



# SARATOGA HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

PO BOX 172, SARATOGA, CALIFORNIA 95071  
January 2011

**Don't miss the free lecture on New Almaden January 17;  
New exhibit on woman's suffrage opening February 6; Check out the  
Mustard Faire March 6; Don't miss the March 21 lecture on Sarah Winchester;  
And renew your membership today!!!!**

## **New Almaden—Once the Largest Quicksilver Mine in California--Free Lecture**

“The History of New Almaden—Once the Largest Quicksilver Mine in California” will be presented on Monday, January 17 by noted authors and local historians Art Boudreault and Mike Boulland.

The program will take place on January 17, at 7:15 PM. Those participating in the potluck dinner should arrive at 6:30 PM and bring food to share, your own dishes and eating utensils. Beverages of water, tea or coffee will be provided. The Immanuel Lutheran Church is located at 14103 Saratoga Avenue in Saratoga. The event is free and open to the public.

New Almaden is located outside of San Jose and was once the oldest and richest mine in California. Discovered in 1845, its quicksilver payload was crucial for gold and silver processing and for manufacturing munitions. During the Civil War President Abraham Lincoln was urged to seize the mine which would have upset every mining title in California and Nevada and might have caused these states to turn and join the Confederacy. Dressed in character, Boudreault speaks through the eyes of James B. Randol, the mine manager from 1870 to 1892. Boulland speaks as Robert Bulmore, who succeeded Randol as mine manager. Their presentation is accompanied by priceless images of New Almaden. After the mine shafts were abandoned—the mercury pollution

Was discovered and this issue will be included in the presentation.

The New Almaden Quicksilver Mine produced over \$75 million from some of the deepest network of quicksilver shafts on earth. Diverse laborers populated this thriving town, creating neighborhoods called Hacienda, Englishtown, and Spanishtown along with the mine manager's stately home, Casa Grande. Although the mines are now closed and the great ore furnace cold, the Casa Grande still stands along with a residential community that was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1963.



Boudreault is a retired electrical engineer and is the director, treasurer and archivist for New Almaden Quicksilver County Park Association; director of the Almaden Valley Community Association; docent and researcher for the New Almaden Mining Museum. He has co-authored the book, “New Almaden” as well as “Journey to Recovery” and written several magazine articles on historic topics.

Boulland is a retired elementary school teacher. He is president of the Friends of Santa Teresa Park Association and a director in both the New Almaden Community Club and NAQCPA. He is a tour guide and docent at the New Almaden Mining museum and History San Jose. He co-authored “New Almaden” and has previously published books entitled “Whoppers and Ghostly Tales from Rancho Santa Teresa” and the “Legend of Santa Teresa.”

# The Gift of a Lifetime



A national philanthropic group currently uses this quote by Sir Winston Churchill to explain their philosophy: “We make a living by what we get but we make a life by what we give.”

In similar fashion, we would like to thank our lifetime members this new year by recognizing their gift. Each has given a gift of \$2000 and are recognized with their name on

a plaque posted in the Museum.

This gift demonstrates their support and appreciation to the Saratoga Historical Foundation. A big thank you is extended to the following:

- Rick Bonetti*  
*Mr. and Mrs. Phillip Boyce*  
*George Cooper*  
*William and Diane Gorman*  
*Richard Harkness*  
*Warren and Sheila Heid*  
*Mike and Maureen Herran*  
*Evelyn Johnston*  
*Amy June Jorgensen*  
*David and Bette Loomis*  
*Bob and Anne Louden*  
*Marilyn Marchetti*  
*Carol Maulden*  
*Laura Menard*  
*Jim Sorden*  
*Rick and Ann Waltonsmith*

**Saratoga Historical Foundation Officers**  
*The mission of the Saratoga Historical Foundation is to preserve the unique history of Saratoga for the education and enjoyment of the community.*

## Executive Committee

Bob Himel, President  
 Annette Stransky, Vice President, Marketing  
 Ron Hagelin, Recording Secretary  
 Jane Asher, Treasurer, Social Director

## Newsletter

The Saratoga Historical Foundation newsletter is produced 6X a year. If you have comments or suggestions, please call 408-867-7468 or e-mail: [annette@saratogahistory.com](mailto:annette@saratogahistory.com)

## Museum and Gift Shop

The Saratoga History Museum and McWilliams House are open from 1-4 PM Friday through Sunday. Call 408-867-4311 to arrange group or docent-led tours.

