



Saratoga Historical Foundation

PO Box 172, Saratoga CA 95071

September 2019

Legendary Orchardist Shares His Story of “The Valley of Heart’s Delight”: Los Altos Historian to Interview Charlie Olson at Saratoga Library Oct. 6



Orchardist Charles Olson of Sunnyvale—founder of C.J. Olson’s Cherries—will take the stage in Saratoga to be interviewed by a writer from Los Altos. The Saratoga Historical Foundation managed to persuade, Olson, 84, to make a rare personal appearance to talk about his remarkable life and asked Los Altos journalist and historian, Robin Chapman, author of *California Apricots: The Lost Orchards of Silicon Valley* (History Press) to co-host the program. The two well-known locals will share the stage at the Saratoga Library, Sunday, October 6, 2019, at 1:30 PM, an appropriate venue since the Saratoga Library is nestled within that city’s thirteen-acre Heritage Orchard at 13650 Saratoga Avenue.

Los Altos, Saratoga, and Sunnyvale are the only three cities in the Santa Clara Valley to have retained heritage orchards as landmarks to the vast commercial orchard operation that once dominated what was

known as “The Valley of Heart’s Delight.”

In springtime, tourists came from all over the country to see the blossoms. Produce from the trees improved the nutrition of people around the world and fed America and her allies in World War I and World War II. The development of the silicon chip along with the growing population transformed the agricultural region into one dominated first by new technologies.



Charles Olson, a third-generation grower who now operates the Sunnyvale Heritage Orchard and also has interests in development and real estate, will tell the tale of his family, who immigrated to the Santa Clara Valley in the 19th century and prospered in the green and golden landscape.

For more information contact the Saratoga Historical Foundation at 408-867-4311.

Photo and writing credit, Robin Chapman.

On the Street Where You Live

The Saratoga History Museum often receives requests to identify photos, research family history, or respond to questions about city landmarks and streets.

Recently we received a request about the origin of the name of Sobey Road.

Katie Alexander provided the following information about Sobey Road. Dr. Arthur Lyne Sobey and his wife Esther retired to Saratoga after his career in medicine in San Francisco. He was born in 1851 in Cornwall, England. He completed his education in England too. He moved to SF in 1874, where he set up medical practice.

His wife, Esther Geer was born in New Hampton, Iowa and came to California with her parents. She graduated from the Pacific Union College at Healdsburg in 1908 with an AB in nursing. She taught for two years before taking up the profession of nursing. She married Edward in 1914 in San Jose.

He and his wife moved to Saratoga around 1920 where he took up ranching.

The Interurban Sanitarium had been founded by Esther Sobey's mother, Clara A. Geer. She was also a graduate nurse. Her father had a farm on Meridian Road in San Jose. When he passed away in 1918, Clara saw the possibility of establishing a nursing home on his ranch.

Clara purchased the land and had the building remodeled. She called the home the Interurban Sanitarium. The home was located on Meridian Road. The Fairfield Station on the Peninsular Railroad was nearby offering visiting convenience to visitors. Besides the healthful benefits of country air, the location was also very scenic.

Initially the Sanitarium accommodated 15 people and quickly grew in size. It was exclusively for elderly people requiring care and convalescents—no one with contagious or infectious diseases allowed.

Clara turned the administration of the Interurban Sanitarium over to Arthur and Esther in 1920



Great Expression

Remember the expression, “a day late and a dollar short?” This term probably had its roots in the Great Expression if not before. Most likely it meant not



having enough money to purchase something. However, it could also mean too little, too late. Such is life.

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Contact Us!

Saratoga Historical Foundation

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

The Saratoga Historical Park is open from 1-4 PM on Fridays and Sundays and from 10-4 PM on Saturday. For more information, i.e. group tours, you can call 408-867-4311 or e-mail info@saratogahistory.com. Be sure to also check the website at www.saratogahistory.com or see us on Facebook at facebook.com/saratogahistory. Newsletter suggestions can be sent to the editor at: info@saratogahistory.com.

