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September 1997

CALIFORNIA THE FORNIAN

Magazine of the California History Center Foundation/De Anza College
A Foundation Supporting the Study and Preservation of State and Regional History



Saratoga Stereopticon

California Studies Launched

After several years of discussing the transition to California Studies, the history center sponsored its first major California Studies event on May 14th—and it was a resounding success! Our conference “Making California Work by Crossing Cultural Borders” was attended by 150 people, over half of whom were De Anza students, and the remaining representing De Anza staff, faculty from surrounding colleges and universities, and members of our local community.

I couldn't have asked for a better first effort, and want to thank the CHC staff and volunteers who put in so much hard work to help out. The evaluations were overwhelmingly positive and there was a great surge of excitement and enthusiasm about continuing to offer this type of programming.

In fact there was so much energy created and so many ideas for additional activities generated that it has made the staff rethink the idea of holding our conferences in the spring. We have decided to put the conference on a fall schedule, so that there is still time during the academic year to schedule and plan programs which build on the energy created by the initial event.

With that in mind, our next California Studies conference will be held on Friday, November 14th and will build on an event we had already scheduled for that date, a California budget simulation activity. While details for the entire day are sketchy at this point, the simulation, called “Eureka,” brings people together into small groups whose task is to balance the California state budget. I am sure many of you have heard of similar activities for the federal budget, in fact a federal simulation was held in Cupertino the third week in June.

“Eureka,” is co-sponsored with the Center for California Studies at California State University, Sacramento, and the California History Center/De Anza is one of only 10 sites selected, and the only community college, to host a “Eureka” session over the next 18 months. The activity takes approximately 4-5 hours, and the center in Sacramento will be

providing laptop computers and appropriate software to reflect the 1994-95 state budget.

The CHC's role will be to provide the participants, and once again we hope to bring campus and community together in order to reflect a very diverse approach to the budgeting process.

We plan to broaden the day by focusing on one component of the budget, higher education, and bring in a speaker or panel of speakers to talk about the political process in general, and more specifically about funding for 21st century education in California. Our working title for the day is “Building a Budget for 21st Century California: the Vision and the Reality.”

You will be receiving letters in the fall inviting your participation. I hope you will be able to join us for what promises to be a very stimulating, educational day.

On a final note, I cannot close out this very successful year without a heartfelt thank you to Huell Howser, host and producer of the PBS series “California's Gold,” and very good friend to the California History Center. Huell visited the center on May 29th, where we recognized his donation to the center's library of all 72 segments produced in the series through December, 1996, and heard delightful anecdotes about his California travels.

After a reception here, we moved on to a dinner at the home of CHCF board member Doni Hubbard, where guests had the opportunity to chat with Huell over hors d'oeuvres and a glass of wine, and hear some after dinner stories. All in all, the afternoon and evening were absolutely wonderful, and we hope Huell will visit us again!

And, thank all of you for your continuing support of the California History Center! Have a restful summer, and we look forward to playing “Eureka” with you in fall.

Kathleen Peregrin
Director



COVER:

Dick Garrod reaches for a pear at the Garrod family farm, Saratoga foothills, 1923. Courtesy Stockmeir Library and Archives.

De Anza College students and CHC members attend Women's History Month activities at the Trianon. The Presenters seated facing the audience, are De Anza College faculty and staff members (left to right) Jackie Reza, Jean Miller, Narma Mayfield, and Shirley Kawazae.

CALENDAR

<p>9/8 CHC opens to the public. History center hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday; closed from noon to 1 p.m.</p> <p>9/22 De Anza College classes begin.</p> <p>10/4, 5 Field Trip: "History and Preservation of Big Sur."</p> <p>10/25 Field Trip: "History of the Southern End of the Bay."</p> <p>11/8, 22 Field Trip: "History of Newspapers in American California."</p> <p>11/10 Veteran's Day observed. CHC is closed. De Anza College classes do not meet.</p>	<p>11/14 "Eureka"—California State Budget Simulation Event. Day-long session featuring a participatory, computer simulated balancing of California's 1995 state budget with discussion and guest speakers.</p> <p>11/27, 28 Thanksgiving Holiday observed. CHC is closed. De Anza College classes do not meet.</p> <p>12/6 Field Trip: "Murals of San Francisco."</p> <p>12/12 Fall quarter ends.</p> <p>12/97 CHC holiday gathering, to be announced.</p>
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Of Interest to Members

NINTH ANNUAL
ENVISIONING CALIFORNIA CONFERENCE
THE HOUSE WE LIVE IN
SEPTEMBER 25-27, 1997
CAPITOL PLAZA HOLIDAY INN
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA

Join scholars, public officials, business professionals, artists, writers, and community leaders in an examination of the following topics: The 30th Anniversary of the full-time, professional California Legislature focusing on term limits, representation & diversity, a view from the outside, and comparative policy-making.

Additional panels will address:

Environmental Justice, Diversity in the Classroom, Future of the Central Valley, Libraries of the 21st Century,

Financing of Education, Sustainable California, Native American Art ... and more!

Keynote Speakers

Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston, Friday lunch
Author of *Farewell to Manzanar*

The Honorable Willie Brown, Friday dinner
Mayor of San Francisco and former
Speaker of the Assembly

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EDUCATION

State and Regional History

The following courses will be offered fall quarter through the California History Center. Please see the California History Center class listings section of the De Anza College Schedule of Classes for detailed information (i.e., course ID #, call #, and units.) For additional course information, call the center at (408) 864-8712.

And don't forget, as a benefit of being a history center member you can register for history center classes (CHC classes only, not other De Anza classes) at the Trianon building.

History and Preservation of Big Sur: *Chatham Forbes*

Long protected by its steep mountain barrier, inhospitable shore, and the preservationist zeal of its admirers, Big Sur remains a wild and isolated coast, little changed by the hand of man. Early ranchers were followed by artists, writers, cloistered religious, and various refugees from urban society. The history of the region reflects a local and statewide consensus against change. The history of Big Sur will be presented in the classroom and on a two-day field study.

Lectures: October 2, 16. Field study: October 4-5.

History of Newspapers in American California: *Chatham Forbes*
News media have played an integral role throughout the last 150 years of California's development. Pioneers brought printing presses west with them to the principal towns of California, and almost immediately began gathering, reporting, and interpreting news. In the aggressively democratic American society, newspapers played a powerful role in both public and private affairs, often influencing events. Field trips take students where some especially vigorous press influence took place.

Lectures: November 6, 20. Field trips: November 8, 22.

History of the Southern End of the Bay: *Betty Hirsch*

Alviso is a historic waterfront town at the end of the San Francisco Bay and is now part of the City of San Jose. Off shore are the wetlands of the San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge and the salt ponds of Cargill Salt (formerly Leslie Salt). On shore is the town named for Don Ignacio Alviso, originally known as



Marina at Alviso, date unknown. Courtesy Stockmeir Library and Archives.

Embarcadero de Santa Clara, and once the busiest port of the bay. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places and the Environmental Protection Agency's inventory of toxic waste sites, Alviso presents an intriguing cross section of historic and contemporary environmental issues.

Lecture: October 9. Field trip: October 25.

Murals of San Francisco: *Betty Hirsch*

The beauty and history of San Francisco are enhanced and illustrated by several groups of murals throughout the city. Three major works were done in the 1930s as federal art projects. This class will focus on these three: Coit Tower, Rincon Annex, and the Beach Chalet. Inside the base of Coit Tower, built by Arthur Brown, Jr., are 3,691 square feet of murals depicting California working life as it appeared to the 26 artists and their 19 assistants, who painted the interior walls over a six-month period in 1934. The Rincon Annex murals were painted by artist Anton Refregier, and depicted scenes and characters in San Francisco history. The Beach Chalet, designed by Willis Polk, reopened on New Year's Day, 1997, after a restoration and features murals by Lucien Labaudt depicting play and recreation, making a complete tour of the city. Although considered controversial at the time of their completion, all of these murals left an encouraging pictorial record.

Lecture: November 13. Field trip: December 6.

First Conference Very Successful

The first annual California Studies Conference put on by the California History Center was held on May 14, 1997 with 150 people attending. The participants included students, senior citizens, college professors and administrators and local school board members. The variety of age groups, ethnic and racial communities and diversity of occupation made the conference "Making California Work by Crossing Cultural Borders" a lively, thought-provoking and enriching day.

