



The APB

July 2010
Volume 4 Issue 3

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Napa County History Groups Work Together

By Todd Shulman

Napa County has a rich history, and is fortunate to have many organizations committed to preserving that history. The NPHS is a member of a working group which consists of representatives from almost every historical preservation group within the County, and some experts in the field, including representatives of the Napa County Historical Society, St. Helena Historical Society, Sharpsteen Museum of Calistoga History, the Jewish Historical Society of Napa Valley, and the Robert Louis Stevenson Silverado Museum. The group has met several times. Topics of discussion have included sharing fundraising ideas, sharing historic preservation strategies, and coordinating the groups' various events.

Museum Fundraiser Delayed

After discussions with Napa Firefighter's Museum Board Member Eli Cornbach it was decided to post-pone the planned fundraiser "iron chef" dinner on the Napa Valley Wine Train until the spring of 2011, to allow more time to secure corporate sponsorship.

When details are finalized it will be publicized in an upcoming edition of the newsletter.

"Napa County has a rich history, and is fortunate to have many organizations committed to preserving that history."

Membership Report

The NPHS did not add any new members during the last quarter; however, we will be extending a one year memberships to a large group of retirees who left the NPD this year, and we hope they will continue as lifelong members, as other have done in the past.

Vehicle Restoration: Corporate Sponsors Secured

By Todd Shulman

The vehicle restoration project took several important steps forward during the past two months. One of our volunteer restoration experts, Dave Bosson, and I reached out to Hanlees Napa Subaru VW, who bought Jenson Motors. The company was eager to contribute to their new community and has committed to do the body work and paint on the vehicle.

The major mechanical issue with the vehicle was some sticky brakes. Another member of the restoration team, Ray Urbano, contacted Napa Ford Lincoln Mercury, who agreed to donate a complete brake overhaul on the vehicle. This is particularly important since once the brakes are fixed we will be able to drive the vehicle to the various restoration worksites (as opposed to the much more labor intensive process of trailering it).

We are still accepting monetary donations to help finish the restoration; we need about **\$3,000** to finish the restoration. You can donate on the website, or by sending a check to the NPHS address listed on page 4 of the newsletter. All donations are tax deductible.



1957 Ford on the lift at Napa Ford

Then & Now: Forensics Unit

By Janet Lipsey

The NPD ID Unit was established in January of 1978 consisting of 2 employees: Sgt. Chuck Hansen and Evidence Technician Janet (York) Lipsey. First day on the job Janet responded to an autopsy. It was a test...Pass or fail! Well...She's still here! As a team they were responsible for crime scene work, forensic photography, dark room film development and photo printing, fingerprint identification and evidence analysis. But don't stop there... they were also responsible for the operation of the department's property / evidence room.



Sgt, Chuck Hansen process evidence (1963)

In the earlier years the forensic work was performed by Detectives and rotating investigators with an Officer assigned to operate the evidence room. Going back to the late 60's, early 70's some may remember Officer Jack Crowley's property room closet!

Responding to a crime scene in 1978 required transporting a Graflex Speed Grafic 4x5 bellows camera and a case full of black & white sheet film. Looking for a more convenient way to document evidence Janet introduced the unit to color film and the 35mm camera....much easier to transport and increased the amount of photographs obtained at a scene! In the early 90's the unit made the transition to digital photography.

Fingerprint development processes in 1978 consisted of fingerprint powders and brushes, and an aerosol spray can of the chemical Ninhydrin. Today's technology and research development has added fluorescent stains and powders, an array of chemicals to develop prints, and laser light technology using multiple wave lengths of light to observe and collect evidence.

To solve crimes in the early years the ID Unit depended on the investigators to provide them with lists (and I mean LISTS) of possible suspects with the same M.O. to be compared with the latent prints from the scenes. Today we can develop suspects by means of computer technology. The ID Unit is on-line with Automated Fingerprint Identification Systems which search Napa County's arrest database, the California Department of Justice and the FBI databases.



Police Forensic Specialist Janet Lipsey looks for evidence on the banks of the Napa River (2008)

Throughout the years the unit's staff grew and dwindled. At a time when the unit was at its lowest staff level (1 full time specialist) the department created their Crime Scene Specialist Team. The CSS team is made up of 14 officers who receive more advanced training and equipment to assist with field evidence collection, photography and crime scene processes. The team has proven to be an invaluable asset to the Napa Police Department.

Today the ID Unit is staffed with one full time Forensic Specialist (Tara Fahey), 1 part time Forensic Specialist (Janet Lipsey) and 1 part time evidence assistant (Hilary Pieper). Watching CSI on TV makes wonder what the future may hold for the Napa Police Department Forensic Unit!

Archive Report

The NPHS is always looking for historically significant artifacts to add to its collection. We currently have over 975 original photographs (4X as many as last year), 2500 scanned images (2X as many as last year), 134 original documents (3X as many as last year), and 150 items of memorabilia (4X as many as last year).

Fire-Police Museum: Update

We are currently working on how to best integrate the NPHS into the museum. This will involve reworking all the displays, using archivally-sound methods to preserve artifacts and display them, and adjust the placement of fire apparatus; not an easy task.

We are also working on how to modify the signage of the museum to reflect the new partnership.

Two important points:

- If you know of any local businesses who may want to be corporate sponsors of the new museum please contact Todd at (707) 312-1844. A plaque honoring sponsors will be permanently displayed at the museum.
- The museum DESPERATELY needs volunteer docents, to help keep the doors opened and allow the public to enjoy all that museum has to offer. It is very informal, fun, and informative. If you live in or around Napa please consider filling one of the 5-hour shifts at the museum. Contact Jeff Hunter at (707) 738-7304 to volunteer.

Board of Director Nominations

There are two positions up for election on the NPHS Board of Directors: the President and the Treasurer. These positions have a two year term; they are currently filled by Todd Shulman and Mike Walund. Both Todd and Mike have agreed to stay on in their respective positions.

According to the By-Laws, if no one else is nominated then Todd and Mike will be re-elected. If you would like to be nominated, or want to nominate someone else, please send that information to the NPHS by August 9th. If nominations are received a mail-in ballot will be distributed to all NPHS members.

Upcoming Events

Fire-Police Museum Wine Train Fundraiser
When: TBD
Where: Wine Train

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