



SARATOGA HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

POST OFFICE BOX 172, SARATOGA, CALIFORNIA 95071

March 2008

**Please join us to learn more about the
“Lives of the Ohlone Indians”
6:30 PM Monday, March 17th, at the Immanuel Lutheran Church**

A Saint Patrick's Day Pot Luck!

Join us for a potluck dinner and meeting on March 17th at 6:30 PM at Immanuel Lutheran Church at 14103 Saratoga Avenue. Please bring some food to share and your own dishes and utensils. Coffee and tea will be provided, but if green beer or wine is your choice then bring it with you! For information call Nancy Anderson at 867-4383.

Lives of the Ohlone Indians of the San Francisco and Monterey Bay Area will be the speaker's topic at our March 17th meeting. State Archeologist Mark Hylkema will tell how, in 1769, when the first Spanish expedition reached the San Francisco Bay area they encountered numerous tribal communities that lived in a bountiful landscape.

Over a period of 10,000 years, tribal communities had adapted to several major environmental transitions, and archaeological research has found that tribes spread along the San Mateo and Santa Cruz County coast developed an early focus on marine resources, while neighboring tribes of the Santa Clara Valley and San Francisco Bay shore eventually transformed into more complex levels of social organization. This discussion will provide an outline of the archaeological record and provide insights into the native lives of our neighborhoods. We will view photographs of several sites and reflect on what it was like not too many years ago when grizzly bears and the Ohlone people dwelled here.

Mark Hylkema is currently the Santa Cruz District Archaeologist for California State Parks, and manages cultural resources within 32 parks in an area ranging from San Francisco to the Pajaro River. He was formerly a Caltrans District Archaeologist and managed archaeological resources within the nine Bay Area counties. Mark also works on many other projects throughout the state and has 27 years' experience in California archaeology with an emphasis on Native American culture. Mark has spent considerable time among various tribal communities, particularly in Central and Northern California. He did his graduate research on

the archaeology of the San Mateo and Santa Cruz County coast and has directed excavations throughout the greater San Francisco and Monterey Bay areas. He works full time as the Santa Cruz District Archaeologist for California State Parks, and teaches part time at Santa Clara University, University of California at Santa Cruz, De Anza College, Ohlone College and Cabrillo College. He currently lives in Sunnyvale. ---*Willys Peck, 3/08*

Our President's March Message

When they hear the word “museum” some people imagine a stodgy place where old things that you cannot touch are on display - and in a sense that might describe our Saratoga museum. Certainly the word “museum” doesn't exactly excite the under 30 crowd - it never did with me, and I don't think that things have changed that much. Now I certainly don't mean to denigrate our museum. Given the chance, most people will find that visiting a museum can be enlightening and educational, which is the experience that we'd like people to have when they come to the Saratoga museum. However, in order to provide that experience to the visitor, our museum must offer interesting and continuously changing exhibits, and exciting events and programs. Oh, I don't mean to imply that we shouldn't continue to offer our basic collections, exhibits and research facilities - after all, we've got some pretty amazing stuff in our collections! But there are opportunities here.

To make our museum a more interesting place, the SHF Board and volunteer committee people are planning some changes, additions, and events this year that we hope will make our museum a place that Saratogans will want to visit often, and will want to bring their out-of-town guests to see, and toward that end there's a lot happening.

Together with the Saratoga HPC we put the wraps on the 2008 Mustard Faire. The event scored another bullseye this year, with great public attendance (over 2000 I'm

told), and many more participants and displays. SHF Board member Nancy Anderson was the event chair this year, and she and her crew put together quite a show. There were more antique cars, engines and tractors, artists and craftspeople, rides, food and entertainment - all wrapped up in a four-hour period on a beautiful sunny day!

Our first docent training class was held at the New Almaden Quicksilver Mine and Museum, attended by eleven docents and committee people. Our second docent class is scheduled for March, with more training planned in the future. Our treasured docents are our representatives to the public and this training will make them better equipped to make the museum experience valuable and interesting. Two special exhibits are also planned for this year, and you'll read more on this later. Another first, a docent manual is currently being written and assembled by Peggy Schoppe, our Volunteer Coordinator.

Our next two members meetings (March and May) will feature State Parks Archeologist, Mark Hylkema presenting a two-part multimedia series on the indigenous people of the Saratoga and Central California area. We'll also be working with the Saratoga Village Development Committee on the upcoming Village Fashion Show on March 9th and the Village Living History Day on May 24th.

