubs, to students & teachers at Black History events and to the visiting public while leading tours at the Presidio.

He has also been heard on various local and national broadcasts, such as CBS news, KQED, KCSM, and 78Bay Area BackRoads w/ Doug McConnell.



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Crime...from page 4

The next day, The Petaluma Woman's Club jumped on-board with that opinion and, in an unusually quick response on December 21st, Petaluma City Councilman Hopkins proposed an ordinance prohibiting boxing matches within the city limits, which passed.

One has to consider the times in which these tragedies occurred. The laws of the country were being challenged, tested and revised. The U.S. was still recovering from "the war to end all wars" and President Wilson's League of Nations had already convened in Paris. The 18th Amendment had been passed to outlaw alcohol in the U. S.

President Wilson spearheaded the attack on the Communist Party, and over 4,000 suspected anarchists had been arrested countrywide. Last, but not least, the women of America were now legal voters for the first time. It was indeed a time to tighten up the laws.

Of interest, 1920 was also the year that eight members of the Chicago White Sox baseball team were convicted of "throwing" the 1919 World Series. A man named Adolf Hitler was establishing the Nazi Party in Germany, while Mussolini's Fascists were making nasty noises in Italy. Trotsky and Lenin were embroiled in the Bolshevik Revolution. Once again, the winds of discord were

swirling.

It was a time to clean-up Petaluma's act as well, and our intrepid Argus Editor Olmsted was foremost in making sure the citizens of our town knew it. (This writer wonders . . . how our Mr. Olmsted was able to procure that photo of those men hanging from an oak tree, plus that piece of the lynch rope, within a few hours of that lynching in Santa Rosa). It appears that Sheriff Petray had firm friends in Petaluma too.

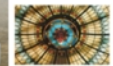
The Petaluma Argus, on December 31, wished all a New Year that would... "be better."



*Docent led
walking tours of
downtown
Petaluma*

*Starting again in May
Every Saturday at 10:30 am
Meet at the museum steps
Free
(donations are appreciated)*

*A special Thank You to Heritage
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Museum Collection Update

by Solange Russek
Museum Collections Manager

Donation: Dated letter from January 31, 1875 from Petaluma to Wisconsin from William Kittinger to Mr. Beardsley including a leaf from an orange tree. This letter was donated by Bob U'ren in March of this year.

The following is a synopsis written by Bob U'ren of the four page letter addressed to his great-great grandparents, the Beardsleys.

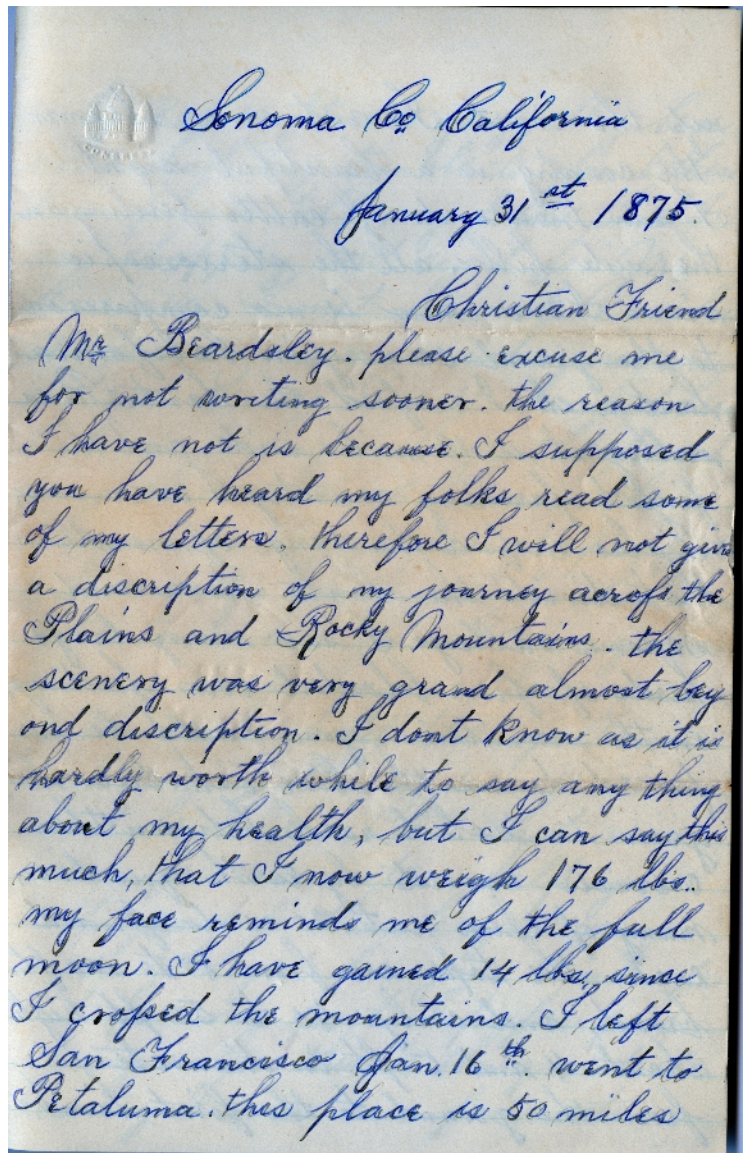
PETALUMA CONNECTION ... One Hundred Years Later

