

# THE HERITAGE HERALD

SPRING 2010 Newsletter of the Eureka Heritage Society  
Est. 1973 Eureka, California

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Romano Gabriel Garden  
Arts Alive!  
Saturday, June 5

Summer Event  
Saturday, August 14

Home Tour  
Sunday, October 3

Holiday Party  
Saturday, December 18

## Heritage Action Calendar

### All meetings – City Hall – 5th & K

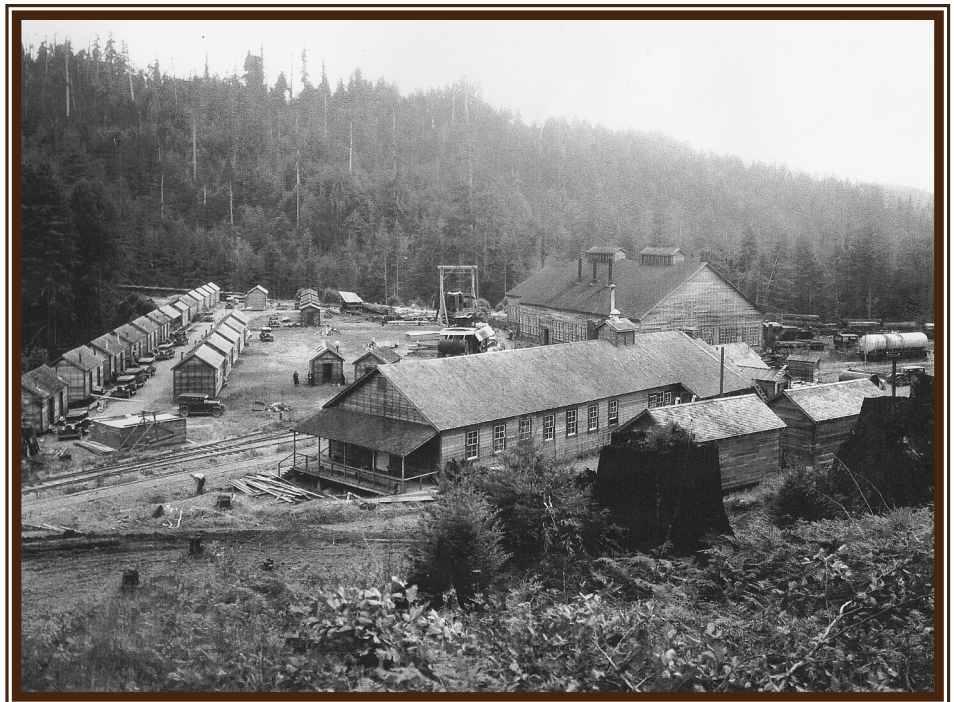
City Council  
1st & 3rd Tuesdays – 6:30 p.m.

Historic Preservation Commission  
1st Wednesday – 4:00 p.m.

Design Review Committee  
2nd & 4th Wednesdays – 3:30 p.m.

Planning Commission  
2nd Monday – 5:30 p.m.

## Let's go to camp this summer!



The historic Dolbeer and Carson logging camp, pictured above during its operational era, will be the site of our annual Summer Event, Saturday, August 14. The Boy Scout camp has been named Camp Riggs in honor of the late Riggs Johnston, the venerable Boy Scout leader. Riggs's son Pete Johnston will speak on the history of the camp. A picnic lunch will be included in the event.

The building in the foreground with porch and cupola was the cookhouse, serving meals to the loggers who lived in the cabins, lined up at left in the photo. The cookhouse still stands and has been utilized for generations of Boy Scouts as a mess hall and gathering place. It has parts from one of Mr. Dolbeer's steam donkey engines cleverly converted to a prominent central fireplace. We hope you will join us for the summer event; invitations with more specific information will be sent out in late July, so mark your calendars for this opportunity to visit a piece of history.

If you or anyone you know had a connection with the Dolbeer and Carson logging camp and would like to share your reminiscences, we would love to hear from you. Contact Janet at 444-3314.

