



Trinidad Museum Newsletter

Spring 2014

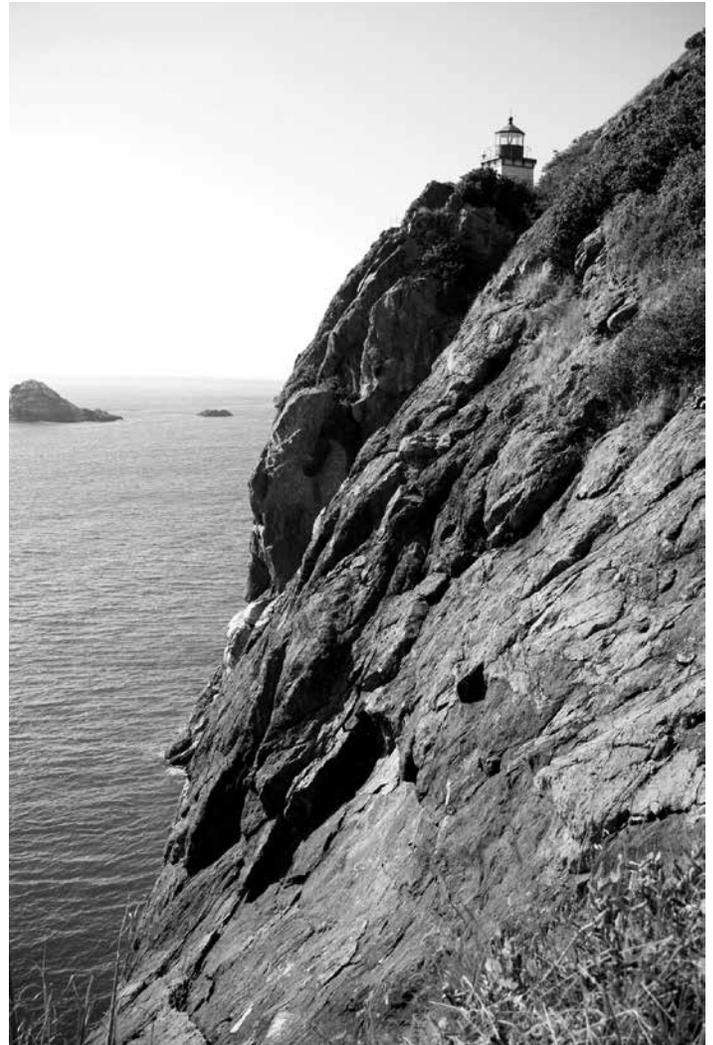
Discover the Coast @ Trinidad Celebration and Light Station Transfer of Stewardship

Bureau of Land Management's Discover the Coast Initiative highlights partnerships that are working to protect and promote California's treasured coastal landscape on and off shore. Discover the Coast @ Trinidad on May 16 was a celebration of these partnerships as well as the Trinidad Head Light Station land transfer from US Coast Guard into public ownership.

The celebration and transfer of stewardship ceremony attendees included representatives from California Coastal Monument-Bureau of Land Management partners Trinidad Museum, Trinidad Coastal Land Trust, Trinidad Chamber of Commerce, HSU Marine Laboratory, Audubon Society, Cher-Ae Heights Indian Community of the Trinidad Rancheria, Yurok Tribe, Tsurai Ancestral Society, City of Trinidad, Department of Fish and Game and California State Parks.

Trinidad's Mayor Julie Fulkerson, Supervisor Ryan Sundberg, Trinidad Tribal Chairman Garth Sundberg, Yurok Tribal Chairman Thomas O'Rourke Sr., Trinidad Museum President Patti Fleschner, Trinidad School fourth and sixth grade students, whose teachers are Rebecca Leuck and Rachel Dilthey, Lindsey Righter, Congressman Jared Huffman's representative, BLM State Director Jim Kenna, Chief Warrant Officer Curtis Barthel USCG, Beth Chaton, Anica Williams, Julie Clark, Lynn Wright of Children's Forest and Redwood Edventures and artist Louise Phillips, whose original art work celebrating the Rivers to Redwoods Children's Forest was dedicated, and others participated in the ceremony. BLM's Leisyka Parrot and Lynda Rousch helped to organize the event. Music by Brooks Otis and Ken Jorgenson. Uniquely Yours Catering served refreshments.

