



SARATOGA HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

PO BOX 172, SARATOGA, CALIFORNIA 95071
September 2011

Come to the BBQ!! October 2

Celebrate Saratoga's Pioneers

Saratoga Historical Foundation's annual fundraiser with a theme of "Celebrate Saratoga's Pioneers" features a barbecue dinner, pioneer speakers, music, live and silent auction on October 2. The event takes place at the historic Saratoga Springs Campground in Saratoga.

Starts at 4:00 PM

The event begins at 4 PM with wine and catered hors d'oeuvres. The dinner takes place in a wooded setting just a short walk from where William Campbell had a water powered saw mill in 1848. The dinner menu includes BBQ chicken, steak, vegetarian burger with country beans, corn on the cob, salad and dessert. Wine and soft drinks are included.

Over 100 Auction Items

The silent auction offers a wide selection of gift certificates for clothing, restaurants, local wine, spa treatment, whale watching, Niles Canyon railroad rides, Hearst Castle tickets, membership in historic Gamble Gardens, original art from local artists, vintage jewelry, a commemorative 49er autographed football, live plants, wine tasting—over 100 items to choose from.

The live auction includes a five-hour sailing trip on the San Francisco Bay, weekend retreat in a Santa Cruz beachhouse; a painting of Saratoga from well-known artist David Stonesifer;



commemorative replica of the 2008 Olympics Beijing stadium and more.

Great Entertainment!

The Skillet Lickers will play toe tapping music during the cocktail hour. Short talks by local pioneers such as Mimi Gianini will precede the auctions. See the longest and oldest concrete bridge in the state. This area now known as Saratoga Springs has been in continuous use as a campground

for over 100 years! Find out more about local history!!

Super Fun!

According to SHF Vice President and Fundraising Chair, Bob Himel the event will have great food and be fun for everyone. The live and silent auction is the larger and more diverse than those in the past. The proceeds from this event will be used to purchase new lights and

audiovisual equipment for the museum.

Send in your reservation form today with a check. Invitations have been sent out but an extra form is included in this newsletter. Have a question, call 408-255-1883 or go up to the website: www.saratogahistory.com. All reservations should be in by September 21! Last year the event was sold out so send a check today!

Thank You, Saratoga Historical Foundation Volunteers

President Annette Stransky opened the annual volunteer recognition reception by saying, "I want to thank each of you for your work this year. As someone once said, Don't ever question the value of volunteers. Noah's Ark was built by volunteers: the Titanic was built by professionals!"

She went on to say, "Without each of you, the museum would not be open on weekends; the education program would not be reaching the schools; and all the other many projects would not happen. Thank you.

Special Recognition: We make a living by what we do, but we make a life by what we give. Winston Churchill

One of the highlights of the event was awarding lifetime membership to Betty and Willys Peck and Vince and Jane Garrod. Both couples have generously given their time, wisdom, support and assistance over the years to SHF and the Saratoga community. Willys has continued to be an active member of the board and a museum docent—thank you!! Their names have been added to a plaque hanging in the Museum listing lifetime members. A gift certificate was also given.

Highlights of the year include:

- The education program reaching over 650 students
- The Saratoga High School students continuing to help with community work—several have already signed up for the new year
- Membership reaching 250 in members – an all time high
- Continuing work on inventorying the museum collection which will be useful for research and other exhibits
- Producing three membership programs –including a standing room only program on the Almaden Mines
- Producing three special exhibits including the current Bears, Gavel and the Law
- Recruiting more docents and training
- Producing an 8 page newsletter 6X per year
- Refinishing the museum floors; refreshing the permanent exhibits and adding additional ones!!

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

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>.

Hard Working Board of Directors

Thank you was extended to the board of directors who helped lead and guide these projects: Katie Alexander, Jane Asher, Ray Cosyn, Linda and Ron Hagelin, Bob Himel, Ernie Kraule, Jim Sorden, Michael Whalen, Ann WaltonsSmith, and Willys Peck. And of course, liaisons to the board: Mary Kay Breitenbach, Jenni Taylor, Jeff and Ann Johnson, Jill Hunter and Paul Conrado.

