



CLARKE MUSEUM

Summer 2013

'Natinixwe: The Hupa People' Details Tribal Life

The Clarke Museum is proud to present "Natinixwe: The Hupa People," an exhibit running from July to December 2013. The exhibit combines historic black and white photos from the 1940s and 1950s of the Hoopa Valley Indian Reservation community, taken by tribal member Ernest (Ernie) Leland Marshall Jr. (1913-1961), along with displays of ceremonial regalia made by his grandson, Bradley Marshall, and selected paintings by Hupa artist Loren Lavine and Marlette Grant-Jackson.



*Participants in Indian Princess Contest, circa 1940s.
Ernest Marshall, Jr., Photographer. Collection of Bradley Marshall.*

Ernest Marshall Jr. (1913-1961) was a founding member of the Hoopa Valley Tribal Government (one of the first successful self-governing tribal structures in the nation) and a photographer whose thousands of prints provide a diverse portrait of

the traditions and lifestyle of the Hupa people. These include compelling photographs of ceremonial dances such as the Brush dance and the White Deerskin dance. While it is usually forbidden to take photos of the dances, Ernie Marshall was given special permission to do so by the dance leaders of the time. The Hupa have been successful in maintaining and preserving their lifestyle and traditions in an era of rapid change when loss of tribal culture has been common. This is due in no small part to the efforts of individuals like Ernest Marshall.

Previously on display at the Grace Hudson Museum in Ukiah, California, this popular exhibit was curated by Bradley Marshall.

School is Out for Summer

It was another busy school year at the Clarke Museum, and we could not have done it without our extraordinary tour guides. Thank you to volunteers Dina Fernandez, Susie Freese, Laura Hennings, Diane Duran, Arlene Hartin, Brianna Boyd, Jamie Bush, and Nancy Mathews. Because of their hard work, over 950 Humboldt County students were able to explore the Clarke Museum.

The museum received two generous grants from the Humboldt Sponsors and the Arcata Foundation to create educational packets to further enhance school tours. These will be distributed during the next school year so students can continue to learn about the museum at home. If you are interested in volunteering for this project, please contact Carly at the Museum (707) 443-1947. Lets keep Humboldt History alive for the next generation.

CALENDAR:

Wednesday, July 31st ~ Arthur Johnson's Exhibit Opening ~ 5 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Friday, August 16th ~ PG&E Panel Discussion & Book Signing ~ 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Saturday, August 17th ~ Quilt Bed Turning ~ starts at noon

Saturday, August 24th ~ Salmon, Oysters, Ales & Rails ~ 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Sat., Sept 9th~PG&E Exhibit Closing~Topaz Jazz Trio, musical performance~6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 2nd ~ Redwood Dixie Gators, musical performance ~ 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

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.

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CLARKE HISTORICAL MUSEUM



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Arthur Johnson's "The Leading Clothier" by Jack Nash



Arthur Johnson's, Humboldt County's finest men's full service clothing store closed on July 27, 1995. That terminated seventy-five years of merchandising. When it closed, the owners Art (Thanos) Dalianes and Jack Nash (grandson of Arthur Johnson) declared the business a victim of changes in dress codes, the economy and downtown Eureka. The owners are proud of the store's reputation and its part in the history of Eureka.

Arthur Johnson was the only child of Mary and Nils Eric Johansen, immigrants from Sunsvall, Sweden. They changed the name to Johnson upon arrival in the US. Arthur, born in 1892 in Greenwood, came to Eureka with his parents on a ship from Elk in 1893. Nils Eric worked for the Vance Lumber Company and the family owned a boarding house at 816 2nd St.

Arthur quit school after completing the 8th grade and went to work for Daly's. He had a fondness for men's clothing and then went to work at C.V. Jackson's at 406 2nd St. for three years. At Jackson's he learned sign painting and display. Arthur joined the Navy and did patrol in San Francisco and the Far East. In June of 1919 he was released and returned to work again for Daly's. He worked as a window trimmer and display manager.

On February 14, 1920 he rented a storefront from Mrs. Ricks at 203 "F" Street, got a loan from Christy Palmtag at the Bank of America, and started a business. One of his best customers was Cornelius Daly. 1920 was a big year for Arthur Johnson as he married Madeline Coonan, daughter of James Francis Coonan, on September 5th. They bought a lot at 1335 "H" Street and had a house built in 1926 by Edgar Lax.

