



Saratoga Historical Foundation

PO Box 172, Saratoga CA 95071

August 2021

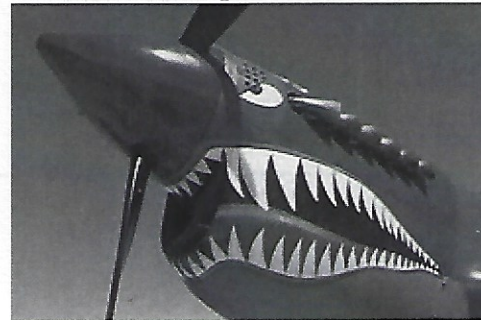
Remembering the Flying Tigers Lecture with Ray Cosyn on August 23; the IOOF and Saratoga Retirement Community Lecture on September 27; Special Grandparents Day exhibit September 3-26!

Remembering the Flying Tigers -- the Air War in China

Join us on August 23 at 7:00 PM on Zoom to enjoy a riveting story about the Flying Tigers by Saratoga Historical Foundation Historian Ray Cosyn.

Most Americans believe that the war in the Pacific began on December the 7th 1941, the Day of Infamy, as it is known, when the Empire of Japan attacked the U.S. Naval base at Pearl Harbor in the Hawaiian Islands. But the war in the Pacific actually began in 1937 when the Japanese attacked and invaded China. As a result of this invasion the Flying Tigers, a group of American volunteers was formed to fly for China in the event of a war with the United States. Their first action occurred in December of 1941 following the attack on Pearl Harbor. In June of the following year they then became part of the 14th Air Force and were instrumental in slowing the advance of the Japanese in China during the course of the war. The American Air effort in China was not limited to the Flying Tigers but also included the brave pilots and crews that flew the hump for the US Tenth Air Force, and then to the Air Transport Command (ATC) bringing badly needed supplies to Chiang Kai-Chek's garrison at Chunking.

A key part of the air war in China was the recovery of Doolittle and his raiders from their attack on Tokyo. These brave pilots who took off from a carrier in the mid Pacific were successful in bombing Tokyo and causing a great concern among the Japanese military in how the home islands could be protected. When the raid ended



the pilots had to ditch in China and all but three of the B25s that took part in the

mission were found and saved by Chinese Guerrillas operating under the occupation of the Japanese.

"Remembering the Flying Tigers" is sponsored by the Saratoga Historical Foundation and the Organization of Chinese American Women/Silicon Valley. For more information go up to www.saratogahistory.com. Join Zoom Meeting on August 23 at 7:00 PM.
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83025312462?pwd=TC8vc1huR2RHVWtHV1lMemVGcGlXdz09>
Meeting ID: 830 2531 2462
Passcode: 917943

What's New at the Museum?

The board of the Saratoga Historical Foundation has been working on a Strategic Plan. As part of creating that plan a survey went out to membership in November of last year with the annual membership renewal request.

In addition to the survey, the board is sending out a survey to nonmembers, talking to the executive directors of other local history museums and setting up an Advisory Group formed by members of the community to see how we can improve our services to the community.

We thought you might be interested in the results of the membership survey:

Responding to the question-- how many years have you been a member-- 75% of the respondents have been members 20 years or more.

Responding to the question about attending exhibits and lectures over 70% have attended both. Asked about program interest-- 60 percent liked to hear about Saratoga, California and Santa Clara Valley history. One recommended more focus on Silicon Valley and high tech. The greater percentage wanted to hear about more of the same,



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.

i.e. people and history of the past.

When asked what types of events would you like to see SHF host: a few offered some creative events i.e. a scavenger hunt to highlight the location of historic sites and events; discussion group explaining aspects of Saratoga's early history, and program on the development of Saratoga from early settlement to today.

Preference for news/announcements from our organization was overwhelmingly for a combination of e-mails and newsletter.

When asked about newsletter content you would like to see, the overall response was a continuation of the current content. Some suggestions were for human interest stories.

The importance of diversity in exhibits and events was felt to be both important and very important. A few asked for a definition of diversity.

