





## From Sawdust to Uranium

Ever wondered what a World War II tanker and a nuclear power plant might have in common? That is just one of the questions that will be answered in a new exhibit at the Clarke Museum on the history of electrical generation in Humboldt County.

The exhibit, *From Sawdust to Uranium: 130 Years of Electricity in Humboldt County* examines how electric power developed in Humboldt County, as well as to demystify how power plants operate.

As a relatively isolated pocket on the broader electrical grid, Humboldt County has a unique story to tell. Out of necessity, power has been generated from a variety sources over the years, from burning sawdust waste created by logging operations, to importing hydroelectric power, to oil and gas-fired steam plants and even operating a nuclear reactor.

In particular, PG&E Humboldt Bay Power Plant was the first privately funded nuclear power plant built in the United States for the sole purpose of providing commercial electricity. The construction and operation of this facility was a pioneering achievement in the energy industry and influenced the engineering and design of power plants across the country.



Constructed in 1910 by Western States Electric, Station B operated by primarily burning sawmill waste.

The California Energy Commission (CEC) determined the Humboldt Bay Power Plant's Unit 3 historically significant, and as part of the decommissioning process, PG&E documented the history of the power plant, as well as the broader history of electricity in Humboldt County.

PG&E, in collaboration with the Clarke Museum, is sponsoring the exhibit on this unique history. The displays will provide information on the various stages of electric generation in the region, from the first sawmills all the way through decommissioning of the nuclear and oil-fired power plants. Models, diagrams and oral histories from local plant retirees will illustrate how pieces of the

power plant operated. There will even be an interactive reproduction of the control panels from the control room of the decommissioned nuclear unit. This is an opportunity for kids of all ages to learn about the past, present and future of electricity in our own backyard. The exhibit will open December 1st and run through July 30, 2013.

**Michelle Lee, MEd, MA**

Marriage & Family Therapist



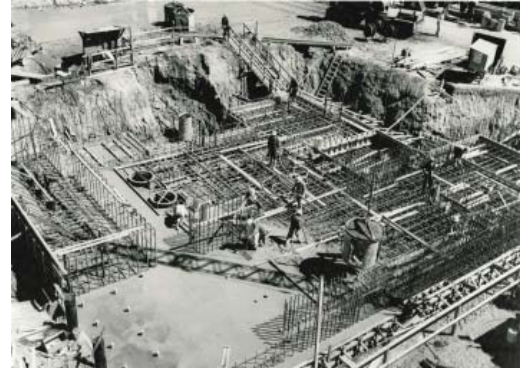
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PG&E Turbine Building, circa 1961

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## MADE for the TRADE

Reviewed by Dina Fernandez

Showcasing the work of Native American basket makers from Northwest California, *Made for the Trade* is an exhibition featuring woven items expressly crafted for the curio trade which flourished between 1880 to 1929. Most of the items displayed are between 60 and 120 years old and represent an exquisite



Brizard Basket Collection, c. 1900,  
Arcata Store, Ericson Collection,  
Humboldt State University Library

sampling of work by local artisans of Karuk, Yurok, Hupa, and Wiyot heritage who created baskets to supply a demand spurred by the Arts-and-Crafts Movement. The presentation explores the relationship between the dealers and individual weavers that influenced a new style, the anthropologists who sought to document the traditional art of basket making, the photographers who helped popularize regional baskets, and the perception of those collectors of Indian goods who drove the market.

Of special interest is the enterprise of Alexander Brizard, a resident of Arcata and founder of the largest mercantile corporation in Northwestern California who prompted the creation of finely woven fancy baskets to be sold as art. As well, there is photographer Emma B. Freeman, who owned a studio in Eureka and furthered romantic notions of Native Americans

through her artistic interpretation. She also promoted the celebrity of her friend, Bertha M. Thompson, as a Royal Indian Maid at the San Francisco Panama Pacific Exposition.

Made for the Trade introduces us to master weavers such as Nettie Ruben, Elizabeth Hickox, Emma Duskey Frank, Amy Smoker, Ina Faustino, and others with a detailed appraisal of the designs, materials, and techniques that define their individual styles. Whether one is well acquainted with the craft of Native American basketry or interested in the topic, all will find a new appreciation for the extraordinary talent that is unique to our region. The exhibit is on display until May, 1 2013.