Arthur and Madeline had two children, Jeanne Marie Johnson (Nash) and Donn Arthur Johnson. However, tragedy struck in December of 1927 when Madeline, sick for six months, passed away. In August of 1928 Arthur met a local teacher, Clare Wagner, and they were married the following spring. In 1930 Clare gave birth to Janeth Ann Johnson (Nix). All of the children worked at one time in the store.

Arthur moved to the Gross Building at 5th and "F" in 1931. It was next to the Bon Boniere. The store survived the Depression and it began to prosper. Arthur's son Donn returned from the service in 1946 and began working in the store. Jeanne had married an Oregonian named Dick Nash. In 1945 Dick was invited to help at the store and he enjoyed it so much he decided to make it a career. In the mid 1950's Arthur sold the store to Donn and Dick and they took the store through several expansions including purchasing Ned's Menswear in Arcata. In 1970 they took over the former Hornbrook's Shoes location on 5th Street.

In September of 1970 Jack Nash returned from the service and started to work in the store. Old friend Art Dalianes, who had worked part-time for Johnson's in 1960, was managing the Roos Atkins store at Post and Powell in San Francisco in 1972. Dick, Donn & Jack convinced Art to return home and become a partner in the store. He did so in January 1975.

Art and Jack entered into the partnership in 1977 and bought out Dick and Donn in the 1980's. They were prime business years and the store did very well. Eventually the Bayshore Mall was developed and the retail landscape of Eureka began to change. Art and Jack discussed their future for a couple of years before making the decision to close the store in the middle of 1995. They felt very secure in their decision.

The Clarke Museum is hosting an Arthur Johnson's exhibit, curated by Jack Nash. The public is invited to attend the exhibit opening at the museum on Wednesday, July 31st from 5 to 6 p.m. Jack Nash will be at the museum to answer questions, and refreshments will be served.



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In memory of *Eddie Hannah*, from John & Janet Winzler

In memory of *Col. Olin W. Jones USMC*, from Jack & Wynona Nash

“An Afternoon in Myrtle Grove” by Art Barab



Taking photos at Myrtle Grove cemetery not long ago, I struck up a conversation with a man who was tending a nearby grave site. The man's name was Jon Mitts. He is a retired Eureka schoolteacher. The small headstone he stood by belongs to his grandfather, John Mitts. Daisies were growing in profusion around the headstone, the only flowers I encountered in Myrtle Grove that day.

His grandfather, born in 1879, was of Swedish stock, but lived in Finland from where he immigrated to the US and Humboldt County, c.1900. He worked as a logger. In 1912, two weeks after his 33rd birthday, he was killed in a logging field accident working in the Larrabee Creek-Shively area. He left behind a pregnant wife, Sofia, and a three-year-old daughter, Mildred. The boy Sofia subsequently

gave birth to, John, Jr., was Jon Mitts' father. (The elimination of the letter, 'h', from the first name was intended to prevent the use of 'Junior' by others, but to no avail.)

Sofia married the deceased John Mitts' first cousin, John Johnson, who became the younger Mitts' stepfather. John Johnson was a Humboldt County employee who worked a county farm raising crops and pigs, providing food for the county hospital. The farm occupied the site on which Zane Jr. High School and its athletic fields now sit. When the younger John Mitts grew up he married Florence (Flo) Christie, whose family resided in Falk. He worked at various locations and a variety of tasks: at a Eureka service station located at 4th & M Streets, during WWII on drydocks at the local Chicago Bridge and Iron Co. Shipyard facilities, and later handling livestock in collaboration with his half-brother, Carl Johnson (of auctioneering fame.).

I asked Jon about the absence of flowers in Myrtle Grove, thinking it might not be allowed to display them, but the reason proved to be more prosaic—most of the burial sites in Myrtle Grove are very old and the families the deceased belonged to have moved elsewhere or died out locally. The daisies on the immigrant John Mitts' grave emerged 8-10 years ago and have grown there yearly since.



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Clarke Historical Museum
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