Supportive Spouses

A big thanks was also given to some of the spouses: Tom Soukup, Jim Asher, Rick WaltonsSmith, Jack Stransky, Betty Peck and Sandra Whalen who helped build, haul, or provided band aids and smiles when needed.

A Special Thank you.

A special thank you was given to Nancy and Doug Anderson for hosting the event in their beautiful garden. Both Nancy and Social Director Jane Asher prepared the homemade tasty refreshments. Asher was noted for going the extra mile by providing goodies for board meetings as well as membership programs.

The final thank you, crowning the event went to Stransky for driving some of the projects and people on the board.

The group was encouraged to keep working hard by helping the foundation preserve Saratoga's history. Stransky ended with this quote from Margaret Mead: "Never doubt that a small group of committed people can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."



Vince and Jane Garrod



Willys and Betty Peck

Save These Dates



July 15	Current exhibit: Bears, Gavels, and the Law—ends Oct. 30
Sept. 18	Amazing Race with
Oct. 2	Annual SHF BBQ and Silent Auction
Oct. 29	SVDC: Witchy Walk-A-Bout
Nov. 25	Village Open House
Dec. 7	SHF and the HPC annual meeting



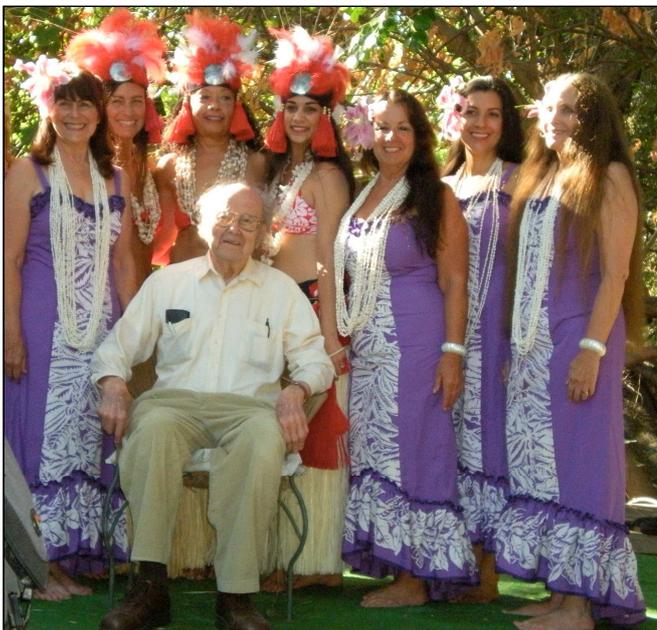
Amazing Race in Saratoga

Blue Hills Elementary School in Saratoga will have an Amazing Race-type event

on September 18. Patterned after the popular television program where teams of two race around the world seeking clues and meeting challenges, the event will be located in Saratoga. The annual fundraiser will feature 10 teams with one adult/child participating with the child having to complete the questions. The Saratoga History Museum will be one of the stops where they will search for clues to answer 8-10 questions. Come on by the museum and cheer these folks on.

Happy Birthday!

Over 150 people attended Willys Peck's "annual city room bash retirement party (number 23) and birthday party in August. What do you get the Town Historian and well-loved Town Character for a present? Simple—a bevy of lovely hula dancers to entertain the event.



Remembering WW II and Saratoga

Saratoga was an exciting place for a boy at the outset of the Second World War. Norman Zimmerman was in 8th grade when Fort Ord was evacuated, and the soldiers were relocated



to nearby towns -- including Saratoga. Norm and his mother had moved to Saratoga in 1938, when he was in 5th grade. Her first job in town was at the Lady Bristol convalescent home (now Our Lady of

Fatima). The two even lived at Lady Bristol for a short while.

He and his mother were renting the Hartman House, which was then located near the corner of Big Basin Way and Fourth Street, when the soldiers set up camp at Wildwood Park. The soldiers cooked in a barn across the street from the Zimmermans on Big Basin Way, and they relied upon the kindness of neighbors, including the Zimmermans, to lend them the use of their bathtubs in the evenings. The soldiers would pay the boys to run errands, such as buying milkshakes, for them. At night, the area was patrolled by sentries.

