



CLARKE MUSEUM

SPRING 2015

2015 Murder Mystery Masquerade

**MARDI GRAS
MURDER
MYSTERY
MASQUERADE**

**SATURDAY
FEBRUARY 7**

**BENEFIT TICKETS
\$50 ADVANCE
\$55 AT DOOR**

**5P.M. TO 9P.M.
THE BAYSIDE GRANGE
2297 JACOBY CREEK RD., BAYSIDE**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION
CONTACT THE CLARKE MUSEUM
(707) 443-1947
CLARKEMUSEUM.ORG**

**INCLUDES BUFFET DINNER,
PROFESSIONAL PERFORMANCES,
CONGA DANCING, & SILENT AUCTION
A BENEFIT FOR THE CLARKE HISTORICAL MUSEUM**

Event Schedule

5:00 pm

Doors Open
Bar Service Commences
Photo Booth Opens
Tarot Readings Begin
Music- Uptown Kings
Silent Auction Starts

6:00 pm

Performance- Part I

6:30 pm

Dinner- Cajun Style
Photo Booth Reopens

7:30 pm

Performance- Part II

8:00 pm

Music- Uptown Kings
Silent Auction Ends

Join the Clarke Historical Museum at the Bayside Grange for our 4th Annual Murder Mystery Masquerade on February 7, 2015. Throughout the course of the evening, participants will attempt to solve a Mardi-Gras themed mystery

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Jeff Roberts

Docent

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Leslie Riecke

Norman Sherfield

as they enjoy delicious drinks, exquisite entrees, and sinful sweets. Presale tickets are available at the Clarke for \$50 and will be available at the door for \$55.

The price includes a Cajun-style dinner, a professional theatrical performance, and tarot card readings. There will also be a no-host bar, a silent auction and more. Costumes are encouraged at the event, the more colorful and flamboyant the better. Come prepared to dance to the sounds of the Uptown Kings, a local Delta Blues band, or relax and enjoy the festivities with a cocktail in your hand. Clarke Historical Museum events are always a great time. Grab a pair of tickets for yourself and a friend, and enjoy a wonderful, unique evening in beautiful Bayside. Proceeds provide necessary funding to the Clarke Historical Museum. Call (707) 443-1947 or come into the Clarke Historical Museum at 240 E street to purchase tickets. Tickets are also available on brownpapertickets.com.

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.



Current Exhibitions

The Hailstone Collection

September 6, 2014– September 5, 2015

The Clarke Museum presents the recently donated Hailstone Collection of Yurok, Karuk and Hupa baskets. The collection is mostly from the revival period and primarily consists of “made for the trade” or baskets made for sale. Vivien Hailstone was an important advocate for basket weaving at a time when the tradition was falling away.

-Curated by Ben Brown and Ron Johnson

Upcoming Exhibitions

The Hover Collection

January 28, 2015–October 2015

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, this collection represents some of the most amazing Native American basketry in the world. This permanent collection was first displayed at the Clarke on May 13, 1985.

Local Music Scene Exhibit

January 28, 2015– April 1, 2015

A display of photos, records, instruments and other local music related objects connected with upcoming television series, *Stories from the Clarke*.

Clarke Museum Textile Collection

January 28, 2015– April 1, 2015

A variety of periods will be represented and diverse styles of clothing, hats, and accessories will be featured in this attractive display.

Upcoming Events

Reopening Preview: Members Only

January 24, 2015

5:00 p.m.–7:00 p.m.

Come check out the newly remodeled Clarke Museum before we open our doors to the general public. Staff will be available to answer questions and snacks and refreshments will be provided.

Premiere Reception: *Stories from the Clarke*

January 30, 2015

5:00 p.m.–7:00 p.m.

Join Clarke Museum board member Bill Morrill as he previews the upcoming local documentary series, *Stories from the Clarke*. Snacks and refreshments will be served.

