



# CLARKE MUSEUM

AUTUMN 2016

## Archaeology & Cultural Awareness Day at the Clarke

Archaeology Month is a national program to promote the preservation of our country's heritage. The Clarke Historical Museum will offer a free day to celebrate this important program, on October 15th from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm. The museum is partnering with CA State Parks, Redwood National Park, and Humboldt State University Anthropology Club, as well as local volunteers and artisans, to provide demonstrations on local native



American basket weaving, flint knapping (how to make stone tools and blades), indoor and outdoor activities for all ages, and make & take art projects.

While the event is taking place inside, we will also have the street in front of the museum blocked off for a street fair. Along with other refreshments, we will be selling Indian Tacos and there will be several vendors selling handicrafts at the event. This is a free all ages event, so bring the whole family.

## Memories of the Old Redwood Highway

I have vivid memories of the Old Redwood Highway I traveled every summer as a little boy with my family in the 1950s. Each August we would leave while it was still dark in the morning from our home in Berkeley to travel north on 101 to our summer home in distant Humboldt County. At that time the route was still a two-lane road all the way to Eureka just as it had been since the '20s with some improvements completed in the '30s and '40s. The highway went through every town along the way and took us about nine hours to reach our destination. Today only Hopland, Willits, and Laytonville are traveled through and the Willits bypass is close to opening. The road, which followed the South Fork of the Eel River, traversed narrow, winding, often treacherous stretches that were made even more tedious when you got behind a slow moving logging truck!



Oh, what joy it was to arrive at the old summer house my great-great grandmother had built in 1892! The welcoming aroma of the pepperwood grove that surrounds the place was always a relaxing comfort after our journey. The place is still in our family today.

In 1912, the year Harvey Harper arrived in Eureka after driving a Model T Ford from Arizona to start a Ford dealership, it took motorists four days to reach Eureka from San Francisco. Because of the multiple day travel time, early cars and (continued on page 3)

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The Mission of the Clarke Historical Museum is the acquisition, preservation and educational display of objects relating to the history of Eureka and Humboldt County.



# CLARKE HISTORICAL MUSEUM

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## Current Exhibitions

**Cars, Culture and Humboldt County in the 1950s**  
September 3—January 7

This exhibit examines the cultural impact the car had on Humboldt County in the 1950s. From car clubs to hard top racing, women's fashion to artwork, this exhibit illustrates how the car helped reshape life in America. Co-curated by Bill Morrill and Jack Moore, with original art work by Frank Speck. Sponsored by AAA.

### **Korean War Exhibit**

September 3—January 7

The follow-up to our WWII tribute, this exhibit will feature an assortment of photos, uniforms, medals, documents, weapons and posters from the Korean War era.

### **Community Case: Fern Cottage**

September 3—October 7

A display of local historical objects and documents assembled in honor of Fern Cottage's 150th anniversary.

### **Community Case: Eureka Chamber of Commerce**

October 8—November 4

This exhibit will celebrate the Chamber's 125th anniversary of promoting business and tourism on the North Coast.

### **The Hover Collection**

A "living memorial to the Karuk basketmakers," this collection of Karuk basketry and dance regalia from the mid to late 1800s will be on display once again. Featuring artifacts from master basket weavers such as Elizabeth Hickox and Nettie Ruben.

## Upcoming Events

### **Archaeology and Cultural Awareness Day**

October 15, 2016

11:00 am—3:00 pm

A part of California Archaeology Month, Archaeology and Cultural Awareness Day celebrates the preservation of our country's heritage. Inside the museum, we will have an assortment of hands-on archaeological activities for all ages. The street in front of the museum will be closed and we will be selling Indian Tacos for your enjoyment. Come down and enjoy this family-friendly event.

### **White Glove Club: Firearms Collection**

November 19, 2016

11:30 am—2:30 pm

Come see and feel an assortment of historic firearms from our collection with Ken Anglin, a local gun expert who will be sharing his historical and technical expertise for the enjoyment of our White Glove Club members. Those who are not yet a part of the White Glove Club may upgrade or purchase a new membership at the door.

### **Admission Free Week**

November 23—26

11:00—4:00 p.m.

The Clarke Historical Museum is offering a chance to see the the collection free of charge this week. Come learn about the history of our area by viewing the most complete collection of Humboldt County historical objects in existence. Sponsored by Redwood Capital Bank.

## Museum Changes Membership Cyle Structure

Some changes were recently made to the membership cycle at the museum. Going forth, all memberships will expire at the end of December, and will need to be renewed in January of each year. This will help make things easier for members and more efficient for administrators. If this causes a hardship for any of our members, or if you have any questions or comments regarding the change, please give us a call down at the Clarke. We value the input of our members, and we could not keep the museum going strong without your generous support!



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## Highway (continued)

the unrefined road required motorists to carry tents, camping gear and multiple spare tires and parts to complete their travel on the Redwood Highway.

Soon businesses popped up with camps, small stores and cafes that would have a gas pump or two. Many of these places had roots in the 1920s and most are gone with the exception of a few, perhaps most notably the beautiful Benbow Inn which was completed in 1926. The legacy of the Old Redwood Highway includes the establishment of the Save the Redwoods League in 1918. The old growth stands were becoming more accessible to logging operations because of the highway. At the same time it offered access to virgin forest that inspired the founders of the League to remove their hats and speak in whispers in the presence of such awe-inspiring beauty and serenity. Founder's Grove along Avenue of the Giants was named for these men. There were no virgin forests set aside when these guys first visited in 1917.