UPCOMING Events

Current Exhibit:

Home Sweet Home at the Museum

October 6

Noted Cherry Orchardist Charlie Olson will talk about growing up in the Valley of Heart's Delight at the Library, 1:30 PM

November 1

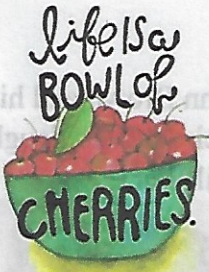
New Exhibit: Holiday Fun

November 29

Holiday Reception at the Museum

Charlie Olson Talk

Join us on Oct. 6 at 1:30 at the Saratoga Library when Orchardist Charlie Olson will talk about the Valley of Heart's Delight.



Muko Sister City Visit

For the past 30 years Saratoga has enjoyed a warm and culturally enriching relationship with Japanese Sister City Muko, a town located near the city of Kyoto.

One of the highlights of the organization is to visit Muko every other year and to host Muko, Japan when they come to the US.

This year's visit will take place October 17. The 26-strong group will be visiting the Saratoga History Museum as part of their tour.



Caption: Muko-Japan visit the Museum in 2016.

New Holiday Exhibit Debuts November 1

Just in time for the holidays—“Holiday Fun”—a new exhibit perfect for all ages. The exhibit features your favorite things about the holidays—toys, decorations and more. Definitely rated PG!

Nov. 26 Exhibit Reception



Music, light refreshments and more will abound with this holiday tradition at the Saratoga History Museum.

Come see the new exhibit, enjoy light refreshments, and visit with friends. The fun starts at 4 featuring several groups of musicians.



Saratoga's Intriguing Museum Collection Inspiring and Educational



Museums are a great educational tool. They act as windows into the past better than any text book or film. Seeing a picture of something isn't as good as seeing it up close. For centuries, museums have played an integral role in preserving the history of our society. Exhibits tell us stories about how our nation, our communities and our cultures came to be and without them, those stories could be forgotten.

Local museums provide a community with a sense of place and a collective heritage, and are a great way of getting to know the history of a particular area.

Museums are a nice way of thanking the people who lived in a certain era of time for all they did in helping us to learn, grow and prosper to where we are now. It's also a time to appreciate what others have done for us. Sometimes we find out that things "way back then" weren't really all that different to today in many ways, while they are so very much different in other ways.

Seeing something in person is quite different than seeing it on the pages of a book or on a computer screen. In fact, research shows that those who have firsthand experience are more likely to retain it later in life. Nothing compares to seeing something with your own eyes

Museums ensure understanding and appreciation for various groups and cultures. They promote

better understanding of our collective heritage and foster dialogue, curiosity and self-reflection. Further, they serve to help future generations comprehend their history and recognize the achievements of those who came before them.

Museums are both necessary and relevant today. They are the institutions charged with conserving, protecting and displaying artifacts from our past and thus preserving our rich heritage which might otherwise be lost to private collectors or to time itself. Quite simply, without museums we would most certainly lose the tangible links to our past.

Museums host events – , public, free events including lectures and workshops, and staged in incredible but convenient locations.

Museums bring history to life. A cliché, but one based on truth. When you visit a museum, you're leaving with a lifetime of memories, knowledge and a better understanding for the society and people that paved the way for life as we know it today.

The Saratoga History Museum has many artifacts of importance on a national, state as well as local level.

National Level

Portraits of Abolitionist John Brown and his wife Mary Brown created by their talented daughter Sarah— his role in the Civil War.



Article continued on page 5

continued from page 4

-The 1855 -Temperance Banner reminding us of the Prohibition movement that took place across the US.



-Local artifacts of the Muwekma Ohlones—who once walked this land.

California or State Level

The 1852 James McWilliams house is a valuable artifact and educational tool.



-letters of James Alexander Forbes-- Forbes (January 6, 1805 – May 6, 1881) was the British vice-consul to Mexican California as well as the first British consul to the U.S. state of California. He built a flour mill outside of San Jose, California (now known as Forbes Mill), and that land eventually became the basis of the town of Los Gatos.

-pioneer diary of Charles Cunningham—who settled in Saratoga in the 1850s.

-pioneer diaries of Frank Farwell who documented the daily life of Saratoga in the 1800s

-ephéméra from the South Pacific railroad—important for expediting fruit grown locally Santa Clara County

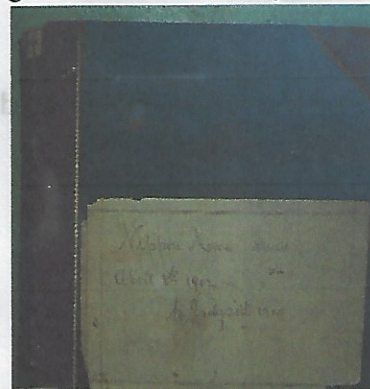
-ephemera from the Peninsular Interurban line which connected San Jose, Los Gatos, Campbell, Saratoga, et al.