4th Annual Murder Mystery Dinner

February 7, 2015

Doors at 5:00 p.m./Show at 6:00 p.m.

Join the Clarke Historical Museum at the Bayside Grange for our 4th Annual Murder Mystery Masquerade on February 7, 2015. Presale tickets are available at the Clarke for \$50 and will be available at the door for \$55. Proceeds provide necessary funding to the Clarke Historical Museum.

2015 Open House

Saturday February 28

The Clarke will be holding an Open House event following the complete remodeling of the Main Hall exhibit space. We will offer tours, presentations and membership specials at the museum that day. Refreshments will be served and door prizes will be given out throughout the event. More details coming soon.

Remodeling Proceeding as Planned

The museum will be closed **January 7th to January 27th**, allowing us time to do some rearranging. We have decided to re-vamp the exhibit floor space in the main hall in an attempt to make a better flow throughout the Museum. This will allow us to better address specific topics, in addition to establishing more kid-friendly areas for activities. Come check it out when we reopen on **January 28, 2015**, or come to a special **Members-Only Preview on Saturday, January 24th**. We are also re-designing and enhancing our gift shop. Other changes include the reorganization of our natural history collection, expansion of display space for our collection of firearms, and the dedication of a space which will highlight and honor local veterans. We are all very excited about the changes and hope you will understand the necessity of closing our doors during this period of reorganization. An **Open House** is scheduled for **Saturday, February 28th**.



CLARKE HISTORICAL MUSEUM

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A Word from the Director: 2014 in Review/2015 Preview

Last year proved to be another successful year for the **Clarke Museum**, thanks to a dedicated Board of Directors, volunteers, staff and community. Highlights of 2014 include the repair and repainting of water damaged areas around the museum by **Hamanaka Painting**, donations of incredible items from the community, and hosted many community events on the way to



successfully meeting our financial goals. In total, we had 14,205 visitors last year and volunteers logged 1,351 hours. All-in-all, 2014 was an incredible year for the Clarke Museum.

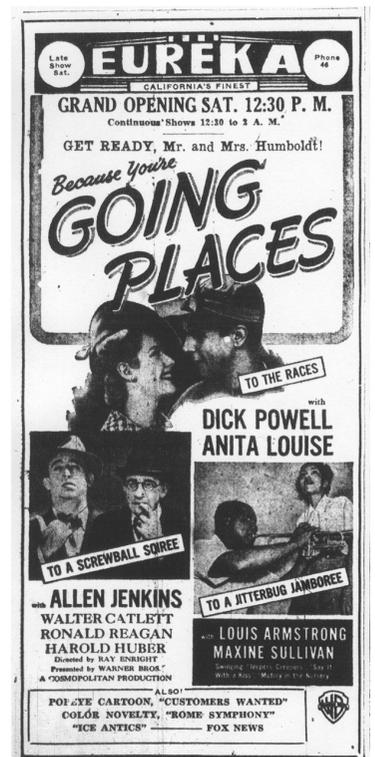
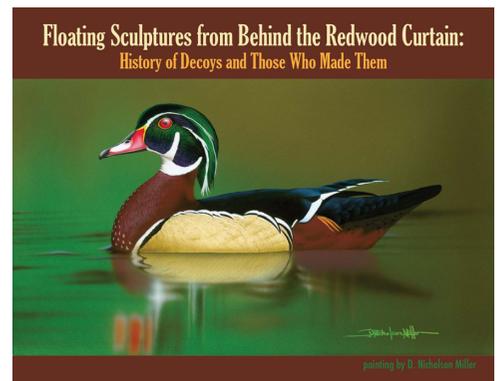
Our fundraising continues to improve year-over-year with the successful introduction of our annual **Redwood Coast Beer & Barbeque Competition** at **Redwood Acres**, augmenting our annual **Murder Mystery Dinner** fundraiser, now on its fourth year, the annual **Donkey Days at Ft. Humboldt** and the **Golden Spike Celebration** weekend, which was a jam-packed three day event commemorating the advent of the rail connection to the Bay Area. In addition, we hosted many free family-friendly days and historical lectures throughout the year, many of which were sponsored by local businesses. We will continue to host many events going forward.

