



6101 Main Street

Clayton Chronicles

A Publication of the Clayton Historical Society

PO BOX 94 • CLAYTON, CALIFORNIA • 94517

(925) 672-0240

www.claytonhistory.org

Autumn 2011

Issue #140



2011 Annual Meeting

This year we're shaking it up for our Annual Meeting with live entertainment by HouseBlend! Please join fellow supporters of the Clayton Historical Society as we celebrate a year's worth of preserving and promoting our rich local history. HouseBlend is an a cappella male quartet performing its own pop, jazz, seasonal, folk, country, gospel and other assorted musical genres. The Annual Meeting will take place on **Tuesday, November 15th** at Endeavor Hall with doors opening at 5pm. Don't forget a main dish, salad, or dessert and a plate & fork! Guests welcome.

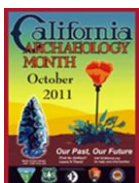
Second Annual Christmas Home Tour

Due to popular demand, the Society will be hosting Clayton's 2nd Annual Christmas Home Tour. As a fundraiser for the Clayton Museum's Garden, the Christmas Home Tour will feature the Museum plus five beautifully decorated private homes in Clayton. Tax-deductible donations will help fund the next wave of improvements for the Museum's garden.

Mark your calendars for **Friday, December 9th** from Noon to 8:00 PM, with more details and ticket purchase options inside this newsletter.



October is California Archaeology Month



Visit the museum and see one of our newer permanent exhibits: **The Grove Collection**. This small exhibit contains items found in 2008, during the excavation of The Grove park. A partial lever from a lever-action rifle, pieces of crockery, numerous bottles, horse shoes and other artifacts make you wonder what Clayton citizens were doing for fun in the park for the past 130 years! Look for this exhibit downstairs in the "Town Room".

President's Message

by Ted Meriam



Dear Donors & Friends:

The arrival of autumn marks the end of another great year at the Clayton Historical Society. Our annual meeting and fall potluck will be held in November and feature live music by HouseBlend. We will also vote our new Board of Directors into office (more on page 5), so please join us for this special and lively evening!



I would like to thank the leadership team at the Society and Museum for their extraordinary effort this year! The Curators have delivered an impressive collection of exhibits and programs throughout the year. We've also had a successful Gardens Tour, as well as another Christmas Home Tour to look forward to this December. The Society is operationally sound, continually driving our mission of preserving and promoting our local history.

If you've not stopped by the Museum Garden recently, several volunteers from the community has transformed it again recently, with a lovely new area along Main Street. Our organization is stronger than ever and I look forward to the exciting events and programs to come! This edition of the Chronicles is packed fuller than ever, so please continue reading...

Ted Meriam, President

(925) 690-8600 | www.tedmeriam.com

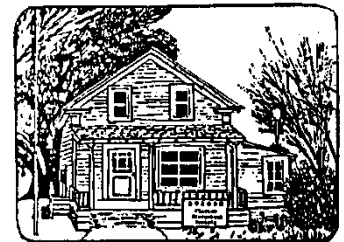


Society Yearly Donation Categories for 2011:

- Student - \$10
- Senior - \$10
- Senior Couple - \$15
- Individual - \$20
- Couple - \$30
- Sustaining - \$50
- Business - \$100
- Volunteer - 25 hours/year in the previous calendar year.
- Other

Major Gift Categories for 2011:

- Life-Individual - \$500
- 1857 League-Individual - \$1,857



Please check the donation category and print all of the following information:

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Email Address: _____

Make checks payable to the Clayton Historical Society

P.O. Box 94
Clayton, CA 94517

Questions? Contact...

Sheila Driscoll, VP of Membership
sheiladewey@juno.com | 925-672-7947



Communications from your Curators

From Mary Spryer, Curator—Because of our mild summer, we are actually looking

forward to our next PG&E bill! We keep our museum within the 60°-75° degree range recommended by the **National Parks and Museum Manual** so our summer PG&E bills are usually the highest of the year. Having the museum cool in summer and warm in winter are two ways we keep our collection in the best condition for future generations.

