



# THE ELECTROLIER

Newsletter of the St. Helena Historical Society, Spring 2003

## DONOR'S CORNER

by Susanne Salvestrin and Kathy Kernberger

Our thanks to John Aquila for his generous donation of "old" St. Helena pictures to the Historical Society. John moved to St. Helena in 1953 with his late wife, Angie, and children, Marilyn and John. The family had previously lived in Weed, California where John managed the movie theater. In spite of his parents' objections, John wanted to own his own theater and started looking for one to buy. The Ritz in Calistoga was for sale but too expensive. The St. Helena theater, The Roxy was "sort of" for sale. During times when the ticket sales were down, owner, Carolyn



Roxy Theatre, ca 1961. Photo: *SHHS00051*  
Donor: Eric B. Holtsmark

Mosher, would put it up for sale. When sales picked up, she took it off the market. Because of Pacific Union College nearby, John and Angie, believed St. Helena to be a "college town," with lots of students "thirsting" for movies. They waited for a "down" time and bought the theater.

John served as a City Planning Commissioner from 1956 to 1959 and as a councilman/mayor from 1959 to 1976. During this time, he and Angie became concerned about the condition of St. Helena's electroliers. A foundry in Berkeley was hired to make molds, still owned by the city, and repair parts were cast. Had it not been for his efforts, these St. Helena symbols might not have survived to grace our streets as they do today. After a brief hiatus, he was once again mayor from 1988 to 1990. John continues to live in the family home in St. Helena.

## PHOTOGRAPHS...

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The St. Helena Historical Society now has about 160 photographs in our collection. We need your old photographs to add to our historical record of St. Helena. And you don't even need to give up your original! Bring in your historical photographs of St. Helena people, places, buildings and things. We'll use our new UMAX Powerlook III Scanner to quickly scan them and return your photograph to you. We do ask that you be willing to sign a release giving the Society or its assigns the right to use the digital photographs for displays, research or commercial purposes.

By donating your photographs you will be contributing to the local history of St. Helena while preserving your photographs for posterity. Thanks for sharing!!



Mrs. Mary Fulton, Mrs. Rann, Lizzie Rann Ernul & Ida Fulton Mather, date unknown. Photo: *SHHS00002* Donor: Shirley Sparks

## PRESIDENT'S

## MESSAGE

Welcome to the first issue of the St. Helena Historical Society ELECTROLIER. Our newsletter will be published quarterly and mailed to all members of the Society. We hope receiving a high-quality newsletter like the ELECTROLIER will be seen by everyone as a significant benefit of membership in the Society. Within these pages we'll be providing you with information on upcoming events, recent acquisitions, meeting notes and volunteer opportunities.

The St. Helena Historical Society was formed in February, 2002. Our mission statement adopted May 7, 2002 reads: *The St. Helena Historical Society is a public educational organization. Its mission is to collect, preserve, exhibit, and provide access to historical materials of all kinds from our community as well as to promote public awareness and participation in the collection of such materials.* Currently we have a membership of fifty with about twenty people who actively participate in our meetings, events and projects.

Our Society maintains a close relationship with the St. Helena Public Library and the City of St. Helena. In fact, our materials and collections are being managed by the library and ownership of our materials is vested in the City. An agreement codifying this relationship with the City was reached last year. The agreement provides a permanent home for our materials, ensures their long-term preservation and allows our Society members to concentrate on; acquiring new materials, providing for their organization, planning educational events and fundraising.

Our book acquisitions become a part of the Library's collections and are available whenever the Library is open. Our still small, but growing photo collection is being scanned and will be made available online. Our archival papers will be made accessible through finding aids and available by appointment. Please appreciate that we are early in our organizational history and there is a great deal to be done. All materials acquired by the Society will be made available as soon as possible. But cataloging and processing of elements of the collection will take time. We will need volunteers to assist us in expediting these processes. Contact our Volunteer Coordinator if you would like to help.

