



Petaluma Historical
Library & Museum

Petaluma Museum Association

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

Quarterly Newsletter



Joseph C. Wayne
The Artist's Eye
Behind the Lens



A
Retrospective
1910-1916
Opens
July 4-Dec. 22



Spring/Summer 2019

VOLUME 29, ISSUE 2

On the Cover

by Solange Russek



Joseph C. Wayne
December 23, 1884 - December 19, 1973
The Artist's Eye Behind the Lens
Photo Studio 1910-1916

ON DISPLAY STARTING July 4 will be a collection of images from glass negatives by Joseph C. Wayne who had a studio on 167 Main Street in Petaluma. The exhibit features photographs of his commercial and artistic portraiture. The exhibition also includes studio photo sessions with his family and a pictorial journey of their travels and recreation.

This exhibit is possible thanks to the generous donation of the Poehlmann family. Al Poehlmann, the grandson of Joseph Cleveland Wayne offered the trunk that housed over 330 glass plate negatives of different sizes. Volunteers began to sort the collection by size and topics. As the process moved on to scanning the negatives we quickly realized what a treasure trove of artistic talent Mr. Wayne captured with his subjects. When viewing the images, our volunteers fell in love with the children and whimsical style of Joe. Once all were scanned, we invited the Poehlmann family to view the ghostly images that have been hidden away for over a century. Al identified the Wayne family and their children, one of which was his mother Mabel Wayne!

While doing research to find out more about Joe Wayne, Collections Assistant, Barbara Maxwell discovered incredible articles about his mother and father who grew up in Cherokee County, Georgia and watched Sherman's march in 1865. They rode wagons to California in 1885. These articles and the partnership with his wife Grace Weldon Wayne, who grew up in Vacaville, married Joe in 1905 and then came to Petaluma in his 1903 REO automobile in 1909 will also be highlighted in the exhibit.

Joe retired from the photography business in March, 1916 due to illness from chemical exposure from developing photographs. He wore many hats after he left the photo studio, from insurance salesman, owning a Hupmobile dealership and finally becoming a draw bridge tender on Hwy 48, now Hwy 37. The family moved to Novato around the 1920's.

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

If you would like to contribute any news or items of interest to our newsletter, you can email

mary@petalumamuseum.com

Deadline for submission is July 1, 2019

Petaluma Museum Association
20 Fourth St.
Petaluma, CA 94952

President's Message

Greetings, PMA Members,

I hope you're enjoying this beautiful Spring! Since our last newsletter, we've had quite a few events at the Museum. In conjunction with our Black History Month Exhibit, we had a special Children's Story Time on February 9th, and presentations by Sharon McGriff-Payne, author of *John Grider's Century: African Americans in Solano, Napa and Sonoma Counties*, on February 10th, and Martha C. Taylor, author of *From Labor to Reward: Black Church Beginnings in San Francisco, Oakland, Berkeley and Richmond* on March 3rd.

Other events included: On February 20th, "A Day in the Life of a Petaluma Ranch Family" showcased our digital preservation effort by presenting a film reel from 1925, followed by a discussion with our Collections Manager, Solange Russek. On March 20th, Author Dawson and Sonoma Mountain Preservation gave a presentation about their new book, *Where the World Begins, Sonoma Mountain Stories & Images*; and we ended March with our "Night at the Museum" Gala on the 30th, which was a lovely evening. Thank you so much to members of our fundraising committee who worked so diligently over the past year to plan this event, to all the volunteers who helped pull the evening off and to all the donors who supported the special evening. It truly does take a village.

No resting... Next was the installation of our current exhibit "50 Years of Clo and Scott Hess Photography." (Big thanks to Paula Freund and Solange Russek for assistance and expertise in setting up.) The two subjects complement each other very nicely and was well received at the Opening Reception on April 6th. Selfies with Clo were a hit! On April 16th Wells Fargo Bank presented the Museum with a framed print of the mural they created using images from our collection.

