

# HERITAGE HERALD

NEWSLETTER OF THE EUREKA HERITAGE SOCIETY, EST. 1973 — EUREKA, CA

Spring 2021

## Wind takes toll on Eureka Heritage Monterey cypress

**M**ANY OF US ON THE North Coast are dealing with trees on our property that have been damaged by the recent strong winds of winter. The Eureka Heritage Society is no different. We took immediate action to ensure the public's safety when one of the large Monterey cypress trees on the Annie B. Ryan property dropped a limb and another was threatening. After the immediate danger had passed, the board questioned what to do next. Our

mission is to advocate for preservation and to ensure our actions don't disregard that mission.

While the exact age of the trees is undetermined, they are over 75 years old and are a defining feature on the property. The questions the board asked were: What limitations, if any, are there in dealing with these trees? What do we need to make an informed decision about the future of the trees? **And are the cypress considered "Heritage Trees?"**

Many California cities have a Heritage or Landmark Tree Ordinance, which protects trees — whether on public or private land — that have reached a certain age and/or size. These cities have formalized their recognition of the importance of trees to the environment and streetscape by codifying the treatment of such trees in their cities. While Eureka does not have such an ordinance, it does address historic trees in its Tree Removal Ordinance, and it specifies what trees are considered protected in the city. These regulations are intended to "protect and preserve trees that are important to the character of the city and its neighborhoods, protect the public's safety by allowing for the removal of a hazardous tree, and allow for tree removal, or tree mass reduction, as necessary to allow for residential developments and supporting solar arrays."

What species and size of trees are protected in Eureka? The

ordinance states a listed species with a 24" diameter or 75" circumference, as measured 4½ feet above the ground, is protected. There are 21 species of protected trees listed, including the Monterey cypress.

The removal of any protected tree requires a permit. In emergencies, the removal or relocation of a protected tree or trees that would otherwise require a tree permit is exempt from the code if specified city officials determine that a tree is hazardous and presents an immediate danger.

If an arborist or Registered Professional Forester examines a protected tree and determines it to be sound, they may recommend in a report that its mass be reduced, which does not require a tree permit. If the arborist recommends tree removal, it's best to remove the tree between Aug. 16 and Jan. 31, to ensure that no active nesting or roosting sites are affected. Again, make sure to obtain the necessary permit.

The Monterey cypress trees at the Annie B. Ryan Gardens certainly meet the city's criteria for protected trees, so what is the board's next step? A licensed and certified arborist will be hired to examine them and recommend the best course of action, if any. The city of Eureka's protected trees are recognized for their positive impacts on the environment and neighborhoods, as well as their historicity. We encourage the community to preserve these trees wherever possible.

—M. McCulloch



Eureka Heritage Society Monterey Cypress after two broken limbs were removed. Heritage Society photo.

**To read the full Tree Removal Ordinance, visit [https://codelibrary.amlegal.com/codes/eureka/latest/eureka\\_ca/0-0-0-59478](https://codelibrary.amlegal.com/codes/eureka/latest/eureka_ca/0-0-0-59478) or contact the City of Eureka for more information.**



## Eureka Heritage Society Board of Directors

**President:** Ron Kuhnel  
**Vice President:** Chuck Petty  
**Treasurer:** Doris Timm  
**Secretary:** James Cech  
 Kathy Dillon  
 Mary Glavich  
 Bob Libershal  
 Mary Ann McCulloch  
 Lonni Magellon-Hodge  
 Bill Peer  
 Wendy Petty  
 Bruce Seivertson  
 Ray Swedenburg  
 Janet Warren

EHS board meets on the second Monday of each month at 5:30 p.m. at the Annie B. Ryan House, 1000 F. St. Eureka, CA (during the pandemic via Zoom)

## Committees and Chairs

**Annie B. Ryan:** Bill Peer  
**Events:** Mary Glavich & Wendy Petty  
**Fundraising:** Bruce Seivertson  
**Historian and Archivist:** Bob Libershal  
**Education:** Chuck Petty  
**Membership:** Mary Ann McCulloch  
**Heritage Herald:** James Cech

## Our 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.

## Suggestions or comments may be sent to:

- (707) 445-8775
- www.eurekaheritage.com
- eurekaheritagesociety@gmail.com

The Heritage Herald is published quarterly by the Eureka Heritage Society, P.O. Box 1354, Eureka, CA 95502-1354

## President's Corner

**F**IRST, thank you to those members who voted in our recent election. The slate of directors as presented was elected and the officers for 2021 are: Ron Kuhnel, President; Chuck Petty, Vice President; James Cech, Secretary; and Doris Timm, Treasurer. Also thank you to those members who have renewed their 2021 membership. New and renewing members are mailed an acknowledgment card and are listed in the newsletter. If we've missed you, please accept our apologies and contact the Society.