De Anza College President Martha Kanter offered opening remarks at the day-long conference, and explained that the gathering was a way of living out the "three action verbs in De Anza College's mission statement: to develop, achieve, and serve."

The conference was facilitated by communications instructor David Shapiro. He emphasized "the participatory nature" of the day, and encouraged everyone to voice their questions and concerns.

Panelists from four arts disciplines gave brief presentations and then fielded questions. They were artist Flo Oy Wong, author Jim Houston, theatrical director Elisa Gonzales, and musicologist Willie Collings.

The panel presentations precipitated a number of questions from the audience. De Anza College President Martha Kanter posed a question that drew some responses for the rest of the day: she asked "If you could change anything about higher education, what would it be?"

Author Jim Houston suggested that humanities be studied more. He felt specialized fields have taken hold and students are not encouraged to read literature or experience theatre, art and music, and therefore do not have a broader view of life.

Willie Collings quoted Booker T. Washington. "Drop your buckets where they are," he said. In other words, study local culture, local history, local music. The immediate is sometimes overlooked in institutions of higher learning.

Later in the day, De Anza College history instructor Jim Williams offered a suggestion that institutions should "enable rather than obstruct." He felt that new, creative approaches to teaching and studying should be emphasized rather than a list of "what we can't do."

After lunch, Stanford journalism professor and author Dale Maharidge spoke about the research for his book *The Coming White Minority: California's Eruptions and the Nation's Future* (1996). One of his premises is that California is at a turning point. If we don't invest in our schools, and good business practices and safe neighborhoods in the cities, then we will be facing violence and riots from those who cannot make a decent wage and educate their children. Maharidge suggested that the growing number of gated communities is evidence of some



Ethnomusicologist Willie Collings (at podium) and artist Flo Oy Wong (seated) were two of five presenters at the CHC's first annual California Studies Conference held May 14 at De Anza College.

people seeking to shield themselves from modern problems rather than attempting to solve them. He urged the conference-goers to ask politicians and business leaders to think in terms of twenty years down the road, not just the immediate future.

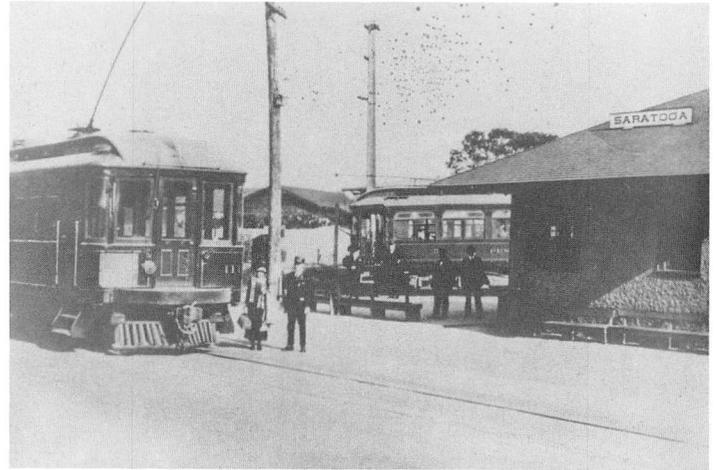
Maharidge's talk initiated a round of comments and questions like "how have we become so polarized?" The topic was a sobering one, but afternoon discussion groups, led by the various presenters and some faculty members, offered an outlet for creative input on how to solve some of the problems facing California.

The conference had been in the planning stages for over a year. CHC staff members, De Anza College faculty, and CHC board members along with the "Johnny Appleseeder Fund," seed money for the California Studies Program at the CHC, helped to make the conference possible. The next CHC-sponsored California Studies Conference is slated for November 14, 1997 (see Director's Report, page 2 for more details).

Saratoga Stereopticon

by Willys I. Peck

The *Californian* is pleased to feature the following entertaining and insightful articles by Willys Peck. They have appeared in the *Saratoga News* in a column entitled “Saratoga Stereopticon,” and they offer glimpses of a rapidly fading past of that community. The California History Center and Mr. Peck have collaborated to collect a number of his articles to be published this fall as volume 37 of the CHC’s local history series and it will carry the same title as the newspaper column. Mr. Peck has been a newspaperman for over 40 years and has also been dedicated to historical groups including as a trustee to the California History Center Foundation. *Saratoga Stereopticon* will be offered as this year’s book premium to its supporting members. The photographs shown here may or may not appear in the book.



Saratoga station of the Peninsular Railway Company, date unknown. Courtesy Stockmeir Library and Archives.

July 3, 1996

Flanged wheels on steel rails carried U.S. population westward in the 19th century. In the 20th, they were a convenience to Saratoga. Up to a point, that is. When the last Peninsular Railway streetcar rolled through town in late March of 1933, there was no sentimental celebration, no clamor for souvenirs, no rush for photo ops.

The electric interurban line that had served the community for 29 years was truly a creature of its times, and those times did not envision the era of paved roads and automobile and truck traffic. To elaborate: When the San Jose-Los Gatos Interurban Railway Co. planned its line connecting those towns by way of Saratoga, just after the turn of the century, there were only dirt roads between those communities, and automobiles were pretty much playthings of the rich.

This was a time when public transportation was a money-making business, and the last word in inter-city transportation was a sleek electric rail car, with trolley humming along an overhead wire and lordly motorman, one hand on the controller and the other grasping the cord to sound reedy blasts on a compressed-air whistle. It made sense at that time for the promoters of this particular line to obtain a franchise to lay track alongside and in the middle of county roads, rather than acquire right of way for more direct point-to-point service between towns.

In this respect, then, the Peninsular—its corporate name since 1909—was something of a hybrid. It was interurban in the sense that it connected cities and towns—the “Campbell short line” was opened in 1905, completing the loop around the valley—but it was a local streetcar line in the sense that it made wayside stops.

A rancher could flag down a car as it crossed his driveway; passengers were advised that holding a lighted match would assist the motorman in making a correct stop at night.

In Saratoga, the line came down Saratoga Avenue and turned up Saratoga-Los Gatos Road. At the time rail was being laid, it was planned to have a spur going up the canyon to serve Congress Hall, the luxurious hotel near the mineral springs that gave Saratoga its name, after one of the Saratoga Springs in New York. The hotel burned in June 1903 and was not rebuilt, but Congress Springs remained a popular picnic grounds until World War II, when the San Jose Water Works fenced off the property to protect the watershed.

Meanwhile, it was decided that, with or without hotel, Congress Springs merited a rail connection, and for many years this was a popular destination for Sunday picnickers who could enjoy a ride across the valley and up a mile and a half through the wooded canyon. Congress Springs was one of two such locations; across the valley, in the hills behind San Jose, Alum Rock Park had its own mineral springs and a streetcar line to serve it.



Saratoga's third school building in 1898. When this building was built, it featured a fire escape and a prominent bell tower. Supposedly this school offered the first physical education program in Santa Clara County. Saratoga School currently stands on the site of this old school. From Florence Cunningham's Saratoga's First Hundred Years edited by Frances L. Fox, 1967.

The Peninsular's valley loop connected San Jose, Los Gatos, Saratoga and Campbell. In 1914, service was opened to Palo Alto on a line running out Stevens Creek Road through Monta Vista and along the present route of Foothill Expressway. A short line ran from Palo Alto into the Stanford University campus, and at least one Saratoga resident was able to attend Stanford, catching the streetcar in front of her house and traveling all the way into the campus.

In the years when springtime was blossom time, the Peninsular achieved some sort of marketing coup by scheduling 65-mile Blossom Trolley Trips. Running as it did, through and around orchards, the line afforded passengers an unequalled opportunity to view—and inhale—the matchless phenomenon of mile after mile of trees in fragrant bloom.

But the Peninsular needed more than blossoms. True, it carried people to and from their jobs in San Jose, and Saratoga kids to high school in Los Gatos, but it was also occupying highway space with cars, and the cars were winning.

As a youngster, I can remember the Peninsular in its declining days. The cars were old, the roadbed not well maintained, and when a car got up to 30 or so miles an hour, it swayed wonderfully from side to side. People who remark ruefully that we had a practical

public transportation system, and we foolishly got rid of it, are missing the point. If the Peninsular were to reappear magically in its old configuration we would have an epic traffic disaster.