The importance of protecting Saratoga's natural environment and engaging in preservation efforts was ranked as important and very important.

Likewise the importance of studying the past to understand your own personal history and values was ranked as important and very important.

Asked if the relevance of Saratoga's history to the public can be increased by additional exhibits and programs that reflect current events was ranked 30% yes, 30% maybe.

Asked if the relevance of Saratoga's history could be increased by modernizing the interior of the museum was ranked: 30% no; 30% maybe and 15% yes. Comments included liking the charm of the museum; shows a timeline of Saratoga history; modernize only enough to keep the youth involved.

What do you like most about the Foundation was overwhelmingly supportive. People liked keeping Saratoga history interest alive; learning about the past; and connectivity to the community.

Future research will be reported.



UPCOMING Events

The Saratoga History Museum is Open!

- August 23 7:00 PM Zoom
"Remembering the Flying Tigers"
Ray Cosyn, see page 1
- Sept. 3-26 Grandparents Day (all month)
Museum
- Sept. 27 7:00 PM Zoom
"History of IOOF & SRC"
Peter Sellars & Rita Cooper see
page 3

Calling Out from the Past: The Odd Fellows First Home in California

Two speakers will tell the story of how IOOF came to California and started a home for its aging members in Thermalito. The program is hosted by the Saratoga Historical Foundation and IOOF and will take place on September 27 at 7:00 PM on Zoom. Peter V. Sellars will give the history of the IOOF, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, a fraternal and civic organization, dating to the 1700s. Rita Cooper will talk about the Saratoga Retirement Community. The property was originally called Oakwood Farm and owned by the Dexter Family, then purchased by the Independent Order of Odd Fellows in 1906 for \$16,500. Well known architect Ralph Warren Hart designed the main building for the Order in 1912. The formal gardens were designed by noted landscape architect John McLaren, a member of the Order.

Peter V. Sellars is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows in San Francisco. Peter is also the author of The History of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows in the City of San Francisco, The American Civil War and Calling Out from the Past, The First Odd Fellows Home in California; from the proceeds, he contributed a portion of sales to the Odd Fellows Museum in San Francisco which he established and manages.

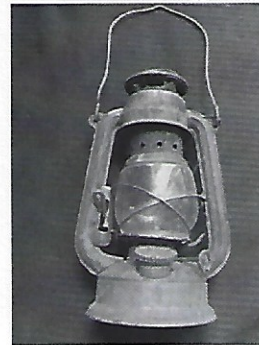
Rita Cooper has served in the capacity as Vice Chairman of the Grand Lodge Board of Directors, Grand Chaplain and Grand Musician for the jurisdiction of California.

For more information go up to www.saratogahistory.com or call 408-867-4311.

Join Zoom Meeting on September 27 at 7:00 PM
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84706967432?pwd=bFBxSFJkeG9BQy93UUJJaFdoVk5CQT09>
Meeting ID: 847 0696 7432
Passcode: 376832

National Grandparents Day

Although Grandparents day is September



12-- the Saratoga History Museum is celebrating all month with a special exhibit. Museums provide a great excuse to spend time with friends and family members. Bring a favorite child and talk about the items in the special exhibit-- reminisce

about a favorite memory and connect with your child or friend. The exhibit contains a range of items from 1910 to the present that will prompt your memories.

New Oral History Program



Got a story to tell? Or maybe you know someone who has an interesting life.

Help us preserve the stories of the community!! Send us your name, telephone number, email address and 3-4 sentences on why your life or story is interesting. We'll get back to you. You can mail

your suggestion to Oral History/Saratoga History Museum at PO Box 172, Saratoga, CA 95071 or info@saratogahistory.com or call 408-867-4311.

