



# SARATOGA HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

PO BOX 172, SARATOGA, CALIFORNIA 95071

March 2013

- See the Remembering the Blossom Festival exhibit
- Attend the March 19 lecture on The Dead Speak
- March 23 come to The Blossom Festival at the Saratoga Civic Center!
- Renew your membership today!

## The Dead Speak— Free Lecture on March 19



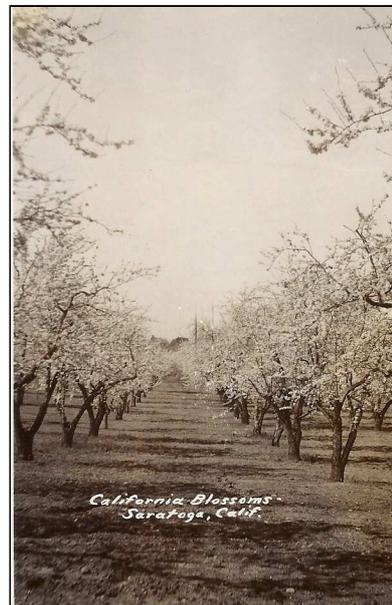
“The Dead Speak”—will cover cannibalism, murder, treason, and the Settler's War. Duesenburgs, froffles, bridges, and blimps. Come hear the stories "residents" of Madronia Cemetery would tell if they could. Popular speaker Tim Zadel has worked at Madronia Cemetery in Saratoga for 16 years, and has been a docent for History San Jose even longer. Zadel will provide a brief history of the origins of Saratoga and the Madronia Cemetery and then share stories about those who have made Saratoga their permanent address. Beyond local color, many were players in events of much broader renown, interest, and significance. From early pioneers to much more recent arrivals, learn about Saratoga connections to history you know and history you will learn.

Sponsored by the Saratoga Historical Foundation, the lecture takes place March 19 at the Immanuel Lutheran Reception Hall (14103 Saratoga Avenue in Saratoga. The potluck will start at 6:30 PM—be sure to bring your own plates, eating utensils, and food to share. The presentation will begin at 7:15 and is open to the public.

## Blossom Festival

Join us in a sentimental journey in Saratoga's unique history and help celebrate the Blossom Festival on March 23 from 10-4 PM. The event takes place in the Heritage Orchard, Warner Hutton House and at the Saratoga Civic Center.

Information on this free event can be found on page 5 of this newsletter.



## Renew Today—

Your membership is important to us so if you have not renewed—please do so. Membership dues support the newsletter, programs, new exhibits and more. As an all-volunteer group—we depend on your support. Send your membership dues to: Saratoga Historical Foundation, PO Box 172, Saratoga, CA 95070.

## Congratulations, Mayor Jill Hunter—Woman of the Year!

Assemblymember Paul Fong announced March 7 that he had selected Saratoga Mayor Jill Hunter as a “Woman of the Year” for California Assembly District 28. Each year in recognition of Women’s History Month, the state legislature recognizes distinguished women in each Assembly district.

“Mayor Hunter has been a role model for all citizens, and women in particular, in civic leadership.” said Fong.



Fong praised Hunter’s leadership on the Saratoga City Council to fight for local control, so that state and Bay Area mandates take into account each city’s unique characteristics. “Even though, I am in the State legislature, I know that one size doesn’t fit all,” said Fong. Mayor Hunter is signing an upcoming appeal to request that ABAG (Association of Bay Area Governments) balance its mandate to build housing with Saratoga’s limited access to public transportation and the consequential effect on air pollution from more car trips.

### 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  
 Bob Himel, Vice President  
 Ron Hagelin, Recording Secretary  
 Jane Asher, Treasurer

#### 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, McWilliams House and schoolhouse 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>.