Norm remembers that the soldiers resided in Saratoga for a few months. Many of them made friends with the residents, and they corresponded throughout the war. Some of the soldiers even returned to visit when the war was over. Before leaving Saratoga, the soldiers put on a show at Oak Street Grammar School—Norm particularly remembers a roller-skating act with soldiers wildly swinging one another around.

After the soldiers were gone, Wildwood Park became a site for musical celebrations for San Franciscans of various cultures—Norm remembers Greek, Italian, and French groups coming to town. Norm resided in Saratoga until he, himself, joined the service. He laments that it wasn't until right after he'd left that the theater was built in a Quonset hut across the street from their house.

Norm Zimmerman and his wife, Adrienne, now live in Los Gatos. *Written by Carol Schultz, contributing writer and SHF member.*

Don't Forget to Attend the BBQ

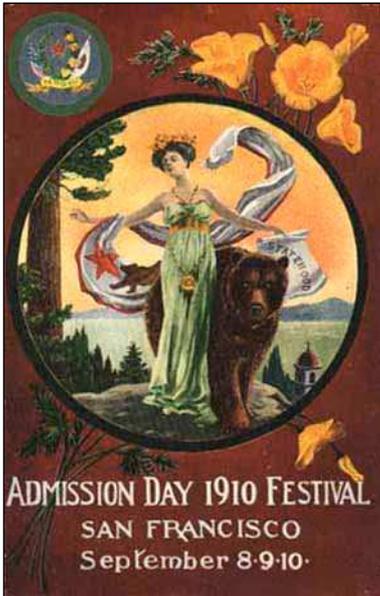


Don't forget to attend the BBQ Oct. 2 at Saratoga Springs Campground. The hard working auction

committee has rounded up over 100 items. A big thanks to the auction committee: Laurel Perusa, Dick Angus, Jane Asher, Bob Himel and Annette Stransky.

History of Admission Day

Find out about the origin of Admission Day, the Bear Flag Rebellion, Saratoga's incorporation and leading Saratoga politicians by seeing the current special exhibit, Bears, Gavels and the Law at the Museum (open 1-4 PM Friday-Sunday).



Admission Day is a federal holiday in California held on September 9 to celebrate the anniversary of the 1850 admission of California into the Union. California was admitted to the Union as part of the Compromise of 1850 as a free state after being ceded to the United State by Mexico at the end of the Mexican-American War in 1848. The prospect of admitting the state of California to the union sparked one of the great debates in our nation's history. California's

admission as a free state would upset the equal balance in the number of free and slave states, a balance that had long allowed the south to protect its "peculiar institution."

The controversy was resolved when northern senators agreed to pass a stringent new fugitive slave law. Southern senators, thus mollified, agreed to the admission of California as a free state. President Millard Fillmore signed the bill for the admission of California on September 9, 1850. News of the momentous event did not reach California for about five weeks. Since there were no telegraph—it took 40 days for a steamer to bring the news. The event was celebrated on October 19.

San Jose was capital of California at that time and had been the capital since the previous December when the "Legislature of the Thousand Drinks" convened to elect Peter H. Burnett as governor. Senator Thomas Jefferson Green from Sacramento was responsible for the title—he kept a barrel of whiskey close at hand to keep the others happy. At every rap of the gavel whether for recess or adjournment, he shouted, "Let's have a drink! Let's have a thousand drinks."

The postcard shown captures the symbols of California with a grizzly bear, state flag, California poppy flower, redwood trees, California Spanish mission, medal stamped 1850, Pacific ocean and the mountains.



Eureka! The State Seal of California

The Greek word "Eureka" has appeared on the state seal since 1849, when California sought statehood, and means "I Have Found It

The words were intended to refer to the discovery of gold in California.

Archimedes, the famed Greek mathematician, is said to have exclaimed "Eureka" when, after long study, he discovered a method of determining the purity of gold.

In 1957, attempts were made to establish "In God We Trust" as the state motto, but "Eureka" was made the official state motto in 1963.

