



TRINIDAD MUSEUM SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

FALL, 2013

Editors: Patti Fleschner
Pat Koutouzos

TRINIDAD LIGHTHOUSE 1871- PRESENT COMING TO PHOTOGRAPHY ROOM



Captain Fred Harrington, who was lighthouse keeper 1888-1916, atop 1871 lighthouse. In the background are Mrs. Harrington and Maud Hunter with Capt. Harrington's grandchildren Ralph and Milton Hunter, both of whom were born in the keeper's dwelling on Trinidad Head.

The City of Trinidad was established in 1850 after Josiah Gregg and his party of eight "rediscovered" Trinidad Bay and Humboldt Bay in December 1849. The resulting gold rush caused Trinidad to be settled as a supply station for Trinity River mines when it was made clear that the Trinity River drained into the Klamath River, not into Trinidad Bay as was earlier believed.

Between 1850 and 1865 at least 25 ships sank and at least 274 lives were lost off California's north coast.

The steamer "Brother Jonathan" was wrecked on St. George's Reef eight miles off Crescent City on July 30, 1865. The tragedy took the lives of at least 166 people, including an Army general and a territorial governor. There were only 19 survivors.

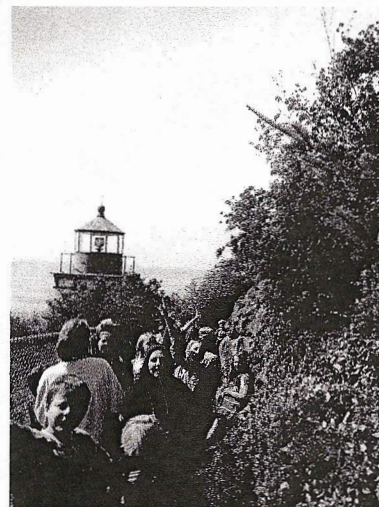
To aid vessels engaged in commerce, including the lumber trade, a lighthouse was proposed for the ocean-facing side of Trinidad Head. In 1866, all of Trinidad Head, 42 acres, was acquired by the Lighthouse Administration and funding was requested from Congress to build a lighthouse.

In 1871, Congress approved \$20,000 to build a lighthouse and other buildings. Work began in the spring on a shelf excavated 175' above sea level

(Trinidad Head is 380' at its highest point). A 25' brick and stucco lighthouse was built. Tower walls were painted white while the lantern room, gallery and trim were painted black. Jeremiah Kiler, lighthouse keeper for the Trinidad Light Station from 1871-1888, lit the first oil lamp on December 1, 1871. The 4,000 pound brass fog bell (in place at Trinidad Memorial Lighthouse since 1949) and house were added in 1898.

The Trinidad Lighthouse 1871-Present photography exhibit opens in November and will remain on view for one year. Photographs by A.W. Ericson, A.P. Flaglor, Edith and Milton Hunter, J.A. Meiser, Sam Swanlund, Terry Vogel, the U.S. Coast Guard, and photographs from the Katie Boyle, Sibyl Jamieson, Humboldt State University, and Humboldt County Historical Society Collections will be on view.

Curators for the exhibit are Tom Sharp, Katie LaSala, Scott Baker and Patti Fleschner.



Representatives from the U.S. Coast Guard, Bureau of Land Management, Trinidad Museum and teachers Rebecca Leuck and Rachel Dilthy led Trinidad School classes on a field trip to Trinidad Lighthouse and the Bell House in September. The history of the lighthouse was presented by Patti Fleschner to the classes the same week.



"SPANISH DISCOVERY OF TRINIDAD BAY, CALIFORNIA 1775" BY CALEB WHITBECK

Caleb Whitbeck's 24" x 36" enhanced giclee print, "Spanish Discovery of Trinidad Bay, California 1775" is on permanent loan to Trinidad Museum. It is on view in the museum's front entry room.

