



# SARATOGA HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

PO BOX 172, SARATOGA, CALIFORNIA 95071

May 2012

**May 10 Museum Docent Refresher Course • May 21, Aftermath of Executive Order 9066 Lecture • May 31 Memorial Day • June 1, A Day in the Hills Exhibit Opens • June 30 Special Cooper-Garrod Offer • July 4 Celebrate Independence Day Saratoga Style!**

## Join Us For “The Aftermath of Executive Order 9066”— A Special Lecture

A free lecture entitled, "The Aftermath of Executive Order 9066" and sponsored by the Saratoga Historical Foundation, will take place May 21 at 7:30 PM at the Immanuel Lutheran Church hall. The potluck will precede at 6:30 PM.

Executive Order 9066 was signed by then President Franklin 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. Joe Yasutake will give a slide presentation covering the event and Saratogans Art and Aki Okuno will talk about their personal memories of the incarceration. The Immanuel Lutheran Church hall is located at 14103 Saratoga Avenue in Saratoga. The event is free and open to the public.

### Roosevelt Acts Under Pressure

Following the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor in December 1941, the United States was gripped by war hysteria. This was especially strong along the Pacific coast of the U.S., where residents feared more Japanese attacks on their cities, homes, and businesses. Leaders in California, Oregon, and Washington, demanded that the residents of Japanese ancestry be removed from their homes along the coast and relocated in isolated inland areas. As a result of this pressure, on February 19, 1942, President Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066, which resulted in the forcible internment of 120,000 people of Japanese ancestry. The War Relocation Authority was created to administer the assembly centers, relocation centers, and internment camps, and relocation of Japanese-Americans began in April 1942.

Most were given 48-hours to pack and move — and most lost jobs, home and possessions permanently.

### Camp Locations

Ten internment camps were scattered all over the interior West, in isolated desert areas of Arizona, California, Utah, Idaho, Colorado, and Wyoming, where Japanese-Americans

were forced to carry on their lives under harsh conditions. Adults had the option of working for a salary of \$5 per day. Originally, the government hoped that the interns could make the camps self-sufficient by farming to produce food. But cultivation of the soil was a challenge. Life in the relocation centers was not easy. Housing was spartan, consisting mainly of tarpaper barracks--- too cold in the winter and too hot in the summer. Families dined together at communal mess halls and children were expected attend school.

### Others Affected

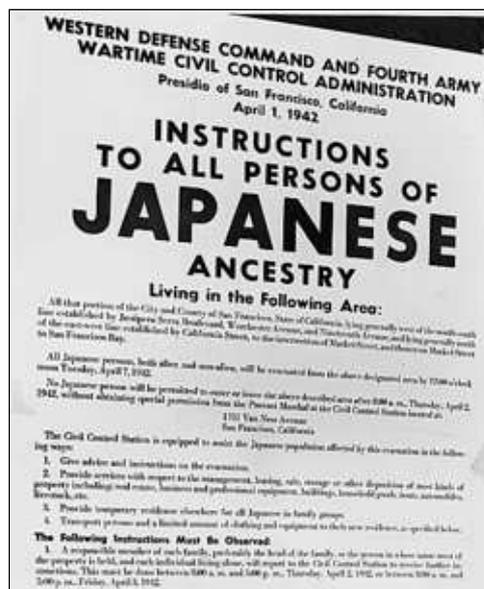
Americans of Italian and German ancestry were also targeted by these restrictions-- including internment. Over 11,000 people of German ancestry were interned as were 3000 people of Italian ancestry, along with some Jewish refugees. Some of the internees of European descent were interned only briefly

and others were held for several years beyond the end of the war.

### Rescinding the Order

Executive Order 9066 was rescinded by President Roosevelt in 1944, and the last of the camps was closed in March, 1946. When the order was repealed, many found they could not return to their hometowns. Hostility against Japanese Americans remained high across the West Coast for many years.

In 1988, Congress attempted to apologize for the action by awarding each surviving intern \$20,000 and a letter of apology.



**The full-blown potluck returns!! Bring a dish of food to share; utensils and plate. Coffee and tea will be provided. Bon appetit!**

## New Heritage Preservation Commission Representative



Long-time Saratogan (35 years), Alexandra Nugent was recently sworn in by the City Council as the HPC representative for the Saratoga Historical Foundation. One

member of the HPC is a representative for SHF and reports activities to the SHF board.