Terry Park gave a presentation on "Petaluma's Golden Concourse" on April 17th. On April 20th, we hosted the Butter & Egg Days Opening Ceremony, where we accepted the History Week Proclamation, and the Good Egg and Grand Marshall were announced and celebrated. And it wouldn't be a parade without the Museum's 1925 Chevy Egg Delivery Truck with the Petalumans of Yesteryear representing us. PMA members are granted preferred seating on the Museum front steps each year (one of the many PMA membership benefits!).

We recently received exciting news that "100 Sonoma" has nominated Heritage Homes/Petaluma Museum in its cultural category. The ceremony is on May 22. As of this writing, our next event is the much anticipated Heritage Homes Spring Garden & Parlor Tour on May 11th. We're so pleased at the response it's receiving and it is sure to be a fun afternoon. In conjunction with his exhibit, Scott Hess will give a presentation on May 15th, sharing insight to his beautiful works. On May 24, Russian virtuoso Jura Margulis will return for his 11th Annual Concert at the Museum. We'll also be hosting "Story Time Under the Oak" on May 9th and 23rd (with more scheduled for summer).

On June 8th, we'll be having a Clover Ice Cream Social. More details to come. On July 4th, we'll ring in the holiday with our Annual Bell-Ringing Ceremony, a Petaluma tradition that Helen Putnam started in her yard on B Street. Two days later, on July 6th, we'll hold an Opening Reception for the Joe Wayne Photography exhibit. We're also working on a few Family Movie Nights at the Museum for later in the Summer and Fall. We hope you are taking advantage of our exhibits and events, and hope you visit us often!

Kathy

Upcoming Events Schedule

Historic Downtown Walking Tours



May through October
Saturdays at 10:30 a.m.
Meet at the Steps
to the Museum
Led by costumed docents
Free
Donations accepted

Children's Story Time

Under the Oak
Thursdays, 10am - 11am
May 9, 23, July 11, August 8, 22 and
September 12

Wednesday, May 15 at 7 p.m. Scott Hess Presentation

Local photographer discusses the images
inspired by his co-authored
book *On a River Winding Home*
Free to public



Friday, May 24 at 7:30 p.m. Jura Margulis Concert

Thrill to the sound of this virtuoso pianist
in the Museum's superb acoustic
Petalumamuseum.com for tickets



Saturday, June 8 at 12 p.m.
Clover Ice Cream Social & Carnival
Clo the Cow, family fun and treats for all!

Schubertiade

Sunday, June 16 from 1:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Petaluma Museum Association &
Sky Hill Cultural Alliance Present:
The story and music of Franz Schubert
A festival of food, fun & friendship
Highlighting the beloved "Trout Quintet", some of the
most beautiful songs ever written, and masterpieces
for violin, piano & more. Enjoy complimentary wine
and traditional Viennese savories & sweets!
12 participating musicians featuring Nigel Armstrong,
Kayleen Asbo, Karen Clark, Paul Mihaly and
Elizabeth Walter
Cost \$30 before June 10/ \$40 after/Students \$10



July 4 at 10:15 a.m.

Annual Bell Ringing Ceremony

Join our annual salute to Independence Day,
with cookies and lemonade in the Garden Court



Saturday, July 6 at 5 p.m.

The Artist's Eye Behind the Lens Opening Reception

Celebrate the discovery of new images from
one of Petaluma's premier early photographers,
Joseph C. Wayne

Monthly Board of Directors Meeting

Every second Monday of each month at 6:00 pm
Location: 20 4th St.
Open to the public
(Please enter through back door)

2019 PMA GENERAL MEETING

Meet your new PMA board members!

Monday, June 10 at 6:00 p.m.

At the Museum

Refreshments



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Petaluma Historical Museum



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A CALL FOR QUILTS

by Clint Gilbert, Chair Public Service Committee

The museum will present A Vintage and Antique Quilt Show for the month of January 2020.

On display will be some favorite antique quilts from our permanent collection as well as vintage and antique quilts from many members of the Petaluma Quilt Guild. The show is the idea of Barbara Confer, a guild member and wife of Don Confer, the second president of Heritage Homes.

