

## Rockin' Rio Nido

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### 'Tis the season... still

The winter days may be cold, dark and dreary, but the festive holiday lights make us feel warm and cheery. We're glad so many of our neighbors choose to generously maintain their seasonal displays well past the New Year. Rio Nido's street signs also look shiny and bright, thanks to Matt Malik, Jennifer Ostrom, Ingrid Emming, Fred Beeler, and Larry Tocmakidis. We came along for the ride, and enjoyed whizzing about Rio Nido on the back of Fred's pick-up truck with our scrub brushes, Simple Green, and day-glow orange safety vests.

### Raves from The Bohemian

An unexpected holiday gift came to Rio Nido's neighbors and many fans, when we opened up the Dec. 1 2010 issue of the *North Bay Bohemian* and read David Templeton's heartening article, "Russian River Revival." The article recounts people's fond memories from the '40s and discusses many of the positive things happening in our community.

We only wish that Templeton had asked us for a more recent photo of the Rio Nido Lodge than the one he ran with the article. As you can see from the photo your columnists have so thoughtfully inserted above, the Lodge

looks much better now that Dennis Judd has reinstalled the windows and made other repairs. Boarded-up windows are so-o-o 2009. If you haven't read the article, visit <http://www.bohemian.com/bohemian/12.01.10/arts-1048.html>.

### Centennial Celebration

On Sunday Dec. 19, neighbors gathered at the Rio Nido Roadhouse to celebrate Rio Nido's 100th birthday. Despite the winter rains, everyone enjoyed tasty burgers, hot dogs, and delicious potluck dishes, while the kids roasted marshmallows. At 4:00pm, folks headed over to the Rio Nido Lodge for dessert, a gingerbread house contest, and a special visit from Santa Claus. Thank you Dennis Judd, Brad Metzger, Kim Link, Marsee Hennon, Clare Harris, Efen Carrillo, the Russian River Historical Society, Pegasus Theater, 95.1 KGGV FM (especially Laura Mueller's historical radio show "Anecdotal Evidence" which airs on Saturdays at 12:00pm), the Guerneville 5&10, and others for making this event a big success.

Got news? Email Elisabeth Parker at [RussianRiverRattina@gmail.com](mailto:RussianRiverRattina@gmail.com) and Elena Chronis at [elenachronis@yahoo.com](mailto:elenachronis@yahoo.com).

## "What's up?" in Guerneville

By Valerie Munthe

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Happy One Year Anniversary to Me and the *Sonoma County Gazette!* I know, it may seem weird to celebrate such an occasion, but it's called for, as it is a pretty big accomplishment for Guerneville and myself. I've had the wonderful opportunity to express my love for this town and share with all the readers just how wonderful it is here. A special thanks to you, the reader, for without you there is no reason to write.

**Happy New Year!** And Happy, indeed, that this treacherous year is over and we can move on to 2011 with a brand new, fresh start. This time of the year, with the heavy rains coming our way, the anxiety of flooding starts to brew, so walk into this New Year with the following in mind: 1. Take care of yourself. 2. Take care of family. 3. Take care of each other. As the magnet on my fridge says, "*As long as we're together, everything will fall into place.*"

"*A Country without a memory is a country of madmen,*" was once said by philosopher/poet George Santayana. I chose this quote to help stress the weight of the power of history in our lives. Many of us go about our days, not paying any attention to the goings on of the present day, all the while never giving thought to the moments that have passed. When given the opportunity, I take the time to walk through town, trying to imagine the hundreds of thousands of footsteps that walked before me in our little piece of Paradise.

### Looking back...

And while we're still waiting for the invention of the time machine, for now, we can rest solace in the documentation of our history through books, photos and newspaper archives. Where does one find such things? Why, the local bookstore, library and even the Historical Society. Step on outside and imagine yourself walking on wooden sidewalks or on loose dirt next to the rail road tracks; imagine the smells, the sights, the sounds; imagine a time where time didn't matter so much.

Go explore the deep, rich history of Guerneville/Stumptown/Big Bottom/Cieole by visiting River Reader's local history section, the Guerneville

Library's archives and the Russian River Historical Society at [www.russianriverhistory.org](http://www.russianriverhistory.org). Because what is today but yesterday's tomorrow?

### "They" are YOU.

I've been wanting to write about the concept of "they" for quite some time. You might have heard it before, say, in conversation about the town decorations or the issues with the new influx of transient people to town. "They've got to do something about this!" or "They need to do a better job."

What a wonderful way to construct the meaning of such a simple word as to place the responsibilities of community on a benign, imaginary being. So let's cut to the chase: "they" is YOU, and me, and he, and she (no "them" 'cause that's just another form of "they"). The proverb "If you want something done right, do it yourself" comes to mind, but in our case it should say "if you want something done, get 'er done!"

So next time you see garbage flying down the sidewalks of Main Street, pick it up (and if you already do, you're AWESOME! Pat yourself on the back). Next time you see a crime happening, call our local Sheriff Substation, who's deputies would be more than happy to come assist. We are too small a town to pin such responsibilities on each other, and lending your helping hand is more productive than offering your criticism.

### Be Part of the Solution...

Need some ideas on how to get involved? Check out the Russian River Redevelopment Oversight Committee's website for meetings dates, or get involved with the Chamber of Commerce by attending the Mixers OR the Up with Downtown Guerneville meetings. You can even create a neighborhood watch in your neck of the woods. There are infinite possibilities!

So, I'd better wrap this up, Guerneville, 'cause you know you're lagging when your editor is posting on your Facebook about getting your column in on time!

Stay dry, stay warm and be kind to one another. There's only ONE Guerneville, so let's make it GREAT!

*Peace.*