Sonoma Valley Historical Society
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SONOMA VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY PARTNER

DEPOT PARK MUSEUM REOPENING JULY 3, 1-4 PM

After 16 months of being shuttered due to the pandemic, the Depot Park Museum will reopen with two exciting events:

- *Baseball Part II exhibit*
- *First ever ice cream social: 2-4 pm*

NEWSLETTER

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

THE DEPOT PARK MUSEUM IS OPENING

We have had a closed by COVID sign on the door since March 14, 2020.

Graphic artist Tom Whitworth has been making exhibit panels for 'Baseball Part 2' from the information provided by Kate Schertz and Mike Acker. They have spent hundreds of hours researching baseball in Sonoma Valley

Please come by and visit your museum Saturday July 3rd for the opening and stay for the Ice Cream Social fundraiser. Normal hours are 1-4pm Saturday and Sunday.

September will begin the next 'Second Saturday lecture series' with Fred Codoni speaking about the 'Railroads of the Valley of the Moon'. We may do a combination in-person and online. A notice will be on our website.

The Marcy House Archives is humming with volunteers now that we are reopened. We appreciate the volunteers for both the museum and the archives.

Look for the Sonoma Valley Historical Society's walking tour app for Sonoma to roll out in July.

Patricia Cullinan

WE'RE COMING BACK!

It hardly seems possible but after 16 months of being shuttered due to the pandemic, the Depot Park Museum will reopen on SATURDAY, JULY 3 with two exciting events:

FIRST

The long awaited Baseball Part II exhibit covering

- Men's Baseball 1887-2010
- Sonoma Kids Who Made it to the Pros

Lots of pictures and memories here.

SECOND

Our first ever ICE CREAM SOCIAL!!

We're inviting members to bake their most memorable cake--maybe the one Grandma or Mom always made for special occasions. Then we'll slice the cakes, serve them with a scoop of ice cream, and ask for a $10 donation to help pay for the creation of the baseball panels.

Please email Kate Schertz: ***kate.schertz@gmail.com*** if you are willing to bake a cake for the cause! Details to follow by eflash!

OUR MISSION

The mission of the Sonoma Valley Historical Society is to provide a forum and a resource for the study and dissemination of Sonoma Valley history for present and future generations by identifying, collecting, preserving and sharing artifacts, documents and images.

SONOMA VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

OFFICERS

Patricia Cullinan, President
Carol Page, Vice President
Cynthia Thomssen, Treasurer
Shelley Hoffman, Secretary

DIRECTORS

Michael Acker
Kathleen Hill
Dr. Peter Meyerhof
Sharon O'Neil
Ron Price
Charlotte Ruffner
Kate Schertz

BOARD MEETINGS

First Wednesday of the Month
12:00 pm via Zoom

ABOUT THE SOCIETY

The Sonoma Valley Historical Society was formed in January 1937 and has served the Valley as a nonprofit organization ever since. It is dedicated to the collection, preservation and dissemination of the historic heritage of the "Valley of the Moon."

ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION

"Sonoma Valley Notes" is the official publication of the Sonoma Valley Historical Society and is published quarterly.

Editor: Barbara Zukin Heiman, Ph.D.
Assistant Editor: Sharon O'Neil

newsletter@sonomavalleyhistoricalsociety.org

SECOND SATURDAY LECTURE SERIES

We do not have lectures during the summer.
But look forward to our first in-person
Saturday lecture since COVID.

SEPTEMBER 11, 2021, 2 PM

Railroads of the Valley of the Moon

Presented by Fred Codoni

A life-long resident of Marin County, Fred has worked for both the Northwestern Pacific and Southern Pacific railway companies. He has an extensive collection of railroad photos and ephemera, most relating to local railroads, that he will share with us.

Image from the *Northwestern Pacific Railroad (Images of Rail)*.

The Sonoma Train District

In 2010 the City of Sonoma enrolled in the Certified Local Government Program (CLG) whose goal is Preservation through Partnership.

The city is now embarking on surveys to identify the areas that illustrate Sonoma's heritage with partial funding from a CLG grant.

The Marcy House Archives, in addition to the inquiries from individuals looking for property or family history, receives many inquiries from professionals looking for documentation to evaluate properties for their importance in the community.