Hunter, a 32-year resident of Saratoga, is well known in the community for her service. She has been a PTA leader for 30 years, served 23 years in public service including 10-years on the elementary school board (Saratoga Union School District), City of Saratoga Heritage Commission, Planning Commission, and seven years on the City Council. She is Chair and founder of the Saratoga Village Development Council, head of the Village Gardeners, and on the Heritage Tree Society of Saratoga. Hunter also serves as the city council liaison to the Saratoga Historical Foundation.

Each honoree will receive a certificate of recognition by the state legislature which will be awarded at a recognition luncheon on March 15.

## Saratoga Historical Foundation Education Program Recognized by City

A certificate of recognition was issued in January to Education Program Director Linda Hagelin and the Saratoga Historical Foundation for the education program by the Saratoga City Council.

During the 2011-2012 year, the program introduced over 850 students from Saratoga and the surrounding area to pioneer living in the 1870’s. The program meets California state requirements for teaching third and fourth grade students about pioneer living. Scout troops also use the program for earning badges.

Hagelin introduced the program in 2007 and had 145 students participate that year. She developed the curriculum as well as recruited 13 education docents, many are former teachers. The program presently has 19 docents.

The program uses both the historic McWilliams house and the new one-room schoolhouse to provide pioneer living experience.

The docents also go to the schools for inclass programs that include teaching how artifacts are used as well as for postcard stories.

The popular program is always looking for additional education docents. Training is provided. Please call: 408-867-4311 if interested.



## 2013 Calendar of Events

<b>February 6</b>	New exhibit at the Museum: "Remembering the Blossom Festival" – runs through the end of May
<b>March 17</b>	BookGoRound celebrates 30 <sup>th</sup> birthday Open house from 1-5 PM
<b>March 18</b>	Saratoga Community Band plays 7:30-8:30 PM at the McAfee Theatre, Saratoga High School
<b>March 19</b>	Membership meeting and potluck -- "The Dead Speak" by Tim Zadel Potluck at 6:30 PM; lecture at 7:30 PM at the Immanuel Lutheran Fellowship Hall at 14103 Saratoga Avenue in Saratoga
<b>March 23</b>	The Blossom Festival, 10-4 PM at the Saratoga Civic Center & Heritage Orchard and Warner Hutton House
<b>May 19</b>	Saratoga Community Band plays 4:00-6:00 PM at Wildwood Park
<b>May 21</b>	Membership meeting and potluck at the Immanuel Lutheran

### Two Free Band Concerts



Circle these dates: March 18 and May 19 for a free band concert provided by the Saratoga Community Band. The all-volunteer band, led by Craig Northrup has a great musical theme for each event.

March 18 the band will play from 7:30 to 8:30 at the McAfee Theatre at the Saratoga High School on Herriman Avenue.

On May 19, the band will play from 4:00-6:00 PM at Wildwood Park. Bring a chair or blanket to sit on.

The Saratoga Community Band was founded in 1989 with 35 members and today numbers over 80 musicians ranging in age from 16 to 70. The award winning band is sponsored by the Los Gatos-Saratoga Recreation Department and is open to all interested musicians in the Bay area.

Go up to

[www.saratogaband.com](http://www.saratogaband.com)

two weeks before the



concert to find out the musical selections.

Happy Birthday, BookGoRound—Come Celebrate March 17

According to Manager Mary Jeanne Fenn, everyone is invited to join in the 30<sup>th</sup> Celebration Open House at the Book-Go-Round on March 17<sup>th</sup>. The used bookstore, located in the former Village Library, 14410 Oak Street, opened on March 17, 1983, and continues to raise funds to benefit the Saratoga Library.

In keeping with the "30<sup>th</sup>" theme, the Friends are offering "A History of Saratoga's Libraries" written by Historian Willys Peck at \$30 for this day only. This book was the brainchild of James Givens who, at the time plans were formulating for the expansion of the Saratoga Community Library, wanted the library's history to be recorded and preserved. Givens, on behalf of the Friends, persuaded Peck to write the book and engaged The Arts and Crafts Press to design and print the book. Illustrations include two photographs of the Village Library taken by Ansel Adams, friend of the building's architect, Eldridge (Ted) Spencer, and artwork, including the beautiful title page, by Yoshiko Yamamoto. This slip-cased, numbered, limited edition is signed by the author. The Givens family also commissioned the paintings of the Village Library and Saratoga Community Library by Mary Ann Henderson, which hang in the Saratoga Library outer lobby.

