

Moments in Time

SAUSALITO HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER WINTER 2010

SAUSALITO NEWS 1885–1922

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INTRODUCTION

The *Sausalito News* was Sausalito's primary weekly newspaper for 82 years, from 1885 to 1967. Most notably under the 25-year publishing reign of John M. Harlan, it operated from several sites around town, beginning with the building now housing Games People Play, which was built specifically for it. This site and those that succeeded it, ranging throughout the community, afforded it the reach it needed to serve as the town's eyes, ears and voice in those years when the print medium was a small town's chief means of exchanging information.

Now, for the first time, the *Sausalito News* is easily available to the public. The Sausalito Historical Society, along with the Sausalito Library Foundation, recently funded the indexing and digitizing of the paper from its inception until 1922, the last year for which the Society has bound copies. With all issues during those years now online, everyone from serious researchers to descendants of early Sausalito families will benefit. Long available to us only on yellowed, highly fragile, pages from our collection of original newspapers, this treasure trove of data from the past is just a few key strokes away.

Over the past few weeks, as we've sought to unearth clues into the kind of community that flourished here 100 years ago, our brief, exploratory searches have proved both rewarding and challenging. Small town journalism in the late 19th and early 20th centuries strikes the 21st century newspaper reader—accustomed to lean, crisp modern prose and an uncompromising barrier between news and editorial content—as quaint, opinionated and highly unprofessional. But at the same time endearing. The *News* reported the smallest details of daily life side by side with information of national and international import. Its weekly "Brieflets" faith-



fully recounted, among dozens of local tidbits, who was a weekend houseguest at whose home on Harrison Avenue—and in the next column announced that Sausalito's Democrats had endorsed Grover Cleveland as their presidential candidate in 1892.

All the while, the small, eight-page sheet regaled its subscribers with reams of lively prose—flowery, verbose, sentimental, and sometimes unabashedly inflammatory. A not untypical sample: "Some dastardly fiend, one night this week, detached a number of pieces from the pumping engine in Wildwood Glen belonging to the Sausalito Land and Ferry Company, and carried them away. . . . Such pure, unadulterated cussedness deserves the severest punishment prescribed by law."

While the *News*' journalistic standards fall well short

mittenly, and Captain John Cassin Cantwell, the consummate insider and solid citizen.

William Randolph Hearst

Hearst first came to town as a renter around 1887, the year his father, a powerful press baron who'd made his fortune in the Nevada silver mines, gave him complete control of the *San Francisco Examiner*. Having grown up in San Francisco, the young Hearst undoubtedly was familiar with Sausalito and, as a headstrong, independent young scion of wealth and privilege, he valued being able to practice his free-wheeling lifestyle away from the prying eyes of San Francisco society. He and his long-time mistress Tessie Powers lived openly together in Sausalito and seemed unphased by their exclusion from the yacht clubs and other socially elite groups in town. Interestingly, and perhaps wisely, the *Sausalito News* completely avoided mention of the Powers-Hearst liaison.

Later, from about 1890 to 1943, Hearst was a landowner in Sausalito. He purchased *Sea Point* from builder Henry Cartans in the early '90s and he and Tessie lived there until Phoebe Hearst, his mother, finally exerted her power to end the relationship. According to Jack Tracy's book *Moments in Time*, around 1892 Hearst tried to buy seven acres of the Lime Point Military Reservation as a site for a waterfront estate, but when that deal fell through he, for a variety of reasons, left California for about 18 years.

By 1910, Hearst was once again spending more time in the Bay Area. The *News* began carrying items about his local philanthropy, especially that benefiting the Sea Point Parlor of the Native Sons of the Golden West. The local parlor had named itself after Hearst's 1880s home and was honored to have Hearst as a member. The *News* acknowledged his support with effusive praise:

Through the generosity of W.R. Hearst, a member of Sea Point Parlor of the Native Sons, the drum corps of that parlor will be handsomely uniformed. 6/13/1908 A resolution passed thanking Wm. Randolph Hearst for the handsome banner thoroughly overhauled and painted... 1/23/1909

The *News* now had a new slant on Hearst. Not only were his donations touching lives in Sausalito, but by 1910 he was a married man with two children. He had served as a U.S. Congressman from New York and become an American newspaper magnate. It appeared he



of our best contemporary models, for today's reader it offers endless rewards. Its charming turn-of-the-last-century advertisements—promoting everything from blacksmith's services to all-purpose vitality pills—yield penetrating insights into the everyday life of our forbearers. Its painstakingly literal headlines—"Important Happenings of the Past Week Related in Short Paragraphs"—provide a fascinating read. In our informal searches, we delved into five areas of interest, randomly pursuing topics we hoped might turn up small gems of information—about people, places, events, and, from time to time, national or international issues affecting Sausalito.