The day included visits to Trinidad School, Trinidad pier, and Trinidad Museum to view the Trinidad Lighthouse 1871-Present Photography Room exhibit and the 1947 375mm lens on permanent loan from the USCG.



Trinidad Head Lighthouse, built together with lighthouse keeper's quarters for \$20,000 in 1871 on a shelf 175 feet above sea level, passed from United States Coast Guard to public ownership under the stewardship of Bureau of Land Management on May 16, 2014. The Trinidad Museum Photography Room exhibit, "Trinidad Lighthouse 1871-Present," will remain on view through 2014.



The 375mm drum lens from an old acetylene buoy lantern was removed from Trinidad Head Lighthouse in December 2013 and is on permanent loan from the U.S. Coast Guard at Trinidad Museum. It has served as a navigational aid to mariners since 1947 and is a fifth order Fresnel lens measuring 14 3/4 inches across the inside. A new LED light replaced this lens.

Tour of Pat and Howard Wells Garden

Trinidad Museum Society presents a Tour of the Pat and Howard Wells Garden (decades ago known as Sea Knoll Flower Farm) on Sunday, May 25 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., 1724 Stagecoach Road, Trinidad (behind Larrupin' Cafe about two miles north of Trinidad).

This unique garden occupies a spectacular ocean bluff. Come spend a spring day and explore the more than five acres of woodland, ponds, sea stack rock garden, meadow, orchard, berry and vegetable gardens. The plantings include many rare specimens from around the world and many from California's

lavish native flora (all labeled). The garden is the creation of one woman's vision and 30+ years of work, trial and error. Last year the garden was featured in "Fine Gardening" magazine, focusing on its extraordinary plant form and color combinations. It is a garden for all seasons, but a spring day is arguably most beautiful. Don't miss it

Bring your watercolors, camera & family. Refreshments. Park along Patrick's Point Drive and walk to 1724 Stagecoach. The event is a benefit for Trinidad Museum Gardens. Admission at the gate: \$10 per person or \$20 for a family. For information call Garden Chairman Jill Mefford at 677-0355.

Trinidad State Beach Geology Tour with Ken Aalto

Ken Aalto, professor of geology emeritus, Humboldt State University, will present a walking tour of Trinidad State Beach on Tuesday, June 17 from 9 to 11 a.m.

Professor Aalto's "Trinidad Geology" exhibit is a favorite in the natural history room at the museum and his book of the same name will serve as a guide book during the tour. He has spent years studying the diverse array of formations, bluffs, and beach rocks at Trinidad State Beach. Even if you are a frequent observer of this popular local beach, you'll come away knowing far more than you imagined. Aalto is an articulate, engaging speaker.

Limit of 15 people for the tour. Call 677-3816 or email baycity@sonic.net to reserve a place. \$30 per person includes Ken Aalto's book, "Trinidad Geology" (with proceeds benefiting Trinidad Museum operations). If you already own a copy of the book (\$20 at the museum store), bring it with you and admission to the tour is \$15. Make checks payable to Trinidad Museum Society. Meet at the Trinidad State Beach parking lot at the end of Edwards Street (NOT the one next to the school) at 9 a.m. on June 17.

Historian-Author Jerry Rohde Presents Town Hall Talks

Jerry Rohde will give two history presentations at Trinidad Town Hall this summer.

“Railroad!” is the July 25, 7 p.m. subject. 2014 is the 100th anniversary of the completion of the Northwestern Pacific Railroad, which made it into its eighties before shutting down. You’ll learn about the construction of the NWP and see glimpses of striking scenery through which it passed. Rohde also will tell about other local lines, both built and un-built, including the Annie & Mary; the Humboldt Northern and its successor, the Hammond Railroad; Heney’s “Horsepower” track, which went around Table Bluff; and the biggest bluff of all, the never-built Humboldt & Eastern. Don’t be left at the station.

“The Thousand-Year” Flood” will be the August 15, 7 p.m. topic. 2014 is the 50th anniversary of the massive 1964 flood, which rearranged much of the county and left imprints that remain to this day. It was so much bigger than the “hundred-year” 1955 flood that it was called the “thousand-year” flood, yet only 104 years earlier there had been another inundation that was probably about as big. Rohde will tell of three epic aqueous events in this year of California drought.

The presentations, sponsored by Pierson Building Supply and Trinidad Museum, are free of charge. There will be time for questions after the talk of approximately one hour. Jerry Rohde’s wife, Gisela, assists with the programs, which are given at other museums and granges throughout Humboldt County in the summer. A schedule of talks will be available at the July 25 event.