Visit our website: <http://www.saratogahistory.com>.

## At Your Service



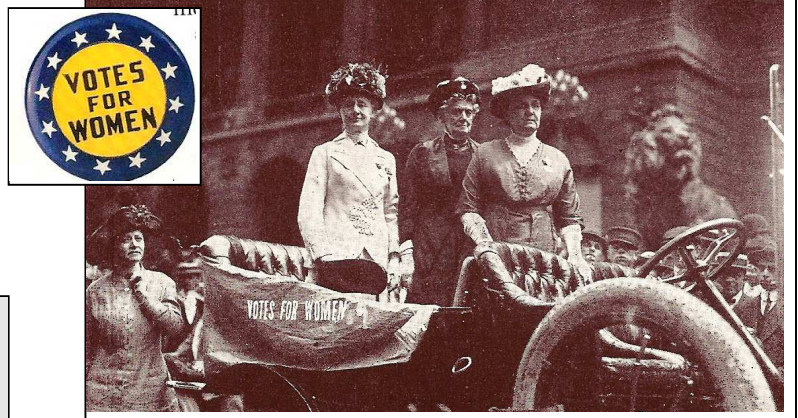
Don Loughridge turned in his key this year, retiring as a Museum Docent. Loughridge always had a smile for visitors and if they had the time, would tell them about his World War II experiences. He had been a Lt. JG and a member of the submarine crew of the USS Lizardfish.

Loughridge has lived in Saratoga for 46 years and his residency was useful in telling Museum visitors about Saratoga history. He is a long-

time member of the Saratoga Historical Foundation and says of course he will continue his membership-- “it’s just getting too hard now to continue as a docent.” But he said he will continue to be active with one of his hobbies—to go to a local high school on the weekend and fly radio controlled airplanes with his friends. He notes, “afterwards we go and drink coffee and tell a few lies or two!”

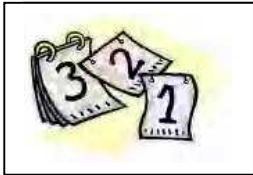
The SHF Board of Directors (and Museum visitors) thank Loughridge for his many years of commitment and help in keeping the doors of the Museum open each weekend.

## New Exhibit Opens February 6 Celebrating 100 Years of Suffrage



This year marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the state of California awarding women the right to vote. Proposition 4 of 1911 was an amendment of the Constitution of California that granted women the right to vote in the state for the first time. It was approved by voters as part of a special election on October 10 in 1911. An earlier attempt to enfranchise women had been rejected in 1896. California was the sixth state to pass this amendment. Nine years later women's suffrage was recognized at the federal level by the Nineteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. This new exhibit is highlighted by memorabilia from Isabella (Bella) Blaney who was active locally in woman’s rights. Blaney, shown in white, lived in the Rancho Bella Vista estate in Saratoga. The exhibit opens Feb. 6 and runs through May 31 at the Museum. Don’t miss it!!

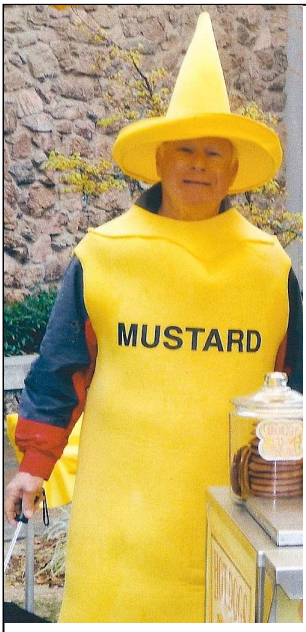




## Save These Dates!

Now-Jan. 26	<b>Uncorking Prohibition</b> exhibit at the Museum
Jan 17	<b>New Almaden lecture and potluck</b> at Immanuel Lutheran Church
Feb 1-14	<b>Love Notes</b> , SVDC event, in the Village
Feb. 6-May 31	New exhibit: <b>Calif. Women Get the Vote</b>
March 6	<b>Mustard Faire</b>
March 12	<b>St. Paddy's Day</b> , 2-4, SVDC event with green food, music and dancing!
March 21	<b>Sarah Winchester lecture and potluck</b> at Immanuel Lutheran Church