PEOPLE

Small town newspapers of the 19th and early 20th centuries operated on the principle that the more local names you packed into your pages, the more interest you generated among your readers. The *Sausalito News* was no exception. Even the most random searches of the names that appeared in its columns between 1885 and 1922, while fascinating, would have been prohibitive. So, limiting ourselves to a study in contrasts, we entered just two individuals in our search bar who lived here around the turn of the century—William Randolph Hearst, the flamboyant outsider who lived in town inter-

might re-emerge as a "respectable" resident.

Following the three visits of Wm. Randolph Hearst to Sausalito last week, the bright and newsy Town Talk give us good news... The celebrated house on the bluff in Sausalito is to be rebuilt... when the place is completed it will undoubtedly be the most picturesque across the bay. The home will be a class A structure of concrete and steel in Spanish mission style with two verandas looking out over the expanse of bay and out beyond the Golden Gate... it promises to rival anything of its kind on the coast... it is expected that ground will be broken before the end of the month. 1/15/1910

Alas, the fabulous house was never built, although there remains in Sausalito today, visible from Bridgeway, the retaining wall for the lower gardens of the would-be estate. After the death of his mother in 1919, Hearst inherited the San Simeon property on the central California coast where he immediately began work on the now famous castle that bears his name. He no longer imagined Sausalito as the site for his primary residence. Nonetheless, the *News* continued to report on Hearst's largess, as in the following description:

The Directors of the Panama-Pacific Exposition Company performed... a magnificent banquet on the occasion of Wm. R. Hearst's visit to San Francisco in gratitude for the great aid he gave to San Francisco in her struggle for the choice of Congress as the City for holding the great Exposition of 1915. For this event all differences of opinion

were cast aside in the desire to manifest to Mr. Hearst the gratitude of the people of this state... 1/6/1912

In 1922, Hearst tore down his Sausalito mansion, *Sea Point*. His last go-round with the city of Sausalito about a building project—this time a luxury hotel and apartments—was in the 1930s. This project was also never built, and by 1943, he had sold his last Sausalito holding.

Overall, the *News* coverage of Sausalito's relationship with Wm R. Hearst was limited and restrained. It was a predicament, after all, to report on the country's chief practitioner of "yellow journalism," who as a young man had challenged the town with his alternative lifestyle and later with his ambitious building projects, yet also gave generously to some of its favorite causes. But the *Sausalito News* had a secure sense of its mission. It did not aspire to report on the whole man, but on the part of the man it admired.

Captain John Cassin Cantwell

Captain John Cassin Cantwell was a good subject for the *Sausalito News*. His was a life the entire town could admire: professional, patriotic, and adventuresome. His name first appeared in November 1903, not long after he had settled permanently in town and built *Sweetbriar*, a stately residence on The Hill (87 San Carlos Avenue). He was billed as a speaker at the San Francisco Yacht Club on the topic of his government service in Alaska where he had explored on the Yukon and Kobuk Rivers for the Revenue Service aboard the steamer *Corwin*. *News* readers were encouraged to turn out to "greet our genial fellow-townsmen."

Cantwell had a distinguished career in the United States Revenue Cutter Service, serving under the U.S. Navy during the Spanish American War in 1898 and, later, under the U.S. Department of Treasury in the enforcement of tariff and other maritime laws in Alaskan waters. His reassignment to San Francisco on the Revenue Cutter *Golden Gate* seems to have been in recognition of his 19 years of frontline professional service. His prominence around town was enriched by notices in the *News* such as this:

Captain J. C. Cantwell entertained the President on board his government tug, the *Golden Gate* on Thursday. Among those present were: Messrs. Theodore Roosevelt, A. A. Watkins, etc... 1/16/1903



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The *News* ran a lead article on Cantwell in 1905 on his promotion to Captain of the *McCulloch*, a Revenue Cutter of great fame from the Spanish American War. The article extolled his heroic capabilities:

Three times during his career Captain Cantwell has performed acts of bravery. While still an aspirant for a cadetship he dived under a vessel and rescued a sailor. On another occasion he saved the life of Albert W. Longfellow, a nephew of the poet, who fell overboard from the *Corwin* while on a cruise to Alaska... During a storm in Baltimore harbor he sprang overboard and saved the life of the commander of the *Colfax*... 4/1/1905

Cantwell, also popular as an orator and frequently chosen to inspire local crowds at patriotic occasions, sometimes added embellishments from his ships:

Two buglers from the *McCulloch* were present and as the clarion tones of their instruments pierced the air the big American ensign [flag] seemed imbued with and influenced by the martial air and it gently climbed the pole in time with the music.

