



# Saratoga Historical Foundation

PO Box 172, Saratoga CA 95071

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November 2014

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**Time to Renew Your Membership\* Be Sure to See the New Holiday Exhibit \*  
Free Forum on WWI on November 11\* Open House on November 28 \*  
Membership Program on January 8!!**

## **New Holiday Exhibit: It's a Boomer Christmas— Toys from the 1950's, 60's and 70's**

A new holiday exhibit debuts on November 21 and runs through January 31 at the Saratoga History Museum. Nostalgic toys of the 1950's-1970's will be on display—sure to tug on everyone's heart strings.

What's a boomer, you ask? Baby boomers were born after World War II or between 1946 and 1964—a period of time that marked high population growth.

Popular toys reflected the times with children of the '50's enjoying gender based toys—dolls for girls and cars and construction sets for boys.

Toys of the 60's reflected the race to the moon— plus a heavy influence of children's TV shows, pop music and culture. Television was beginning to influence consumer choices.

The effects of the digital age began showing in 1970 with the Atari computer debuting.

Come see your favorite toy—bring your children, grandchildren and re-visit the past!!



## **Free Event Commemorating the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of World War I on November 11**



The Saratoga Historical Foundation marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the beginning of World War I in Europe with a discussion forum on November 11. The event will take place at the Saratoga History Museum (20450 Saratoga-Los Gatos Road) at 7:30 PM. The event is free and

open to the public.

The forum will focus on the events leading up to the beginning of the war beginning in August 1914. The United States did not enter the war until April 1917. The program will be monitored by US Historian Ray Cosyn and include a film highlighting some of the issues that led to the war. After the film, the audience will be asked to participate in an open discussion. Saratoga sent many residents to serve in World War I with six losing their life. The Memorial Arch located in Blaney Plaza recognizes those Saratogans. The forum, according to Cosyn, is in recognition of their sacrifice. Seating is limited so people are encouraged to arrive early.

## A Gift of Photos and the Past



The Saratoga Historical Foundation recently received a gift of 12000 photos from the *Saratoga News* dating from the 1950s to the late 1990s. The primarily black and white photo donation doubles

the SHF existing photo database.

Saratogans Dorothy Day and Jackie Welch are shown sorting and filing the photos in 1993!

The Foundation is presently researching the cost of a quality scanner; labor and cost of scanning and adding the photos to the photo database.

## Membership Renewal Time

If you have a renewal application form inside this newsletter—it is time to renew!! If you don't have one it might mean you are a lifetime member or that your renewal is in the August-December (2015) time period.

When you renew you might consider the number of programs and services SHF provides and decide to increase your level of support. As an all-volunteer board, all funds go to the museum operation.

You will notice that the application form includes the opportunity to give someone the gift of local history. For only \$15, your friend could be receiving a newsletter 6x per year. A great opportunity to learn about Saratoga's rich history.

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

Yuchi Wang, 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)

The Saratoga History Museum, McWilliams House and schoolhouse are located at 20450 Saratoga-Los Gatos Road and open from 1-4 PM Friday through Sunday. Call 408-867-4311 to arrange group or docent-led tours. Be sure to visit our gift shop. Visit our website: <http://www.saratogahistory.com>.

## The South Skyline Story— New Book

The Saratoga History Museum gift shop has added a new book: *The South Skyline Story* by Janet Schwind and the Skyline Historical Society. The South Skyline region runs along Skyline Boulevard and includes parts of three counties: San Mateo, Santa Cruz and Santa Clara. The 232 page book includes historic photos, maps and stories of residents from the Ohlone Indians through the present day. According to author Janet Schwind, "Upon opening the book you will follow the paths of the native Ohlone peoples; experience the rugged life in the logging camps, mills and ranches. Learn how the crude trails, dusty ranch and private roads of the ridge properties through four different counties were connected by the building of the boulevard, in spite of the daunting impediments of politics and financial difficulties. Moving at a lively pace the book covers the various activities of timber harvesting, the search for oil, recreation, and agriculture, followed later by the development of communes, communities and organizations."

