

Spring 2024

Arcata

HISTORICAL SITES SOCIETY OF



Open Door Clinic

Congratulations to Open Door Community Health Centers on their beautiful new building on Foster and Sunset Aves. in Arcata. As a former Open Door employee (isn't everyone?) I thought it might be fun to look back at some of the Arcata places the clinics have been over the years.

I am sure that many longtime residents remember the clinic opening in 1971. The first site was the old First National Bank Building on the corner of Tenth and H Streets. Due to the absence of a place to put a



drive-thru window, the building had been sitting empty for several years. The all-volunteer clinic, sometimes referred to as "The Hippie Clinic", was viewed with suspicion by some locals, but found a thriving market for free health care. The clinic grew, figured out how it could bill for services in the mid-1970s and followed clinic facilities across the country in making an essential contribution to the health of America. After operating for 10 years as demonstration programs, the Community Health Centers Program was authorized under Section 330 of the Public Service Act (PHS), leading

to funding and other support for clinics that served the medically underserved.

Many of the volunteers became employees and the clinic was well on its way, but outgrowing the space in the former bank building. Space was needed for exam rooms with doors instead of curtained alcoves, secure storage for medications, an onsite lab and a dental office.

In the early 1980s, the clinic purchased two buildings on the same block of Tenth Street between G and H, the former Chapel of the Redwoods and a Victorian house next to it. The two buildings were extensively remodeled into a modern clinic with a dozen exam rooms and offices for the growing staff of providers and administrators. The roof of the main clinic served as a passageway between them, but also housed a small garden with flower boxes that could be seen from the street. Public



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Mission: Historical Sites Society of Arcata promotes recognition of the cultural heritage of Arcata and its environs, and identifies and encourages the preservation of historical and architecturally significant structures and sites within the Arcata planning area.

HSSA is aware that Arcata stands on Wiyot lands. We acknowledge the original preservers of our community.

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President's Message

We have some exciting plans coming up this summer. For our annual meeting we have invited local historian Jerry Rohde to speak about his newest book, Northern Humboldt Indians. The book covers the seven Indian tribes whose homelands became part of northern Humboldt County. These are all part of his seven volume History of Humboldt People and Places series. The books, published by The Press at Cal Poly Humboldt, total 930 pages with many maps and hundreds of colorized historical photos. They are all available as free downloads through Cal Poly's Digital Commons.

On another note, the Phillips House Museum has an engaging display of things "Falk" curated by Karole Ely. Peggy Falk, a descendent of Noah Falk, will be telling stories of his life, the town of Falk and much more at the opening of the exhibit on May 19 from 2-4 p.m.

Phillips House Museum hosts the rug hookers at the museum the first Sunday of each month from 2-4. All crafters are welcome. Sandra Fletcher, our former teacher, now deceased, instilled this craft into many of us. Stop by, visit with us, and enjoy a museum tour. At right is a sample of our work.



A group of American Association of University Women members play Mahjong every Friday afternoon at the museum. They are diehard players and have taught many others how to play. They just paid their annual HSSA dues. Have you?

Spring Cleaning: If it has infected you and you decided to eliminate yarns from your collection, we would love to have them to sell for the annual Fiber Faire. HSSA has a booth where we sell rug hooking and knitting supplies along with finished items. It's another way to help fund the museum's operations. As my mother would say, "every little bit helps".

Alex Stillman

President



Mahjong Tiles in Action at the Museum

FALK FAMILY EXHIBIT

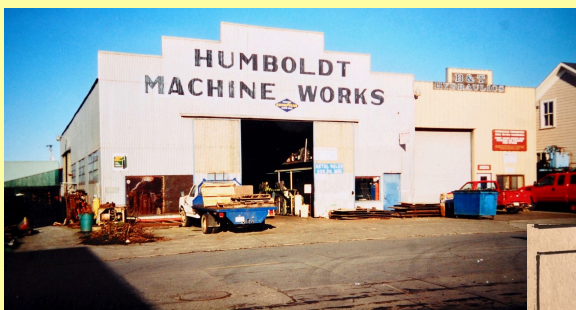
A new exhibit is on display at the Phillips House Museum. It features the Noah Falk family and one of his many lumber mills located formerly at the town of Falk. On display is Noah's formal attire of suit tails, beaver hat and gold handled cane. There is also one of the fireplace mantles from the Falk Mansion, along with photographs of the family and lumber mills (logging) with a brief history of both.

There will be a reception celebrating the Falk Exhibit on Sunday May 19 from 2-4 pm. Peggy Falk who lives locally and Noah's brother Jonas' great great granddaughter will share stories of the Falk family and town of Falk.