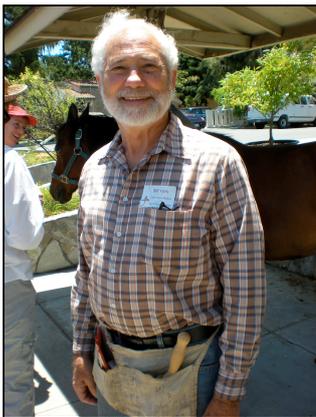
Paul Conrado, the former representative, will continue to be on the HPC. He is thanked for his dedication and for representing SHF for the last two years.

Nugent steps into her new role with an excellent background. She is a member of the California Preservation Foundation, Saratoga Foothill Club, SHF, Filoli and Garden Conservancy.

She says, "Having grown up in a historic home in New York, I learned first hand about restoration through the ongoing and dedicated efforts of my parents. Our mid 1800's home was a local landmark. In recent years I have had the privilege of assisting in the numerous restoration and renovation projects at the Saratoga Foothill Club."

Nugent continues, "Over the years I have enjoyed taking classes at the Institute for the Study of Western Civilization, focusing on cultural, art, and architectural history. I am a life-long collector and restorer of antiques."

## Dick Miners, New Museum Docent



Dick Miners, an 18 year resident of Saratoga and 24 years in Los Gatos, just recently became an SHF museum docent.

The affable Miners said in explaining his interest, "I wanted to get to know Saratoga better."

His first time as a docent was on April 21 and he passed with flying colors. He quickly began fielding questions like a pro from young and old alike.

Miners' hobbies include wood working, backpacking, ballroom and folk dancing and house painting.

The retired IBM engineer frequently participates as heritage figure Bill York during Heritage Day. York opened the first wood furniture factory in 1852 producing redwood dressing tables, four-poster madrone beds and other items out of local wood.

## Catching Up With Myrna

Myrna Thompson once had the distinction of accruing the most SHF volunteer hours in one year. And she continues to contribute in many areas at the Museum.

A Saratoga resident since 1956, Thompson said she began volunteering at the Museum in 2006. "I enjoy stories of anything that is tangible ... also my mother liked California history."

After seeing a newsletter noting volunteer activities, Thompson chose being a museum docent and filing articles as areas of interest. When the popular education program started four years ago, Thompson promptly volunteered. She said that the laundry station is her favorite of the four stations.

According to Thompson, "I thrill in listening to stories of fact from anyone who lived in Saratoga before 1956. When I see pictures of old Saratoga buildings, I get a smile inside and wish I had been an adult instead of a child to really observe."

Thompson has an active interest and recently began researching the young Saratoga men who died during WWI and are inscribed on the Memorial Arch in Blaney Plaza. Says Thompson, "Although part of this task was completed by someone earlier, I gained experience in searching for information about these six men for fun and learning. When you do it yourself, you remember."



Thompson often helps with the "Ask a Historian" section on the SHF website ([www.saratogahistory.com](http://www.saratogahistory.com)) by responding to questions asked about Saratoga. She notes, "There were a few questions I could answer about street names. I researched the questions by surfing the Internet and using knowledge I had gained from former Museum Director April Halberstadt to respond."

Thompson enjoys portraying Mary Brown, wife of Abolitionist John Brown during the annual Heritage Day and has researched Brown thoroughly. Notes, Thompson, "Mary was an important person. It is a coincidence that Mary lived on the street where I live (Bohlman Road). She says about learning, "A person simply learns by doing."

It is obvious Thompson enjoys the rich history of Saratoga. She offers, "Saratoga's museum succeeds at creating quiet environments for the mind to observe, educate, and preserve."

## Thanks For Service

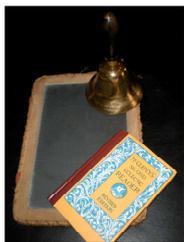
The following Museum docents recently retired for various reasons: Diantha Stensrud, Bob Cancellieri, Monica Carroll, and Jackie Welch. Our thanks for their dedicated service in keeping the museum open on weekends and answering questions from museum visitors. Their efforts have provided a valuable community service.