Cantwell carried on,

Our flag is not transient, but is for all time... Remote or close at hand, in storm or sunshine, in peace or war, may it never be used for a despicable purpose or as a cloak to cover an unjust or dishonorable action... 11/12/1904.

The *News*' social columnist enthusiastically highlighted the activities of the Cantwells on behalf of Sausalito's young female socialites:

Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Cantwell took a number of our Sausalito girls on the *Golden Gate* on Tuesday last. Tea was served, the ship inspected and a very pleasant time enjoyed. I don't know what our girls would do without Mr. Cantwell and his good ship, the *Golden Gate*. 6/6/1903
Last Saturday afternoon, Captain and Mrs. J. C. Cantwell were again hosts and gave a very delightful party on board the *Golden Gate*. The affair was in honor of Miss Mabel Watkins and Miss Marie Louise Styetson. 4/23/04

The good Captain briefly experienced a setback in December, 1905, when he collapsed from a stroke in San Francisco. Not long after, his "house suffered badly" in the 1906 earthquake. But in November of 1906, the *News* reported him back in Alaska—undeterred by either illness or natural disaster—once again a role model in service to his country.

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PLACES

The Hill

During the waning years of the 19th century, the El Monte Hotel on Bulkley Avenue was Sausalito's premier hostelry for well-to-do visitors, many of them seeking the milder climate of the "Banana Belt" for extended stays. The hotel's heyday was the 1880s under the proprietorship of Australian-born general manager J.E. Slinkey. Originally launched as the Bon Ton around 1879, in this earliest incarnation it operated in the manner of the grand hotels of that era, catering to the very rich. Later it evolved into the Clifton House, and then the El Monte. It regularly promoted itself in the *Sausalito News* in bold, self-congratulatory ads as a "first class hotel," offering "BILLIARD ROOMS AND BAR" and the "FINEST LAND AND WATER VIEW IN THE STATE." Or, in case guests needed an athletic diversion, it offered "croquet yards" in the garden. Terms were said to be "moderate."

J.E. Slinkey, according to Jack Tracy's book *Moments In Time*, had a hand in almost everything that happened in Sausalito. And the *Sausalito News* faithfully recorded his every move, including visitors of any note (or even little note) who happened to stay at the El Monte. ("The Misses Hattie and May Rademaker, with Fred J. Rademaker and Miss Mamie A. Riley, are spending the season at the El Monte Hotel. . . Mr. and Mrs. W.B. Webster

spent Saturday and Sunday at the El Monte Hotel, guests of Mr. and Mrs. A.O. Colton.”)

“Slinkey’s guest list read like a Who’s Who of San Francisco,” Tracy writes. “He catered to the guest’s every whim. He even installed a bowling alley exclusively for the use of ladies. Many British and other visitors stayed at the El Monte as the first step to becoming permanent Sausalito residents.”

As for the local crowd, the social and cultural life of Sausalito centered in large part on the El Monte, which provided a centralized venue for regular community events (“The opening hop of the season at the El Monte Hotel last Saturday was a grand success and was highly enjoyed,” the *News* reported on June 15, 1894). Tracy quotes from the *San Francisco Chronicle* of 1889: “Once a month or thereabouts a ball is given at the El Monte Hotel, and here there is a great gathering of sighing swains, laughing belles, and weary chaperones, whose chief pleasure is supposed to consist in accumulating evidence that their own youth has forever flown away.”

The Downtown Waterfront

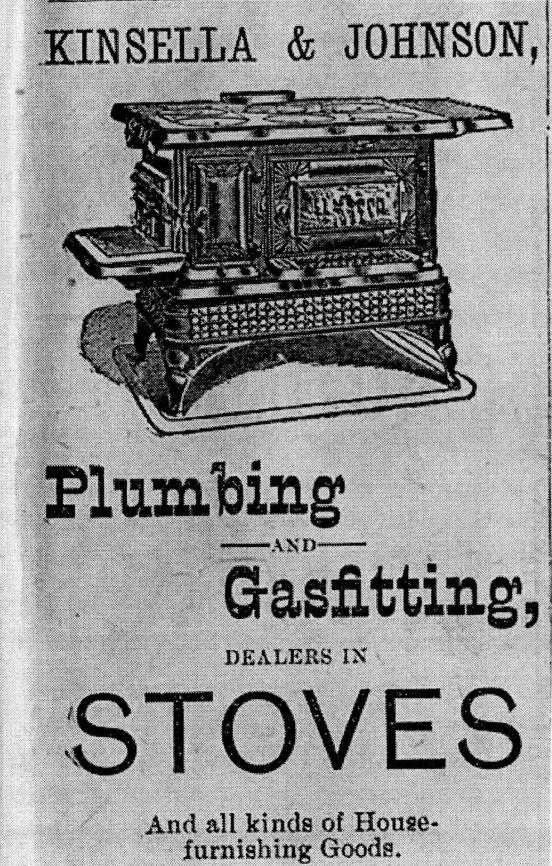
On Water Street, a whole different scene prevailed. And nothing reflected the abrupt transition from The Hill to the commercial center better than “the Pond.” By the late 1800s, a body of stagnant water—described in *Moments In Time* as a “repository of garbage, sewage and the flotsam and jetsam of saloon-lined Water Street”—had formed in the area that is now Vina Del Mar Park. The maze of pilings supporting the old railroad wharf prevented cleansing tidal action from the bay, and at low tide it became a place of “vile vapors” and huge wharf rats scurrying over “slime-covered rocks and rotted pilings.”