## Everyone Loves a Parade



This year is the 58<sup>th</sup> annual Christmas parade in Los Gatos. It takes place on December 6 at 11 AM

and is the longest parade locally—lasting 2 to 2 ½ hours. What will you see? A Great Dane drill team (yes, and they wear nice clothes); the Cucussa Squash drill team



(no, they don't have nice clothes but they carry a big squash); bicyclists doing amazing flips; and Saratogans

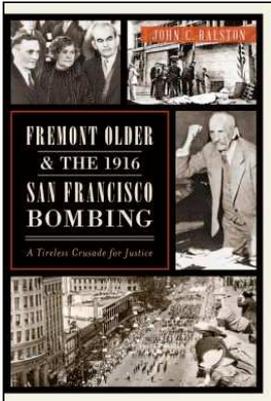


representing the Novakovich orchard; Garrod riding stables; Redwood Middle School band and MORE. If you need a smile—go to the parade.

## 2014 Calendar of Events

Now- Jan-31	New exhibit: It's a Boomer Christmas—Toys from the 1950s-1970s
November 11	Remembering WWI, 7:30 PM
November 28	Open House 6-8 PM Be sure to check out the Museum gift shop!
January 8	Fremont Older & the 1916 SF Bombing—Membership Program
March 12	A Cross of Thorns—Membership Program

### Fremont Older on January 8



The Saratoga Historical Foundation presents a special lecture by author and historian John Ralston on January 8 at 7:30 PM at the Saratoga Foothill Club.

The membership program starts at 7:15; potluck at 6:30 PM. If you participate in the potluck, bring food to share and your own eating utensils and plates.

Bombs, kidnapping, false imprisonment-- on Saturday,

July 22, 1916, as "Preparedness Day" parade units assembled south of San Francisco's Market Street, a terrorist bomb exploded, killing ten people and wounding forty. San Francisco was outraged. Instead of searching for the perpetrators, however, the district attorney used the bombing as an excuse to arrest, try and convict two obscure labor figures without evidence. Author John C. Ralston chronicles the dramatic events following the initial tragedy as newspaper editor Fremont Older discovers the case is based on blatant perjury and exposes the secondary crime to the public. What became known as the "American Dreyfus Case" led to an international outcry, finally resulting in one defendant's pardon and the other's parole—but only after both men had been imprisoned for twenty-three years.

John C. Ralston is a third-generation San Franciscan with a strong interest in his native city. John holds a history degree from University of California, Berkeley, and a teaching credential from San Francisco State University. A member of several local historical organizations, John is Program Director of the Los Altos Hills Historical Society.

Copies of his book will be sold at the event and will be autographed by the author.

The Saratoga Foothill Club is located at 20399 Park Place in Saratoga, CA.

### Open House on November 28

Stop by the Saratoga History Museum on November 28 and enjoy some holiday spirit. See the new exhibit;



sample cookies and hot cider; and listen to the Skillet Lickers croon Christmas tunes. It's a holiday tradition—and with luck Father Christmas will stop by, too. Be

sure to check out the gift shop with many boutique-like items just waiting for you. All three buildings will be decked out in their holiday finest. Stop by!

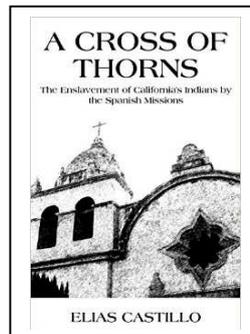
### Toy Drive-Now Through December 17

In conjunction with the City of Saratoga, the Saratoga History Museum is collecting new, unwrapped toys to give to those in need. Stop by the museum and drop off some toys. Help some child have a special holiday.



March 12 Membership Program --A Cross of Thorns: The Enslavement of California's Indians by the Spanish Missions

Author Elias Castillo will give a presentation on his new book, "A Cross of Thorns: The Enslavement of California's Indians by the Spanish Missions" on March 12 as the March membership program. The program will start at 7:15 with potluck starting at 6:30. The program is open to the public and will take place at the Saratoga Foothill Club. Castillo's book will be available for purchase. A small charge may be applied for this special event.



## “Meat” the Butcher



Oldham’s Meat Market used to be located at 14495 Lumber Street (Big Basin Way) on the bottom floor. Hutchinson’s Hall occupied the second floor. The photo shown is the interior of the butcher shop. Animal carcasses can be seen hanging along the perimeter of the walls.

GT Oldham owned Oldham’s Meat Market. He was a charter member of Saratoga Board of Trade (precursor for the Chamber of Commerce) and formed in 1904. The Board of Trade pledged to work for the good of the community and not “introduce anything in regards to politics, religion or liquor).

