

# City of Fortuna Depot Museum Newsletter

3 Park Street, Fortuna ~ 725-7645

Edition 3—Spring, 2008

Summer is right around the corner and the Fortuna Depot Museum is getting ready to shine with exhibits about the Fortuna Rodeo. For 75 years the rodeo has been a highlight of summer in Fortuna, and the museum is going to commemorate the event with an exhibit featuring historic photos and rodeo memorabilia. If you have any pictures or rodeo rigging you would be willing to loan for the exhibit, please contact curator Caroline Weed.

Additionally, the Fortuna Historical commission is delighted to announce



that the Fortuna Rodeo Association has donated \$5000 towards the restoration of NWP Caboose # 11. The photo on the left shows Rodeo Association President presenting the check to Historical Chair Susan O'Hara and Parks & Recreation Director John Crotty, the money will help fund many of the repairs necessary to turn the caboose

into an integral part of the museum.

Make plans to stop by the museum to see the rodeo exhibit as well as all of our other exhibits on what makes Fortuna great. We hope that you can come and visit us soon!

## Did You Know.....

In the 1870s Rohnerville boasted of having a college. St. Joseph's College brought in students from as far away as Santa Barbara and taught a variety of classes such as Latin, French, literature, natural



philosophy, music and art. The college was an expensive venture and by 1875 Father Patrick Henneberry, the college's founder, and the college were in dire need of funding. Even after ten years of fund-raising around the world, when Henneberry returned to the college he was forced to close the campus. St. Joseph's reopened once more for a short time only to be officially closed in 1889.

[www.sunnyfortuna.com/history/fortuna/henry-rohner.htm](http://www.sunnyfortuna.com/history/fortuna/henry-rohner.htm)

## Museum Hours

Thursday—Sunday

Noon—4:30pm

Curator

Caroline Weed

## Historical Commissioners

Chair Person

& News Editor

Susan O'Hara

Treasurer

Ellen Emmons

Commissioners

Roberta Page

Dale Stockton

Erin Dunn

City Council Rep

Doug Strehl

Parks & Rec Director

John Crotty

## We need your help!

The Museum is in need of your help. If you would like to volunteer to work at the Museum, please contact Curator Weed.

Volunteers are needed to help extend the hours during the summer as well as to maintain the collections.

**Support Your Local Museum!** Donations to the Museum help support ongoing archival work and new exhibits.

## From The Director..... An Update On Our Caboose!

With the kind donation from the Fortuna Rodeo Association much needed repairs will soon be made to the NWP Caboose #11. Caboose #11 has set idle for the past year & a half and is long overdue for some cosmetic upgrades. Vandals have broken most of the windows and the exterior siding is rotting and in need of replacement. As the Caboose was utilized by Eel River Sawmills as a shipping office, additions were made to the interior and exterior that will need to be removed and/or replaced with original equipment. Our goal is to present Caboose #11 as it ran on the Northwestern Pacific

Railroad Tracks almost 100 years ago and offer it as an extension of the Depot Museum. In the Caboose we will display items related to the history of the Northwestern Pacific Railroad and Eel River Sawmills. We have received numerous offers of help and it is through the very generous donation of the Fortuna Rodeo Association that our dream of restoring NWP#11 to its glorious past will soon become a reality. If you are interested in helping with the restoration please contact the park office @ (707) 725-7620.

Photos of Caboose on moving day.

Photos taken by Ted Silva



### Historic Photos Available For Purchase



Rudy Gillard will print copies of existing photos in the Museum collection. Some photos will be available for immediate purchase, others will be available to order and will be delivered within a month. Come add a piece of local history to your collection!



## From The Curator, Caroline Weed

The Fortuna Depot Museum had 190 visitors during the month of March from as far away as Oregon, Arkansas and Utah toured our museum. South Fortuna School's 4th graders



brought in their California Missions, the Missions will be on display during the Month of April. This is an annual event and the talents of the children (and parents) are quite impressive.

Check out our "Reference Room". We have what you may need to find



friends from your past or to search for history from your hometown!

Color Printing graciously donated by: *Color Impressions* 1010 Main Street Fortuna