The Open House will take place during regular Sunday store hours of noon to 5:00. Events during the day will include three drawings each for a \$30 store gift certificate.

Those who visit the store March 1 - 16 are invited to enter their names for a drawing. No purchase is necessary. Winners will be notified if not in attendance on the 17<sup>th</sup>. Light refreshments will be served.

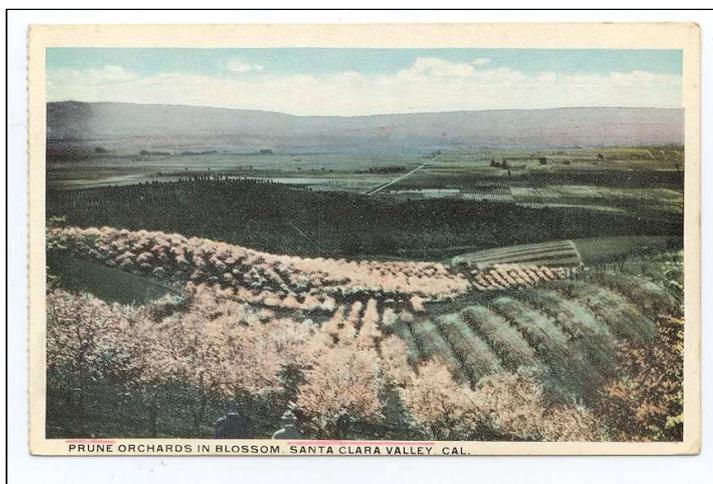


### Celebrate Arbor Day on April 24

Celebrate Arbor Day on Wednesday, April 24th at the Saratoga Library

located at 13650 Saratoga Avenue in Saratoga. Mayor Jill Hunter will emcee the event that will begin at 3:00 PM. The program includes a tree planting ceremony, recognition of the youth poster contest winners, light refreshments, and great giveaways!

## The Blossom Festival—March 23 in the Heritage Orchard, Warner Hutton House, and Civic Center



Music of the 30's and 40's, vintage cars and farm motors and more will soon bring back memories of yesteryear. The Blossom Festival will bring a day of family fun on March 23 from 10-4 PM in the Saratoga Heritage Orchard and Civic Center area. Produced by the Saratoga Historical Foundation, the free event is reminiscent of the original Blossom Festival that debuted in 1900 and was popular for over 40 years.

The valley was once the leading producer of prunes and agriculture was an important industry. By holding the event in the Heritage Orchard and the surrounding area—attendees can remember not only the beauty of the orchards but the importance.

The event features music of the 1930's and 1940's with six local entertainment groups playing on the hour. Music includes the Saratoga Taiko Drums; Sunrise, a country and western duo; Steven Gary, vocalist; Casual Sax; and the Rhythmaires dixieland jazz band. Wandering musicians, Angelina and Alicia Cress, Sandra Whelan, and more will add to the ambience of the day.

### Parade of Blossoms

Artists from three local art organizations will line up favorite paintings of the blossoming orchard for a "parade of blossoms" in the Heritage Orchard. Participating organizations include Saratoga Community of Painters, Saratoga Contemporary Artists, and East Valley Artists. Many will be selling paintings, cards, and other items as well as demonstrating en plein air painting.

"The enthusiasm of the community has been overwhelming," says Annette Stransky, SHF president. "The Girl Scouts are making flowers to give to attendees—during the first decade of the Blossom Festivals, every visitor went home with wild flowers and

blossoms. And with an orchard walk, prune tasting, and music.... the spirit of the past and community is definitely there."

