



Jean MacCallum's Diaries

Many of you have eaten in the MacCallum House Inn's beautiful dining room or slept in one of its antique-filled rooms, but do you ever try to imagine the lives of the original residents of this charming historic house? We are learning more about one particular family member, Jean MacCallum, thanks to a treasure trove of 26 diaries kept by the Kelley women, which were donated to the Kelley House by the Maulbetsch family and are currently being digitized.

You may recall that the MacCallum House was built as a wedding gift from Eliza and William Kelley for their daughter Daisy when she married Alexander MacCallum in

1879. But little is known about their second daughter Jean MacCallum, who was born on December 4, 1882.

We know the family moved to San Francisco when Jean was around 15 years old. She visited her family in Mendocino occasionally and wrote letters to her Grandmother Eliza. Jean was described as shy among new company, but always kind. She spent much of her adult life living in San Francisco with her Aunt Elise Drexler, whom she adored. Elise's husband, Louis P. Drexler, left Jean and her brother Donald \$2,500 each in his will when he died in 1899 (a sum equal to about \$1 million in 2026).

One small black leather journal, dated 1962-1968, belonged to Jean. Unlike her relatives, who used clippings, Jean's entries were short, often a single sentence in neat cursive. For example, "Mar. 22- Rain all morning," "Apr. 14. Easter," "Hair washed Aug-19." In her succinct style, she recorded her cousin James's death in 1962. "June 5. Election Day. We voted early. James passed away before midnight. Margaret [his sister] was there."

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Winter Exhibit

A WOMAN'S PLACE WAS EVERYWHERE

KELLEY HOUSE MUSEUM EXHIBIT

A WOMAN'S PLACE

was Everywhere



How Working Women Shaped Mendocino

October 2025-March 2026
 October - December: Thurs - Mon, 11AM - 3PM
 January - March: Fri - Sun, 11AM - 3PM

KELLEY HOUSE MUSEUM | kelleyhousemuseum.org | 45007 Albion Street
 707-937-5791 | Mendocino, CA 95460

How Working Women Shaped Mendocino
 Exhibit Runs through March 29, 2026

While men wielded the axes that built the town of Mendocino, women created the community that made it last. Through their own diaries, photos, and oral histories, this exhibit tells the lesser-known stories of entrepreneurs, nurses, artists, teachers, madams, and philanthropists who laid the foundation for the Mendocino we know today. There's even a special section where you can nominate your own special heroine.

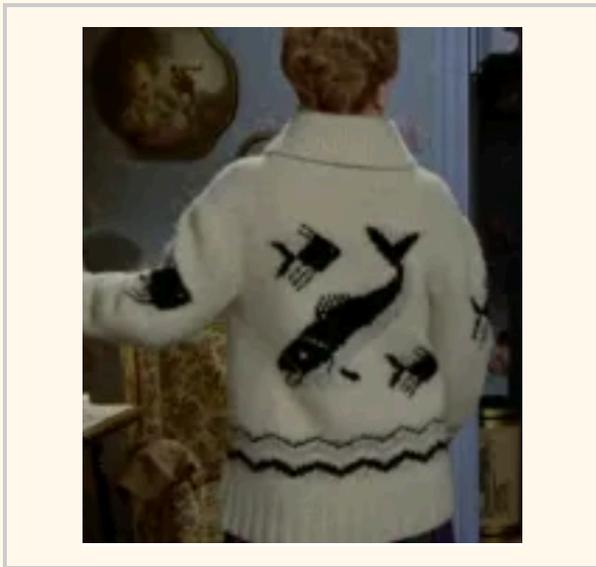
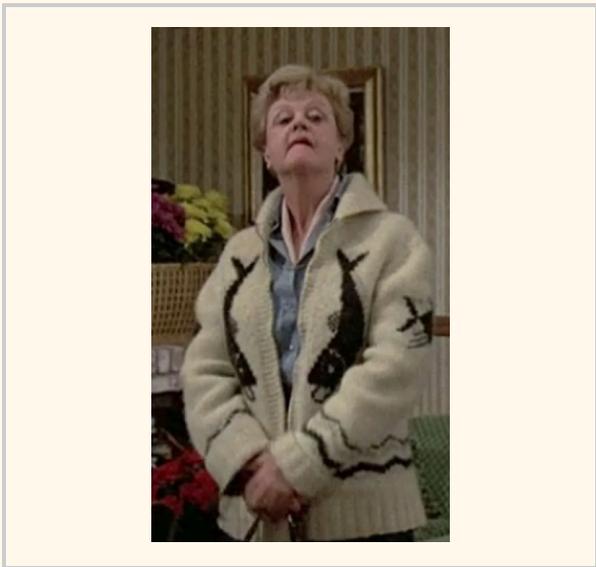
VISIT

