

# Cotati Historical Society Newsletter

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Preserving Cotati's Past

P.O. Box 7013 Cotati, CA 94931

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Prue Draper & Connie Martin, Editors

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## 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

Learn more about Cotati history and the Cotati Museum at our [website: www.cotatihistoricalsociety.org](http://www.cotatihistoricalsociety.org)

## SOCIETY OFFICERS

**President:** Terry Dutra 795-3977  
**V.Pres.:** Connie Martin 795-2772  
**Secretary:** Marie McNaughton  
**Treasurer:** Yvonne VanDyke  
**Historian:** Prue Draper  
**Art Director:** Judy Pagnusat  
**Archive Admin:** Judy Gustafson  
**Essay Contest:** Velma DiMeola  
**Volunteer Coordinator:** Barbara Jean Veronda 795-4545



*History Hunt planners: The committee that conceived and planned the Cotati History Hunt were, left to right, Sandra Walton, Shannon Roberts, Marie McNaughton, Yvonne VanDyke, Darryl Henke and Prue Draper.*

## WE CELEBRATED WITH COTATI

The 50th Anniversary of Cotati's incorporation was an exciting time for the Cotati Historical Society, especially because we won two prizes in the parade that started the day's celebration on July 13.

Our entry, an antique truck owned and restored by **Bob Herrerias**, was gaily decorated as a giant birthday cake for the city, with children in birthday hats riding with the cake and blowing bubbles. **Rhonda Noles** also represented us, driving her 1956 Chevy Corvette.

The judges chose our entry as winner of the Best of Parade category, which



*We entered Cotati's half-century parade with a giant birthday cake on Bob Herrerias' 1947 Dodge truck. Jasper Pamatmat, winner of this year's annual essay contest for Thomas Page Academy fourth graders, rode along with other children, all blowing bubbles.*



*Rhonda Noles chauffeured former mayor Pat Gilardi.*

included, and each owner was given a photo of one of its past uses to display. People were to select from 3 suggestions of what business had formerly occupied that building. For example: Out-on-A-Whim/Marc Mezzetta's Deli stands where what used to be? Choices were barber shop/bar, yarn shop or stable. The correct answer was barber shop/bar.

More than 40 entered the contest, and 11 got perfect scores. The top three and their prizes were: **Karen Castelli Hanlon**, winner of a dinner for 10 sponsored by

**Pasta King Art Ibleto; Reta and Gary Santero**, a **Hyatt Hotel** getaway sponsored by **Gravenstein Travel**; and **John Allred**, a \$120 deluxe bicycle tune-up sponsored by **Hub Cyclery**.

Other winners, who received certificates as honorary Cotati History Buffs were **Deanna Issel, Kellan Arnold, Emily Harris, Gary and Kim Martin and Kelly and Lori Smith**.

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**Marie McNaughton**, Cotati Historical Society secretary, explained to the crowd the history of Cotati from the Coast Miwoks to the present.

Cotati Historical Society also had a booth at the festival, with a life-size figure of **Jim Boggio** playing his own accordion. Yes, Jim is deceased, and immortalized with a bronze statue in LaPlaza Park. But thanks to his family, the Cotati Museum has received Jim's accordion as well as an assortment of photos of Jim growing up and many programs produced when he was a well-known musical entertainer in night clubs all over America.



Historical Society volunteers from left, Sylvia Palmer, Sandra Walton, and Val Stevenson greeted Parade Chairman Ed Gilardi as he visited the Historical Society information booth.



Former Cotati residents Mike and Jan Kurvers, who was one of the ex-mayors attending the celebration, came from their current home in Reno to share the day. The figure of Jim Boggio and his accordion brought back memories.

Our booth, designed by our art director, **Judy Pagnusat**, illustrated Cotati's rich history and included a special tribute to Cotati's first historian, the late **Marguerite Hahn**. Marguerite's dedication to her hometown was clearly shown by her photos of every sort of newsworthy event. School awards, service organization ceremonies, and the annual St. Joseph's Barbecues that drew throngs to Cotati in the 40's, 50's and 60's were all documented by Marguerite. And she recorded the exciting times 50 years ago that led to the incorporation of the City of Cotati.



Bill Kortum, one of the leaders in the move to incorporate Cotati into a city 50 years ago, and Jennie Falletti, pioneer Cotati resident whose husband Al was on the first city council, cut the giant birthday cake to serve all celebrants. (Photo courtesy of Irene Hilsendager)

A large group accompanied **Prue Draper** who led a walking tour of the Cotati downtown business district, describing the backgrounds of many of the buildings and their occupants. City Councilwoman, **Wendy Skillman**, videoed the walk and **Marie McNaughton** handled the sound system. A video of the tour will be available at the museum in the future.

