



CLARKE MUSEUM

Summer 2014

Celebrating 150 years of Organized Fire Service

The Clarke Historical Museum is celebrating the 150th anniversary of organized fire service in Eureka with a large display on loan from the Humboldt Bay Fire Authority.

The first years of settlement on the edges of Humboldt Bay brought many hasty structures, one against another. Mills were hurriedly built. Fire hazards were not considered until losses were felt. The fire at Pioneer Mill led to the first organized firefighting efforts in Eureka in the form of bucket brigades in the late 1850s.



On February 16, 1864, a group of six prominent citizens visited the Town Trustees and made a formal application for a tax levy to purchase equipment for firefighting purposes. Eureka Fire Department was officially recognized by the Town Trustees and given permission to borrow \$1,500. This sum of money was


loaned by 36 citizens in varying amounts from \$5 to \$100.

The first piece of firefighting equipment was a used 1849 Hunneman hand operated pump-er from Chelsea, Mass. purchased by John Dolbeer in San Francisco in 1864. A schooner fire in October, 1864, at the Vance Wharf gave the engine its first service. With this piece of equipment, Torrent Engine Company #1 was formed and this was Eureka's fire protection until 1871. On June 15, 1871 the first regular fire company was formed and became known as Eureka Hose Co. #1. On August 16, 1872 the company changed its title to Eureka Engine Company #1.

On display are historic photos, uniforms, and equipment outlining this important organization's history. Bring the whole family to the Clarke to try on firefighter uniforms and explore 150 years of fire service in Eureka.

Join The Club

Calling all kids! Do you love the Clarke Museum? Next time you visit the museum, ask to join the Clarke Kids Club. You will receive your very own membership card. After you visit the museum four times you will receive a prize. This free club is open to kids twelve and under. Join today!



Clarke Kids Club

Print your Name

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2nd

3rd

4th

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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, in order to further appreciation by residents, visitors and school children of the area's rich and diverse heritage, and to promote increased visitation to our historic region.



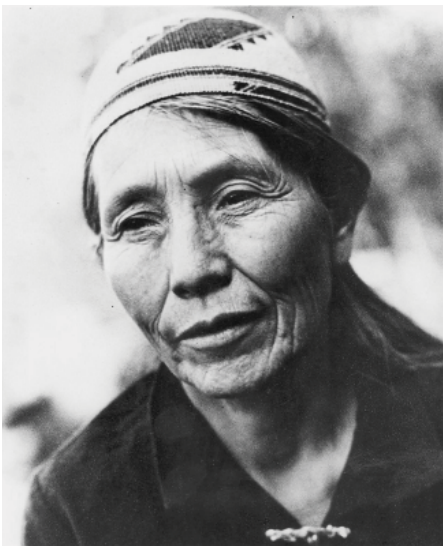
The Basketry of Nettie Ruben Exhibit at the Clarke

Nettie Ruben (c. 1875-1957) was described by Lila O’Neale as the best known and most excellent basket weaver up and down the Klamath River. She introduced several new features into her baskets in form, use, and design that other weavers subsequently adopted. Almost all of the weavers O’Neale interviewed in 1929 were weaving baskets for sale and Nettie is the most innovative weaver of baskets with an art emphasis. Some of her baskets are even more finely woven than Elizabeth Hickox’s. She was also a great story teller of traditional stories.

Our exhibition (July 5, 2014 – January 3, 2015) and catalog of the basketry of Nettie Ruben has been in preparation for two years with research at several major museums and libraries from the Museum of the American Indian in Washington D.C. to university collections at Harvard, Stanford, California State Univeristy San Diego, and all the local museums and libraries.



*Nettie Ruben, Purse, c.1900-1910
Long Worm design, Hazel sticks,
pine & willow roots, bear grass, five
fingered fern, beige cotton thread, wool
18.5x17cm # 1983.042.083*



*Nettie Ruben c. 1910s
Wes Hoteling Collection*

Six individuals who knew Nettie Ruben and were friends and relatives establish the catalog biography. The Clarke Museum has about 20 baskets by her, more than any other basket maker in the Hover Collection of Karuk baskets. This and 29 other baskets from museums and private Indian collections are the foundation of the exhibition. This project is an important part of the pioneering work of understanding and appreciating an art weaver, which has been well developed for Elizabeth Hickox but not for Nettie Ruben, who is equally great. In conclusion the exhibition will be the result of a number of different types of detective work as well as traditional anthropological and art historical approaches. Elizabeth Hickox has been called the Van Gogh of basket weaving. Nettie Ruben is the Picasso of basket weaving given her very broad and innovative use of the medium.

