

What is Historic?!?!

For six months recently, we had an exhibit in the main hall about the 1950s. Some visitors were taken aback to see things they remembered from their lives in the fifties. What were toys they played with, clothes they wore or furniture or knick-knacks they remembered from their homes doing in a *museum*?

The answer, of course, is that history begins yesterday. Anything that bespeaks its time period, whether ancient or recent history, can belong in a museum. That way as time moves on, we will preserve a record of the way people lived and pass that on to future generations. Keep that in mind when cleaning out closets, attics or garages. Remember, for the Clarke Museum, the history that we are preserving begins yesterday.



Sesame Street Toys and Star Wars figures are historical? You betcha!

SUMMERTIME:

With the dawn of the 20th century, women's summertime fashions took a bold new direction. Dark somber colors had dominated the era named after England's widowed Queen Victoria. But in the new century, not only did lighter colors become fashionable, the color white became almost a requirement for women to wear during the summer. Photos of women taken during summers from around 1900 to around 1920 invariably feature white cotton "frocks". A sampling of such photos are included in the new exhibit.



Come check out the exhibit in person!

Also seen are many of the fashionable dresses themselves. Although plain white with fairly clean-cut lines, they are far from simple. Most feature elaborate lace or embroidery. The exhibit includes smaller versions of these fashions in the form of little girls' dresses and dresses for their dolls. Various accessories add to the summertime flavor while the Museum's carriage displays an array of parasols. Other new exhibits of the season include a century of children's summertime reading and local tourism memorabilia--photos, postcards, brochures and souvenirs.

UPCOMING:

This fall, keep an eye out for new exhibits on Washday, Eyeglasses, KHSUs 50th Anniversary, Cattle Ranching, Table Settings, Trains, and other topics. If you have ideas for exhibits you'd like to see, give the Clarke a call at (707)443-1947.

NOTES FROM NEALIS HALL

REPATRIATION:

Times change and the Clarke Museum changes with them. In decades past, when Cecile Clarke and others were excavating on Indian Island, it was considered a legal and educational activity, a way to preserve a past culture and bring a greater appreciation of it to the general public.

Today, however, society is more aware of the concerns of native peoples. Many of these cultures are not "dead" as was claimed in earlier times, and the values as well as the people are ongoing. Understandably, native peoples are sensitive about what they view as a violation to their ancestors' graves. In 1990, Congress passed NAGPRA, the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act. In the spirit of this law, the Clarke Museum has over the years gone through its collection seeking items that either by documentation or condition can be identified as having come from burial sites. Recently a more thorough round has been completed, and we are now in the midst of repatriating associated funerary items to their appropriate tribes. Mostly these are items which would be inappropriate for the museum to display. In any case, we are happy that they will be returning to their proper homes.



Some of the artifacts slated for repatriation

The vast preponderance of the Clarke's Native American collection, however, has no funerary associations and will remain here so that the general public--now and in the future--can learn about and appreciate the complex and beautiful culture that was native to this area long before the first European Americans arrived.

New Donations:

The Clarke Museum is happy to report two significant donations of Native American artifacts made in the last few months. As part of Earl and Lucinda Griffith's estate, they bequeathed many wonderful objects including drums, necklaces, toy dugouts, and baskets to the Museum.

Earlier this summer, a former Fernbridge family--now living in Oregon--donated a beautiful collection of local Native American baskets and necklaces, some of which were made by the renowned expert Wiyot basket weaver Winnie Buckley. Despite the Clarke Museum being located on traditional Wiyot tribal land, the Clarke is sorely lacking in baskets from this group. This donation helps to fill that void. These two donations have made a significant contribution to the museum's Native American collection. Thank you very much!!!

Ceremonial Regalia:

Summertime brings with it many local Native American ceremonies and the Clarke Museum is pleased to play a part by actively loaning out ceremonial regalia for use in these ceremonies. So while our cases may look a bit depleted, don't be alarmed as we are happy that these artifacts get to be used as they were intended, as well as to help continue traditional Native American ceremonial practices.