## A Decade of Mustard



The yellow mustard flowers are in full bloom and nodding in the breeze in anticipation of the 10<sup>th</sup> annual Mustard Faire. The event is scheduled to be held Sunday, March 6 from 10 AM to 4 PM at the Warren Hutton House and Heritage Orchard.

Norm Koepernik who is organizing the event has promised a fun-filled day packed with things to do and see. Hay rides and other entertainment for children and the young at heart; musical groups; mustard tasting; docent-led walks in the orchard; antique cars; wine tasting, local crafts, and more are planned.

The Saratoga Historical Foundation will participate, too. Be sure and stop by and visit!

The Mustard Faire celebrates the agricultural history of Saratoga by highlighting the Heritage Orchard. Once upon a time the orchards of “the Valley of Heart’s Delight” could be seen everywhere even extending to the center of the Saratoga Village. Today the Heritage Orchard and nearby Novakovich ranch are just a quiet reminder of agricultural life—the orchards replaced with commercial and housing development. The 18-acre Heritage Orchard has apricots, prunes, and cherries representing fruit grown locally in years past. The Novakovich family maintains the orchard in addition to their own adjacent property.

Come see this free, annual event and meet Mother Nature, Mother Earth, maybe even “Colonel Mustard” and others who promise to make this event special.

Above photo courtesy of Jim Sorden.

## A Mystery and Sarah Winchester

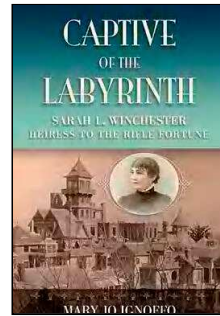


Join us March 21 at our potluck/membership meeting as Mary Jo Ignoffo talks about “Captive of the Labyrinth: Sarah L. Winchester, Heiress to the Rifle Fortune.” The topic is the same as the title of her new book and copies of the book will be available for purchase.

The program will take place on Monday March 21, at 7:15 PM.

Those participating in the potluck dinner should arrive at 6:30 PM and bring food to share, your own dishes and eating utensils. Beverages of water, tea or coffee will be provided. The Immanuel Lutheran Church is located at 14103 Saratoga Avenue in Saratoga. The event is free and open to the public.

Sarah Winchester inherited a vast fortune upon the death of her husband in 1888. For twenty years rumors cast Winchester as repentant for the deaths from the Winchester rifle, the source of her wealth. She became known as being obsessed with spiritualism. Fact or myth...come to the lecture and find out!!



Mary Jo Ignoffo is a historian and has spent 20 years researching and writing about California and community history. She has worked with museums in Sunnyvale, California History Center, and the Los Altos History Museum. She has written the book, “Gold Rush Politics” and five other books on California history as well as written articles for the San Jose Mercury

News, Santa Clara Magazine and the Californian. She teaches in the history department of De Anza College in Cupertino, California.

## Are You a Character?



The second annual Heritage Day is scheduled for Saturday May 21 in the Village and at the Museum. The organizers are looking for people to dress as famous Saratogans.

Last year the popular event had 35 costumed characters including Dr. Painless Parker, Martin McCarty, Charles Blaney — to mention a few. Get in touch with your alter ego and sign up to help make this event even bigger. It is a great opportunity to meet people and to learn about local history. Laurel Perusa says the goal this year is to have 50 famous Saratogans.

## A Castle is a Man's (and Woman's!) House

James Otis wrote in 1761, "A man's house is his castle; and while he is quiet, he is well guarded as a prince in his castle."



Perched high in the hills of Saratoga, majestically overlooking a valley of oaks and sturdy vineyards, sits a whimsical home built

of stone with turrets, and known locally as "the castle."