Besides providing a home for our collections, the St. Helena Public Library is contributing in other ways. The Library recently purchased a computer and high-quality scanner for our photo collections. It is also redesigning the second floor of the Library to be an ARCHIVAL AND HISTORICAL READING ROOM. Archival collections, papers and documents will be available in this room by appointment. The transformation of this space should be completed by July, 2003. The Library has also purchased books on historical preservation, oral history transcription and writing local history. A list of these recently acquired titles can be found elsewhere in this issue of the ELECTROLIER.

Our web site can be found at: [www.shstory.org](http://www.shstory.org). Check it out for the latest information on Society activities, events, acquisitions and volunteer opportunities.

Finally, we can always use new members! We can always use more donations of money! We can always use more donations of materials! We can always use more volunteers! Thanks!

Larry Hlavsa, President

St. Helena Historical Society  
P.O. Box 87  
St. Helena, CA 94574  
[www.shstory.org](http://www.shstory.org)

### Officers

President, Larry Hlavsa  
Vice President, Mariam Hansen  
Secretary, Gwen Becker  
Treasurer, Kim Farmer

### Directors

Gwen Becker  
Kim Farmer  
Mariam Hansen  
Frank Harrison  
Larry Hlavsa  
Elaine Hudson  
Jamie Hurley  
Susanne Salvestrin  
Lorin Sorensen

### Committees

The **Collections Committee** is responsible for collecting historical items donated to the society as well as identifying locations and dates of unknown donated photos. In addition, we are interviewing people knowledgeable about past times in the area. In the future, these taped interviews will be typed up and available for use by researchers. Volunteers are especially needed to help with these interviews. We meet the last Monday of the month at 4:30 in the library. Current chairman of the committee is Kathy Kernberger, [kkern@napanet.net](mailto:kkern@napanet.net)

The **Fundraising Committee** plans and produces events that educate and inform about our local history as well as raise funds for the Society. "St. Helena History Evening" held last September included a slide show and walking tour of historic downtown St. Helena. An Antiques Appraisal event is planned for May 25<sup>th</sup> on the lawn at Krug Winery. Later in the year, the committee is planning a Cemetery Tour, highlighting the lives some historical figures buried there. The public is welcome at all of these events. Current committee chair is Mariam Hansen, [wartuhi@attbi.com](mailto:wartuhi@attbi.com)

Questions? Comments?

Call or email the Newsletter editor, Kim Farmer, at 963-0630,  
[ksfarmer@seedgrain.com](mailto:ksfarmer@seedgrain.com)