A consequence of the Save the Redwoods League was ultimately Humboldt Redwoods State Park that became a reality in 1921. The State of California had set up legislation that matched dollar-for-dollar private funds to purchase and set aside the groves that make up this park land. These matching funds to a pair of million dollar checks that John D. Rockefeller wrote in 1931 enabled the purchase of a 10,000 acre tract of land from the Pacific Lumber Company that is the largest contiguous virgin redwood forest in existence. Over the years thousands if not millions have visited our corner of the world to see and walk among the oldest and greatest of all living things on earth. And they still do.

**-Bill Morrill**

*Bill Morrill is a Clarke Board Member who hosted an award-winning historical television segment series **101 Milestones** that ran on the local Fox affiliate from 2006 to 2013. In 2015 Bill, along with local PBS affiliate KEET and the Clarke Historical Museum, produced a three-part television series **Stories from the Clarke**, which is featured on page 6 of this issue.*

## 3rd Annual Up in Smoke BBQ Festival

Although the rain may have dissuaded some potential attendees, the Up in Smoke BBQ event was attended by over 450 community members. Check our website for a complete listing of contestant standings and sponsors.

(Left to right: The Jim Lahman Band entertains the crowd; Richard Juneau, the winner of the chicken category and runner-up in ribs, tends to his smoker; a contestant serves a portion of ribs to a hungry festival attendee.)





# CLARKE HISTORICAL MUSEUM

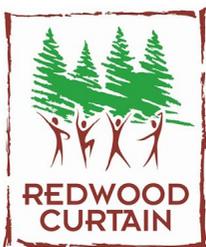
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## WWII Airport Memorial Grand Opening

The gallery was packed at the Humboldt County Airport for the unveiling of the long-awaited World War II Veteran's Memorial. Over 200 community members showed up to honor and support our local veterans who served in World War II.

(Clockwise from top left: An Honor Guard member opens the ceremony, Steve Justus giving a commemorative speech, a Coast Guard representative and Artist Kathrin Burleson, the local chapter of the DAR, the crowd awaits the ceremony, Clarke Director Ben Brown shows a community member how to navigate the kiosk.)



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# CLARKE HISTORICAL MUSEUM

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## *Stories from the Clarke Reaches Outside Markets*

Drawing upon the rich history of Old Town in Eureka, California, the three-part *Stories from the Clarke* television series is now being shown on nearly a dozen PBS affiliates! Confirmed PBS affiliated stations include **KVIE** (Sacramento), **KVCR** (Palm Springs/San Bernardino), **KLCS** (Los Angeles), **KCSM** (San Mateo), **KIXE** (Redding), **KRCB** (Rohnert Park), **KSYS** (So. Oregon, Medford), **KNME** (Albuquerque, NM) and **KET** (Lexington, KY), with many more hopefully following suit. “I’m pleased that this series, documenting aspects of our local history, is of interest in other markets...it’s a nice validation of the project!” says Bill Morrill, Host/Project Manager.

The groundbreaking three-part television series, available for purchase at the Clarke Historical Museum, focuses on the museum, our local maritime heritage, and the heyday of the once bustling waterfront district. Part 1: “The Clarke Collections” discusses the world renowned collection of Native American objects from the Northwest region; Part 2: “Old Town Days and Nights” examines the legacy of Old Town Eureka’s bar and brothel days and its colorful past as a wide open working man’s town; Part 3: “Good Times in a Port City” highlights the history of 19th century local shipbuilding and our fisheries heritage, as well as the local music and dance band scenes, spanning multiple eras and musical trends from the 1930’s until 1990. This important series not only highlights local history but helps to promote our region.

The series will air again locally on KEET 13 later this year.

For more information, please contact Project Manager Bill Morrill at 707-499-6762 or the Clarke Historical Museum at 707-443-1947, <http://www.clarkemuseum.org>.



## **Living History Day Provides Glimpse into Humboldt’s Past**

Those who attended Living History Day got a chance to experience a glimmer of Humboldt County history, drinking draft root beer in a Victorian-era pharmacy setting, chatting with a soldier from Fort Humboldt and handling a variety of touchable historical objects throughout the museum. This event was sponsored by Provident Credit Union and Lost Coast Brewery.

(Left to right: Historian Ray Hillman serves draft root beer to attendees; Representatives from Provident Credit Union; Historian Bill Kohse entertains children dressed in period attire with tales of Fort Humboldt.)





# CLARKE HISTORICAL MUSEUM

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## Thank You New & Returning Members

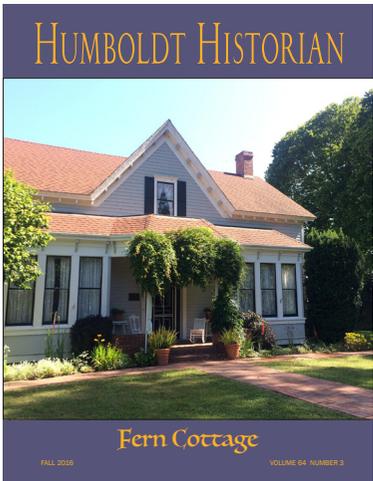
Wendy Wahlund	Rusty & Alverna Moore	Jimmy & Julia Johnson
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Hal Larson	Gary Nothstein	Lori Toomas

## Memorial Donations

John and Sandra Winzler in memory of Steve Mitchell

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Fern Cottage

FALL 2016 VOLUME 94, NUMBER 3

The Fall 2016 issue of the Humboldt Historian. Available now at the Humboldt County Historical Society, Eureka Books, and Northtown Books.

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