

TRINIDAD MUSEUM SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Summer 2023

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

Contributors: Patti Fleschner, Alexandra Cox and Mary Spinas Kline

TRINIDAD OR BUST! VACATIONING IN TRINIDAD 1914 – 1950 New Exhibit in Photo Room

Roy S. Melvin wrote in the *Humboldt Times* in 1931:

"Ten years ago the 'Redwood Highway' was a line of auto travel practically unknown. True at that time there was a road connecting San Francisco with Eureka but it was narrow, and rough and steep in many places. Traveling over it by auto then was looked upon as a long and dangerous undertaking, attempted only by the most adventurous.

Today the 'Redwood Highway' is one of the best known and most traveled of our Northern California highways. In the past three years, travel over it has increased by leaps and bounds and on special holiday occasions last summer, several thousand cars passed over it in a single day. It is no exaggeration to say that no highway in America is destined to become a more popular line of travel for the auto tourist than the Redwood Highway. The reasons are legion."

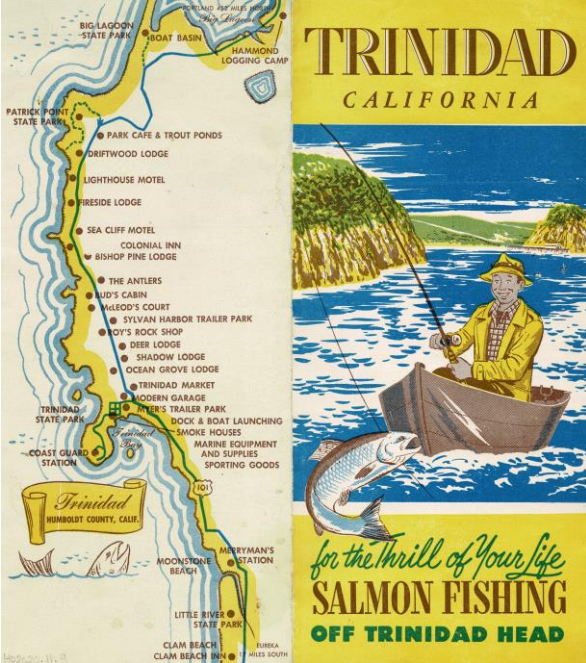
This Photography Room exhibit features some of the most popular beach camp



grounds, motels, petrol stations and souvenir shops between Clam Beach and Stone Lagoon, about a 23 mile stretch along the Redwood Highway in the Greater Trinidad area, including the Clam Beach Inn, Mermaid Inn, Herrin's, Hawleywood Heights, Ocean Grove, Shadow Lodge, Deer Lodge (now Emerald Forest), Bishop Pine Lodge, Sea Cliffe Camp and Motel, Abalone Beach Auto Camp, Viewcrest Motor Lodge, and the Little Red Hen. Exhibit curators are Mary Spinas Kline, Alexandra Cox,

Scott Baker and Patti Fleschner. Photographs and information are from the Katie Boyle & Lois Smith Collections, Diane Hawk, Suzy Baker Fountain, *Humboldt Times*, Humboldt County Historical Society, Cal Poly Humboldt Library, David Zuber, Debbie MacBride and other sources.

There are a number of visitor serving destinations for which the museum has few photographs or details, such as Jones Auto Court in 1937-38, Decker's Fireside Lodge, The Antlers, Azalea Auto Camp, Park Cafe and Trout Ponds (now Azalea RV Park), Driftwood Lodge, McLeod's Court, Roy's Rock Shop, Liberty Auto Park in the Moonstone Beach area, and Frank Myers's Sylvan Harbor (now owned by the Manka family), which probably opened about 1938 with "four completely modern cottages, 2 single and 2 double. Flamo gas. Rate \$2 for two, \$3 for four." Visitors to Trinidad Museum often traveled to the coast with their parents or grandparents and are a wealth of information. If readers have vintage photo albums or details about visiting the Redwood Highway establishments, please let us know: call (707) 677-3816 or come to the museum during open hours and leave your contact details with the friendly volunteer docent on duty.



Looking to Tradition and to the Modern: Ceremonial Dresses & Adornment

Shoshoni Gensaw-Hostler (Yurok)

Shoshoni Gensaw-Hostler has created more than 26 ceremonial dresses, some for her family and friends and some for tribal ceremonies and exhibitions. One of her latest designs was for Miss Indian World 2023-2024, Tori McConnell from Eureka. Tori, who works with the Yurok tribe, wore a splendid cape made from braided bear grass, darkened pine nuts and abalone and Gensaw-Hostler's medicine dress during the Gathering of

Nations Pow Wow and competition in Albuquerque, New Mexico in late April 2023. Over 4,000 spectators watched the international pageant, open to any indigenous woman between 18 and 25 years old. There were 25 contestants this year.