### Vintage Vehicles

The Santa Clara Valley Model T Ford, the Santa Clara Valley Model A Ford, and the Early Day Gas Engine and Tractor Association will be showing cars and motors. Five vintage bicycles including a 1900's High Wheeler from a private collection will be on display.

### Gourmet Food Trucks

Gourmet food trucks will provide a variety of Italian, BBQ, Asian, and more food to enjoy.

### Old Films and Historical Figures

Those interested in learning about life in the early days--two films depicting the Santa Clara Valley in the 1930's and the history of prunes will be shown all day in the historic Warner Hutton house. After viewing, people can taste a prune, courtesy of the Novakovich Farms.

Over 20 costumed Saratoga historical figures will be available from 12-2 to answer questions about the past—including Sunshine Williams. Sunshine Williams, often called the father of the Blossom Festival, organized the first Blossom Festival in 1900. His optimistic approach to life earned Edwin Sidney Williams the moniker of "Sunshine."



According to Jack Mallory who plays Sunshine Williams, "The Blossom Festival came about as a "thanksgiving jollification" when a two-year drought ended. As a celebration, Williams organized The Blossom Festival in order to share the beauty of the blossoming orchards and the hospitality of Saratoga. Invitations were sent to people up and down the peninsula. Hundreds

attended the first event and the festival grew larger and larger each year."

Laurel Perusa has gathered a great group of historical figures playing the roles of Jennie Farwell (Crystal Bothelio), Charles Blaney (Brian Berg) Bella Blaney (Debbie Bretschneider), Isabel Stein (Diantha Stensrud), Senator Phelan (Tony Hoffman), Dorothea Johnston (Paula Cappello), Lillian Fontaine (Patricia Himel), Theodore Wores (John Kimball) and more.

The Vintage Tea Dance Society will come dressed in vintage apparel. Any who would like to can get in the spirit of the day and come dressed in period clothes.

## Blossom Festival cont. page 4

### Children's Activities

There will be many activities for children including a petting zoo; story hour every hour in the Warner Hutton House and sponsored by the Saratoga Library; old fashioned children's games led by the costumed Saratoga History Museum education docents and three activity tables organized by the Girl Scouts, Saratoga Federated Church, and the Japanese American Museum. A scavenger hunt has also been planned by Cristina Cagliostro for all ages and with prizes.

### Many Organizations, Artisans Participating

Many organizations will have informative displays including the Santa Clara Valley Beekeeper Guild, Master Gardeners, the California Native Plant Society, Saratoga Heritage Tree Society, and more. Local craftspeople will also have tables selling a variety of items from plants to jewelry.

### Poets and the Orchard

Local Poet Laureates such as Los Gatos Poet Laureate Erica Goss, poets Parthenia Hicks, Mary Lou Taylor, and Nils Peterson will capture the beauty of the orchard in verse and will be participating from 11-12 on that day. A docent-led walk of the orchard will be given from 11 to 3 by Michael Whalen of the Saratoga

Historical Foundation.

### Sponsorship

The event is sponsored by the city of Saratoga and Sereno Group Real Estate.

## The Gravel Quarry—Soon to be A Scenic Walk in History

In 1854, two brothers, David and Elisha Hughes,



Missourians who came west in the gold rush, discovered copper on the site of what is now the Congress Springs Quarry and formed the Campbell Creek Copper Mining Co. with Los Gatos businessman James Farwell and several San Joseans.

The ore was rich—one sample reportedly assayed at \$1,500 a ton, the late Florence Cunningham said in her book,

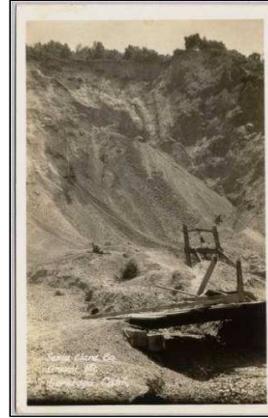
“Saratoga’s First Hundred Years.” But there wasn’t much of the metal.