Hitchcock in the Neighborhood: A Local Connection to his Classic Film “The Birds”

As we reach the end of summer, local stores stock up on Halloween candy and we are reminded of the approach of All Hallows Eve. In that spirit, let us move like a mist over the mountains that mark the boundary between Saratoga and the sea. If we float like a fog, we can settle over the tiny coastal community of Capitola and recall a night sixty years ago, so eerie, it made director Alfred Hitchcock's hair stand on end. Or it would have, if Hitchcock's hair had not been in such short supply at the time.



The director shows off his famous profile on the porch of his Santa Cruz County estate, which he owned from 1940 to 1974. Hitchcock died in 1980. Image courtesy of his granddaughter, Tere Carrubba, and UC Santa Cruz Special Collections & Archives.

Hitchcock had a home in the Santa Cruz Mountains from 1940 to 1974 and, in an evocation of the cameos for which he became famous on screen, could sometimes be spotted by surprised Saratoga residents as he shopped along Big Basin Way. Even when he was back in Hollywood, he kept up on the news of this region, and that is how the very real events of the night of August 17-18, 1961, along the Santa Cruz coast, ended up having a

direct impact on the screenplay of “The Birds,” one of the most famous Hitchcock movies of all time.

Residents of Capitola were snoring away on that foggy night, when, just after 3:00 a.m., they were awakened by the sounds of what reporter Wally Trabling called “a rain of birds, slamming against their homes.” Thousands and thousands and thousands of sooty shearwaters—a kind of sea gull—gorged on anchovies and apparently confused in the fog, descended upon the coast between Pleasure Point and Rio del Mar, crashing into windows, roofs, light poles, and television aerials. They hit a power line and caused an outage. They



Alfred Hitchcock and Ingrid Bergman on his estate, “Heart o’ the Mountains,” in the hills above Saratoga. Bergman starred in three Hitchcock films: “Spellbound,” “Notorious,” and “Under Capricorn.” Image courtesy of Tere Carrubba and UC Santa Cruz Special Collections & Archives.

even smashed into deputy Ed Cunningham's prowl car, leaving him with a broken spotlight and a dead bird hanging from the roof of his cruiser. Eight residents were injured when they rushed outside and sustained bird bites. Nobody was badly hurt, but as dawn broke, Capitola was still covered with thousands of birds—both dead and alive.

Hitchcock was not at his Santa Cruz County estate that night, though he was often in residence then, hosting his movie star friends including Ingrid Bergman (who starred in three Hitchcock films) and Robert Cummings (who starred in two). In fact, in the summer of 1961, Hitchcock was in Hollywood, developing the script for “The Birds,” a film very loosely based on a Daphne du Maurier story set in

England. Within hours of the Capitola event, Hitchcock called the Santa Cruz Sentinel newsroom and asked for a copy of its August 18, 1961, newspaper, which featured a front page headline that screamed: "Seabird Invasion Hits Coastal Homes." The Hitchcock call was then reported in the newspaper's edition of August 21, 1961, under the headline: "Alfred Hitchcock Using Sentinel's Seabird Story." "Despite its obvious publicity benefits for his new picture," said the paper, "Hitchcock denied having anything to do with the feathery invasion of Capitola. 'Merely a coincidence,' Hitchcock purred knowingly."

"The Birds" landed in theaters two years later and was a huge hit. Set in a tiny California beach town, not far from San Francisco, it features a great deal of gruesome avian activity and clearly owes a lot to the mysterious assault on Capitola. Scientists have since speculated the birds in the real incident may have been poisoned by a natural toxin in the anchovies they were eating and grew confused and disoriented by the poison.

A vintage promotional card promotes Alfred Hitchcock's movie, "The Birds." The director became famous thanks to "Alfred Hitchcock Presents," a top-rated TV show which ran from 1955 to 1965. Image courtesy of Robin Chapman.

Whatever the cause, it was a mess for Capitola. But it was a lucky break for Alfred Hitchcock. And for fans of movie mayhem.



Olivia de Havilland's parents, who knew the Saratoga area, helped Alfred Hitchcock find his 200-acre estate in Scotts Valley. Image courtesy of Tere Carrubba and UC Santa Cruz Special Collections & Archives.

