

Cotati Historical Society Newsletter

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Preserving Cotati's Past
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Prue Draper, Editor

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SOCIETY OFFICERS

President Prue Draper 795-5510	V. President Lloyd Draper
Treasurer Terry Dutra	Secretary Suzanne Whipple
Outreach Lisa Moore	Newsletter Connie Martin 795-2772
Archiving Administrator Judy Gustafson	

Memorial Fund

Memorial Fund donation envelopes are available to anyone who would like to donate to the Cotati Historical Society in memory or in honor of someone they treasure. The fund is reserved to provide prizes in local history essay contests that will begin next spring. Please call 795-5510 to obtain envelopes.

HISTORICAL WALKING TOUR SET FOR OCTOBER 25

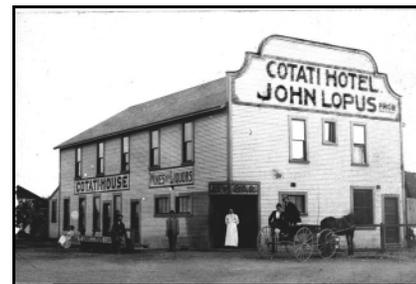
Sunday, October 25 has been selected as "Celebrate Cotati History Day" with a walking tour of the downtown with historian **Prue Draper** recounting the "stories behind the history" of many of our older business structures. Local restaurants are joining in the celebration by participating in a "Dine & Donate" program -- donating a percentage of customer purchases to the Cotati Historical Society.

So far, restaurants participating are **Cafe Salsa, Redwood Café and Tiny Thai**, each of whom has agreed to donate 10%. Other eating places who would like to participate are welcome, and may call **Terry Dutra, 795-3977** for details.

Diners should take a coupon from the flyer included in this newsletter with them when they go for breakfast, brunch, lunch or dinner to one of the cooperating restaurants. The coupon will be attached to their meal receipt.

Unlike past walking tours which originated in the Plaza, this one will begin at Cotati City Hall, where visitors will get a sneak preview of the future Cotati Museum. **Starting time is 2 p.m.** and the walk usually takes about an hour and a half. The tour will proceed around the central part of town, and end at the bandstand in the Plaza, where **Mrs. Draper** will answer questions.

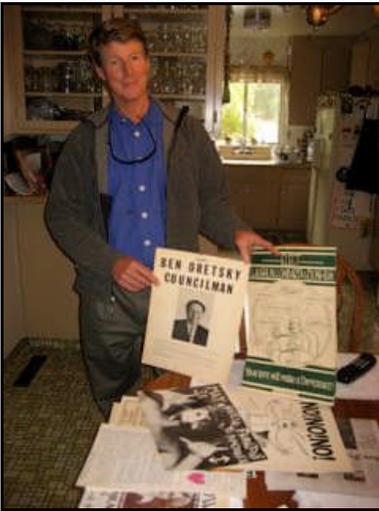
Anyone interested in Cotati history is welcome to attend with no charge, although donations to the Cotati Historical Society will be welcome. And everyone is encouraged to dine at one of the participating restaurants that day.



The Cotati Hotel on the Plaza is just a memory, as is John Lopus, the owner. The site will be included in the walking tour.

Member of AASLH

The Cotati Historical Society has joined the American Association for State and Local History, a national organization dedicated to support for organizations who preserve and interpret state and local history in order to make the past more meaningful to all Americans. It has been active since 1904 and is the only comprehensive national organization dedicated to assisting those who work and volunteer in the field of state and local history. We are proud to be affiliated with this national group, and especially applaud its guiding principal, quoting Anthropologist Margaret Mead: "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed it is the only thing that ever has."



Mark Thysen displays historic election posters.

RECENT DONATIONS

Political campaigns have always been vigorous in Cotati, so when **Mark Thysen** called to offer the Cotati Museum his collection of posters from past years, we were pleased. We were even more delighted when we saw what his collection included.....posters from the 1972 election that changed the complexion of life in Cotati. That year, three old-time residents, all businessmen, were running for city council, and were so confident that they had already bought the champagne for their victory party.

To their amazement, and that of many citizens, all three were defeated by three Sonoma State students, **Annette Lombardi, Geoff Dunham and Steve Laughlin**. Their campaign platform and background profiles make fascinating reading. We are indebted to Mark for thinking of us, and are pleased to add the posters to our museum archives.

We are also indebted to **Blair Hardman**, who has donated a copy of the not-very-famous song, **In Cotati**. Musically referring to "In Cotati, in Bodega and as faraway as Calistoga..." the song never hit the top ten, but it's also a welcome addition to our archives.

We Love a Parade

Parades have always been popular in Cotati, ever since the days when workers on the Cotate Rancho dressed up in white suits to march beside a giant white leghorn hen that flapped her wings along the parade route.

The tradition continues, and the Cotati Historical Society had entries in both the major parades of the 2009 summer season.