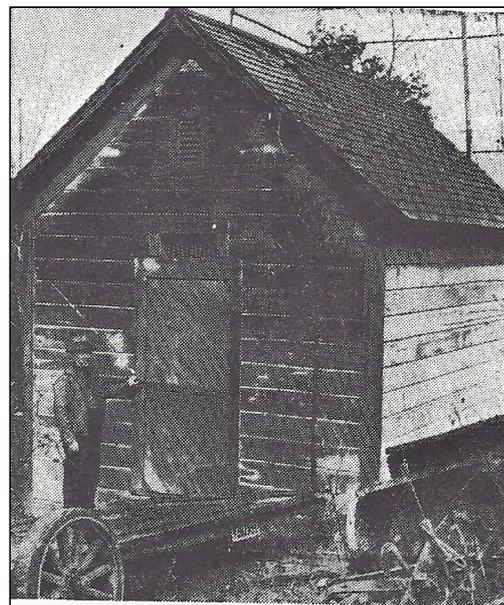
The symbols on the seal include the word Eureka at the top as a reference to the Gold Rush in 1849. The ships in the harbor or body of water is a sign that all of the products and goods shipped in to and out of California were sent by boat. The miner digging for gold along the Sacramento River has a pan and rocker, used to sift the gold from the dirt. The woman sitting on the right dressed in Roman clothing is Minerva, the goddess of wisdom looking out over all of the activity. A sheaf of grain in the foreground represents California's agricultural wealth. The mountains in the background are the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Sitting by Minerva is a grizzly bear, which were common in California.

The seal was designed by Major R. S. Garnett of the U.S. Army, and adopted at the Constitutional Convention of 1849 before California became a state in June 1850.

Saratoga's First Jail

In 1937, Saratoga's first jail was sold to Eva Small for \$175. The lumber was destined to build a garage.

The jail was situated on Fourth Street between Oak Street and Big Basin Way. The little one room wooden building had



been unused for the past two decades.

Covered with weathered boarding, the building was built during the 1870's by spiking layer upon layer of two by six planks. The jail was built to give Saratoga constables a place to house the prisoners in the days

when the trip to the county jail in San Jose was long and difficult. The jail was never considered the final place for hardcore lawbreakers but only used to confine the more boisterous. And according to local legend, Saratoga was very boisterous in those days.

Those that recalled the logging days of McCartyville and lived nearby the jail said that they kept the hardwood heads of their high poster beds against the windows of their home to keep out stray revolver shots which sometimes flew thick as celebrants poured out of the community's 14 saloons.

Looking for a Guy Selling Rabbits



“When I became a firefighter in August of 1968, one of the first things I was told was to learn the streets. There was Saraview Drive, Saraview Court, Pierce Road, Pierce Court, Oak Street, and Oak Place, to name a few. If somebody called in an emergency on Oak, you better ask them which Oak.

But addresses aren't the only way to navigate. Saratoga was, and in many ways still is, a small town.

It is full of local landmarks. Though every parcel has a numerical address, firefighters often navigated by landmarks such as railroad tracks, the Gap (Saratoga Summit), and Oak Street School—never mind that Oak Street School has not been called that for three decades or more. Many of the more interesting local landmarks lie along Highway 9: The Springs, Guest Bridge, Long Bridge, Half Bridge, Smilin' Through, the dog kennels, Camp Swig, the hair pin, and the apple orchard.

Down on the “flats” stood Seagraves dehydrator, Dr. Hogg's place, the Stern property, Melody Ranch, Austin Corners, the Odd Fellows, the Pony Farm, the quarry, the Goodrich Estate, the Kirkwood place, and my personal favorite, Painless Parker's Ranch. As you can see the landmarks are many and interesting.

But for all my memorizing of Saratoga and its streets and landmarks, a day came when I was stymied. I was outside the station when a man turned into the driveway and parked between the station and the post office. He came right up to me and said, “Hey, there's a car on fire.”

“Where?” I asked, ready to dash out to the scene.

“Next to the place where the guy sells rabbits!” was the answer.

Rabbits. This set me back. Fortunately for me and the motorist, the fire phone rang just then, reporting the vehicle fire...and the street it was on. Sure enough, when I got to Saratoga Avenue at Worden Way, a guy was already there helping the motorist...next to his hutch full of rabbits at the side of the road.

Another such incident occurred when a volunteer firefighter called in an alarm. He told me that there was a grass fire where Regnart runs his cattle. This did not mean a thing to me. But when he said “It is where Pete got stuck in the mud,” I knew exactly where it was—it was on Highway 9 at Pierce Road.”