In May and June we had our annual Field Trips from **Mt. Diablo Elementary School 3rd Graders**. **Dick Ellis, Dan Richardson, Adela Oldford, Lynn Hadley, Leslie Howell, Marj Ditzel** and **Charmetta Mann** kept the field trips running smoothly this year. These kids are so excited to see, touch and hear about local history and these enthusiastic 7 and 8-year-olds often bring their families to the museum later in the year.

The newest exhibit mounted by your **Assistant Curator, Renee Wing**, “*Picnics, Pools & Parks*” opened in June. We re-opened each Wednesday evening from 6-8pm all summer thanks to **Charmetta** and **Renee** who were there each Wednesday night. (along with Char’s ’57 **Nomad**). They had help from **Dick Ellis, Sally Turner, Sue Kelson** and **Barbara Fogerson**.

Once again, we opened the museum after the 4th of July parade. **Dick Ellis, Sue Keslon, Charmetta** and **Barbara Fogerson** made opening to the public possible.

On August 17th we had a visit from the **KinderCare-Marsh Creek Road** kids. Their theme for the week was “Wild Wild West.” After the tour they were able to play in The Grove, just as children did 100 years ago.

Our summertime volunteer barbeque was a success, thanks to CHS President, **Ted Meriam**, who hosted the event at his home. Our volunteers were honored for their service in the past two years. Most of these dedicated people not only give their time to our museum and society but also have commitments to other non-profit organizations. We are fortunate that there are so many history-minded people in our community!

I’m excited about our new relationship with the **Diablo Woodworkers**. This is a group of 200+ professional and “garage” woodworkers who undertake civic projects as part of their desire to give back to the community. I was asked me for a “wish list” of projects that may be of interest to their members. Without giving it away, you may find some of their skilled work on display under the museum Christmas tree this year.

On September 12th and 13th, the museum was involved in the **Volunteer Center of the East Bay’s “Week of Caring”**. Last year, museum volunteer and past president of the **Clayton Valley Garden Club, Linda Cruz**, realized that our museum garden might benefit from participating in this event and the completion of Phase I of the garden was the result. This year, Linda helped with the computer work to get us signed up for our second year, hoping to complete Phase II. Landscape designer, **Anna Wendorf** (also a docent at the museum) and **Steve Lane** (V.P. of the **Clayton Valley Garden Club**) volunteered again this year, directing the workers on both days. They also worked the entire time and continue assisting us so that Phase II of our garden project should be finished shortly. Monday’s volunteers were from **Dow Chemical**: Project Leader, **Katie Ireland, Cléo Bolen, Ulf Schoell, Jason Ruhl** and **Marc Nelson**. On Tuesday Project Leader, **Ray Shaffer**, brought **Cathy Duckworth, Salvadon Escano, Anne Driscoll, Don Driscoll** and **Dwayne Stark** from **Chevron**. The Museum Garden is really beginning to take shape, if you drive by, you’ll see the beautiful result of their hard labor. Volunteers from the **Clayton Valley Garden Club, Ingela Nielsen** and **Rory Richmond** also helped install the sprinkler heads with **Steve** and **Anna** to complete the irrigation system. Because of recent donations and funds dedicated to the garden, we’ve been able to reconfigure the sprinklers for the Phase II area and add new sprinkler heads, purchase better quality soil, install chicken wire under each plant to deter gophers, plant 48 4” color plants, 40 1-gallon shrubs and 10 5-gallon shrubs and apply black bark as mulch. Some costs for this project couldn’t be avoided, but in the two September work days alone, nearly 50 hours of free labor were volunteered. This along with discounted plants from **Anna Wendorf**, plants started by cuttings from **Linda Cruz** and other donated supplies, made Phase II a real bargain. Wouldn’t it be great if our garden was completed by the time of our 20th Annual Gardens Tour in May 2012? If you are interested in helping make that a reality by giving a donation or by working in the garden, please leave a message at the museum 672-0240. **So much for the lazy days of summer!**



From Renee Wing, Assistant Curator—Once again fall approaches. This year, however, forget the wimpy whimpers; summer definitely is going out with a bang of thunder and a flash of lightning. The seasons seem to roll around with increasing velocity, but we are determined to slow down and enjoy each and every milestone and moment of the good life Clayton has to offer. The museum's nighttime open hours for the summer car show are now a thing of the past, but our current exhibit, *Picnics, Pools, and Places: A Scrapbook of Summer Destinations With Our Automobiles*, remains open for your viewing pleasure Wednesdays and Sundays, 2-4pm through November 16th. The next exhibit, still two months away, promises to tweak the sweet tooth and put a smile on the face.

