

Bridal Fashion

A Must-See Exhibit at the Kelley House Museum



Thank you to everyone who joined us for the special opening reception for our new exhibit “Tying the Knot: Bridal Fashion Unveiled.” Guests enjoyed a fascinating presentation by Curator Averee McNear on the care and preservation of historic clothing, along with a first look at beautiful wedding dresses, photographs, and artwork showcasing Mendocino bridal fashion through the years. “Tying the Knot” is on display at the museum through August 31, 2026 and is already proving to be a hit with visitors of all ages. The Kelley House Museum is open from 11AM to 3PM Thursday through Monday.

EXHIBIT INFO

COMING UP!



Haunted Mendocino:

Every Wednesday at 5pm (plus some Saturdays @7pm including 7/4)

Historic District:

Every Saturday at 11am (except 7/4)

Murder, She Wrote:

Every Thursday at 11am

Every Saturday at 11:30am (except 7/4)

These are the regularly scheduled tours through the end of August, so bring your guests and your friends! All tours leave from the museum. Walk-ins welcome or you can purchase tickets in advance.

[SEE FULL TOUR CALENDAR](#)

Fourth of July Lawn Party & Parade Viewing

Saturday, July 4th

11:00am - 3:00pm

Celebrate the Fourth of July on the Kelley House lawn with the best parade viewing in town! Dance to the music of DJ Slysir, play cornhole, and enjoy margaritas, wine, soda, and beer from North Coast Brewing Company. Non-alcoholic beverages will be available, as will popcorn, plus BBQ hot dogs from Gnar Bar. Free admission, but donations appreciated.

Museum News



Kelley House Museum Receives Award

We're proud to share that the Kelley House Museum received the Native Daughters of the Golden West California Image Award, an honor presented to individuals, groups, and organizations that publicly portray a positive image of California.

The award was accepted by Curator Averee McNear on behalf of the Kelley House Museum on June 10, 2026, at the annual meeting of the Native Daughters. Thank you to docent Susan Collins for the nomination.



Murder, She Wrote Festival on TV!

Two very enthusiastic TV morning show hosts of *GoodDay Sacramento* recently interviewed Director Anne Semans about the museum's fundraiser, the popular Murder, She Wrote Festival. [Watch this clip](#) to learn more about all the fun Jessica Fletcher fans have here in Cabot Cove, Mendocino during May. And more fun ahead: tune into the [Kelly Clarkson Show](#) on July 15, to hear Anne and Kelly talking about the festival!

Come Be a Walking Tour Guide for Murder, She Wrote!

If you are a fan of the show and our town, and you like engaging with the public, consider becoming a walking tour guide! We provide the script on cards to help you learn the tour and it's a hoot to take fans around to the filming locations and have them tell YOU about the episodes. Guides work for tips and the tour takes about 2 hours, including check-in. Ideally you'd be available to give two tours per month, or as back up. Interested? [Email us.](#)



Museum Outreach Coordinator Job Opening

We are looking for someone to help develop, implement, and oversee outreach initiatives that enhance the museum's visibility. This role involves bringing educational programs and exhibits directly to the community, helping

organize special events like the Murder, She Wrote Festival, and cultivating meaningful community connections. If you are organized, good with people and details, and love history, reach out. Deadline to apply is July 15. [Learn more.](#)



Office Equipment Needs & Giveaway

We could use a 4-drawer filing cabinet in good condition, preferably legal size width. We also would like to give away a free-standing, perfectly functional workhorse of a copier (Sharp AR-M257) if you know anyone in need. [Email us](#) if you can help with either.



Book Sale Fundraiser

We hope you stopped by the Kelley House Museum over Memorial Day weekend. Every year Katy Tahja hosts a history book sale on the porch and introduces newcomers to the Kelley House Museum. Katy raised over \$400 for the museum. Thank you Katy for all the hard work!

A PEEK INTO THE PAST



Damaged-Car-at-the-Mendocino-Racetrack-circa-1922-1024x606 image

Gentlemen – Start your engines!

The first dirt track auto races on the coast were held right here in Mendocino, where

Headlands State Park now exists.

Organizers of the 1921 Apple Fair wanted the Fair “to be bigger and better than ever” by adding auto and horse races and a rodeo. Joshua Grindle, president of the Fair Association, appointed committees and set the plan in motion. A location for the track “determined to be quite level” existed on A.A. Heeser’s ranch west of town and north of the Mendocino Lumber Company’s yard. With the aid of a tractor, road scraper, and roller, a 25-acre racecourse with grandstands was constructed. A pump house and 1200 feet of pipe for wetting the track were also added.

[Read more.](#)



Vintage-Oyster-Can-by-Polished-Pebble-300x377-1 image

The Bad Oysters Incident

The facts of the case are mostly undisputed. The only question that remains unanswered is whether saloon owner J. W. Barton was intoxicated when he fired his gun at Joseph M. Garvin, missing his head “by the fraction of an inch.”

Joe was the proprietor of “Mendocino’s Cheap Cash Store,” a general merchandise establishment on Lansing Street, located where GoodLife Café & Bakery is today.

Between 1902 and 1909, his store carried a wide variety of supplies, including groceries, clothing, housewares, hay, sewing machines, appliances, and even pianos.

In 1904, J. W. Barton purchased Gus Leighton's saloon, located in the same block as Joe's store, down on the northeast corner of Lansing and Ukiah Streets. Barton called his business "The Manila Saloon." [Read more.](#)

[READ THE BLOG](#)

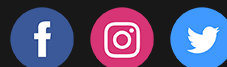
JOIN, RENEW, DONATE

Now more than ever the Kelley House Museum needs member support to continue fulfilling its mission to preserve and protect the history of the Mendocino Coast.

[WAYS TO GIVE](#)

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