



SARATOGA HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

POST OFFICE BOX 172, SARATOGA, CALIFORNIA 95071

SEPTEMBER 2008

Circle these dates: New exhibit Sept. 5 and reception Sept. 7 on "Saratogans Remember Wartime" Don't miss the annual barbecue on Sunday, Sept. 21!!!

Are You Ready For Mouth Watering BBQ???

The Saratoga Historical Foundation is holding its annual barbecue at the Garrod Ranch and the Cooper-Garrod Estate Winery in Saratoga on Sunday, September 21.

Special Guided Tour

The event starts at 3:30 with a guided tour of the Garrod ranch--one of the oldest working ranches in Saratoga.

Great Food

The barbecue runs from 4 to 7 PM and includes wine tasting as well as a tri-tip steak; ranch style beans; crisp salad; and a sweet dessert.

Toe Tapping Music

Entertainment includes the harmonious sounds of the Country & Western band Saratoga Skillet-Likkers.

Fun Items To Bid On

The second annual silent auction, produced by SHF member Laurel Perusa, includes over 40 donated items. Among some of the items are gift certificates from favorite Saratoga Village restaurants such as The Basin Restaurant or Da Mario Italian Restaurant, many bottles of fine wine from various vendors; a lovely vintage

diamond ring from the Village Jewelers; Gene's Fine Foods, luncheon with Mayor Walton Smith -- an Italian painting... chocolate...and a long list of gift items! Something for everyone!! Do your Christmas shopping early! This is one auction you won't want to miss. This annual fund raiser, along with the dinner, provides funds toward maintaining the Saratoga Historical Foundation's operations.

Don't Delay! Send in Your Registration!!

Tickets are \$40 for members; \$30 for children; \$50 for nonmembers and \$65 for one ticket and membership in the Foundation. Checks should be made out to Barbecue, Saratoga Historical Foundation and mailed to PO Box 172, Saratoga, CA 95071. A handy form is included inside this newsletter for registration. Space is limited to the first 100 people registering.

The deadline for registration is

September 14.

Got a Question?

For more information, contact Nancy Anderson by calling 408-867-4383 or e-mail nancy@saratogahistory.com or go up to the website: <http://www.saratogahistory.com>.



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

Chuck Schoppe, Pres., Technical Systems Dir.
Jack Mallory, Vice Pres., Community Relations
Ron Hagelin, Recording Secretary
Bob Himel, Treasurer

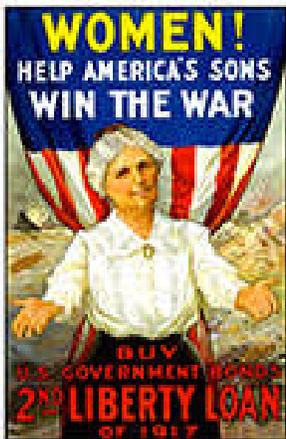
Newsletter

The Saratoga Historical Foundation newsletter is produced 6X a year. If you have comments or suggestions, please e-mail to:
annette@saratogahistory.com

Museum

The Saratoga Museum is open from 1-4 Friday through Sunday. Stop by and see the many exhibits. Visit our website: <http://www.saratogahistory.com>.

Over There--Looking for Veterans!



As part of our series on "Saratogans Remember Wartime", the museum is looking for 5-6 veterans to participate in a panel discussion on Sunday October 26. The discussion will take place from 1-4 in the museum with light refreshments served. The event is open to the public.

We are looking for people to talk for 5-10 minutes about their experience during the war--could be a veteran or civilian talking about how war changed their life.

If you would be interested in participating, please e-mail annette@saratogahistory.com or call 408-867-7468 or call the museum at 408-867-4311.

"Saratogans Remember Wartime"-- New Exhibit and Reception



"Dear Dad:. I thought you might be sort of interested in how the army is being run nowadays. I guess things are a lot different now than when you were in; people say that the new army is soft compared to the old army."

That letter from town historian Willys Peck to his parents during World War II will be part of a new exhibit, "Saratogans Remember Wartime" that will open Friday, September 5 from 1 to 4 PM at the Saratoga Historical Museum. The exhibit will include an overview of World War I and II as well as focus on local activities and people during that time. Part of the exhibit will include vintage posters of the times as well as include memories, news clippings and photos of local Saratogans. Sing Kee, one of the most decorated World War I veterans and former Saratogan and many others will be featured. The exhibit will run each weekend from Friday - Sunday from 1-4 PM until November 1.