Many Heritage Homes member's quilts were on display at our last exhibit and we are looking forward to including them again along with quilts from newer members.

We are inviting members of Heritage Homes to enter their vintage or antique quilts in the show. The quilts will be displayed for the month of January along with a brief history of the quilt.

It's been a few years since our last quilt show so we're anticipating a great deal of interest in both exhibiting quilts and attending the Show.

Throughout the month the museum will feature speakers, quilting demonstrations and educational activities for kids and adults too.

If you would like to enter your quilt, please contact Barbara at barnbarn181@yahoo.com

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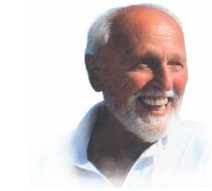
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Petaluma History & Commentary

by Skip Sommer, Historian

THE END OF THE WILD WEST

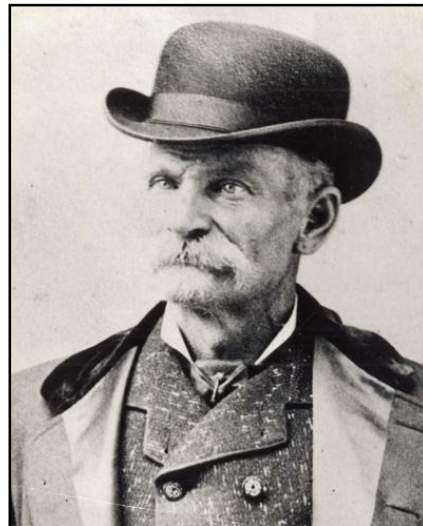
THOSE FIRST ADVENTURERS coming “West” were a tough crew. Many were misfits escaping society, bad marriages or military service. Some were deserters. Many sought gold, few found it. They were nearly all men, desiring to live outside the binds of the civilized world. Some of those men came to the verdant Petaluma Valley, and some became our important pioneers.

In the early “Old West,” there was less respect for personal property and carrying weapons was a necessity of self-protection. Theft of a cow or a horse could mean death to those left without them, and quick justice called for hanging as a punishment. Hanging was also practical, because it saved on bullets.

By the early 1880s, however, the wildest of the Old West had *almost* died out. “Wild Bill” Hickok had taken two bullets to the back in ‘83, the Earp brothers and “Doc” Holiday had just had their gun fight in the OK Corral, Pat Garrett had shot “Billy the Kid.” Jesse James had been killed in ‘82, ‘Bat’ Masterson had his last shoot-out, Sonoma County’s “Black Bart” was captured in ‘83, Chief Sitting Bull had surrendered, and by 1883, the vast buffalo herds, a major symbol of the American West, had been reduced to just 10,000. By 1883, even “Buffalo Bill” Cody, had gone East to form a

traveling “Wild West” show. But Cody, soon found himself competing with 1883’s newly formed circus, Barnum & Bailey, which featured an elephant named “Jumbo” and a popular little man named “Tom Thumb.”

No one took a census of outlaws then, but the genre was actually a very small group, glorified by a news-hungry press. The world gobbled-up every word and considered the outlaw to be the standard of life in our American West. There was no question however, that the gun was still the law in the California of the 1880s, and strangers in Petaluma were not trusted until proven



Charles Earl Boles (aka Black Bart)

to be trustworthy. Vigilante groups had formed, sheriffs and marshals had been elected, and posses appointed. Bullets and powder were still hard to come



by here, however, and few people actually practiced shooting enough to be any good at it.

Most of the arrests in the Petaluma of those days were for drunkenness, fighting, and thievery, as doors were usually left unlocked, animals left out on the range, tools left where they dropped. “Confidence men” were also afoot, well-dressed and well-versed, they could forge anything. Sexual offenses were common too (but rarely reported). Many women carried knives and there were an unusual number of corpses that had been mysteriously emasculated in the “Old American West.”