The Campbell Creek Copper Mining Co. poured a lot of money into a tunnel and equipment before discovering that the copper find was meager.

Copper outcroppings showed up around the valley in the next few years, resulting in short-lived stampedes to file claims.

Ironically, the Hughes’ brother, Hiram, made the state’s major copper strike in 1861 at Copperopolis in Calaveras County while he was out looking for stray cattle.

The defunct mine on Campbell Creek (the former name of Saratoga Creek) became a quarry. Traces of the tunnel and other copper workings were destroyed as the quarry supplied rock for county roads.



RV Garrod recalled that the quarry was operated in the 1890s by Jim Shields, who sold the rock and gravel for 10 cents a yard.

“When I was a school boy in the early ‘90s this quarry was a rocky, brushy bank with water seepage which filled a basin dug for that purpose at road level,” Garrod said. He said the rock would set like cement

when wetted down and packed, and for this reason was used for roads throughout the county.

He said that when the Peninsula Railroad Co. built its tracks to nearby Congress Springs, a spur was built to the quarry and the rock was hauled out by the trainload.

Garrod said two Los Gatos residents, Dr. John W. Knowles and John J. Stanfield, operated the quarry early in the century.

He said the quarry, with its rock crushers and buildings, was the setting for an early movie about an Alaskan gold mine, and local residents were hired as extras.

Records show the county bought the 86-acre quarry on August 19, 1921, for \$85,000.

About 1966 the old quarry was taken over by the county’s transportation agency, and over the years employees have developed the area as a park. Written by Patricia Loomis.

In May 2013, the Parks and Recreation Commission will lead a guided walk of the Congress Springs Quarry.

### On the Road



You never know what you might see when walking around Saratoga. Saratoga Mayor Samuel L. Tyler (1968-1970) was recognized for his service with a public bench located next to the Warner

Hutton House on Fruitvale Avenue.

## Parks in Saratoga

In 1968, the city council of Saratoga discovered something terrible--- open space was rapidly vanishing. The fledgling city needed to put aside land for parks to ensure Saratoga met the present and future recreational needs of the citizens.

Mayor William Glennon and the city council decided to appoint seven people to form the first Parks and Recreation Commission. And the forward-thinking mayor noted, “let’s try to have at least one woman on this new Commission.” At that time no women had yet to be appointed at a commission level in Saratoga.

The first commission consisted of Marie Duffy, Rose Aberle, Jephthah Wade, Jerry Kasner, Douglas Adams, Cole Bridges and Robert Lewis.

In 1968 the city had only one park—Hakone Gardens.

An ambitious plan was adopted for having 15 acres near the Civic Center; 10 acres for Congress Springs development; Wildwood—including a lake; small neighborhood parks in the Azule, El Quito and Foothill school areas plus one on Gardiner Lane.

It would take two years before a bond would be passed to fund some of the vision.

By 1975, the city had seven parks: Wildwood, Kevin Moran, El Quito, Gardiner, Brookglen, Foothill and Hakone Gardens. Today, over 13 parks are located in Saratoga. Each has memorable attributes.

1. Name the oldest city park?
2. Which park is the smallest?
3. Which park has ready-to-use Tonka toys in the sand pit?
4. Where would you go to play chess?
5. Where would you go to play petanque?
6. Bonus question: what is petanque?
7. Which park has animal sculptures?
8. How big is the largest park?
9. What park has historic buildings?
10. What park has a train theme?

Hakone Gardens is not only the largest at 18 acres but also the oldest. The park features a koi pond, bamboo grove, and many other areas. The park was recently made a National Registered landmark thanks to the efforts of the Heritage Preservation Commission.

