The Plaza Without McKinley

This photograph looks northeast. It dates prior to 1914 when the Hotel Arcata was built. The palm trees are very small and were planted on either side in four diagonal pathways. Note the original design of the base for the statue with 4 steps. On the far side of the statue, bleachers have been placed on the grass pending an event. More inside on the conundrum facing Arcata regarding whether President McKinley will stay or go.

Women worked in the logging camps too! Stop by the Philips House and see this display about what it was like to cook for hundreds of hungry lumberjacks—and read the story on Page 4.

Mary McNelis, English through and through, has moved to Denver. She has been a long-time board member of HSSA. We had a farewell tea for her. Of course, we had milk in our tea!

Phillips House Museum interns

Madison Hazan and Sara Conner were recently honored by HSSA. They have both been docents and assisted with HSSA sales. Sarah worked with Karole Ely on the annual luncheon slide show, designed the display case in the front hall and assisted with the formatting of the display photos of Lady Bird Johnson. Madison worked with webmaster Andy Alm to add more content to the HSSA website. This includes photos from a 1980s HSSA fashion show featuring the clothing of Henrietta Chizzola and Ruth Horel Caskey.

Our vintage clothing sale in 2017 was such a success that we are going to do it again. Now is the time to clean out your closet or storage unit! We need your donations to make it a success. We are looking for vintage clothing, crafts and unusual items, furs and even unusual dishes. We need items of 50s, 60s, 70s, and 80s clothing in good condition. We also need accessories such as scarves, purses, hats, gloves & jewelry.

Call HSSA at 822-4722 for pick up or drop off.

SAVE THE DATE
HSSA Vintage Clothing Sale Saturday, Sept. 15 10-2
President's Message

By Alex Stillman

Humboldt State University celebrated the grand opening of the Special Collections on the third floor of the library. According to Carly Marino, Special Collections Librarian, this is “a place where the students, the campus, and communities of Humboldt County can come together to foster a great understanding of the history, people and culture of this region”.

HSSA is included in the Historical section of the Arcata General Plan. Board member Edie Butler represented HSSA at the recent City of Arcata’s scoping session for the Environmental Impact Report.

Long time board member, Mary McNeilis has moved to Denver, CO. She always made special cookies for our holiday teas and insisted we have milk in our tea, because that is how the English drink their tea. We wish her the very best.

The future of the statue of President William McKinley will be decided by the November election. We can only speculate “Will he or Will he not” be the centerpiece of the Arcata Plaza? Vote YES to keep the statue or NO to remove it. Connie Stewart and I wrote an op-ed on the subject, which is included in this newsletter. It will be a My Word editorial in the Times Standard in the near future.

The display room has photos from this spring’s annual luncheon from the talk given by Karole Ely and Dave Van Meer about the dedication of Lady Bird Johnson Grove 49 years ago. Karole was on the tarmac as the Air Force One arrived with the Johnsons and the Nixons at the Arcata airport in 1969. Thanks to Karole Ely, a braided rug now adorns the display room. She found it at a garage sale and it looks perfect.

The topic of Jerry Rhode’s talk in July was rail lines in Arcata. His next program at the museum, Sleeping Through Humboldt will be on September 21st. Seating is limited. Come early. These programs are sponsored by Pierson Building Center.

I was on my way to the Museum with Bill Peer from the Eureka Heritage Society when the number of cars in the parking area stunned me. It turned out to be a Pokemon Go event. Photo below.
On the Home Front in Arcata

Thank you to Betty Morton who recently donated her mother’s WWII Civil Defense uniform. The uniform is now in the southwest bedroom at the Philips House Museum. In the photo to the left, you can see it hanging up ready for her to wear.

Betty included a photo of her mother (Hedvig Morton) in the uniform. This photo will be placed in a frame on the nightstand next to the uniform.

We were able to find a home with the local Knights of Pythias for her father’s sword. The local chapter was excited to get the sword as one of theirs went missing.

Remembering the Dedication of Redwood National Park

In August 1969 President Richard Nixon, former President Lyndon B. Johnson and his wife Lady Bird Johnson came to Humboldt County to dedicate Lady Bird Johnson Grove. This dedication was a result of the passing of a bill to establish a Redwood National Park.

President Nixon began his address as follows,

“"It is fitting that a magnificent redwood grove in the Redwood National Park be dedicated in honor of Lady Bird Johnson, who has done so much to stir in the American conscience a deepened sense of unity with our national environment. Mrs. Johnson has given generously of her time and talents on behalf of the natural beauty of the land she loves so well. That beauty is uniquely expressed in the Redwood National Park established by the Act of Congress of October 2, 1968, while Mrs. Johnson was First Lady of the land.”