Most citizens seemed to be doing pretty well in the Petaluma of 1882. We were just (officially) 24 years old with a population of 5,200, with a school, churches, four lawyers, six dentists, three doctors, four hotels and a lot of saloons.

Our founders were already building their fortunes by then. The McNears and Fairbanks were milling, Harrison Meacham had switched over from long-horns to dairy cattle, Ezekial Denman had built our county's first creamery, Isaak Wickersham and William Hill were banking and a young man named Lyman Byce was in the second year of merchandising his invention, "the Petaluma Chicken Incubator."



Harrison Meacham

It seemed we were on our way to a normal small-town existence here. On Main Street, one could purchase "Carriages, buggies and wagons" from Zartman & Co. or buy one of the just patented "Petaluma Carts" from D.W.C. Putnam, and you could finish out your rig by buying "Harness, saddles, bridles, whips, brushes and blankets" at Palmer & Holm, on Main Street.

on the trail." 1879: "Brooklyn Hotel Manager catches chicken thief in act. Thief sent to jail by Justice Cavanagh." 1880: "Buggy stopped on Bodega Avenue by armed robber. Gold watch and \$100 taken. Police advise that a pistol should be carried in a man's pocket for quick access, not in his satchel." (Duh!) 1880: "Indian found murdered near Haynes Ranch. Police believe

he and another Indian were illegally served liquor by a certain local saloon." (This, a reminder of the unwritten law of the times, to NOT provide alcohol to the Native Americans.)

And, just when it was thought it would be calmer in the *next* decade, this national headline, in July of 1891: "The Country was shocked by news that President Garfield had been shot in the back today. The weapon used was known as a *California Pistol* of heavy caliber." Garfield survived until September 19th, but the doctors then had no way of extracting his bullet. The President was succeeded in office by his V.P., Chester A. Arthur. Interestingly, the same day of the Garfield shooting, the Petaluma Daily Courier carried four ads for gun shops and two ads for tombstones.

Here are some examples of crime reported in The Petaluma Daily Courier.

In 1878: "Thieves broke into Hesse's Saloon on Main Street. Marshal Blume is on the trail." 1879: "Brooklyn Hotel Manager catches chicken thief in act. Thief sent to jail by Justice Cavanagh." 1880: "Buggy stopped on Bodega Avenue by armed robber. Gold watch and \$100 taken.

And if what you needed was a place to stay, you could find that for "\$5/week, lodging and board" at the City Hotel. Also, their hotel hairdressing salon offered a "Hot Bath, 25 Cents." (Zowie!)

But, it wasn't ALL rosy then. Here are some examples of crime reported in The Petaluma Daily Courier.

In 1878: "Thieves broke into Hesse's Saloon on Main Street. Marshal Blume is

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It seems that the industrialization which was sweeping the nation then was not good for everyone. The great depression of 1873-80 hit the American laborers and farmers hard. Bloody fights and killings in the East sent thousands running away into the Western States to seek new opportunity, while agricultural prices had plunged and family

(Con't on page 10)

MUSEUM HIGHLIGHTS

Black History Month at the Museum



Faith Ross, exhibit curator & Sharon McGriff-Payne



Martha C. Taylor

There were two very interesting lectures in February and March during our Black History Exhibit: *The Great Black Migration*. The first lecture was given by Sharon McGriff-Payne, historian and author of *John Grider's Century: African Americans in Solano, Napa and Sonoma Counties, 1845-1925*. Martha C. Taylor, author of *From Labor to Reward: Black Church Beginnings in San Francisco, Oakland, Berkeley and Richmond, 1849-1972* gave her lecture in March.

A Magical Evening at the Annual Fundraiser

Guests entered through a beautifully lit exterior to start their "Night At The Museum" experience. On the main floor, a transformation of the space created a warm atmosphere to enjoy drinks and delicious bites while listening to the soft melodies of piano in the background. Historical figures (portrayed by the Petalumans of Yesteryear) were present throughout the museum to bring the past alive and share the history. There was a silent and live auction, a popular scavenger history hunt with prizes, a raffle and a photo opt with a replica cop car from American Graffiti parked out in front of the museum. Thanks to all who supported this very successful event.



