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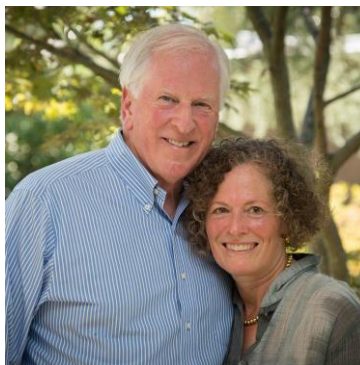
Dinner at the Museum: July 26 2025

Last year's event exceeded our expectations, so we're hard at work on this year's Dinner at the Museum. Get there early for tapas, wine and Flamenco guitar.



Same great cause: Keeping history alive.

Special guest host: Congressman Mike Thompson!



We're delighted to announce that Mike Thompson and his wife, Jan, will be joining us for Dinner at the Museum.



We've got some great silent auction items. To be thinking about:

Ride the Napa Valley Vine Trail on an eBike! Join veteran cyclists Kathy Carrick and Bonnie Storm and ride the Vine Trail Napa Valley on an eBike. Pick up eBikes at St. Helena Cyclery, then ride to Calistoga. This may sound imposing, but remember that your eBike will be doing some of the work for you. This event is for 6 people.



2-night getaway in San Luis Obispo. A little hideaway has easy access to hiking trails, shopping and public transport. There are a lovely patio and yard for relaxing, a large workspace with beautiful views. Close to the beach and town, with coffee machine, workspace and refrigerator. You may want to add a few more days to this trip!

1 Magnum 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon from Salvestrin Vineyards. Salvestrin Cabernet Sauvignon is crafted from prestigious Crane Vineyard grapes. The Salvestrin Cabernets are known for bright, fresh flavors with notes of red currant, plum, and black cherry.



3-Course Lunch for 2 at Auberge du Soleil. More than lunch, this is an experience. Savor worldclass cuisine with an expansive view of the whole Napa Valley.

The early days of high-school sports: when being a fan was a commitment

Anyone who's grown up in a small town knows how important high school sports are. Every season brings new speculation about the home team's chances for winning the championship. I grew up in one of those small towns, and it started in August with football season. That's when the talk in the local cafes, during coffee breaks and wherever people gathered turned to high school sports.

There were long discussions about the strengths and weaknesses of the local players and how they stacked up against the league competition.

And so it was in St. Helena, even from the early days when they were still known as the Thunderbirds rather than the Saints. It wasn't until around 1943 that they became the Saints, a derivation of "St. Helenans".

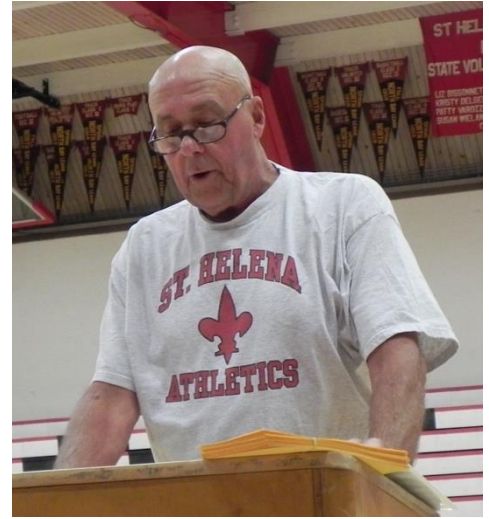


These are some thoughts from Jim Hunt, local player, coach and teacher

A 1962 graduate of St. Helena High, Hunt was a decorated football, basketball and baseball player. He was a quarterback and defensive back for the Saints, which means they were playing single-platoon football, without separate offensive and defensive units.

Hunt was part of a 53-game unbeaten streak that spanned from 1960-65. Hunt graduated from Cal, got a graduate degree from Tufts and became a teacher/coach.

Jim Hunt shared his research on St. Helena's High School sports history in a Historical Society program.



In the very early days, just being a sports fan required stamina and hard work.

Traveling to and from basketball games in St. Helena was an adventure. The automobile had just been introduced and the roads were mostly dirt. In winter and early spring, that dirt turned to mud. But in the first season of 1908-09, the fans were up for the challenge. They traveled at the rate of 10-15 mph for a game against Berkeley, which required their waiting for the ferry in Vallejo because the Carquinez Bridge wasn't built until 1927. Playing Berkeley meant a four-hour trip each way.

It was a six-hour trip for a Santa Rosa game



At the end of the 1917 season the Thunderbirds were to play Santa Rosa for the league championship. It had been raining heavily for several days and the only road that was open was the twisting, rut-filled Highway 128 north from Calistoga.