## Save These Dates!

<b>Feb 3-May 27</b>	IOOF special exhibit at the Museum
<b>May 10</b>	Museum Docent Refresher Course at the Museum
<b>May 21</b>	SHF Membership Program, "Aftermath of Executive Order 9066" 6:30 potluck; 7:30, presentation
<b>May 31</b>	Memorial Day, Blaney Plaza and Madronia cemetery
<b>June 1</b>	New exhibit: A Day in the Hills
<b>June 23</b>	A Sidewalk Affaire- SVDC event
<b>June 30</b>	Special Cooper-Garrod winery offer June 30 only
<b>July 4</b>	Celebrate Independence Day at 9:30 AM!
<b>Sept. 7</b>	Lecture: Drilling a hole in the wall: Narrow gauge rails to Santa Cruz by Author Bruce MacGregor
<b>Sept. 16</b>	Celebrate Saratoga!, Museum & Big Basin
<b>Sept. 25</b>	Brown Family at Hakone Gardens
<b>Sept. 29</b>	Heritage Day, Museum & Big Basin

## Museum Docent

### Refresher Course—May 10



Museum Docent Director Michael Whalen and Docent Coordinator Jenni Taylor will conduct a Museum Docent Refresher course on May 10 from 1-3 PM at the Museum. The course can be attended by both existing museum docents as well as those interested in becoming a docent. The curriculum will cover museum procedures,

exhibits, historic McWilliams House, one-room schoolhouse and more. Light refreshments will be served. If you are presently not a docent but would like to find out more, please call Michael Whalen at: 831-475-0934, Jenni Taylor at 408-741-5807 or leave a message at 408-867-4311. You can also e-mail Michael at michael@saratogahistory.com.

### Memorial Day—Saratoga Style



The few ranchers and townspeople who lived near the village in the 1920's originally started the Memorial Day observance in Saratoga. The program at the cemetery became an annual community event and has been coordinated by members of the Saratoga Foothill Club since 1928. For the past thirty-five years, the format has remained virtually the same, creating quite a tradition. This is

a unique event for Saratoga's residents and one of our oldest traditions bringing together people who want to honor the service men and women who have sacrificed their lives for our freedom and whose memory for their contribution lives on. It is young and old, families, civic groups, church groups, veterans, and so many other people who want to pay their respects and recognize our collective debt to those who have gone before us.

The gathering begins at 9:30 AM on May 28 at the Memorial Arch in Blaney Plaza, followed at 10:00 AM by the ceremonies at Madronia Cemetery. This year we will have Jennifer Chalmers who served with U.S. Department of State as part of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan, and Saratoga High School senior Mac Hyde, as the keynote speakers.

Written by Marguerite McAfee, Saratoga Foothill Club

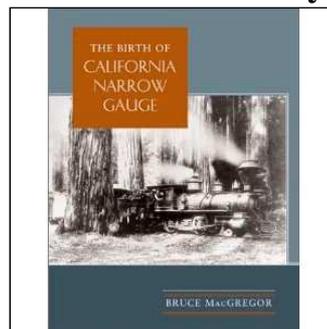
## Celebrate the 4<sup>th</sup> of July!!



Dress up as a US history character and join the fun!! It's another flag-waving, home town Independence Day celebration held on July 4<sup>th</sup> from 9:30 AM to 11 AM. Bring a friend, your family and your neighbors! The annual event will be held at the Kevin Moran Park at 12415 Scully Avenue in Saratoga. Activities include color guard, patriotic tunes from the

McCartysville Band, singing, American historical characters, and concludes with a family parade. Popsicles and US flags will be given to children and adults. Shade is provided for seniors and handicapped. Lots of parking available. This event is free of charge. For more information, go to [www.saratogaJuly4.com](http://www.saratogaJuly4.com) or call Sarah at 408-867-4577. The event is sponsored by the City of Saratoga, Saratoga Rotary, Saratoga Historical Foundation, Saratoga Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Saratoga Federated Church, West Valley Muslim Assoc. and Reshma Hyder of NY Life Insurance.

## September 7 Lecture By Train Authority Bruce MacGregor



Popular Author and Train Historian Bruce MacGregor will speak on "Drilling a hole in the wall: narrow gauge rails to Santa Cruz" on September 7 at 7:00 PM. The lecture will explore the reasons behind, and methods involved in, the construction of the South Pacific Coast Railroad over the Santa Cruz

Mountains in 1880. Costly in terms of both dollars and human life, this project was driven by the enormous economic potential on both sides of the Santa Cruz Range.

The lecture will cost \$15 for both SHF members and nonmembers. Tickets will be sold at the door only. The lecture will be held at the Immanuel Lutheran Reception Hall at 14301 Saratoga Avenue in Saratoga.

