

CLARKE HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Spring 2010

Quarterly Publication

Happy Birthday, Clarke Museum!

The Clarke Museum turns 50 this year! Actually it is decades older, but 1960 is when history teacher Cecile Clarke moved her museum from Eureka High School to its present location in the old Bank of Eureka building. A bronze plaque on the building commemorates the opening ceremonies that were held on Aug. 21, 1960. And now a new exhibit celebrates that birthday, displaying photographs, documents and memorabilia from the Clarke's history. Be sure to visit the museum soon and wish it many happy returns!

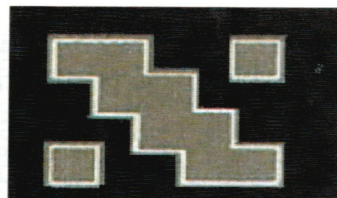


Photo from the Dedication Ceremony

One Century Ago

Three table-top cases at the Museum are currently showing a glimpse of life here in 1910. Included are cards postmarked that year, local business receipts, school photos and yearbooks, and lots of other fun things. Come glimpse how times have changed--and stayed the same.

The Mission of the Clarke Historical Museum - The acquisition, display and custodial care of objects representing the legacy of Northwestern California. Our purpose is to publicly inform, educate and celebrate the area's rich cultural diversity.



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Something Old, Something New

The "new" is a new exhibit displaying "old" wedding dresses and associated items. Twenty two dresses are included, all but two of which have never been displayed here before. They range from the 1870s to the 1990s. An interesting observation from the exhibit is how the dresses changed along with the predominant styles of their decades. An 1880s dress boasts its bustle, a 1920s dress has that flapper look, and the 1980s gown has all the extravagant sparkle of its time. There are three outfits from the Depression and War years when brides often wore "good" clothes but not white. Cake toppers, wedding invitations, bride dolls, magazines, sheet music and lots of photos are included as well. The exhibit will run through June--of course.



Humboldt on the Move

Currently the area to the right of the Museum entrance has a railroad exhibit with photographs and other reminders of our railroading past. Next scheduled for that space is an exhibit dealing with air transportation. Commercial, private and military air travel will be featured along with some wonderful aerial photos. So if you're interested in transportation by rail or air or have items on either subject to donate, come by the Museum.

Wright House Tour

Once again Jerry and Sandra Peterson will open their historic Eureka house at 1230 H Street for tours to raise funds for the Clarke Museum. Due to ill health, open houses were suspended for awhile but on Saturdays April 3 and May 1 the public will again



Exterior Photo of the Wright House

have the opportunity to see the beautifully furnished home and large collection of Cora Wright paintings. Cora was a well known local artist in the early 20th century and much of her work was done in the third floor studio of this house. The house itself was built in 1905 and combines elements of Victorian and Craftman styles. Unique stained glass and wood carvings were done by Charles Wright, a prominent Eureka jeweler. The open house will run from 10:30 to 3:30 with tickets at \$12.00 available at the door or the museum. Delightful New

Orleans style refreshments will be served. Please no children under 12.

Call (707)443-1947 or (707)444-2970 for more information.

Nealis Hall News

The Clarke Museum and the Karuk Tribe are partnering up to create a new exhibit this summer. While we still are in the planning and development phase, we are excited to announce that Lyn Risling will be creating original artwork for the exhibit, and visitors will have the option of listening to an audio tour of the exhibit in both English and in the Karuk language on portable mp3 players. With the addition of labels written in Braille, our aim is to foster an environment open to all members of the community at large. Stay tuned for an "official" exhibit opening date!

Upcoming Benefit **POSTPONED**

On Saturday April 24, immediately following Eureka's annual Rhodendron Parade, the Clarke Museum and the Humboldt Botanical Gardens will serve tea and scones at the garden site adjacent to College of the Redwoods. Tours of the gardens will be conducted by HBG and a selection of vintage spring hats will be available for purchase, with proceeds benefiting the Clarke Museum. Plan to attend this free event from noon to 4pm. For details call 707-834-2122.

Gift Shop News

We've been doing a lot of reorganizing and spiffing-up in the Museum Gift Shop. Furniture has been rearranged, displays rethought and new merchandise brought in. Among the new items are agate jewelry by Sandy Factor, scenic photo cards by Art Barab, new pine needle baskets by Lillie Johnson, and seashells painted with delightful scenes by Helen Thompson. Also some spectacular Native American theme prints and gift cards by Lyn Risling are now for sale. For all the work we have many people to thank, particularly Constance Clark, Ben Brown, Lynn and Mariah Wellman, and Board member Gary Albee. Special thanks go to Roger Smith who is designing and building new book shelves and a print rack. Already the giftshop is roomier and more welcoming, and it will soon be even better. We are trying to stock the shop with more locally made items, books etc. So, if you have any contacts or suggestions, let us know!

Volunteer Thanks

All of our volunteers are greatly appreciated as they are an integral part of keeping the Museum going, but this spring special thanks goes to Linda Kwan who is using her considerable sewing skills making shelf covers for our Native American storage area. Lots of other volunteer activities are available including the opportunity to help staff the Clarke's table at the upcoming Jazz Festival. Please call us if interested.

Hearing Dog

Our office manager Constance Clark is Hard of Hearing, and in April she will acquire a hearing assistance dog from Canine Companions for Independence. It is a golden retriever and lab mix and a real sweetie. But we are all asked not to touch or make a big fuss over the dog, because it has a job to do and needs to stay focused.