Undeterred, the team and about 20 stalwart fans piled into six automobiles and took off early in the morning. They slithered their way north to Geyserville, then swung to the south through Healdsburg, finally arriving in Santa Rosa in midafternoon, a six-and-a-half hour trip.

Flat tires and engine repairs

According to the Star, this trip also include five flat tires and several stops for minor engine repairs. The real heartbreaker was that Santa Rosa won the game in a last-second, 1-point buzzer beater. The Star also reported that the home team "wearily arrived safely back home in the wee hours of the morning."

In February, 1920, the team and their fans motored over to Dixon for a division championship game. According to the Star, "After various road adventures and changes due to engine trouble, the team arrived in Dixon in two sections, one by machine and one by rail." Additionally, "several players were required to stay the night as they had no way to get home."



St. Helena football and the dynasty years

By 1952 to 1968, the Thunderbirds were the Saints, and these were their dynasty years. St. Helena won 109 games and lost 25. At home on Carpy Field, the Saints were nearly unbeatable, winning 54 games out of 61 overall, and not losing a single league game, going 28-0-2. The 1955 team, led by Bob Pestoni, Roland Vierra, Ed Bowers and Paul Padilla, was the second St. Helena team to achieve a perfect season, going 8-0.

And then there was "The Streak"

In 1960, legendary coach George Davis arrived in St. Helena and led the Saints to five consecutive undefeated seasons, going 45-0. Davis left St. Helena at the end of the 1964 season, but the Saints of 1965 won their first game to up the winning streak to 46 games. The following week, however the Saints ended up tying with Vanden High School, 0-0, which ended the winning streak. But the '65 team then went on to win their next 6 games, bringing the unbeaten string to 53 games before finally losing to Cloverdale in the last game of the year. As far as we know, both of those marks remain California State public school records.

New Exhibit at the Heritage Center Museum The Valley Beautiful: Architecture



St. Helena Public Library | Architect: Les Niemi & Co.

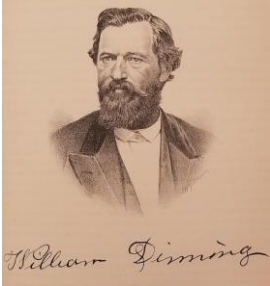
The Napa County Historical Society in conjunction with Napa County Landmarks launched an ambitious three-part exhibit in 2024, *The Valley Beautiful*. It helps showcase the Valley's beauty from the earliest times through today--focusing on its architecture. There are three parts to this exhibit—Architecture, Music and Art. The Music segment is on view now at the NCHS in Napa.

Architecture chronicles the way we live

The Heritage Center has inherited Napa Historical Society's Architecture exhibit. We've whittled it down to make it more St. Helena-specific, and it's on display now at the Heritage Museum, open the first Saturday of the month from noon-4pm. 1255 Oak Ave. St. Helena.



Spirits of St. Helena Cemetery Discovery Walk Saturday, Sept. 27, 2025



September means we're teaming with St. Helena Drama once again for our annual Spirits of St. Helena Cemetery Discovery Walk. This year we're focusing on our pioneer families. Look for names like William Dinning. Like many immigrants, Dinning's journey began in Missouri and in the fall of 1851 or spring of 1852, he settled in Napa County, where he had a farm and raised cattle.

Time to Renew!

It's time to renew your membership! Our membership year runs from July 1 through June 30. We make it easy to [renew on our website](#). Help us continue to provide our lectures and programs.

- Individual level, \$50/year
- Family level, \$100/year
- Supporter level, \$250/year
- Business level, \$500/year

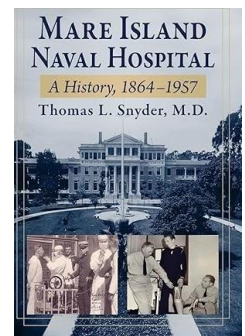


A History of Mare Island Hospital, Aug. 7, 2025, 4pm

Thomas Snyder, MD, spent part of his career at Mare Island Hospital, which has an interesting history. It grew from being a primitive facility in the 1860s to the Navy's premier amputee center for Marines and sailors returning from the war in the Pacific theater.

Located in the Navy's largest California shipyard

The hospital's patients benefited from sunny California weather that permitted creation of a tent hospital to care for Spanish flu victims. Navy Yard engineers helped create the Navy's first ambulance boats, and in World War II, it was known for treating amputees. Dr. Snyder has written a book and will be sharing his experience with the audience.





ST. HELENA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
THE ELECTROLIER
Illuminating St. Helena's History

VOLUNTEER AT THE HERITAGE CENTER!

Open the first Saturday of the month from noon-4pm. We're looking for volunteers to help staff the Heritage Center on the first Saturday of the month. Noon-4pm shifts. Contact shstory@shstory.org, 1255 Oak Avenue, St. Helena, CA 94574



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