Currently Sonoma has several areas that are recognized by the Nation or State as telling an important story about hour heritage. The Plaza is a National Landmark and the area around it is considered a National Register District. The Broadway corridor is a California Register district that was determined to support the Plaza district.

We look forward to supporting the city of Sonoma in this effort.

KITCHEN CORNER © KATHLEEN THOMPSON HILL

Baseball Food – Can't Cheer Without It

"Take me out to the ball game, buy me some peanuts and Cracker Jacks..."

Hot Dog!

As with many things, lots of people claim to have invented hot dogs, starting with Emperor Nero Claudius Caesar's Cook, Gaius, who stuffed ground meat into pig intestines, so the Emperor exclaimed that HE had discovered "something of great importance."

Next up the city of Frankfurt, Germany came out with a "frankfurter," which was a spiced and smoked sausage that was curved a wee bit. Vienna contributed the wiener, so named because Vienna is "Wein" in German.

In the 1880s Antoine Feuchtwanger sold hot sausages from a cart and loaned white gloves to purchasers in St. Louis, Missouri so customers wouldn't burn their hands, but wouldn't you know the hot doggers walked off with the gloves. About 1883 his wife, saying they couldn't afford any more gloves, made some long, soft rolls and Mr. F. called the new meat-bread combo "red hots".

But back in 1867 German butcher Charles Feltman sold sausages on rolls out of a pie wagon along the beach of Coney Island, created a booming business, and then one of his staffers, bread slicer Nathan Handwerker, opened his own stand in 1916 and charged only 5 cents instead of Feltman's 10 cents. Now Nathan's hot dogs are everywhere, and some are even kosher.

Mr. Peanut Emasculated

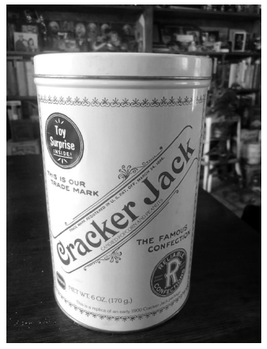
Peanuts came back to America in the 1700s with slave traders as cheap food for their African slaves. The traders planted peanuts to feed to livestock and poor people, meaning slaves. Peanuts became more popular during the Civil War when soldiers somehow discovered how nutritious they are.

Vendors started selling freshly roasted peanuts on street corners, at circuses, and eventually at ballparks. In 2021 the "Mr. Peanut" title was removed and the figure today is gender non-specific.

Buy Me Some Cracker Jack (no s)

Cracker Jack(s) were sort of invented by Native Americans who first popped corn thousands of years ago.

In 1893 German immigrants Frederick and Louis Rueckheim added molasses and peanuts to their popcorn and introduced them at that year's World's Fair in Chicago. "Crackerjack" was actually an adjective term of admiration similar to today's "awesome." So the brothers trademarked the word. In 1912 they added "prizes."



The toys were discontinued in 2016.

In 1906 Jack Norworth and Albert Von Tilzer came out with the song "Take Me Out to the Ballgame," which included the line "buy me some peanuts and Cracker Jacks…"

Borden bought The Cracker Jack Company in 1964, and it is currently owned by Frito-Lay.

Now you can also get crab cakes and garlic fries at San Francisco Giants games.

Kathleen Thompson Hill is a Compagnon of the Guilde Internationale des Fromagers (Paris), a member of Les Dames d'Escoffier, and Food & Wine Editor of the Sonoma Index-Tribune.

THE SPRINGS: Thomson Avenue © *Michael Acker*

Thomson Avenue, not Thompson Avenue, was named for Dr. Allen Thomson, who had been physician to General Vallejo, and who married one of his granddaughters. Thomson was president of the company that developed the subdivision known as Boyes Springs Park. Thomson Street is its southern border.

The building at the southeast corner of Thomson and the highway was a Red Crown gas station circa 1930. It later became the Ferrando's Plumbing building and now houses La Michoacana Ice Cream and Plain Jane's. It was famously made over by Rico Martin in 2015.

Directly across Highway 12 from the end of Thomson (not West Thomson!) was Baker's Drive In, established in 1957 (and open 24 hours per day!) In 1958 Norman Baker had big plans to build a truck stop on this property, but the county would not approve the project.

