



# Westwood Museum Newsletter



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Donations Tax Deductible EIN: 46-2652612

Fall 2016

## Lifetime Memberships

- David Alderman (memoriam)
  - Fred & Sheri Binswanger
  - Robert D. Branchcomb
  - Compton, Gene and Family
  - Stanley Davis, Sr. (memoriam)
  - David Escobar, Jr.
  - Terry Ferguson
  - Lynn Isaac Gilliss
  - Sharon Casella Kassis
  - Dick Mason Family
  - Medici Logging
  - Bill & Marilyn Niepoth
  - Nancy Ricketts
  - Ron Thoreson
  - David Zoller
- (Names are inscribed on Lifetime Plaque, bold indicates this year's lifetime memberships.)

## Museum Board 2015

Jack Forester, President  
Janice McGinnis, Vice President  
Mary Hasselwander, Rec. Secretary  
Kay Johnson, Docent Coordinator  
Paula Dante, Treasurer  
Sheri Binswanger, Corres. Secretary  
Terry Ferguson, Member at Large



Phil Mickelson (son), Phil Mickelson (father) and Terry Ferguson pose during a recent museum visit.

## 2016 President's Letter

WOW, what a year! What a success 2016 has been for the Museum. Financially and socially this has been an awesome year; thanks to the support of our community of friends of the Westwood Museum. Your annual memberships and donations continue to keep our obligations met and help purchase items to upgrade the Museum. Without our docents, this Museum would not be in business. They donate their time and expertise to make the Museum a friendly and warm place to visit. From what I've seen, it is becoming a social center of sharing stories and photos.

We had a visit from a celebrity this year when Phil Mickelson Sr. brought his son Phil Mickelson Jr. to the Museum in August. Special thanks for their donations and golf tips. Phil Sr. went to Westwood High School in the 1950's when Terry Ferguson was there too.

We installed several new signs at the Museum this summer. Two new signs hang over our front door. One is to clearly identify the Museum and the other is an old cross-cut saw which was painted and donated by Bill Mason. He also donated an old satellite dish which he painted to represent the Red River/Fruit Growers. Our docents are regularly rearranging and improving our displays. We have new retail items for sale and will be developing a Westwood cookbook over

the winter for sale next season. Don't forget we have one of the best books on the Story of Westwood written by Jerry Beavers for sale.

We need you to think of us when you clean out your garage and house, and if you find any items from historic Westwood (i.e., newspapers and other interesting artifacts) we would love to hear about them.

Again, thank you for all your continued support and interest in the Westwood Museum.

Jack Forester, President

## Docent Doings

Kay Johnson, Docent Coordinator  
It was a somewhat quiet Saturday in the Westwood Museum until the door opened and in walked lovely "M" with her cane in hand declaring, "I was born and raised in this town!" These are words we have heard before on numerous occasions. This dark grey haired woman appeared confident, casual, and curious. As she began her life story speaking to Sheri Binswanger she said her father worked in the mill, she lived across the street from the hospital, she was popular in school. Walking into the school section of the museum, there was an outflow of more stories. "We all feared Mrs. Bailey. She would walk down the classroom aisles and my handwriting was terrible. I still can't write well." Before sitting at the table to look through the yearbooks and Mrs.

Bailey's scrapbook, Sheri Binswanger asked if she would like to be interviewed for our 40's video of Westwood. She answered, "You won't get much out of me, I have Alzheimer's." She began looking through the yearbooks finding her pictures and those of her friends and teachers. Her speech was clear and bright as she spoke with love about her town of Westwood. There were happy times and tough times, football games, CSF, all the clubs she belonged to in high school, her school sweater decorated with emblems and pins. Her favorite thing to do was walk with friends through the streets of Westwood and talk. As she turned the pages of Mrs. Bailey's scrapbook, she found a Christmas card she had sent to her teacher. A winter scene on the pretty card held handwritten greetings inside wishing her teacher a Merry Christmas. Below her signature were her written words: "I still can't write well." After speaking those words "M" became very quiet. Then smiles, laughter, a few tears and happiness filled the museum. As "M" left the museum her son said, "This is the best day she has had in a long time."

Our Westwood Museum can spark memories, bring a tear, a smile and make someone's day the best they have had in a long time. Come visit! Ignite your marvelous memories.

## Treasurer's Report

Operating Expense 2016	\$6,600
Fundraising Gross Proceeds :	
Bake Sale	\$ 781
May Dinner	1194
Pancake Breakfast	1,323
For period Jan.1, 2016-Sept. 9, 2016:	
Donations	2,127
Memberships	440
Counter Sales	2,513

**Museum Board Election** for Treas., Rec. Sec., VP, and one more member at large is scheduled for Sat., March. 11, 2017 at 2 p.m. at the Visitor Center. You must be a member before Dec. 31, 2016 to participate. Let us know if you'd like to volunteer for the board.