In 2007, for Clayton's Sesquicentennial, the Concord Historical Society kindly loaned the Clayton Museum its awesome Native American exhibit of arrowheads, obsidian blades, beads, abalone pendant, mortar and pestle, and a basket from the Ruth Galindo Collection. In September we returned the items to Concord with our sincerest thanks.

We also owe thanks to the many folk who have donated items to help expand our collections. Among others, we thank **Mr. and Mrs. Ted Holmsen** for the donation of two lovely paintings framed in Keller barn wood, and **Bob Hoyer** and **Dick Ellis** for their ongoing donations of photos and other memorabilia.

Drop by the museum to see the changes in the exhibits inside and in the garden outside. Every day, new stories wait patiently or impatiently to be told. The study of history allows these stories to unfold.

We acknowledge these wonderful volunteers who helped maintain the Museum these past months:

- ☑ **Dick Ellis** met with the plumber who repaired our outdoor faucets
- ☑ **Dick Ellis, Sally Turner and JoAnn Caspar** disposed of museum trash & recycling at home
- ☑ **John Rubiales** selected, modified and installed our new front screen door
- ☑ **Dick Ellis, Ted Meriam, Jeff Crady & Renee Wing and Mary Spryer** spent one full day to move furniture in preparation for the "New Look" in the back rooms of the museum.

Special Exhibit

~~Through Labor Day 2011~~

November 16, 2011

*6th Annual Clayton's
Classic Cars Exhibit:*

Picnics, Pools, & Parks



Through November 16th

Pictures and memorabilia from old Clayton, Clayton's Pioneering Families and Current residents of Clayton.

Special Exhibit

Yum - Yum

BUBBLE GUM

**CANDY IN THE UNITED STATES
SINCE 1800**

**U-NO You've got to SEE'S
This! If you don't you are a
DUM DUM.**

All the **SMARTIES** will be
there!

You can see it
NOW AND LATER

So **TAKE 5** and come down to
the Museum.

November 20, 2011 through May 2012⁴

Announcing the Society's Annual Meeting & Fall Potluck at Endeavor Hall

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15TH AT 5PM



Join us as we celebrate the rich history of the Clayton Valley amongst friends of the Clayton Historical Society. Enjoy dinner while listening to entertainment by HouseBlend: an a cappella male quartet performing assorted musical genres.

HouseBlend has won awards at the Bay Area Harmony Sweepstakes, including "Audience Favorite". Always in rich a cappella harmony, the quartet moves with ease through a myriad of musical styles with an abundance of rhythm and humor. The group's CD will be on sale for folks who wish to continue the entertainment at home!

The Historical Society's annual meeting will also include the annual election and installation of directors and officers. Below is the recommended slate by the Nomination Committee:

EXECUTIVE BOARD	BOARD
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • President: Ted Meriam • 1st VP: Dick Ellis (Programs) • 2nd VP: Sheila Driscoll (Membership) • Secretary: Barbara Fogerson • Treasurer: JoAnn Caspar 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barbara Allen • John Rubiales • Mary Spryer • Mary Wacker

Bring a main dish, salad or dessert to serve 8 people. Also, invite a friend!
Beverages will be provided, but bring table service for your group.

Memorial Funds

A gift of any amount to our Memorial Fund is a lasting way to honor someone special. Their names will be placed in the "Book of Memory" that is permanently displayed at the museum. Send your memorial donation to CHS—Attention Memorials, PO Box 94, Clayton, CA 94517

I would like to make this contribution of \$ _____ In Honor of In Memory of (check one)

Name of person(s) to be honored or memorialized:

Please Send Acknowledgement to: _____

Address: _____ City, State, Zip: _____

Donor(s) _____ Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Clayton Historical Society's Christmas Home Tour

Friday, December 9, 2011

Noon to 8:00 pm ~ Rain or Shine

Proceeds benefit The Clayton Historical Society ~ www.claytonhistory.org
The Clayton Historical Society is a 501(c)(3) organization and your Christmas Home Tour Ticket donation is tax deductible



**The self-guided tour begins at the Clayton Historical Society Museum
at 6101 Main Street, Clayton and includes the Museum
plus five beautifully decorated private homes in Clayton.**

For additional information please call 925-672-7680 or 925-672-5061
Or email museum@claytonhistory.org

*Tickets will **not** be mailed to you.*

Pick up your ticket(s) on December 9, 2011 at the Museum.