I think what these people are saying is, that they would like to be able to savor a time when the Peninsular was indeed the last word in public transportation.

August, 17, 1996

“Character,” said Mrs. Bertha R. Seely, “is something that belongs only to you. You can't buy it, and no one can give it to you. It's yours alone and what you make of it is entirely up to you.”

Those may not have been the exact words of Mrs. Seely, principal and eighth-grade teacher at Saratoga Union Grammar School, now just Saratoga School, but I have remembered the gist of her message for almost 60 years—mainly, I think, because it was delivered apropos of nothing else that was going on at the time. She just hauled off and started talking about character.

Admittedly, these recollections take on an aura of idealism with the passage of time. Rough edges are smoothed, and childhood scenes are suffused in the warm glow of sentimentality. So as one of the 21 graduates in the Class of 1937, I can say that Mrs. Seely's gratuitous homily was entirely in keeping with the atmosphere at Saratoga School; we were made to feel that character and citizenship were important.

We recited the “Pledge of Allegiance” every morning, not necessarily reflecting on the meaning of the words. We had to learn the American's Creed, which we recited as a class at our eighth-grade graduation, and in recent times I have had occasion to ponder its message: “a democracy in a republic: a sovereign nation of many sovereign states; a perfect union, one and inseparable” as an ideal yet to be attained.

Still in the idealistic mode, I recall some of the academic gymnastics we were called on to perform: Friday spelling tests; diagramming sentences to learn grammar; memorization of poems; mental-arithmetic drills. A lot of it stuck.

In my time a grades one-through-eight school, it had an all-female faculty; the only man aboard was the janitor, and even there I feel we had role models. There was quiet-spoken Mills Pash, who could turn his hand to any mechanical task. Later, there was

Charles W. Cobb, dignified but with a sense of humor, a pillar of the Federated Church who also became township justice of the peace.

One of the wisest decisions ever made by the Saratoga school board came some time around 1970, when, faced with the necessity of meeting earthquake-proof standards, the trustees opted to beef up the 1923 Spanish-style structure rather than have it demolished and erect a new one. There is a dignity to that building, the kind of community presence that is not always built into more modern schoolhouses. I like to think of it as a physical expression of what education is all about, because I feel that is what I obtained there: a good, solid grammar-school education.

September 18, 1996

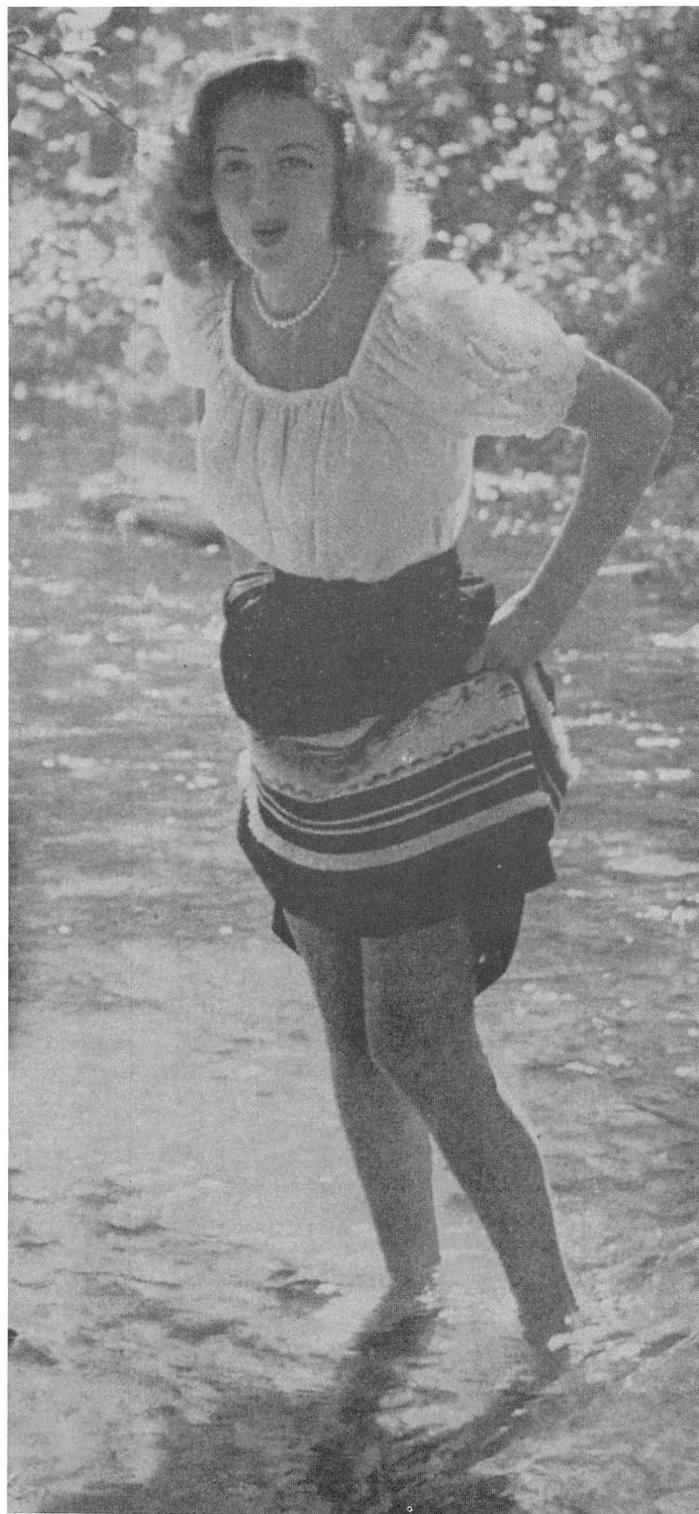
When one has surpassed the biblical span of threescore years and 10 by a comfortable margin—Bob Dole shades me by only a month—there would seem no further necessity to nurture a life’s ambition. Unless, of course, one is running for president.

Nevertheless I confess to a life’s ambition for these twilight years, and it’s simply this: to qualify as what the old *Life* magazine would have described as a town character. Some explanation is necessary.

Fifty years ago, in the issue of June 10, 1946, to be exact, *Life* did a spread on the visit of actress Donna Reed to Saratoga to be “reindocrinated” with small-town atmosphere. This was in preparation for her role opposite James Stewart in “It’s a Wonderful Life,” a movie with which generations to this day have been bombarded during the Christmas season. Her visit was vintage Hollywood hype, of a kind that seems almost quaint in the present entertainment milieu of sex and violence.

Miss Reed, described in the *Life* article as having been raised on an Iowa farm, was dispatched by the studio “on a weekend visit to sleepy little Saratoga, Calif. (pop. 2,645), a farming community near the Santa Cruz Mountains. The town’s farmers and friendly yokelry greatly enjoyed her visit.” Stop right there.

*Actress Donna Reed
as photographed for
Life magazine in
Saratoga. Courtesy
Life magazine,
June, 1946.*



ANNUAL REPORT

1996-1997

Growing the CHCF

It is time to review what we have accomplished this year and to recognize, in a very broad brush stroke, the many contributions and efforts made by our supporters in making this a year which has, in very significant ways, moved us further along the path to a broader, more inclusive California Studies emphasis.

The board set goals this year to fill vacancies on the board of trustees, to raise \$35,000 in new revenue, and to further efforts with the CHC in developing the California Studies concept. We are indebted to all (volunteers, trustees, staff, members and friends of CHCF) in making these goals reality.

This appears to be the year of conferences. Associates of CHCF attended California Studies conferences in Pasadena, at San Francisco State, and at De Anza College. Of course the best and most exciting was the California History Center's very own "Making California Work by Crossing Cultural Borders" conference hosted on the De Anza campus. This conference generated lots of enthusiasm, energy, and excitement on campus, and placed De Anza and the CHC at an important starting point for future academic explorations. The staff and volunteers are to be commended for this successful event.

It was at the earlier conference in Pasadena that Executive Director, Kathleen Peregrin, made the acquaintance of Huell Howser which resulted not only in a wonderful and valuable donation of his collection of tapes from the PBS series "California's Gold", but also in his visit to the Trianon and our library and an agreement to participate in a fund raising event. Trustee Doni Hubbard very generously offered to host a dinner honoring Huell's donation and visit. A special reception and thank you event for Huell Howser was held at the Trianon. The Howser tapes are an outstanding addition to the CHCF's library and will be made available to local schools and to others for educational purposes.