Jaime Llopis embellished his elegant 1939 Cadillac with red, white and blue bunting and flags and represented the society in the Penngrove Fourth of July Parade. Long-time Cotati resident **Jennie Falletti** was his passenger, and drew cheers from onlookers.



Jaime Llopis, rear, prepares to drive his 1939 Cadillac with Jennie Falletti as passenger in the Penngrove Parade.



Chicken rocked and rolled its way through the Cotati Kids' Day Parade to win a \$50 prize for the Cotati Historical Society.

For the Cotati Kids Day Parade, which had the theme "Rock and Roll through the Ages", a local resident disguised as a chicken, rode an electric scooter transformed into a straw-filled nest, along the parade route bearing the sign "In Old Cotati, Chickens Rocked and Rolled!" It won first prize in the Non-Profit Organization judging and a \$50 prize for the Historical Society.

"Things we would like to have"

We are on the lookout for photos of two old landmarks –the **Cotati Motel** and **Pioneer Swimming Pool**. If anyone has some in their scrapbooks or drawers, we appreciate being able to borrow them for just a day to make copies. Please contact Lloyd or Prue Draper at 795-5510.

E-MAIL ADDRESSES

If you have received this newsletter in the mail and you have e-mail, please send your e-mail address to: chsinfo@sonic.net. The Society saves lots of money by distributing newsletters electronically!

Donors Help Assure an Orderly Museum



Mike Sheehan, the generous donor who provided our archiving software, presents it to Judy Gustafson, archiving administrator.



Kit Tuveson loads his gift computer for delivery to the Cotati Museum.

Planning to have our museum be not only historically interesting but efficiently organized, we decided that we needed to have, from the outset, an up-to-date archiving system. This required a computer, appropriate software, and someone willing and able to direct the process.

As has happened so many times in the long process of creating the Cotati Museum, people who care about Cotati came to our rescue.

Kit and Afton Tuveson donated a handsome HP computer and equipment to augment it.

Judy Gustafson, who grew up in Cotati and had recently retired from a career in an information technology position, volunteered to be our chief archivist and technical consultant.

The software was a challenge. We had researched systems used by other museums, in Sonoma County and across the country, and decided that Past Perfect 4 was what we needed. The cost was a problem: \$1500 seemed insurmountable as we continued to devote our resources to remodeling the museum room at City Hall. Suddenly, as if in answer to our prayer, another lifelong Cotati resident, **Mike Sheehan**, stepped forward and donated the needed dollars.

We are deeply grateful to all these contributors; thanks to their generosity and energy, we will be able to catalog our artifacts, archives and photographs in an appropriate way. The work has already started as museum opening day draws nearer.

Much Progress to Report on Museum

In our last newsletter, we asked everyone to visualize a grand opening for our museum room this fall. Will that happen? It's getting very close!

At the time of our successful chicken barbecue last spring, the museum floor was our biggest problem – in terrible shape, covered with ugly carpet cement, pierced with holes from previous uses. To the rescue came **Jeff Nelson of Trammell-Nelson Wood Floors**, who agreed to do the refinishing and provide needed materials for a price our barbecue had made us able to pay. He asked that we do the advance tasks, and a volunteer work group mobilized over a weekend and scraped and patched with vigor. The floor was finished in a week – the original old schoolroom floor - and it's beautiful!

Next came the painting, with **Dunn-Edwards** generously donating all the materials. **Jim Reaney**, who grew up in Cotati and is now a general contractor, stepped in to prime the walls, and **John Moore** brought all his painting experience, as well as the whole **Moore Family**, wife **Lisa** and kids **Richard, Rachel** and **Riley** to handle the elaborate finishing job - many hours of hard work. **Paul Harvey** replaced worn old trim and windowsills to produce a neat finish, and **Sue Harvey** demonstrated her considerable skill and energy with a paintbrush, and then cleaned the floor to return it to gleaming condition.

Next will be the light fixtures; ceiling fixtures (old-fashioned suspended globes) have arrived and track lights are coming. **Johny Kistenmacher, of Aladdin Electric**, who has already done the basic wiring, is ready to begin the finishing touches. **Sue Harvey** is painting the outside corridor and work has started on preparing the supply closet-docent workroom.

In other words, in answer to that oft-heard question: "When will the museum open?" we can now say with confidence....Soon – very soon. Stay tuned!

NEW MEMBERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

You, too, can help preserve Cotati's history as members of the Cotati Historical Society. **Dues are still only \$10 per person per year.** Please complete this form and send with your check to:

Cotati Historical Society
P.O. Box 7013
Cotati, CA 94931

Name/s _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

E-mail address _____

A special THANK YOU for their printing courtesy to:

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Cotati, Ca. 94931



This sign, crediting workers on the Cotati Museum as of August 15, will hang in the foyer. Names of recent workers are still being added.