

SHARPSTEEN MUSEUM  
OF CALISTOGA HISTORY

NEWSLETTER

Vol. 43, No. 2

Feb-Mar 2025



Message from the President



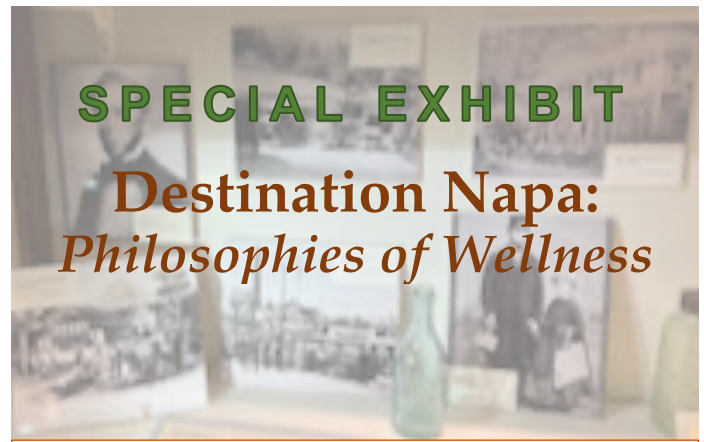
Dear Sharpsteen Members,

Have you seen our new Special Exhibit yet? If not, please check it out! Thanks to the generosity of the Napa County Historical Society and Eden Umble's remarkable creativity, we were able to use and adapt many of the display materials from their recently concluded "Philosophies of Wellness" Exhibit

for our own version of it. Ours has a distinct Calistoga feel, which we think you'll enjoy. Look closely, and you'll see items from the Sharpsteen Museum's Collection, along with antique bottles and other relics donated by Jack and Marcey Smith, and bottles loaned from my own collection.

Every object on display has a story. The items I provided include a Warner's Safe Kidney and Liver Cure bottle from the 1880's that was no doubt used by Thomas F. Veal, a former owner of our property who suffered long-term health issues from his Civil War service. Note that the term, "cure," on medicine bottle labels was outlawed in 1906, due to questionable claims made by these companies! Another item I provided is a Hamlin's Wizard Oil bottle. Late in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, the Hamlin's Wizard Oil Troupe of half a dozen or so musicians and vocalists would come to Calistoga to both entertain and sell their product. There was always great excitement in town when the Troupe announced their arrival. Holding evening and morning musical concerts on Lincoln Avenue, the Troupe would sell their product at intermission to an eager audience. Summarizing the Troupe's week in Calistoga in November 1886, the local newspaper editor commented, "Wizard Oil sold rapidly, as the clink of silver dollars into the money box indicated". This particular bottle was dug by me in the 1970's in the Porter Creek area. It was quite likely originally sold at one of these Calistoga events. You'll also see a Phillip's Emulsion Cod Liver Oil bottle dug in the Porter Creek area

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*Destination Napa Valley explores Napa Valley's oldest commercial industry, that built upon the Valley's bucolic environment and 19<sup>th</sup> century philosophies of wellness. Resorts quickly sprang up marketing the curative benefits of the hot springs, fresh air, climate, and pastoral vistas. The "wellness" economy provided jobs and opportunities for local residents and put Napa Valley on the world map.*

--Napa County Historical Society

A lively crowd of about 40 came to celebrate the opening of our current special exhibit "Destination Napa: Philosophies of Wellness," curated by and shared with us by the Napa County Historical Society. Thanks to NCHS Executive Director Kaitlyn Moxon for joining us, and to previous Executive Director Sheli Smith for bringing this excellent exhibit to our attention. Susan Jackson won our deluxe raffle basket. This exhibit will be on display through April.

Eden Umble, *Special Exhibit Chair*



NCHS Executive Director Kaitlyn Moxon welcomes guests to the special exhibit opening. More event photos on page 2.



MESSAGE *continued from Pg 1*

during the same time period. Although this bottle was probably sold in the 1890's, many of us remember all-too-well being given that stuff as children. Yuck! A small C. W. Armstrong, Calistoga Druggist, medicine bottle (dug in Knights Valley), a Sanitarium Food Company bottle (circa 1900), and numerous Napa County soda water bottles round out my contribution to the display.