This year also saw the publication of Austen Warburton's long awaited book *Santa Clara Sagas* edited by CHCF trustee Mary Jo Ignoffo. A reception and book signing event was held at the Santa Clara Public library. In May the CHCF participated in a Local History Day sponsored by Heintzelman's Bookstore in Los Altos. Authors and editors Jim Williams, Mary Jo Ignoffo, Ward Winslow, and Yvonne Jacobson were there to sign copies of their books.

The Trianon also saw such events as the exhibit of watercolor painting of California Missions by Catalan artist Antonio Miret,



CHC Members and guests attend Huell Howser's presentation at the Trianon. Howser donated 72 video tapes of his PBS series California's Gold to the history Center's library. A lending policy for the tapes is being formulated.

and a series of presentations during Women's History Month.

I wish to thank Mary Strong for her hard work and dedication to the CHCF over the past years. Mary is leaving her post as our Volunteer Coordinator in order to move to Elk Grove, California with her husband, Warren. We wish them the best and hope they will keep in touch. Thank you Mary.

The board continues to grow and broaden its perspectives and talents with the addition this year of four new board members. Announcement of these individuals and background information on them has appeared in *The Californian*. We are pleased to have them join us in our efforts to continue to grow and develop the CHCF.

Our future challenges us with the important task of growing the CHCF so that it can truly support the expanded programming and community educational opportunities called for with the California Studies emphasis. Part of this challenge will be the need to find more room and better facilities so that our library can continue to be responsive and supportive to our community of users and so that we can provide these resources with better, broader access in the future and through the technologies available in today's world. The CHCF is blessed to have the support and dedication of many people. We could not have accomplished what we have this year, nor expect to meet the challenges we face in these coming years, without the support of our membership, the special efforts and dedication of our volunteers, the talents, dedication, and extra efforts of the staff, and the leadership of the board of trustees. It is these individual efforts which allows us to continue to do this important work.

Thank you everyone for another great year for the CHCF.

Bill Lester

President, Board of Trustees

Volunteers End the Year with a Bang!

Volunteers not only give of themselves but receive in return the feeling that they are a viable force and are needed in this fast and frantic world.

The most important tasks our volunteers accomplish are on a day-to-day basis when the library and office volunteers appear at their "spot" on their particular day. We also appreciate how willing they are to come and help at special events. We had two such events in May.

On May 14th, the CHCF held the very successful California Studies Conference which entailed quite a lot of volunteer support, including stuffing envelopes, printing brochures, staffing registration tables, and packing and handing out packets and name tags at the conference.

On May 29th the CHCF held a delightful reception at the center for Huell Howser who has donated his video tapes of "California's Gold." We served refreshments before and after Mr. Howser spoke to the attendees. This event entailed mailing invitations, obtaining donations of the food, setting up tables and serving during the reception.

This year we began important discussions about recruiting new volunteers. The next few years will see expanded opportunities for volunteers.

It is with mixed feelings that I am resigning as Volunteer Coordinator to CHCF. My husband and I are moving to Elk Grove, California but you may be sure we will continue to support the CHCF and plan to visit often.

Mary Strong

Volunteer Coordinator



Volunteer recognition lunch at Late-for-the-Train Restaurant in Menlo Park June, 1997. Left to right: Tom Izu, Bill Lester, Mary Strong, Bill Ralston, Trudy Frank, Betty Petersen, Janet Hoffman, Dee Liotta, Lisa Christiansen (hidden), Janet Ilacqua, Helen Riisberg, Nancy Bratman, Warren Strong and Bob Peepari.

Thank you to all our volunteers who gave a total 1,028 hours this school year.

- * Elizabeth Archambeault—Library
- ** Nancy Bratman—Library
- ** Trudy Frank—Office
- Josephine Harper—Office
- * Janet Hoffman—Office
- Maureen Kelley
- Janet Ilacqua—Library
- *** Dee Liotta—Office
- Betty Petersen—Where needed * over 40 hours
- * Helen Riisberg—Library ** over 100 hours
- *** Mary Strong—Office *** over 200 hours

We also wish to thank the CHCF Board of Trustees for their uncounted hours: Bill Lester, Marion Grimm, Willys Peck, Ward Winslow, David Howard-Pitney, Doni Hubbard, Nan Geschke, Joan M. Rogers, Mary Jo Ignoffo, and welcome our newest members, Bill Ralston, Jennifer Bohrnstedt, John McLaughlin and Bob Peepari.



Volunteers Trudy Frank (left) and Mary Strong register participants at the CHC's first annual California Studies Conference on May 14, 1997.

Worth mentioning...worth a look! A Photographic Essay.

Donations 1996-1997 from:

Ann Alder—a new listing of Spanish-Mexican resources at the Santa Clara City Library, index to *The Trailblazer*, *A Quarterly Publication of the California Pioneers* and the Index to the Santa Clara City Photograph Collection.



Nancy Bratman—*Nature Walks at Stanford* by Inge Ratner.

Audrey Butcher—*Ramona* by Helen Hunt Jackson, *Folded Hills* by Stewart Edward White and *It Happened in Soledad* by Mary Beth Orser.

Jim Cochrane—A variety of videotapes on the Olson's cherry orchard, Ridge Winery and other topics.

Paul de Cillis—local and national newspapers with "hot" headlines.

The screen door of our "cottage" annex is repaired ... a very good sign. The contents of the "cottage" are once again moved to the CHC exhibit room, this time so that repair work may be done on our annex ... hooray!

Ruth and the late Lou Gray—over 80 hardcover and paperback books including works by Jack London.

Huell Howser—Set of 72 video tapes, 6 teacher's guides, his time and his good will. We thank him also for his support for libraries and literacy.

Mark Hylkema—Report on the Murguiá Mission.

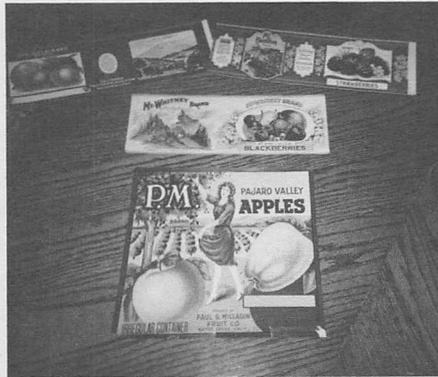
Janet, Paul and Nicholas Ilacqua—a substantial donation to the Stockmeir Journal Fund, sustaining it for another year. We completed our collection of the *Western Historical Quarterly* and started a subscription.

Milton Levitan—California can and crate labels, 157 count.

Dee Liotta—*Gardens of Alcatraz* by John Hart, Roy Eisenhardt et al. in memory of her mother.



Works by Jack London, donated by Ruth and the late Lou Gray, are displayed with Huell Howser's episode on London's Beauty Ranch at Valley of the Moon, Sonoma.



The colorful and historic crate and can label collection from Milton Levitan is a real treat!

John McClenahan—wine labels from the Baldwin's winery, and a brochure showing their Colorado Springs digs.

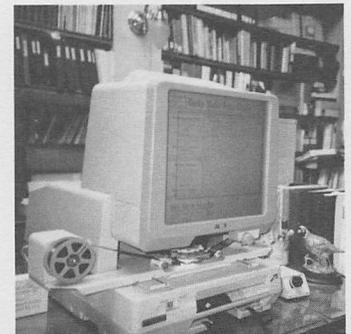
Damon Nalty—his book *The Browns of Madronia* published by the Saratoga Historical Foundation.

Esther Rice—clippings and brochures on local and California topics.

