



# SARATOGA HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

PO BOX 172, SARATOGA, CALIFORNIA 95071

July 2011

**Celebrate the 4<sup>th</sup> at Kevin Moran Park ★ Come see the new Exhibit: Bears, Gavels and the Law ★ Support the Senior Center Pancake Breakfast and Garage Sale August 20**

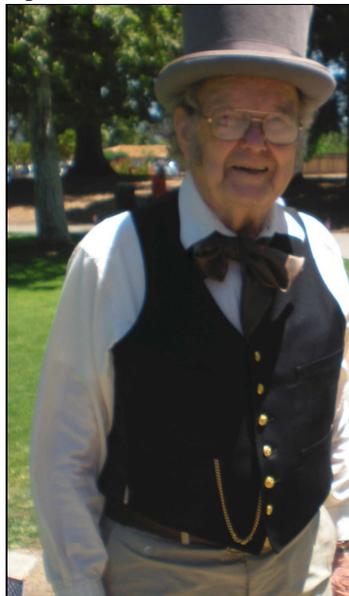
## Join Us on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July— and Let Freedom Ring!

Don't miss this old fashioned Independence Day celebration held on July 4<sup>th</sup> from 10 AM to 11 AM with pre-program music starting at 9:30 AM. The annual event will be held at the Kevin Moran Park at 12415 Scully Avenue in Saratoga.

Put on your best red, white and blue outfit—bring the family, bring your pets, bring your friends! Special home town activities include color guard, patriotic tunes from the McCartysville Band, speeches, singing, costumed American historical characters, and the event concludes with a family parade around the park. After the parade, popsicles will be given to children. Shade is provided for seniors and the handicapped. This event is free of charge.

All donations this year will be given to the Saratoga Historical Foundation. Come and have a great time!!

The event is sponsored by the City of Saratoga, Rotary, Saratoga Historical Foundation, Saratoga Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints and Saratoga Federated Church.



## Circle the Date—the Annual BBQ is Coming!!!

Join us on Sunday October 2 for the Saratoga Historical Foundation's annual BBQ. This year the event is being held at the historic Saratoga Springs picnic ground.

This year's theme, "Celebrate Saratoga's Pioneers", promises all kinds of fun and surprises.

Sit under tall redwood trees and enjoy sizzling barbecue beef, chicken or vegetarian entrees, campfire beans, crisp salad, and America's favorite cookie. Wine and soft drinks will also be available.

Entertainment is still in the planning stages but includes a silent auction with lots of goodies, according to acting Fund Development and Vice President Bob Himel.

The rustic scenery is only part of the picnic ground's charm. Bring your camera to capture some of the historic spots. Counting the sawmill workers who ate there, Saratoga Springs in the hills above Saratoga has been in continuous use as a picnic ground for 150 plus years.

First to use it were the workers at the sawmill built in 1847 by William Campbell. He was the father of Benjamin Campbell, who founded the city that bears that name.

So circle the date on your calendar—and don't miss this important event!! We're going to Celebrate Saratoga's Pioneers in style!



## New President for 2011-2012



The board of directors selected a new president in June with Annette Stransky, formerly the vice president, taking on the role of president and Bob Himel, the position of vice president. Jane Asher remains Treasurer and Ron Hagelin as Recording Secretary in completing the Executive Committee.

Stransky in her new role says,

"I'd like to thank Bob for the many improvements that have been made in the last two years--- the completion of the landscaping of the Historical Park; mobile storage unit purchase for improved storage; and the refurbishing of the museum floor. I want to continue with the plan in place for improvements to the Museum; to make the Museum and McWilliams House more appealing to the younger generation; to beef up our volunteer team; and to continue to improve our service of preserving Saratoga history for the education and enjoyment of the community. We have a hard working board in place. I look forward to a wonderful year."

The May membership meeting approved five board members seeking renewal of four-year terms including Bob Himel, Jim Sorden, Ray Cosyn, Ron Hagelin and Bob Louden. Two new board members, Katie Alexander and Michael Whalen, were also officially approved.

Chuck and Peggy Schoppe, after serving the board of directors for seven years and Chiiming Kao for two, stepped down from the board. All said they would remain as active volunteers and are thanked for their years of service.

