

## SARATOGA HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

## PO BOX 172, SARATOGA, CALIFORNIA 95071 March 2012

Shaped by Water lecture on March 19 \* One-room Schoolhouse Dedication March 29 and April 1\* Ice Cream Social April 21\* Renew your membership today and help preserve local history!!!

# **Shaped By Water— Free Lecture on March 19**

"Water, water everywhere, nor any drop to drink" Rime of the Ancient Mariner, (1798) by Samuel Taylor Coleridge

Water is on everyone's mind as rain seems to be elusive so far this year.

"Shaped by Water," a free lecture by Jan Masters and Valerie Richardson, and sponsored by the Saratoga Historical



Foundation will take place on March 19 at 7 PM at the Immanuel Lutheran Reception Hall. Those participating in the dessert potluck, please come at 6:30 PM.

highlight the many ways in which human uses of water have affected the development of the Santa Clara Valley. The lecture will trace how water has shaped the development from the time of the Native Americans, through the arrival of the Spanish in the Mission era, then the beginning of the American period with the Gold Rush and the first influx of large numbers of new residents, through the "Valley of Heart's Delight era and into the present. Some considerations for the future will also be touched upon.

The Immanuel Lutheran Church hall is located at 14103 Saratoga Avenue in Saratoga.

Jan Masters and Valerie Richardson worked on the content and development of the "Shaped by Water" exhibit presently showing at the Los Altos History Museum. Masters is a long time resident of the Los Altos area, writer and teacher. Richardson is a long time resident of the Saratoga area and has studied early California history for many years.

A medley of water-oriented recorded songs will precede the presentation while people enjoy their desserts.

## Did I Hear the Word, Dessert?

American Author Ernestine Ulmer said it best, "Life is uncertain. Eat dessert first."

The potluck preceding the March 19 program will consist of all desserts. If you are participating in the potluck, please bring enough dessert to share. Additionally, bring your own eating utensils, plates, beverage of choice to sample the delicacies. Hot water for tea or coffee will be made available.

The Saratoga Historical Foundation members are well-known for being wonderful chefs and tasty bakers so the anticipation is great.

Dessert is sometimes described as gooey, wonderful chocolate confections that automatically adhere to one's hips once consumed. Or in the European tradition, dessert is fine cheeses and sensuous, quality fruit that put you in a blissful, euphoric mood.

One wag said, "I put the food in the oven and use the smoke detector as a timer." The same cook is also known to rely heavily on prayer.

So for the cooking challenged—remember there are many sources to obtain ready-made, mouth watering cookies, luscious pies, tempting cakes with beautiful frosting just



waiting to be shared with a favorite historian. Put the food on an elegant plate and everyone will think you baked it yourself—be sure to remove the price tag.

As Humor Columnist Erma Bombeck reminds us, "Seize the moment. Remember all those women on the Titanic who waved off the dessert cart."

See you at the

membership meeting on March 19, 2012 at 6:30 PM! The program will start promptly at 7:00 PM.

### Remembering When the Earth Shook in 1906

George and Nettie Foster purchased a fruit ranch in Saratoga, California in the 1890's. They moved with their children Ray, Ned, Frank, Ruth and Ethel. They decided to move after the great fire in 1869 in Seattle, Washington destroyed the lumber yard that they had owned. Arthur was born in Saratoga in 1892.

According to Ethel Foster, a daughter, "Father found a very lovely home on Fruitvale Avenue for us between Los Gatos and Saratoga where we passed the next eighteen years. It was a fruit ranch mainly planted to French prunes, but there was a smaller orchard of peaches, some apricots, and a miscellaneous collection of trees for home fruits. We were fortunate in having a few figs, almonds, orange trees, persimmons, grapes and a number of other fruit or nut trees. On the place were ten huge oak trees, both evergreen live oaks, white and black. The house was a two-story nine-room one and had porches across the front and one side.