Bruce MacGregor is the author of several books including *The Birth of California Narrow Gauge* (Stanford University Press, 2002).

## The Quail—California State Bird



Each state has a state bird, and California has the California quail. It is a treat to see the plump, handsome birds, usually in a group, scurrying across the street

with comical precision.

The California quail is a round soccer ball of a bird with a rich gray breast, black bib with white stripe under the beak, and a head plume.

During the fall and winter, California quail gather into groups, called coveys that can be as large as 100 birds. In the covey, the quail tend to imitate one another and exhibit cooperative behavior.

The California quail has 14 different calls—with the most frequently heard location call described as “chi-ca-go”—California must be difficult to vocalize in quail talk.

In 1999, California quail were included on the National Audubon Society’s list of threatened bird species. The California quail was also designated as San Francisco’s official city bird—illustrating the city’s commitment to protecting and restoring quail habitat.

### Happy Birthday, Peeper

Of course this all leads into a story about a famous Saratoga quail—Peeper and his upcoming 80<sup>th</sup> birthday.

According to a column by Willys Peck and written on May 14, 1997 in the *Saratoga News*:

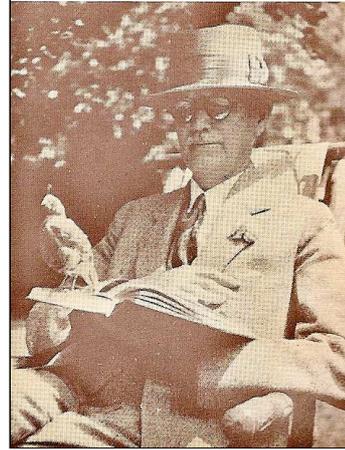
“This past Monday, May 12, marked the 65<sup>th</sup> birthday of a prominent Saratoga native, initials P.H., who would be remembered by a few people of my vintage. “Birthday” may be something of a misnomer, but there probably is no such word as “hatchday.” P.H., you see, stood for Peeper Higinbotham, a California valley quail.

The birth, or hatching, took place by the front steps at the home of John U. and Bernardine Higinbotham, a house that it has been my good fortune to occupy for the past 45 years. To appreciate fully the unfolding saga of Peeper, one should know a little about the Higinbothams. They were a childless couple who moved into the Saratoga house in August 1921, after Mr. Higinbotham retired from a career in the Midwest. A lawyer, he has been assistant treasurer of the National Biscuit Co. and also was a published author and newspaper columnist. In Saratoga, he wrote a popular column, “Detour,” under the byline J.U.H., for the weekly *Los Gatos Mail News* and *Saratoga Star*. It allowed full play of his whimsical sense of humor.

The Peeper experience was in keeping with the Higinbothams’ unparalleled devotion to the cause of bird lore. As chronicled in “The Story of Peeper,” an illustrated booklet the Higinbothams published in 1936 describing their unusual pet, Peeper emerged from one of 17 eggs and, being somewhat feeble, was left behind when the others scurried off to wherever quail scurry off to. It was his lucky day. The Higinbothams had been observing the drama being played out at their doorstep and, when they spotted the abandoned waif,

took him into their home where he lived the life of a feathered Riley until his death in November 1940.

Peeper was a personality. He eschewed the companionship of other birds, but he loved people. I can recall the assembly program at Saratoga Grammar School when Peeper hopped from hand to outstretched hand of the youngsters seated in the auditorium. According to his biographer, Mrs. Higinbotham, Peeper ate what and when his protectors did. He liked hard-boiled eggs, beans, bread, butter, cottage cheese, walnuts and especially cream.



The Higinbothams traveled quite a bit, by car and by train, and Peeper always accompanied them. On a rail trip to Kansas, he reportedly made quite a hit with passengers and waiters in the dining car, where quail probably had been known previously on toast.

Peeper died on Nov. 22, 1940. I know very little about the life expectancy of birds, but I’d hazard a guess that eight-and-a-half years is

stretching odds for a quail.

The extent to which the Higinbothams protected most wild birds was driven home to me when my wife and I moved into the house after our marriage in February 1952. Mr. Higinbotham died in 1942 from injuries suffered when he was struck by a car. Mrs. Higinbotham died in 1951, and I bought the property at a probate sale in November of that year. That yard was an experience. Everything was geared to habitation by birds. There were cat-proof fences, gates and hedges, and any cat that did find its way in had to be a feline imbecile or just plain tired of living, because Mrs. Higinbotham kept a .410 gauge shotgun and .22 rifle, both of which she knew how to use. The same went for possums and blue jays, anything that would prey on the more desirable wild birds.