Margaret Swift for her aunt Margaret Jenkins—school photo from Los Altos

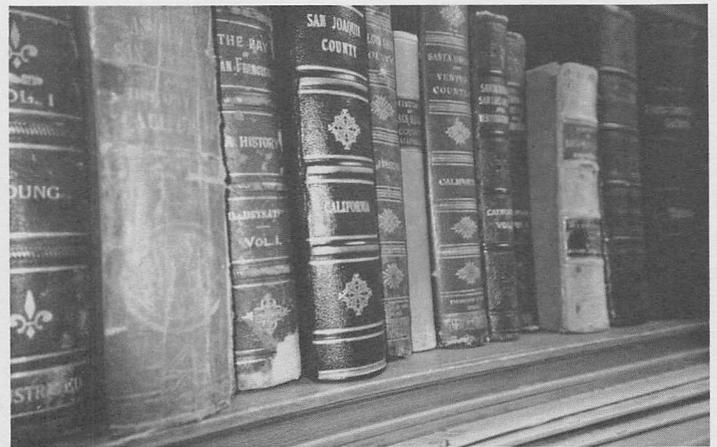
Microfilm/fiche reader-printer and microfilm cabinet for the *Palo Alto Times*, *Peninsula Times-Tribune* collection donated by De Anza College.

Thanks to all our regular library volunteers—Elizabeth Archambeault, Nancy Bratman, Maureen Kelly and Helen Riisberg; and to Trudy Frank and Janet Hoffman who pitch in frequently. Jim Williams and David Howard-Pitney's extra credit students were a great help. Contractor Janet Ilacqua continues her efforts toward our automated catalog...and thanks to all who visited and made use of the Stockmeir Library/Archives this year.



Our new microfilm/fiche reader-printer... A fine new storage cabinet for microfilm, made possible by De Anza College, provides first-rate storage space for our copies of the Palo Alto Times, Peninsula Times-Tribune and local weeklies.

Lisa Christiansen
Librarian



The marvelous county history collection, donated in 1992, by the Lester family, is getting lots of use.

Financial Summary

Revenue Category Definitions

Membership – new and renewing memberships

Donations – general donations; library donations; endowment donations

Publications – books/resale; sale/CHC books; restricted publications

Exhibits – exhibits; restricted exhibit funds

Donated facilities and services – facilities, services, salaries and benefits provided by De Anza College and volunteers

Miscellaneous – subscriptions; library/photo fees; library endowments; interest

Expenditure Category Definitions

Administration – general printing; postage; telephone; salaries; equipment repair; cost of goods sold

Donated facilities and services – facilities, services, salaries and benefits provided by De Anza College, private corporations and volunteers

Publications – Californian; printing; restricted publications; salaries; design

Exhibits – design; fabrication; openings; printing; salaries

Library – library supplies; books & photos; periodicals; salaries

1996-1997 ASSETS

Cash	\$65,825
* Market Rate Account	26,727
Inventory	32,072
Trust Fund	76,802
Endowment Fund	42,933
Fixed Assets	45,342
Accounts Receivable	1,357
TOTAL ASSETS	\$291,057

* Includes revenue for projects in progress

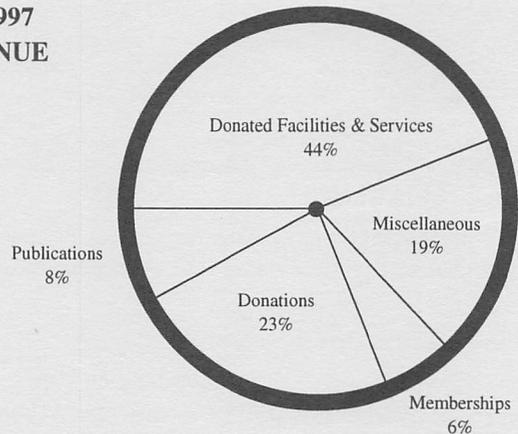
1996-1997 REVENUE

Memberships	\$13,391
Donations	49,259
Publications	17,332
Donated Facilities and Services	93,061
Miscellaneous	40,804
TOTAL	\$213,847

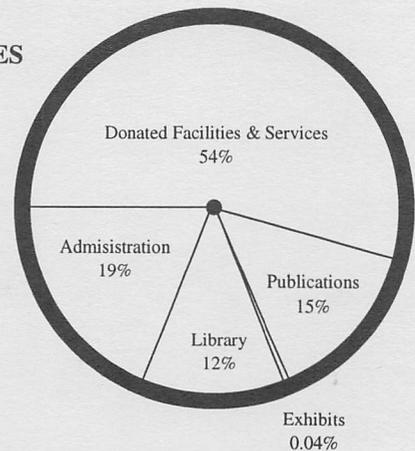
1995-1996 EXPENDITURES

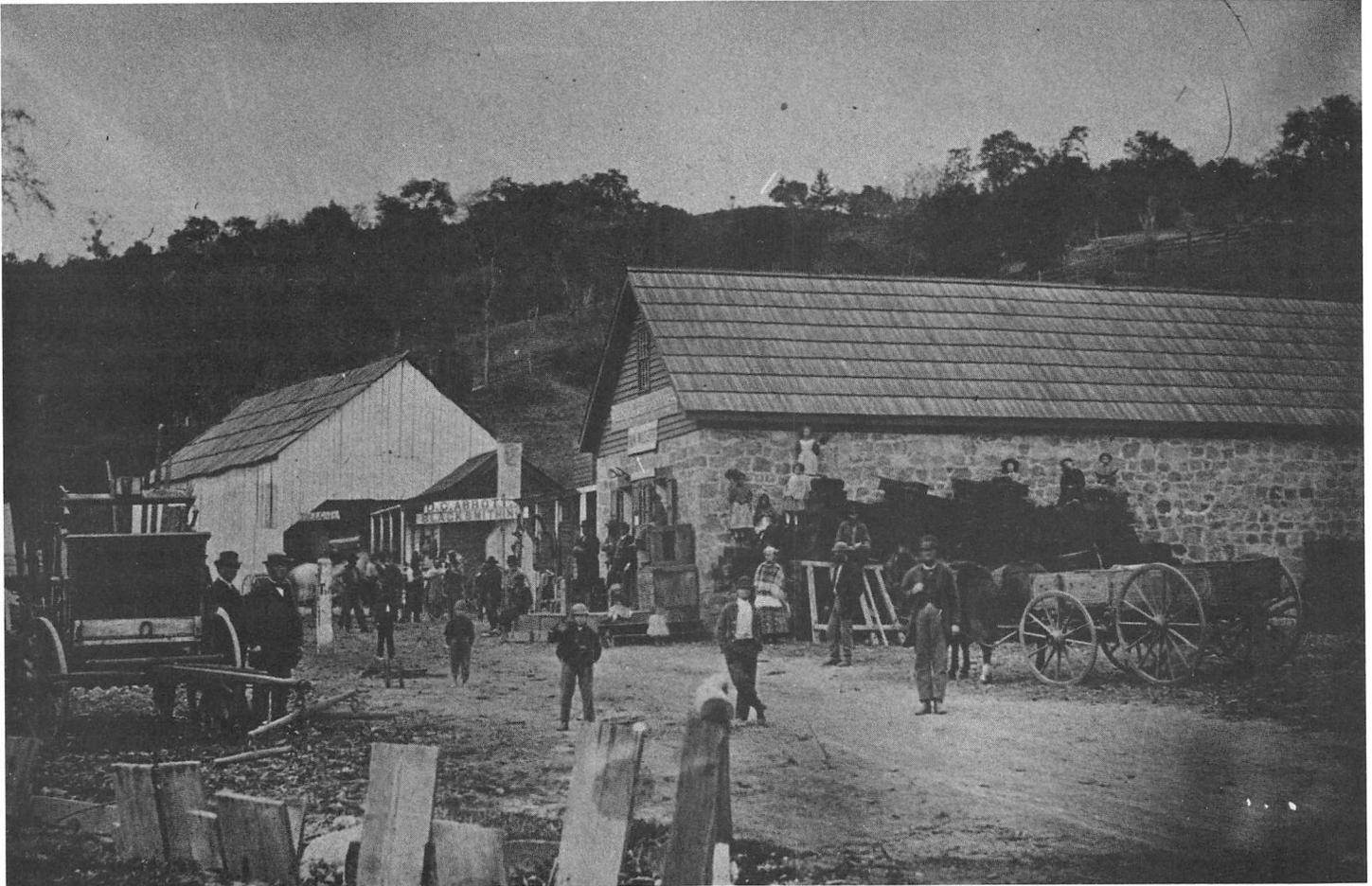
Administration	\$33,519
Donated Facilities and Services	93,061
Publications	25,858
Exhibits	61
Library	21,051
TOTAL	\$173,551

1996-1997 REVENUE



1996-1997 EXPENDITURES





Street scene of "Bank Mills," one of Saratoga's previous names, circa 1870s. According to the late Saratoga historian Florence Cunningham, the two men standing on the left next to a wagon are Senator Charles Maclay and his brother, Alexander Maclay. From Florence Cunningham's *Saratoga's First Hundred Years* edited by Frances L. Fox, 1967.

