

If These Buckets Could Talk

Tales from the Museum Collections



Exhibit dates: April 22—September 16, 2006

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Every Pitcher Tells a Story

As the old song says, “every picture tells a story...” Objects have great stories to tell, too. In *If These Buckets Could Talk*, the San Bernardino County Museum’s history division collections take center stage in a special exhibit in which their ability to act as touchstones to talk about life in an earlier era is highlighted. The exhibit opens April 22 and runs through September 16 at the museum in Redlands and is free with general admission.

Can you think of a special family treasure you have at home? Chances are, when you think about it, you think of the stories you know about it, and about the family members it represents. Is it a child’s christening dress, passed down through the generations? Could it be a special military uniform from a veteran in your family? Is it a well-worn piece of woodworking equipment or a household device or cooking implement? No matter what that item may be, it is a treasure to you because it represents a connection between you and your ancestors.

While these reminiscences have a special meaning for an individual, that object has a greater story to tell that can connect others to the past in an historic context, even though they are not members of the family. This is the case with many of the things in the museum collections. They each have a unique family story to tell, but they also have the power to reveal something about history to anyone who cares to study and enjoy them. This is what the exhibit *If Buckets Could Talk* is all about.

continues

San Bernardino County Museum

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If These Buckets Could Talk (continued)

Dozens of objects from the museum collections will be shown in this exhibit. For example, a humble violin and its wooden case have quite a story to tell. The violin was used to entertain a family of pioneers heading to San Bernardino by covered wagon. During their journey, the smallest member of the party became very ill and passed away. The family placed the tiny body in the violin case, intending to use it as her coffin. To everyone's surprise and joy, the child revived!

A cabinet full of false teeth, a World War I Red Cross nurse's uniform and many other fascinating artifacts all tell their stories at *If Buckets Could Talk*. Together they reinforce the concept that the value of objects lies not in what they are worth for insurance purposes or at auction, but how they connect in social and historical contexts.

The San Bernardino County Museum is at the California Street exit from Interstate 10 in Redlands. General admission is \$6 (adult), \$5 (student or senior), and \$4 (child aged 5 to 12). Children under 5 and Museum Association members are admitted free, and parking is free. For more information, visit www.sbcountymuseum.org or call 909-307-2669 (TDD 909-792-1462). The San Bernardino County Museum is accessible to persons with disabilities. If assistive listening devices or other auxiliary aids are needed in order to participate in museum exhibits or programs, requests should be made through Museum Visitor Services at least three business days prior to your visit. Visitor Services' telephone number is 909-307-2669 ext. 229.

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