Jack Mallory is putting together one of the most interesting tours (at least for me) that you will ever see - the Military Vehicle Museum at Pony Tracks Ranch in Portola Valley - one of the most significant collections of military machinery in the world. This tour is open first to SHF members and their guests, before the public, so make your plans now!

While most visitors to the Museum probably don't realize what goes on "behind the scenes" and just how many people it takes to operate and make the museum a community asset, that's OK. But there are many routine things that must go on, such as managing our financial assets, working out the budget for the year and working with the City on permits, facilities work and changes. We hope to see the long-awaited security systems go in soon which will enable us to bring in some "traveling exhibits", and the landscaping of the park to begin this year. Thanks must certainly go to our Museum Director April Halberstadt for her persistence in working through this landscaping project with all of the players involved - not an easy task!

So you see, we want to make your membership in the Foundation and a visit to our museum really positive experiences, something valuable and perhaps compelling. We're always looking for new ideas, and would welcome yours!
---Chuck Schoppe

Mustard Faire Biggest & Best Yet

Our own Nancy Anderson, Event Coordinator, did one amazing job; she seemed to be everywhere at once, never hard to spot in her "mustard halo." Under the auspices of Saratoga Heritage Preservation Commission, led by Steve Kellond, SHF members also worked tirelessly to put together the 7th Annual 'Faire. And how lucky was it that the sun came out just in time for the community, the orchard a touch soggy but no problem for the popular donkey cart rides, with the wonderful addition this year of a giant cart pulled by 2 Clydesdales from Williams Ranch in La Honda (One happy 'Faire-goer planted a thank-you lipstick print on one of the huge noses!).

Welcomed back were: Paul Conrado and his fellow vintners for wine tasting; Kay Duffy, who set up her easel in the garden for plein air painting; Chuck Shoppe's mechanical exhibits group showing gas engines and tractors; the classic car clubs of Chevy's, Model A's, Model T's and antique fire engine; mustards to taste (over 40) from sweet orange or cranberry to super spicy; Mother Earth; a petting zoo (Velvet rabbits exist!); Taiko drums and The Skillet Lickers among music offerings; Signore Cali and his daughter, Rosemary, cooking pasta to taste that included mustard greens in their recipe; face painting; and art and crafts and food for sale.

We'll Miss Cindie Orr

It is with great sadness that we tell of the passing of Cindie Hendrickson Orr. Cindie lived in Saratoga for many years since her youth and was a graduate of Lynbrook High School. For years she raised her family on Oak Street. Her dream was to someday lead Village ghost walks on summer nights

Cindie worked at Lupretta's, Skin Prophecy Boutique and most recently at Pat Smith's deli. She was familiar to many of us in the Village. She had a quick smile and kind word.

Cindie was vastly interested in history and was very well-read. She was a huge patron of the Book-Go-Round. She loved to sew, having made many clothes for herself and her children when they were young. She planned to make costumes for SHF and for her ghost tours. Cindie loved animals, especially her big gray cat.

Cindie died in her sleep at the age of 54. We will all miss visiting with her and seeing her smiling face regularly on Big Basin Way and at the Historical Park.

---Jenni Taylor and Jill Hunter

New this year, besides the Clydesdales, were the western actors and mock gunfight (Yes, Saratoga's history includes a couple such incidents.); enlarged maps of yesteryear Saratoga displayed in the (nationally designated historic) Warner Hutton House as well as a multimedia presentation of Saratoga's newly renovated McWilliams House (Come by the museum soon if you missed it.); bobbin lace makers from The Lace Museum in Sunnyvale; Backsmith Steve Wiberg demonstrating shoeing horses; Justin Gee and his balloon creations; the Ritard Boys Choir singing acapela and South Bay Accordion Jam; world-reknown graphic designer (recent Utah Olympics!), Ching Yu, sharing his art; community info provided by Saratoga Foothill Club, Master Gardeners, Saratoga Heritage Tree Society, and Am. Ass'n of University Women; and new food by Lupretta's

Italian Deli, Org. of Chinese American Women (OCAW) and Rainbow Italian Ice (will be in grocery stores soon).

Feedback like "nice to have so many activities for children" and "wow, it's the best yet" was the norm. Approx. 2500 attendees made the "olde 'Faire" a grand success. Nancy Anderson's wish came true: "...to emphasize the beauty of uniqueness of the orchard." Many people stated they often drove by the "orchard on the corner" but never stopped to think or learn about it, even tho' it was always so lovely especially early springtime with bright yellow oxalis and mustard. More people said they'd be back next year and bring folks with them.