Second Section

The Sonoma Index-Tribune

Thursday, April 24, 1958 Page 9

Many Thanks To Our Many Customers

For Helping Us To Be Able To Celebrate Our Restaurant's

FIRST ANNIVERSARY

Mr. and Mrs. Norman Baker

BAKER'S DRIVE-IN

Highway 12 and Thompson, Boyes Hot Springs

Baker's Drive-In Has Anniversary

Mr. and Mrs. Norman Baker this week are observing the first anniversary of their Bakers' Drive-In restaurant on Highway 12 at Thompson avenue in Boyes Hot Springs.

They have remodeled the building and installed air conditioning and floodlighting.

The restaurant is open 24 hours every day.

The Index Tribune clipping and the photo of the gas station are courtesy of thr Sonoma Valley Historical Society. The photo of the intersection (looking west at the drive-in) is courtesy of the Sonoma County archives.

DONATE TO THE SONOMA VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY QCD from IRA

If you are at least 70 -1/2 years old and have a traditional IRA, there's a smart way to give to the Sonoma Valley Historical Society. You can make a contribution known as a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) from your IRA that is 100% tax-free. Even if you do not itemize your deductions on your tax return, it is possible to apply your donation and you will not pay taxes on this donation if it is sent directly to the Sonoma Valley Historical Society, P. O. Box 861, Sonoma, CA 95476. Please consider a distribution from your IRA to the Sonoma Valley Historical Society. ***Thank you!***

THE SONOMA TAILOR WHO WAS EXHUMED SO HE COULD RECEIVE A DECENT BURIAL © *Dr. Peter G. Meyerhof*

Early one morning at 5 am on Saturday September 15, 1883 a body was found on First St. East. The Justice of the Peace, Louis Breitenbach, who also served as coroner when needed, brought the body to the Pavilion Court House that stood in the middle of the Plaza. He summoned a jury to conduct an inquest a few hours later. They determined that the deceased was the well-liked local tailor, Owen Wynne who had died from "chronic alcoholism."

The 41 year old man had lived in Sonoma for 4 years but had no known next of kin. He had died near the entrance to his tailor shop and apartment on the east side of the Plaza. Breitenbach decided to waste no time in burial. He put the body in a wooden box, loaded it on a lumber cart, and rode off to the cemetery with the undertaker, grave digger, and one mourner. Owen Wynne was buried by 2 pm.

News of Wynne's death travelled rapidly around Sonoma. Many citizens felt indignant that the Coroner had callously proceeded from inquest to burial in "the quickest time on record." They held a meeting that same evening and decided to collect pledges so they could pay for a "decent burial". They appointed a committee to exhume the body. Just 8 hours after the burial, the body of Owen Wynne was dug up and his "rude box" returned to the Court House.

At dawn on Sunday, the citizens opened the box and now were appalled to find the body "in a most filthy condition, having been interred without even being washed, clothing changed, and the boots still on the feet." The amateur morticians set to work immediately to rectify the situation, removing all the clothes, washing the body before wrapping it in a linen shroud and placing it in a $50 coffin, the most expensive one they could find in Sonoma. They wrote funeral notices, purchased candles and arranged for the last rites to be performed by a Catholic priest in the Court House. The body was then brought by hearse to Mountain Cemetery and buried in a lot which had already been purchased, graded and fenced. Lastly a headboard was provided. Only 25 hours had elapsed since the first burial. Now not only Wynne, but the whole community could rest in peace.

By the time Owen Wynne received his "decent burial," pledges totaling $77 had already been received, an amount that would cover all expenses. The list of 78 donors consisted of people from all local faiths and occupations. Among the donors were five Chinese individuals including Hi Lo (aka Ah How) the laundry owner who would soon have his own run-in with Breitenbach.

Impressed by the generosity, The Sonoma Weekly Index editor concluded this charitable event showed "that Sonoma is not a bad place to live in – or die in either."

The Pavilion Court House that stood in the center of the Sonoma Plaza (1887)
Courtesy of the Sonoma Valley Historical Society

Reference: The Sonoma Weekly Index, Sept 22, 1883.