Our display room features poster size photographs of the Lady Bird Johnson Grove dedication. One has to stand back to get the full affect of these photos since they have been greatly enlarged.
The Silent Workforce: Women in the Woods

By Sara Connor
Redwood National Park is celebrating the 50th anniversary of Lady Bird Johnson’s visit and dedication of the park. They are hoping to have “the Redwoods” rolled out more than ever this year for our visitors. The display case at the Phillips House Museum features the women who ran the cookhouses and fed dozens of hungry men three times a day.

During the time of the logging boom, from the 1800s to mid 1900s, logging camps were communities unto themselves. We hear a lot about the hardworking men who worked in the woods, but we rarely hear about the women who were tasked with the jobs of cooking and cleaning for them. They were a silent workforce. Like the men, the women worked hard and put in long hours to ensure the workers were fed well to ensure their health.

The women in the camps would wake (before the men) at 3 or 4 a.m., early enough to start breakfast for up to two hundred men. Breakfast would consist of high-energy, protein filled food as well as huge quantities of coffee to start their day in the woods. They would also prepare lunch for the men to take with them. Afterwards, they would clean up the dining hall and do dishes and laundry, finish other chores around the cookhouse, as well as prepare for the next meal. The crews would come back tired and hungry so dinner would have to be ready for them. After that meal, the women would clean up again. Occasionally a group might come back on a late night train, and these women had to stay up late to ensure those men had a meal.

The recipes used were large; for example, recipes would often consist of pounds of flour, handfuls of lard, more than a dozen eggs and cups of milk. Not only that, holiday meals were provided to keep spirits up in times that were generally spent with family. Because of this, the women enabled the workers to keep up with the expanding industry.

Julie Fulkerson’s grandmother, Lena Smith worked in lumber camps as a cook. She is on the lower right of the photo above in a pure white apron. A few of Lena’s recipes are featured in the display case at the museum (photos at right). Can we imagine using 12 cups of sugar, hand full of lard, 33 teaspoons of baking powder, 30 cups of milk, 28 eggs to make biscuits? No small feat feeding these hard-working men, not to mention the hard-working women who also had to eat three times a day! Thank you, Julie, for keeping and sharing these mementos.
**FINDS**

(left) Bob Felter found this in the Chapman House when he was uncovering the walls.

Our interns were looking at the stereopticon in the museum and found this picture of William McKinley. A **stereopticon** is a slide projector or "magic lantern", which has two lenses, ours are side by side. These devices date back to the mid 19th century, and were a popular form of entertainment and education before the advent of moving pictures.

This bottle, dug from beneath Andy Alm's home on the Arcata Bottom helps date that redwood structure to sometime between 1889 and 1902, when A.J. Duprey ran the drug store on the southwest corner of 9th and H. German-language newspapers in the walls dated 1898 narrow it even further. The livery stable on the southwest corner of 9th and H since the 1850s was destroyed by fire in 1885, and then replaced by the Croghan Building in 1886. A.J. Duprey of Dixon bought the corner drug store from J.N. Davies in 1889.

In 1902, Duprey partnered with others to incorporate the Skinner-Duprey Drug Company, with stores in Eureka, Arcata, Fortuna, Napa and Santa Rosa. Another fire took the Crogan building in 1979. By Andy Alm, HSSA webmaster.

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**Keep McKinley**

By Alex Stillman and Connie Stewart

While we are shocked and saddened by the climate of hate both in our nation and in our community, we do not believe moving the statue of McKinley from the Plaza is the right decision. We completely support the removal of Confederate statues across the country that were placed in communities as a combative reaction to the civil rights movement by white supremacists. That is not the case with the McKinley statue on the Plaza.

President William McKinley was a civil war hero and abolitionist, but did support the imperialism that was common for the time. He was also known as the first modern President who shook the hand of every visitor, something we could all benefit from practicing today. The statue was created by an Armenian-American sculptor, Haig Patigian to memorialize President McKinley’s assassination in 1901.

Removing the McKinley statue will not eliminate racism in Arcata. But the discussion has led to a valuable conversation about American history, historic presentation and modern beliefs. This isn’t the first time we have had this discussion. Each time the conversation has occurred, Arcatans have chosen to leave McKinley and honor historic preservation and one of our few pieces of public art in downtown.

Keeping this statue will encourage continued discussion about the past as we work together to create a better future. We agree with Tom Damman of Arcata when he says “I will not vote to remove the statue of a hero who fought to end slavery.” Please vote Yes on Measure M.
Membership and Renewal Form
Historical Sites Society of Arcata

Name: _______________________________________________________________________________________________________
Address: __________________________________________________________________________________________________ 
City: ___________________________ State: ___________________________ Zip Code: ___________________________ 
Phone: __________________________ email ____________________________________________________________

____($25) Individual  ____($35) Family  ____($100) Preservation Partner

___(   ) Additional contribution

My gift is (   ) in honor of_____________________ (   ) in memory of__________________________
Please provide contact information so we can notify honorees.

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