If you have a "war time story" we would like to add your story to the exhibit. Or if you have war memorabilia that you would like to loan or donate to the museum for this exhibit, please e-mail annette@saratogahistory.com or ray@saratogahistory.com.

Or call the museum at 408-867-4311. The exhibit will run through November and we will continue to add items

Don't miss the reception!

The public is invited to a special reception that will be held on Sunday, September 7 from 1-4PM. Light refreshments will be served.

A Memorable Interview With Two of Our Volunteers



Recently through the miracle of the Internet we were able to catch up with Michael and Sandra Whalen while they were attending an event in Washington.

Editor: How long have you been a volunteer with SHF?:

Sandra and I have been together since 1994. However, my membership (with my late wife, Theda E. Kamo) dates to the early to mid 1980's. We were

invited to the barbeque at Garrod's by my father, George Whalen, at the above vague time and joined subsequently. I had always thought it a hallowed institution which I was not able to join. I assumed one needed to be a Louise Cooper or George Whalen, or at least a Bob Oliver, an early classmate of my dad's at Oak Street School.

Editor: What kind of SHF volunteer work do you do?

I volunteered on some work projects in the late 1980's, acting as a laborer for the defacto foreman, the above mentioned Bob Oliver. However, I did not become a docent until some time after the turn of the century. As soon as I had been a docent long enough to be sure I liked doing it, Sandra joined me as a docent and general volunteer.

As volunteer docents, we primarily man the desk in the front of the museum. When April was here, Sandra manned the desk and I wrote short biographies of Saratogans as April would suggest. Also, April would, each month, provide us with articles, magazines, and books relevant to our background and helpful to us as docents. We discuss and interpret (as best we can) museum exhibits for visitors. We give short tours of the McWilliams House and the donated items in the outdoor exhibit in the rear of the museum park. I attempt to regale newcomers with old time Saratoga stories if they seem receptive. I help visiting previous residents to catch up on Saratoga since they left, however long ago that may have been. When Jenni Taylor, Peggy Schoppe or Nancy Anderson need help, we oblige as our lives permit. I contribute to exhibits if possible, e.g. #1 The '06 earthquake – I made a small exhibit of San Francisco minted coins dated 1906-S, labeled, encased them in a plastic slab and submitted them. E.g. #2 For the present exhibit on the Saratoga Drugstore I submitted my grandfather's circa 1900 granite topped, hardwood and glass case and a balance scale with weights I acquired at a coin show.

As volunteers we greatly enjoy working other events for SHF besides our docent work, i.e. the Garden Tour, the Mustard Fair, etc.

Editor: Any strange things happen to you as docents?

The strangest thing to happen while being docents is when birds set off the fire alarm at the McWilliams house. We could hear the birds in the fireplace.

Editor: Are you still working?

We are both retired. Sandra is a grandmother, homemaker and assisted her previous husband a professional painter, now based in Greenwich Village, NYC. She is a full time musician, playing the baritone sax and clarinet. She plays in the Santa Cruz City Band and the Cabrillo College Jazz Band.

I am a tree trimmer (climber) still. I am an advanced numismatist. We travel the US attending coin shows and collecting. I worked as a Union member for a subcontractor for PG&E as a line clearance climbing foreman. After I established my credentials in tree work, I was hired by the Santa Cruz County Public Works Road Department. I worked 25 years for the Road Dept., the last 10 years as a road District Supervisor

Growing up in Saratoga made me permanently oriented toward orchards and history. We have two "family orchards," one of 45 trees and one of 17 trees.

A Look Back-- by Michael Whalen

Saratoga is fairly old and my family were not "pioneers" in the sense of the first Anglo's who wangled the newly secularized mission lands and land grants from the Hispanics who had gotten them from the Native Americans. However, my family did arrive in Saratoga in 1922. My grandfather, who had been a genuine "Sooner" in the Oklahoma Land Rush of 1889, was a sharecropper on what is now West Valley College. My family lived in the later 1920's and most of the 1930's on Gardiner Lane. In fact, I have a picture of my family living in the same house that Jenni Taylor's family occupied in the 1950's. My family rented, Jenni's family owned. My family farmed in several places in Saratoga in the 1920's to the 1950's.