Several of Shoshoni's creations are on view in the Native American Room. Beads, flicker feathers, mink, abalone, buttons, braided bear grass, clam shells and other decorative elements are integrated into her designs. Some of the dresses and regalia are in tribal ceremonies this summer but will return to the museum in late August.

Shoshoni, from a traditional Yurok family, is on the Board of Directors of Trinidad Museum Society. She holds an MA in Psychology with an emphasis in counseling from HSU. She lives in Hoopa with her husband, David Michael Hostler and their children Sofia, Olivia, Kautia, David and Baby Trey.

Brian Tripp (American | Karuk, 1945 - 2022)



Native American artist Brian Tripp (Karuk) created conceptual artworks in a variety of media. He also was a traditional dancer and singer carrying on the ceremonies of the Karuk Tribe of Northern California. After serving in the Vietnam War, Tripp studied art at Humboldt State University in California, where he later taught art.

After a long and painful battle with illness, 77-year-old Brian D. Tripp, born in Eureka and raised in Klamath, died May 13, 2022. A nationally renowned artist whose work echoed traditional forms in painting and sculpture, Tripp was the 2018 recipient of the California Living Heritage from the Alliance for California Traditional Arts. His mural "The Sun Set Twice on the People that Day" can be seen on the west side of the Clarke Historical Museum, where it was relocated in 2021.

Along with Tripp's contributions to contemporary American art, he was also instrumental in the revival of traditional Karuk ceremonies and dances, such as the Brush Dance, as both an organizer and singer. Tripp championed Indigenous rights and sovereignty in both his writing and his work as an activist.



Several of Brian Tripp's works are on view, including two sculptures, regalia and a painting.

Holy Trinity Church Commemorates 150 Years!



Trinidad's Holy Trinity Church at Hector and Parker Streets, built in 1873, commemorated its 150th anniversary on June 3 with a celebratory mass at 4 p.m. directly followed by a reception at Trinidad Museum. Rev. Bishop Robert F. Vasa held Mass assisted by Father Michel Cloney and Father Francis Gayam.

In 1872, Father Michael Walrath, a young Prussian ordained in Marysville, was appointed pastor of St. Joseph's Church in Crescent City. His parish included not only Del Norte County but also the then existing County of Klamath and its biggest city, Trinidad. Tradition has it that he traveled monthly by mule between the two cities of this parish. Early in 1873 he began to make preparations for building a church in Trinidad. The property with a house on it at the time was donated by the Hooper Brothers, who also donated the lumber. The community collected over \$1,400 to pay builders Purcell and Griffith (Mr. Griffith also built the first Trinidad School in 1870). On June 11, 1873, 98 years to the day of the first Mass on Trinidad Head when the Spanish claimed Trinidad for King Carlos III of Spain, Holy Trinity Church was dedicated.

The church flourished for decades but eventually fell into disrepair. The Holy Trinity Guild with Janis Saunders and Architect Marvin Trump leading the charge, were determined to save it. With the support of the Guild, the Parish and the wider community, the

restored church was rededicated in 1955. Holy Trinity Church was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1980.

In addition to holding regular services, the parish has been generous in sharing the acoustically brilliant church for community musical events.

Father Michael Cloney, Nancy and Tom Sheen, Gail Saunders, Stacie Marshall and Patti Fleschner were among those assisting with the commemorative exhibit and reception.



Stacie Marshall arranging refreshments for the reception



Recent Donations to the Museum:



Wilda Lindgren Gallaci presented her hand sewn 1939 Camp Fire Girls dress to the museum this year. Wilda is an elder of the Tsurai Ancestral Society along with her sister Roberta "Allie" Lindgren, both long time museum members. Their older brother, Axel Lindgren Jr. (1918-1999), hand carved the museum's redwood canoe in the late 1980s. He was a past president of TMS.