When Sam Brannan established his resort here in the 1860's, patrons came to Calistoga to not just "take the waters," but to relax, recreate, and enjoy a break from their everyday life in a number of ways. Some came just for the fresh air and scenery, others to bathe in Calistoga's sulfurous waters. Still others chose Calistoga Hot Springs to relax and seek wellness in accord with their personal interests, including hiking, hunting, fishing, socializing by promenading through the landscaped Springs Grounds, attending horse races at Brannan's trotting track, or partying and dancing in the pavilions. Whatever the personal choice, Calistoga was (and still is) a destination to get away from life's routine. It was not easy to get here in the days prior to 1868, requiring a lengthy ferry and stagecoach journey from San Francisco. The extension of the railroad to Calistoga in 1868 made the journey a bit easier, and the connection of bridges across San Francisco Bay in the 1930's made it even more so. "Philosophies of Wellness" explores not only the early enticements here, but also the ways people got here to enjoy them.

Dean Enderlin, *President*

## Wreath Sale in December a Success

*Annual December Holiday Fundraiser has history*



Selling hand-made wreaths, holiday decorations, food, and other gift items as a fundraiser has a history dating back to the beginnings of the Museum when it opened its doors to the public

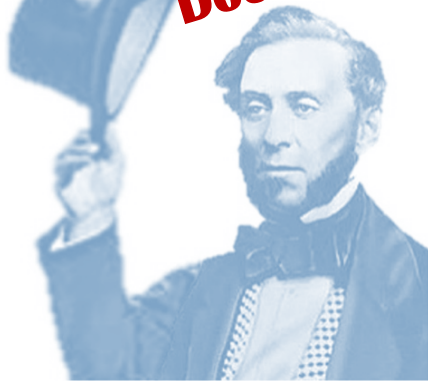
in 1978. Known as the CMA (Calistoga Museum Auxiliary), and now SMA (Sharpsteen Museum Association), the Museum participated in the Christmas Bazaar at the Fairgrounds from 1978 throughout its duration until the Bazaar was reimagined as the "Christmas Faire" at the Pioneer Park. A casual wreath sale under the front entrance to the Museum coincided with the "Faire" and the weekly Farmers' Market. Reeling from the success of the sale, Pat Haynes and her crafty ladies continued to make wreaths and sell them along with other items at subsequent sales. Many thanks go out to the 18 volunteers who assisted with 3 days of greenery harvesting, wreath-making; and set-up, take-down on the day of sale; and to those who came to buy and support the Museum.

## Wellness Exhibit Opening Party Photos





**Hats Off  
to Our  
Docents!!!**



## BEST OF THE BEST

### Team Docent for Nov-Dec 2024

Angelina Arreygue	Karen Legeyt
Rose Beck	David Lomax
Jane Bennett	Jo Ellen Noble
Lloyd Best	Carla Taylor
Emily Bucchianeri	Pierrette Therene
Judith Cornils	Lauren Thollander
Lorne Glaim	Molly Towey
Marilyn Glaim	Jean Williams
Sally Houk	Ron Yost
Pat Larsen	



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Email: [info@sharpsteenmuseum.org](mailto:info@sharpsteenmuseum.org)

Museum Hours:  
12-3 pm M-F; 11 am-4 pm Sat-Sun  
(Closed Thanksgiving and Christmas)

Dean Enderlin- President  
Dave Larsen- First VP  
Marcia Ciarlo - Second VP  
Peggy Berlin- Recording Secretary  
Barbara Lencioni- Treasurer  
Jane Bennett- Docent Chair  
Jackie Lang- Education Chair  
Bev Barnes- Collections Chair  
Pat Larsen- Ways & Means Chair  
Eden Umble- Media Chair

This Member Newsletter is a bi-monthly publication of the Sharpsteen Museum Association, a non-profit 501(3)c organization.

Shari Hanson- Newsletter Editor

#### MISSION STATEMENT:

The Museum's mission is to preserve and to provide for public exhibitions and study of the history of the community of Calistoga and the upper Napa Valley.