### I'd like to join the St. Helena Historical Society!

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Individual \$20 Family \$30

Business/Organizaton \$100 Life \$500

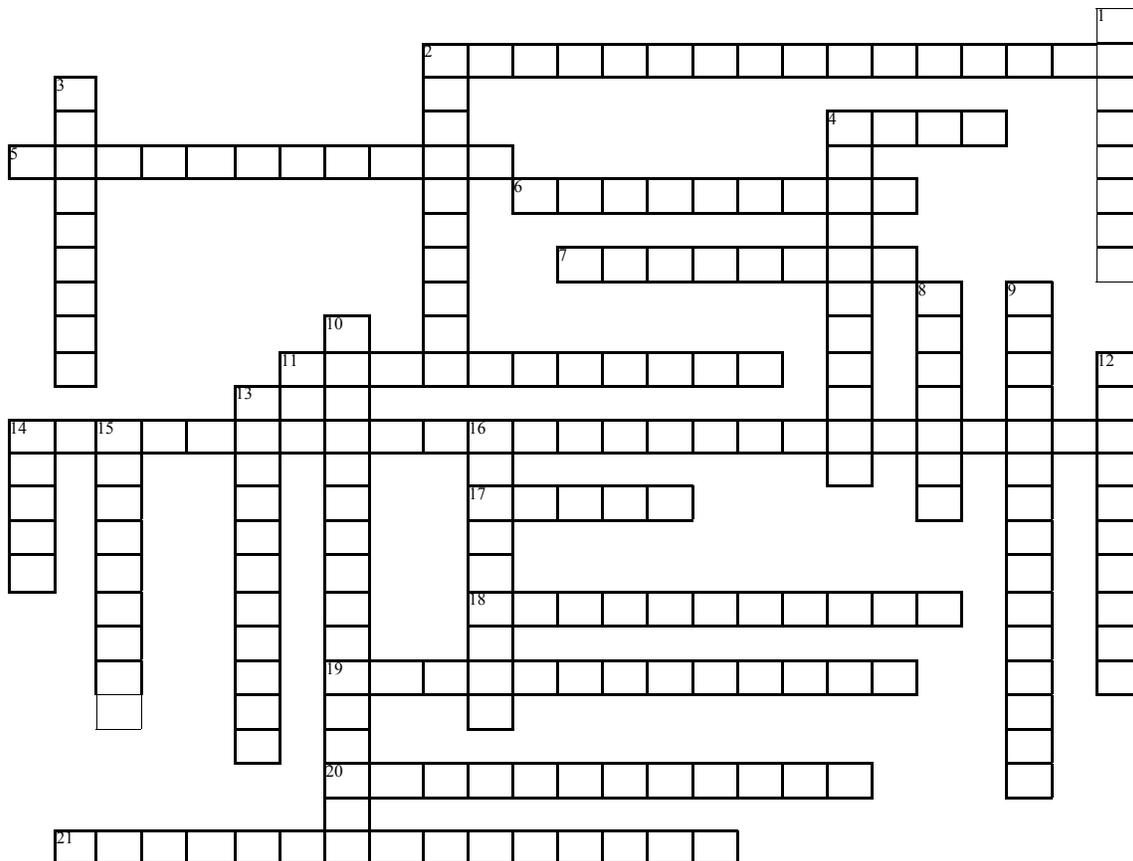
### I would like to:

Volunteer \_\_\_\_\_ Make a donation to the Society \_\_\_\_\_

# St. Helena History Crossword Puzzle

## Across

- 2 Well known undertaker, he built the Noble Building which today houses Peter's Video.
- 4 Last name of the well known doctor and his wife, for which the St. Helena Library is officially named.
- 5 Popular St. Helena citizen, he is the former owner of "Ernie's" Meats.
- 6 These brothers bought Grey-stone Winery from the California Wine Association in 1925.
- 7 A seller of general merchandise, he was appointed St. Helena Postmaster in 1864.
- 11 Name of the current St. Helena Library Director.
- 14 This association sold Grey-stone Winery to Bisceglia Brothers in 1925.
- 17 Name of the family who donated land for the "new" St. Helena High School, now Vintage Hall. Their house is now Sunny Acres Bed and Breakfast.
- 18 Name of the street on which the Library is located.
- 19 Built in 1857, this was the first church in St. Helena.
- 20 He owned the "Star of the Pacific Premium Mill" until his death in 1865. A Napa Valley town is named for him.
- 21 Original name for the building which today houses the Eagle and Rose Residence Inn.



## Down

- 1 In partnership with Jean Chaix, he operated a well known Oakville Winery in the 1870's.
- 2 In the 1850's, this man built his house and a shoe shop near the N. W. corner of Spring and Main Streets.
- 3 The first S.H. school house was erected beside this waterway.
- 4 This church was built in 1853 on Tucker's farm and named for being the only painted church in the upper valley.

- 8 1868 owner of the Hermosa Vineyards in Oakville.
- 9 Purchased the St. Helena Star in 1884.
- 10 After the murder of her husband, John, in 1882, she is believed to have become the first woman winemaker in Napa County.
- 12 About 1853, this Englishman bought 100 acres from Dr. Bale. This land later became the west side of St. Helena, running from Sulphur Creek to Madrona Ave.