Robert and Gay Bohn designed and built the house in 1986, inspired after living in London for three years. The fairy book style home features turrets, spiral staircase, and a hidden room. No moats, arrow slits, or suits of armor but the home, like a castle, is solidly built of stone.

Some of the special features include leaded glass windows across the front; cathedral windows; Vermont slate for the rear terrace; wood beams taken from an old barn in Minnesota for the kitchen and family room; 8' of circular shamrock green slate for the stone driveway; San Francisco cobblestone once used for ballast on sailing ships, for the exterior; Austrian crystal chandelier in the diningroom; and large brass chandelier in the marble entrance.

## Happy Valentine's Day



Valentine's day is February 14--- give someone a gift from the Museum gift shop; a subscription/membership to the Saratoga Historical Foundation (a year-long gift!) or bake a treat to enjoy.

The following is a special recipe from the late Florence Cunningham who used to live on Saratoga Avenue. She was the town historian for many years, collecting memorabilia and writing articles about Saratoga. The information she collected was turned into a book called: Saratoga's First Hundred Years.

### Kisses

2 cups corn flakes  
2 egg whites  
1 cup granulated sugar  
1 tsp. vanilla  
½ cup coconut  
pinch salt

*Beat the whites of eggs until stiff and dry, gradually add the sugar and beat continuously for two minutes then add the other ingredients, stirring only long enough to mix thoroughly. Drop by teaspoonfuls on cookie sheet and bake in a very moderate oven.*

Originally printed in a Foothill Club book of recipes, date unknown.

## Special Thanks

SHF recently honored Laurel Perusa for her work as Correspondence Secretary and overall contributions to the organization with a plaque. Among some of Laurel's contributions has been the first silent auction as a fundraiser as well as organizing the costumed characters for Heritage Day. More recently Perusa and Ginny Sampson recently gifted all the third grade teachers in Saratoga with a copy of "Sunshine the Cat" in an effort to acquaint them with Saratoga History.

## Flying Tigers Take Flight



The Flying Tiger lecture held in December at the Saratoga Community Library attracted over 100 attendees. Many thanks to Ray Cosyn, Flying Tiger Pilot Bud Rideout; Ann Waltonsmith, Curtis Wright and Ernie Kraule for their participation. Special appreciation to the much decorated Rideout for bringing his wartime memorabilia—including the parachute used to bailout of his plane on his 38<sup>th</sup> mission.

Thanks also to Chiiming Kao and Yan Zhao for organizing the Chinese media.



### Field Trip to the Mountain Winery

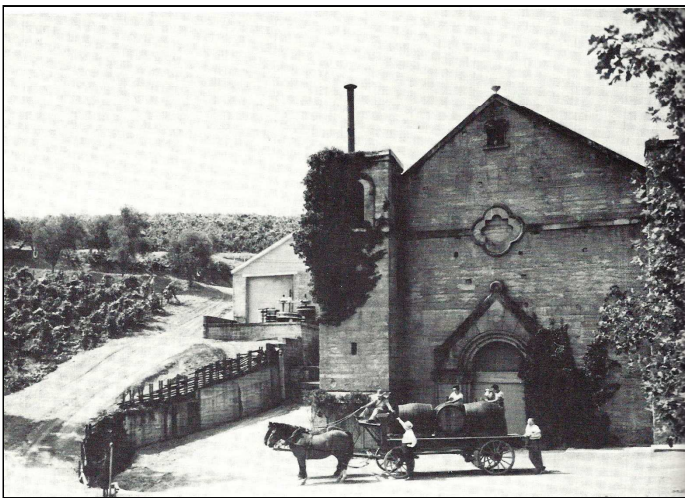
During the holidays, the SHF board of directors were treated to a private tour of the Mountain Winery formerly called the Paul Masson Champagne Winery by Dave House, one of the owners.

The Paul Masson winery became a historic resource in 1960 and is California State Landmark #733 because of the contributions of Paul Masson and later owner Martin Ray to the wine industry. The winery is also on the National Register of Historic Places and listed on the California Register of Historical Resources.

Paul Masson centered his champagne production in 1896 in Saratoga. Originally called the La Cresta Vineyard with land purchased from Alexander Rodoni and located high in the hills of Saratoga off Pierce Road, the winery provides a stunning view of the valley.