In addition to the executive committee, the board of directors include: Katie Alexander, Collections; Ray Cosyn, Volunteers; Linda Hagelin, Education Programs; Ernie Kraule, Special Projects; Bob Louden, Programs; Willys Peck, Historian Emeritus; Jim Sorden, Facilities; Ann WaltonSmith, Membership. Liaisons to the board include Jenni Taylor, Museum Docent Coordinator; Jill Hunter, City Council Liaison; Marykay Breitenbach, Correspondence Secretary; Paul Conrado, HPC; Jeff Johnson, Webmaster.

## 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

Annette Stransky, President, Marketing Director  
Bob Himel, Vice President, Fund Development Dir.  
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>.

## On the Road

When relaxing with a cup of coffee in the Village-- you never know what you might see along Big Basin Way --- unusual breeds of dogs prancing down the sidewalk, a two-legged costumed historical figure or .....a Model T Ford Speedster!



The Santa Clara Valley Model T Ford Club Endurance and Lowland Run took place on June 11-12 with 1909-1927 Model T Ford Speedsters tooting up Big Basin Way.

According to the club president, "After the starting grid has been introduced by the announcer, the flag is presented and the National Anthem hushes the crowd. It is now time for "Gentlemen, start your engines" and the noise becomes deafening as the engines start and the crowd roars. When the green flag drops, the speedsters depart in a cloud of smoke and noise to pursue a route that will test man and machine."

The annual event began in Santa Clara, putting along to Skyline Boulevard, stopping for lunch in Redwood City before returning to Santa Clara—a 200 mile journey in an open air car. Participants dressed in period clothing ..

Alas not all completed the journey in the expected style and



had to be towed home. But as one of the participants, dressed in white mechanics coveralls, driving goggles and leather helmet said optimistically, "there

is always next year."

*Starting line photo courtesy of the Santa Clara Valley Model T Ford Club.*

## Save These Dates



<b>July 4</b>	Old Fashioned 4 <sup>th</sup> of July at Kevin Moran Park in Saratoga, 9:30 AM
<b>July 15</b>	Museum opens—Spring cleaning completed!!!
<b>July 15</b>	New exhibit: Bears, Gavels, and the Law
<b>July 16</b>	Saratoga Swings, SVDC event
<b>August 13</b>	Family Fandango 5-8 PM, Bernal Ranch
<b>August 20</b>	Senior Center Garage Sale 8:30AM-2:00 PM
<b>August 20</b>	Bollywood, SVDC event
<b>Oct. 2</b>	Annual SHF BBQ and Silent Auction

## Family Fandango



Come celebrate the contributions and accomplishments of the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe of the San Francisco Bay, early Spanish-speaking colonists, and English-speaking ranch families who all settled in this area over time. The evening's

focus is family fun through demonstrations and activities that highlight 1770-1870 California. The Muwekma Ohlone Tribe of the Greater San Francisco Bay Area will have an information booth and supply the food for sale through the "Red Stone Grill." The Historic Bernal Ranch is located at 372 Manila Dr., San Jose. The event will run from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM on August 13. For more information, call: (408) 846-5632

*Editor's note: Fandango: A lively dance, in 3-8 or 6-8 time, much practiced in Spain and Spanish America.*

## Got Stuff? Senior Center Garage Sale—August 20

According to Susan Huff, executive director of the Saratoga Area Senior Coordinating Council there are four ways to take advantage of the August 20 garage sale:



1) you can donate items to be sold 2) you can reserve space and sell your own items 3) you can come and buy items or 4) enjoy a fabulous pancake breakfast. All

proceeds go to a good cause: The Saratoga Senior Center.

Huff said, "Our sale is scheduled for August 20<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 AM to 2 PM. We will begin accepting donations on August 1<sup>st</sup>. Please drop off donations during office hours from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. We will stop accepting donations on August 19. This year we are also offering flea market spaces for those who wish to sell their own goods. These spaces are available for \$25 - \$35—reservations for space must be made by August 17. We are kicking off the event with a pancake breakfast. I hope everyone will come and participate!" For more information, call 408-868-1257.

## Saratoga History Museum—Open For Business

The Saratoga History Museum was closed for a month while a little spring cleaning took place. The museum floors have been refinished, some of the display cabinets painted, the windows cleaned and the displays freshened up. The overall result is... wow!!

The museum opens for business July 15—just in time for the new special exhibit: Bears, Gavels and the Law—a look at California and Saratoga lawmakers.



## Bears, Gavels and the Law—A New Special Exhibit

A new special exhibit opens July 15 and runs through the end of October at the Saratoga History Museum. Bears, Gavels and the Law takes a look at some of the unique events in the history of California and the local Saratogans involved.

