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	<p>ST. HELENA HISTORICAL SOCIETY</p>	 <p>The Electrolier ILLUMINATING ST. HELENA'S HISTORY</p>
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May 27, 2022 • Volume 16 • No. 6



**Last Chance to See the History of
Firefighting Exhibit: Saturday, May 28, Noon-4pm**

Our **History of Firefighting** exhibit's last day will be Saturday, May 28. Keeping its citizens safe and building a functioning fire department was an important part of a growing City's infrastructure development. Noon-4pm, Saturday, at the Heritage Center, 1255 Oak Ave.



Flu ward in Camp Funston in Fort Riley, Kansas

As the Pandemic Continues, A Look Back at the Flu Pandemic of 1918

The influenza pandemic of 1918 did not originate in Spain, and was erroneously called the “Spanish Flu”. World War I was raging and the movement of hundreds and thousands of U.S. soldiers contributed to the global spread, according to the Centers for Disease Control. There were three distinct waves:

- Spring of 1918
- Fall of 1918, when the pandemic peaked
- Winter of 1918 and spring 1919

What was life in St. Helena like during 1918-19 as the H1N1, or Spanish flu pandemic, spread?

There's a familiar ring to the way the City responded to the pandemic. Masks, stay at home orders, businesses and schools closing and the tragic deaths of those we know and love. And just as with today's version of the flu, it was known that the disease was spread by the respiratory route from infected persons.



Then, as now, Americans struggled to bury their dead.

"I can't campaign but I'd still like your vote!"

Supervisor John McCormick states that he will not go house to house to campaign for reelection to District 3 due to the epidemic, but asks for votes. Spring Valley Farm Center meeting on Nov. 1 was postponed to Dec. 6 due to the flu.

- **Walter Martini**, owner of the William Tell Hotel on Spring Street, is home with the flu.
- **District Attorney elect Clarence Riggins** is home with the flu.
- **Anita Paulson** is at home on Pope Street from her teaching job in Sacramento as schools were closed.
- **The Farm Advisor's meetings** are canceled due to the flu until further notice, says H.J. Baade.

Nov. 1: Mayor E.P. Bellani issued the following notice:

"I, E.P. Bellani, president of the board of trustees of the town of St. Helena, in accordance with the law and under the direction of the State Board of Health, do hereby declare that the epidemic of Spanish Influenza exists in the town of St. Helena.

Until further notice every person, while serving the general public in stores and other places where the public is served, and every person using a public conveyance or common carrier within the corporate limits of St. Helena, shall wear at all times, until further notice, a

of regulation, and, therefore, so that the mouth and lower part of the nose shall be covered. Witness my hand on this 31st day of Oct. 1918.”



October 31, 1918: Masks required

The U.S. Health Service distributed an official health bulletin to newspapers in every community. “It is very important that everyone who becomes sick should go home at once and go to bed! Everyone caring for the patient must wear a mask.” The flu outbreak began its decline in the summer of 1919, and the virus continues to periodically circulate in the population in a milder form.



Clearly, mask mandate controversies weren't anything new!

Miscellaneous notices from the pages of the St. Helena Star:

- Campaign meetings for the fall election were called off, but candidates will still make “handshaking tours.”
- Influenza masks are being worn by clerks in the stores and many residents.
- It has been suggested that ladies refrain from calling (visiting friends) during the period of the Spanish Influenza.
- Meeting of the community council has been canceled.
- Lena Nichelini, wife of William Nichelini, died in Calistoga. On Dec. 28, 2019, she had given birth to twins. Two days before their birth she got sick with the flu.
- On Jan 13, 2019, the state legislature is considering a two-month recess, as six members have the flu. All are masking.
- January 24, 2019. Several arrests were made for violations of the mask ordinance. The flu enemy has been routed, and the City is declaring an armistice with the mask regulations.



Pandemic Statistics: Then and Now

1918 Pandemic

- An estimated 500 million people were infected--one-third of the world's population
- 50 million people died throughout the world

Covid-19: 2020-2021 and 2022

- US: 83,325,014 cases, 1,000,826 deaths
- California: 8,797,890 cases, 90,382 deaths
- Napa County: 27,034 cases, 143 deaths

It's not over yet. In New York City, where cases have doubled in the past month, officials recently declared a state of "high Covid alert."

Information as of May 24, 2022



their movie *Mama Steps Out*, 1937. It's a look at life going on despite a pandemic.

A Pandemic is Hard on Every Business--Especially the Entertainment Industry!

Movies have been hit hard by two years of pandemic pressures, resulting in more “theater at home” and streaming solutions and sadly, the closure of many theaters. The influenza pandemic of 1918-19 took a toll on the movie industry as well, but it responded with a booming return to the cinema. We're coming up on the summer movie season. See you there?

June 11 at 10:04am: Dedication of the Birthplace of St. Helena

The fraternal historic preservation group E Clampus Vitus Sam Brannan Chapter #1004 and St. Helena Historical Society installed a plaque adjacent to the Sunshine Foods parking lot marking the birthplace of St.



Helena. Join us on Saturday, June 11, at exactly 10:04am for the dedication. Meet at 1115 Main Street, at the entrance to Sunshine Foods parking lot in St. Helena.

Arader Galleries Donates Edward Curtis Print to SHHS



Josephine Arader, SHHS Research Director Mariam Hansen, SHHS Collections Chair Nancy Caffo

Josephine Arader, of St. Helena's Arader Galleries, donated an Edward Curtis print to the Heritage Center. The print is a sepia-toned Edward Curtis photogravure print of a Native American woman from the Pomo tribe. The Curtis print is now on display in the **Indigenous People section of the Heritage Center.**

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 8: Cathy Buck and The History of the Cameo Theater

June 11: Dedication of the Birthplace of St. Helena

July 18: St. Helena's Pioneer Families: The Lyman Family

September 14: Helena's Pioneer Families: The Chaix Family

October 9: The Cemetery Tour is back!

November: Research Director Mariam Hansen will be discussing the movies made in St. Helena!

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In October: 16th Annual “Spirits of St. Helena Cemetery Discovery Walk”, Featuring Our Italian Settlers

We'll commemorate some of the Italians who are buried in the St. Helena Cemetery. We're collaborating with the high school drama department, and our students will dramatize the events and socioeconomic factors that motivated settlers to leave Italy and settle here in the St. Helena area.



The Heritage Center: Open Every Saturday from Noon-4pm

We're looking for volunteers to help staff the Heritage Center on Saturdays. Noon-4pm shifts. Contact shstory@shstory.org
1255 Oak Avenue, St. Helena, CA 94574

DONATE

Support St. Helena Historical Society

Visit the Heritage Center: 1255 Oak Avenue, St. Helena, CA 94574 •
SHHS Mailing address: PO Box 87, St. Helena, CA 94575 •

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