By Steve Sporleder, Saratoga Fire Department 1968-2000 and from the book, “Saratoga Fire—A Century of Volunteer Fire

Fighting in Saratoga, California” and written by April Halberstadt. Copies of the book with more interesting stories can be purchased at the Saratoga History Museum's gift shop.

Panoramas of Saratoga



Stop by the museum and see four stunning panoramas of early day Saratoga. The large 2 feet by 4 feet photos were taken using a large format camera called a Kodak Cirkut Camera which rotated a full 360 degrees

while it exposed a single strip of film up to 8 feet long inside of it. (The film was slowly advanced as the camera rotated.)

Photographer

Two of the photos were taken by John Gordon who opened a commercial photography studio located at 97 South First Street in downtown San José in 1916. As a local commercial photographer, Gordon served the business community by creating glass slides for advertisements used to promote local theaters, sporting events, civic events, and weddings. In addition, Gordon photographed accidents and criminal trials for the San José Mercury News.

See these beautiful photos and more by going to the Museum, open from 1-4 PM Friday-Sunday.

Yes, Ma'am! Getting Ready For the One-room Schoolhouse!



Organized by Collections Director Katie Alexander, a work crew emptied the current storage building at the Saratoga Historical Park last month in preparation for work to begin on the one-room schoolhouse. The crew shown from left to right: Sandra Whalen, Chris Carter, Katie Alexander, Jenni Taylor, Michael Whalen and Ray Cosyn. Chris Carter, a junior at Gettysburg College and studying museum operation, received a firsthand look at the “glamour” in museum work. Chris volunteered to help the museum with this project and plans to return during school break in December.

Special Projects Director Ernie Kraule is currently having plans for the schoolhouse prepared and is busy getting approvals.

The First Hollywood— Niles in California

Niles became the home of one of the first West Coast motion picture companies, Essanay Studios in 1908. The studio filmed over 375 westerns in and around Niles. The films that caught the hearts of the nation, however, were those starring Charlie Chaplin.

Beautiful Scenery

Niles was selected as the home of the studio because of its mild climate, almost perpetual sunshine, and the unspoiled scenery of Niles Canyon.

Studio Founded in 1908

The studio was founded by George Spoor and Gilbert Anderson. Spoor had developed one of the first movie projectors. Anderson had starred in the Great Train Robbery as Bronco Billy, the first major motion picture to be filmed in the US in 1903. Anderson and Spoor became independent film makers and in 1908 founded the studio in Niles, CA. They cranked out over 375 films in Niles Canyon— many starring Bronco Billy. Other stars included Ben Turpin, Wallace Beery, Williams S. Hart, and Mary Pickford. Pickford starred in Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm, filmed in Niles, and was one of Anderson's most successful productions.

The Tramp



Anderson lured the British actor Charlie Chaplin to Niles with a weekly salary of \$1250—a large sum in those days. Chaplin made five silent movies in Niles, including *The Tramp* where he perfected his trademark costume of bowler hat, black suit, and oversized shoes in 1915. He starred in, wrote and directed all five.

The studio closed around 1916 – because Southern California (Hollywood) offered a greater variety of landscapes.

Silent Film Museum

Find out more about the studio by visiting the Niles Essanay Silent Film museum. For 50 years, Niles has celebrated Charlie Chaplin Days the first weekend in June with a town tour, film screenings and a dress-up contest.

Saratoga Connection

Charlie Chaplin was a friend of Paul Masson and had a shelf dedicated for his own usage for wine at Masson's.

In Memoriam

The following long time SHFmembers have recently passed away. Our thoughts are with their families:

Geri Pappas
Dawn "Rita" Kennedy

Other Attractions of Niles

The Niles Canyon Railway was the original extension of the First Transcontinental Railroad from Sacramento to San Francisco Bay and was completed in 1869. It lost its transcontinental traffic in 1879 due to a shorter route through Benecia. Today, you can still "ride the rails" between Niles and Sunol and imagine travelling in the 1860's—some of the same favored picnic spots still exist! If you time your trip right, "Charlie Chaplin" might ride the train with you!