Santa Clara County and West Valley

-over 1100 local photos scanned and in a database

- hundreds of items of ephemera, pamphlets, booklets, prune labels

-guest books from many of the local early hotels and



resorts
-early school records and photographs of Saratoga
- early voting records and precinct books
- 1876 Thompson & West Atlas of Santa Clara County for research



-bottles from Saratoga Springs and Azule Springs
Some of these items are on display but many items are brought out when we have special exhibits.

The Saratoga History Museum is open from 1-4 PM



on Friday, 10-4 PM on Saturday, and 1-4 on Sunday. We have a great staff of volunteers waiting to show you the museum treasures, the fully furnished McWilliams House, and the one-room schoolhouse. We have a special exhibit that changes every four months. Stop by!!

Article cont. from page 6

The Plumed Horse

Who would have thought back in the 1800s that the Plumed Horse would be a Michelin Star restaurant!

The site originated back in mid-1800's. At the time a tinker, concerned that his horse would fare poorly in the upcoming winter weather, built a livery stable on the site of the present restaurant. His fondness for his home was most apparent each spring, when he would fashion a hat from fresh flowers, complete with ostrich feathers, complete with ostrich feathers to fend off pesty flies landing on his horse .

As the town grew in the late 1900's, the Old Swiss Hotel was constructed and shared the site with the livery stable. The hotel survived the turn of the century when it was destroyed by fire. It was at this time that the main structure of the Plumed Horse was built, much of the timber coming from the existing stable and the Old Swiss Hotel.

The building was first open to the public as a junk shop, forerunner of the American Antique Store, then as a true antique store and tea house in 1940. The antique business soon gave way to the ever-increasing demand of the tea house.



1952 marked the year that the Plumed Horse Restaurant opened its doors, plucking the name from its colorful past. The restaurant used the

image of the horse with a plume as its logo. The photo shown was taken in the 1960s.

Traffic During the Turn of the Century



Next time you meet a bicyclist trudging up Big Basin Way just imagine if you had a team of oxen and were pulling a wagon and you met a car!! Yikes.

Fences in the Early Days



One of the treasures in the museum is this palisades fence. The fence dates to the time when Native American Tito had a dairy ranch in the Herriman Avenue area. A palisade, sometimes called a stakewall or a paling, is typically a fence or wall made from iron or wooden stakes, or tree trunks. The sharpened edges at the top are to keep anyone from jumping over the fence.

Designer Glasses Anyone?

If you think sun glasses are new—think again. These charming green hued goggles were worn to keep dust from gathering in the driver's eyes while crossing the Plains. A little on the rustic side but very stylish.



Article cont. from page 6

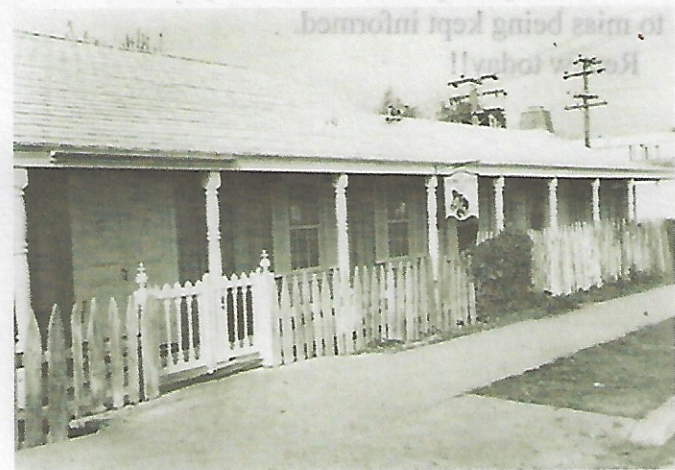
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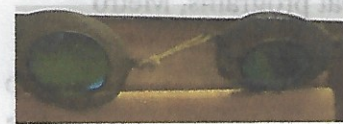
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