*Photo credits: "Dolbeer and Carson camp, North Fork of Elk River" from the collection of Lloyd Stine, courtesy Humboldt County Historical Society, submitted by Bob Libershal.*

## Board Members

### Executive Committee

President	Janet Warren
Vice President	Charles Petty
Secretary	Ron Kuhnel
Treasurer	Mary Ann McCulloch

### Board of Directors

Kay Bradford	Kay Kaylor
Muriel Dinsmore	Robert Libershal
Jean Gladstone	Lonni Magellan
Mary Glavich	Xandra Manns
Helen Hui	Paul McNally
Peter Santino	

The Board meets the third Thursday each month at 5:30 p.m. at the Eureka Woman's Club  
1531 J Street

### Committees and Chairs

Membership	Jean Gladstone
Preservation	Mary Ann McCulloch
Events	Muriel Dinsmore
Webmaster	Peter Santino
Education	Xandra Manns
Romano Gabriel	Mary Glavich
Historic Plaques	Kay Kaylor
Preservation Awards	Mary Glavich
Green Book	Jean Gladstone
Archival Project	Bob Libershal

### Mission

The Eureka Heritage Society will provide leadership, education and advocacy that preserves and enhances Eureka's irreplaceable historic structures and neighborhoods so as to ensure a legacy for future generations.

### Heritage Herald Staff

Kay Bradford  
Kay Kaylor  
Janet Warren  
444-3314

Contact us with your suggestions and comments!

Eureka Heritage Society website:  
[www.eurekaheritage.org](http://www.eurekaheritage.org)

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Janet Warren

I would like to publicly thank all of the Board of Directors for their collective hard work. The Preservation Awards chaired by Mary Glavich is a major part of our celebration of National Preservation Month, along with the banner that flew over Highway 101 downtown for two weeks and the display at the county library put together by Kathy Dillon. Board members have focused their attention on unreinforced masonry buildings that are vital to our Old Town area. The Education Committee chaired by Xandra Manns continues its mission, resulting in the HPRT scholarship at CR for the third year, a wood window workshop as part of Wood Fair 2010, and *Architectural Legacy*. (The third edition is included with this late spring newsletter.) We have just formed a new committee chaired by Bob Libershal to organize our archives. Please consider joining a committee and becoming more involved with EHS. We need you. The active membership is vital to the success of any organization. Members are always welcome at the monthly Board of Directors meetings. Our next meeting is Thursday, July 15, at 5:30 p.m. at the Woman's Club.

Check out the website. Peter Santino is working hard to keep it interesting and up to date. It has an amazing array of links to heritage and restoration sites.

Thank you for your continued support.

## Romano Gabriel Garden Open for June Arts Alive!



The Eureka Heritage Society will again open the Romano Gabriel Sculpture Garden for viewing at the June 5 Arts Alive. The protective glass enclosure covering the Sculpture Garden will be open 6:00 – 9:00 p.m. during Arts Alive.

Originally the Garden was created and assembled in the front yard of Romano Gabriel's home on Pine Street. In 1977 the California Arts Council designated the Sculpture Garden an important piece of folk art. Through community fund-raising efforts, the Sculpture Garden was installed in its custom-built "storefront structure" at 314 Second Street. The opening dedication was April 1982.

Seen with the glass pulled back, the Romano Gabriel Sculpture Garden has great depth and clarity and truly sparkles. We hope you will take advantage of this unique opportunity to see this local treasure.

## Archival Project Begins

The Board has recognized the need to organize and catalog our materials, which include newspaper articles, research, brochures, displays, programs, and other data about historic buildings, as well as the Society's activities, such as the Home Tour and annual Preservation Awards. Pam Service of the Clarke Historical Museum and Edie Butler of HSU offered their professional expertise, and on May 15, several members of the Board met with them at our office in the Carson Block Building. A committee has been formed with Bob Libershal as chair. The committee is hoping to develop a database to complement our physical archives. If you are interested in this project, need more information, and would like to volunteer in any capacity, please Janet Warren at 444-3314 .

## URM (Unreinforced masonry)

by Bob Libershal

As requested by the Eureka Historic Preservation Commission, at the May 5 commission meeting the city's chief building official Mike Knight presented a verbal status report about Eureka's unreinforced masonry (URM) buildings.

The earthquake last January 9, especially with the damage to – and from – the Healy building, had been a wake-up call. It spurred questions in our local preservation community, such as, which masonry buildings in Eureka are still in need of retrofit to meet earthquake safety standards? and, what progress is being made with each of those buildings?

Thus, Mike Knight's report was eagerly awaited. He began by stating that nine buildings are left on the city's list of URM buildings needing retrofit and that five of those are higher priority due to multistory and higher hazard considerations. Then he gave an overview of the city's recent history with the URM issue and outlined a new city strategy for dealing with any recalcitrant owners of hazardous buildings.

(Please remember, this account is according to my notes of what I heard at the meeting; Mike's report was verbal only.)