Another interesting site just down the road is the Vallejo Mill. Niles was once called Vallejo Mills after the flour mill was built in 1850 by Jose de Jesus Vallejo. The stone foundation can be seen today and is part of the Vallejo Mill Historical Park. It is a California Historical Landmark, #46. A stone aqueduct built to carry water for the mill parallels Niles Canyon Road and can be seen today.



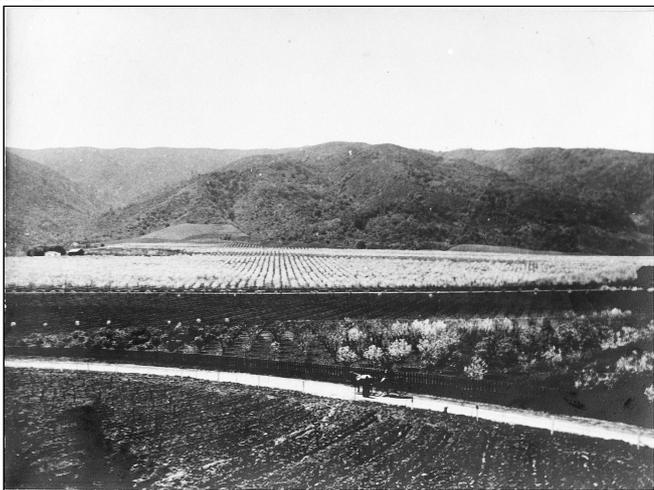
Former Saratoga Passes Away

Local merchant Lillian Benson of ME Benson's Antiques reports that Steven Michael Howard, former jewelry store owner on Big Basin Way passed away in June in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan. She notes, he was a fine jeweler and a great friend. He leaves a young son and wife. If anyone would like to contribute to a scholarship fund for the son, please contact Mrs. Benson at 14486 Big Basin Way or call 408-741-0314 for more details.

Star-Struck Saratoga

Saratoga was once a hot-bed for visiting literary, artistic and other talent. Visitors would come to Villa Montalvo or to Dotswood.

Dotswood was the name of the residence owned by Frank and Una Hume. Located on the largest prune ranch in the world, with 680 acres, and considered one of the most modern ranches of its time. The land was located between Saratoga and Los Gatos.

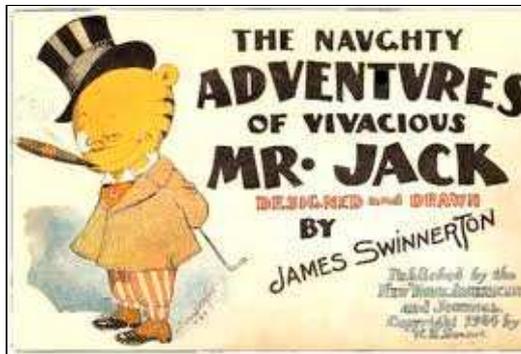


GW Hume bought the ranch in 1891 and gave it to his son Frank to operate. Frank fell in love with Una Handy, daughter of GW Handy. They eloped to Congress Springs Hotel to marry. Mrs. Augusta Handy, who had planned a fancy wedding insisted on holding a second wedding outdoors on the Hume ranch—setting the tone for the lavish parties to come.

Frank and Una Hume enjoyed entertaining but unfortunately Frank died in 1897 from an accidental fall shortly after their marriage. Una later married Dr. Russell Cool, who commuted to San Francisco daily from Dotswood. Una was a literary critic for the Examiner and their parties became the delight of the creative set.

Hospitality was continually compared locally to Phelan's Villa Montalvo. They hosted writers Kathleen and Charles Norris, satirist Ambrose Bierce, writers Charles K. Field, Mrs. Robert Louis Stevenson and her daughter.

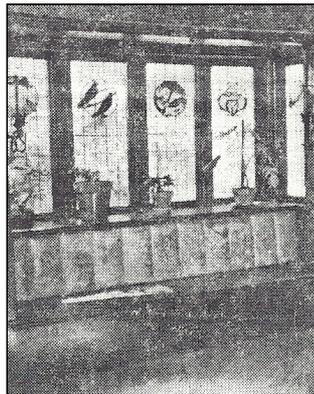
Gellett Burgess, poet of nonsense verse and known for a series of Goop books and inventor of the word Goop amused all with his wit. Cartoonist Jimmy Swinnerton decorated the doors



with his drawings of the Swinnerton Bear. Opera singer David Bispham's voice could frequently be heard entertaining the guests. Singer Blanche Bates once demonstrated the Texas Tommy to the admiring group.

