

Cotati Historical Society Newsletter

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Preserving Cotati's Past
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Prue Draper, Editor

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V. President Lloyd Draper
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Newsletter
Connie Martin
795-2772



Ed Gilardi and Fred Carrasca tend the broiling chickens on the barbecue at Ray Miller Community Center.

OLD FASHIONED CHICKEN BARBECUE A SOCIAL AND FINANCIAL SUCCESS!



Suzanne Whipple, left, Marie Aggio, Val Stevenson and Ed Gilardi serve a diner.

By every measure, our first major fundraiser, the **OLD FASHIONED CHICKEN BARBECUE** on April 19, was a smashing success. Thanks to each and every one who attended and made it so, and to all the hard-working volunteers who made it possible. Apologies to those who arrived after we had sold out of chickens, but thanks to the many who stayed anyway, to enjoy the outstanding bake sale delicacies, tasty beverages, lively music, and to

visit with old friends and neighbors.

As a traditional Cotati community party, it succeeded even beyond our hopes. Family groups came, former neighbors and co-workers had reunions, and reminiscences about "old time Cotati" flowed freely. As a fund-raiser, it helped swell the Cotati Historical Society's treasury by over \$2600, which will be used to help finish and furnish the museum in Cotati City Hall. Much credit goes to **Terry Dutra**, whose expertise as city recreation director as well as caterer and party-planner extraordinaire, showed magnificently.

Suzanne Whipple at the Cotati Chamber of Commerce and **Lisa Moore**, winning waitress at Tubby's, pushed the advance sale tickets, and **Nadine Wolford** and her team of tellers at the Exchange Bank kept tickets moving until the last day.

Generosity of local businesses and hard work by a horde of volunteers made it happen, and the Cotati Room and yard area made the perfect venue, thanks to the City of Cotati. Having a wonderful weather forecast that came true helped a lot too.

Work started weeks ahead with **Bob Brooks** at Copy Mail & More producing the tickets and flyers; **Lisa Moore**, **Suzanne Whipple**, **Terry Dutra**, **Connie Martin**, **Ed Gilardi** and **Lloyd and Prue Draper** soliciting donations ranging from pats of butter to wine, beer, charcoal, soft drinks and water, vegetables, rolls and ice.



June Davis was an enthusiastic raffle ticket seller.



Pat McCarty, left, and Cadillac Converters pleased the crowd with their American Roots music.

Pat McCarty volunteered his talented musical group, Cadillac Converters; **John Allred** offered to manage the wheel of fortune game for which **Carl Schollman** had made an artistic number board. Carl also provided and placed advertising signs in several key locations.



Here comes the barbecue! Ed Gilardi, left, Fred Carrasca and Bruce Martin, right, wheel the succulent chicken into the Cotati Room.

Ed Gilardi was the key barbecue chef, assisted by **Bruce Martin** and **Fred Carrasca** (who had come from Paradise with his wife Ann). Ed called on his experience with the Pt. Reyes Barbecue and the 4-H Chicken-Que, to make the marinade and usher the chicken quarters over the glowing coals. **Bob Larsen**, who donated all the charcoal, asked few questions as we kept going back for “another bag, please!”, and the chefs valiantly suffered scorched arms as they turned the meat. **Terry Dutra**, **Lisa Moore** and **Connie Martin** engineered the production of gallons of coleslaw and baked beans while **Ann Carrasca** oversaw creation of bouquets of flowers in antique milk



Tom Origer and party enjoyed music with their meal at one of the outdoor tables.

bottles for centerpieces on tables decked with red and white checkered covers. Armloads of colorful flowers

were donated by **Eleanor Wass** and **Kim and Gary Martin**, and the milk bottles were loaned by **Eleanor Wass**.

Work had started the day before with a chicken cutting exercise that produced what expert chef **Ed Gilardi** called some “very creative portions”. **Connie Martin** gave **Robin Draper** her introduction to chicken cutting and others whacking enthusiastically to convert the whole bodies into quarters were **Glen Carter**, **Lisa Moore** and **Prue Draper**. **Simone Wilson** gave it a try too, before she reassigned herself to the flower-arranging crew with **Ann Carrasca**.

On the big day, **Suzanne Whipple**, **Kim Martin**, **Sue Harvey** and **Ann Carrasca** helped welcome guests; food servers included **Marie Aggio**, **Val Stevenson**, **Janet Orchard**, **Chuck and Julia Roetter** and **Pat Gilardi**. Historical Society members came in all directions bearing exquisite baked goods for the sale table, managed by **Carol Clothier** and **Simone Wilson**. A special attraction was the big chocolate creation of **John Rock**. **Laurie-Ann Barbour** produced the most unique contribution – a scone baked on the site in her sun oven. (We’ve vowed that next year we’ll post a list so proper credit can be given to all the expert bakers who participate.