Yokelry? Look it up. Yokel: "A country bumpkin, especially a typical countryman, slow-witted, obtuse and gullible." Bumpkin: "An awkward country fellow; a clown; a country lout." Yokelry: "The mob of stupid, unsophisticated country folk." Are we talking Saratoga, or what?

Then there were the picture captions. "Meditatively lapping a vanilla cone on the main street of little Saratoga, Calif., Donna Reed rests between visits to town characters." Hey, that's me; I want to be a town character. Give me a park bench, maybe a cigar, and I'll dispense rustic wisdom to anyone who comes along, especially a beautiful actress. There was also a picture of her with

the Saratoga Garage proprietor, Constable Carl Taylor, in which Miss Reed was seated in "the pride of Saratoga, its only fire engines." Wrong. The "pride," a 1937 Diamond T, if memory serves, was housed in the garage—now the Saratoga Fire Station—along with a 1928 Ford Model A fire truck that was still doing service with the volunteer department. There was also a picture of Miss Reed looking at magazines at the soda fountain of the Saratoga Drug Store, enjoying "the small-town privilege of a free look at the magazines" with clerk Dollie Nardie looking on.

Perhaps most provocative by today's standards was a full-length picture of Miss Reed, her skirt raised daintily, wading across

Saratoga Creek, “local fisherman’s paradise.” As one who started fishing Saratoga Creek a good 60 years ago, I’d question the “paradise” status as recently as 1946. Upstream, maybe, but not close into town, where today we hear of the stream mostly in reference to pollution.

I have an idea the press agents’ choice of Saratoga for Miss Reed’s visit had something to do with the fact that actresses Olivia de Havilland and Joan Fontaine came from here, although neither one was ever tagged as a yokel. Whatever the motivation, a lot of people, including me, thought the whole thing was pretty funny; flack artists at play and all that.

But a lot of people didn’t see it as a colossal put-on, and there were some pretty acerbic letters fired off to the magazine. I think they were missing the point. Take it from a certified town character: Money can’t buy that kind of ink.

March 5, 1997

“Crapshoot” is a rather indelicate term to be used in connection with such an exotic experience as blossom time in Santa Clara Valley, but there is some relevance. As the Saratoga Blossom Festival grew from its homespun beginning in 1900 to elaborate concerts and pageantry, those who were planning the event were faced with a serious problem: If dancers, musicians and singers had to be recruited several months in advance, how could there be any certainty that the assigned date would coincide with the peak of the blossoms, which, after all, was what the whole thing was all about?

The short answer was, they couldn’t. The orchards’ blooming season, even with crops maturing at different times, was a very few weeks at the most and this was affected by such things as unseasonable hot spells, cold snaps, or unusually heavy or light rainfall, with the result that choosing a propitious date was, well, a real crapshoot.

Overall, the box score was pretty good, with one or two notable exceptions, such as the 1915 deluge that kept Franklin D. Roosevelt, then assistant secretary of the Navy, from making a speech here. The festivals themselves were triumphs of civic enterprise and cooperation.

During the time they were held, the last one being in 1941, practically every governor of the state appeared as a speaker. A famed Welsh tenor, R. Festyn Davies, who had trained choruses of



Spectators line a Saratoga street to view the Blossom Festival parade, 1912. Courtesy Stockmeir Library and Archives.

servicemen at camps during World War I, was recruited to organize a local chorus for the 1919 Blossom Festival. Some kind of musical zenith was reached in 1926 when the program included selections by the Festival Chorus, consisting of units under several post-Davies directors, and a concert by the San Francisco Symphony, under noted director Alfred Hertz. Until 1928, the locale for these events was Festival Glen, a natural amphitheater on the site of the present Saratogan condominiums on Saratoga Avenue. In 1928, the location was moved to a site off Fruitvale Avenue, near the present Valle Vista Drive, where the audience sat on one hillside facing the platform, which was at the base of another hill. That year also marked the introduction of original ballets, by Vivian Amet Johnston, and later, Dorice Andreuccetti.

There was a two-year hiatus during the Depression years of 1934 and 1935, and the programs were resumed in 1936 at Festival Glen. Adding a touch of class to the stage platform at both locations was the installation, along rear and side edges, of stately white columns, surmounted by classical urns—actually made of sheet metal—giving the whole an air of Grecian or Roman magnificence. Two of these white columns stood at the entrance to the festival grounds, with a large sign in gold letters, “Saratoga Blossom Festival.”

When Army Field Artillery units were encamped here for a time after the outbreak of World War II, one of the first things they did

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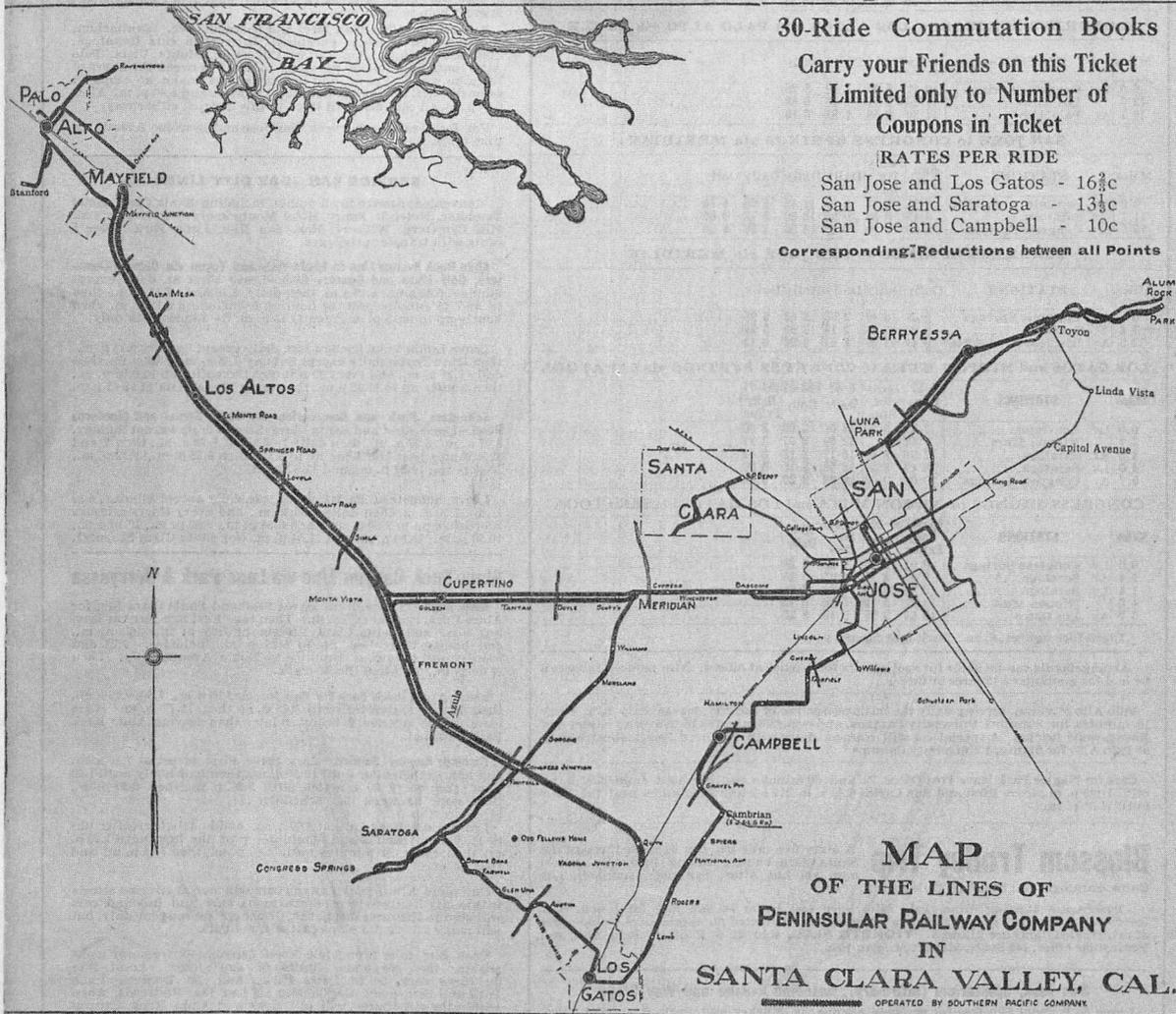
RATES PER RIDE

San Jose and Los Gatos - 16 $\frac{3}{4}$ c

San Jose and Saratoga - 13 $\frac{3}{4}$ c

San Jose and Campbell - 10c

Corresponding Reductions between all Points



SIGHT-SEEING TROLLEY TRIPS

BLOSSOM TROLLEY TRIP--65 miles, personally conducted, \$1.00. Seeing San Jose, Los Gatos, Saratoga and Stanford University

LOOP TRIP--28 miles, 50c. Seeing San Jose, Saratoga and Los Gatos.