### El Quito Park

(12799 Paseo Presada) has two chess tables waiting for a neighborhood challenge. The 6.3 acre park also has 3 horseshoe pits, sand volleyball court, and a community garden adjacent. The land that the El Quito neighborhood now sits on (as with much of Saratoga, Cupertino, and Campbell), was originally part of the El Quito Rancho- a Mexican land-grant established around 1841. The J. R. Arguello family acquired much of the Quito Rancho in the mid 1800's, but sold large portions of the property in subsequent years. Lands adjacent to Saratoga Avenue were highly desirable and quickly acquired and developed by early farmers.

What is a park without a statue of a historic person or charging horse? East Coast people—listen up—Saratoga has animal sculptures!



Brookglen Park (12734 Brookglen), features charming animal sculptures. Great for a photo

opportunity, for sitting and meditating or just making up stories about the playful looking animals. The park also has a fountain for people and one for dogs! The .7 acre shady park also has a play area, and 1/2 basketball court.

Brookglen Park was the first of the “tot lot” or “pocket park” size parks called so because the area is small with appeal to seniors or youngsters rather than teen agers who require more space.

A bubbling Wildcat Creek borders Gardiner Park

(19085 Portos Drive). The park was named after the pioneer Gardiner family who were settlers in the 1800’s. The Gardiner family donated the land for the park. Paul Gardiner originally



wanted the park named after his grandfather, Jesse Diamond Mason. Mason was a well-known editor and historian. But it was decided to name it after the Gardiner family. Only two parks in Saratoga are named after people, Gardiner and Kevin Moran. The 1.2 acre park features a BMX bike ride, sand pit, playhouse and an old fashioned sand pit with a sand digger. No report on the popularity of the sand pit with the local cat population.



Wildwood Park became a city park in 1972. The 4-acre park has a play area, two

horseshoe pits and a sand volleyball court. When Olympic volleyball champion Kerri Ann Walsh visited a few years ago, her name was added to the volleyball court. It’s a popular park for concerts, impromptu band rehearsals and family picnics.

Foothill Park (20654 Seaton Avenue) is a three acre park with 2 par course fitness stations. It is used by Foothill school during school hours.

**Parks Cont.**

Kevin Moran Park (12415 Scully Avenue) is the second largest park at 10.3 acres. The park features a ½ court basketball court, tennis court, two bocce ball courts, meditation garden and a four par fitness station. Originally named after the Boisseranc family, the name was formally dedicated in 2009 as the Kevin Moran Park after a young man by that name was killed in Southern California during a riot.

Congress Springs Park (12970 Glen Brae Drive) is bordered by Joe’s Trail, an interesting and popular walk. The 10-acre park features six soccer fields, six baseball diamonds, and play areas.



Bricks are near the entrance with the names of local residents and comments. The bricks make entertaining reading when tiring of watching the children play.



The smallest park at .5 acres is Ravenwood Park (13830 Ravenwood). The charming park dates to 2011 and has toys year-round in a sand pit, waiting to be played with. It

also has a play structure and benches to sit and watch the world go by. Calling it "a park on a shoestring," the city council approved a master plan for the little park and a \$600 allocation to landscape architect Jeffrey Heid to guide the 20 volunteers who planted the lawn and trees and installed walkways at the site.

Azule Park (20018 Knollwood Park) has 4.3 acres with a horseshoe pit, tennis court, 4 par course station and a petanque area. Originally called Blue Hills Park.



Petanque is a popular game where a boule (looks like a ball to me) is tossed to get close to a target. People take turns to see who can get closest. Age, strength or skill doesn’t seem to

impact the outcome since at any time, an opponent’s boule might knock yours out.

Saratoga Historical Park (20450 Saratoga-Los Gatos Road) has a heritage garden planted with plants developed by the Saratoga Horticultural Research Foundation; a 1904 pioneer building in which the museum is housed; an 1860’s pioneer cottage, one-room

schoolhouse and an outdoor exhibit. The park is shared with the BookGoRound—the first library in Saratoga and presently used to sell books.



Beauchamps Park (Beauchamps Lane) was established about 1996. The 2.2 acre sports a tennis court, ½ court basketball court and two train-themed play areas. The park features native plants and flowering fruit trees.