The Marguerite Hahn collection, as well as the Jim Boggio collection and figure, handiwork of **Bob Draper**, are now on display at the Cotati Museum, open every Saturday afternoon from 1 to 4 p.m. and the second Tuesday evening of each month from 5 to 7 p.m. before the Cotati City Council meeting.



Prue Draper led an enthusiastic group on a History Walk through Downtown Cotati, describing businesses that have come and gone from the Cotati scene. Alan Allen, right, provided transportation in his pedicab.



Cotati history, from the days of the Coast Miwoks to the 50-year-old incorporated city, was displayed on this exhibit in our booth at the anniversary celebration in LaPlaza Park. (Photo courtesy of Rick Sager)

# "GET TO KNOW YOUR MUSEUM" PROGRAM

The public is invited to an open house at the Cotati Historical Museum on Sunday, Oct. 27 from 3 to 5 p.m. The Cotati Historical Society will be host and will serve wine and lemonade, cheese and crackers, and liberal quantities of Cotati history. Admission is free.

You have noticed the signs outside City Hall that say "Cotati Historical Museum Open" and you've wondered.... "What do you suppose they have in there? Does Cotati really have that much history?"

Or you have seen the door to the museum when you were visiting City Hall to pay your water bill or ask a question, and you've thought, "I really should go in there sometime." But the time wasn't right for you - or it isn't Saturday afternoon or the second Tuesday evening of the month, so you don't get there.



*Yvonne VanDyke, left, and Ellen Ostrand gave a warm welcome to Cotati Museum visitors.*



*Judy Gustafson, our Archive Administrator, is one of our most generous donors, thanks to a program at State Farm Insurance, where she was employed. The company provides a \$500 donation annually to honor a retired former employee who donates at least 40 hours of volunteer service to a bona fide non-profit organization. President Terry Dutra, right, happily accepts the check from Judy.*

Now you have a chance to find out just what IS in the Cotati Museum, and to ask questions about our city's interesting past.

This will be the first showing of our new display about a well-known local citizen, the late Jim Boggio, one of the originators of the now-famous Cotati Accordion Festival.

People who might like to volunteer to serve at the museum will have a chance to learn what their duties might be, and to join the society if they are not already members. The duties are basic - open doors, turn on lights, open blinds and prepare to be friendly.

**Barbara Jean Veronda**, a long time local resident, is chair of the volunteer committee and assigns shifts to workers who are members of the Cotati Historical Society. New volunteers are always teamed with experienced workers. If you are interested please call **Barbara Jean** at 707-795-4545 or email her at [bjveronda@gmail.com](mailto:bjveronda@gmail.com).

*Welcome to our most recent  
New Members & Donors*

**Jennie Falletti**  
**Bob & Carrol Herrerias**  
**Deanna Issel**  
**Shannon Roberts**  
**Richard Sager**  
**Sandra Walton**



*The giant birthday cake for the City of Cotati was produced by our Art Director, Judy Pagnusat and her husband Jerry. It was mounted on a 1947 Dodge truck restored and proudly driven by Bob Herrerias. Helping get it ready to join the parade were, from left Jake Martin, Robin Draper, Augustus Muse, Mercury Muse, Samantha Clothier, Prue Draper, Ailey Schilling, Jayna Schilling, Shannon Roberts, City Councilman John DelOsso, Jessica Schilling, Doug Schilling, Ryan Schilling and Yvonne VanDyke. (Photo by Tim Baker)*

## Enthusiastic Participants and Helpers at the Annual July Penngrove Parade



*Reta and Gary Santero proudly prepare to drive their restored 1938 Plymouth Deluxe Coupe in the 2013 Penngrove Independence Day Parade as part of the Cotati Historical Society entry.*

# Still Time to Pay Dues for 2013!

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 to:

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

*Yes I want to renew my membership for 2013*

Name/s \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

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

## ***"GET TO KNOW YOUR MUSEUM"***

***Sunday Afternoon Program***

***3 - 5 P.M.***

***October 27, 2013***

Details on page 3

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



*Earlier this summer, the Cotati Historical Museum hosted the Boyz Under the Hood, a Vallejo Car Club, who were on a tour to Tomales with a mid-morning stop in Cotati. They were drawn to our Musuem to look at the race car track history, both the old 1920's wood track and the 1950 - 60's drag race track.*