When Eureka's ordinance for reinforcing URM buildings expired in 2005, 11 buildings were then on the list and the ordinance was amended to allow a time extension. That has elapsed, and some owners have been nonresponsive.

The city lost a court case brought against the owner of the Lloyd Building in May 2006, which unfortunately sent the wrong message to the community. The judge said that the city hadn't proved that the building was dangerous except for an earthquake – but earthquake hazard was the point.

The city is trying again through the courts with a new approach, a receivership strategy. The city has obtained the services of a receivership attorney and has initiated the process. This approach would not be limited to URM's; it is also a way to deal with dilapidated buildings. If successful in court, the city would obtain a lender and have the needed work done.

With this strategy, and with a structural engineer who has been obtained as an expert URM witness, the city is more confident for success this time in court with the Lloyd Building.

Of the nine buildings on the list of URM buildings still in need of retrofit, Mike first addressed the five he considers higher priority:

- ◆ The Lloyd Building, 219 5th Street (formerly Eagles Hall)
- ◆ The Carson Block, northeast corner 3rd and F Streets – URM plans about to be submitted; 3 phases with 2-phase URM work moving forward and Ken Latrell working on it; the only one giving annual updates on plans
- ◆ The Healy Building, 327 2nd Street (formerly Old Town Bar & Grill) – Work proceeding; permit issued for tying together roof to walls
- ◆ The Buhne Building, southeast corner 2nd and G Streets (Art Center Building) – Ken Latrell to work with Kelly Martin; moving slowly
- ◆ The Dunaway Building, northeast corner 2nd and F Streets (Odd Fellows Hall) – Retrofit plans approved, but funding is the issue

And Mike stated that there is inaction with most of the other four properties:

- ◆ Carter's Building, southeast corner of 2nd and F Streets (Ricks Building)
- ◆ The Greyhound Apartments Building, 420 3rd Street (Ricks Brick Block)
- ◆ Hilfiker Warehouse, 3900 Broadway
- ◆ Old Rialto Theatre Building, 525 F Street

In closing, Mike Knight characterized the city's approach as two pronged by stating that the strategy is to work with property owners and to see how the new receivership strategy works. Regarding unreinforced masonry in the City of Eureka, Mike assuredly said, "We haven't forgotten it."

Commission chairman Ted Loring questioned if state funding is available. Mike replied that he is not aware of any, and Rob Wall of the city's Planning Dept. added that there are possible funding sources for the URM buildings having a residential component.

## 2010 PRESERVATION AWARDS

### Preservationist of the Year – Kurt Kramer



*Kurt Kramer and Presenter Ron Kuhnel*



*The 2010 Preservation Awards reflected the glow of recognition as the Society bestowed art glass presentation pieces from Fire & Light to each recipient.*

### Lifetime Achievement Award – Muriel Dinsmore



*Co-presenters Kathy Dillon and Ted Loring, Jr., flank Muriel Dinsmore*

Muriel's love of community, and her generous, inclusive, considerate nature, have earned her a place in many hearts. For decades, she has volunteered her time and talent to myriad community activities and has convinced many others to join her. Muriel has brought all of these qualities, and many more, to her work with the Eureka Heritage Society, from its inception to the present day. Thank you, Muriel, for loving Eureka's extraordinary historic architecture and for working so hard to restore and preserve it.

–Kathy Dillon

I first met Kurt Kramer when someone told me that he was renovating the historic Vance hotel at 2nd and G Streets. The hotel, the second-largest all-wood building in California, had been vacant for over ten years, and I had to admire someone who would do this.

This turned out to be a monumental project, with endless bureaucratic and legal obstacles to overcome, yet he persevered, and with much of the work, including woodwork, doors, and lighting being done faithfully to historic preservation standards, the end result was simply stunning. When Kurt made a presentation to the Eureka Heritage Society in the lobby of the restored hotel, the beautiful staircase and lighting typified this outstanding work.

From here we all watched Kurt continue to take on other projects of equal magnitude and importance. These included the Professional Building at 5th and E, a major undertaking involving a major seismic retrofit; the buildings at 2nd and G that he returned to productive use after a near disastrous fire; and, finally, the tour-de-force – the restoration and return to use of the Sweasey-State Theater, formerly part of the defunct Daly Department Store, into the Arkley Center for the Performing Arts.

Kurt has a long track record of taking on difficult and challenging restoration projects; that taken together has made him a candidate more than once for Preservationist of the Year, but, frankly, in my opinion it should really be Preservationist of the Decade.

