

Cotati Historical Society Newsletter

A non-profit 501 (c) (3) California corporation Tax ID #30-0421172

Preserving Cotati's Past

P.O. Box 7013 Cotati, CA 94931

E-mail chsinfo@sonic.net

June 2016

Prue Draper & Connie Martin, Editors

Vol. 9 No. 2

INDEX

In this issue, you will find:

French Laundry	Page 1
4th Grade Field Trip	Page 2
April BBQ Donors	Page 2
Members & Donors	Page 2
BBQ Pictures	Page 3
Annual Essay Winners	Page 4
Request to borrow	
Christo Fence Items	Page 4

SOCIETY OFFICERS

President: John Allred

795-2791

Vice Pres.: Sandra Walton

Secretary: Velma DiMeola

Treasurer: Connie Martin

Historian: Prue Draper

Archive Admin: Judy Gustafson

Membership: Yvonne VanDyke

Directors: Marie McNaughton

Gary Santero

Volunteer Coordinator:

Barbara Jean Veronda 795-4545

Cotati Museum Hours:

Saturday 1 - 4 P.M.

2nd Tuesday of each
month 5 - 7 P.M.

Special times by appointment
Phone 707-794-0305

The Cotati Historical Museum always needs volunteers to welcome visitors on Saturday afternoons, when we are open from 1 to 4 p.m. Docents work in pairs and the duties are basic - unlock doors, turn on lights, open blinds and prepare to be friendly. We have an instruction pamphlet that tells you everything you need to know. If you are interested, contact Barbara Jean Veronda, 795-4545.

Cotati French Laundry – A Modern Puzzle



The Cotati French Laundry was owned by the Lasbareilles family in the early 1900's and catered to French residents in the area. *Photos courtesy of Raymond Baradat*

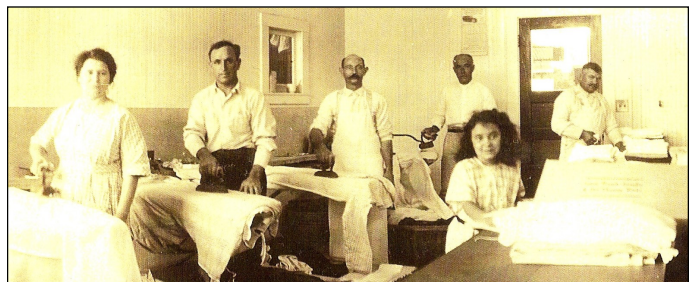
We wonder how many people remember when Cotati had a French Laundry. And we also wonder how many people even thought there was a need for a French Laundry in the early days, in the midst of all those chicken ranches. For that matter, how many people today remember when Cotati had a weekly newspaper called *The Cotatian*?

They occupied the same building on West Cotati Avenue, just east of El Rancho Drive. It is no longer standing.

The Cotati French Laundry was owned from 1927 to 1932 by a French couple named Jean Louis and Marguerite Lasbareilles, according to their grandson, Raymond Baradat. He lives in Tulare, and reached the Cotati Historical Society through the miracle of the Internet.

He reports that he had wondered for years just where his family's laundry was. By the same token, we had wondered for years about the history of the elaborate French laundry.

The couple had operated their business in



Ironing boards and folding tables filled the Lasbareilles' living room. Their daughter Jeanne Elizabeth worked with the family and employees.

Continued on page 2

Continued from page 1

Cotati from 1927 to 1932, and moved to Glen Ellen, and later to Tulare, where they bought another laundry. Ray Baradat reported that his grandfather died in 1939 and his grandmother in 1984.

Mr. Baradat sent us a dvd of an interview with his grandmother, Marguerite Etchegorry Lasbareilles, who remembered very well when she and her husband came to Cotati and bought the French Laundry.

While here, their whole family worked in the laundry, had a wet wash department in a wing of their building on West Cotati Avenue, and also did dry cleaning, driving two large trucks to the Bay Area for their pickups and deliveries.

Mrs. Lasbareilles' interview account included the fact that their living room was full of ironing boards, and after a while they bought a mangle for ironing big flat sheets and tablecloths. The young daughter rode in a truck with her mother and an employee to pick up the dirty laundry and deliver the finished pieces.

In 1932 the family sold the laundry and moved to Glen Ellen. The building became a print shop in 1944, owned by a succession of printers/editors. E.A. Little owned it for a few years, then Ed and Helen Runyon and finally Lloyd and Prue Draper. After the Drapers moved *The Cotatian* to the former Empire Paint Co. building on Old Redwood Highway in 1964, the old French Laundry building remained empty until it was demolished a few years later.

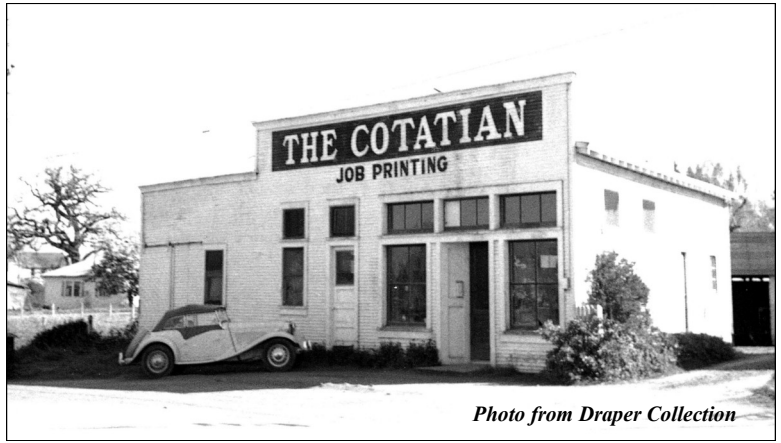


Photo from Draper Collection

The building became *The Cotatian* print shop and newspaper from 1944 to 1964 when it was abandoned and later demolished.