The Eureka Heritage Society continues our mission to "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." Board members are currently working with Eureka City Schools (ECS) on Eureka High's Albee Stadium Improvement Project. While the Society advocates for preservation, sometimes demolition is the only available action. Such is the case with the c1950 Ag & Welding (A&W) Building



Eureka High School Ag and Welding building that cannot be saved. Heritage Society photo.

on the Eureka High campus. The fill on which the building was constructed is subsiding, some as much as a foot, and the building, unfortunately, has been condemned. A student-led commemorative display with photos, memorabilia, and stories of the c1950 A&W Building will be installed in the new building up the hill. In addition the Society and ECS are working collaboratively to ensure that repairs and American with Disabilities Act (ADA) changes to the Fieldhouse do not negatively impact that building.

2020 was a trying year for all, but it did have its bright spots - the brightest was our members' continued generosity and support! Following Humboldt County guidelines, we were able to hold the annual yard sale and the Holiday Boutique, which provided necessary revenue for the Society. We're now

looking forward to safely holding events and fundraisers in 2021!

The celebration of 2020 and 2021 Preservation Award recipients is being planned for this summer in the Annie B.

Ryan gardens, the annual yard sale

and Holiday Boutique will return, and Home Tour ideas are being discussed. 2021 looks to be a much brighter year and we are looking forward to seeing our members again!

—R. Kuhnel

## From the Desk of the Heritage Herald

This spring edition of the Heritage Herald comes amid hope for a gradual but sustained reemergence of interactive and face to face encounter activities. It is also the first edition produced by a new newsletter committee. Past editors have devoted innumerable hours planning, designing, writing, pleading with writers, assembling, submitting to the printer and getting each edition to the post office. A huge thank you to Kathy Dillon and Janet Warren for their efforts.

At the urging of EHS president Ron Kuhnel, your Heritage Herald is being overseen by a small committee dedicated to ensuring continued timely production

Continued on page 3.



## Craftsman's Corner

**W**ELCOME TO THE initial Craftsman's Corner, a column we hope you will enjoy reading and, at the same time, find some useful tips for your preservation projects. The idea for this column resulted from the overwhelming response to the Winter Heritage Herald's window restoration article. Over the coming issues we, along with guest contributors, will discuss ways to repair and restore various parts of historic properties. Hopefully, some of you reading this article will contribute some of your own ideas, and even suggest topics to discuss. Major repairs certainly require a licensed contractor's expertise, as well as specialized tools and manpower. However, smaller maintenance projects, using borrowed or rented tools, are certainly within the scope of a handy person's abilities.

As we know, even a simple project can reveal hidden issues that require immediate attention. I recently began repairing the wooden window sash on the south side of my 1903 Eureka residence. A building's exposed southern side, with the driving rain and full sun, is usually where one finds the most deterioration. The elements can cause both water and air leaks. That said, before



A metal bracket holds a badly deteriorated window together prior to repairs. B. Seivertson photo.

I started restoring the wooden sash, I decided to look inside the wall by removing the inside window frame trim. Looking down into the actual framing next to the window I found that some of the studs had begun to rot.

So, this is tip #1: Always expect the unexpected! Was this problem caused by shoddy construction? Absolutely not. Remember, builders of yesteryear simply nailed wood window trim to wood frames. Caulk, waterproof membranes, etc. had yet to be invented.

My solution to the rotted framing was fairly simple and straight forward, remove the rotten wood and replace it. Still, you will have to wait until the next issue of The Heritage Herald to find out more details about both fixing the framing and restoring the window sash. In the meantime, this is what it looked like.

—B. Seivertson



Water intrusion damage to a wall stud next to a window. B. Seivertson photo

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## From the Desk of the Heritage Herald

Continued from page 2.

of an informative and interesting periodic newsletter to the membership.

EHS welcomes Tom Schrader who has agreed to take on design and layout of the newsletter. Readers can anticipate finding articles by writers and researchers who have contributed to newsletters in the past. This edition launches a restoration tips column with the intent of sharing some of the obvious issues one may encounter in the walls of 100 plus year

old buildings

Inevitably in a volunteer driven publication there will be errors of commission and omission. Read something you appreciate, let us know. Read something you don't want to see in the HH, let us know. Have an idea for an article, let us know. All comments are welcome. Factual errors will be noted in a future issue.