L to R: Wilda Lindgren, Lena Mae Taylor & Lucille Meadows on way to Campfire Girls gathering. (Taken at Lindgren home)

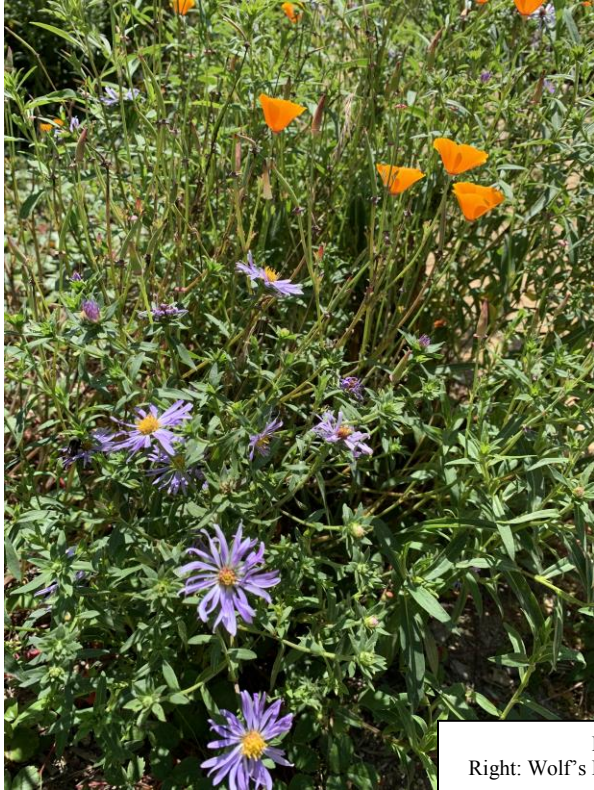


Painting by Marvin Trump after JMW Turner's *Dutch Boats in a Gale* painted in 1801. Architect-artist Marvin Trump (1922-2016) adapted the painting in 1996 to include Trinidad's Camel Rock and Trinidad Head. When he retired as an architect of many iconic Humboldt County buildings, including College of the Redwoods, the airport and churches, he took up painting from his home studio overlooking the Pacific Ocean above Camel (aka "Split") Rock. His "Camel Rock According to..." exhibit of 20 paintings interpreting the styles of El Greco, Van Gogh, Monet, Matisse, Corot, Picasso, Braque, Andy Warhol, and others was exhibited at Westhaven Center for the Arts in 2003. His Turner interpretation was completed before that and purchased by John and Carol Wiebe (one of WCA's founders), who subsequently donated the sea painting to Trinidad Museum in 2023. Roland Wiebe, son of John and Carol, presented the painting.



This splendid elk horn purse and dentalium wrapped with snake and peliaded woodpecker, and owned by Whiskey Joe of Johnson on the Klamath River, was donated by the Snell Family this year.

Eureka-Sequoia Garden Club Visits the Native Plant Garden – A Look Back at the Garden's Evolution



Left: Asters & Poppies
Right: Wolf's Evening Primrose, Poppies & Asters

Trinidad Museum opened in its 1899 rehabilitated home at 400 Janis Court off Patrick's Point Drive in 2009. Native plant volunteer enthusiasts began designing the garden with the assistance of Nancy Rehg well before that. The three acre vacant site donated by the Saunders family was meant to accommodate the museum, gardens, Saunders Park and a library, and later the Trinidad Coastal Land Trust office/gallery. The land on which the garden volunteers toiled consisted of rocky fill with clay and weeds. No top soil was in evidence. A vernal pond was dug. Pathways around the pond were designed using decomposed granite. Soil amendments were added. Native strawberry ground cover was planted followed by a multitude of native plants including poppies, lupin, alder, ceanothus, twinberry, columbine, iris, ferns, silk tassel, colt's foot, huckleberry, and many other flowers and shrubs. For over 15 years, the current garden co-chairmen, Ingrid Bailey and Mary Spinus Kline, with the dedicated help over the years of Jill Mefford, Ron Johnson, Virginia Waters, Claire Perricelli, Carl & Maija Kalb, Carol Mone, Bob Battagin, Karen Hildebrand, Gavin Scott, Aaron Hakenen, Julie Weeder, Jan Van Alten and other volunteers have nurtured the plants tirelessly to give garden visitors a beautiful, serene place to stroll and to spot the birds,

butterflies, bees and frogs and other fauna which the garden and pond attract. The garden has earned a "Best Native Plant Garden" from the City of Trinidad and a California Native Plant Society award for excellence. The Ben Cheney Foundation has contributed greatly to garden improvements. Rita and Bob Quade are new garden enthusiasts. They are undertaking a project to add improved signage to the garden plants