Robin Chapman is a local journalist and historian and the author of "California Apricots: The Lost Orchards of Silicon Valley" (2013) and "Historic Bay Area Visionaries," (2018) both published by The History Press. An earlier version of this article first appeared in her Santa Clara Valley Lives column in the Los Altos Town Crier.

Montalvo Arts Center is Showing "The Birds" on August 27

Buy your ticket by going up to Montalvo Arts Center at www.montalvoarts.org/cinema.

The movie will be shown on August 27 at 8:00 PM. Gates open at 7:00 PM. No entry after 8:30 PM.

In this thriller from Alfred Hitchcock, a wealthy San Francisco socialite pursues a potential boyfriend to a small Northern California town that slowly takes a turn for the bizarre when birds of all kinds suddenly begin to attack people. Starring Tippi Hedren, Rod Taylor, and Jessica Tandy.



“Saratoga” Revisited

In the early days of this community there was little mystery concerning its name, although it might have been difficult to keep up with the changes.

William Campbell began operating a sawmill about 2½ miles up the canyon in 1848 and a small settlement formed at the mouth of the canyon, known as Campbell’s Gap. In 1850 Martin McCarty leased Campbell’s mill and built a toll road with a toll gate at what is now Big Basin Way and Third Street, and the community became known as Toll Gate. When McCarty claimed 230 acres of what he believed was government land, surveyed it, and laid-out a town, he called it McCartyville. Not



everyone liked the name of his new town, however, so it was still commonly referred to as Toll Gate. In 1862, Assemblyman (later Senator) Charles Maclay purchased Haun’s Redwood Mill and renamed it Bank Mills, then for good measure gave the whole community that name, with the post office showing the official name change in December of 1863. To add to the confusion,

Maclay began developing a subdivision just west of town known as Maclaytown. Not many lots sold though, probably due to the odd sizes and shapes Maclay gave them, so Maclaytown never overshadowed Bank Mills.

Then it was discovered that McCarty had made a mistake—the land he claimed was not government land. In 1863 the townsite was proven to be part of El Quito Rancho, and title was confirmed to Jose Ramon Arguello. Residents and business owners had to repurchase their lots from Arguello. And if that wasn’t reason enough for a name change, there was another shocking turn of events in 1864 when several leading citizens of McCartyville were arrested and accused of helping to plan the infamous Bullion Bend stagecoach robbery that occurred between Virginia City and Placerville. The robbery was an attempt to seize gold for the Confederacy. The McCartyville men were tried for treason but after several mistrials the charges were dropped for lack of evidence. The town, however, was saddled with a reputation as a hotbed of secessionism. The name of McCartyville had to go. During a patriotic flag-raising event and picnic in October of 1864 the exuberant community unanimously voted to change its name yet again.

Meanwhile, business man, developer, and



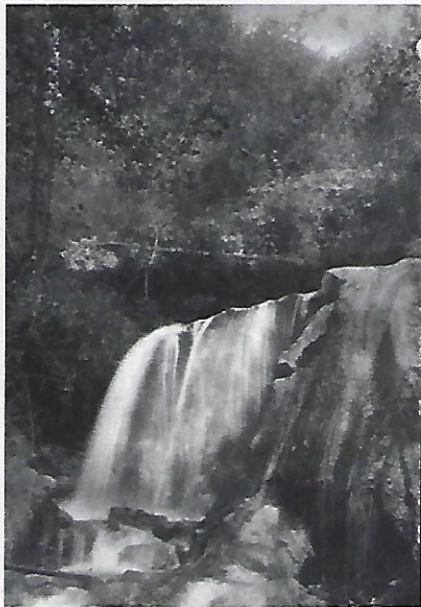
newspaper owner Sam Brannon, who was first to publicize the 1848 discovery of gold in California (after he bought-up all the mining tools he could get for re-sale at a huge profit), and was the first gold rush millionaire, learned of mineral hot

springs in Napa Valley. In 1859 he purchased over 2000 acres of land containing the springs and planned to build a town and resort to rival Saratoga Springs, New York. Brannon’s town 96 miles to

the north might have been called Saratoga, but according to legend he was quite drunk from excessive celebration at a promotional event in about 1866 when he accidentally said he would make it “the Calistoga of Sarifornia.” Calistoga stuck. If Saratoga had been the name, it would have beat this Saratoga to the punch by 80 years since Calistoga was incorporated as a town in 1876, and then as a city in 1886.