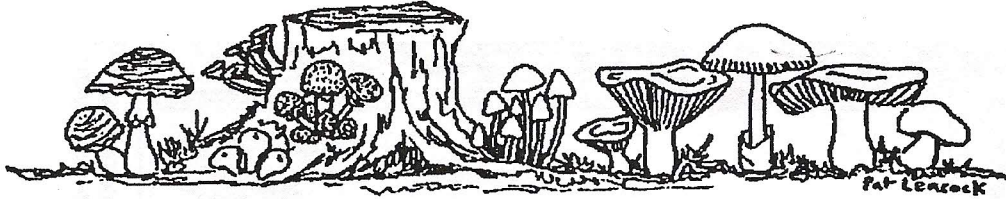
The splendid painting depicts the frigate "Santiago" commanded by Don Bruno de Hezeta and the escort topsail schooner, "Sonora" commanded by Don Juan Francisco de la Bodega y Quadra as they sail into Trinidad Bay, with Trinidad Head in the background, on June 9, 1775. The expedition party, which remained ten days, took possession of the lands in the name of King Carlos of Spain on June 11. The port was given the name "La Santisima Trinidad" since possession was taken on the feast day of the Holy Trinity. The Spanish mariners erected a wooden cross on Trinidad Head to commemorate the event.

Caleb Whitbeck, San Francisco Bay area's premier marine artist, has been drawing and painting ships and the sea for over 40 years. He is a sailor and founding member of the American Society of Marine Artists. His paintings, water colors and prints are in many public and private collections across the

country. Whitbeck was recently listed in the Smithsonian American Art Museum as an important nautical artist. He resides in Novato and is the brother-in-law of Paul Decker, who transported the art work to Trinidad Museum. The Decker family were proprietors of the former Decker's Ocean Side Lodge near Patrick's Point State Park.

The Whitbeck picture is remarkable. Inquiries have been made about acquiring reproductions. The artist has agreed to sell and sign prints. Please call 677-3816 or 677-3883 if interested.

"The Four Ages of Tsurai, A Documentary History of the Indian Village on Trinidad Bay" (1952) by Robert F. Heizer and John E. Mills with translations of Spanish documents by Donald C. Cutter tells the story of the Spanish discovery. The book was published as an authorized facsimile by Trinidad Museum Society in 1991 and contains notes by Virginia L. and James F. Waters, editors, and an introduction by Axel R. Lindgren, lineal fifth generation descendant of Tsurai. The book is available in the museum's book shop.



MUSHROOM WALK AT PATRICK'S POINT STATE PARK WITH VIRGINIA WATERS

Celebrate fall and the early rains with an outing to observe and learn about some of the beautiful and diverse fungi at Patrick's Point. Virginia will be leading a mushroom walk there for museum members on Sunday, November 17, 9-12 am. We will first meet at 9:00 at the Museum for a brief introduction to the biology and ecology of fungi, and will then carpool to the park entrance, where we will park and walk in. There are usually lots of interesting fungi even right by the entrance. We'll walk (at a very slow pace) from the entrance to Abalone Campground, either along trails or the road, depending on the number of people. Either way, we'll see lots of fungi (if the rains keep up!). This walk will not be about edible fungi. Space is limited, since it is difficult to show fungi to a large group of people. Please email me at jwaters@suddenlink.net if you plan to go. And don't delay, since space often fills up fast! We'll go rain or shine, but strong wind cancels.

MELODY HAMILTON IDENTIFIES 92 DIFFERENT BIRDS IN OUR NATIVE PLANT GARDEN

"Trinidad is a great place to 'bird' at any season and the addition of this Native Plant Garden - of the open coastal bluff - has provided a water/food source that draws an interesting variety of local and migrating birds. The birds listed here are from my personal 2009 - 2013 sightings and are limited to the Trinidad Museum's Native Plant Garden - from the Museum Building to the outer perimeter of the property. This included birds in / on shrubs, trees, ground, using the pond / overflow and flying through the garden." Melody Hamilton, *A Trinidad Birder--2013*

Melody, with help from granddaughter Shea Hamilton, has provided us with printed lists of the birds, specifying season of sighting and dividing

them into locals and unusual visitors. Copies are available in the Museum.

Melody herself is easily identified. She has two beautiful bunches of silvery hair, clear blue eyes, a broad-brimmed hat and--of course--binoculars. She moves quietly and talks quietly. But the intensity of her patient and persistent study of birds over a lifetime is evident in this remarkable list. It is a wonderful gift to the Trinidad Museum and all who visit the garden.

"CRANNELL & BEYOND" BY WESTON D. WALCH

Weston D. Walch, born December 10, 1928, grew up in Crannell, a Little River Redwood Company-owned railroad-logging town just a few miles south of Trinidad.

