



213 Buck Avenue
Vacaville, CA 95688
95688

Vacaville Museum



Pressing News

Spring 2009

Special Notes

- **Vacaville Museum celebrates it's 25th Anniversary!**
- **Take a seat still going strong!**

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Vacaville Museum

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Dear Friends of Vacaville Museum:

As Vacaville Museum approaches our own Silver Anniversary, we get a chance to pause and appreciate 25 years of collecting, preserving and interpreting local history and culture. How fortunate we are to celebrate this milestone with some of you who were here from the beginning, and how grateful we are for the commitment each of you has made to the Museum over the years.

Just as the families, donors and civic leaders who first imagined the museum and then nurtured its growth over the past 25 years, you join us in implementing ambitious plans for the Museum's future, the next 25 years. Here are a few things we have planned and some ways you can help us make them happen.

In May, the Museum will kick off a year-long Silver Anniversary membership drive and awareness campaign. As a museum member, you can share your interest and pride in your Museum by talking to your friends and family about becoming museum members. Wouldn't it be fun to double our museum family this year by each of us bringing in just one new member?

This summer, we will install a

retrospective exhibition of our first quarter century, "**Real Stuff, Real Stories, Real History; a 25th Anniversary Retrospective**". We will be looking for you to become a sponsor of this exhibit through one of the Silver Anniversary Donor Circles. Exhibit donor circle sponsorship levels begin at \$500 and become Silver Sponsors at \$5,000.

The anniversary of opening our doors also provides an ideal time to add your name to our marble panels just inside those doors; a permanent recognition of your valuable support at or above \$7,000 (exclusive of membership). Remember to consider donations to the wall of major donors, for the purposes of estate planning and memorial recognition.

You may have noticed that we did not send out an end-of-year annual giving campaign appeal. During the fourth-quarter collapse of financial markets, we tried to respect that the uncertain economy rattled the nerves of even our most consistent donors. Since then, much economic support for non-profits has been filtered through a new perspective of priorities. Especially in times of crisis, the work of



Executive Director Shawn Lum with her husband Paul at the 'Take a seat' opening.

museums fills a tangible human need by providing stability, continuity, and sense of place.

Yet, we are experiencing a dramatic reduction in donations and can only continue to provide the gift of history to our community with your help. **Since nearly 40% of our budgeted annual income is from gifts, donations, and memberships, the dramatic decline in revenue we are experiencing limits every immediate project and program.** Simply put, after 25 strong years, we need your continued financial support and commitment to continue this work today and for the future. Help us celebrate the strength of history with a special Silver Anniversary gift to the Museum.

Shawn Lum, Executive Director

Take a seat still going strong



"History takes a front-row seat" read the headline on the front page of the Daily Republic on March 11th, 2009.

Reporter Ian Thompson visited the exhibit with his photographer, interviewing Heidi and Shawn. It was great press for the Museum in these economic times while people are staying closer to home and cutting back on travel. How many times have we heard the expression 'I didn't know we had a museum in Vacaville'? It's time for everyone to visit their local sites. Tell a friend to come by and take a seat!

**Polish the Silver
and**

Save the Date!

Vacaville Museum

Silver Anniversary Celebration

Will be held
August 15th, 2009

at the
Buck Estate



'An intriguing addition to the collections is a chart case purported to have belonged to Captain Robert Waterman, founder of Fairfield.'

New to the Vacaville Museum Collections

The Museum has recently acquired a number of interesting things for the collections. Among them is a framed poster of the new George Miller Bridge from Supervisor Jim Spring. It had been produced to commemorate the new span over the Carquinez Strait. A delightful counterpart to this, already in the collections, is a 1916 poster for the dedication of the Causeway between Davis and Sacramento.

An intriguing addition to the collections is a chart case purported to have belonged to Captain Robert Waterman, founder of Fairfield. It is not inconsistent with chart cases of his era, but it will take a great deal of work to verify its provenance.

Eleanor Nelson, a well-loved teacher and community activist of Vacaville, was married to Harry Nelson. He and his family had moved up from South-

ern California in the 1890's in a wagon that has been donated to the museum.

As a record of the history-making events of our own recent times, the museum has acquired materials from an election officer for last year's presidential election.

Heidi Casebolt, Registrar



Blouse from Elfreda Cordelia Whitman

Sponge With Gin?

After installing exhibits, such as *Take A Seat*, I dive into collections care. I never know what I might re-discover as I retrieve boxes that need inspecting.

This early Gibson Girl style blouse from Elfreda Cordelia Whitman is an example. The lace, which covers the silk blouse in its entirety, is incredibly delicate. It is in excellent condition, but I thought you might enjoy learning how early silks and laces were cleaned. Thus, I share this 1888 suggestion for the homemaker...

"Black lace is wonderfully freshened by sponging it with a weak solution of borax, a teaspoonful to a pint of warm water; use a piece of black silk or a black kid glove to sponge with; while still damp cover with a piece of black silk and iron. Another plan is to sponge with gin, first being careful to brush all of the dust out." *The Domestic Monthly December 1886*

Silk and satin garments don't do well with water, so in the 1800's people used "dry cleaning" products such as

turpentine, camphor oil, benzene, naphtha, kerosene, or white gasoline to clean them. Hopefully they used these highly flammable products before the gin was opened!

Elfreda Whitman, who lived on Kentucky Street, Vacaville, was a descendant of early Solano ranchers. The Whitman family had their ranch near the location of the CMF facility.

Annie Farley, Curator

Did you know that donations make up 21% of our annual budget and membership 15%?

Help Vacaville Museum meet it's goals!

Thank you to our 2008 donors!

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Additional support to the Museum provided by the City of Vacaville.

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info

Vacaville Museum
213 Buck Avenue
Vacaville, CA 95688
Phone 707/447-4513
vacamuseum@sbcglobal.net

www.vacavillemuseum.org

Hours

Wednesday—Sunday
1:00—4:30

Closed the following holidays:

New Year's Eve and Day, Martin
Luther King Jr. Birthday,
President's Day, Easter,
Memorial Day, 4th of July, Labor
Day, Veteran's Day,
Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve &
Christmas

Entrance Donations

Members	Free
Adults	\$3.00
Students	\$2.00
Seniors	\$2.00
School Tours	\$1.00

Membership

Participating	\$50.00
Supporting/Family	\$75.00
Sponsor	\$145.00
Principal	\$250.00
Patron	\$500.00
Benefactor	\$1200.00
Life Membership	\$5000.00

Shop the Museum Store!



Splint Basketry Class
A Tisket a Tasket
Want to Make a Basket?

April 19th

1:00-4:00

Museum Courtyard

Workshop fee \$25.00 includes materials,
demonstration and kit. Instructor: Kate
Farley. Limited to first 12 sign ups.
Workshop designed for adult dexterity.
Contact Annie to sign up.

The income generated from the Museum Store is integral to funding the operating of the Museum. Please remember our store when you are looking for that perfect gift to yourself or friends and family. Enjoy this coupon for a one time use of 25% off the regular price of one item.*

25% off
one regular priced item

**One coupon per member. Excludes Rico and Birrell art prints. May not be combined with regular member discount or on previous purchases. Expires April 30, 2009.*



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