My father's brother, Emmett Whalen, owned (and now my cousin Bob owns) Castle Rock Ranch which is in the middle of the State Park. My Uncle Emmett was farming/business partner with Robert C. Kirkwood. The Kirkwood family owned the "Rancho Bella Vista" and its mansion. Kirkwood was the state senator from the Saratoga area and later elected State Controller.

My father, George, was appointed Postmaster in Saratoga by Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1955. He succeeded Willys Peck's father, Llewellyn B. Peck. My father worked for the Saratoga Post Office, starting after graduation from Los Gatos High School in 1936. He worked as Postmaster until Richard Nixon changed it into a quasi- corporation instead of a department of the federal government. He served two terms on the Santa Clara County Grand Jury. He then went to West Valley College (on the Dean's list every semester) and then to San Jose State. At the time of his death in 1988 he was petitioning for graduation. My father was a well known local athlete in high school, captain of the football team and "All Santa Clara County" two years in a row. He was 1936 class president.

My father is responsible for my knowledge about and my lifelong love and fascination for Saratoga.

An Attitude of Gratitude!

They came from Santa Cruz. They came from Mountain View. They came from Saratoga. The volunteers for SHF's annual "Volunteer Appreciation Dinner" gathered in the garden of Social Events Chair Nancy Anderson along with the Board of Directors.

The annual dinner recognizes all volunteers who have provided 30 or more hours of service. **Thank you.**

President Chuck Schoppe welcomed the group and thanked them for their service by saying: "Look around this beautiful garden. Besides these lovely flowers you see a select group of people who make our Saratoga Museum what it is today. Volunteers are the heart and soul of the Saratoga Historical Foundation and Museum and we thank you."

Special Guest

Schoppe also introduced George Cooper as a special guest. Schoppe said, "As you know, George is the husband of our beloved Louise, who we lost a year ago. Louise Cooper was a board member almost from the start and was President for many years."

Thanks!!

Anderson, on behalf of the Board of Directors, awarded Chuck and Peggy Schoppe with a gift and thanked them for their hard work.

After dinner, Volunteer Coordinator Peggy Schoppe addressed the group and said, "It is the volunteers who make good things happen for our foundation and museum. The time and effort you give is greatly appreciated."

Special Praise

Special recognition was given to Myrna Thompson, one of the volunteers, who had worked over 150 hours helping with the museum doing filing and office work.

Many volunteers wear "multiple hats" and serve as both museum and Education docents.

Or they may serve on multiple committees--all work is appreciated.

Linda Hagelin, Education Programs Director, who manages the education docents said, "We have a real team of educators as docents. Although we each have a "favorite" station, everyone is willing to step in wherever needed. This means we are learning all the time.....I love it!"

Director Emeritus Awarded

President Chuck Schoppe awarded Warren B. Heid the title Director Emeritus, the second SHF person to be awarded this honor. Heid recently retired from his position on the Board. Schoppe noted that Heid, one of the original people who helped set up the museum, had provided exceptional, inspirational and dedicated service during his time on the Board of Directors. As

you may recall Louise Cooper was elected our first Director Emeritus shortly after she retired

from the Board.

Happy Birthday!

Two birthdays were celebrated at the event-- Willys Peck and Les Landin.

Some good-natured discussion was held as to who is the "oldest" since their birthdays are only a few days apart.

Volunteers for SHF provide the time and effort for the museum and all SHF activities. They serve as docents for the museum, for the

education program, as well as assist with



programs, exhibits, the McWilliams House, membership drives, gardening, recording and filing documents. The list is very lengthy. If you would like to get involved, call Peggy Schoppe at: 408-867-9229.



MANY THANKS FROM DOUG AND NANCY ANDERSON

Doug and I wish to thank the mystery credit card holder that paid for the rental of the garden furniture for the Volunteer Appreciation dinner. What a surprise to stand there with our checkbook ready and have the bill handed to us marked "PAID". Thank you, thank you!!!!





Save These Dates!