"The big, well-built house was on a knoll from which there



was a fine view of the wooded Santa Cruz Mountains to the south and west and the broad stretch of the Santa Clara valley to the north and east. We could see the tiny spot on

the top of Mt. Hamilton that was the newly built Lick Observatory. There were hammocks, swings and benches under the fine trees. We also had croquet grounds. We lived practically out of doors for most of the year. On Sundays we attended the Congregational Church at Saratoga, riding in our stylish fringe-topped surrey drawn by well-groomed Bob (the horse). Mother was an important member of the Ladies Aid while Father practically took over the supervision of the church finances in his capacity as Trustee.

#### Life in Saratoga

"For eighteen happy years Nettie and George lived in the Saratoga home. True there was some rough going during the depression when prunes sold for practically nothing. That was our main crop. Mother would have three hundred quarts in the fruit room for winter besides all the dried prunes, peaches, and almonds that we could eat. The weather is good in that foothill country. Nettie liked the neighbors and friends, who were many of them well educated folks not too long from the East.

"Every summer we spent some time at the beach across the mountains. Frequently there would be a picnic planned to one of the mountain streams within easy driving distance, Guadaloupe, Stevens Creek or Saratoga Springs. Once there was a trek to Mt. Hamilton with a glimpse of the moon through the big telescope.

After attending Saratoga Grammar School, the family rented a home in San Jose so the children could go to high school. Father would drive down to San Jose to spend Sunday with the family and then return to the ranch. "The ten miles from the ranch to San Jose would have been nothing had we had an automobile, but such transportation was unheard of at that time in the year of 1894."

### Bicycling to high school in Los Gatos

In the fall of that year, four miles away in Los Gatos, a high school was built so the children bicycled to high school.

The family moved to Palo Alto and bought a home so the children could attend Stanford University. The father continued to commute between the ranch and Palo Alto.

In 1901 George, Nettie and son Arthur moved back to the ranch and in 1906 the great earthquake took place.

#### The great earthquake

At 5:12 AM on Wednesday, April 18, 1906 a major earthquake struck San Francisco. The 7.9 earthquake ruptured along the San Andreas Fault for a total of 296 miles. Shaking was felt from Oregon to Los Angeles and as far as Nevada.

The death toll from the earthquake and resulting fire with 3000 people represented the greatest loss of life from a natural disaster in California's history.

According to Ethel, "Ruth was on the second floor of her big square boarding place (where she was a Stanford University student). She woke to feel a violent pitching and to see the roof of the porch apparently rise up and block her window. Springing from her bed, she made her way through the still shaking house, down the swaying stairs covered with broken plaster to the front door. There was a great hole where the large, brick fireplace had been.

"The front door was blocked so back through the kitchen she made her way to find that she would have to climb through the window to get out. One outside wall had broken away enough



so that she could see daylight through the crack. Another shake or two and the

whole house would have collapsed like a pack of cards. The house had dropped six feet off its foundations. Few were hurt, since they were in bed when the great shock came. Hasty breakfasts were prepared over outdoor fires for no chimney was intact. Then out to the University they streamed. Every building had suffered and some were demolished completely.

"At Saratoga the quake shook Mother and Father out of bed. Waiting at the foot of the stairs they watched Arthur make his perilous descent down the stairway. Then all three rushed out

### Save These Dates!

Feb 3-May 31 IOOF special exhibit at the Museum

March 7 Civil War Connections panel at the

Sunnyvale library, 7 PM

March 17 St. Paddy's Day, 2-4, SVDC event SHF Membership program, Shaped

by Water, 6:30 dessert; 7:00,

program

March and April 1

One-room Schoolhouse Opening

April 21 IOOF ice cream social

May 21 SHF Membership Program,

Aftermath of Executive Order 9066

#### Story continued from page 2

the doors, hand in hand. Our home was not much damaged, only the foundations having to be inspected and repaired and. the chimneys rebuilt, but it was days before their shattered nerves were quiet. Ruth came home and she slept out of doors on the front lawn for several months. No one knew when another quake might come. All summer long there were tremors but no serious shakes; although at night everyone piled out of bed and got outside just in case."