ALUM ROCK CANYON TRIP--20c. Seeing Alum Rock Park and eastern foothills.

Information at Peninsular Railway Co., 143 South Market St., Phone San Jose 404.

Map in Peninsular Railway Company's Time Tables (schedule) for 1917. Options for blossom viewing included a 65 mile round-trip from San Jose to Palo Alto and a 28 mile "loop trip" from San Jose to Saratoga and Los Gatos. Courtesy Stockmeir Library and Archives.

was to paint over the white-pillared entrance with camouflage colors. Too visible to enemy bombers.

There are many facets to the Blossom Festival story, such as the period from 1904 to 1933 when interurban cars of the Peninsular Railway brought hordes of visitors to the festivals and ran special Blossom Tours around the valley. There were related activities, such as the Sunrise Services held at the Three Oaks Way home of the Rev. Edwin Sidney "Everlasting Sunshine" Williams, who conceived the idea of a Blossom Festival in 1899. Williams died in 1918, and his grave can be seen at Madronia Cemetery.

Although World War II effectively ended the Blossom Festival in what had become its traditional format, the spirit lived on.

After the war, Blossom Time Chip-in Day was observed as a community celebration. In 1951, a festival was revived under the old name with an elaborate parade. In recent years, the Saratoga Chamber of Commerce has kept the name alive with a celebration, sans blossoms, at Wildwood Park. None was held this year, however.

Perhaps the longest-standing observance using the traditional name was the Blossom Festival Golf Tournament, held at La Rinconada Country Club in Los Gatos. Even that has gone by the boards, however. The 49th and final one was held last year.

Sic transit gloria mundi, and sic transit blossoms.

CULTURAL PRESERVATION

Orchard Heritage Park Interpretive Exhibit

Orchard Heritage Park Interpretive Exhibit (OHPIE) is slated to be a permanent, open-air depiction of the orchard era in Santa Clara Valley's history. It is designed as a roofed and frame structure, roughly reminiscent of a barn, with exhibit panels to tell the story of fruit-growing in the valley from 1875 to 1975. "We need something here as a living museum—a record for our children and new arrivals to know what this place was like 75 years ago," explained OHPIE taskforce chairperson and Sunnyvale resident Joe Gutierrez.

The exhibit will be built adjacent to the Arboretum building at the Sunnyvale Community Center off of Remington Avenue in Sunnyvale. Nestled next to the center and bordering the exhibit site is a ten acre apricot orchard which, by some planning and much luck, has never been developed. The juxtaposition of the exhibit and the living orchard will allow visitors to see, feel, and smell an orchard as well as examine historic photographs and read about a long-gone era.

The professionally designed exhibit panels will examine the business of fruit growing with quotations from some who were engaged in that work. Photographs collected from orchard families will be incorporated with fruit labels to give the interpretive center a truly personal feel. The images will educate the young and bring back recollections to the once-young.

OHPIE was first conceived in 1990 by some individuals associated with the Sunnyvale Historical Society & Museum Association. The idea of an orchard interpretive center caught the

attention of the Department of Parks and Recreation in Sunnyvale and eventually City Hall. As a result, the city-owned orchard was preserved and a cooperative effort to create an interpretive exhibit began.

Later, the concept of OHPIE appealed to a broader community and funds were collected from Sunnyvale donors as well as contributions from Santa Clara County and from other communities who wanted to support a historical commemoration of the former "valley of heart's delight."

The budget for the whole project is \$500,000. This will include the structure, exhibit panels, and an adjacent amphitheatre for visitors, school groups or tours to hear docents or speakers on the topic of the orchard era. In order to break ground in the spring of 1998, the OHPIE taskforce would like to have \$350,000 collected. So far, major donations have come from Citibank, JSR Microelectronics, Inc., and the Heritage Commission of Santa Clara County. A number of smaller grants have also been received, including from the Souriseau Academy for State and Local History at San Jose State University and the California Council for the Promotion of History.

Many families have also made generous contributions. Along with the contributions, individuals can purchase a "brick." The brick pavers can be engraved with a name or sentiment, appropriate to the donor. The \$100 bricks have been a way for many to commemorate their family or memorialize individuals.

For more information or to make a contribution, please call Joe Gutierrez at the Sunnyvale Historical Society, 749-0220.

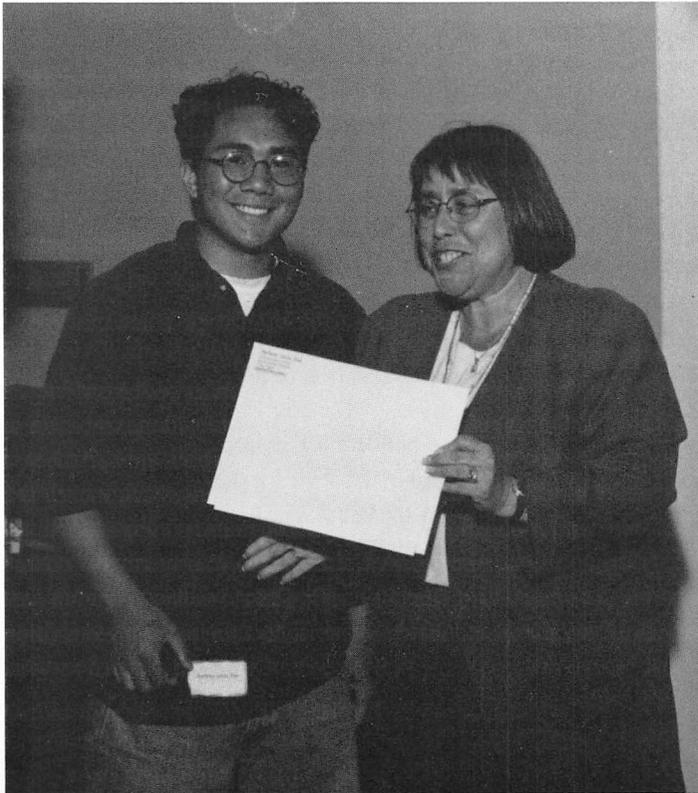


Tikvica family cherry crate label. Ray Tikvica agreed to be interviewed about orchard life for the Orchard Heritage Park exhibit. Courtesy Raymond Tikvica.

FOUNDATION NOTES

Director's Scholarship Awarded

De Anza College student Anthony (Tony) Santa Ana was unanimously selected as the first recipient of the CHC's Director's Scholarship, a \$500 award. The scholarship was established in honor of those who have served as Director of the California History Center, and their commitment to promoting engagement with the major issues of California's past, present and future. The scholarship recognizes and rewards students who have, through their educational, professional or voluntary activities, demonstrated substantial interest and involvement in the intellectual and social issues of California life.



Anthony Santa Ana (left) recipient of the Director's Scholarship and De Anza College President Martha Kanter.



One hundred fifty people attended CHC's first annual California Studies Conference held May 14 at De Anza Campus Center. The day was punctuated by large and small group discussions about crossing cultural borders in California.

entertainment Books

Support the CHC and get a discount on hotels and restaurants across the country! This fall the CHC will be selling *entertainment*, a book full of discounts on a whole range of entertainment, meal and accommodation opportunities. Major hotels and elegant restaurants offer up to a 50% discount for *entertainment* card holders.

Cost of the book varies with the particular location. Please note however, all the books offer world-wide hotel discounts.