Museum Volunteers Feted

Docents, garden helpers, board members and volunteers, including Jill and Dwain Mefford, Allie Lindgren, Jim Webb, Maria Bartlett, Rhonda Foreman, Heidi Brown, Sharon Malm Read, Pam Topolewski, Barbara and Don Ratzlaff, Tom Odom, Martha Sue Davis, Pat and Dennis Koutouzos, Judy Smith, Cathy Phillis, Charles and Pam Netzow, Tom Sharp, Ingrid Bailey, Claire Perricelli, Virginia and Jim Waters, Laraine Cook, Carl and Maisa Kalb, Scott Baker, Katie LaSala, Joan Berman, Jim Baker, Matthew Marshall, and their spouses were honored March 31 at a Moonstone Crossing wine tasting.



Garden volunteers Carl and Maisa Kalb and Photography Room curator Tom Sharp and his wife, Traudl reacquaint themselves at Moonstone Crossing Winery Volunteer Appreciation event. The two men were college roommates and both served in the Peace Corps.



Garden volunteer Laraine Cook and museum docent Maria Bartlett share stories

Remembering Ned at Annual Meeting

“Remembering Ned Lee Simmons 1939-2011” was the program for the April 27 Annual Meeting.

Jan and Jack West gave a beautiful Power Point presentation of Ned’s art work and poetry. Rebekka Knierim’s essay on her Trinidad history research over several years time with Ned in his Trinity at Parker Street historic home and gallery was read and will soon be posted on museum’s web site trinidadmuseum.org.

Museum board member and City Councilman Jim Baker reminisced about Ned during early forest-survey work they performed. The Trinidad Coastal Land Trust loaned six of Ned’s large paintings for the event and

pictures by Ned from Trinidad Museum and private collections were on view.

2013 Minutes were approved; treasurer Joan Berman gave the year's financial report; Patti Fleschner introduced guests and announced 2014 events and programs; directors Fleschner, Roberta "Allie" Lindgren and Virginia Waters were elected to three-year terms, and after the meeting delicious refreshments brought by volunteers were enjoyed by the 45 members and visitors.

On September 26, 2014, Trinidad Museum will mark five years in its Sangster-Watkins-Underwood-Susan family 1899 home, now neighbor to Trinidad Library, which opened last August in the Trinidad Coastal Land Trust-owned Trinidad Cultural Center.



"Mitch's Christmas Tree" (1992) by Ned Lee Simmons, 1939-2011 on view at Annual Meeting April 27

Melodrama "The Queen of Shark Tooth Shoals" Coming this Fall

Many remember Kamila Huff's Born-in-a-Trunk melodramas and variety shows performed in Trinidad Town Hall since the late 1970s.

Trinidad Museum, in memory of Kamila and with the help of her husband, Terry Huff and director John Meyers, will present the musical melodrama "The Queen of Shark Tooth Shoals" written by Max Gilroy, adapted by Kamila, and with music by Craig Naylor, on November 22 and 23, 2014 in Trinidad Town Hall. The play was produced twice before in Trinidad.

Jayne Bauer will return to her role of "Addie," and Felicia Oldfather will be pianist for the musical numbers. Watch for announcements!

Volunteer Gardeners Rejoice

The Native Plant and Historic Garden volunteers clocked in 420 hours last year. In order to prune, plant, weed, mulch and water each week, the volunteers tote their shovels, rakes, wheelbarrows, hoses, pruners, plants and everything else they need on each gardening day.

By mid-June 2014, compliments of Ben B. Cheney Foundation and City of Trinidad grants, and Trinidad Museum Society members and supporters, a new garden shed, built by Charles Netzow, will allow for garden implement storage attached to the under-construction Trinidad Coastal Land Trust Ned Simmons Gallery and Office behind Trinidad Library.



New garden shed will be attached to the under-construction Trinidad Coastal Land Trust Gallery-office behind Trinidad Library

Trinidad Art Night Scheduled on First Fridays Through October

Trinidad Museum will be open from 6 to 9 p.m. on the first Friday of each month through October. The next Trinidad Art Night is set for June 6. The community-wide event includes art, music, dancing, poetry reading, fire dancing and more at venues all over Trinidad. Tim Breed and Chakeeta Marie Garebedian organize the event with the Ink People and Community Arts Trinidad (CAT).