—James Cech, Heritage Herald Committee Chair

# Eureka Heritage Society Survives the Pandemic

**F**ROM THE WORLD'S largest corporations to your local elementary school and even the smallest non-profit, organizations have "mission" statements. Mission statements guide organizations in the direction they have determined they want to go. Writing a mission statement can be relatively easy or incredibly contentious, but the much more difficult task is accomplishing the mission. Often events outside one's control interfere.

For over a year since Humboldt County issued its first Covid 19 lockdown restrictions Eureka Heritage Society (EHS) has struggled to deal with activity limits while attempting to maintain a viable non-profit organization and accomplish its mission.

The society's mission is to encourage historic preservation for future generations. Goals that include dictates such as "advocate," "educate," "identify," and "evaluate," sound laudable, but prove difficult to quantify. EHS members can be a voice to remind government entities and individuals that there is a local heritage easily lost to rot and bulldozers. Education is a challenge and one is rarely certain just what is learned. Economic, social and political forces far more powerful than any one organization are at play in Eureka, but EHS continues to work toward its stated mission. One central element of that work can be seen in the Annie B. Ryan House at 1000 F. St in Eureka. It serves as an example of one attempt to restore, preserve, and repurpose, an historic property.

Built in 1892, this small residence has survived periods of "modernization" when older homes were simply removed in order to make room for more modern ones. It dodged the CalTrans 101 high-

way bullet, but sat vacant for a number of years suffering neglect and vandalism. Through the efforts of numerous people and several organizations the Annie B. Ryan House has been slowly brought back to active life and use.

Despite the lockdown, EHS volunteers continued with energy, tools and masks to further ongoing work at the house and in the gardens. With the hope that EHS will soon be able to share its progress with all of you, here are changes you may not be aware of that have taken place.

Prior to the pandemic beginning Eureka Heritage Society was in the midst of a seemingly unending flurry of activity. Last March the long desired garden shed had finally seen its basic framing going up thanks to the efforts of Derek Glavich and his students at College of the Redwoods. Just a few months earlier, the Society had held a successful fundraising Holiday Boutique followed by a pleasant holiday lunch with members at the Ingomar Club. The Board of Directors was finalizing its list of Historic Preservation Awards to be presented at a ceremony on May 2, 2020. The 2020 Home Tour was already on the Board's agenda - though in very early planning stages. Tickets for North Coast Repertory Theatre's production of "As You Like It," were about to be given to EHS directors to sell as a spring fundraising event. A plan was in place to fill the Annie B. Ryan house with original works of art from previous Home Tours as part of the May Arts Alive program. EHS had been approached about assisting with a coast bicycle tour through historic areas of Eureka, and about participating in the 19th Amendment Parade celebration to be held in August of 2020.



Annie B. Ryan Home south facing wall with a new coat of

## *And then...*

The events were all canceled. Revenue streams dried up. College of the Redwoods went virtual and shed construction stopped. The EHS board didn't meet again until June 2020, after the world learned about Zoom.

But not everything came to a halt. Volunteers continued to work on restoration of the Annie B. Ryan Home. Today looking back over one year's efforts one finds new period furniture in the front parlor that compliments the 1890 reproduction wallpaper. Two small occasional tables now sit under the bay window. In the front bedroom, odds and ends of bookshelves were removed, clearing space for a new set of cabinetry designed for the purpose of transforming the space into the Muriel Dinsmore Research Library.

After asking for bids from cabinet-makers, the board decided to take

advantage of in-house talents. Plans have been drawn up and construction is about to commence on a full wall set of shelves and cabinets to store important documents deemed of interest to pres-



f paint. Heritage Society photo.

ervationists and historians in Eureka's stock of priceless buildings.

New flooring was installed in both the bathroom and pantry. In the bathroom, a repurposed marble sink has been installed, door latches have been repaired, the walls painted and the tub placed. And in the pantry a new dishwasher was installed. Throughout the house brass electric outlet cover plates have been attached. And through the generosity of donors new period appropriate light switch plates are covering the push button light switches.

Less repair work has been done in the back bedroom, but a serious effort to sort, categorize, organize and neaten Society materials has created a much more usable office space.

The kitchen floor, previously covered with a form of linoleum had significant powderpost beetle damage. All of the old floor covering was removed. Un-

derlying glues were laboriously scraped and sanded off. After drum sanding the entire floor the seriousness of beetle damage emerged. Damaged fir floorboards were cut out and replaced with renovated flooring generously donated by EHS members from their own personal stocks of repurposed wood. Finally several coats of varnish were applied.