Auctioneer Houston Porter and PMA President, Kathy Fries entice the crowd with an auction item.



The POY gathers in the parlor during the event.

A huge thank you to our "Night at the Museum" Gala donors

Aquas Café, Beach Blanket Babylon, Benbow Inn, Bert's Desserts, Brewsters Beer Garden, Buena Vista Historical Winery, Cabot Creamery, Cinnabar Theater, Cline Cellars, Club Pilates, Cowgirl Creamery, Debbie & Steve Countouriotis, Elizabeth Crowley, Erica & Elliot Barlas, Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, Friedman's Home Improvement, Ginger Irwin & Harry Nieuwboer, Gloria Ferrer Caves & Vineyards, Griffio Distillery, Harvey's Lake Tahoe, Hollingsworth Jewelers, Jacuzzi Family Vineyards, Judith J. & Stephen Collins, Lagunitas Brewing Company, McEvoy Ranch, McNear's Saloon and Dining House, Metro Hotel, Michael Merrill Design Studio, Nick's Cove, Oakland Athletics, Patty Moore, Peppermill – Reno, Petaluma Market, Pier 39, Point Reyes Farmstead Cheese, Preferred Sonoma Caterers, Raley's Family of Fine Stores, Rooster Run, Ruth Morrow - Changes Hair Salon, San Francisco Forty-Niners, Shunzi, Sid & Gerry Lipton, Sjaak's Organic Chocolates, Soft Shell Spa, Straus Family Creamery, Terry Fraser, The Sweet Zone, Walt Disney Family Museum & You, Day Spa

And we couldn't have pulled off the evening without all our fabulous volunteers:

Cyndie Renfrew, Patricia Webb, Laurie Cameron, Adrienne Rodgers, Elizabeth Walter, Freyda Ravitz, Debbie Countouriotis, Francis Bruton, Jeanne DeLuca, Gail Ravitz, Brian Mealins, Richard Fries, Clint Gilbert, Skip Sommer, Kathy Fries, Dianne Ledou, Kate Hawker, Leif & Sherrie Ortegren, Susan Coolidge, Linda & Steve Buffo, Jerry Pozo, Binky Thorsson, Marshall West, Mike Glose, Homer Johnstone, Aldo Garibaldi, Cruisin' the Boulevard and local authors Katherine Rinehart, John Sheehy and Scott Hess



Scott Hess and his son Lukas

On April 6 we had the opening reception for the dual exhibition of Scott Hess Photography and Clo the Cow - Celebrating 50 years

We had a big turnout for our opening and people enjoyed viewing Scott Hess' beautiful photography of the area. Clo the Cow was there to greet everyone and provide a photo opportunity. Visitors delighted in all the whimsical Clo memorabilia. There is still time to see this outstanding exhibit before it closes on June 9.

Good Egg Ceremony & Museum Entry in the Butter & Egg Day Parade



The Egg Truck at Butter & Egg Day Parade with Binky at the wheel and her husband Barry in the passenger seat. That is Jerry Pozo (aka John McNear) standing in front.

Photo credit Bill Rinehart



Past Good Eggs with parade Grand Marshall Clo and 2019 Good Egg Recipients Scott Hess and John Sheehy

Photo credit Jim Johnson



Petaluma Murals at Two Branches

PMA President Kathy Barron-Fries and Museum Collections Manager Solange Russek attended a reception given by Wells Fargo where they presented the Museum with a framed print of their Petaluma mural. They used images from our collection to create them. This is from their Western Ave. location. There is also one in their E. Washington location.

HISTORICAL NEWS OF PETALUMA

by Solange Russek & Michael Slade

We would like to acknowledge the California Digital Newspaper (CDN) Program of UC Riverside and Newspapers.com as a our source for this feature.

Pacific Rural Press
August 5, 1882 Vol 24 No. 6,

A SONOMA SILO.—We learn from the *Petaluma Courier*, that Isaac R. Jewell is building a silo as an experiment. This, we believe, is the first green-feed preserver, so far as our information goes, built north of the bay.