- Sept. 5 Saratogans Remember Wartime-- new exhibit opens at the Museum
- Sept. 7 Reception for the exhibit at the Museum from 1-4 PM
- Sept. 13 Lantern Walk downtown Saratoga
- Sept. 20 A Taste of Saratoga
- Sept. 21 Annual BBQ at the Garrod Ranch
- Oct. 26 Panel of veterans, 1-4 PM discuss war time memories at the Museum

"Poems are made by fools like me, But only God can make a tree"

If you share the same sentiment as Joyce Kilmer, you would be interested in the Saratoga



Heritage Tree Society. Founded by Councilwoman Jill Hunter, the organization has picked 20 of the prettiest and oldest trees in Saratoga.

Locations of these can be viewed in a book at the Saratoga Historical Museum. The trees selected are from both public and private land and always with the approval of the owners.

The group is currently considering a list of 20 new and different trees. The nominated trees could be flowering trees, lovely old oaks, sturdy redwoods, stately palms, scented cedar...your choice. Nominate your favorite tree and the judges will compile their list from the nominations. You must include the address of the tree and the tree must be visible from the street. Send your nomination to: jhunter95070@yahoo.com. If you want to monitor and see what's happening with the selection, you can ask to be on the mailing list for free.

The oak tree shown in the photo is located on 14724 Oak Street.

Shedding Some Light on This Celebration



The "Lantern Walk" will once again take place in the Saratoga Village on Saturday, September 13 from 4 to 6 PM.

According to Emily Lo, one of the coordinator's of the event, "People of all ages will enjoy this Chinese custom. The Lantern Walk is a variation of The Mid Autumn Festival, one of three major Chinese holidays. Its origins stem from ancient farming rituals performed to celebrate and give thanks for the autumn harvest. It is also a time for family gatherings. Children play under the full moon, listen to legends and stories of the Festival, and light lanterns."

If you would like to participate, meet on Big Basin Way in front of Starbucks between 4 and 6 PM. There you can see a lantern display, enjoy entertainment, arts and crafts, and sample some tasty moon cakes.

Take a walk down Big Basin where lanterns outside shop doors will indicate which vendors will have a treat ready. Be sure to take a short jog over and stop by the Saratoga Historical Museum and the McWilliams house for a special treat.

Would You Like To Write?



The history of Saratoga is filled with interesting people. One of the well-known personalities is Mary Day Brown the wife of the famous abolitionist, John Brown who lived in Saratoga after the Civil War and is buried in Madronia Cemetery . Two

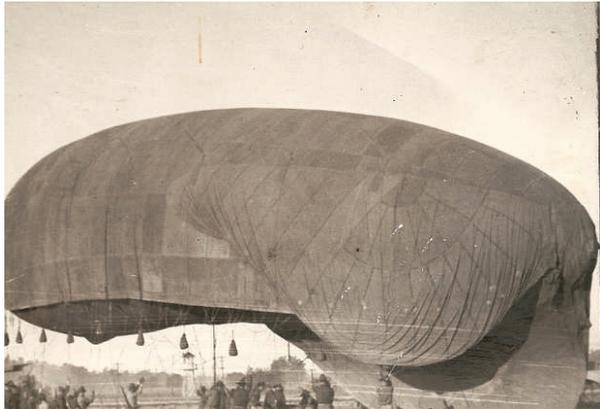
others are the two sisters, Olivia de Havilland and Joan Fontaine who lived in Saratoga before going off to Hollywood.

The Saratoga Museum is interested in documenting the history of these three women as well as other local historical characters.

The museum is a wonderful resource for researching. Books are available in the reference library for research as well as files of well-organized news clippings and scrapbooks. If you like to research and would like to write about one of these famous women or others, contact Jack Mallory at Mallory58@aol.com or call 408-252-7447.

Llewellyn B. Peck, Saratoga's Balloon Fighter

By Ray Cosyn, SHF Historian



During World War I, (the war to end all wars), Saratoga resident Llewellyn B. Peck and father of Willys Peck our town historian, went into training to become a balloon observer.

According to Willys, it was the only way his father could get a ticket to France, because all of the openings to fly fixed wing aircraft had been filled. When you consider the technology that is available today, it is hard to imagine the use of balloons in combat. They weren't Predator drones but they were quite effective in spotting enemy troop encampments and artillery placement so as a result both sides, the Allies and Germany, employed them throughout the war.