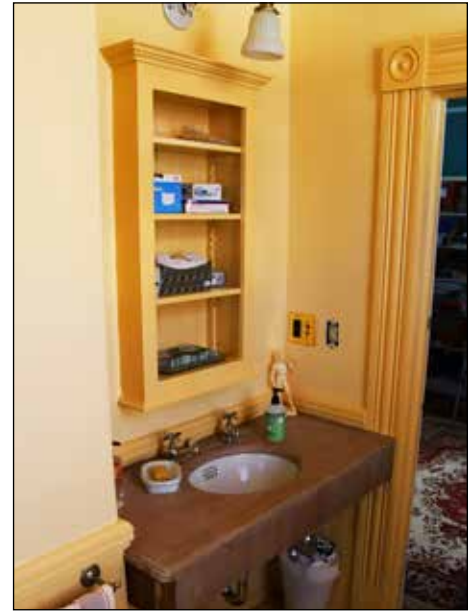
Out in the garden, aside from placing numerous commemorative bricks purchased by generous EHS donors, the base for the fountain has been built complete with electrical connection. It is just a matter of time before the fountain will be installed.

Work has progressed on the shed. Mr. Glavich found time during the summer to finish framing and roofing the structure. Volunteer labor trenched across the garden to bury electrical conduit. Wires were pulled and outlets installed inside the shed. Other volunteers put on siding and it has been painted to match the Annie B. Ryan house. Much of the siding material was recovered wood and is now repurposed to lend a cohesive appearance to the shed, and save at least a few planks from fire or landfill. Though obviously not historic, the shed has been designed with the same roofline pitch as the Annie B. in an attempt to maintain the overall feel of the historic home and gardens while providing useful storage space for materials needed in the gardens. Work continues as time and materials allow.

On the exterior of the house, the south-facing wall had suffered from significant peeling paint. That wall has been scraped, prepped and repainted.

All of these projects carried out by volunteers have been made possible through generous donations of money, materials and time. Membership in the Eureka Heritage Society helps keep the society economically sound even during reduced fundraising opportunities.

The EHS Board of Directors looks forward to a time not too far in the



Repurposed marble sink installed in the Annie B. Ryan bathroom. Heritage Society photo.

future when the Annie B. Ryan Home and Gardens can be once again used in fundraising activities without the limiting constraints of Covid 19 restrictions, and the EHS membership, and community, may see all of the developments taking place in and around the house.

—J. Cech

The new garden shed under construction with siding and a temporary door. Heritage Society photo.



# Eureka Heritage Society New & Renewal Memberships



Sept 15, 2020 through Feb 28, 2021



## Buy a Brick

You can help the Eureka Heritage Society continue its work on the Annie B. Ryan House and Gardens by buying a brick for the patio and rose garden. The form is on our website [eurekaheritage.com](http://eurekaheritage.com). Email [eurekaheritagesociety@gmail.com](mailto:eurekaheritagesociety@gmail.com) or call us at (707) 445-8775 to leave a message.



## The Green Book

The Eureka Heritage Society published, in 1987, Eureka, An Architectural View, popularly known as The Green Book, it contains photographs of 1200 homes and is considered one of the finest collections of details on historic homes ever published. A limited number of these books still exist and can be purchased directly from us. Email [eurekaheritagesociety@gmail.com](mailto:eurekaheritagesociety@gmail.com) or call us at (707) 445-8775 to leave a message.

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JoAnn Bauer  
Joan Berman  
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Dorothy Brand  
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Mary E. & Chris Troth  
Janet C. Warren  
Judith Weber  
Steve & Sandra Werner  
Linda West  
Belinda Zander  
Christine Zanone Conley

## 2021 Eureka Heritage Society Membership Form

- New** or
- Renewing** Member  
(January to January)
- \$25** Individual
- \$35** Family
- \$15** Student/Senior
- \$25** Senior Family
- \$50** Nonprofit Sponsor
- \$75** Private Sponsor
- \$150** Patron
- \$300** Benefactor
- \$500** Life Member

**Additional Contribution(s) to the Eureka Heritage Society**

\$\_\_\_\_\_ Annie B Ryan House Fund or Garden Fund (circle one)

\$\_\_\_\_\_ Buhne Fence Fund

\$\_\_\_\_\_ Carson Carriage Maintenance Fund

\$\_\_\_\_\_ Muriel Dinsmore Library Fund

\$\_\_\_\_\_ Preservation Fund

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

**Interested in volunteering or further information?** Call (707) 445-8775, email: [eurekaheritagesociety@gmail.com](mailto:eurekaheritagesociety@gmail.com)

- Events, including Home Tour docents, host/hostess, serving refreshments
- Education
- Publications, including mailing and distribution
- Archival Project and Research
- Serving on the Board