There was a very serviceable platform built high in a huge oak tree at one edge of the yard, and it was from here that Mrs. Higinbotham was said to have taken some of her best shots. “Always shoot up towards the trees or down to the ground on account of neighbors,” she cautioned in a notebook compiled for the instruction of renters who occupied the house when the Higinbothams went on trips. I liked the sentence that read, “I have a small bag attached to the gun for cartridges—and never load until necessary.” It evokes images of a dainty, ladylike velvet reticule, just for shotgun shells.

One of the main attractions in our front yard is Peeper’s grave marker, a handsome granite stone with the inscription: “Here lies Peeper Higinbotham, our much-loved pet quail, May 1932-Nov. 1940.” It’s a far sight grander than the elemental slab up at Madronia Cemetery, bearing my name and waiting that final date.

As the shadows lengthen, I experience occasional pangs of tombstone envy, not a pretty thought. Perhaps I can head it off by getting a stonecutter to do something about the extraneous matter and then having my name legally changed to Peeper Higinbotham, while there’s still time.”

## Visiting the Older Home--Woodhills

Once a year the Open Space District provides the community with tours for one day only of an American hero's home: the Fremont Older home on Prospect Road in Cupertino.

### Fremont Older (1856-1935)—Newsman

Fremont Older grew up in Wisconsin where he helped support his family at the early age of 5. Older later worked as a printer for a series of small newspapers in the Midwest. Eventually he moved to San Francisco in 1873 where he followed his dream of becoming a newspaper editor.

By the 1890's he was a reporter and Assistant City Editor for the *San Francisco Morning Call*.

In 1895 he became Managing Editor of the *Evening Bulletin* and managed to build the newspaper into San Francisco's most popular daily newspaper. The publication had a reputation for fighting gambling and political corruption which Older quickly expanded to include other reform areas.

Older also took over re-designing the appearance of the newspaper—using artwork; large, bold headlines; changing headlines to questions to pique interest. He also hired good writers such as Tom Sawyer.

Fremont Older fought San Francisco's crooked political machine after the 1906 quake. He also worked to free Tom Mooney and Warren Billings, convicted in the 1916 Preparedness Day bombing. At one point, Older was kidnapped on Van Ness Avenue but managed to escape. His passion for reform gave him the nickname of "Tiger."

He is credited with convincing James Phelan to run for Mayor believing that he would be an honest one.

### Cora Older (1875-1968)—Writer and Horticulturist

Cora Miranda Baggerly was born in 1875 in New York. While still a student at Syracuse University she traveled west to visit friends in Sacramento and there she met Fremont Older. They

were married in 1893, that same year in San Francisco. Gertrude Atherton said of them, "Quite the handsomest couple in San Francisco."

Both "Jimmy" as Cora called Fremont and Cora enjoyed the social life of San Francisco—the opera, theatre and the San Francisco society.

Cora Older came in daily to help her husband with the newspaper. As the staff grew, she began to write only Sunday feature stories many times on social reform for the *San Francisco Bulletin*. She wrote and published many romantic novels as well as historical stories. A biography of William Randolph Hearst received an award of merit from the California Historical Society.

Cora always had a passion for gardening and when they lived in hotels in San Francisco, she grew flowers on the balcony. Cora became the Vice President of the American Rose Society and was involved in the Fiesta de Rosas in San Jose. According to her diary, she had a dream of roses "lining every country road." In 1928 Cora gave an impassioned plea to the San Jose city council for a rose garden and the motion was passed. John McLaren (Golden Gate landscaping fame) was hired to landscape the Municipal Rose Garden.

### Woodhills—the Home

In 1914 Fremont Older and his wife Cora moved into the home, which was designed and built by architect Frank Delos Wolfe. Cora Older was heavily involved in the design of the house and at one point thought that Wolfe was going to throw her off the terrace because of all the changes she made.

The flat topped three-story home would be considered modest by today's standards.

The top floor of the house had a room where she could write. The doorway leading up the stairs was deliberately built short to discourage her tall (6' 2") husband from going up to the room.

