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April 19, 2022 • Volume 24 • No. 5

**Be Our Guest for a New Exhibit and Open House
at the Heritage Center
The History of Firefighting in St. Helena
Featuring Art Carr**

Sunday, May 1 @ 1:00pm. Wine and Bites

This event is our annual membership meeting

We've taken some big steps forward over the last year and we'd like to hear your thoughts about the our progress--our programs, our communications and our Heritage Center, now open every Saturday from noon to 4:00pm.



Sunday's program will feature Art Carr sharing history and highlights of firefighting in St. Helena. Art was a St. Helena volunteer fireman for more than 20 years. He's accumulated a formidable collection of fire artifacts--this is the foundation of our new exhibit.

1:00: Welcome, wine, food and gathering

1:15: Opening remarks, financial summary and discussion

2:00: Art Carr talks about firefighting in St. Helena

Then visit the displays and see how the Historical Society is developing the museum



Some fast facts about the development of St. Helena's fire department

- In July 1884 the firemen held a drill. A large bonfire was started at the corner of Main and Pope Streets. The alarm was sounded. The Hook & Ladder men arrived with one short ladder and one extending 45 feet over the top of Ink's Livery Stable.

...y...r...y, climbing up the ladder. Within three minutes had elapsed from the time the alarm sounded. The new Climax Fire Extinguishers with chemicals put out the flames quickly.

- **The same week a large banquet was held at town hall and the fire leaders presented with new silver badges. The Chief W. T. Simmons was presented with one saying “Chief Engineer, St. Helena Fire Department”. Leader of the Hook & Ladder company F. M. Sterling received one stating “Foreman, Hook & Ladder No.1”.**



The next company in 1886 was called Americus Hose Company No.2. It was quartered across the street from the Odd Fellows Hall between the Model Shoe Store (Model Bakery) and Rexall Drugs (Market Restaurant) That same year, the Americus Hose Co. purchased a new hose cart that had 74 inch wheels and cost \$375.

April's Volunteer of the Month, Marilyn Coy



Marilyn Coy, A Lifelong Collector

Marilyn Coy came to St. Helena from Burlingame, CA in 1975 to teach home economics at St. Helena High School. She had just met her future husband, Nick, after their moms had arranged a blind date. They married in 1976 and moved to St. Helena. Marilyn taught sewing, foods, child development, family living and history until 2006. During that time, she also taught homemaking at RLS. Marilyn's kids, Nick and Pam, grew up in St. Helena and each was a student in her foods class for a semester.

"I have always been an American history buff, from the Gold Rush days on"

"I love collecting old things. I started with clothing from relatives, then bottles, books . . . [Read more](#)

May 18: The Braceros in Napa Valley

another lecture this month on the Braceros--the Mexican workforce that harvested the crops when local men went off to fight in WWII. They arrived in Sacramento by train, then were bussed to Napa Valley. Most came from Michoacan or Jalisco, two of Mexico's prominent agricultural areas, so they brought farming knowledge and skills to their new home. Few spoke or understood any English.



From a sleepy agricultural region to world-class wine producer

The Braceros played a major role in the development of California's wine culture that began in the 1970s. When the Braceros arrived, Napa was a sleepy agricultural region of prune and walnut orchards--

Our speaker is Ms. Rosaura Segura, a descendant of a Bracero. Ms. Segura has been involved with many local organizations serving the Latinx community. This in-person lecture is at 6:30 at The Heritage Center.



Volunteer to Help Staff the Heritage Center!

We're looking for volunteers to help staff the [Heritage Center](#) on Saturdays from noon-4pm. We also need help with special events, coordinating/scheduling volunteers and helping build new rotating exhibits. Respond to shstory@shstory.org

The Heritage Center Is Now Open Every Saturday! Join us from noon-4:00pm

Explore St. Helena's fascinating past at the Heritage Center
1255 Oak Avenue, St. Helena, CA 94574

DONATE

Support St. Helena Historical Society

Visit the Heritage Center: 1255 Oak Avenue, St. Helena, CA 94574 •

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