In 1907, the family moved back to Washington state to live

Excerpts from the memories of Ethel Foster.

## Free Band Concert March 26

SHF member and Conductor Craig Northrup invites everyone to enjoy a special concert featuring the Saratoga Community band. The concert takes place March 26 from 7:30 to 8:30 at the McAfee theatre at Saratoga High School.

### Free IOOF Social on April 21



The IOOF will host a free ice cream social on April 21 from 1-6 PM for members of the Saratoga Historical Foundation. The ice cream social will include the lodge open house as well as the ability to see the museum's current exhibit: Celebrating a Century of Good Work—the IOOF and Saratoga Retirement Community. Other activities

are also being planned for that day including an opportunity to have your name in the IOOF time capsule. The IOOF lodge is located at 14414 Oak Street.



### Special May 21 Membership Program

Saratogans and members of the Japanese American Museum, Art and Aki Okuno will be the speakers at the membership program on May 21 and will speak on, "The Aftermath of Executive Order 9066". Executive Order 9066 was signed by then President F. D. Roosevelt that resulted

in some 120,000 persons of Japanese ancestry, two-thirds of whom were native born citizens, to be incarcerated in the War Relocation Authority Internment Camps. Both Art and Aki were interned during this period and will share their memories.

## Celebrating a Century of Good Work—IOOF/Saratoga Retirement Community



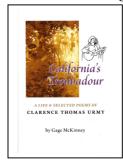
Don't miss the IOOF and the Saratoga Retirement Community special exhibt that runs February 3 – May 27 and traces the growth of the retirement community as well as the contributions

of the IOOF for the past century. The Saratoga History Museum is open from 1-4 PM Friday, Saturday and Sunday and located at 20450 Saratoga-Los Gatos Road.

#### Puzzled?

Don't miss the special Puzzles exhibit also at the museum. Bring a friend and see who can solve the puzzles first.

### California's Troubadour—a New Book on Saratoga Poet Clarence Urmy



Sunnyvale Resident Gage McKinney just published a 139-page book on Clarence Thomas Urmy (1858-1923). Urmy was a poet, minister, musician, writer and professor who lived in both San Jose and Saratoga. The book includes some of his poems and can be purchased for \$20 from Comstock Bonanza press at 18919 William Quick Memorial Drive, Grass Valley, CA 95945-8611 or by going up to

www.comstockbonanza.com.

#### O'Reverie

Montalvo has a series of events planned during the year for



celebrating
their 100<sup>th</sup>
anniversary of
supporting the
arts. Recently
SHF members
Laurel Perusa
and Jack
Dunstan
participated at a
service
luncheon.

Perusa, dressed as Olivia deHavilland, gave a short presentation on her life. Dunstan showed an interview filmed of deHavilland in the 1960's when she visited Saratoga. *Photo courtesy of Martha Reich*.

### One-room Schoolhouse Dedication— You're Invited

"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to



change the world." – Nelson Mandela

An old fashioned school bell will hang in the tower of the new one-room schoolhouse and will ring in the dedication on March 29. Held at the Historical Park, the dedication ceremony will go from 3-5 PM.

The program will include speeches, music, and a poem by Town Historian Willys Peck. The education program docents, dressed

in costume, will give tours of the historic McWilliams house as well as that of the one-room schoolhouse.

Special Projects Director Ernie Kraule has been busy supervising the construction of the schoolhouse. Changes to the existing building included adding a bell tower; new windows, door, ramp for the handicapped and a wooden floor.

Education Director Linda Hagelin is excited about the new addition to her program. She's been busy rounding up items to complete the look and feel of a one-room schoolhouse. The desks, McDuffey Readers and slates have been in use since the program's inception. New additions to the décor include a clock donated by Becky and Alan Breed, flag, framed photos of President George Washington and President Abraham Lincoln and other items.

The education program demonstrates pioneer life in the 1870's, meeting third and fourth grade California History/Social Studies Standards, but can be adapted for adults, scouts, and other groups upon request. Last year over 850 students and young adults participated in the program.