The *Sausalito News* was outraged at this blight on the community. On July, 14, 1900, it opined: “It is a filthy, ill-smelling pond, especially during the summer months.” In line with its self-identified role as the voice of civic rectitude and modern progress, the paper spoke up vigorously for something to be done. Implying that the odor came from Sausalito’s primitive sewage system, editorials asked pointedly, “Where does all that filth come from? It is surely not washed in through the Golden Gate.”

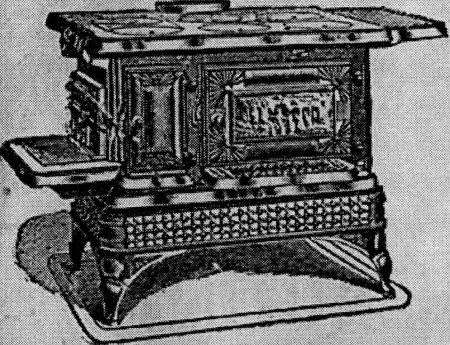
In 1902, the North Shore Railroad took over the rail operation into Sausalito and, under pressure from Sausalito’s new mayor, Jacques Thomas, included in its mod-

ernization plans a landscaped plaza where the despised pond had long festered. The paper reported the good news by exuberantly coining a new adjective: “The eternal source of trouble, bickering and un-noseable odors—the Pond—will be filled . . .” In its issue of April 15, 1905, it ran a photograph of the completed improvements, by then officially named Depot Park, with a portion of the Mill Valley train sitting on the tracks to the left. Just outside the picture to the north, we are proudly told, are “nearly a dozen tracks running into the depot.” The writer adds, in the *News*’ characteristic folksy style, “in the foreground are Rob Frost and his dog Rover.”

Also in this story, the paper announced its plans to run a series of articles intended to “show . . . the many improvements and transformation scenes which have taken place in Sausalito during the last few years.” The projected series was consistent with the civic boosterism that marked the *News* throughout its life. Its editors often took to the hustings to champion civic improvements. But they never abandoned their allegiance to conventional mores, as defined by small-town America of that time and place. And occasionally that meant suppressing news that cast what they considered a “bad” light on Sausalito.



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EVENTS

One of the most widely reported events during the period of our study of the *Sausalito News* was the 1906 earthquake. While damage to Marin County did not compare to the devastation in San Francisco, it was challenged simply to cover the aftermath of the disaster in Sausalito. The news stories focused on local damage and relief efforts, special demands being made on the town's housing, and, as the weeks passed, on some of the secondary economic effects of the calamity on Sausalito business.

In Sausalito, the shock did much damage, especially along the waterfront. The ferry building is out of true [uneven] and the made ground [fill] has fallen a foot in many places... Fiedler's grocery store and Becker's stationery store, both brick buildings on the waterfront, were badly shaken, being damaged \$2000 and \$4000 respectively. 4/14/06 The depot here in Sausalito is in a very bad condition and will need extensive repairs. 4/28/1906

The most vulnerable building material appears to have been un-reinforced masonry:

Generally speaking, the damage done by the earthquake was limited to the falling of chimneys, although in many houses the wallpaper [over plaster] was seriously cracked. It was proven that the houses finished in natural wood withstood the quake best. 4/28/1906

Predictably, the *News* reported in detail the damage to celebrity homes on The Hill, noting cracked plaster, water damage, "costly bric-a-brac destroyed," fallen chimneys and rock walls, and broken pipes. In addition, it reported:

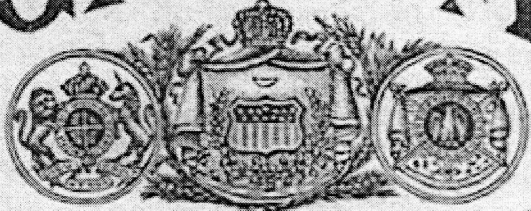
Quite a lot of families are still camping out on the hills in tents regardless of the bad weather we have had this past week. All vacant houses in town are being rented and it looks as if Sausalito will be a lively town this coming summer. There is not a day that the agents here are not besieged for houses, and it is a pity we have not more. It would pay those who have money to build small houses to accommodate small families, as Sausalito is a coming town around the bay. 4/28/1906