Katie LaSala, Allie Lindgren and other hosts greet visitors at Trinidad Museum. Check trinidadartnights.com for scheduling each month.

Honduras Mahogany Mid-Century Modern Furniture Sale

The family of Ruth Greenberg, a founding supporter of the museum since 1980, has been generous for decades with collections and contributions.

Recently five pieces of beautifully made Honduras Mahogany custom made furniture was donated to the museum to benefit museum operations.

There are five pieces in all: two end tables; two 50" tall seven drawer (some cedar lined) dressers, and a king sized (72" wide) headboard with sliding doors for books, your alarm clock or love notes to your beloved.

\$1,700 for the five pieces or they can be sold individually.
Call 677-3816 or email baycity@sonic.net for inquiries.

Yurok and Karuk Large Basket Collection

The Native American Room has on exhibit remarkably fine large Yurok and Karuk carrying and cooking baskets, gift baskets, cooking implements, a rare Iris fiber fishing net, gaming baskets, baby carrying baskets, a jump dance basket, and a wide array of women's and men's ceremonial and work caps from the museum's permanent collections.

The "Made for the Trade" case has baskets, bottles, and souvenir items made between 1880 and 1929 when the market for Indian-made objects grew in the United States and all over the world.

Also on view is the diorama of Tsurai Village above Indian Beach produced by Scott Baker and Roberta "Allie" Lindgren. Axel Lindgren Sr. fishing nets and a Charley Beach-hand knotted fishing net made for Michael Dobrec when he was a boy are exhibited as well.

David Peterson, author and historian, lived at 531 West Street (the "Odd-Shaped House") as a child. He researches early Trinidad history using land transfer deeds, survey maps, public records and old photographs.

The Mystery of the Odd Shaped House by David Peterson

Ever since I was a kid growing up in Trinidad, I have wondered about the old house that stands in the middle of the block on the south side of West Street between Trinity and Ocean.

The redwood building is plain with a gable roof that has always been painted brick red with white trim. The only owners of the old house I knew were the Collins family, originally George E. (1908-2008) and Hazel, who have passed on and now their son, Todd Collins, is the owner. I was crab fishing in the early 80s out of Trinidad, leasing a small boat that George Collins owned called the Gemini. My brother Arne was my crew. Often, while we worked on crab gear, George would share stories with us from his long and colorful life.

There was a stove in the shed behind the Collins home and George would put on a stew or a pot of beans and while we ate or worked we would chat. Once George talked about the old house that he had always used as a rental. He told us that the house was hauled up from the old part of town down near Galindo, Whiting and Ewing Streets (all named for some of the first sailing ships that came into Trinidad Bay in 1850 during the gold excitement). Back then, the lower part of town was the only town. It ended about where the Memorial Lighthouse is today. In early days, 1850-1870, everything came and went by sea. By the late 1860s logging was the new life's blood for Trinidad, but still most movement was by sea.

I wondered for nearly four decades about who owned the old house down on the flat and when or how it was moved. I started a research project I call "Land Marks in Time." It is a study of early

Trinidad photographs and history to learn about what happened, when and where: house fires and building of houses hotels, schools, saloons and so on. It wasn't long before I became preoccupied with "George's Rental" or what I now call the "Odd Shaped House" which appeared in photographs just after the turn of the century.

I discovered from documents signed in 1901 and 1906 that the upper, flat part of town started when Walter Hilton Pinkham and George Murdock Scott bought Lot 7 from Christina B. Childs, widow of William Childs, pioneer and well-to-do land and Trinidad store owner (Childs died in 1897 in Boston). Lot 7 consisted of 11.86 acres and took up the area from Edwards to the south, Main Street to the north, Trinity Street to the west, and View Avenue to the east. Pinkham and Scott had a survey of the property and a plot map drawn by W.F. Hunter, an Arcata civil engineer, showing streets and blocks of the new subdivision. Most of the lots were only 25 feet wide and 120 feet long. The small town seemed to be on the move. The timber company was moving closer and talk of a rail head or station were in the papers. The sum of \$5,000 paid for the land was a sign of optimism. Pinkham was a saloon proprietor and Scott was the town's blacksmith. They were well connected in the business and logging community.