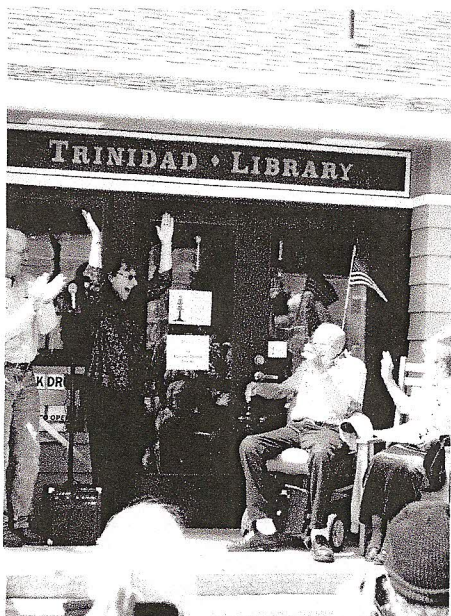
There is little trace of the old town now, but many inhabitants and their families share fond recollections of company and community life of the place, which was called Bullwinkle after the first owner in 1906 before it was purchased by Little River Redwood Company.

The Photography Room exhibit on Crannell which Tom Sharp curated two years ago (and which can be enjoyed now on the museum's web site at www.trinidadmuseum.org) was a very popular exhibition. When the show opened in January 2011, hundreds of visitors, most of whom had Crannell connections, came to see the wonderful old photographs of the town's homes, mill operations, school, railroad, store, and its people.

Weston Walch brings the town to life in his new book recalling "the many good memories I have about my parents, sisters, my friends, my career and about---growing up in Crannell."

The memoir is available at \$25 per copy in the museum book shop.

TRINIDAD CELEBRATES OPENING OF NEW LIBRARY



Contractor Charles Netzow, Library Manager Kenzie Mullen, and Glenn and Janis Saunders, first among many Founding Families and local donors, celebrate opening of new Trinidad Library, Trinidad Museum's neighbor, on August 18, 2013 after years of planning and fund raising. About 200 people joined in the celebration.

TRINIDAD MUSEUM VOLUNTEER DOCENTS AND GARDENERS

Many thanks to the volunteer and Native Plant Garden volunteers, listed below, who keep the museum open and welcoming to our visitors.

Docents:

Jill Mefford
Roberta "Allie" Lindgren
Tom Odom
Jim Webb
Rhonda Foreman
Judy Smith
Martha Sue Davis
Maria Bartlett
Sharon Malm Read
Pam Topolewski
Barbara and Dan Ratzlaff
Pat and Dennis Koutouzos
Patti Fleschner
Katie LaSala

Gardeners:

Jill Mefford
Ingrid Bailey
Laraine Cook
Claire Perricelli
Virginia Waters
Ron Johnson

TRINIDAD MUSEUM BOARD OF DIRECTORS

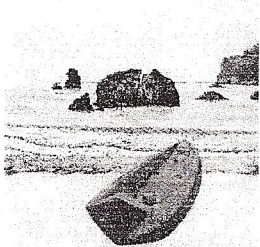
Patti Fleschner, president (baycity@sonic.net)
Scott Baker, vice president,
Joan Berman, treasurer
Katie LaSala, secretary
Virginia Waters
Roberta "Allie" Lindgren
Jill Mefford
Matthew Marshall
Jim Baker

Editor's Note: If you would like to hear about the rewards of being a docent or garden volunteer, please call Patti at 707 677-3816

Museum hours September-May: Thursday through Sunday 12:30-4 p.m.

Special tour arrangements for your school or group can be made by calling (707) 677-3816 or email baycity@sonic.net

Visit museum web site: www.trinidadmuseum.org



Trinidad Museum Society

400 Janis Court
P. O. Box 1126
Trinidad, CA 95570

Trinidad Museum Society and Your Membership

Trinidad Museum Society is grateful to long-time members for continued support. Some of you have renewed each year since 1980, when the idea of forming the museum was first proposed. Trinidad Museum Society also is grateful for the patronage of many new members who have joined since September 2009 when the new museum opened.

We generally send out membership renewal forms early each year in anticipation of the Spring Annual Meeting; but, if you are receiving this Newsletter and have not yet sent in annual dues, or wish to make an additional gift, kindly consider doing so.

Here are the categories:

- _____ \$25/yr. TMS Member
- _____ \$50/yr. TMS Sponsor
- _____ \$100/yr. Patron
- _____ \$250/yr. Benefactor
- _____ \$1,000. Lifetime membership
- _____ Special Gift to the Exhibit or Building Maintenance Fund

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

E-mail Address _____

(This will help in notifying you about special events or exhibitions. We do not share this information)

Telephone _____