Winter Hours at the Kelley House Museum Friday - Sunday, 11am - 3pm

The museum is operating with shorter hours through March. [Walking tours](#) are offered every Saturday at 11am.

Check Calendar

Calling All Cozy Mystery Loving Knitters!



We are seeking a talented volunteer to recreate the iconic whale sweater famously worn by Jessica Fletcher in *Murder, She Wrote*. The sweater would need to be finished by April 15th in time for our [Murder, She Wrote Festival](#). We will cover the cost of the yarn. You can do this as a solo project, or participate remotely with other knitting Fangelas in a project led by Jenny Hammerton's [Murder, She Cooked knit-along](#) to bring this classic Cabot Cove style to life. (Jenny will be one of our special guests at the 2027 Festival.) Whether you are a seasoned pro or just looking to channel your inner J.B. Fletcher, this is the perfect opportunity to showcase your craft and contribute to this popular Kelley House fundraiser. Can't knit but love the idea? You can sponsor this project with a cash donation. Email us for more information.

EMAIL

A Peek Into the Past



Ringling in the New Year 100 Years Ago

On January 2, 1926, the *Mendocino Beacon* published its first edition of the New Year. New Year's Day had landed on a Friday, and the *Beacon* included a small column on the town's holiday celebrations. Most businesses were closed, and "the day was warm and delightful, and many took advantage of it to spend the greater part of it outdoors." In January, history continued to be made. Perhaps most notably, Scottish inventor John Logie Baird demonstrated a mechanical television system, a "televisor," on January 26th. His invention has significant impacts on our daily lives 100 years later. [Read more.](#)

READ THE BLOG

WHALE FESTIVAL AT THE KELLEY HOUSE

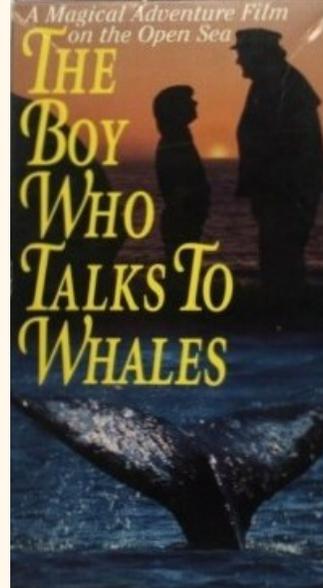


Mendocino Whale War Exhibit

March 6th – 29th, 2026
Museum open Fri – Sun 11:00am – 3:00pm
\$5 suggested donation

Did you know that the Mendocino Whale Festival started as an act of protest against commercial whaling? Visit the Kelley House Museum during March for a special exhibit about the Mendocino Whale War, started by a group of locals who launched the first Whale Festival to educate the public about the plight of endangered whales on the coast. Posters, photographs, and newspaper clippings will be on display.

[LEARN MORE](#)



***The Boy Who Talks to Whales* Screening**

Saturday, March 7th,
4pm - 5:30pm
\$10 admission

Celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Whale Festival with a viewing of the 1975 classic film, "The Boy Who Talks to Whales." Barry Cusick, one of the Whale Festival founders, will introduce the film which was released during the height of 1970s environmental activism. The film follows 15-year-old Andy and his Uncle Will as they embark on an arduous search for Gigi, a gray whale they believe communicates with humans.

[GET TICKETS](#)

THANK YOU, VOLUNTEERS

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(707) 937-5791

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