Irene Hilsendager, selling raffle tickets, and the antique wheel of fortune helped assure the financial success of the event.

While **John Allred** spun the wheel of fortune, **June Davis**, **Irene Hilsendager** and **Laurie-Ann Barbour** scurried about enthusiastically selling raffle tickets, and **John Moore**, **Mike Stevenson** and **Richard Moore** managed the wine and beer booth.

Prue Draper drifted around managing the raffles, taking photos and leading tours of the future museum.

Sincere thanks go to all our supporters who donated services and goods:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| The Apple Crate | Larsen’s Feed & Pet Supply |
| Art Ibleto | NorCal Produce |
| Charlie Brown | Oliver’s Market |
| Cadillac Converters Band | Pat McCarty |
| Carl Schollmann | Reyff Electric, Inc. |
| City of Cotati | Sales Promotion |
| Clover-Stornetta | Sally Tomatoes |
| Copy Mail & More | Spanky’s Bar |
| Cotati Chamber of Commerce | Spring Hill Cheese |
| Exchange Bank | St. Joseph Church |
| Franco-American Bakery | Tradewinds |
| Hines Signs | Windy Hill Winery |
| Lagunitas Brewing Co. | |

MEMORIAL FUND DONORS

In Memory of Lena Braden:

Dick & Joanne Braden
Lloyd & Prue Draper
Jennie Falletti
Mr. & Mrs. Don Freeman
George & Lynn Gallegos
Fred & Pat Groverman
Dave & Karen Heisel
Nancy Wodrich Justis
Eleanor Miller
Bob & Mabel Nelson
Arch Stewart
Dorothy Watt

Donations may be made to the Memorial Fund at any time, in memory or to honor someone. Mailing envelopes for donations may be obtained by calling 795-5510.

NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS

Marion and Mark Ackerman
Mary Bartlett
Harold and Julie Berkemeier
Michelle Berman
Sherri & Dean Brown
Ken & Sherri Carli
Cotati Police Management
J. Pat Geis
Judy Gustafson
Darryl Henke
Jeff & Janet Libarle
Marsha Sue Lustig
Jeanne Pratt
Bob & Debbie Renati
Katherine Rinehart
Linda Ritter
Marjorie Rosselli
Carl & Mary Schollmann
Eleanor Wass
Laura Zieman



Judith Nelson, left, and Laurie-ann Barbour were among the crowds visiting the museum-to-be.

Is the Cotati Historical Society pleased with the success of our first fundraiser? Absolutely!

One thing we all loved was the intermingling of young and old, new and long-time citizens, and former Cotatians who came back for the day – special recognition goes to **Eddie Mendelssohn**, who grew up here and came from Palo Alto seeking reunion with old friends. Next year we'll recruit more clean-up workers. **Bruce Martin** turned out to be an expert and enthusiastic pot-scrubber, and **Rachel and Riley Moore** were great garbage-haulers, but like all the other Society volunteers, they had worked all day – some for several days – and everybody was exhausted.

Will we do it again? By all means – and next year we'll cook more chickens!

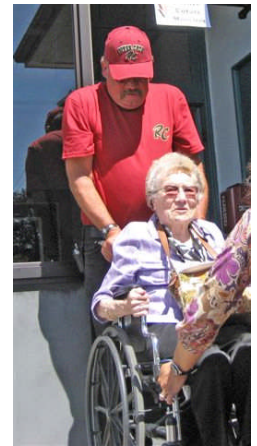
Museum Visitors Enjoying The Historical Displays During The BBQ



Bob Herrerias, left, was among visitors inspecting photos of historic Cotati buildings and scenes.



Jennie Falletti, left, Dorothy Watt, right and Gene Brennan inspected the room.



Gary Santero gave his mother, Evelin Santero a lift into City Hall.



Old friends enjoying a visit, Ann Carrasca, left, and Judy Gustafson.

“How’s the museum coming along?”

We hear that question almost every day. The project has hit one of those slowdowns that happen in any kind of endeavor. People get busy, parts get back-ordered, helpers get sick. But it's coming along, not as quickly as we'd wish, but still happening. The floor is the big problem at the moment, and we're still seeking a benevolent floor refinisher. The painting is due to start this week, and the electric plan for overhead lights and task lighting is promised immediately. Work is almost completed on refinishing the display cases and other furniture. **We're planning on a grand opening this fall; everybody please visualize that happening!**

Attention present and future members

If you are already a member of the Cotati Historical Society, it's time to pay your dues for the coming year. **\$10 per person per year.** If you are not already a member but would like to join us in preserving Cotati's history, we welcome you. Please complete this form and send with your check to:

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

Name/s _____

Address _____

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A shady table outdoors was the choice of Jan and Mike Kurvers, at right; Jeanne Pratt and Don and Tillie Millerick (hidden).