The *News* did not hold back its praise for civic mindedness, no matter its origin:

A committee of saloonmen offered to the Sheriff of Marin County and the District Attorney to close their places of business until the Sheriff should deem it advisable for them to re-open... The voluntary offer of the saloonmen and its observance is deserving of much commendation." 5/5/1906

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But its most effusive words of praise were for W. R. Hearst:

Thanks to this noble Native Son [of the Golden West]. ... The prompt and wonderful generosity of Mr. Hearst can never be forgotten. ... Not alone California, but the Nation, can well be proud of the possession of such a citizen. ... The home city of this princely Native Son was practically destroyed. ... Not a word of his own enormous losses; no thought of that. From a dozen different points of the United States, doctors, nurses, medicines, clothing, blankets, tents, and tons upon tons of provision were rushed toward the stricken city. ...
4/28/09

A month later, the *News* reported that a direct result of the earthquake was not a decrease, but an increase in business activity in Sausalito:

Several of our citizens whose business interests in San Francisco have been affected by the earthquake have gone into business in Sausalito. Mein Herr William Haker hung out his shingle as a commission merchant dealing in dairy produce, eggs and potatoes, and is receiving large consignments from the first hands and disposing of them readily ... Fred King, who has been very active in relief work, saw an opportunity to go into the fish business ... W. S. Fleming is opening a furnishing goods store nearly opposite the firehouse. 5/19/09
Mrs. Marion H. Belknap has sold four lots in South Sausalito during the past week, and inquiries are being made regarding the unsold lots. Evidently the earthquake has not shaken the belief of investors in the future of Sausalito. 5/26/06

While there was a story line to some of the earthquake reporting, most of the text appeared as single sentence statements of fact: who was injured, who was helping and what was needed where. The newspaper was, after all, a small town's central clearing house for information. Before the era of instant electronic communication, even before radio or television, information collecting and sharing was the essential community service that the local newspaper could and did provide.

ISSUES Local Controversies

The *News* didn't hesitate to jump into controversies, as long as the dispute in question didn't touch on issues too threatening to Sausalito's image. Often coverage of a community dispute took the form of a citizen writing to the paper, taking one side or the other of an argument in highly personalized and accusatory language which the editor had no problem publishing on the front page among the straight news items.

A carefully delineated Letters to the Editor section seems to have been a concept not yet conceived of by the small-town newspaper of that era. On April 3, 1897, such an article appeared under the headline, "UNDESERVED CRITICISM: A Citizen's Views on the Fire Department Agitation." In a fierce defense of the Sausalito Board of Trustees (the City Council of those days), the writer charged that critics who were claiming that the Board had not adequately equipped the Volunteer Fire Department to deal with a recent fire in town were being grievously unfair. "Don't for heaven's sake be guided by the ravings of dissatisfied blockheads who grasp every opportunity offered to them to vent their imbecile fury for imaginary wrongs against our Board of Trustees . . .," the letter declared in tones of righteous indignation.

The paper usually gave unquestioning support to the Board of Trustees. Whereas most respected newspapers today make some effort to monitor local government, to ferret out corruption and crusade for civic improvements, the *News* was highly selective in that regard. True, it gave ample exposure to the series of "improvement clubs" that emerged in Sausalito (and most of the other small towns in Marin) over these years, most of them promoting worthy community upgrades such as passage of street paving and school construction bonds and modernization of sewage, water and fire fighting facili-

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ties. By browsing through years of news items, beginning soon after the town's incorporation in 1893, one reads of countless meetings and board elections as these organizations formed, dissolved, merged and reorganized. Groups called the South Sausalito Improvement and Good Government Club, the North Sausalito Improvement Club, and the Sausalito Promotion and Improvement Club cropped up, and their work, largely dedicated to good government and the eradication of backward conditions, was duly noticed in the *News*.

But one situation requiring urgent corrective measures was largely ignored, even after a citizen group calling itself the Municipal Improvement Club was formed specifically to deal with it. Following the introduction of the telegraph, citizens concerned about the proliferation of pool rooms in Sausalito where one could bet on horse races across the country, encountered a wall of silence from the *News*. They had to read about the invasion of Water Street by rowdy gamblers on race days—and the apparent complicity of the Board of Trustees in the perpetuation of the “poolies”—from the *San Francisco Call Bulletin*. The Municipal Improvement Club had to launch its own newspaper, the *Sausalito Advocate*, to alert the public to the menace. In 1909, the California Legislature settled the matter by outlawing off-track betting, and, largely without the *News*' help, Sausalito's saloons resumed their role as relatively quiet waterfront drinking holes.