On the evening of January 9 events were set in motion that would cement this notion. As a violent 6.5 earthquake hit the region, doing a great deal of damage to many of Eureka's buildings, one in particular suffered what appeared to be a grievous hit. The building, the Healy Brothers Building when it was constructed, but more popularly known as the Old Town Bar and Grill in recent time, is located on 2nd Street between D and E. An unreinforced masonry brick building, it suffered substantial damage, and a portion of the wall on the east side broke off and crashed through the roof of the building below.

The City moved quickly to fence off the building, and soon thereafter the City Council approved a demolition order for the building. It appeared to be lost, and many people were sad over the impending loss of one of Old Town's major and historic structures.

A few days later many people were elated to hear that Kurt Kramer had purchased the building and planned not only to do a seismic retrofit but also to return the building back into practical use as he had done before with other buildings. This remains a work in progress but is progressing well. The Eureka Heritage Society is honoring Kurt with its Preservationist of the Year award, well deserved based on his prior accomplishments and now this latest move to preserve yet another of the City of Eureka's historic structures.

–Ron Kuhnel

## Community Preservation – St. Bernard Church



A cathedral of a church, this Gothic Revival landmark was built of redwood mimicking medieval stone by contractor James Simpson and completed in 1886.

The dominant tower with its steep spire, buttresses, and pinnacles distinguish the exterior, while a series of Roman arches supporting the roof grace the interior.

The parish hopes to complete its current restoration of the sanctuary prior to the church's 125th anniversary celebration on St. Bernard's Feast Day, August 20, 2011.



*Presenter Bob Libershal and Father Loren Allen*

## Commercial Preservation – 50 W. Fifth



**The Building Company  
2003**

Angelo and Carola Batini built the Classical Revival building in 1922 with Batini Hardware on the ground floor and their apartment above. The building remained in the Batini family until 1964. Throughout the next thirty-odd years, the building was home to a number of bars and taverns. In 2003 contractor John Mielke and his wife Lisa purchased the property for their business, The Building Company. John and his son Jeff rehabilitated the building, and the handsome storefront is home to a family business once again.

Reel Antiques  
2001

The Break Room  
1999

The Doins  
1993

TC's Tavern  
1989

Lady Di's Diggins  
1984

Packy's 5<sup>th</sup> St Tavern  
1980

La Fiesta Bar  
1978

Big E Bar Tavern  
1969



*Mary Ann McCulloch and John Mielke*

## Residential Preservation – 1515 Buhne Street



The midcentury modern home of Dr. Joe and Janie Walsh was designed by Hollywood set designer Bob Usher and built in 1956.

Artistic simplicity in open floor plan, features, and detailing, combined with the sophisticated interplay of outside/inside with large windows overlooking integrated gardens and fountain, give the home restrained elegance.



*Presenter Helen Hui (left) and the family of the late Dr. Joe and Janie Walsh*

## Adaptive Reuse – 711 Third Street



The stately two-story building was built in 1887 by Thomas R. Graham in the Stick/Eastlake style with Italianate detailing, one that was also very popular in San Francisco. Tall narrow doors and windows, paired brackets, two-story front projecting bay, and articulation of the wall surfaces are major elements contributing to its character. Once a family home, this property has been successfully adapted to accounting offices by John B. Fullerton, CPA.



*Lonni Magellan and John B. Fullerton*





# COMMENTS

by the  
*INSPECTOR GUY*

## Post and Pier Foundation

Last issue I wrote about what I had observed in regard to clay brick chimneys and fireplaces after the earthquake of January 9 of this year.

For a few weeks immediately after the earthquake, I inspected several pier and post foundations. Many showed signs of movement of some type. A post or two may have shifted or one end of the house may have moved. At one house, the owner was sure that the fireplace and chimney had shifted. But that was not the case; the fireplace was where it was supposed to be; it was the house that had shifted by two inches. All posts showed signs of movement. Had the earthquake lasted longer, I'm sure the house would have fallen.

It is only a matter of time until we experience another earthquake. Steps should be taken to minimize damage caused by earthquakes. As a bare minimum, I recommend that all posts be strapped to the girders and bracing be added to pier and post foundations.

Next issue: Roofing and reroofing.

Dave Smith, MCI, CNCS, Redwood Coast Inspections, has been in the inspection business for ten years. Born in Eureka, he has been a lifetime resident of the area.