San Jose/Santa Clara Country: \$40.00

San Francisco/San Mateo Country: \$40.00

Sonoma/Napa Wine County: \$25.00

Monterey Peninsula/Santa Cruz County: \$30.00

Lake Tahoe/Reno Area: \$30.00

Many employers give the *entertainment* book to employees or clients as holiday gifts. Please purchase yours at the California History Center to support our programs.

In Memory

Cathie Lusk, a California History Center Supporter and Foothill-De Anza Community College District employee, died on July 11, 1997. Mrs. Lusk worked at De Anza College Bookstore, as an instructor at Foothill college, and at the Foothill Electronic Museum.

Wanted: Volunteers

For the past year, Mary Strong has been the Volunteer Coordinator for the CHC. Besides coordinating the tasks of the volunteers and staffing events like the California Studies Conference, Mary has single-handedly managed the database of the CHC membership records.

Unfortunately for us, Mary and her husband Warren, are building a home in Elk Grove, California and will be re-locating there this summer. While we have warmest wishes for the Strongs, Mary's dedication, good humor, and detailed work will be greatly missed.

The CHC is actively recruiting new volunteers. Of course, we approach you, our members first. The following is a list of volunteer possibilities at the CHC:

- A MAN OR WOMAN TO PROVIDE COMPUTER TECHNICAL HELP. We have a scanner, but it needs to be hooked up; we need help building our web site and various other computer needs.
- Stockmeir library: processing archival material and a variety of library support work
- CHC front office: receptionist, over-all greeter, and a variety of clerical work
- Membership database manager
- Docents: for tours of Le Petit Trianon, home of the CHC and De Anza College campus
- One-time help at conferences or events

A few hours a week or one day a month could help us out tremendously. Please call today and leave your name and number (408) 864-8712.



"Local History Day" at Heintzelman's Book Store in Los Altos. Author Yvonne Olson Jacobson (seated on left) and De Anza College Instructor Jim Williams (seated on right) greet customers. Forty-five CHC publications sold that day.

Board News

The Board of Trustees of the California History Center welcomes two new members. **John McLaughlin** is the founder and president of the Santa Clara Valley Historical Association, which was formed to produce and publish the book *The Making of Silicon Valley: A One Hundred Year Renaissance* and the related videotape hosted by Walter Cronkite of the same name. In addition, McLaughlin is also the owner of CUPS, a coffee and snack bar at the Palo Alto Medical Clinic.

McLaughlin has worked in the field of publishing for twenty years, including founding and editing *Sportlite*, and international marketing publication and *Lane Country Living* magazine.

He has worked closely with past president and current board trustee Ward Winslow who edited *The Making of Silicon Valley*.

Bob Peepari has also agreed to join the CHC Board of Trustees. The San Francisco native is an architect by profession, is past chairman of the Saratoga Heritage Preservation Commission, and is currently serving as a commissioner. Since 1987 he has been involved with Filoli, a peninsula mansion and garden, a National Trust for Historic Preservation property. He lectures docent classes on the architecture of Filoli, and currently is a docent himself.

Peepari would like his contribution to the CHC to be related to architecture and historic preservation of historically significant structures.

A heartfelt welcome to both John and Bob.

The officers of the Board of Trustees for the 1997-98 academic year are Bill Lester, President; Ward Winslow, Vice President; Marion Grimm, Secretary; and Bill Ralston, Treasurer. Three board members agreed to another three-year term. They are Doni Hubbard, David Howard-Pitney, and Marion Grimm.



CHC supporters gathered at the Hubbard home for the Huell Howser dinner and fundraiser. Left to right: CHC Trustee Bob Peepari, CHC Trustee and De Anza faculty member David Howard-Pitney, CHC Trustee Ward Winslow and CHC Director Kathi Peregrin.

California Studies Honor Roll

The following individuals have either helped us recruit new members this year, or have contributed to our Johnny Appleseed fund in support of California Studies

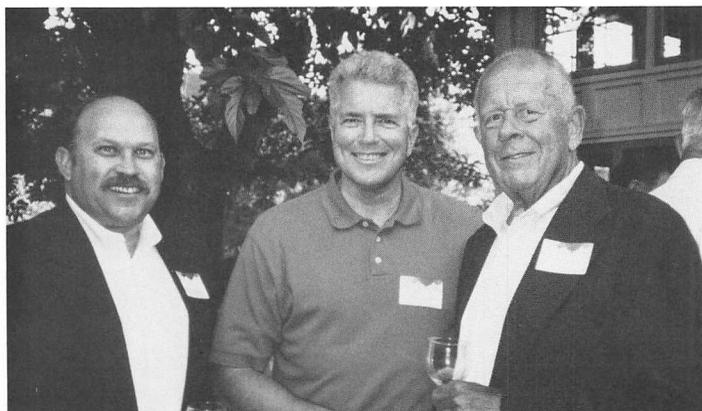
Marion & Ernest Card	Ruth Miller
Alfred Chasuk	Marjorie Myers
Marianne & Bjarne Dahl	Katherine Peterson
Eleanor Garrissere	Eugene Ravizza
Marion Grimm	Helen Riisberg
Merlyn S. Howell	Margaret Soares
Hugh Stuart center Charitable Trust	Miriam Stelling
Yvonne Jacobson	Mary & Warren Strong
William Lester III	Ward Winslow
William & Cyanne McElhinney	Barbara Wood

Special Donations for Huell Howser Dinner

Dan Alexander	Michael and Jolene Victor Lopez
Marc Bookman	John and Sally McLaughlin
Lavinia Cooke	John L. and Clysta Seney McLemore
Nan Geschke	Jodie Morgan
Marion and Robert Grimm	Charles and Deborah Newman
David Howard-Pitney	Willys and Betty Peck
Beatrice Hubbard	Robert Peepari
Mary Jo Ignoffo	Kathi Peregrin
Yvonne and William Jacobson	James Williams
Martha Kanter	Ward and Holly Winslow
William Lester III	

Food Donations for Huell Howser Reception

Trader Joe's, Sunnyvale
Whole Foods, Cupertino



New Members

Sponsor

Jennifer Bohrnstedt, John McLaughlin.

Supporter

Judy Coleman, Huell Howser, Judy C. Miner, Chiyo Winters.

Family

Pat and Jackson Eaves, Raymond and Thelma Epstein, Dee Dee and Darcy Kost, Dr. and Mrs. Bradley Zlotnick.

Individual

Dorothy Ames, Barbara Belknap Brown, Virginia Carlsen, Michael S. Chang, Chatham H. Forbes, Crystal Gamage, Jim Garrissere, Lisa Liotta, Monica Liotta, MP and Helen R. Mathisen, Lillian Pang.

Renewing Members

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Family

Betty and Walter Collins, William and Thai Craine, Elizabeth and Philip Diether, James Feng, Betty and Bob Fisk, Burton and Eloy Rogers, John and Marilyn Rooney, Jean Rusmore, Joseph and Mary Ann Skitarelic, Janet W. Smith, Eileen and Duane Snider, Martin and Lauralee Sorenson, Bruce and Elinor Wilner.

Individual

Aubrey Abramson, George Aihara, John C. Aird, Anne Bakotich, Russell Bartlett, Fran Bennion, Susan Bull, Laura Calloway, Daniel Cornford, Beverly Cochrane David, Mrs. Margaret Drury, Marilyn Edwardson, Diane K. Etten, Richard Grialou, Linda Grodt, Josephine Harper, Linda S. Larson, Robert J. Levy, Edith G. Mathes, Ruth Miller, Marjorie Myers, Damon G. Nalty, Betty Ortez, Jan Paull, Paula Quintero, Ellen Shaw, Lynn Sprague, Joseph Sweeney, Margaret Swift, Margaret Trefen, Paul Trimble, Eleanor Watanabe, William R. Wilson, Beth Wyman.

CHC Trustee Doni Hubbard and her husband Los Altos Hills Mayor Sid Hubbard hosted a fund-raising dinner in May with California's Gold Huell Howser to benefit the history center. Pictured here (left to right) Santa Clara City Councilman John McLemore, Huell Howser, and CHC Trustee Bob Peepari.

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CALIFORNIAN

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Your contribution is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. The value of goods received as a benefit of membership must be deducted from the amount of all contributions claimed as a deduction. CHCF members receive tri-annual issues of "The Californian" magazine and members who contribute at the \$50 level and above also receive a yearly Local History Studies publication.

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