Left: Curlycup Gum Weed
Right: Fireweed & Poppies

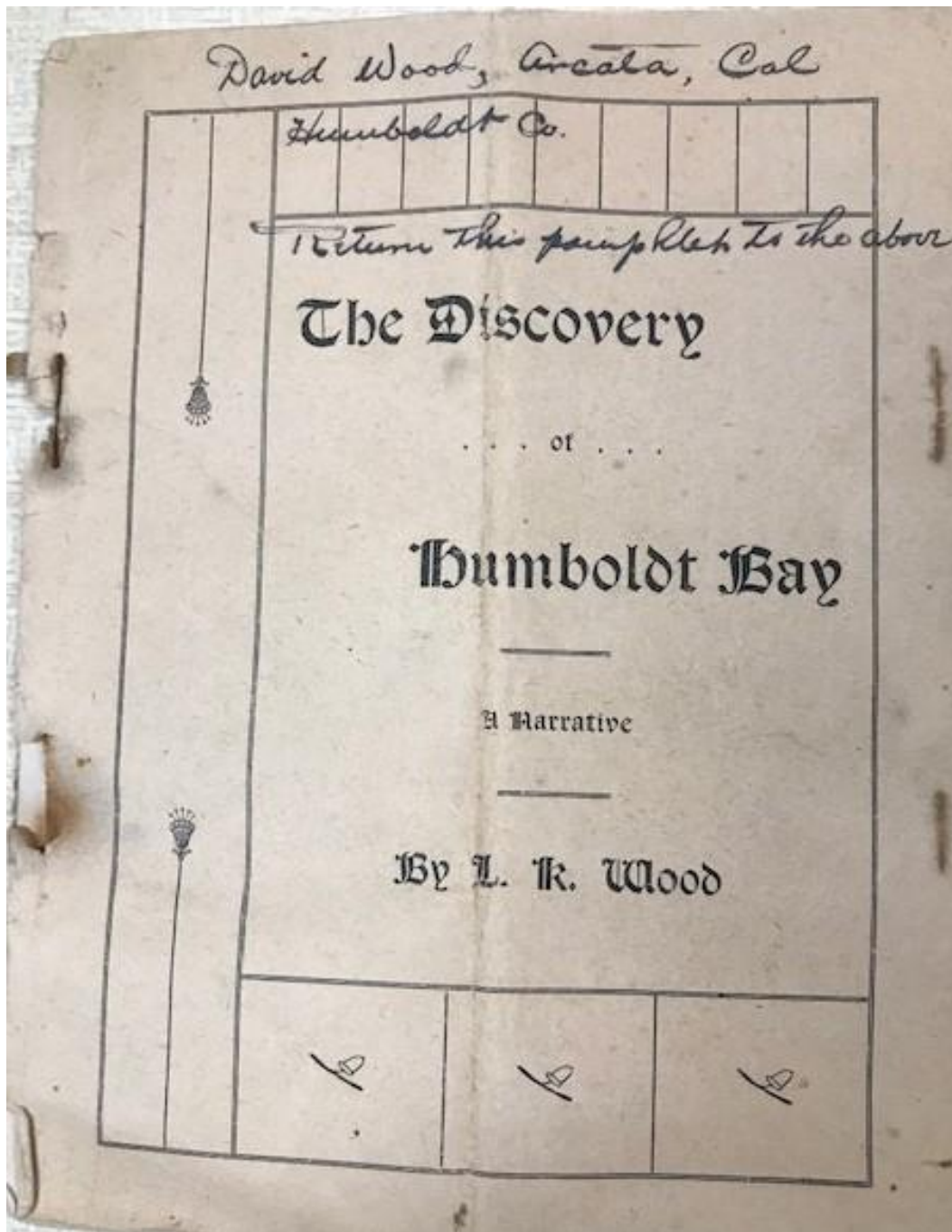


Historian Arlene Hartin on Descendants of Argonaut L.K. Wood

Arlene Hartin, past president of the Humboldt County Historical Society and active participant in Humboldt Pioneers, the Clarke Historical Museum and a member of most every history organization in Humboldt County, has researched the heritage of Josiah Gregg party member L.K. Wood.

She will present a talk on the grueling November-December 1849 Gregg party expedition through the Trinity Alps to Trinidad and of some of the family members of eight explorers who settled in Humboldt County.

The program is set for Sunday, September 3, 2023, 2 p.m., at Trinidad Museum.



This booklet titled “The Discovery of Humboldt Bay: A Narrative by L. K. Wood” is part of the Mackell Collection.

