

"Where Santa Rosa Began"



Membership: 84
Founded: 2012

Vol. 1, No. 2 Summer 2013

Did you notice that since our Spring quarterly newsletter last March, HSSR has tripled in membership - Wow!

We've been seen around town displaying our fabulous banner at the 25th Anniversary night of the Wednesday Night Market, at the Summerfest West End Market, and most recently the Wunderkammer event at Railroad Square – growing members at each event.



David and Linda Franzman at Summerfest

**HSSR GENERAL MEETING
Open to All – October 8, 2013**

7:00 p.m. at SRHS (multi-purpose room)

If you haven't signed up as a member, or if you know someone who has a passion for history, you can sign up on our website at: www.historicalsocietysantarosa.com or come to our **next General Meeting on October 8** and sign up there. We can't wait to see you!

**Santa Rosa's
SESQUICENTENNIAL
Is it 2018 yet?**

The Sesquicentennial Committee has already met two times over the summer to consider HSSR's role in the upcoming sesquicentennial. Sub-committees including Research, Oversight, Outreach, Planning and Budget have been formed. Anyone interested in getting involved

on the ground floor of this planning stage, should get in touch with Dan Markwyn at: markwyn@sonoma.edu.

- Jo Markwyn

Can you believe that it's almost been 150 years since Santa Rosa was incorporated? Santa Rosa celebrated its 100th Anniversary, according to a Press Democrat article of March 15, 1968, with presentations and speeches by Hugh B. Coddling, the reading of a letter from Governor Ronald Reagan, singing Happy Birthday by the Sweet Adelines, parades and a centennial costume ball held at the Veterans' Memorial Building, to name a few.

Speaking of upcoming milestones.....



**SANTA ROSA HIGH
SCHOOL WILL
CELEBRATE
140 YEARS!**

The John C. Fremont School (aka Fourth Street School), occupied students through the eighth grade and existed on Fourth Street since 1866. In the fall of 1875, two teachers, a combination principal and teacher and twenty-some students moved into three rooms on the second floor, and Santa Rosa High School was born.

In 1878, SRHS graduated its very first class, ten students, three of whom were members of the Petaluma Hill Road Crane family. Other significant Santa Rosa family names in the class include Geary, Overton, Hahman and Ware.

Because of a lack of funding SRHS closed its doors until 1881. Enrollment grew after that and required that the high school receive its own campus. Bonds were sold and property on the north edge of town at Humboldt and Benton was purchased, and in 1895 a three-story state-of-the-art school building of redwood greeted high-schoolers. (Picture of Old Humboldt School below.)

Two hundred fifty students comprised that student body, their course work expanding to include foreign languages, higher math and science lab work. In 1911, the concrete and steel building known as the Annex was built. It allowed shop classes, a basketball court and home economics. The Annex later became the junior high and ultimately Fremont Elementary before the wrecker's ball destroyed it in the 1960s.



In November of 1921, the redwood building was destroyed by fire, the origins of which remain a mystery, although faulty wiring suggests the probable cause. For the next three years high school education in Santa Rosa continued in a variety of

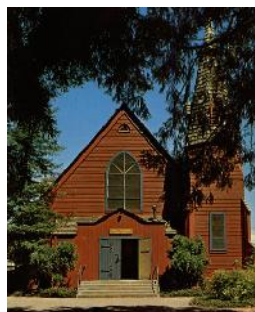
buildings about downtown—churches, storerooms, the library and even in private homes.

In 1923, a bond election to construct a new high school was passed. After much discussion, a site on the Redwood Highway next to Burbank Park was chosen. Construction of the classic brick main building was finished in December 1924, and the campus opened its spring semester in January to both high school and junior college students. SRJC occupied most of the second story until its next door campus was ready in 1932. The first assembly was held in the auditorium in March of 1925; the gymnasium was completed in 1929; the shops were ready for use in 1934 and the music building in 1935; the agriculture building held its first classes in 1940.

In 2014, SRHS will celebrate its 140th birthday!

- Mike Daniels

More Santa Rosa History – Believe it or Not!



CHURCH OF ONE TREE

Santa Rosa's Church of One Tree, located at the north edge of Juilliard Park, has a varied history. It's been in and out of public consciousness since it was built in 1873.

The Santa Rosa First Baptist Church purchased the property at B and Ross Streets for their new church building. Lumberman Rufus Murphy felled a giant redwood tree near Guerneville. The tree yielded 78,000

feet of lumber, then valued at \$1,830. The tree also produced thirty cords of wood. From that one tree, the Baptists built their church. Murphy had kept the lumber separate from other trees at his mill. He wanted to build the church from one tree to promote his mill and California redwood. The structure cost about \$5,000 and caught the attention of Santa Rosa native, Robert Ripley, who featured it in his "Believe it or Not" newspaper column.

As a growing, modern city in the 1950s, Santa Rosa felt a parking lot would be a better use for the property, and so purchased it from the First Baptist Church, who moved to larger quarters elsewhere. Saving the church became a community project, promoted by the *Press Democrat*. The campaign collected \$15,000 to save and move the structure to a property next to Juilliard Park, donated by the McDonald family. The local construction firm Rapp, Christensen & Foster dismantled the church and reassembled it at its new location.