## Accomplished/Purchased:

- Published Ray Chipman's Book
- Purchased back-up drive
- Various display improvements

## Goals:

- Digital Camera
- Complete Wiring Museum
- Publish cookbook
- Finish 1940s DVD Memories
- Work on 1950s interviews

## Museum Cookbook Recipes Needed!

To submit a recipe: go to [morriscookbooks.com](http://morriscookbooks.com), click on **typensave** tab.

Log-in: **WWWmuseum**  
Password: **salt603**

The deadline for our publication date is 1/15/17. On lines under "name," enter information about yourself.

### A Westwood History Quiz

Developed by Bill Niepoth (Class of 1945) for the Westwood Reunion in Reno on Sept 20-21, 2016.

For each question, circle the BEST single response.

100%—Great memory! Please volunteer at the museum. 80-90% Your memory is good, but may need to visit old friends to refresh—the Museum is a great place to see them. 70% or below. It's time to start reading some of the great books available at the museum or better yet, visit the Museum.

- The Red River Lumber Company (RRLC) moved its operations from Minnesota to what became the town of Westwood in 1913. Which of the following was or were among the reasons for the move?
  - Shortages of available timber in the old location.
  - More relaxed attitudes in California about moral issues, such as drinking alcohol.
  - Recreation opportunities in the area (Lake Almanor, Dyer Mountain, etc.) that would make it easier to attract workers.
  - All of the above.
- The Mill Pond separated the original Westwood site, later called Old Town, from the eventual main Mill and larger residential area and the High School. Which of the following statements is or are true?
  - A bus picked up the kids from Old Town, and delivered them to the High School.
  - The Pond froze over in the winter, at which time you could walk across it.
  - Most kids from Old Town walked across a wooden bridge to get to school.
  - None of the above.
- After the overall town was established, the residential area west of the Mill consisted of houses located in blocks defined by numbered streets and those named after trees (Ash, Birch, etc.). At the time, the houses were owned by the RRLC and rented to employees. Which of the following statements about this area is or are true?
  - The Company had several different sets of floor plans for the houses, and each block contained homes built with these floor plans.
  - When the Company built the houses, Mrs. Walker selected the color that each would be painted.
  - The Walkers promoted good communication between residents, and for that reason each house had a modern, single-party phone line.
  - All of the above.
- For the most part, people who worked were employed by the RRLC. Many of these jobs were in the Mill. One of them was pulling on the green chain. What did this entail?
  - Hauling down a length of chain (typically painted green) to activate the conveyor belt that disposed of waste materials from the saws.
  - Monitoring a system of lights on a panel in the veneer plant, which all showed green when everything was working properly.
  - Removing green lumber that had just come from the saws in the Mill, and stacking it for further processing.
  - None of the above.
- The main reason for the Town's existence, of course, was to produce and sell lumber. Typically, this was shipped to markets in railroad cars. For a period of time, the RRLC included which of the following items in the cars, with the lumber?
  - A current copy of the Sugar Pine Press.
  - A cutting board in the shape of a pig.
  - A large photo of the Mill.
  - None of the above.
- If you were not employed in the Mill, you probably worked in the forests surrounding Westwood. There were a variety of ways to make money in the woods. One of the ways was as a hooker. What did this mean?
  - Working on landing, one of two men tending hooks (on rope) at each end of log, during the process of loading it on a truck or rail car.
  - Using tongs in the warehouse to load large blocks of ice into boxcars, for shipment to the logging camps.
  - Visiting logging camps as a woman of questionable morals.
  - None of the above.
- The "Big Store" in town provided for the shopping needs of residents. It was an early example of a shopping mall. Which of the following statements about it is or are true?
  - You could buy almost anything at the Big Store, but you had to go the Hospital to get prescriptions filled.
  - The RRLC encouraged residents to purchase things also in Susanville, so they could compare prices.
  - Ladies' and men's clothing was available, and in general, the selection was as good as what you could buy in catalogues.
  - All of the above.
- Westwood residents enjoyed home delivery services for some things. These included:
  - Mail.
  - Wood blocks (trimmings) from the Mill for burning in stoves.
  - Both of the above.
  - Neither of the above.
- Westwood's founders, the Walker family, wanted to be sure the children of RRLC employees had proper educational opportunities. To that end, the Company built a "grammar" (elementary) school and a high school. Which of the following is or are true?
  - At first, both the grammar school and the high school were on the same site.
  - Students helped re-build a new high school when the original building burned in 1927.
  - The High School was accredited, and graduates could qualify for admission to State colleges and universities.
  - All of the above.
- Eventually, WHS students produced an annual or a yearbook. What was it called?
  - The Chipmunk.
  - The Red and Black
  - The Lumberjack
  - None of the above

Answers: 1. a, 2. c, 3. a, 4. c, 5. b, 6. a, 7. c, 8. b, 9. d, 10. a

**The Museum is a great place to rekindle memories of your earlier days in Westwood. If you haven't been here, or have not visited recently, you should do it. It is open from mid-May until October 1 (Wednesdays through Saturdays, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.) However, someone is always available to let you in if the Museum is closed. Just call one of volunteers whose numbers are posted in the window.**