As the Mustard Faire has evolved (formerly the Blossom Festival, then revived as the Mustard Walk), more is anticipated: more children/schools involved, more Village merchants, more sponsorships of special offerings, old-fashioned games for all, a larger variety of food, more participation in the essay contest about "Our Wonderful Orchard" (every grade level?). We'll keep you posted as the 8th Annual Mustard Faire nears, already scheduled for March 1, 2009. If you wish to lend a hand, contact anyone on the Saratoga Heritage Preservation Commission soon. A labor of love, we do good 'Faire.- --Yvonne Mendy

New Exhibit To Open March 7

Health care is a hot topic today. Have you wondered what health care was like in early Saratoga? Our new exhibit will provide a glimpse into this interesting topic. We will feature items from Dr. Hogg, an early doctor in town, and from Dr. Rossi, the last owner of the Saratoga Drug Store.

You can view prescription medical information through old ledgers, old pharmacy bottles and labels. See early equipment, including a pill roller, weights for measuring medications, medical books and more.

Did you see the photo of Dr. Hogg in his buggy, which he drove when making house calls, at the Mustard Faire presentation? You can view his buggy in the outdoor exhibit. We will have his doctor's bag in the indoor exhibit. --Peggy Schoppe, Exhibits Chair

Help with Our Membership Drive

The start of the news year means the start of our annual

membership drive. This year Gene Zambatti and his team of Bob Loudon, Jim Sorden, Bob Himel, Jill Hunter and Jack Mallory are working hard with mailings to residents and friends. Their goal is to increase membership to 300.

All Foundation members are encouraged to ask their friends and neighbors to join the Saratoga Historical Foundation to help support the valuable work at the Museum. Saratoga has a long and historic role in Santa Clara Valley including the Ohlone Indians site, John Brown's family, artist Theodore Wores, Mc Williams House, Paul Masson Winery, Actresses Olivia DeHaviland, and Joan Fontaine, and many other historic subjects. If you have not renewed yet, please send in your annual dues today. --Jack Mallory

2 Historic Tours in April and May

The Foundation is sponsoring three private tours on historic subjects in April and May. The first two are being hosted by our new member, Bill Cleary, a Civil War Enthusiast, at his home on April 28 and May 5.

Bill lives in the Montalvo area and has one of the nation's largest private Civil War collections with over 8,000 pieces. During the tours Bill will show and interpret the historical significance of his collection.

The second tour is of one of the largest and most significant collections of military tanks and related equipment in the world. Located in Portola Valley just 30 miles from Saratoga is the Military Vehicle Technology Foundation which acquires, restores, and interprets the historical significance of 20th and 21st century military vehicles. The collection includes

over 150 restored foreign and domestic tanks and related equipment. An expert docent will lead the two-hour tour.

Included in this newsletter are flyers on these two tours. They are open to members and non members so please tell your friends they are welcome but to get tickets early as we anticipate they will sell out. --Jack Mallory

See Enclosed Fashion Show Flyer

I phoned Jill Hunter this afternoon to sign my wife and me up for the upcoming Saratoga Village Development Council (SVDC) Village Fashion Show scheduled for March 9th at the Foothill Club. Jill is trying to get the word out about this event and she has included a one page flyer inside this newsletter. --Bob Himel

A Docent Bids Us Adieu

Betty Jo Watkins, a loyal and gracious docent, will be sorely missed and difficult to replace. B.J., long-term SHF member, bade farewell to museum duties this past February.

Personally, I'll miss her cheerful and friendly phone-voice whenever I called to sign her up for a museum-duty-date! "Hello Jenni Taylor" was her ubiquitous chirrup! Whenever her day to be a docent happened to fall on one of our Work Days, Betty Jo always pitched in and cleaned, swept, and washed the glass on our exhibit cases right along with our work crew.

I'll miss you B.J.! If you change your mind, you can always call your friend Jenni Taylor.

--Jenni Taylor

We'll all miss Betty Jo's gracious manner and warm smile which brightened the museum when she was there.

--Peggy Schoppe

Docent Program for 2008

In 2008, our Docent program will experience some exciting new changes. As Volunteer Coordinator and a Museum Docent myself, I have felt the personal need for docent training. Based on my research, we seem to be the only museum that has not provided a docent training program or a docent manual in the past. Both are now underway.