Additional suggestions:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

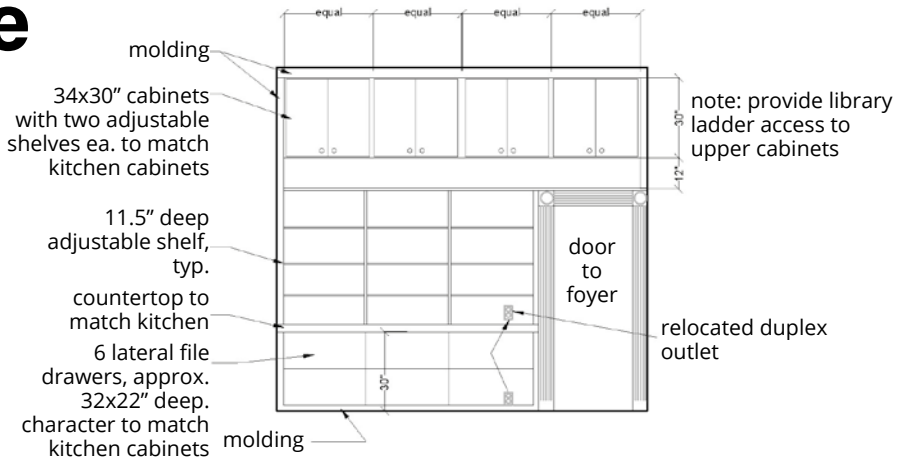
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Email \_\_\_\_\_

# Muriel Dinsmore Research Library Update

**I**N FEBRUARY 2019, EUREKA Heritage Society (EHS) applied for a Coast Central Credit Union Dean G. Christenson Community Investment Program Grant to help fund development of the Muriel Dinsmore Educational/Research Library.

Muriel, a founding member of the Eureka Heritage Society, worked tirelessly to advance the community's awareness of the importance of recognizing, and saving, Eureka's historic structures. A Times-Standard writer and editor during the 1970s, she educated her reader's about historic preservation and the Eureka Heritage Society. Always recognizing the importance of documentation, she accrued many articles, photos, and Society memorabilia during her 45 years of involvement, creating an archive of Society history that will be an important component of the library named in her honor.



A diagram of the cabinets to be built and installed in the Muriel Dinsmore Research Library. Original plan is by Steve Tate.

The single most expensive element for the library is a custom built set of cabinets and shelves. In making a decision about cabinetry consideration was given to maintaining consistency with other elements of the house and furnishings, while ensuring adequate storage for the many documents EHS has acquired that will be of use to researchers.

Several different options have been

considered. The Library Committee has settled on a style and design that will be constructed by EHS volunteers. The room has been cleared of temporary shelving to provide clear access to the wall where the new unit will be installed.

Plans are now in place and a construction committee has begun work on the shelving unit.



## From the Annie B. Garden

**A**S MAY ROLLS IN, THE days are longer and drier and we will have to stay alert to the coming need for a regular watering schedule.

As always, we will keep up with the mowing, weeding, and edging. (Hopefully we will have already finished sheet composting the back corner of the north native area, but if not, now is the time.)

There will be roses and rhodies ready for regular deadheading. If the painted lady runner beans have not started growing back from their (sometimes) perennial roots, new seeds will go in along the fence.

Fava harvest should get underway and seedlings to replace them will be growing into their four inch pots after their start in flats.

As the favas come out, the lettuces and other greens will go into the ground, along with a few rows of sugar peas. Mesh covers will go on to protect the babies from the bugs and birds.

Volunteer gardeners are always needed. Email [eurekaheritagesociety@gmail.com](mailto:eurekaheritagesociety@gmail.com) or call us at (707) 445-8775 if you would like to help.

—Claire Perricelli



Fava beans grow ever taller in the Annie B. Ryan garden in March 2021. Heritage Society photo.



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If you use Amazon for purchases, smile and choose us as your nonprofit. We will get a percentage of the sales!

### Heritage Action Calendar

All meetings take place at Eureka City Hall, 531 K St., 2nd Floor City Council Chambers. During the pandemic meetings are via Zoom at appropriate times. Check online agendas for more details.

### City Council

1st & 3rd Tuesday, 6 p.m.

### Historic Preservation Commission

1st Wednesday, 4 p.m.

### Design Review Committee

2nd & 4th Wednesdays, 3:30 p.m.

### Planning Commission

2nd Monday, 5:30 p.m.

In the next Heritage Herald—

## Eureka Heritage Society's 2021 Preservation Awards

Details about buildings and recognition of people who are actively saving restoring structures in Eureka.



Some of the 2020 Preservation Awards yet to be presented. Heritage Society photo.