There it sat, visited by tourists, but put to no use for a dozen years. Finally, as Gaye LeBaron reported in the June 23, 1969 *Press Democrat*, the city's Park and Recreation Commission began a project of renting it for concerts and recitals. This was apparently short-lived. In 1971, the Church of One Tree reopened as the Robert L Ripley Memorial Museum, featuring memorabilia and curiosities related to the famous world traveler and cartoonist. (Charles Schulz sold his first cartoon – a picture of his dog Spike – to "Believe It or Not.") The museum closed in 1998 and sat vacant again for another dozen years.

The church's current life began in 2011. With a \$341,000 grant from California's Proposition 40 along with \$350,000 from park development fees, the city began the church building's latest rehabilitation. New siding, restored stained-glass windows and handicap access were major parts of the renovation.

The single biggest expense was a new roof, costing \$105,000 for a church built 130 years earlier for \$5,000. The City of Santa Rosa now rents the Church of One Tree for weddings or other events.

- George Rothert



READING SANTA ROSA

Reading Santa Rosa, now only a click away on the HSSR website, is a list of books and other written materials on Santa Rosa. More a mixed bag of readings on the place and its peoples than a comprehensive or critical bibliography, the list will increase in length as HSSR members and other readers send suggestions. This first edition of Reading Santa Rosa includes histories (self-conscious systematic accounts of events over time) and reports, articles, theses and newspaper stories out of which such histories are made. Novels and shorter fiction in which Santa Rosa plays a role will be included from time to time.

A fuller description of Reading Santa Rosa (including some comments on earlier published histories of Sonoma County) and the list itself may be found on the HSSR website. I urge you all to take a look at the list and to keep your eyes open for news that a “Local History Reading Group” has been formed.

- Dan Markwyn

The Technology Committee has been very busy, launching our [first website](http://www.historicalsocietysantarosa.org/) in May: (<http://www.historicalsocietysantarosa.org/>) and now have over 300 likes on our [Facebook page](https://www.facebook.com/HistoricalSocietySantaRosa) (<https://www.facebook.com/HistoricalSocietySantaRosa>)!

A few small projects are nearing completion: ability to send bulk emails and accept online payments through the website. Next on our list will be a membership database and a new website that will allow multiple people to easily edit website content.

- Linda Franzman



JUILLIARD PARK BRIDGE

A SANTA ROSA GEM JUILLIARD PARK

This picturesque park had, over prior years, fallen into disuse by the residents of the neighborhood. Gaye LeBaron reported in the July 8, 1984 *Press Democrat* that the park had won a reader survey as the “Best Place to Get Mugged.” The park had become the hangout of vandals and drug dealers. But, on Independence Day, 1999, there was a celebration in Santa Rosa for reclaiming Juilliard Park. Flags, sack races, a parade and patriotic music brought the park back to life. The 1999 Fourth of July celebration served notice that Juilliard Park belonged to the community.

Juilliard Park was a gift to the city from Frederick Juilliard. The Juilliard family members were among the social leaders in Santa Rosa in the 19th and 20th centuries. Charles Juilliard came to the United States from France in the mid-1800s and with stops in Ohio and Red Bluff, brought his family to Santa Rosa in 1872. He established a ranch near Sebastopol and built a winery there. He built his home at the end of Main Street (later named Santa Rosa Avenue). Charles’s oldest son, Louis, was a prominent public servant and unsuccessful candidate for mayor and a two-term state senator.

Charles’s other son, Frederick, left Santa Rosa for New York and a successful career in business. He returned in 1931 when he offered the family home, situated on 8.75 acres, to the city. His conditions were that the house be removed and the property used solely as a park. He stipulated that not less than \$2,500 per year be spent on maintenance until a total of \$25,000 had been expended.

Howard Gilkey, an Oakland landscape architect who grew up in Santa Rosa, designed the park. The stone bridge and walkway were built from rock quarried in Kenwood.

By the 1970s, the park had fallen on hard times. In early 1973, the *Press Democrat* reported that Juilliard Park was being “dismantled.” The restrooms were regularly damaged, picnic tables, lights and sprinklers smashed and the lawns damaged by cars. The solution came when the neighbors became determined to take back the park.

By the mid-1990s, the Art in the Park theatrical events and Live at Juilliard Sunday concerts brought families into the beautiful setting with food and entertainment – fitting for a venue whose namesake family included the founder of the Juilliard School of Music in New York.

George Rothert

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Summer 2013

H.S.S.R.

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Upcoming H.S.S.R & Community Events

- 10/8** General Meeting – 7:00 p.m.
SRHS – Multi-purpose Rm.
- 10/12** Heritage Network Meeting – 10:00 a.m.
Carrillo Adobe
- 11/16** Day of Remembrance – 1:00 p.m.
Civil War Reenactments - Gettysburg
Santa Rosa Rural Cemetery



-that there are no words that rhyme with orange?

-that Boston, Massachusetts holds the record for the most jack-o-lanterns lit at once? (30,128)

HAPPY HALLOWEEN

HSSR OFFICERS

David Franzman.....President
Nick Tipon.....Vice-President
Kelly Loyd.....Secretary
Janine Loyd.....Treasurer

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Did you know...

-that on Halloween a hundred years ago in 1913, bobbing for apples was the rage according to The Saturday Evening Post?

-that a fear of Halloween is called Samhainophobia?

-that Harry Houdini died on Halloween night in 1926?