Although today, the winery and location is used for concerts and as a restaurant, the winery remains much the same in outward appearance as when it was originally built. The frugal Masson had the winery built from stones taken from the Saratoga Winery (formerly the Charles Maclay tannery) destroyed by the 1906 earthquake and the stone portal from the St. Patrick's church in San Jose. The 12<sup>th</sup> century stone portal originally came from Spain around the Horn.

This 1900 photo shows the original sandstone winery—



note the champagne glass on the apex of the roof.

Today the inside of the winery is used for meetings and as a restaurant. Each room has memorabilia from the Paul Masson period including the many awards won by Masson. Masson won the first Grand Prix ever awarded to an American champagne vintner in 1914—establishing California wines as competitive to France. The exterior of the grounds also has some of the original barrels and wine press.

A special treat was seeing the inside of Chateau La Cresta built by Paul Masson and used for entertaining. This house is normally closed to the public. The house was built in a Spanish Eclectic design around 1915 or about the time of the San Francisco Panama-Pacific International Exposition. It was about this time that the curvaceous Actress Anna Held took a “champagne bath” at Masson's

home creating a stir. Known for her milk baths, the event provided tremendous publicity for both Held and Masson.

Masson was known for extravagant parties—with imported meats; fresh vegetables grown on-site; and champagne freely pouring. Well-known guests would walk in from the patio and see the large fireplace—big enough to roast three turkeys and enjoy a gourmet repast. The guests would sip champagne and eat pate spread on crusty French bread while looking out over the valley—enjoying the spectacular hillside view.

For more information about Paul Masson and Martin Ray, please come to the Museum for the current exhibit: Uncorking Prohibition and It's Effect on the Wine Industry. The exhibit is free and will run through January 26. The Museum is open from 1-4 PM Friday, Saturday and Sunday.



### A Dry Topic...

SHF Historian Ray Cosyn delivered an interesting talk on prohibition in November. He is giving the talk again this month in front of a local winemaking group. If you belong to an organization that would be interested in hearing the presentation or one on

the Interurban Railway—please e-mail Cosyn at [ray@saratogahistory.com](mailto:ray@saratogahistory.com) or call the museum at 408-867-4311.

### Pressing Event

Charlie Snyder has donated the wine press presently on exhibit to the Museum. It is for sale with the money from the sale going to the Saratoga Historical Foundation. If you are interested in purchasing it, please call 408-867-4311. The press is being offered for \$275

## Sempervirens Club and One Saratoga Family

My family arrived in Saratoga in 1922. As people without a bankroll or financial backing, they started as sharecroppers—renting and working existing orchards. World War II came along, there were five sons of military age and four of those joined the United States Army.

The fifth son, Emmett Whalen, had a family and was a farmer. He partnered with another man who not only had a family and a disability but was also a farmer.

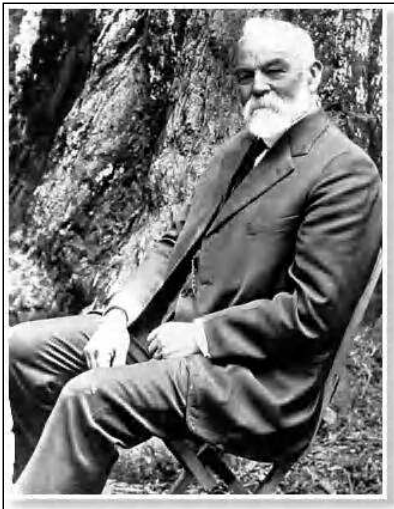
All Japanese Americans on the West Coast, including those from Saratoga were interned in camps unless they, too, joined the American military. My uncle and his partner, Robert Kirkwood, farmed eight of the interned Japanese-American ranches, returning them in good condition and on equitable financial arrangements at the end of the war.

After the war, Robert Kirkwood went into politics, becoming the state assemblyman representing the West Valley area in Sacramento. He later was appointed State Controller (preceeding the well-known Alan Cranston).

My aunt and uncle, Alice and Emmett Whalen remained in farming and on the family ranch on Skyline Boulevard, Castlerock Ranch.