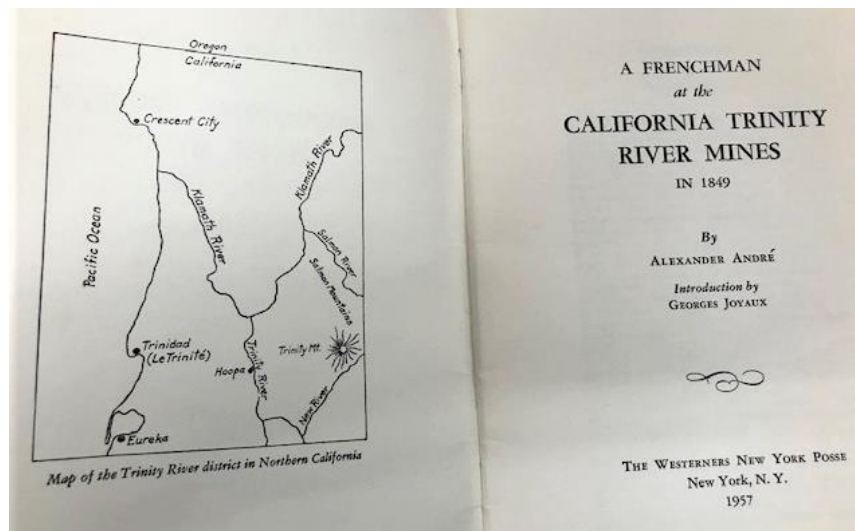
TMS Welcomes Carita Dooley to the Board of Directors



Carita Dooley of Samoa was elected to the Board of Directors at the April 30, 2023 Annual Meeting. She is especially adept in conservation, collections care and exhibit installation. Carita received a Certificate of Study in Museum and Gallery Practices from Cal Poly Humboldt and has worked in galleries in San Francisco, Oakland, Napa and Marin County. She was an art instructor at the San Anselmo Recreation Department and is skilled in ceramics, fiber arts, 3D paper and sculpture. She received training in basic conservation from Elisabeth Cornu, Guest Instructor and Head Conservator of Objects at the de Young Museum in San Francisco. She also is an instructor and mentor at her own business, Carita's Caregiving Service, in Humboldt County and serves as a volunteer docent at the museum.

Another New Exciting Aquisition:

Michael and Lauren O'Malley of Park City, Utah donated the 26-page booklet, "A Frenchman at the California Trinity River Mines in 1849" by Alexander Andre, which reads in part: "...La Trinite was composed of about a hundred tents. There I saw the most beautiful flora of all California; the fields were covered with tall grasses and with flowers of the most beautiful species. The forest, which reached almost the center of the settlement, was made up wholly of sap-trees and of evergreens of all kinds, of a beauty which cannot be imagined in France. Besides the city, there was a small Indian village, with 7 or 8 houses. There were at the most 30 or 40 Indians. Often they came to see us, bringing shells and sometimes fish, asking for beads in exchange....I will say nothing of what we did during almost a month at La Trinite, where our only food was sea biscuits and salted port, no fresh meat; we were waiting for news from the mines...Here, like in San Francisco, all kinds of conjectures were made, and we learned with great discomfort that the mines, far from being 3 leagues distant from La Trinite, were in fact at 10 or 12 days' walk, through awful paths, constantly climbing or going down through impenetrable forests. The lowest rate for the transport of supplies was 10 francs a pound, and furthermore there were only 3 horses, owned by a Canadian who asked an exhorbitant price for their rent..."





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Trinidad Museum Society* Support

If you haven't already joined the Trinidad Museum Society, we encourage you to do so. Our membership year, like our fiscal year, runs from February 1 to January 31.

Memberships

- \$35 Member
 \$50 Sponsor
 \$100 Patron
 \$250 Benefactor
 \$1,000 Lifetime membership

Special Gifts

In addition to becoming a member of the Trinidad Museum Society, we hope you'll consider giving a gift to recognize someone special or to support some aspect of the Museum.

- Amount \$ _____
 Native Plant Garden
 Exhibits
 Building Maintenance
 In memory of _____
 In honor of _____

Name _____ Telephone _____

Mailing Address _____

e-mail Address _____

Museum Directors: Patti Fleschner, president (baycity@sonic.net or 707-677-3816); Scott Baker, vice-president; Dennis Koutouzou, treasurer; Virginia Waters, Secretary; Jill Mefford, Carita Dooley, Mary Spinass Kline, Shoshoni Gensaw-Hostler, Matthew Marshall

*Trinidad Museum Society is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation, tax ID# 68-0042645