Did you know The Bear Flag Rebellion resulted in California having a president for a brief period of time? The flag of the rebellion later became the basis of the California state flag and is shown above. What were the locations of the state capital—hint, Benecia was one? When was Saratoga incorporated? Who were some of the folks involved?

Discover the history of your community and visit the Museum—it's more fun than reading a textbook about history or even trolling the Internet. You might be surprised at what you will learn!

The Museum is open from 1-4 PM Friday, Saturday and Sunday.



SHF welcomes new lifetime members  
Mark Jon Bluth and Michelle Danzer.



## New Director of Museum Docents



Michael Whalen joined the SHF board of directors in May with the title of director of Museum Docents.

## Docents supply a

### smiling face to the Museum

Whalen's job is an important one. The Museum docents open and close the Museum from 1-4 PM Friday, Saturday and Sunday. The all-volunteer crew provide a friendly face to the Museum. Willys Peck holds the longest tenure as a docent and is a favorite of visitors. Museum volunteers support all aspects of the visitor experience including selling items in the gift shop; answering questions about Saratoga; giving tours of the McWilliams House in addition to tours of the Museum. They never know what to expect in terms of questions—one of the most frequently asked is to name a favorite restaurant by visitors new to the area! Many people drop in just to talk about "Saratoga of the old days,"—a topic always enjoyed.

### Expanding the Museum docent team

Whalen will work with Volunteer Director Ray Cosyn to recruit new docents. The goal is to add more docents so the Museum can be open more days. If you would like to partner with a docent or become a docent, give Whalen a call at 408-867-4311 or e-mail michael@saratogahistory.com. It's a great way to give back to the community and learn about local history at the same time.

Another priority will be training. According to Whalen, "I intend to provide uniform training of new docents and provide refresher sessions for existing docents. I aim to be able to answer, with Museum Docent Coordinator Jenni Taylor, those questions that docents have concerning their duties. I want docents to feel that they are truly part of the museum."

### Coordinating the Walking Tours

Whalen will also coordinate the popular Village walking tours. These can be arranged for the second Saturday of the month by reservation. Simply call 408-867-4311 and arrange for a tour. Or you can also have a tour at a special time and date. Additional walking tours are being planned.

### Born in Saratoga

According to Whalen, "My family's association with Saratoga began in 1922. My grandfather and several of my uncles were working on a peach ranch around Modesto. It was unbearably hot and my dad and a couple of his brothers were children. The woman who owned the ranch said to my grandfather "This is no place to raise kids--too hot in the summer and too foggy (tule fog) in the winter. You should move to a place called Saratoga, in Santa Clara County, same work, better climate and WAY more beautiful!" So he loaded up his brood

and drove over Pacheco Pass in the family Touring Model T Sedan. The family settled in Saratoga, share cropping several different places until my grandfather retired, in his eighties. I still remember a picture of his "Victory Garden", taken during WWII. My father and three of his brothers served in WWII. My uncle Emmett had a farmer's exemption and farmed Nissei farms during the war, returning them to their owners when the internment camps closed."

"My father arrived here with his family at the age of four. He attended and graduated from Oak Street Grammar School, in the same class with Vince and Jane Garrod, in, I believe, 1932. He graduated from Los Gatos High School in 1936. He started working at the Saratoga Post Office after High School, when Luthera Cunningham Hubback was Postmistress. Subsequently he was appointed Postmaster by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1955. He retired in 1974 when Richard M. Nixon changed the Post Office Department to The Postal Service. After retirement, he served two terms on the Santa Clara County Grand Jury.

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## Editor's Note: The street "Michaels Drive" in Saratoga is named after Michael Whalen.

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Notes Whalen, "My family has been here ever since. My cousins, Emmet's children, still farm on Skyline Boulevard, above Saratoga."

### Reminiscing about Saratoga

"I was born here, first living on Bucknall Road at a place owned by by Jane Whiteman Garrod's family. When I was two, my folks moved to a house on Victor Place, off Walnut Ave. My mother drew the blueprints and my father provided the hand labor. They hired tradesmen as needed. After the home was finished, the carpenter used my mother's plans to build a house on Saratoga Vista Avenue.

"After I graduated from Oak Street, and then Bellarmine College Preparatory, and Santa Clara University, I moved to my home in the Live Oak community, between Santa Cruz and Capitola. I found it hard to cut my ties with Saratoga, remaining the pressroom foreman at the Saratoga News for thirteen years, finally quitting after the newspaper was acquired by the Cupertino Courier (which acquired all the small papers in the Valley).