by Ron Johnson, Special Curator for the Clarke Historical Musuem

Michelle Lee, MEd, MA LIC. #35463
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CLARKE HISTORICAL MUSEUM

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Kids, Coins & Piggy Bank Day

Paint a piggy bank and learn about history! The Clarke Historical Museum is hosting a FREE kid's arts & crafts event at the museum Wednesday, **July 16, 2014 from 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.** Sponsored by Umpqua Bank, children 17 and under are invited to come learn important lessons about money management and history while having fun with arts and crafts.



*Bank of Eureka, c. 1930s
John Winzler Collection*

The Clarke Museum is always a great and inexpensive outing for Humboldt County children during the summer. "Kids, Coins & Piggy Bank Day" will feature an exhibit displaying artifacts from when our building was the Bank of Eureka. There will be money games, coloring & activity pages, and the first 60 children will be able to paint a piggy bank to take home with them to start saving for the future. An educator from Umpqua bank will be at the museum leading age specific classes, using a curriculum based on state education standards.

Contact Amber at (707) 443-1947 or clarkehistorical@att.net with any questions.

Barbara Johnston-Brown Endowment

By Ben Brown

My step-mother, Barbara Johnston-Brown passed away on Mother's Day in 2013. While she was never a resident of Humboldt County, she was an avid supporter of community based non-profits and held a particular fondness for the Clarke Museum. Barbara was always generous with her time and resources and had an acute business sense. Through the many discussions she and I had, particularly during her last six months, we often spoke about the financial difficulties facing the Clarke Museum. She understood the stability a strong endowment has for an institution like ours. As part of her last will and testament, she left \$10,000 to the Clarke Museum as a challenge matching grant, hoping to spur the community to not only match her contribution but to galvanize others to begin similar matching programs to safeguard Humboldt County history far into the future.

The Clarke Museum's endowment fund began with Cecile Clarke whose dedication to teaching future generations about Humboldt County history is a lasting legacy of hers, one we continue to honor today. Over the Clarke Museum's history, many individuals have followed Ms. Clarke's lead by volunteering time and resources to this institution, illustrating this community's commitment to honoring the past while maintaining a belief in a future where history and education are valued. Barbara is now a part of this legacy and you can be too! There are two ways you can participate- as a Donor and as a Benefactor. As a Donor, every dollar you contribute now will be matched 100% with a dollar from Barbara's challenge grant. So every dollar you give provides \$2 to continue our operations and special projects. And every gift is 100% tax deductible. As a Benefactor, you could, as Barbara did, pledge a specific amount, either outright or as a challenge grant, to go to the Clarke from your estate.

Want to help us meet this challenge? Send in a check or credit card donation, or donate online. Consider giving a gift of stock or making the Endowment Fund a beneficiary of an IRA. Call the Museum at (707) 443-1947 to contact Ben Brown, Director/Curator, Roy Sheppard, Board President, or John Winzler finance committee chair to talk about these or other possibilities for giving.

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E Street, Eureka, CA 95501



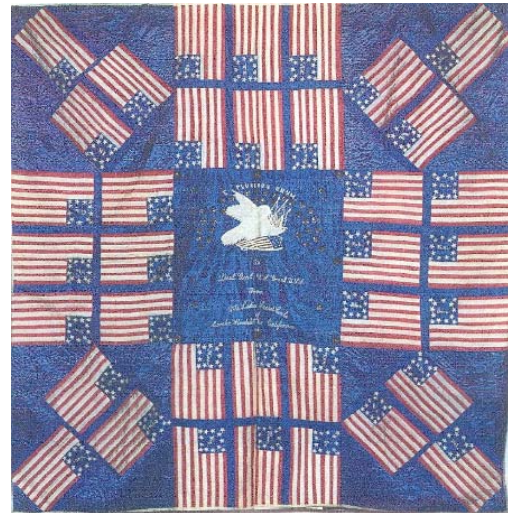
School Tours and New Activity Book

The Clarke Museum had another busy year of school tours. The end-of-the-school-year tour season brought 20 classes in to visit the museum. Thank you to our stellar tour guide team: Amber, Ben, Brad, Carly, Dimitra, Dina, Jerab, Julian, Laura, Lyn, Nancy and Ron. Hundreds of students learned about Humboldt County history through your tours! Several out-of-area Humboldt Schools were provided gas money for their buses thanks to Humboldt Sponsors. The museum will offer more adult tours during the summer months. The next scheduled tour is Wednesday, July 23rd at 1pm. Join Dina to learn about the history of the museum and more about the exhibits on display.

