

# KELLEY HOUSE MUSEUM



## FOR THE LOVE OF A FLAGPOLE

Flagpoles aren't something one thinks much about; they are basically vehicles to display the real star: the flag. But when you work at a 160-year-old house museum, sometimes your focus is drawn to little things that mean a lot.

I stumbled on this history of the Kelley House flagpole, and am sharing it now partly because Karen and I have lowered the flag to half-mast five separate times in the past five months to commemorate victims of gun violence. On Memorial Day we lowered it to honor our fallen service

women and men. It is a solemn act to raise and lower the flag, and I've taken advantage of the well-placed bench to reflect on the value and fragility of human life. Now that I've learned what craft and collective effort went into the creation of the flagpole, I find it incredibly soothing to the spirit.

*Excerpted from Mendocino Historical Review, Number 8, June, 1981. Written by Beth Stebbins.*

"Barbara Carpenter, although quite ill for eight years, had talked about having a flagpole at Kelley House. She wanted to give us her father's large 5'x8' flag. We could never afford a pole... but after Barbara's death, memorial gifts came into MHR for her.

Michael MacDonald rescued the old bench, or at least what was left of it, that used to be in front of the old Kelley store building. Across its back at the top were the words "Behold the Sea"... Bill Lemos cut a 40' redwood tree on his place and shaved and smoothed it while it dried for four or five months. Bob Collier had a round ball about 6" in diameter suitable for a newel post, but just right for the top of a flagpole. It was in his Mendocino Ornament Shop and I offered to buy it, but Bob insisted on donating it to Kelley House. With it under my arm I went to Bruce Sloan to have it gilded, at the same time I ordered 22" x 24" plaque for the dedication of the pole in Barbara's memory and her father's flag in his memory.

The pole was finally painted by Karen Lowell, its halyards attached by Charlie Lambie and with much pulling and pushing it was ready for the flag on July 4<sup>th</sup>, 1979. With Jack Bishoff making the dedication speech, Don Carpenter raising the flag, the American Legion firing the gun salute, and cameras popping all around the scene, Barbara's flagpole and her father's flag were a high point of the day. The only disappointment was for the young Boy Scout who just could not bring his lips and bugle to work compatibly and after several tries he had to give up."



**NEW MUSEUM HOURS**  
**Fri-Sun, 11 am-3pm**

## **JULY 4TH PARADE CANCELLED**

The Chamber of Commerce, in conjunction with the Sherriff's Department, called off this year's 4th of July parade. The Kelley House will not be hosting our annual event, but you are always welcome to come enjoy our front lawn!

## **RENEW MEMBERSHIP**

If you have already renewed, consider giving a gift of a membership to a loved one. Choose a membership level that suits your pocketbook. As our



Thanks to all of our docent volunteers we are now open on Fridays. We'd love to expand our hours even more, so if you want to volunteer and can commit to one day a month, please [contact us](#).

## WALKING TOURS

Join a lively walking tour of the Mendocino Historic District, now offered three days per week. Click the button below to see pictures of our guides in action, and you'll notice we now have advanced booking capabilities through Airbnb. Help us spread the word: invite your summer guests or share the link on your social media page!

**BOOK A  
TOUR**

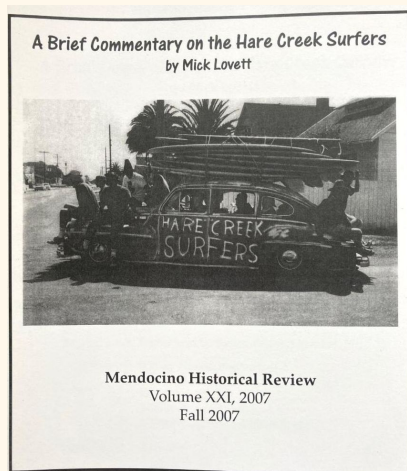
thank you, you will receive your choice of a beautiful digital photo from our archives.