We had many exhibits in 2014, both large and small. Thank you to all the local organizations and people who loaned items from their collection to help make these possible and thank you to all who helped work on these exhibits, most notably **Ron Johnson**,

Carol Hale, **Ben Sheppard**, **Rosemary Hunter**, **Brad Marshall**, **Mariah Wellman**, **Diane Pialorsi** and **Carly Marino**. The major exhibits were “Natinixwe: The Hupa People” which carried over from 2013, “Floating Sculptures from Behind the Redwood Curtain: The History of Decoys and Those Who Made Them” (sponsored by **Pacific Outfitters**), “Eureka Theater’s 75th Anniversary,” “Local WWI Veterans,” “150th Anniversary of Organized Fire Service in Eureka,” “100th Anniversary of the NWP Railroad,” “50th Anniversary of the 1964 Flood,” “Nettie Ruben: Karuk Basket Weaver” and “The Hailstone Collection of Native American Baskets.” These were complimented with many smaller exhibits such as Diane Pialorsi’s Christmas display and a Bank of Eureka exhibit (sponsored by **Umpqua Bank**).



We continue to actively apply for grants to fund our many goals, thank you to all our generous funders. We received a total of \$33,518 in grants in 2014. With this money we were able to help realize some major goals, most specifically securing funding for the forthcoming WWII memorial at the regional airport and creating a three-part documentary in partnership with **KEET** called *Stories from the Clarke*, led by **Bill Morrill**. Both of these projects will be completed in 2015. In addition, we received funding for projects such as the renovation of the Clarke’s antiquated electrical system, the conservation of a handwritten letter from **Ulysses Grant**. (Cont. on p. 4)





CLARKE HISTORICAL MUSEUM

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Director (continued from p. 3)

Outside funding also enabled us to purchase supplies for better storing the **Grant Quilt**,



to transport Hoopa Valley students by bus to the museum for a tour, and allowed us to hold many free family-friendly days at the Clarke. Last year we received a total of 55 new accessions, comprising 658 items. While all donations hold a special connection to Humboldt County and contribute significantly to the Museum's collection, two donations in particular stand out, the **Humboldt State University Gun Club Collection** and the **Hailstone Collection** of local Native American Bas-

kets. Looking ahead to 2015, we continue to actively strive to maintain our connection to the community as a regional hub for cultural and historical activities. On **January 28**, we will reopen our doors to the public, following a remodel. You will find differences in the entry way, a rearranged gift shop, the creation of a more prominent natural history section, a permanent, yet rotating, local veteran's corner and a larger space to better accommodate crowds for events in the Main Hall. We are already working with **Redwood Coast Energy Authority** to swap out the overhead fluorescent lamps with UV-free digital bulbs, which are not only better for the collection, but reduce energy consumption. We are also beginning a Native American basket weaving class taught by **Wilverna Reece** and **Deanna Dodds**, my hope is for this to be a recurring course heading into the future.

We also have an exciting exhibit schedule planned. When we reopen to the public, the Main Hall will feature an exhibit on the Clarke's textile collection and an exhibit on the local music scene, while the **Hover Collection** will once again be on view in Nealis Hall. I am particularly excited about a traveling exhibit created by the **East Bay Heritage Quilters** titled "WWII Home Front Quilts," which opens on June 24th. We are partnering with **Humboldt Crabs Baseball** and **Jack Nash** on an exhibit of the history of local

baseball. Continue to check our website for exhibit information and updates.