I am scheduling special docent training opportunities and developing a docent manual. Our first docent training session took place in February. See Sandra and Michael Whalen's article in this newsletter about our class on Women's Fashions and New Almaden Museum tour. In March we will learn more about the Ohlone Indians. Our docent manual will be available this year, with sections on Saratoga history, museum operations, our exhibits, the McWilliams family and house, other historical information, and local points of interest. As I do each year at this time, I ask for just a few hours of your time each month by becoming a museum docent. Another one of our precious docents has retired, leaving us in need of more volunteers to fill this important need. It is a fun way to learn local history while sharing our museum and the very special McWilliams House with visitors. If you can spend one three-hour shift per month at the museum, please call our Docent Coordinator, Jenni Taylor at 741-5807 and offer the gift of your time. It's a great way to way to appreciate Saratoga and make new friends.

---Peggy Schoppe, Volunteer Coordinator

**Saratoga Historical Museum
Post Office Box 172
Saratoga, California 95071-0172**

Docent Training and Tour

On February 23 a group of docents from our museum took a fashion seminar and then a tour of the Santa Clara County Park Museum at New Almaden, in San Jose, California. The seminar was taught by the resident interpreter, Mary Berger. Ms. Berger was very well prepared to teach our group all about women's fashions from the early 1800's up through the 1880's. As a prop she had on hand a real expert, Feather Tippetts, an historical clothing designer and period model. She was "all gussied up" in an 1884-1885 dress with a shelf bustle. The seminar was given in Casa Grande, a three-story brick structure which served as the manager's residence/headquarters for the New Almaden Quicksilver mine. Just as a point of fact, this mine produced more wealth than any gold or silver mine ever in California.

We all took a tour of the Mining Museum. Attached to the building is the Almaden Opera House which offered live musical events as recently as the turn of the century, eight years ago. Our competent tour guide was John Slenter. He tutored us in mercury hard rock mining. He also instructed us in the sociology of the mining community. There was a Methodist church serving the English miners who all hailed from Cornwall. This church no longer stands, having been thrice destroyed, first by wind and then by fire. After the tour/mine lecture and some buying in the gift shop, we had our bag lunches with Mary Berger in the soon to be restored parlor of Casa Grande. *---Sandra and Michael Whalen, Museum Docents*



Civil War Memorabilia Tours

When: Monday, April 28th – 3 to 5 pm and
Monday, May 5th – 3 to 5 pm

Where: A Private Estate in Saratoga

Purpose: Visit the Montalvo home of Bill Cleary, businessman, educator and Civil War historian. Bill has one of the nation's largest private collections of Civil War artifacts and memorabilia, including an 1858 American flag, actual historic clothing, tools, musical instruments, model trains, weapons and dioramas of toy soldiers that detail battle scenes such as the 1863 Battle of Fredericksburg. Bill will illustrate and interpret the historical significance of his collection.

Donation: \$20 donation for members
\$30 donation for non-members
\$40 for tour and a Saratoga Museum
family membership

ALL DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE

Contact: Make checks payable to the Saratoga
Historical Foundation (include your email,



phone number and address) and mail to:
Bob Himel, PO Box 172, Saratoga, CA 95071.
Specify the tour date you want. Directions will
accompany your ticket(s). For more informa-
tion, contact Bob at roberthimel@comcast.net
or telephone him at: 408-867-9727

Limitations: Each tour is limited to 20 people

Historic Military Tank Tour!

When: Saturday, May 31, 2008
From 10 am to Noon

Where: A Portola Valley estate located 30 minutes from Saratoga

Purpose: Visit the Military Vehicle Technology Foundation that oversees one of the largest and most significant collections of historical military vehicles

in the world. The Foundation acquires, restores and interprets the historic significance of 20th and 21st century military vehicles. The tour includes domestic and foreign tanks, armored cars, self-propelled artillery and other technically interesting mobile platforms. This collection includes over 150 restored tanks sheltered on 200 acres. An expert tour guide will lead a two-hour tour of the tank restoration shop and collection. For more information, go to:

<http://www.milvehtechfound.com/> and

<http://www.kron4.com/Global/story.asp?S=609070>

Donation: \$35 donation for members
\$50 donation for non-members
\$60 for tour and a Saratoga Museum family membership

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Contact: Make checks payable to the Saratoga Historical Foundation (include email, phone and address) and mail to Bob Himel, P. O. Box 172, Saratoga, CA 95071. For information, contact Bob at roberthimel@comcast.net or call him at 408-867-9727

Limitations: Tour is limited to 30 people – adults only.

Optional: Group will meet after the tour at the Alpine Inn for a no-host lunch.