"I have been on the Oak Street Grammar School Reunion Committee for many years. This committee has included many long time Saratogans such as Willys Peck, Henry Clarke and Jenni Taylor. We plan the reunion every summer.

"I became a member of SHF in the early 1980s, at the invitation of my father who was one of the original founders. At that time I volunteered with such members as Bob Oliver. We did small improvements around the Historical Park, such as installation of the green, hand-operated pump in the rose garden."

Whalen and his wife Sandra have been Museum docents for five years. He is also a member of the Collections committee; contributes articles to the SHF newsletter as well as a contributor to the special exhibits.

Michael Whalen is shown with Vice President Bob Himel and his 1950 Chrysler Windsor.

## Education Program Labeled “The Best”

The SHF Education Program served 650 children this past school year, our fourth year of operation. All Saratoga public schools participate, and we have a number of other local districts involved as well as private schools from around the Bay Area as far away as San Mateo and Foster City.

Most of the classes participating are third grade, since that fits the California Social Studies Standards, but we also have Kindergarten, second and fifth grades attending every year. The teachers tell us we are “The Best” because we offer hands-on experiences for the children (and we don’t cost too much: \$2.50 per child).



Students have an old-fashioned school experience at the desks in the Museum: writing on slates, reading from McGuffey’s Readers, “making manners” by bowing or curtsying and saying “Yes M’am” before

speaking to the teacher. (Their teachers love this!) Then they move to the Parlor of the McWilliams House, where they learn about James McWilliams and his family who lived there beginning in 1865. They play a parlor game called “Lookabout” where something is hidden in the room. Children “lookabout” and try to find it. The catch is, when they find it, they have to sit down on the floor and say nothing until all have found it. This is the HARDEST part of the game! Third graders can’t contain themselves when they find it!

The next station is the kitchen, where they learn how Mom might have cooked and washed dishes without a sink, electricity, or running water. They also peek into the girls’ bedroom, with the replica dolls and other toys that can be handled. (Thank you McWilliams House Committee!) Next station is the wash station, where students scrub on a



washboard, run clothes through a hand wringer, and hang them on a clothesline with old-fashioned clothespins. I tell them the clothespins work “like a paperclip”, and they get the idea. Children also try ironing with the cast-iron iron that would have been heated on the wood stove ...heavy! They think it is fun, until you remind them that Mom would have been doing this for a

whole day...One teacher said “Next time I am going to bring my laundry!”

We added two new hard-working docents this year and now total 20. It is a good thing, because most all of the 650 students come in the spring between March and May. This way none of us have to work too hard to serve so many. We are always looking for interested folks to join us. We will train you and partner you with an experienced docent if you are interested in working with children. Please contact me at [Linda@saratogahistory.com](mailto:Linda@saratogahistory.com) We welcome observers! If you don’t have e-mail, please call: 408-867-4311 and leave a message for Linda.

*Written by Education Program Director Linda Hagelin*

## Grant Awarded by Farrington Historical Foundation

The Saratoga Historical Foundation just received a grant from the well-known Farrington Historical Foundation for creating a one-room schoolhouse. An existing structure in the Saratoga Historical Park will be converted into a one-room schoolhouse. Plans for the one-room schoolhouse include new windows; door; wooden floor; and all the accoutrements found



in a Victorian-era school. Work will begin in the August timeframe, according to Ernie Kraule, Special Projects Director.

The schoolhouse will be used for the popular education program conducted by the Saratoga Historical Foundation. When it is not in use by the education program, visitors can tour the schoolhouse and see what

a schoolroom looked like in Victorian times.

The Farrington Historical Foundation carries on the philanthropy of Benefactor, Dorothy Bogen Farrington throughout Santa Clara county and is thanked for awarding the grant.

### One-Room Schoolhouse Furnishings Wish List

If you have any of the following to donate, contact Linda Hagelin at [Linda@saratogahistory.com](mailto:Linda@saratogahistory.com) or leave a message by calling 408-867-4311. Furnishings (and replicas) from 1860-1900 wanted for the one-room school house include:

- Wooden or metal pail and dipper for water
- Wall slate chalkboard
- Small teacher desk
- Framed picture of George Washington and/or Abraham Lincoln
- U.S. flag before 1900 – with 43 stars
- Small pot bellied stove
- Old-fashioned globe, calendar, or map from 1860-1900
- Pendulum wall clock





## Heritage Day- Thanks For the History

The second annual Heritage day was held May 21 along Big Basin Way and at the Saratoga History Museum. Over 50 “famous” costumed, Saratoga historical figures participated. A special autograph book with information about the historic figures was distributed; sparkling Saratoga bottled water sold; games of the 1800’s played; musicians entertained —a good time was had by all. If you missed the opportunity to talk to Artist Theodore Wores or have your photo taken with Vintner Paul Masson, join us next year for an even bigger event. Photo courtesy of Andy Sutterfield.