THANK YOU TO OUR MOST RECENT NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS & DONORS

Mark & Shannon Ackerman, *Marie Aggio*, Patricia Anderson, Karen Bertolini, *L.D. Blodgett*, Denise Cerrera, Church of the Oaks, *Ron & Sandra Dodge*, *Maurice & Elizabeth Fredericks*, Carolyn Hacker, *Bill & Constance Hammerman*, Sally Harper, *Dave & Karen Heisel*, Bob & Carol Herrerias, Sage Howell, *Nancy Hunt*, *Andrew & Catharine Hutchins*, Valerie Kingsbury, *Mark & Jan Landman*, *Chuck Lucas*, *John & Muriel Mahall*, *Kiyoko Maruyama*, Patrick McCarty, *Terry & Barbara McGee*, *Janet Orchard*, Jerry & Judy Pagnusat, *Sylvia Palmer*, Joe & Karen Panfiglio, *Gary Petersen*, Delbert Petersen, *John Richardson*, Gary & Reta Santero, Chris Santero, Ken Santero, Rhonda Smith, Allen & Carol Stansbury, Yvonne Van Dyke, Sandra Walton, *Pamela Wilford*, Carol Williams, Robin Wood. **NOTE:** Italized names also gave donations.

Annual Field Trip Helps Students Learn Cotati's History



Students learned about Cotati's history through museum exhibits and a scavenger hunt.

Big THANK YOU to our very important BBQ donors:

- | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| United Markets - Wine | Larsen's Feed - Charcoal |
| Bay Cities Produce - Produce | Kelly Smith - Beer |
| Oliver's - Chickens | 8-Ball - Ice |
| Lagunitas Brewing - Beer | Friar Tucks - Ice |



Marie McNaughton, far left, welcomed fourth grade students of Thomas Page Academy to the Council Chambers for their annual field trip to Cotati City Hall.



Police Chief Michael Parrish welcomed students to the Cotati Police Department.



Chefs were busy grilling over 400 tasty chicken halves on the barbecue. Ed Gilardi, right, chairman, directed the efforts of volunteers, from left Gary Martin, Jake Martin, Fred Carrasca and Joe Panfiglio.



Overflow crowd enjoying good food and visiting with neighbors.



Ann Carrasca, Jone Hayes and Kim Martin welcomed Jeff Millerick to the April 10 BBQ.



Cotati City Council members, 1 to r: Mayor John Moore & John DeOsso selling tickets.



BBQ attendees being served by 1 to r: Ed Gilardi, Wendy Skillman, Damien Obid, Mark Landman, and Jan Landman.



Musicians of the "Take Your Medicine" group who kept toes tapping were 1 to r: Steve Dungan, Ava Grail, Patrick McCarty, Gil Gardner, and Forrest Lesch-Middelton.

Highlights of 2016 Barbecue Fund Raiser

*Photos by
Jerry Pagnusat*



This small motorcycle brought back memories to old-time Cotati residents who remembered seeing Utility District employee Al Marsh riding it around town to read water meters.



Silent auction included paintings by local artists and a snuggly toy made by Kathy Norwood. Barbara Jean Veronda managed the sale.



All kinds of goodies tempted Bake Sale customers. L to r: Ellen Ostrand, Judy Pagnusat, Diane Canadas, and Chairman Judy Gustafson.

Still time to pay dues for 2016

We collect dues every January and you too, can help preserve Cotati's history. **Dues are still only \$10 per person per year.** Please complete this form and send with your check.

Yes I want to renew my membership for 2016 @ \$10 per person

An additional donation of \$ _____ is enclosed

Please send to:
Cotati Historical Society
P.O. Box 7013
Cotati, CA 94931

Name/s _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

E-mail address _____

We can save postage by sending quarterly newsletters on-line.

Learn more about Cotati history and
the Cotati Museum at our **website:**
www.cotatihistoricalsociety.org

Cotati Museum Needs to Borrow.....

40 years ago Cotati residents were astonished to learn that a couple of French artists named Christo and Jean-Claude planned to erect a fabric fence between Railroad Ave. in Cotati and the Pacific Ocean near Bodega Bay. Many local folk have preserved various kinds of remnants and photos. We would like to commemorate the anniversary with a display in the Museum. If you have items that could be temporarily loaned to us, please contact the museum at 795-0305 or at chsinfo@sonic.net. They will be carefully preserved and returned to their owners.

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



Receiving their awards at the April 10 BBQ -
l to r: 2016 THOMAS PAGE 4TH GRADE
ESSAY WINNER: Amelia Marie Laird, and
honorable mentions: Elizabeth Schollmann,
Oscar Espinoza Machuca, and Chloe Griffis with
teacher Mira Patel. Not present honorable men-
tion Alexander Cruz and teacher Robin Greer.