- 13 Original owner of the Sutter Home Winery, he died on a trip to his homeland, Switzerland, in 1900.
- 14 Current name of the former Liberty Theater.
- 15 This popular St. Helena gathering spot is located on the site of the old "Turner Hall."
- 16 Architect of the 1900 St. Helena Star building.
- (See page 4 for answers to this crossword puzzle created by Kathy Kernberger.)

### BOOKS ON LOCAL HISTORY

#### RECENTLY ADDED TO THE ST. HELENA PUBLIC LIBRARY COLLECTION

#### CALL NUMBER

025.1714 DEARSTYNE  
069.52 REIBEL  
907.2 BAUM  
907.2 BAUM  
907.2 ORAL  
973 ARCHIBALD  
973.072 BUTCHART  
973.072 DANZER  
973.072 KERR  
973.072 KYVIG  
973.072 WIND

#### TITLE

**Managing Historical Records Programs: a Guide for Historical Agencies**  
**Registration Methods for the Small Museum**  
**Oral History for the Local Historical Society**  
**Transcribing and Editing Local History**  
**Oral History: An Interdisciplinary Anthology**  
**Place to Remember: Using History to Build Community**  
**Local Schools: Exploring Their History**  
**Public Places: Exploring Their History**  
**Local Businesses: Exploring Their History**  
**Nearby History: Exploring the Past Around You**  
**Places of Worship: Exploring Their History**

# Calendar

## April

**April 28:** Collections Committee Meeting, 4:30 pm, Library upstairs meeting room

## May

**May 5:** Board of Directors Meeting, 5:00 pm, Carnegie Building

**May 6:** General Meeting, 4:30 pm, Library community room

**May 19:** Collections Committee Meeting, 4:30 pm, Library upstairs meeting room

**May 25:** Discover Hidden Treasures of the Valley, 2-5 pm, Under the Oaks, Charles Krug Winery

## June

**June 3:** General Meeting, 4:30 pm, Library community room

**June 11:** "Eighteen Years of Political Cartooning," Joan Martens exhibit opening, public invited to reception, 6:00 pm, at the library

**June 30:** Collection Committee Meeting, 4:30 pm, Library upstairs meeting room

## July

**July 1:** General Meeting, 4:30 pm, Library community room

**July 28:** Collections Committee Meeting, 4:30 pm, Library upstairs meeting room

Answers to St. Helena History Crossword Puzzle:

Across: 2-JohnStewardNoble, 4-Wood, 5-ErnieNavone, 6-Bisceglia, 7-DrCarver, 11-LarryHlavsa, 14-CaliforniaWineAssociation, 17-Crane, 18-LibraryLane, 19-BaptistChurch, 20-GeorgeCYount, 21-KibblerBuilding

Down: 1-JeanBrun, 2-JohnKister, 3-YorkCreek, 4-WhiteChurch, 8-HWCrabb, 9-WillisMacKinder, 10-HannahWeinberger, 12-HenryStill, 13-JohnThomann, 14-Cameo, 15-LymanPark, 16-WHCorlett

### *Mission Statement*

**The St. Helena Historical Society is a public educational organization. Its mission is to collect, preserve, exhibit, and provide access to historical materials of all kinds from our community as well as to promote public awareness and participation in the collection of such materials.**

St. Helena Historical Society  
Presents:  
***Discover Hidden Treasures  
of the Valley***  
Antiques Appraisal Clinic  
Under the oaks  
at Charles Krug Winery  
Saturday, May 25, 2003  
2-5pm  
Experts in Native Americana,  
African, Oceanic, Paintings,  
Estate Jewelry, Antique Arms  
& Western Memorabilia  
Talks by expert China restorers  
& glass artists  
St. Helena and Charles Krug  
Winery History  
Bring your old Napa Valley Pho-  
tos to be scan into the archives  
and returned to you  
Charles Krug Wines & Sonoma  
Cheese Company tasting  
\$20 Donation- includes three  
appraisals & tasting

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