## THE LITTLE SHOP IN THE MUSEUM

When holiday shopping this season, stop by the Clarke Museum gift shop. Looking for some tasty treats



Robin's Mosaics magnets make the perfect stocking stuffer

for the foodie on your list? The museum has Mad River Jam, Humboldt Hot Sauce, Bouijie Baked Goods, and old time candy and gum. For the little ones the museum has blocks, toys, marbles, and picture books. For the lady in your life choose from a diverse array of jewelry. Gentlemen may enjoy handcrafted pens. Everyone will love browsing our book shelves full of stories of Humboldt County History.

From handmade aprons to hand woven baskets, the perfect gift this season is in



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240 E Street in Eureka, CA 95501



## CELEBRATING ONE HUNDRED YEARS

On October 20th, the Clarke Museum held a centennial celebration to honor all those who contributed to the roof fund raiser. The initial repairs are completed and we are waiting until the end of the rainy season to begin work on the damaged wall. Thank you to the many individuals and organizations who made the repairs possible. The following text is an except from a presentation by Chuck Petty, President of the Heritage Society, to commemorate the building's anniversary.



The Bay Hotel on the corner of Third and E Street.  
Hotel burned down on July, 5 1889.

This year is the 100th anniversary of the Bank of Eureka opening its newly constructed building, which today is home to the Clarke Historical Museum. The area including the Clarke Museum property was originally homesteaded in the 1860s. In 1871, the locally famous Huff House was built on this site and later was known as the Bay Hotel. It was destroyed by a spectacular fire in the late 1880s. The Bay Hotel was the temporary home of the Newsome brothers architects when they were supervising the construction of the William Carson Mansion/ Ingomar Club and other homes in the area.

The Bank of Eureka and the Savings Bank of Humboldt County opened a two-story brick building on this site which was incorporated October 4, 1889, and opened for business July 1, 1890. The original board of directors included William Carson. In July of 1911 the brick building was demolished to make way for this new building and the bank offices were moved across the street during construction.

The 1911-1912 bank building was designed by the San Francisco Architect Albert Pissis (1852-1914), the architect who introduced the Beaux-Arts architectural style to San Francisco and designed a number of important buildings in the city in the years before and after the 1906 San Francisco earthquake and fire. He was one of the first Americans to study at the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris. He was a major figure in the Neoclassical (Classical Revival) movement, particularly Beaux-Arts, and introduced that style to San Francisco beginning with the Hibernia bank building in 1892. Pissis played a major role in San Francisco's reconstruction following the Great Earthquake of 1906,

both as a designer of a number of the city's landmark buildings and as a member of the Committee of Fifty in charge of the restoration of San Francisco after the great earthquake.



The vaults in the Bank of Eureka - today home to the museum office and library.

In 1954 Bank of Eureka merged with Crocker-Anglo London-Paris National, later Anglo Crocker, then Crocker Citizen, but in 1957 Crocker moved out and the building sat vacant. Cecile Clarke purchased the building in 1959. On June 8, 1960 Clarke Memorial Museum opened at this site and dedicated on August 21, 1960 as a memorial to Miss Clarke's parents, Joseph and Annie Clarke, Humboldt County pioneers of the 1860s. In 1979 Nealis Hall annex opened on the site of the former Liberty Theater.



**INDIAN BASKET DETECTIVE RESEARCH**

On Saturday, December 15th from 2 to 4 p.m. visit the museum to learn about the detective work involved in Native American basket research. Ron Johnson, Board Member of the Clarke and Trinidad Museums, will discuss his discoveries while assembling the *Made for the Trade* exhibit that is currently on display at the Clarke Museum. He will focus on the Hover Collection through Lila O'Neale's field notes as well as ledgers and letters from Brizards. The talk is sure to make for an informative and interesting afternoon.



Pink Geraniums, Watercolor  
by Charlotte Moore

**CELEBRATING ART AT THE CLARKE**

You are invited to the Clarke Museum on Thursday, December 13th from 5:30 to 7 p.m. to enjoy the vibrant watercolors of Charlotte Moore. Charlotte was born in Oakland, California, and studied art at San Francisco Art Institute and at the University of California, Berkeley. She taught in Oakland Public Schools, in Chico State extension classes, Mendocino Art Center and Butte Community College. She has given private lessons in watercolor, portrait drawing and painting. Her paintings will be on display throughout the museum, and half of all proceeds from artwork sales will benefit the museum. Come

find a beautiful painting for the mantel or under the tree. Refreshments will be served.

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