Grants, fundraising and working with the **City of Eureka**, in hopes of maintaining their support, continue to be a primary focus and concern for us going forward as funding for educational non-profits like ours is constantly under threat. Nonetheless, our commitment to serving the community and maintaining our mission of being an educational facility dedicated to local history will continue to guide us into the future. Thank you for being a part of the Clarke Museum. [BB]



Michelle Lee, MEd, MA

Marriage & Family Therapist



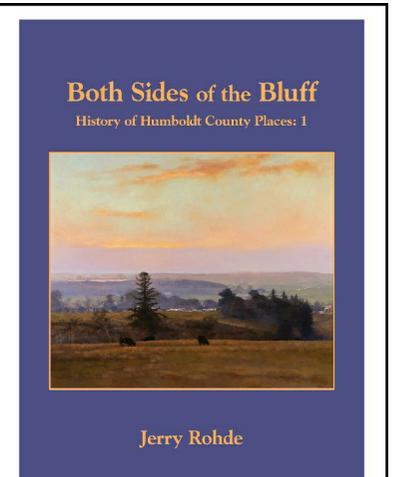
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Stories from the Clarke

Bill Morrill will unveil his project, *Stories from the Clarke*, at a premiere reception at the Clarke Museum on January 30, 2015 from 5:00-7:00 p.m. The television series focuses on the museum, our local maritime heritage, and the heyday of the once bustling waterfront district. This project was a joint effort of Clarke Board Member **Bill Morrill, KEET** and the **Clarke Historical Museum** and was made possible by **Cal Humanities Community Stories** and **Humboldt Area Foundation**. Refreshments will be served throughout the evening. The upcoming three-part series will be airing on **PBS KEET-13** on Tuesdays this February.

Stories from the Clarke Schedule

Tuesday, February 3

Tuesday, February 10

Tuesday, February 17

*All showings are at 7:30 p.m.
on PBS KEET-13*

Art's Corner

Lavina Electra Smith Bancroft was a local young woman when she entered the local Polk Directory listings as a bookkeeper living at 1205 B Street, Eureka, in 1920. Through the 1920s, Lavina worked at a variety of locations, her job description changing back and forth from bookkeeper to stenographer. She worked at (in temporal order) Campton & Dalton groceries, Way's Garage (its owner, Arthur Way, prominent in local and state politics), and the Fred Hollander jewelry store. In 1922, she moved into a house at 811 C Street, a pleasant looking two story at 8th and C. At that time, the owner of the house was listed as Mrs. S.J. Smith, and although Smith is very much a common name, it seems probable that the owner was Lavina's mother. Beginning in 1930, Lavina owned the house jointly with a married mechanic, Floyd Cousino, who lived there with his family.

In 1927, Lavina advertised herself both as a stenographer who was proficient with the Lister accounting system. Three years later, she advertised herself as an accountant for the first time, but the early thirties were the severe Depression-era years and, in 1932, Lavina is simply listed as a clerk. Eventually, she moved to the Hillside Apartments, later moving to a succession of houses she shared with her husband, Dwight Bancroft, also an accountant. The couple wed during World War II and, by 1950, had their own office in the Professional Building at 507 F Street in Eureka. Together, they made a go of it in their accounting business well into the 1980s (Lavina must have been in her eighties at this point). (*Cont. on p. 6*)





Natural History: The California Condor

We have a wonderful assortment of rocks, birds and other natural history artifacts at the Clarke Historical Museum. One of the most impressive specimens is the California Condor, which is being relocated to its own display case which will be featured prominently within the Main Hall of the museum. The California Condor, *Gymnogyps californianus*, is an endangered species with an interesting history and, hopefully, a storied future. The absence of the condor affects the ecosystem and the people of the North Coast. A natural scavenger, condors are equipped with beaks which are tough enough to rip apart hides of large carcasses, allowing smaller species of scavengers access to whatever remains the Condor leaves behind. Some local indigenous communities consider the condor a sacred animal, here since the beginning of time. Condor feathers constitute a spiritual component of regalia prepared for important World Renewal ceremonies such as the White Deerskin Dance, a religious cultural event held to bring harmony to an imbalanced world.