If you have a question about an item in your home, submit it to Dave for comment. Questions for comment can be sent to:  
[reinspect@sbcglobal.net](mailto:reinspect@sbcglobal.net)

## Preservation Pays

An eye-catching presentation created by Kathy Dillon on the preservation of wood windows was displayed at the Humboldt County Main Library in Eureka in celebration of National Preservation Month throughout May.

Titled "Preservation Pays," the display pointed out the intrinsic values of preserving historic wood windows. Aesthetically, economically, and environmentally, it just makes good sense.

*Thank you, Kathy, for a great job!*

## Eureka Heritage Society Receives Award from Humboldt Arts Council

In celebration of the tenth anniversary of the Morris Graves Museum of Art, the Humboldt Arts Council recognized ten organizations for their outstanding contribution to the arts in our community: Arcata Interfaith Gospel Choir, Center Arts, Eureka Heritage Society, Eureka Symphony, KEET-TV, North Coast Dance, 101 Things to Do, Redwood Art Association, Redwood Coast Music Festivals, and The Scotia Band. The Society's particular contributions include the comprehensive survey of Eureka's historic architecture, which formed the basis for *EUREKA: An Architectural View* (the "Green Book"), and the continuing stewardship of the Romano Gabriel Sculpture Garden. Muriel Dinsmore and Janet Warren accepted the award on behalf of the Society at the Celebration of the Arts Gala, held May 22 at the museum.

## EHS Continues Educational Mission

The Eureka Heritage Society has reprinted two books in our commitment to educate the public on preservation:

- ◆ *Sustainable Solutions*
- ◆ *Rehab Right*

These publications are available to homeowners free of charge, courtesy of the Society, and are available on the third floor of City Hall at the public information kiosk, opposite the Building Department counter.



## 2010 MEMBERSHIP

Support the Eureka Heritage Society,  
our community's only advocate for Eureka's historic built environment.

Give the gift of membership to an interested friend or relative.

Just fill out the form below, and mail it to us with the annual fee.

Be sure to indicate volunteer preferences — we welcome your involvement!

### 2010 Eureka Heritage Society Membership Form

\_\_\_ New or \_\_\_ Renewing Member (January to January)

\_\_\_ \$20 Individual

\_\_\_ \$50 Nonprofit Sponsor

\_\_\_ \$150 Patron

\_\_\_ \$30 Family

\_\_\_ \$75 Private Sponsor

\_\_\_ \$300 Benefactor

\_\_\_ \$10 Student/Senior

\_\_\_ \$75 Business Sponsor

\_\_\_ \$500 Life Member

\_\_\_ \$15 Senior Family

**Additional Contribution** of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to the Eureka Heritage Society's **Scholarship Fund** for an advanced student in the Historic Preservation & Restoration Technology Program at College of the Redwoods.

**Enclosed is my check in the total amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ payable to Eureka Heritage Society.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

**The Eureka Heritage Society needs volunteers.** Sign up for any of the following:

- Events, including annual Home Tour: docents, host/hostess, serving refreshments
- Membership
- Education
- Publications
- Research
- Archival Project
- Serving on the Board
- Romano Gabriel Sculpture Garden landscape care
- Articles for *The Heritage Herald*

Additional comments/suggestions: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to:

**Eureka Heritage Society**

**P.O. Box 1354, Eureka, CA 95502-1354**



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## **Architectural Restoration of Historic Windows with Bill Hole**

**Sponsored by the Eureka Heritage Society in conjunction with Wood Fair 2010**

Bill Hole, faculty, College of the Redwoods Construction & Historic Preservation Technology Program, and an expert in architectural restoration and sustainability, will provide hands-on instruction in the conservation of historic wood windows. Bill will take the student through the world of double-hung wood windows, including removal of the wooden sash, repairs and remedies, and pulleys and weight cords, along with glazing techniques.

The student fee for this class has been reduced through sponsorship of the Eureka Heritage Society. Students pay only \$25 for the four hours of instruction, including all materials and supplies.

Members of the Eureka Heritage Society pay only \$20.

**The workshop will meet Monday, July 12, 1:00 – 5:00 p.m.**

**Annie B. Ryan House at 1000 F Street, Eureka**

Register instantly by calling CR at (707) 269-4000

For more information, go to [www.humboldtwoodfair.org](http://www.humboldtwoodfair.org) or

Contact Susan Bicknell at (707) 768-1975 or email [s.h.bicknell@gmail.com](mailto:s.h.bicknell@gmail.com)