Older planted pink roses everywhere on the property earning the nickname, "Miss Pinky." She also planted California poppies, lupine, clematis, iris, herbs and more. The retaining walls and walkways were inlaid with stones and shards of pottery from their trips. One walkway has bright blue pieces of Phillips Milk of Magnesia. A shrine to St. Roche, patron saint of dogs or the Older's favorite pets was created between 1917 and 1923 by Fredrico Quinterno an Italian Mason.

A pet cemetery for the Olders' 13 dogs is located on the property. Their love of dogs was legendary with Older writing about them in his column as if they were family members. Older was against hunting and would swear if he heard anyone shooting near his property. Chickens that would wander onto their property were treated as pets. Chickens purchased for meals always came from a grocery store.

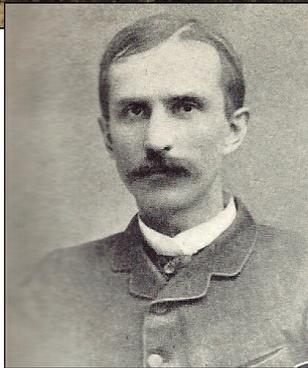
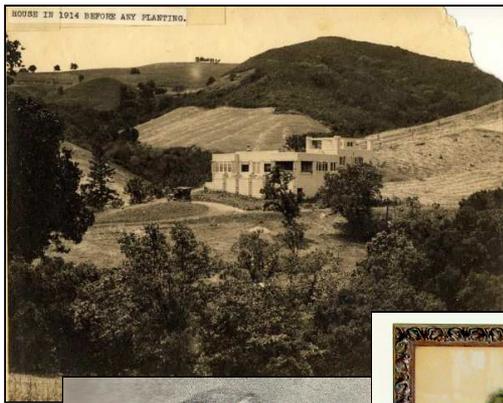
A quaint salmon-colored adobe studio was built from recycled materials and is where Fremont Older retreated to write. A giant swimming pool and barbecue made the area an ideal spot to entertain.

The Olders hosted many literary, artistic and political guests including Clarence Darrow, Lincoln Steffens, David Starr Jordan, Jack London, Senator Phelan, William Randolph Hearst, Carl

Sandburg and Senator Alan Cranston. The guest book used during their time is on display today.

Fremont Older died in 1935 and Cora, in 1968. After her death the home fell into disrepair. The home was slated to be torn down until a citizen stepped forward. Today, the home is a private residence except for one day. On that day it is open to the public for viewing.

Touring the home today, it is not difficult to imagine Older racing down the dirt road to catch the train into San Francisco, puffing on a cigar. Enough artifacts remain to capture the two legendary figures life.



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*Estate Vineyards*  
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20% of our wine sales will benefit  
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## Do You Receive SHF Event Reminders?

If you have an e-mail address and are not receiving an electronic reminder about SHF programs and events, it is an easy fix. Go up to [www.saratogahistory.com](http://www.saratogahistory.com) and click on “mailing list.” We typically send out a reminder about each program one week in advance of the program. Your e-mail address is safe-- we do not give or sell e-mail addresses to other people or organizations.

## New Exhibit: A Day in the Hills with Senator Phelan and Villa Montalvo



A new exhibit celebrating the 100 year anniversary of Montalvo (formerly Villa Montalvo) will start on June 1 and run through the end of October at the Saratoga History Museum.

Phelan, a native Californian and staunch supporter, once declared, “If I were given Heaven and California, I would rent Heaven and live in

California.” He was a three time mayor of San Francisco and a Senator of California in the 1900’s.

Phelan described the foothills as “salubrious Saratoga overlooking millions of blossoming fruit trees that covered the

Santa Clara Valley.” He wrote his sister, “I will build a villa and bask in the eternal sunshine.” And in 1912 he did just that. Visit the Museum from 1-4 PM on Friday-Sunday and learn more about Senator Phelan and his beloved Villa Montalvo.

## Celebrate Saratoga on September 16

The Chamber of Commerce will be closing Big Basin Way for

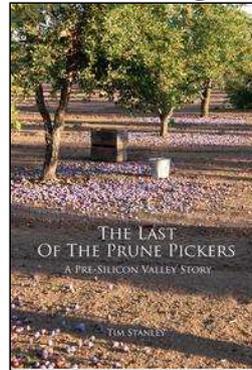


Celebrate Saratoga on September 16 from 12 to 7:00 PM. Music, beer garden, kids zone, wine tasting and more will be offered. Citizen of the

Year and Businessperson of the Year will be honored at that time in special ceremonies.