Light refreshments on March 29 will be provided by Social Director Jane Asher.

## Open house also on April 1



The celebration will be open to the public on April 1 from 1 to 4 PM when visitors to the Saratoga Historical Park can tour the schoolhouse, McWilliams House and the museum. Costumed docents will give informative tours.

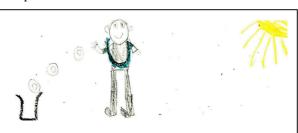
When the schoolhouse is not in use by the education program, it will be open the same hours as the museum—1-4 PM Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

## A Different Kind of Bucket— Education Docent

### **Talent Recognized!!**

Students who participate in the education program activities conducted at the Saratoga History Museum often write a thank you to the docent they enjoyed best. The education docents find the program rewarding and fun. Frequently they comment on the children's enthusiasm and interest as being refreshing and the best reward. Education Docent Ron

Hagelin recently received this letter from one of the participants:



Dear Mr. Hagelin,

I think you are very good at throwing the washers into the buket (sic). Thank you for teaching me how to do it. I ipresheate (sic) it. I think you are very cool and you are very good at so, so many things. How do you do it? Sincerely Jared

### **Lectures By Historian Ray Cosyn**



If you are in need of a speaker on history and local Saratoga history—contact Saratoga Historical Foundation Historian Ray Cosyn. Cosyn has developed the following presentations—most 30-40 minutes in length with quality slides using historic images:

• Saratoga: A Lumber Town, traces the history of Saratoga from the Ohlone's to the present historic village. The excitement of the once rollicking lumber town to the battle for incorporation is of interest to every Saratogan.

- The Interurban Railway, yearn for the days of a trip by rail to San Jose or Palo Alto on the sleek Interurban Railway? The mass transit train, carrying packages and people, once quietly traveled the Santa Clara Valley.
- Prohibition—sit back and enjoy hearing about the driest town in the valley a period of time that lasted over 40 years. Interesting stories about the effect of Prohibition on the local wineries (including Paul Masson) will make you smile.
- Lincoln's Funeral Train- miracles and sadness traveled with the death of Present Abraham Lincoln as his funeral train made it's last journey.
- Flying Tigers find out more about these intrepid Americans who fought an air war prior to WWII for freedom in China.

The presentations are appropriate for groups of all ages. If you are interested in having Cosyn speak before your organization, you can contact him at: ray@saratogahistory.com.

### **School Days at the**

### **Turn of the Century**

Well-known local author Ralph Rambo went to Doyle school on Stevens Creek Road in San Jose in 1900. The following are some of his memories.

"Pupils averaged from 20 to 40 in number with all ages, 6 to 18. Some of these "big boys" were old enough to shave, chew tobacco, roll a Bull Durham and plow. Such chores as last, limited their attendance and their academic careers terminated at about the fifth grade.



## Outdoor plumbing for all

Schools had one room with a potbellied stove for heating. Outdoor plumbing for boys and girls were at opposite back corners of the lot. It was a distant walk and we made it last the limit.

## Flour and sugar sacks in demand

We wore long, black droopy, ribbed stockings, ill chosen, ill fitted and totally impractical for the rigors of country life. Holes appeared daily and distraught mothers, discovering a hole that last minute before school departure, camouflaged our exposed bare skin with a dab of school blacking. These sad stockings concealed our true leg shape account of the heavy cotton drawers we wore.

Girls were pretty then as they are today with the same interest in fashions. This was the gingham girl era and many of their dresses and boys' shirts were homemade. Cotton sacks served a double purpose. Flour and sugar came in one hundred pound sacks. Mothers utilized this indelibly labeled material. Therefore many a boy's shirt announced "Snow Peak Granulated Sugar" while the small girl's panties could proclaim: "Snow Flake White" or "Pure As the Drifted Snow."

## Games children played

Common games were "Dare-Base," Fox and Geese," or "Snap-The-Whip." Boys played marbles, baseball, top spinning, kites and mumbletypeg.