Photographs prior to 1900 show only an 11 acre pasture with a few barn structures and an 1875 survey map shows few structures on the bluff south of where the Memorial Lighthouse now rests. I determined when the house was moved studying two photographs, one with the Trinidad Hotel (originally the Sea Breeze Hotel) built in 1910 and the school building built in 1914 which showed the odd shaped house, and another earlier photo showing no Trinidad Hotel or odd shaped house but with Pinkham's new two-story boarding house and saloon on Edwards Street built in 1907-1908 in plain view. So the odd shaped house was in place after late 1907 or before early 1914.

In 1906, Pinkham sold his half of lot 7, where the odd shaped house is today, to Scott. Pinkham and Scott also split the lots into two separate groups by 1909 and were paying taxes on their own lots.

Next I got together with Todd Collins and explored the dark and dusty attic at 531 West Street. Turns out the house is odd shaped for a reason: it consists of three separate redwood buildings pushed together. The three structures were reminiscent of bunk houses constructed by the lumber company for their workers.

The construction method was balloon type with two by fours used horizontally with one in the middle and thick vertical boards forming the walls.

Under the house, I saw more clues: floor beams on 24 inch centers. The timbers used to skid the house to its resting place were still under the house and appeared to be about 30 feet long. George and Todd Collins both told me that there were numbers above the doors in one section of the house, which meant that they were most likely bunk or boarding houses. Several old newspapers were found on the walls dated 1876 (newspapers were commonly used as a base cover over the redwood boards, before painting or wallpapering).

So who was George Murdock Scott, owner of the odd shaped house in the early 19th century? His grandparents, William James Scott and Margaret Simpson Scott, came from Edinburgh, Scotland with James Scott, George's father, and settled in Nova Scotia, Canada. James married Margaret Nicholson and the two had 11 children in addition to two other children from a previous marriage to May McCewen. George Murdock Scott learned farming and blacksmithing from his father and later became a brake man on the continental railroad, where he lost his left foot in an accident. He was 20 years old when he moved to the United States, first staying in John Vance's "Essex," or the early Blue Lake area.

Scott moved to Trinidad in 1894 and bought out Tom Fitz's blacksmith business (where Katie Boyle, teacher, historian and photographer, and her husband Bill lived on the south side of Edwards Street opposite present day Katy's Smokehouse). He married Emma Laughlin of Arcata in 1900 and they had three children, Louise, 1902, George, 1903, and Kenneth, 1912. The Scotts were active in town life. Emma was appointed postmaster in 1907 and also served as secretary of the Town Trustees. George was assistant postmaster and served as president of Town Trustees. Together they formed and managed the Trinidad Water and Supply Company.

Walter Hilton Pinkham's wife died on April 4, 1918 and George M. Scott was one of the pall bearers. Then early on Monday morning, April 15, 1918, a massive explosion shook Trinidad. The Arcata Union reported on it on the following morning with the headline, "George Scott Explodes Dynamite Under Bed, Blown to Atoms." The Blue Lake Advocate reported as a special to the Blue Lake Advocate-Trinidad: "The people of this place were shocked when they heard

yesterday morning of the tragic and premeditated death of George Scott, who for years acted as assistant postmaster here. Without assigning any reason for his act, Scott planted dynamite underneath his bed and early yesterday morning, exploded the charge. Scott's body was blown to atoms, and the rear end of the post office building was blown off. Ill health is said to be the cause of his rash act. A coroner's jury composed of Cal McConnaha, Ed Wiberg, Will Snow, Jim Sherburn, Ed Hanson and Frank Sharrington returned a verdict of suicide by dynamite explosion. Deputy coroner Tom Devlin of Arcata came up and attended to what could be gathered of the remains." Scott was 59 years old.

David Peterson's narrative on the history of the odd shaped house and other Trinidad people will continue in the next issue of the Trinidad Museum Newsletter.



David and Karen Peterson, 1960 behind the odd shaped house with the old museum building in the background.

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

Summer hours at Trinidad Museum:
Wednesday-Sunday from 12:30 to 4 p.m. from June 4 through August 31, 2014.
Special school or group tours outside regular open hours may be arranged by calling 707 677-3816.



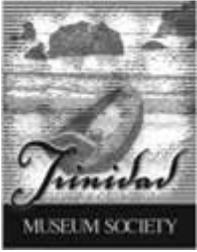
"Odd Shaped" redwood home at 531 West Street was constructed from three older Trinidad structures in "old town" closer to bay and rebuilt at current site between 1907 and 1914



George M. Scott circa 1900

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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

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