His father, George W. Oldham came to the Santa Clara valley in 1849 from his native Ohio. He crossed the plains with a four-horse team with three others. The first vote he cast was in favor of California being admitted into the Union.

He first located in Placer County and in 1850 he moved to Santa Clara County where he farmed. He had four sons: Charles T. and WF Oldham of Santa Clara; LF of Fairview District and GT Oldham of Saratoga.

## Riding into the Sunset



Sunset magazine began in 1898 as a promotional magazine for the Southern Pacific Transportation Company. The original objective was to combat the negative “Wild West” image about California.

Today, the venerable magazine boasts the west as the best with tips in food, buildings, travel, and garden. The October issue recently included an article on “a perfect day in

Saratoga” covering landmarks such as Mountain

Winery, Hakone Gardens, Montalvo and Cooper-Garrod winery.

The original 16-page pamphlet was named Sunset Limited after one of the SP’s trains. The content of that first issue touted the beauty of California with over half of the magazine covering Yosemite and the joy of hiking in the High Sierra.

The magazine was sold for 5 cents a copy or 50 cents a year. It was sold in all the railroad’s depots and select stores. The magazine contained no advertising.

As the magazine attracted advertising the format began to change. Professional writers provided sketches, poems, and short stories by such authors as Bret Harte, Sinclair Lewis, Ruth Comfort Mitchell, Ina Coolbrith, George Sterling, Kathleen Norris, Joaquin Norris and more. Stanford President David Starr Jordan was among the first literary writers.

The charm of the early day writers were in the long-winded style of the era. Or, more pointedly, the writers were paid by the word and had to stretch the sentences to make a living!

As the magazine outgrew the needs of Southern Pacific in 1914, a new direction took place. Under the leadership of Woodhead, Field & Company Publishing, it took on controversial topics pertaining to the Pacific Coast—organized labor, crime, movie immorality, drug traffic, forest loss, and congressional ineptitude. Articles on the beauty of the west were always included. The magazine added the heading “The West’s Great National Magazine.”



Travel by car, train, and air became popular topics. Odes to the “hiss of the tires on gravel” and airports referred as “the invisible ramp into the sky” were commonplace.

The magazine also used a raft of talented artists such as Henry Bull, Edward Borein, Will James and Maynard Dixon.

Although today Sunset no longer carries poetry or fiction articles, it still carries on the tradition of promoting life in the West and tips for getting the most out of it.

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**In Memoriam**  
Lillian Gong-Guy  
Felicia Pollock

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# Mass Transportation 1849 style

John Wilson Whisman established the first stagecoach connection between San Jose and San Francisco in 1849.



John Wilson Whisman (1796 - 1870)  
Hannah Maria King Whisman (1800 - 1889)

Whisman, his wife Hannah, and 10 of their 12 children made the trip from Missouri in a covered wagon in 1847-48. Two children died while they were still living in Missouri. They travelled with J. Alex Forbes, Jonathan and Charles Parr, William Booth, Fielding Lard, Riley

Moutrey, Cobeb Rand, Geo. W. Bellamy, Dr. HH Warburton, Mr. Bazard, William McCutchen, William Haun, Washington Moody, William Campbell, Thomas Hudson, James Linns, Austin Angel and others.

Whisman and his wife established an inn and stagecoach in Mountain View, CA. The fare for the nine-hour dusty trip via stagecoach was two ounces of gold or \$32.00. By today's standards it would be about \$600. The line ran an old French omnibus with mules and mustangs pulling the coach. With the first winter rain the operation came to a halt due to the poor road conditions. During the winter the line ran from San Jose to Alviso where passengers caught the ferry to San Francisco. With spring weather the line went back to full service between San Jose and San Francisco.

One traveler from San Jose to San Francisco in December 1849 reported that he boarded the stage for Alviso at 4 AM. Because of fog and a tired team of horses, they got lost and went in circles. After an hour they had gone only one mile. Finally at 7:30 AM, they reached Alviso (three and one-half hours to travel eight miles!). They then waited another hour and a half for other stages to arrive. Finally the steamer left around 9 AM and reached San Francisco at 3 PM.

Despite the conditions and cost, a new firm began competing with Whisman. Ackley and Maurison started a stage coach line. Whisman decided to sell out to another firm—Warren F. Hall and Jared B. Crandall. It was not unusual for the two stage coach lines to race one another to see who could arrive the fastest to their destination.