## All grades were taught by one teacher

School teachers were San Jose State Normal graduates and how they earned their small salaries! One teacher taught all eight grades with four or five pupils in each grade ranging in age from six to eighteen.

### Teacher's were well-dressed

Our teachers had a typical appearance. They wore starched shirt waists with high necked collars, long sleeves and floorlength skirts. Only when they stepped up into a high buggy were their shocking low shoes exposed, tied with wide ribbon pince-nez glasses suspended from a fine gold chain were anchored to a gold container pinned to her shirt waist. Every teacher wore a monogrammed gold lapel watch fastened with a fleur de lis. A medallion or cameo with some Grecian female's face thereon, was pinned below her torturous whalebone supported collar. Paper wrist protectors and two or three

pencils impaled in the "rat" of her pompadour accentuated her austere air of shrewd efficiency.

## Lunch was important for trade value

When the school term began, each child carried a lunch packed in a lard pail graded according to the child's age and capacity; one, two or five pounds.

Certain foods had trade value. Cold pork chops topped the list and could be exchanged for two dill pickles and a "hunk" of bologna. Cold mince pie was worth at least two boiled ham sandwiches and a devilled egg. Although fried chicken was secretly admired and only casually displayed, it bore the stigma of a "mama's boy."

Lunches were never packed in paper sacks. Instead, lard pails, "brownies," and emptied tin tobacco boxes were used.



We sounded like the anvil chorus walking along to school in groups with our metal containers clanking with nuts, spoons, salt-shakers, glass jars of home canned fruit and hard boiled eggs. A "brownie"? It was a brown, pasteboard box with imitation leather handles. It was quite chic for the first week or two

but soon deteriorated with dents, bulges, stains and butter smears from jam and jelly leaks. Mothers preferred Swift's or Armour's lard pails. They could be "boiled out."

At noon the teacher rang her little hand bell and we filed or clattered out to the yard for lunch. A few patient, hungry dogs would be waiting for a handout of our mothers' rejected preparations. Like an ancient Roman feast, this furnished us with entertainment as we dined. A bologna skin or a chop bone tossed amongst our canine companions could touch off a first class dog fight.

Where is the original old Doyle School? Today buried deep beneath a new freeway crossing Stevens Creek Road. Thank goodness we can't bury memories!"

Excerpts reprinted from: "Remember When...A Boy's Eye View of an Old Valley by F. Ralph Rambo.

### Plaque Added to Historical Park Garden



A plaque recognizing the work of the Saratoga Horticultural Research Foundation, originally founded in 1951 on Verde Vista Avenue in Saratoga, was recently added. Thanks to the work of Robert Himel, Jim Sorden, Katie

Alexander, and Michael Whalen in producing the plaque.

## **History Displays Planned**

A new display cabinet for showcasing artifacts and promoting Saratoga's rich history is in the works for both the Saratoga Community library and the Joan Pisani Community Center. A grant will be written to cover the expense. The handsome display cabinets will be a great reminder for people using the library or the Pisani Community Center of Saratoga's history. The displays will be installed in the fall depending on grant receipt.

## Tramp, Sirens, and Fond Memories of Saratoga

Joe Long is a rarity--- a third generation Saratogan, known for his quick laugh and friendly smile.

His family has been in real estate for three generations—his grandfather Harless Moser opened an office in 1906 on Lumber Street (now Big Basin Way). Long said his grandfather knew Vintner Paul Masson and used to attend his parties up on Pierce Road.



### A century dedicated to real estate

The real estate agency became known as Moser and Long when his father joined the agency. The office was behind Starbucks (Planet Juice) on Saratoga-Los Gatos Road. The agency handled both insurance and real estate. About 1997, Long said technology was making things complicated so he now works out of the Coldwell Banker office--- keeping the family name in real estate for over 100 years!!

Long and his sisters grew up on Douglass Lane. Today he and his family live in the house once owned by his parents. When he was growing up, his home was surrounded by



orchards and blossoming mustard. The family would frequently socialize with neighbors. A nearby creek provided hours of entertainment. Walks to the Saratoga Village would often end at the fire station where his father was a volunteer fire fighter.