Al fresco suppers featured chops rolled in olive oil, salt and pepper and then barbecued. Special Italian dishes were a house specialty and enjoyed by the guests.

On hot days, guests gathered round the swimming pool which was one of the largest in the state at that time. Supposedly the cost had staggered even the wealthy GW Hume.



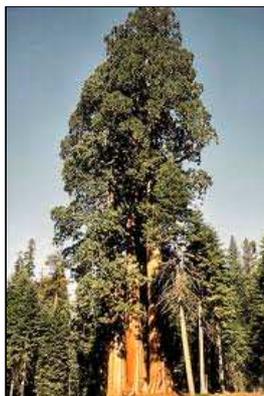
The house came with its own ghost. It was said to be haunted because the previous owner, AC Huggins had committed suicide. When learning about the ghost, supposedly Hume said, "I heard a ghost walking in the house and thought it rather jolly!"

Despite the ghost story, the house was perfect for entertaining. The house featured an octagonal shaped living room with decorative beams. On either side of the brick fireplace were recessed window seats and leaded glass windows. The stained glass panels representing the days of the week in mythology were created by well-known artist Bruce Porter.

Singer Blanche Bates once stayed overnight in the screened-in tree house located in a nearby towering oak tree.

Una Hume Cool died in 1921 and the estate was sold. The land changed hands several times before it was subdivided.

A Giant Among Us



Giant sequoias are the world's largest trees. They grow to an average height of 160-279 feet and are 20-26 feet in diameter. If you want to see a "Sequoiadendron Gigantea" or Sequoia sempervirens-- you can see each growing in Madronia cemetery on Oak Street. The first reference to the giant sequoia was in 1833 in a diary kept

by explorer JK Leonard but he does not mention the location! The next European to see the species was John M. Wooster who carved his initials in the bark of the 'Hercules' tree in the Calaveras Grove (California) in 1850. Publicity and credit was given to Saratogan Augustus T. Dowd in 1852 and he is commonly credited with the species' discovery. The tree found by Dowd, christened the 'Discovery Tree', was felled in 1853. Dowd is buried in Madronia Cemetery.

In the 1930's, interest developed in naming an official state tree to represent California. Since redwoods grew taller and broader than any other tree, California Legislature named the native redwood as California's official state tree in 1937. Confusion followed since there were two species of redwood that qualified as native to California and in 1953 two were recognized: Sequoia sempervirens and Sequoia gigantea as official state trees.

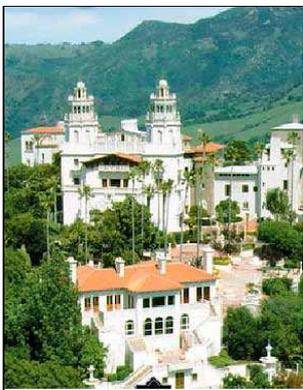


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Making California History

In 1919 William Randolph Hearst told architect Julia Morgan that he was “tired of camping out at the ranch in San Simeon” and “would like to build a little something.” Thirty years later, Hearst Castle had a total of 165 rooms and 127

acres of gardens, pools, and terraces.

●
The church at Mission San Juan Bautista opened in 1812 with a cat door carved into the front door to allow friendly felines to come inside and catch mice!

●
John Steinbeck chilled beer for his friends on the bottom of his Salinas, California, swimming pool.

●
California’s first official raisin crop in 1873 was a mistake, the result of a heat wave drying up the grapevines before the farmers could pick the fruit. Enterprising grocer Francis T. Eisen capitalized on the misfortune and sold the wrinkled grapes as a “Peruvian delicacy.”

Donation to the Museum

Dorothy Stamper recently donated books, news clippings and photos to the Saratoga History Museum. The books covered many topics including textbooks, music and even included one originally given to Senator Phelan. Many of the news clippings and



magazines provided a snapshot of life in the 1900’s including some charming articles on courtship, holiday traditions and cute paper dolls. Thank you!