In 1854 Whisman and his son-in-law, William M. Haun decided to build a water-powered flour mill called

Redwood Mills. Charles Maclay later changed the name to Bank Mills.

## The Law West of Winchester



Chris Bronzich served as constable for the county from 1938-1954 and was appointed as Chief Constable for Saratoga until a sheriff was appointed. According to his son, he had a patrol car with a radio telephone. He was often referred to as "the Law West of Winchester."

One fond memory is living across the creek from the late Town Historian Willys Peck and being allowed to watch Peck's train chug around the property.

Bronzich later took a job at the Permanente Cement company as a crane operator. He was also a volunteer for the Saratoga Fire Department.

## Looking For These Furnishings!

If you have an 1860-1880 era dry sink, hutch, round kitchen table, wardrobe/armoire, men's shaving station—please donate to the Saratoga History Museum. We would like to have these items for the McWilliams House. Over 1000 students go through the McWilliams House each year as part of the pioneer living class. We would like to provide as authentic as possible of an experience to these students as well as to the general public. If you can help, please call 408-867-4311 or e-mail [info@saratogahistory.com](mailto:info@saratogahistory.com).

SHF Education Director Linda Hagelin and some of the members of the education group are shown here enjoying a working lunch. Join this popular group and become an education docent!



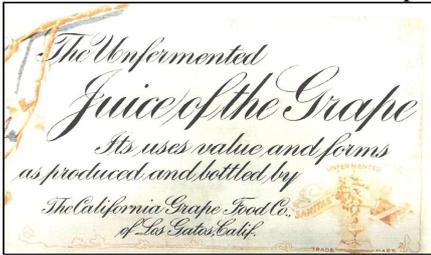
## The California Grape Food Factory



Surrounded by vineyards, in 1892 ER Shaw of Los Gatos conceived the idea of making

table syrup from grape juice. California Grape Food Factory was started in January of 1893 on School Street (University Avenue) in Los Gatos. According to *The History of Los Gatos*, “In 1893 the company built their plant directly across the street—it consisted of a production room and a labeling room. The product was described as “syrupy product containing all the original flavors of the fruit.” At first it was distributed to physicians throughout the county and was recommended as a valuable medicine for all kinds of ailments.

Requests for it came from all over the United States and in the fall of 1893 the Sanitas Grape Food (its trade



name) was manufactured on a large scale. The plant produced hundreds of gallons a day and required several tons of grapes to

produce a gallon of syrup. The product was sold in amber bottles with “Los Gatos” stamped on the glass. The demand soon dwindled, however, and the company went out of business in 1896.

Incidentally, the Congregational Church on Oak Street in Saratoga was one of its biggest customers.

The first unfermented grape juice known to be processed in the United States was by a Vineland, New Jersey dentist, Dr. Thomas Welch in 1869. Dr. Welch, his wife and 17-year old son, Charles, gathered 40 pounds of Concord grapes from the trellis in front of their house. In their kitchen, they cooked the grapes for a few minutes, squeezed the juice out through cloth bags, and poured the world’s first processed fresh fruit juice into twelve quart bottles on the kitchen table.

To preserve the juice, Dr. Welch stoppered the bottles with cork and wax and boiled them in water hoping to kill any yeast in the juice to prevent fermentation. Dr. Welch’s process was a success, and his application of Louis Pasteur’s theory of pasteurization to preserve fresh grape juice pioneered the industry of canned and bottled fruit juices in America. This first juice was used on the Communion table in the local Methodist church for sacramental purposes, and most of the first orders for grape juice came from churches for Communion.

In the early 1890s, when his son Charles became active in the juice company and started advertising Welch's, demand grew rapidly, and Dr Welch devoted himself full-time to the juice business. After a splashy showcasing of the juice at the Chicago World's Fair of 1893, the business boomed, and the Welch Grape Juice Company was incorporated in 1897.



## Researching Family

Recently the family of Septimus Riley Moultry stopped by the museum as part of researching family history. The family was so appreciative that they are donating their research for others to read. Moultry was a Saratogan who was notable for being on all four Donner Party rescue parties.



## Honoring Saratogans

The first annual “Honoring Saratogans” took place on September 21 at the Saratoga Historical Park. Approximately 100 friends and family gathered to enjoy a few hours of conversation and good food and to hear about the honorees—George Cooper, Warren Heid, Amy June Jorgensen and Jackie Welch.