Adventures in the Clarke Museum, a coloring book for students visiting the museum is complete! This 32 page book includes activities and information for children to work through while visiting the museum. The project was made possible through a generous grant from the Humboldt Sponsors and the Arcata Foundation. Thank you Carly, Darcy and Naomi for all their hard work creating these books. Contact the museum to learn more about the project, and look for the book in our gift shop in the future.

Thank you Redwood Empire Quilters Guild

The Clarke Museum is honored to receive a generous grant from the Redwood Empire Quilters Guild to purchase a protective cover for the Grant-banner quilt and have a professional conservator preserve the two letters connected to the quilt's history. Once completed the museum will frame the letters and have a series of talks, displays and newsletter articles related to the quilts' history.



In 1865, the Grant - banner quilt was made by the Humboldt County Ladies Social Circle of Eureka. The quilt was auctioned off to raise funds to assist the Union troops. After the auction, the people of Humboldt County gave the quilt to U.S. Grant.

On July 7, 1865, Mrs. H.S. Hines (a member of the Ladies Social Circle) wrote to Ulysses Grant, "Remembering that you had formerly been a resident of this County and feeling a desire to aid in all practical ways the noble cause you were so successful defending with your sword, the Good Ladies of the Social Circle of Eureka. . ." She went on to describe how the quilt was made and auctioned to raise money for wounded veterans, and then sent the letter accompanied by the quilt "as a token of their sincere esteem".

On October 6, 1865, Grant replied, "Your letter of July 7 has but just reached me accompanying the beautiful quilt which the Ladies of Eureka through yourself have sent me. Please accept for them my thanks for it and for the kind terms in which you speak of [?]." The letter has portions that are illegible due to condition, but Grant signs the letter and continues to thank the women. Thank you to the Quilters Guild for helping the Museum preserve this important collection of Humboldt County history!

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In memory of Lynn Wellman, from Dannie Slack
 In memory of Nancy Gomes, from Jeanne Nash
 In memory of Dick Nash, from Connie Smith
 In memory Howard Cleoptil, from Albert and Majorie Crnich

Adopt a Veteran Campaign Contributors

Thank you to all the contributors to the museum's "Adopt a Veteran" fundraising campaign. This money will not only defer the cost of professionally cataloging and preserving Kathrin Burlison's WWII veteran portraits, but also provide funding for the memorial at the airport, and allow us the flexibility to pursue other projects to help educate the public about the role local WWII veterans played in that conflict and the sacrifices they made to help protect America's values and freedoms.

Annette DeModena honoring Leonard DeModena	Joyce & Dianna Hight honoring John Credico
Arlene Hartin honoring Al Masterson	Mary Barber honoring Calvin Kernen
Belinda Zander honoring Carl Zander	Millie Bruckner honoring Anonymous Veterans
Catherine Mace honoring Hugh Paz	MOAA Humboldt/Del Norte ~ Airport Memorial
Catherine Mace honoring Ben Chin	Pasty Givins & Larry Finigan honoring Al Crnich
Catherine Mace honoring Thomas H. Monroe Jr.	Rusty & Alverna Moore honoring Herbert Wall
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Evon Stalker & Jim Hill honoring Joseph Cardozo	Steven Justus honoring Lena Walashek
Ferndale Rotary Club ~ Airport Memorial	Trinidad Lions Club ~ Airport Memorial
George & Olive Cozens ~ Airport Memorial	Trudy Olson & Corrie Daer honoring Don Sundquist
Northcoast Vintage Aviation Soc. ~ Airport Memorial	Veteran's of Foreign Wars ~ Airport Memorial
Jimmy & Jacque Smith honoring William Tex Eddleman	Virginia Bass honoring Anonymous Veterans
Joe & Sherrie Gosselin honoring Anthony Gosselin	W.P. Stewart ~ Airport Memorial

And thank you to the many anonymous donors! If you don't see your name and would like to, please contact the museum at 707-443-1947.



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