**JOIN TODAY**

## MAKE A DONATION

The Kelley House relies on the generous support of its community, which has helped us get through this difficult year. Donations of any amount are always welcome.

**DONATE**



## BOOK OF THE MONTH

### **A Brief Commentary on the Hare Creek Surfers by Mick Lovett, \$15**

Summer is here and surf's up! Surfers of all ages will enjoy the antics of the marvelous group of friends who, like many who followed, braved the cold Pacific Ocean to catch the perfect ride.

**BUY  
BOOKS**

# A PEEK INTO THE PAST

## COASTAL COLLECTIONS

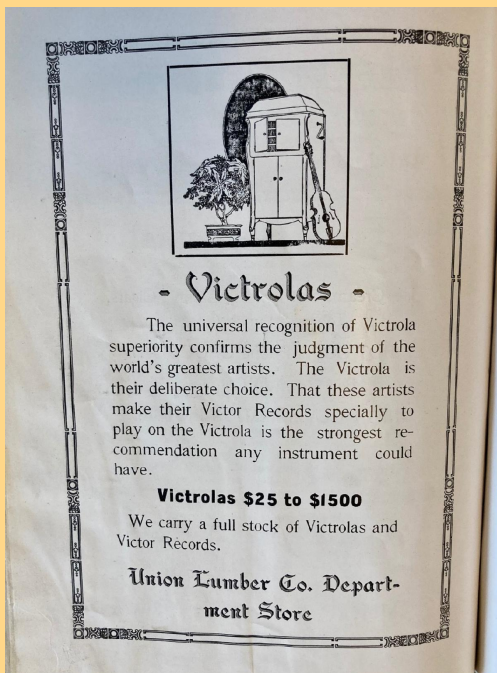
### EXHIBIT:

#### "Mendocino Rockhounds"

Judging by the exclamations coming from the young visitors to the museum, our current Coastal Collections exhibit is a hit.

Rockhounds and Kelley House docents Katy and David Tahja

share specimens from their rock collection, which includes coprolites, otherwise known as fossilized dinosaur poop. Each sample is unique, reflecting the varied diet of the ancient animals from whence they came. Colorful stripes and nodules make them a favorite for jewelry-making. You'll also find geodes, raw turquoise, and petrified wood in the collection. [Learn more](#)



## VINTAGE MHS YEARBOOKS FOR SALE, \$10/EA

These volumes are duplicates of what we have in the archives and are being sold "as is." The volumes for sale have been donated and we'd prefer to share these extras with the public. Did you have any ancestors who graduated from Mendocino High? Would you like to see what the campus looked like in the 1940s? This advertising from the 1924 "Boom" (shown above) should delight music lovers.

Kelley House is offering copies of the following years:

1922, 1923, 1924, 1924, 1926, 1927, 1930, 1932, 1933, 1938, 1939, 1941, 1944, 1945, 1948, 1955, 1956, 1963, 1992, 1993

In many cases we just have one copy, so it will be first come, first served. Please [Email](#) your order.

One additional note: Mendocino High School has a complete

collection, but the Kelley House is missing a few years. If you have extras you would like to donate, please email or call us and tell us what year it is, so we can determine if it is one that is missing. Thanks!

## **FROM THE BLOG The Jasperson House**

Kelley House  
curator Karen  
McGrath helps



Tom Burnham discover the history of his house based on two hints: the owner was reputed to be a sea captain and at some point fell on his nose. One of those turned out to be a red herring. [Read more.](#)

**READ THE  
BLOG**

## **Thank You!**

### **"History and More" Book Sale Was Amazing**

Thanks to the incredible efforts of Katy Tahja and her husband David, the Memorial Day weekend book sale was a resounding success. We appreciated all of the book donations. Special thanks to Bruce Levene – his donation of a 2-volume set of American History, printed in 1834, brought in the most money. People left delighted by their purchases. This book sale will become an annual event, so save history-related books for next year!

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Research Center**  
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**EMAIL  
US**