These special people were noteworthy for service to the community, Saratoga history, and overall contributions.

The event included posters of their accomplishments along with a gift of a framed print of Saratoga.

## Rotary, Chamber Mixer—A Success



Last month the Saratoga Rotary, Saratoga Chamber of Commerce and members of the Saratoga Historical Foundation enjoyed a joint mixer at the Saratoga History Museum. The event

was a great opportunity for all three groups to get together. For many it was an opportunity to see the permanent as well as special exhibits for the first time. Local station KSAR was on hand to capture the moment. Thank you Cynthia Chang for coordinating the event.

## Thank You, Sereno Group



Gail and Tim Evjenth, realtors representing the Sereno Group, recently awarded the Saratoga Historical Foundation \$10,000 towards building the outdoor blacksmith exhibit. The donation was part of the 1 % community program the Sereno Group operates. The exhibit will showcase the tools used by a blacksmith as well as other tools in the museum's collection. Plans for the exhibit include sound and interactivity. This is a major project for the Foundation and will cost \$80,000. The Foundation is actively seeking donations and other avenues to fund the project. Wouldn't you like to be part of the project and be able to say you helped make it happen?



If you would like to contribute, please complete the form below.

## Mid-Autumn Festival, Heritage Day—

The last two months has provided several opportunities for people to come to the Museum and enjoy finding out about local history.



The Mid-Autumn Festival took place September 7 and brought over 250 people to celebrate and see the Pioneering the Valley exhibit. Moon cake tasting, martial arts exhibition, story hour, calligraphy, and

more were part of the event. Our thanks to Mayor Emily Lo, Cynthia Chang, Ping Li and others for coordinating the event.



Heritage Day on October 4, brought people to the Museum. Crafts people such as wood carvers, soap, old time aprons, rug making, lace making, Chinese brush painting and more demonstrated their craft.

Music filled the air with the Accordion Society, Wildcat Mountain Ramblers, California Chinese Youth Symphony, and even a singing saw! Lisa Robinson gave a great presentation on the timber industry. And Portraits of the Past provided costumed humorous commentary on the history of the valley. Thank you Yan Zhao for your help!

Participating in the Library Centennial on October 11 also provided an opportunity to tell people about the Museum. Thank you Mary-Lynne Bernald, Yuchi Wang, Ping Li, and Nancy Kirk for helping! SHF membership is growing as well as museum attendance, thanks to events like these.



### Please Accept My Donation for the Blacksmith Exhibit

**(Donors who make a donation over \$5000 will have their name engraved on a plaque on the exhibit)**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zipcode \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to: Blacksmith Exhibit/Saratoga Historical Foundation  
PO Box 172  
Saratoga, CA 95071

Your donation is tax deductible. Tax ID: 51-0178189 Thank you for helping us preserve Saratoga's history!



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[www.facebook.com/SaratogaHistorical Foundation](https://www.facebook.com/SaratogaHistoricalFoundation)**

**Return service requested.**

## **Wedding Dress Donated**



Gloria Allen recently donated a wedding dress once owned by a relative. The lovely 1850's dress is green with satin trim. The two piece outfit has a slight train in the back. White became a popular option in 1840, after the marriage of Queen Victoria to Albert of Saxe-Coburg, where Victoria wore a white gown to incorporate some lace she prized. The official wedding portrait photograph was widely published, and many brides opted for white in accordance with the Queen's choice. The ever-practical Queen Victoria later had the dress altered to wear on special occasions.

## **Rose Parade & the Saratoga High Marching Band**

The Saratoga High School will be marching in the annual Rose Parade on January 1, 2016. The

world-famous Rose Parade, an annual, nationally televised festival of floats, equestrians and marching bands, is performed in Pasadena on New Year's Day. The 5.5 mile parade follows the Rose Bowl college football games.

Top marching bands are invited from all over the world. Congratulations Saratoga High School and band directors Michael Boitz and Jon Pwu.



This event began as a promotional effort by Pasadena's distinguished Valley Hunt Club. In 1890, the club members brainstormed ways to promote the

"Mediterranean of the West." They invited their East Coast neighbors to a mid-winter holiday, where they could watch games such as chariot races, jousting, foot races, polo and tug-of-war under the warm California sun. The abundance of fresh flowers prompted the club to have a parade where entrants would decorate their carriages with hundreds of blooms. The Tournament of Roses was born.