Dangerous Flying

Flying an observation balloon during the days of trench warfare in northern France was a very dangerous occupation. The balloons were filled with hydrogen, a very explosive gas as witnessed the destruction of the Hindenburg. They were normally tethered a couple of miles from the front, and were positioned 3000 feet above the earth where the observer would have a clear view of the battlefield. The observer, which is what Llewellyn was being trained to be, stood in a wicker basket that was attached to the under side of the balloon with steel cables. His observations were passed to the ground via the use of flags or occasionally by radio. The balloon observer would spend plenty of time aloft, as a shift would normally last several hours before he would be allowed to land.

Open to Attack

It has been said that in the event of an attack by hostile aircraft, balloons which made tempting targets, could be brought to the ground in a little over a minute by a motorized winch. To add another level of protection for the observer, he was outfitted with a parachute in the event the balloon was hit by hostile fire. Attacking an

observation balloon was not without risk to the attacking aircraft. Fighter escorts and a ring of ground based anti aircraft guns normally protected observation balloons.

Trained in Berkeley

How did our intrepid balloon observer fare in the Great War, well he didn't. Llewellyn went into training at the University of California in Berkeley in 1918. It was here that he took his training in preparation to being sent overseas. Fortunately for all concerned the war ended before he had a chance to show his mettle above the battlefield of the Western Front.

The photo shows the balloon he flew.

Ask a Historian



Hello Saratogan, When I was growing up in Saratoga I remember an old adobe near the intersection of 9 and Quito Road, possibly on Austin Way.

If I recall, it was single level and had an inner court yard. It looked very old. I have always had a dream of building something similar. Does anyone know it's history and if it is still there. What I really want is to see it. Thank you for your help. --Gary

Response: The most spectacular "adobe style" house in Saratoga is located at 15231 Quito Road, just below Highway 9. It is known as Casa Tierra and it was built between 1941 and 1943 by two missionary ladies from the Boston area. Their names were Maude Meagher and Carolyn Smiley and their home is truly remarkable.

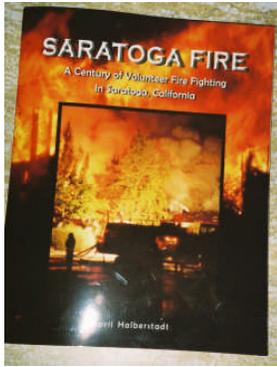
The house is spectacular - it is 13,000 square feet and was used as their home and business. They published a children's magazine known as World Youth and their printing plant was on the premises.

They made the adobe bricks themselves, scavenged seconds on decorative tiles from local manufacturers and used discarded automobile windows for window glass. Because they were building during the time of World War II, building materials were scarce.

The house fell into disrepair and was lovingly restored over many years by a local family. The house went on the market and was finally sold. The Saratoga Museum featured the home in their garden tour one year when it was on the market. -April Halberstadt.

"Ask a Historian" is a section on the SHF website: <http://www.saratogahistory.com>.

New Book at the Museum!



The Museum gift shop has added a new book for sale: "Saratoga Fire --A Century of Volunteer Fire Fighting in Saratoga, California" and written by April Halberstadt. The book covers the time period of 1850-2008 and includes the fires in Saratoga and the

volunteers who provided service to the community and equipment. Most of the photographs are black and white from the SHF archives, and there is a section in color in the 138 page book. The book sells for \$19.75 for members, \$21.95 to non-members, plus tax. The Museum is open 1-4 PM Friday through Sunday.

Recent Deaths of Members

Two SHF members recently passed away: Doreen Oliver passed away in July. A long time member of SHF and resident of Saratoga, she will be greatly missed.

Rear Admiral Ralph Marion Metcalf, RADM USN passed away at the age of 95 in June. A long time SHF member and resident of Saratoga, he will also be greatly missed.

Our condolences to the families.

Checking Out the SHF Website!

SHF webmaster Jeff Johnson added "In the News," a new section to the website (<http://www.saratogahistory.com>). In the News captures news events relevant to SHF members and events.

And, if you are interested in the Interurban Peninsular railway, a new article has been added to the website written by Ray Cosyn, SHF historian.

If you would like to be kept current on SHF events, be sure to sign up for the free e-mail notification on the home page of the website. These notifications are usually sent two weeks prior to the event.

**Saratoga Historical Foundation
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