These days silos are a common sight. The experiment was clearly a success.

Pacific Rural Press
Feb 11, 1871

SOME of the wheat in Petaluma Valley is said to be five inches high.

Pygmy wheat discovered in Petaluma.

Local brevities - No comment needed.....

Press Democrat
July 4, 1889 Vol XV 24 No. 295

The *Evening Imprint* claims that there are abundant surface indications of natural gas around Petaluma. We hope the *Imprint* is not gassing.

Press Democrat
July 4, 1889 Vol XV 24 No. 295

A well has been dug, and a windmill will soon be put, in the Catholic cemetery at Petaluma, to keep the graves green.

Press Democrat
July 4, 1889 Vol XV 295

The *Petaluma Imprint* has increased its dimensions and a marked improvement in its appearance is a natural sequence.

Wild Westfrom page 6

farms sank into crisis. In 1879, The Petaluma Daily Courier published the names of 720 (!) Sonoma County foreclosures pending. Crime rates soared.

The infamous 'Old West' of *banditos*, cattle drives and shoot-outs was indeed fading by the 1880s, but the "New California" was still in trouble and, although there was much less competition from the Native American and the buffalo for use of the land, now sheep were competing with cattle for grazing, and the open range was becoming fenced with something new called "barbed wire." Many folks were then saying there wasn't enough range to go around. The L.A. Times, a new publication in 1881, complained about "too many people moving to California!" (Sound familiar?)

1883 was also the year the cornerstone was laid for our Statue of Liberty, in New York Harbor. The plaque there upon, reads: "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses, yearning to breath free." Ironically, that *same year*, 136 years ago, our U.S. Congress ratified the Chinese Exclusion

Act that cut-off *ALL* immigration from Asia at that time. The "too many people moving to America" argument was to remain a much-debated issue for generations to come. It still is, for some.

Our Gift Shop has a wide selection of historical books, some signed by local authors.

We encourage you to browse our shelves while you're in to see our latest exhibit!

Thank you to these organizations for their financial contribution!

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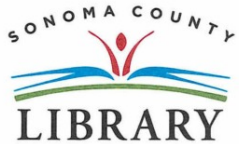


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Membership

NEW MEMBERS

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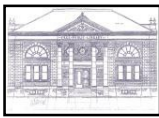
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Petaluma Historical Library & Museum
20 Fourth Street
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Museum Collection Update

by Solange Russek
Museum Collections Manager



*Left to Right:
Paula Freund, Amy Hogan, Marilyn Geary, (Laurie Thompson, Barbara Maxwell back), Solange Russek, Patricia Tuttle Brown, John FitzGerald, Robert Thomas, Michael Lanham*

Sharing can be fun!

IN THE SPRING of 2017, the PHL&M received a large box filled with McNear ephemera, photographs and letters that dated as far back as 1850. The letters were donated by Lucretia Thomas, sister to Robert Thomas who is the grandson of Erskine Baker McNear. "E.B." as he liked to be referred is the son of Petaluma's John A. McNear.

As we sorted through the large collection, many items related to Marin County kept popping up. There was an 1886 map of the "Shrimp Ranch" in east San Rafael, we now know as China Camp State Park! We contacted Laurie Thompson of the Anne T Kent California Room at the Marin Civic Center Library to let her know about the collection.

We met a few times to go over the Marin items of the collection. We transferred the Marin related items to them. Laurie has been working with descendents of the McNear family who were very excited about this collection.

In February of 2019, Laurie Thompson, Robert Thomas and Marilyn Geary came to the Museum to go over the large collection, helped us identify persons and places. We continue to work with them in sharing the collection, transcribing letters and most of all we made new friends!



Petaluma Museum Association
Petaluma Historical Library &
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Dual Exhibition of Scott Hess Photography inspired by his co-authored publication *On a River Winding Home* and Clo the Cow, Celebrating 50 Years
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