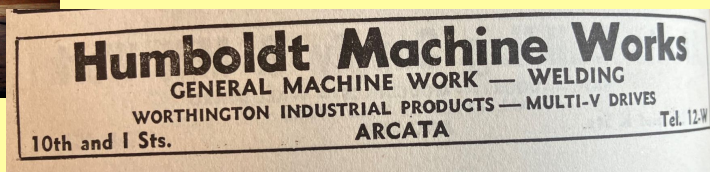
Karole Ely
Curator of the Falk Exhibit



The HSSA held its annual Valentine's Day Tea at the Phillips House Museum on Sunday, February 11th. Tea and desserts were enjoyed by the more than forty people who attended this lovely event. The event attracted many new visitors to the museum and fun was had by all.



A Glimpse into the Past courtesy of the Humboldt County 1954 phonebook.



Life in Arcata in 1915: Ruth Horel Caskey

By Tamara Wolski

In the Winter Newsletter we introduced some transcriptions from Ruth Horel Caskey's diary entries. Here are a few more entries from her life in Arcata in 1915, when she was home from college at U.C. Berkeley.

January 6, 1915

Mother baked for my lunch. Train could not get thru- slides. No more trains for awhile. Gwen and I had intended to leave Thursday A.M. – RAIN. I do shopping before I know that I can't go in A.M. Sewing with Mrs. D. Dot and Bessie spend the evening with us. Music – piano, uke, “Blue and Gold,” dancing, candy and “fig” sticks- no dates at this time of year, much to my regret.

January 7, 1915: Ruth includes a newspaper cutout announcing the birth of a child to A. W. Ericson's daughter. A. W. Ericson was a prolific local photographer.



left: Alice Ericson McMillan and babe (Cal Poly Humboldt)

January 8, 1915

Rain in A.M. and part of P.M. Father [goes to] Eureka in P.M. – Jessie and I with him- we miss hearing Prof Crocheron of U. C. [Berkeley] lecture and seeing pictures at Minor Theater* of boys' trip across continent- agricultural affair. In Eureka- call on Hattie with Jessie. Arcata- red buttons and green poplin for underskirt. Candy. Eunice 15 cents and I 10 cents. Sit in auto in front of hospital until father comes. Take Eun home. After dinner Dot tele me. I go up Seely's, uke, piano, sing and dance, stars out in heavens. *The Minor Theater was

completed in November 1914

January 11, 1915

Gwendolen G. leaves on Topeka for S.F. at 6 a.m. Mother sews and fixes things up for me. Town with father after lunch – in auto he talks of my major, epidemiology, public health. He can see a career- evidently pleased with it . . . Zelia and I do tele now since Gwen is gone. Zelia to wait for train. I reserve a bench on the Kilburn at noon for to-morrow a.m. at 8 o'clock. . . . Raining again to-day. No trains for awhile again so I give up hope this time.



photo at right: Ruth Horel and family in front of their home at Thirteenth and J, which was also a hospital (Cal Poly Humboldt)

Open Door (continued)

input ranged from “Wow, you guys are legit now!” to “Geez, we haven’t been in here since we buried Grandma.” The clinic has grown exponentially over the past half century. It now has over 700 employees and operates a network of twelve community health centers and clinics.

The new site, on Foster and Sunset Aves. in Arcata has been under construction for several years, and will open soon. It will consolidate four Arcata sites under one roof, continuing to provide access to health care to thousands in Arcata and beyond.



by Shelley Mitchell



Photos: Page 1: top: ODC about the time it opened circa 1971 (ODCHC)
Center: Chapel of the Redwoods as it must have looked in 1954 (ad in phonebook)
Bottom: Construction of the 10th Street Clinic (Cal Poly Humboldt)
Page 5: (clockwise from top)Open Door Clinic from Umpqua Bank parking lot.
The current clinic on Tenth Street
The new clinic ready to open

Travel and Learn--We Suggest a Conference

The California Preservation Conference brings more than 600 participants from across the state to learn, network, and share successes. The conference will include over 40 sessions, special events, networking activities, and site tours in and around Los Angeles. The theme is Building Shelter, Community, Sustainability, and Housing. One possibility is the reuse and rehabilitation of office buildings for residential units. Since companies are not returning to their former offices vacant buildings have been created. Hundreds of people no longer eat or shop in their downtown areas. CPF conference is at the Millennium Biltmore Hotel, Los Angeles. May 29 to June 1, 2024.

The National Trust of Historic Preservation is focusing on climate change and decarbonization goals. At the beginning of the pandemic, the National Trust felt this was the time for reuse of large office buildings throughout the US. Office buildings were often historic and were prime for reuse and rehabilitation into residential units. The National Trust will be delving into these topics in depth in New Orleans on October 28-30, 2024.



**P.O. Box 4521
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