The *News* didn't turn a totally blind eye toward this type of subject matter. An item on November 16, 1912, reported that “the saloon question” was discussed at a meeting of the Sausalito Promotion and Improvement Club the previous Wednesday evening, and that it had attracted “a large attendance.” According to the reporter, all agreed that the question should be treated in “a rational way, not in a radical manner.” Approaches to the problem ranged from: reduction in the number of saloons, but not prohibition; no elimination; total elimination; gradual elimination. In the end, it was agreed that a committee of five should be appointed to meet with the saloon keepers and investigate the situation.

Regarding truly controversial issues, the *News*, while briefly reporting the facts, often gave short shrift to developments signaling significant change. On November 11, 1911, the paper announced that women would be allowed to join a local improvement club. Apart from

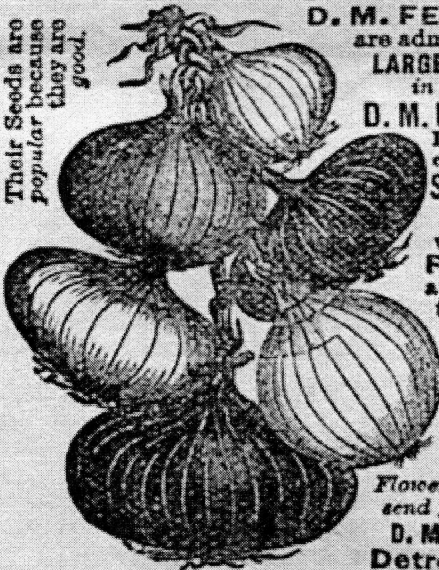
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the civic betterment efforts of the Sausalito Woman's Club, women's names were conspicuously absent from news items listing membership in these clubs. Under the headline “WOMEN ELIGIBLE: Promotion Club Meets,” the paper reported that the Sausalito Promotion and Improvement Club, after “careful scrutiny of their bylaws . . . expressed themselves pleased to have their [the women's] cooperation.” With that cursory nod to a major shift in club policy, the *News* moved on to the group's new position on street signs.

The *News* clearly went along with the prejudices of the time. Startling as it reads to contemporary ears, on March 17, 1917, a news item unselfconsciously reported to the Board of Trustees that a local improvement club had never employed Asian labor in the parks of Sausalito. “The records of the Club show that no monies have ever been paid for Oriental labor . . .,” the paper declared in defense of the Club, apparently responding to the Board's concern that the work was being done by non-Caucasians. The item listed the names of the individuals the Club had actually used, all long-time local maintenance men: Borba, Souza, Oliveda, Jukich, Smith.

The Larger Picture

On occasion, the *News* changed hats, casting itself in the role of Sausalito's national, sometimes international, news source. A headline on June

15, 1907, reflected its often clumsy, but earnest efforts to move beyond its usual beat. The headline "WHAT THE WORLD HAS BEEN DOING" grandly announced an article covering "Current Events in Every Part of the Globe Gathered by Many Correspondents and Briefly Reviewed for the Benefit of Our Readers."

Apparently taken off the new wire services recently available to small-town newspapers, the story that followed consisted of random "news" from everywhere: four fires in Allentown, Pennsylvania; miner protests at a copper mine in Japan; two earthquake shocks in Ecuador; and a report of "a native of Mombasa (who) has been sentenced to five years' imprisonment and to receive twenty-four lashes for an attempted assault upon the daughter of a European missionary."

Despite the awkwardness of these attempts at broad-coverage, the outside world was making itself felt in Sausalito, and the *News* was reporting it. The headline "WOMAN SUFFRAGE: Rev. Dr. Anna Shaw Delivers an Entertaining Address" greeted readers on October 17, 1896. In these early years of women's struggle to gain the vote, the *News* seemed refreshingly open to the idea:

The Rev. Dr. Anna Shaw addressed an appreciative audience at Sausalito Hall on Tuesday night. The charge of ten cents for admittance had the effect intended, and the meeting was not disturbed in the way the first suffrage meeting was. It also netted quite a sum for the campaign fund, as the hall was well filled. . . . The lady has had a great deal of experience with men, in private and political life, and her talk was full of anecdote. . . . Whether a believer in female suffrage or not, one enjoys hearing Miss Shaw and those present had a treat. The suffrage organization in Sausalito is doing energetic work.

Twenty-three years later, on June 11, 1921, immediately following the passage of the 19th Amendment, the *News* conveyed the nation's spirit of celebration at a presentation by a member of Marin County's prestigious Kent family. "Mrs. William A. Kent, newly arrived from Washington, D.C., where she went to attend the triumphant celebration of the passage of women's suffrage, spoke to the Sausalito Woman's Club last Thursday afternoon to a

large and interested audience."