Learn about Calistoga's past and become part of our future.

#### *Be a Volunteer Docent—*

Have fun and give back to your community. You choose your day(s) and shift(s). For more information, please contact the Museum Docent Chair Jane Bennett at (757) 536-1146, or email her: [janemooringbennett@gmail.com](mailto:janemooringbennett@gmail.com)



*Above:* Sharpsteen Museum Docent Molly Towey visited the "Directing at Disney" special exhibit on a recent trip to the Walt Disney Family Museum in San Francisco and is seen here sitting in Ben's chair. The exhibit runs through March 2025.

*Left:* We were delighted to welcome Rembrandt & Fiona who are celebrating their honeymoon! Thank you for visiting us here in Calistoga and learning about our history. We gifted them a copy of Silverado Squatters to commemorate their first trip to Calistoga. We wish them every happiness.



Sharpsteen Museum Association Board Meetings are held monthly on the 2nd Wednesday, at 10 am at the Museum House, 1317 Washington St. Next meeting is on Wednesday, Feb. 12, 2025. All members are welcome to attend.

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Matt Reid  
Beverly Shniper  
Yvette Vloeberghs

### DONATIONS

General-  
John Palmer  
Kathleen Rogers

*In Memory of Pat Haynes-*  
Alan Rogers & Dina Corcoran

IN MEMORIAM  
Joan Kranich

# Notes from the Bookstore

We are excited to re-introduce the classic “Stevenson at Silverado- The Life and Writing of Robert Louis Stevenson in the Napa Valley, 1880”, by author Anne Roller Issler. For years this title has been a popular seller in our bookstore, however a few years ago our supplier closed his business. The book has been out of print, yet recently we were able to locate another source. Our purchase quantity was limited to 20 copies, creating a limited supply.

RLS wed Fanny Osbourne in May of 1880, traveled to the Calistoga Hot Springs Resort for their honeymoon.

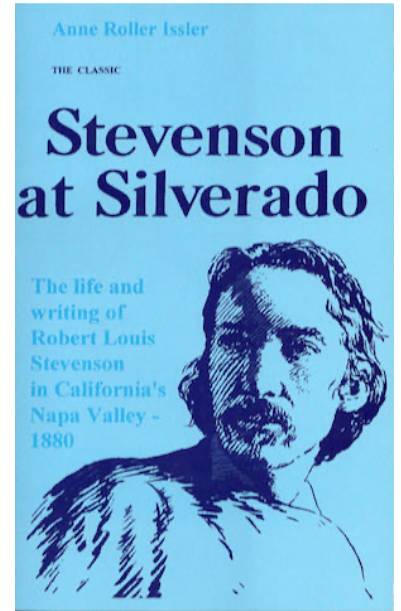
“From the elegant Hot Springs Hotel in Calistoga to a deserted bunkhouse beside an abandoned mine, *Stevenson at Silverado* brings to life the roaming and searching of a newly married Robert Louis Stevenson. Here are Stevenson’s encounters with stage drivers and muleteers, hunters and miners, innkeepers, winemakers, and roving prospectors.”

Originally printed in 1939, the 4<sup>th</sup> printing of 1996, which includes subsequent research by author Issler will give you the inspiring characterizations of those people met, the day-to-day exploits, struggles and personal life in Calistoga and on our mountain.

Anne Roller Issler, a noted authority on Robert Louis Stevenson’s California period, was the curator of the Stevenson House Museum at Monterey from 1957 to 1962. Note: the cover sketch is from his portrait by artist Wyatt Eaton, completed a few years after the honeymoon of 1880.

Softbound, 8 ½ “x 5 ½”; over 130 pages, plus 20 original sketches and photographs. \$10.00 per copy, less members’ discounts of 10%, plus sales tax. If you would prefer a copy be mailed, please send us a message via our website at [www.sharpsteenmuseum.org](http://www.sharpsteenmuseum.org). Additional mailing charge of \$5.00 will be added.

Again, we thank you for your ongoing support of our museum. May your new year be filled with happiness, health, and prosperity.  
Kathy Bazzoli, *Bookstore Chair*



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