Bellgrove Park (Bellgrove Circle) is located on 1.7 acres and on land that was once a vineyard owned by the Paul Masson Winery

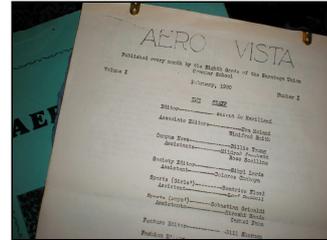
**When is a Park Not a City Park?**

Up until the 1960’s Blaney Plaza was called Memorial Park after the Memorial Arch and was originally referred to as a park.

**Aero Vista—the First Eighth Grade Newspaper in Saratoga**

The first eighth grade newspaper of the Saratoga Union Grammar school (published February, 1930) was recently donated by resident Monica Carroll.

The newspaper editor was none other than Olivia deHavilland, well-known actress and once a Saratoga resident.



The newsletter had editors for each category: campus news, society, girls sports, boys sports, feature, fashion, music, literary,

humor, art, business manager, and advertisement manager.

The objective of the monthly newsletter according to Editor deHavilland was to, “inform the Saratoga Public of the activities and accomplishments of the school, and thereby stimulate its interest in us. We also wish to keep the student body informed of all the activities of the school.”

One article noted that the seventh grade president elected was Joan deHavilland (Joan Fontaine, Olivia’s sister and also a famed actress).

The newsletter was typed on white paper and had a colored construction paper cover. Two brads bound the newsletter.

**In Memorium**  
Bill Breitenbach recently passed away and our thoughts are with his family.

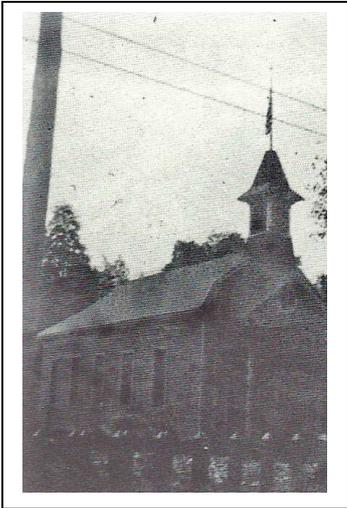


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### History of Austin Corners School



First printed in the 1935 issue of the Aero Vista, author unknown. The original Austin school was held in the Langford cabin, on what is now Lancaster Road. Mrs. Lydia Hawkins, mother of Mrs. Annette More, was teacher there for two or three years when, about 1885, a new school house was completed. This new building was located a few feet west of the first building. The land for the

school ground was donated by Joseph Lancaster, after whom the heights and the road were named, with the proviso that when the land should cease to be used for school purposes it should revert to his heirs.

When the name of Austin was first applied to the school could not be learned. Daniel B. Austin, his wife and their large family, lived in the house to the rear of the Austin Corners service station and gave their name to the corner as well as the district. Austin later became a miner in the Mother Lode country and was killed there.

In 1912 need was felt for a new building and one was constructed. Only one teacher was employed but additional space was provided for a second teacher. The old building was sold, dismantled and the lumber used for the building next to the Austin Corners grocery and in which the Austin Corners garage was housed. When the district decided in 1924 to enter Saratoga Union School District, the school was closed and the property reverted, to Mrs. Eunice Poindexter, heir to Joseph Lancaster.

Note: Lancaster Road is off of Austin in Saratoga.

### Celebrating Easter With a Lily



Louis Houghton, a World War I soldier, is responsible for the popularity of the Bermuda lily better known as the Easter lily. In 1919 he brought a suitcase full of hybrid lily bulbs to the southern coast of Oregon and gave them to family and friends to plant. The climate was ideal for growing this

lily, and by 1945, over one thousand west coast growers were producing bulbs for the commercial market. Despite a sales window of only approximately two weeks each year, Easter lilies are the fourth largest potted plant crop in the US.