Let me move to the story now and to the original conservation organization in Central California—the Sempervirens Fund.

Sempervirens Fund, originally established in 1900 as Sempervirens Club, is California's oldest land conservation



organization. Founder Andrew P. Hill's goal was to preserve the old-growth forest that became Big Basin Redwoods State Park, the first California state park in 1902. Dedicated to preserving the forest ecology of the majestic coast redwoods, all of the Fund's resources are focused on a single "bio-region"; the,

immediately adjacent to the San Francisco Bay Area.

The principal members of the new group became what we we would call todayl "lobbyists." They lobbied the state government in Sacramento and elsewhere to preserve the old growth redwood forests in the Santa Cruz mountains—principally Big Basin and Henry Cowell Redwoods.

These prominent citizens who undertook this important work were Andrew P. Hill, a photographer who captured the majesty of the forest giants with his camera, Carrie Stevens Walter of the San Jose Women's Club; San Jose Attorney, DM Delmas (Delmas Street in San Jose); Harry Wells, the editor of the San Jose Mercury; and the two most well-known educators in the area—David P. Jordan, President of

Stanford University and the Reverend Robert Henna, San Jose and President of Santa Clara University.

Their efforts paid off because in 1902, Big Basin



Redwoods State Park was dedicated as the first State Park in California.

Since then several other redwood state parks have been created in the Santa Cruz mountains. Many people and organizations contributed toward this but the one constant and totally

focused group is the Sempervirens Fund.

The Sempervirens Fund has three goals: to permanently preserve redwood forest land in the Santa Cruz mountains; to permanently preserve wild life habitats, watersheds and other important natural features of the Santa Cruz mountains.

Since 1900, they have protected more than 25,000 acres of redwood forest, planted more than 23,000 redwood trees, built and maintained more than 60 miles of trails in the Santa Cruz mountains.

They actively solicit and move to acquire redwood forest land, conservation easements, trail easements and gifts of real estate.

Their ultimate goal is to create the "Great Park." This means to connect and combine Big Basin Redwoods State Park, Butano State Park, Portola Redwoods State Park, Castle Rock State Park, and Ano Nuevo State Park—along up Pescadero Creek County Park (San Mateo) Longrid ge (the one in the Atascadero watershed not the off Stetson Road off old San Jose road in Santa Cruz county) and Saratoga Gap Open Space Preserves, Sanborn County Park, Coast Daries, Wilder Ranch State Park and Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park.

Time moves on. My aunt and uncle passed on as did former State Controller Robert Kirkwood. The decision was made to sell the ranch. There are four siblings inheriting Castlerock Ranch. Three are selling. The eldest son, Robert Emmett Whalen, Junior has chosen to remain on the ranch. He will continue to operate the ranch as a Christmas tree farm. In the last 150 years the enterprise has covered logging, growing watermelons, apples, pears and now Christmas trees.

Finally a deal was struck between the Whalens and the Semperviren's Fund. Very quietly the Kirkwood family put up one half of the funds for the part of the ranch that was for sale with the remaining funds raised to match.

Written by Michael Whalen, SHF member

## ***"In spite of the cost of living, it's still popular."***



Kathleen Thompson Norris was a popular novelist centering her stories in California with people living an upper-class lifestyle. She and her husband Charles used to stay at what is now known as "Camp Swig" just outside of Saratoga during the summertime when they lived in Saratoga.

Norris was one of the 20<sup>th</sup> century's most popular writers for women and one of the highest-paid female writers of her time. She published over 80 books in her lifetime.

Norris was born in San Francisco, California on July 16, 1880. Her parents were Josephine and James Alden Thompson. To help support her siblings when their parents died in 1899, Kathleen worked at a hardware store and the Mechanics Institute library. She attended the University of California for a short period.

On April 30, 1909 Kathleen married at age 29 into the literary Norris family, Charles G. Norris (brother of Frank) with whom she had a son. By 1910 she started to produce short stories that she published in various magazines such as the Saturday Evening Post, Ladies Home Journal and Good Housekeeping.