DRAWING SONOMA © *Barbara White Perry*

The Huichica School House and the Family Who Saved It

Some individuals in the Sonoma Valley will remember the Huichica School House, maybe even attended classes. I had only seen, from a distance, the elusive building out in a field south of Napa Road. For five years I tried to discover the history of this mysterious school. Until now, there has been no written history so I will start at the beginning:

Built in 1911, the Huichica School was located on the northwest corner of Denmark Street and Napa Road, Sonoma. It was a two-room school house operated from 1911 to around 1960 for grade levels K-8.

Across Napa Road was a 50-acre ranch bordered by Burndale, Hyde/Burndale Roads and Arroyo Seco Creek. It was established by immigrants from Switzerland, Edmund Bacher Sr. and Katharina Zumoberhous Bacher, in 1921. Livestock and crops included milk cows, beef cattle, horses, pigs, lambs, chickens, hay and wine grapes.

In 1965 the County of Sonoma was going to re-route and improve Napa Road and the Huichica School was in the way. The school and accompanying gazebo, were put up for public auction. Ed Bacher Jr. 'won' it with the sole bid of $250. The school and gazebo were transported whole, raised and then pushed on temporary dollies. It was placed on a new concrete foundation a short distance from the Bacher family ranch home, built in 1900.

No other classes continued at the school although some chalk boards and desks still remain. In 1978 the Huichica Gazebo was donated to the City of Sonoma and moved to Depot Park where it remained until it was demolished due to vandalism.

MEMORIES

"I attended grades 1-4 from 1953-1957. Our teacher was Mrs. Eileen Frazier for all grades 1 thru 8 in the two-room school house. One room for classroom studies with desks. The other room for the arts: leatherwork, ceramics, chalk art on slate boards, theater and singing. Folk dancing was taught by June Schaal of Vineburg. There were many recess activities on a cement court. Lunches were eaten outdoors in the gazebo."

Joe Bacher

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"My dad, Raymond Becker Noyes, moved with his parents from Sausalito to what is now 21855 Hyde Road in 1920. He attended Huichica School. The first day of school my dad wore what he had worn to school in Sausalito, short pants and long socks. He found out that he looked very different from the other boys. Quickly, he changed his wardrobe to overalls like the other farm boys!"

Marilyn Noyes Nas

My sincere thanks to SVHS member Mary Black Smith who put me in touch with the Bacher family in 2020. The family agreed to meet me on their property and share information about this fascinating part of Sonoma Valley history we may have never known.

*The **Huichica School House** is a new ink and vine-charcoal illustration by Barbara White Perry, a Sonoma Treasure Artist. Her book, **Drawing Sonoma 2nd Edition**, features historic and unique properties of Sonoma Valley with stories of each property's past. Contact: **Barbara@BarbaraWhitePerry.com***

SONOMA VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP

Join, renew, or donate today and support the Historical Society's efforts to be a repository of all things Sonoma (including significant documents and artifacts) and a place of exploration and learning.

Members enjoy the Quarterly Newsletter, free admission to interesting lectures on local topics and invitations to other members-only events. Watch for your renewal notice in the mail. You can also give a membership as a gift!

Individual: $45 Family: $75 Business: $200
Patron: $500 Benefactor: $1,000 Docent: $15

BEQUESTS AND ESTATE PLAN GIFTS TO THE SONOMA VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

A *bequest* is a gift from your estate—a transfer of cash, securities, or other property made through your estate plans. You can make a bequest to the Sonoma Valley Historical Society by including language in your will or living trust leaving a portion of your estate to the Historical Society, or by designating the Historical Society as a beneficiary of your retirement account or life insurance policy. A bequest costs nothing now, yet gives you the satisfaction of knowing you have provided for the preservation of Sonoma's history

We are happy to help you explore options for designating a bequest to the Sonoma Valley Historical Society. Those considering a planned gift should consult their own legal and tax advisors and we will also be happy to speak with such advisors.

Gifts to the Historical Society from your estate are exempt from federal estate taxes The Sonoma Valley Historical Society Inc. is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization ID# 94-2430797.

For assistance or questions, please email Patricia Cullinan: *president@sonomavalleyhistory.org*.