There were mineral springs down in this neck of the woods too. The water had been analyzed and found to have nearly the same chemical composition as that of Saratoga Springs, New York, so at the flag-raising picnic in 1864 Saratoga is the name the crowd chose, and it was made official in 1865.

“Saratoga” comes from an American Indian expression often translated to mean something like



“the place where scum floats upon the water”. This translation has some merit as minerals can form a film that floats on water. But it could refer to “the place where water comes out of the hill,” “hillside of a great river,” or “place of the

swift water.” Saratoga Springs, NY, once chose to use “the hillside country of the quiet river,” but later changed their translation to “place of swift water.” Here, local historian and author Florence Cunningham used the “floating scum” translation, and most accepted it. In 1999, however, Saratoga’s Mayor Don Wolfe mashed together the two different translations used in New York and declared that it means “hillside country, place of swift water.” The problem with all of these “translations” is that they really aren’t translations

at all. They are mere guesses as to which feature may have inspired the word used by the local Indians, but no one knows exactly to which spot the Indians were referring.

The expression is authoritatively said to be Iroquois, or with equal authority, Mohawk. That may be a distinction without a difference as the Mohawk spoke an Iroquoian language and were part of the Iroquois federation. A nineteenth century etymological study of local Indian dialects revealed possible meanings of “Sarachtogue.” Sar = hillside, acht = salt, aga = place. So Saratoga might mean “salty hillside.” But there are no salt deposits near Saratoga Springs, NY, and thus no apparent reason to refer to salt in the area. Presumably, the mineral water wasn’t salty enough to have inspired the name.

Sarachtogue was important to the Mohawk and other tribes. They believed the springs were a gift from the great God Manitou and were to be used for the restoration of health and well-being. I think they would choose a better name than scum floating on the water or salty hillside, and there is a better one available. Maybe they didn’t say “sar” at all. “Sar acht” may be a corruption of “assarat,” which means “sparkling.” Hence, Assarat aga becomes Saratoga and means “Sparkling Place.”

In 1848 a small mining camp sprang up at the confluence of the North and Middle forks of the Cosumnes River, just off the present Highway 49 in Amador County. Originally called Yeomat (Rocky Falls, or maybe Sounding Rock because of the echoes), the Placerville Herald in 1853 tells us that it was then being called Saratoga Village. That Saratoga was also known for its natural springs. One spring had been tapped and a pipe brought the water down right in front of Bowman’s Hotel, the Herald tells us, where “three fountains threw up their sparkling water—sometimes 18 to 20 feet.” Maybe that community chose Saratoga to represent a “sparkling place.” The name didn’t last any longer than the town, however, and in death the ghost town is again known as “Yeomet.” At least our Sparkling Place is still very much alive.

Written by Historian Tim Zadel.



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In the late 1950s, the Garrod ranch shifted its focus from orchards, mostly prunes and apricots, to horses. It boarded horses and offered riding lessons, which led to other equestrian sports.

But at one time they had some other interesting boarders. Judy, the first water-skiing elephant of Marine World lived at the stables in 1967 just before the amusement park opened in Redwood Shores. And then there were the two sea lions, Cy and Gloria who serenely paddled around in specially built ponds on the Garrod grounds before moving to Marine World. The animal theme park now known as Six Flags Discovery Kingdom in Vallejo previously operated as Marine World/Africa USA in Redwood Shores, California.

Spare Time at Saratoga Lanes



Many will remember the Saratoga Lanes! In the good old days, Saratoga Lanes was a popular hangout for all-night graduation parties, bowling teams and even served as a PE (Physical Education) elective for Saratoga High School students!!