She and her husband moved to New York where she continued to write short stories. Her first published book was "Mother" in 1911. It was said the book was highly praised by President Theodore Roosevelt and that when he learned she lived nearby, he ran up six flights of stairs to meet her.

The 1920's saw their return to California and to the 200 acre ranch they had maintained in Saratoga. One local story had it that Norris was so engrossed in writing that once when there was a small fire at the ranch, she continued typing while moving outside to be out of danger.

Love, work and service was her recipe for success and happiness in writing. She became a role model for thousands of women through her writing. Many of her books are still relevant and popular today.

Some favorite quotes from Kathleen Norris:

*"Life is easier to take than you think; all that is necessary is to accept the impossible, do without the indispensable and bear the intolerable."*

*"There is no solitude in the world like that of the big city."*

*"Changing husbands is only changing trouble."*

*"None of us knows what the next change is going to be, what unexpected opportunity is just around the corner, waiting a few months or a few years to change all the tenor of our lives."*

*"Before you begin a thing, remind yourself that difficulties and delays quite impossible to foresee are ahead. If you could see them clearly, naturally you could do a great deal to get rid of them but you can't. You can only see one thing clearly and that is your goal. Form a mental vision of that and cling to it through thick and thin."*

Norris was unafraid to speak her mind. In the 1930's Norris joined a rally for world disarmament – shocking many. She joined Charles Lindbergh to oppose United States ships carrying supplies to the British. She was an ardent feminist supporting women's rights, opposed capital punishment and worked to ban nuclear weapons.

After her husband died in 1945, Norris returned to San Francisco and continued to write and publish books. "Family Gathering" in 1959 was considered to be her informal autobiography. Norris died on January 18, 1966 at the age of 57 and is buried in Palo Alto.

### **The Ubiquitous Bermuda Grass**



In the months to come, as mailboxes fill with catalogs of exotic seeds, colorful flowers, and dreams of the perfect lawn begin to pulsate, it is time to ponder, when *did* Bermuda grass come to California? The State Agricultural Society received Bermuda grass seed in 1856 or 1857 from an East Indian agricultural society. Secretary Wheeler

sent seed to his friends in Sacramento and elsewhere for testing.

The grass grew rapidly from the seed and when the hearty winter floods of 1861-62 came, it was spread over the bottom lands below Sacramento. William C. Walker of the Golden Gate Nursery in San Francisco listed Bermuda grass at five dollars a flat in 1858. Source: Tangible Memories by Judith M. Taylor and Harry M. Butterfield.

### **Did Someone Say Shark?**

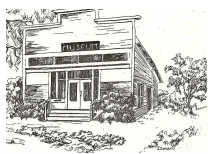


When George and Gordon Gund held a contest to name their new San Jose-based hockey team in 1990, they received more than 5000 suggestions. Although the most popular pick was Blades, the brothers were so afraid of the possible violent association with knives that they instead went

with the second most popular suggestion, Sharks.



lifetime a winegrower has only a comparatively few vintages. There is no challenge like this and no greater satisfaction than meeting this challenge over the years.”



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### Donations to the Museum



Since the November newsletter, the Museum has received the following donations: From Monica Carroll, “Like Modern Edens” by Charles

Sullivan; recipes, maps, and newspapers; from Ed Hillman, 1911 San Jose Mercury and Saratoga Observer, 1915 Blossom Festival program; from Felicia Pollock, book “Santa Clara County Harvest of Change; from Mary Mooney, framed 1893 Saratoga Standard. Thank you for these generous donations.



“If you are looking for the finest life in the world take up winegrowing,” said Saratoga Vintner Martin Ray, “for it will provide and support a way of life like no other. In winegrowing you have but one chance a year, and in an entire

## Membership Renewal

If you received a renewal slip with this newsletter, you need to renew your membership today. Please send the membership notice with your check today. Thank you.

### A Riveting Topic



Developed by Bavarian-born San Francisco entrepreneur Levi Strauss, blue jeans were originally called waist overalls. The word jeans actually comes

from the cotton pants worn by sailors off the coast of Genoa, Italy, who referred to themselves as Genes. The pants soon took on the name of the people who wore them and came to be called jeans.