William Kittinger was a young man living in Caledonia Center, Wisconsin in December of 1874 when he began a westward journey across the Great Plains and over the Rocky Mountains on his way to his San Francisco destination. At the time, William and his family were farming neighbors of the William and Clara Beardsley family in Caledonia. The next month after reaching San Francisco, William decided to take a steamer up the coast and visit a small town called Petaluma. He wrote a letter to his neighbors, the Beardsleys on January 31, 1875 that chronicled his trip north.

William was struck by the beauty of the area saying, *"the country is a beautiful sight. I saw thousands of cattle feeding on the side hills. All the stereoscopic views I ever saw are no comparison to the grand scenery in California"*.

His letter mentioned that he *"crossed the Santa Rosa and Sonoma Valleys and the finest farmland I ever saw. I also crossed the range of mountains that divide the Santa Rosa and Sonoma Valleys. I saw many large herds of fine blooded cows feeding on the mountains. You would be surprised to see the live oak trees that grow in solid rock between the crevices caused by earthquakes, many of them cut 20 cords of wood each. The tops are from 80 to 100 ft. broad and only 40 to 50 ft. high, about 4 and 5 ft. in diameter..."*

William goes on to tell of meeting a wine baron, Mr. Carriger, who offered him free wine but he, instead, opted for pure spring water because *"this is the grandest country I ever saw for water: It is clear as crystal out of the springs on the mountain"*.



Note the author is using 19th century grammar and used an italicized long "s" for the word crossed.

Con't next page



Robert (Bob) and Kristine (Kris) U'Ren moved to Petaluma with their two young children Michael (age 6) and Amy (age 22 months) in September 1975. Bob was working for Bank of America at the time and had been recently transferred to the bank's Terra Linda Branch just north of San Rafael, CA. The U'Ren's looked briefly for a new home in Marin County but were told by a realtor that they could buy more home for less money just 12 miles north in "Petaluma".

The U'Ren's bought a home in Petaluma that September and still reside in the city nearly forty years later, mainly because it is a wonderful place to live and a great place to raise a family. In 1996, Bob's parents, Alan and Martha U'Ren, also moved to Petaluma and bought a home. Then, in 2011, the U'Rens received a box of letters and pictures from relatives in Ohio. When perusing the letters they came upon one written to *Bob's great-great grandparents, The Beardsleys*, back in 1875 ... 100 years before two generations of the U'Ren family had separately discovered Petaluma on their own.



Leaf from orange tree. Note the imprint of the letter stamp on the left side of leaf.

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What's in your basement?

(see reports on pg. 11 & 12)