Another potent national force bringing the outside world to Sausalito in the early 20th century was Hollywood. The Princess Theater, located in the tiny space on Water Street now occupied by Galerie Elektra (668 Bridgeway), opened in 1915 as the town's first movie house, and it soon made an impact on Sausalito's provincial sensibilities. The *News* announced coming attractions and sometimes offered brief "reviews," endorsing films it liked (and it liked almost everything) with a few all-purpose adjectives: "wonderful," "swell," "sad," "great," "hilarious."

Once in awhile a blockbuster came to town, and the *News* was awestruck. On October 7, 1916, in anticipation of D.W. Griffith's early classic, it wrote:

Acclaimed by more than five million people who have seen and marveled at its wonder, "Birth of the Nation" [also named "The Clansman"], the mightiest film spectacle ever produced, comes to the Princess Theater on October 11 and 12 . . . Since it was first exhibited, this colossal motion picture, which has never been approached in size and magnificence, has been to the four corners of the globe. It has shown before royalty in many places. It has made millions of dollars for its owners. . . . Thousands of people and horses were engaged for seven months in its making, which cost more than \$200,000. It is unlikely to be many years before there will be anything on the screen to compare with the thrilling battles . . . General admission and reserved seats are on sale at Sausalito Drug Store.

The Princess Theater, renamed the Gate Theater in the 1930s, ultimately became too small to accommodate Sausalito's growing movie audiences. The *Sausalito News*, discontinued in 1967, was replaced by the *Marinscope* as Sausalito's weekly newspaper in 1971.



The SHS Launches *Then and Now*, a Pilot Program with the Sausalito Schools

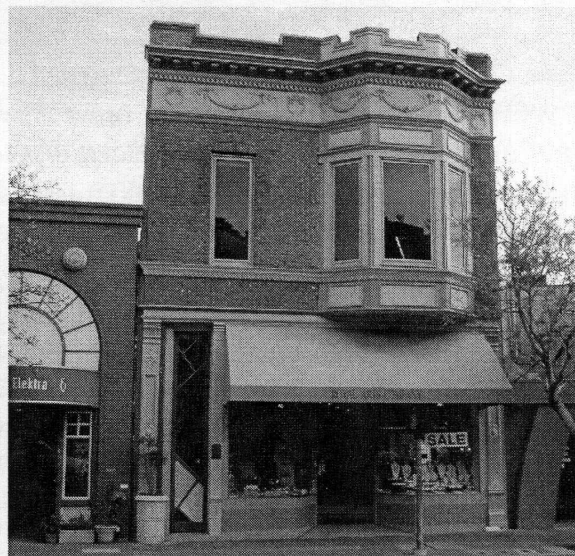
The SHS is reaching out to challenge school children to see themselves as part of history. For starters, on March 23 and 25, 2010, docents from SHS will be sharing “then & now” photos, maps and artifacts with the third grade classrooms of Anne Siskin at Willow Creek Academy and Ellen Franz at Bayside to introduce students to the history of Sausalito’s Downtown Historic District.

Then, on April 2, SHS docents will lead 40 students, two teachers and parents on a field trip to Sausalito’s Downtown Historic District. Using these classroom materials, students will discover the locations of twelve landmark buildings in the downtown district. The field trip will also include photos of each student in front of the building they select to research, lunch at Gabrielson Park and ice cream treats donated by Lapperts Ice Cream.

In conclusion, at the end of April, SHS will present

each student with a framed photo of themselves in front of their landmark building with their written historic captions. The SHS also hopes to present a bound book of all student photos and research to each class as a historic document of their participation in the program.

The pilot program was developed by SHS Board members Susan Frank, Bob Woodrum and Jesse Seaver with the help of the two participating teachers.



This sample pair of photos of the same building, at 880 Water Street in 1910 and 664-666 Bridgeway in 2010, is an example of those the students will receive when learning about downtown historic buildings in Sausalito.

CONTRIBUTORS TO THE DECEMBER 2009 STORAGE MATERIAL FUNDRAISING APPEAL

Kent & Terry Ainsworth
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Eric Altree
Millie Amis
Cynthia Anderson
Margaret P. Anderson
Philip & Katherine Arnaudo
Peter & Ann Arnott
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Jacquie Tapscott
Barbara Taylor
Marcia Williamson
Willis Family
Bob Woodrum
Nathan & Theodora Yee
Ed & Millie Zinman
Total amount raised is \$4680