He remembers attending Oak Street grammar school for kindergarten and later attended Fruitvale (now known as Redwood Middle School) from 1-8 grades. When he was a

kindergartner, bus driver Mr. Morganthaler would sometimes stop at Quito Road if he was ahead of schedule and let the children get out and play for a few minutes. "That wouldn't happen today," laughs Long. "Times have changed!"

### Life in the 1950's

Growing up in the 50's-60's in Saratoga was fun. Long reminisced that a favorite lunch spot was the Village Creamery (Mint Leaf restaurant now) for a hamburger or sandwich. Children knew all the merchants. And the Saratoga Village was self-sufficient -- it had everything you

needed with grocery stores, hardware store, lumber yard, 5 and Dime, (variety store) store, clothing store, gas stations and more. "'Going into town' meant travelling to San Jose," said Long.

A favorite memory was the family dog named Tramp. According to Long's sister—the dog followed her home from



school one day so they had to keep him! Tramp knew everyone. Tramp would go into town on his own to visit friends. The mixed breed beagle would time it so he would be at Clarkes Plumbing (on Oak Street) at noon each day and Jack Clarke would give him a ride home to Douglass Lane.

His parent's social life revolved mostly around the fire

department and the Foothill Club. He remembers his mother told him she was once a "tree" in one of the plays held at the Theatre in the Glade. Olivia de Havilland was also in the play and Dorothea Johnston, was the director.

The wooden flag pole that used to be in front of the Saratoga Inn (home of Theatre in the Glade on Saratoga Avenue) now stands in front of the old Moser and Long office that his father built on Saratoga Ave.



Every Saturday, he and his friends would go to the Saratoga Theatre near Third Street and Big Basin Way. There they would sit in the main section of the converted Quonset hut theatre, munch popcorn and watch cartoons, a newsreel and a film. "The Quonset hut theatre," notes Long "was a leftover from WWII—people were practical and recycled everything they could."

Long would walk to the library on Oak Street (now BookGoRound) to study. It was a good place to study with sturdy wooden tables and Mrs. Brookman as the librarian.

Vintner and WWII pilot George Cooper was his Scoutmaster. Long said Cooper was a wonderful Scoutmaster and would enliven campouts by telling stories about flying airplanes. The NASA Hall of Fame Pilot Cooper told them one time he crashed his plane into an orchard and had to walk to the farmhouse. The farmer wasn't happy with him!

Long remembers walking to Saratoga High School until he bought a pick up truck. The truck was built at the Ford plant in Milpitas (now the Great Mall). He still drives the truck and laughs he can maintain it—it's the only vehicle he can work on and keep running. Cars today are too technical, he said. A favorite after the game hangout for teenagers then was the Me-

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N- Ed's pizza parlor on Moorpark Avenue. And, sometimes, "some other" teens might race their cars on Fruitvale Avenue.

He worked for G.N.Renn, the local gasoline distributor by driving a truck when he was in high school and while going to college.

#### The lure of the siren

Following in his father's footsteps, he became a volunteer fire fighter in 1969 when he turned 21 years of age. "Those were exciting days when the siren would sound, letting people know there was a fire," said Long.

One fire he vividly remembers—when he was in sixth grade the siren went off during recess. The children could see a huge column of smoke in the Saratoga Village. The car dealership (where Kerful Cleaners is located today) was on fire and his mother had taken her car into the Beckham-Joslin car dealership that day!! Luckily her car was parked on the street but "he was close to cutting school to see if he could help."

One of his father's favorite stories about the early fire fighting days was that when the siren went off, the volunteers would rush to the station to get the fire engine. Those living cloose to the scene of the fire would take their own car. He said that if you followed the fire engine, you could always find the fire. One of the fire engines would cast off water when making the turn and spill water--- you would just have to look for the trail of water on the road.