Prior to the arrival of the gold rush settlers, these birds were abundant, but with the flocks of rugged miners arriving in such overwhelming numbers the condors did not stand a chance. The sacred birds were killed for sport, as well as for their quills, in which miners stored their gold dust. By 1890, a decline in population was evident to researchers, who laid the responsibility for the depopulation on hunting, poisoning and accidental trapping. Fewer than 25 of these majestic birds existed by 1985. At present, close to 300 condors survive, thanks to the effort of many groups, agencies, associations, tribes and zoos.



The Yurok Tribe is determined to bring condors back to Yurok Ancestral Territory for good. Reintroduction efforts have been underway for quite some time. Currently, the tribe is sampling potential food sources, such as whales and sea lions, as well as other species of scavengers in the area, to assure that the environment meets the standards necessary for reintroduction on tribal lands. If all goes well, residents may soon catch a glimpse of a California Condor spreading its enormous wings over Humboldt County. [JP]

Corner (continued from p.3)



Lavina Bancroft had a hobby, hand-painting ceramics, which she began when still a young woman. Her will named the Clarke Museum the recipient of some of her work. She used six different patterns, mostly floral, producing one extremely large set and several smaller ones. She often dated and/or put her name on the bottom of the pieces as “Lavina Smith,” “L. Smith,” or simply her initials, “LS.” The earliest dated piece in our collection was painted in 1927. Almost all of her 380 pieces in the Clarke collection were hand painted between 1933 and 1937. It is possible that the 1930s brought little work to Lavi-

na’s doorstep, allowing her a lot of spare time in which to decorate her ceramics. Of course, this was accomplished before her marriage and the growth of their jointly-operated business. Whether or not she ever found the time and inclination to resume her artistic endeavors is not known to us. If any reader can broaden our knowledge of Lavina or her ceramics, we would appreciate a letter or a call. [AB]



CLARKE HISTORICAL MUSEUM

SPRING 2015



Thank You New & Returning Members

Guy Aronoff	Humboldt Gem & Mineral Society	Erich Schimps
Marietta Bell	Humboldt Redwood Association	Roy Sheppard
Peggy & Don Bollinger	Jack & Peggy Irvine	Dale Ann Sherman
Janice & Jim Boozer	Kara Klarner	Dean Silvers
Kay Chaffey	James Ladwig	Elaine Skelly
Dr. Norm & Sally Christensen	Michelle Lee	Victoria Small
Aleda Cloud	Zephyr Markowitz	Charles Smith
George & Marian Cocks	Suzie & Kurt McCray	Carolyn Sumrall
Judy Dresser	Correine Mendes	Elizabeth Thompson
Christyl Escarda	Amber Mitchell	Martha Traphagen
Tricie Evans	Joice Moore	William Troiano
Barbara Fales	Judith Murphy	Don Tuttle
Steve & Terry Fini	Edward & Joan Nilsen	Melani Van Petten
Drs. L. Minor & R. Fischer	Michael Peterson	Ole Vanderlinde
Edith & Ron Fritzsche	H. E. Pierson Company	Harry & Jan Vaughn
Nancy Frost	Dale Reinholtsen	Candida Vodden
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Arlene Hartin	Joseph & Karen Russ	Leon & Elaine Warmuth
Hesse, Green, Piland & Corsetti	Jeanne Sapunor	Pat & Allan Watson
Ken Hoard	Carolyn Schenler	Deborah Wilson
Bill Hole	Chip Sharpe	Tom & Sharalee Wilson
Richard Holland		

Jeanne Nash Memorial Donations

Ellie Beckman	Thomas Hannah	Janice Mitchell
Jack and Winona Nash	Dick and Debbie Storre	Wendy Wahlund
	John and Sandra Winzler	

Barbara Brown Endowment
Arlene Hartin

Louise Walund-Peterson Memorial
Millie Brucker

Giving Tuesday
Jeanne Sapunor



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Clarke Historical Museum

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