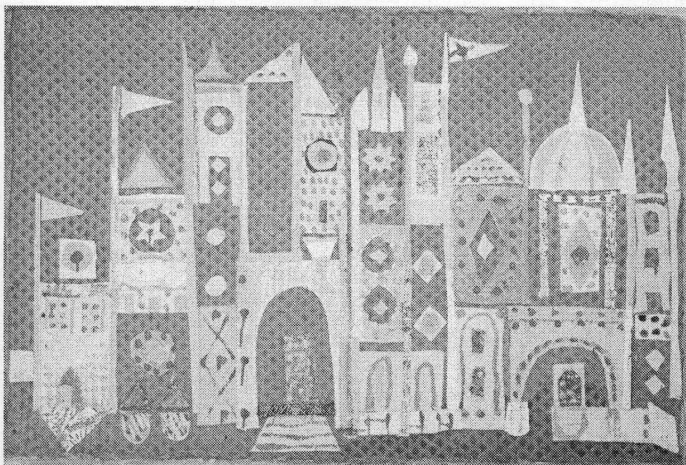
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MONDAY, MARCH 1, 2010

**5:00PM TO 7:00PM OPENING RECEPTION
TOP FLOOR, SAUSALITO CITY HALL**

Artistic Sausalito: An Historical Exhibit

The original work of Sausalito artists from the 1940s and 1950s will be exhibited, including works by Enid Foster, Peggy Tolk-Watkins, Jean Varda, Walter Kuhlman, Ruth Alexander, Val Bleeker, Ed and Loyola Fourtane, Nana Fowler and Ted Christiansen. These artists were also profiled in our Artistic Sausalito night at the Woman's Club in November 1909. Please come and bring a friend to yet another SHS gala opening.



ARTWORK: SHS COLLECTION

Collage by Jean Varda

TUESDAY, MAY 11, 2010

7:00PM COUNCIL CHAMBERS

Annual Meeting of the Sausalito Historical Society

We love seeing you in person at the annual meeting.

NEW VOLUNTEERS AT THE SHS

Mickey Allison and Nancy Osborn, Sausalito Historical Society members, have recently volunteered to assist with the Past Perfect data entry process. In addition, Jennie Lillard, a Dominican College intern, is also assisting with data entry. Welcome and thanks to Mickey, Nancy and Jennie.

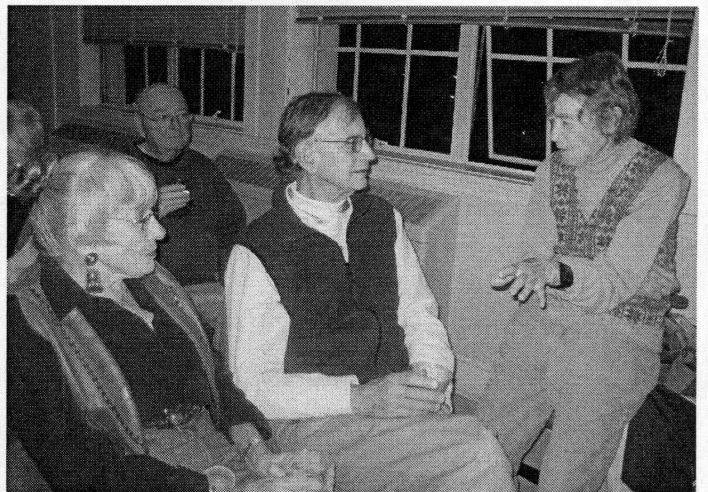
Billie Anderson, a former Board member and active volunteer for many years, has recently begun to serve as a

docent. We are delighted to have her working in the Phil Frank History Research Room in this capacity.

If you would like to volunteer at the Society, please call 280-4117 or e-mail us at info@sausalitohistoricalsociety.org. A variety of opportunities are available: data entry, helping with events, filing newspaper clippings and docenting. Or if you have a special interest or talent you'd like to offer, please let us know!

DOROTHY GIBSON ENTERTAINS FULL HOUSE AT SHS SPONSORED EVENT

On January 19th, at the City Council Chambers Dorothy Gibson, former Sausalito Historical Society Board member



Carol and Allan Hayes chat with author Dorothy Gibson about her recent book on the Marin Headlands. Allan Hayes did all the image reproduction technology for the book and for the slide show at the event.

and author of *Exploring Sausalito's Paths and Walkways*, introduced her most recent book *The Marin Headlands*, a new Arcadia (Images of America series) publication. Dorothy showed visuals from the book, including both vintage and present-day photographs, and entertained the full house with her personal experiences in this vast southern portion of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area. Her intimate knowledge of the terrain and her enthusiasm regarding the unique geology of the Headlands combined to give the audience a memorable evening.

Your Path to the Sausalito News on Line:

www.cdnc.ucr.edu; Click on UCR Newsroom: Digital Newspaper Project; Scroll to bottom of "Newsroom" page; Click on California Digital Newspaper Collection; Scroll to *Sausalito News*. Select it and choose your search word(s). Have fun!