Allow 2 hours to tour all homes. Doors to homes will close at 8:00 pm

_____ Ticket(s) at \$20 each = \$ _____ **total** Day of Event walk-ins welcome

Please return with payment to: Clayton Historical Society, P.O. Box 94, Clayton, CA 94517

Name: _____

*Please **Print** First and Last Name (Tickets will be held at the Museum under above name)*

Address: _____

City: _____

Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Memorial Donations

As a lasting way to honor someone special, your gift to the Clayton Historical Society supports the preservation and promotion of Clayton's rich history. We thank the following donors for their recent memorial gift:

In memory of the following friends of the Museum:

- For **Willmetta Frank Mann** from Don & Rose Lasell Trust (Diane Boyer, Ron & Judie Busch, and Barbara Nebeker), Bernard & Lil Fichtenkort, Robert & Eldora Hoyer, Earl & Helene Duncan, and Martin Easton
- For **Marian (Peggy) Morgan Aiello** from Mary Wacker, Robert & Panagiota Taylor, and Charmetta Mann
- For **John Jawad** from Robert & Eldora Hoyer
- For **Carmen Frank** from the Martin Easton Family
- For **George Frank** from the Martin Easton Family
- For **Marylou Ellis** from the Martin Easton Family
- For **Joyce Murdock** from Norma Bloching Dempsey
- For **Tilden (Skip) Baldwin** from Ronald Baldwin, Jenny Baldwin, and Helen Lynn Baldwin Coté

In memory of Eldora Hoyer:

- Richard Ellis
- Mary Wacker
- Linda Pinder
- Sally Turner
- JoAnn Caspar
- Martin Easton
- Barbara Allen
- Lil & Bernard Fichtenkort
- Barbara Fogerson
- Ted & Claire Holmsen
- W.C. & Mary Delamater & Family
- Helen & Ray Ollila
- Kay Lane
- Charmetta Mann
- Harvey & Louise Wall
- Ann Brooks
- Robert & Carol Shuey
- Susan Ellison
- Cindy Reinhardt
- Majel Hellsten
- Winneva Miller

Calendar

November 7 Old Timers
11:30 am, Museum

November 15 Annual Meeting
5:00pm Endeavor Hall
Entertainment: *HouseBlend*

November 16 Last Day of Car Show Exhibit
Museum

November 17 CHS Board Meeting
3:30pm, Oak Street

November 20 Special Exhibit:
Yum-Yum, BUBBLE GUM
2:00 pm – 4:00 pm, Museum

November 23 MUSEUM OPEN

December 5 Old Timers
11:30 am, Museum

December 8 CHS Exec. Board Meeting
3:30pm, Museum

December 9 *Christmas Home Tour*
Noon – 8:00 pm,

December 25 MUSEUM CLOSED

January 1 MUSEUM CLOSED

January 2 Old Timers
11:30 am, Museum

February 12 Camellia Tea
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm, Museum

Clayton Historical Society
6101 Main Street, Clayton



Volunteers for the 2012 Clayton Gardens Tour

Since 2012 will be the 20th anniversary of the Clayton Gardens Tour, we have taken on a very ambitious project of "looking back" at gardens from past tours.

We have almost completed our goal of having "20 gardens for \$20, for 20 years". The \$20 is a one-time cost for a ticket. This will be four times as many as we normally have. If you are not a regular volunteer for the Gardens Tour, please join us for the anniversary year. You do NOT need to have any gardening skills to help out. Shifts can be as short as 2 hours and we even have some tasks that can be done while sitting.

To volunteer, please contact Linda Pinder at ljpinder@comcast.net or call 672-7815.