Community service was important to the Long family. Joe Long, Senior spent over 25 years as a volunteer fire fighter and later became a fire commissioner. His son is following in his footsteps (or boots?) as a volunteer firefighter and now as a fire commissioner. He has spent over 39 years in the fire department. "It's an honor," he notes, "and I enjoy it. I go to every fire I can to see what I can learn."

Today Long and his wife, Susan and their daughter Casey enjoy living in Saratoga.

"Saratoga was a wonderful town to grow up in. We had about 3000 people living here in those days. You knew your neighbors, merchants, it was just a special place and time in which to grow up."



Circa 1952 Saratoga Volunteer Fire department Back row, left to right: Baker McGinnis, Connie Gresham, Joe Long, Virgil Campbell, Chuck Peyton, Wilbur Ruddell, Willie Worden, George Lanphear, Ralph Van Arsdale. Front row, left to right: unknown, Jerry Renn, Gene Huer, Pete Albini, Henry Clarke, unknown.

## Experienced volunteer spends time as museum docent

Fifteen years is a long time of dedication for anyone, whether it be as a fan of Michael Jackson, the time spent practicing a sport, or as a teacher. But for Saratoga resident Ed Porter, fifteen years describes the number of years spent as a museum docent for the Saratoga History Museum, and he does not plan to stop quite yet.

Porter volunteers at the Saratoga History Museum for three hours a month on Fridays.



"[They] call me each month, and ask me what Friday I can work this month, and I tell them which Friday I will be available and they sign me in," Porter

Porter enjoys every hour spent at the museum as a docent.

"I try to help whoever comes in and answer whatever questions they have," Porter said.

One time, when he was volunteering, Porter met a visitor who was wondering about an adjacent building to the museum, and asked about the information for renting it. Despite this out-of-the-ordinary question, Porter was eager to assist the visitor.

"They were interested in renting the [building next door] to build a restaurant and I helped the owner [find the information] and they ended up opening it," Porter said.

Turns out, Porter had an indirect role in the opening of Bell Tower Bistro & Patisserie!

The jovial Porter has lived in Saratoga since 1968. He was formerly Division Manager for JL Clark Manufacturing Company/CLARCOR before he retired in 1988.

Porter energetically notes in his spare time he enjoys gardening...and slyly adds, "as much as I can at my age."

Outside his docent activities for the Saratoga History Museum, Porter also volunteers his time in other areas.

Porter was past president of the Rotary and remains very active. He is on the boards of the American Red Cross, West Valley Division; Our Lady of Fatima Villa Nursing Home; and on the board of the Sister City (Muko) organization.

As a passionate Saratogan who is dedicated to many causes in the town, Porter finds the experience as a museum docent especially rewarding.

"It's the satisfaction that I have been able to help somebody," said Porter.

Written by Grace Ma, Saratoga High School Falcon reporter



### **Saratoga Historical Foundation PO Box 172** Saratoga, CA 95071

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### On the Road--- Covered Bridge at Felton



The Felton Bridge, over the San Lorenzo river is the last one of its kind built of redwood. California Landmark #583, it is also the highest or tallest in the United States.

Erected in 1892, the Felton Bridge is 180 feet long. It replaced an earlier open structure put up in 1878. Although the road up the San Lorenzo to Felton from Santa Cruz had been completed in 1868, residents and travelers alike had to ford the river, when the water was low enough, for a decade. When the river was high, horses had to swim with mail, passengers, even with supplies for the first hotel, Bib Tree House. The hotel was erected early in 1878 by Mr. and Mrs. George Day, who also operated a livery stable and stage line.

Today the bridge is used only for pedestrians. It is maintained by funds raised by the volunteer fire department. The event carries on a tradition that started in the 1860s when an old-time costume ball was held to raise money.

## 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

### 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.

### **Recruitment Effort**

SHF member Jack Mallory has been working on setting a personal best record in recruiting new SHF members this year. He and Jim Sorden have a goal of 12 new members and have already recruited 9. Membership Director Ann Waltonsmith praises their efforts and says she just might have to raise their goal!