

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, Editor

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Museum Room Phone

707-794-0305

Call for an appointment.

SOCIETY OFFICERS

President
Prue Draper
795-5510

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Lloyd Draper

Treasurer
Terry Dutra

Secretary
Suzanne Whipple

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Newsletter
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795-2772

Archiving Administrator
Judy Gustafson

WHAT A "GRAND" MUSEUM OPENING!

Any fear we may have had that people wouldn't attend our museum grand opening on Feb. 28 disappeared even before the starting hour of 2 p.m. People were lined up outside, flocked in enthusiastically, and mingled with old friends as they pored over the displays and admired the work that had gone into converting the old police department office at Cotati City Hall into a museum.

About 400 people filled the hallways as well as the museum, and shared coffee and cookies as they inspected photos, scrapbooks and artifacts, listened to accordion music, and watched a slide show of the process of creating a museum. They had come from as far away as Hollister,

Vacaville, Lucerne, Palo Alto, San Rafael, and all parts of Sonoma County. Several were descendants of Dr. Thomas Stokes Page, owner of the former Cotati Rancho land grant. Many were new local residents eager to know more about their community.

Plans to hold a ceremonial cobweb cutting at the museum doorway had to be changed to accommodate the crowd, and the cobweb frame was moved to the city council chambers, where there was standing room only. Mayor Robert Coleman-Senghor welcomed the visitors and introduced city council members; City Manager Dianne Thompson commended the Cotati Historical Society for producing the museum, and Carole Mills represented State Senator Mark Leno and read a certificate of recognition. Gaye LeBaron, well-known columnist, author, teacher and historian, spoke on the importance of preserving a community's history and cited the growing national trend to establish local museums. Prue Draper, society president, led a champagne toast to celebrate with the crowd, and thanked all the many volunteers who have made the museum a reality.

She also announced that the
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Carole Mills represented Senator Mark Leno in reading the Certificate of Recognition

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committee members who had worked almost non-stop for months to prepare the exhibits, needed a rest, and that the museum would be closed for two weeks for recuperation.

It is now open by appointment, which can be made by calling the new museum phone, 794-0305 – and leaving a message. It will also be open during our Second Annual Chicken Barbecue on April 18, from noon to 5 p.m.

Sincere thanks to all those who helped make our grand opening such a success:

City of Cotati for use of Council Chambers

Oliver's for champagne and cookies

Friar Tuck's for champagne

Johnnie's Java for coffee

Val Stevenson for cookies

Sally Tomatoes for brownies

Laurie Litton, Accordionist



Lindsay Caudel, left, and Melanie Mattos clip the cobwebs to officially open the Museum.



Antique clock that hung in front of the Cotati Realty Co. office over 50 years ago, is one of the relics that was admired by the throng of visitors. Connie Martin, lower right, contributed in countless ways, including donating the clock.



Old-timers, newcomers, visitors from other cities, city officials and descendants of Dr. Thomas Stokes Page were in the crowd that filled the auditorium to



Laurie Litton entertained with lively music.



Visitors inspected paintings by local artists, displays of historic artifacts, photos, relics of now-disbanded organizations and memorabilia preserved over the past 50 years.



Lloyd & Prue Draper, founders of the Cotati Historical Society, greet friends at the cobweb door.



There was hardly room for visitors to look at the assorted historical scrapbooks. In center, TJ Nelson, left, a donor to the museum, and Bud Chadwick, who grew up in Cotati, stopped to talk about old times.



Many who came have asked if they can come back when it's not so crowded. It is now open by appointment, and regular visiting hours will be announced soon.



City Councilman Mark Landman and his wife, Jan, pore over photos displayed in the hallway. In foreground is slide show by Patti Davi showing development of the museum.



Carolyn Hacker, right, of San Rafael, is a descendant of Dr. Thomas Stokes Page. Judy Gustafson, center, archiving administrator, offers a chair to Victoria Fish from Hollister, who came to see a drawing she had donated.

Photos by Paul Hacker, Lloyd Draper and Patti Davi.

2ND ANNUAL BARBECUE TO BE HELD APRIL 18TH

Last year we revived a revered Cotati custom and held an old-fashioned chicken barbecue. What a success it was! People came from far and near, loved the food, enjoyed the music, tried their luck on the Wheel of Fortune and raffle drawings, and chatted with old friends.

So we're doing it again this year on April 18, and it will be bigger and better than ever. We'll repeat the menu that was such a hit last year with barbecued chicken, beans, coleslaw, roll and beverage for \$10 in advance or \$12 at the door. But this year we're cooking more of it, hoping we don't sell out as we did last year. The same cooking team that scored such a hit last year, **Ed Gilardi**, **Bruce Martin** and **Fred Carrasca** will be working their magic with the chicken cooking again.

Terry Dutra is general chairman for the barbecue, and is looking for volunteers who can help with the setup, cooking, serving and cleanup. Please call her at 795-3977 if

you can help.

Again, we'll have a bake sale, and we're asking everyone to bring a favorite recipe cake, pie, cookies, cupcakes, whatever your family loves or your mother used to make.

Judy Gustafson is the bake sale chairman, and may be reached at 763-5630 for details.

An exciting addition for car lovers will be a display of classic cars in the parking area behind City Hall.

Another new feature will be a silent auction, and we have lined up some remarkable prizes. There will also be an impressive assortment of raffle prizes, including gift certificates from local businesses.

Silent Auction/Raffle Items (Plus more to come)

Disneyland passes for four

Arrowood Winery Gourmet wine tasting for four

Infineon Raceways tickets for two

Gary Martin, Wrought iron picture frame

Judy Pagnusat, Glass plate & handmade jewelry

Scandia Miniature Golf passes for four

Terrilinda Dairy 5 yards aged compost

The Cotati Chamber of Commerce office and new Visitors Center will be open during the Barbecue. Stop in for a visit.

**Classic Cars
On Display
During BBQ**



**Bring Yours
- Show It Off**

**Cotati
Historical
Museum will be
Open April 18,
noon to 5 p.m.
Come in and
Browse**

COTATI HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S 2ND ANNUAL OLD-FASHIONED CHICKEN BARBECUE



The Cotati Barbecue Tradition Continues.....

Sunday, April 18, 2010

12 - 4 PM

(Meals served until 3 pm)

Ray Miller Community Center

216 East School Street, Cotati

Chicken Meal: Chicken, beans, coleslaw, roll & drink

\$10 in advance, \$12 at door

Beer, Wine & Bake Sale Desserts for purchase

Live American Roots Music

Tickets available at Chamber Office & Exchange Bank - Cotati

Or by calling: (707) 795-5508 or 795-3977

Or emailing: chsinfo@sonic.net

All proceeds benefit the Cotati Historical Society & Museum

NEW MEMBERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

You, too, can help preserve Cotati's history as members of the Cotati Historical Society. **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

Name/s _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

E-mail address _____

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P.O. Box 7013
Cotati, CA 94931



Gaye LeBaron, columnist, author, historian and teacher, speaks to the overflow crowd in the Cotati city council chambers at the grand opening of the Cotati Historical Museum Feb. 28. Behind her is the frame of cobwebs that was cut to officially open the museum.