## Oak Street Grammar School Reunion



Graduates of the Oak Street Grammar school will once again assemble for their annual reunion (pre 1965 graduates only) on July 30. The graduates are invited to the Saratoga History Museum from 8:30 to 10 AM for a special reception to see the Museum,

McWilliams House and enjoy coffee and light refreshments.

Some say the Oak Street Grammar school can add a record to its name--- the most reunions of any school!

Saratoga News columnist and graduate Carl Heintze wrote about his school day memories, “For one thing, the school, as built in the vintage year 1923, had an excellent auditorium in the space now largely occupied by the library and media center. It had a proscenium stage with draw curtains and a fireproof projection booth high behind the rear wall. The Foothill Club had the only other proscenium stage in town, and it had its share of dramatic productions.

Seating in the auditorium consisted of folding double chairs, nicely contoured. As kids, we used to get a kick out of reading the label under the seats: "Made in San Quentin Prison." Those in second through eighth grade sat in these seats during Friday assemblies. First-graders carried their

chairs in and set them in rows in front while the music teacher, Mrs. Sybil Hanchett, played "Country Gardens" on the piano.

There was no kindergarten back in my day.

Some memorable productions in that auditorium come to mind. One in particular that I remember showed the adaptability of the stage. I believe it was in 1940 when a group called the Saratoga Players used it in producing Elmer Rice's 1927 classic . The set was the exterior of an apartment house where the audience could look through the windows and see the action in both first- and second-floor rooms. I don't know where you could find that kind of theatrical venue today. Fortunately the school has preserved some of its historical essence in the foyer. There is tradition in that school that goes back 150 years to the first building, the Sons of Temperance Hall, close to the present site.”

*Excerpts from a column by Carl Heintze previously printed in the Saratoga News.*

*the Saratoga News.*

### A Berry Fine Story

The Loganberry, a berry often found in fine jellies and jams, originated in Santa Cruz, CA. Judge J. H. Logan, had a mix of raspberry and blackberry vines growing in his garden and inadvertently created a new berry-- called “Loganberry” in 1883. A judge as well as a horticulturist he had been trying to grow a better blackberry





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**What's New  
From the Gift Shop**

Buy sparkling Saratoga bottled water—straight from Saratoga, New York. Saratoga bottled water was donated to SHF to sell on Heritage day as a fundraiser. Saratoga is named after Saratoga, New York when it was discovered that the local mineral water springs matched that of the water in New York. The carbonated water comes in a charming blue bottle and is not only tasty but makes a great conversation piece. Only a limited supply is available.

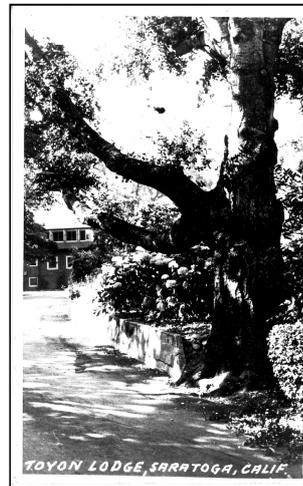
**New Plaque in the Village**



charming summer cottage was named after retired farmer David and Nancy Grover who lived here for many years.

The SVDC put up a new plaque in the Village at 14521 Big Basin Way during Heritage Day ceremonies. The Grover House, an 1895 cottage is one of the smallest homes along Big Basin Way. The

**Toyon Lodge-Revisited**



The Toyon Lodge, located at the end of Vickery Lane in Saratoga was once popularized by Actresses Hedy Lamar, Joan Fontaine, Jean Arthur and Soprano Lotte Lehmann.

Originally built in the 1930's by a doctor as a convalescent home, it was purchased by Gene Mancini in 1949. Mancini turned the home into a hotel. His reputation as a chef grew and his Sunday evening buffets were very popular.

He was a professional singer who had performed with the San Francisco Opera Company and guests would delight in his impromptu performances.

As the times changed, he was forced to remodel the rooms into apartments and the summer cottages into duplexes. In 1967 the Lodge closed. The sign can still be seen today.



