

The End of the Rainbow

David and Nancy Garden's gift to the St. Helena Historical Society

It was the perfect rainbow against the dark sky in the east that caught artist Marvin Humphrey's eye as he waited for the light to turn green to cross Main Street at the corner of Adams and Main in downtown St. Helena. As is his habit, Marvin had his camera handy and managed to take a shot of the scene.

Marvin later painted the image on canvas. Just off center of the rainbow in his photograph is the landmark old gas station at the southeast corner of Adams and Main.

This gas station, built about 1932, was known under a number of names, most recently the Main Street Service smog station and is included in the National Register of Historic Places, St. Helena Historic Commercial District.

Gary and Roberta Menegon purchased the gas station property next door to their Steves Hardware complex with

the intent of constructing a two-story office/retail building. However, because the gas station was a part of the Historic Commercial District, there were many months of discussion about the historic value of the station that delayed construction of the Menegon building.

The station was finally dismantled in 2014. Parts of it were removed to be reassembled by Ray Bolger on private property in the Mount St. Helena area.

Marvin's painting was recently exhibited at the St. Helena Public Library in a show of Humphrey's work. Local historical society supporter David Garden recognized the historic importance and impressive presentation of the old gas station and purchased the painting with the idea of donating it to the historical society.

Happily, in the future the painting will be exhibited in the Menegon building as a reminder of the history of the corner of Adams and Main.



Pictured here are Nancy and David Garden along with artist Marvin Humphrey and Gary and Roberta Menegon presenting the painting to the Society at our holiday event in December.

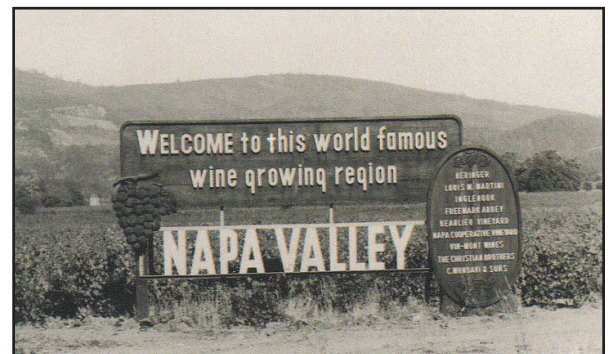
Photo credit: Shannon Kuleto

Members & Volunteers...

Wishing you a very happy new year!

As we continue our work to save, document and share St. Helena's past, we hope we can count on you to help us during the coming year for our many society programs and projects:

- We need your help to expand our oral history project: The oral history project continues to document the Voices of St. Helena, those people who have contributed so much to our community.



St. Helena Historical Society Collection

Continued

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• On-going special events and programs: Our programs and special events bring living history to the community and visitors. This year's plans include:

> Our annual Museum For A Day event, planned for late spring.

> The popular Cemetery Tour, planned most likely for September.

> The Hometown Harvest Festival in October.

> And our various programs in cooperation with the library.

For more information on the society's volunteer needs for these and other projects, please contact:

Bonnie Thoreen, bthoreen@gmail.com, or call 707.963.7529



Museum
For A Day
display

Photo credit: Victoria Blackwell



Have you shared our "It's About Time!" video with family and friends?

If not, please forward this video link and share our goal to build a History Center in St. Helena.

<https://vimeo.com/88933087>

A Special Thank You...

We want to thank those who generously donated to our year-end appeal letter. Your gifts will enable us to grow our programs and collections while we continue to search for a permanent home for the St. Helena History Center.

Thank you to the following donors:

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