As part of the event, the Museum will offer “An Afternoon with Senator Phelan.” The outdoor event in the Museum patio will include an interview with Senator Phelan Reader’s Theatre style; poetry reading by local Poet Laureates, live classical music, and more. A treasure hunt in the museum for children (and adults) will add to the fun.

## Heritage Day on September 29



The SVDC will hold Heritage Day from 12-3 PM on September 29 along Big Basin Way.

Entertainment and live music will line the street along with costumed historical figures.

The Museum will offer a free lecture by Tim Stanley, author of “The Last of the Prune Pickers” as well as a free viewing of the classic 1920 San Jose Chamber of Commerce film entitled, “The Valley of Heart’s Delight.” Old

fashioned children’s games will also be provided.

## Last Chance to See the Exhibit

The exhibit celebrating “A Century of Good Work”—covering the IOOF and the Saratoga Retirement Community is drawing to a close on May 27. The Saratoga Retirement Community bused many of their occupants to the museum on five separate occasions to see the exhibit. They were given a docent-led tour of the museum; the McWilliams House and the one-room schoolhouse. One woman said she had lived in Monte Sereno and didn’t realize Saratoga had such wonderful history. The Montalvo Arts organization will be given a tour on May 16.



## Tree City Adds One More

Arbor Day was held this year in Wildwood Park on April 20. The event was celebrated with poetry, music by the Skillet Lickers, free compost and oak tree seedlings. Both Mayor Chuck Page and Vice Mayor Jill Hunter gave brief talks. After the event, a new valley oak was planted in the park.

Willys Peck read an original poem called "Tree Dedication" that seemingly summed up the sunny day:

"What would mankind be without the tree?  
What could do the work it does for free?"

Trees contribute oxygen for breath,  
Loss of breath can put a man to death.

So we see how trees can help us live.

And that isn't all they have to give.

Trees have beauty pleasing to the eye,

Singly or in groves that touch the sky.

Living space for birds exists in trees.

Spots with which our feathered friends are pleased.

We're planting here one of the valley oaks,

In park-like setting pleasing to the folks."

Betty Peck also wrote and delivered a poem entitled, "Tree Blessing" which was sung by Mark Wallace:

"May we be planting here  
Hope for the Earth

For the families of trees that  
Seek good, nourishing ground  
In which to grow.

May this tree not become  
Lumber.

May its sweet, green breathing  
Inspire our breathing.

May we, too, be rooted, and  
Hold our ground,

And, like this tree, rise up  
To drink sunlight and starlight.  
And may we learn from this tree

To open wide our arms,  
And freely give."



### New Schoolhouse in Use

The new one-room schoolhouse was dedicated March 29 with the bell in the tower ringing the dedication to order.

Highlights of the day included congratulations by Vice Mayor Jill Hunter; the presentation of a handsome plaque by the office of Supervisor Liz Kniss; and a letter of commendation by Senator Feinstein. The program included songs sweetly sung by the Federated Church children's choir,



Bill Ford, Jane Asher, Ernie Kraule, Linda Hagelin and Annette Stransky for working on this project!

a poem by Willys Peck, remarks by Education Program Director Linda Hagelin, and SHF President Annette Stransky.

People enjoyed seeing the old fashioned desks, an 1853 map of the US territories and the McGuffey readers and slates in the schoolhouse. Costumed education docents gave informative demonstrations of the program.

Many thanks to

## Celebrating May Day



Mix together a group of fiddlers, poems, singing, a queen, and a May Pole and you have the annual May Day celebration at Betty and Willys Peck's home. Over 150 family and friends gathered in the morning dew to enjoy the fun. Each year invitations are eagerly

sought by young and old for the chance to dance around the May Pole—an opportunity of a lifetime.

Where did the expression April showers bring May flowers come from? Some say it is a proverb; others, a poem. As a proverb it means something good may happen as a result of unpleasant events. The proverb has been traced back to about 1557. Others attribute it to an English poet named Thomas Tusser who published a collection of poems and sayings in 1557 called "A Hundred Good Points of Husbandry". The way he wrote it was,

"Sweet April showers  
Do spring May flowers."

SHF member, good friend and neighbor George Miller recently passed away. Our condolences to the family.



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

Be sure to visit:

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

Return service requested

## 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>.

## Miles Rankin Recognized

The Saratoga Foothill Club recently recognized Miles Rankin for his generous contribution to the Club's garden restoration project. The 92-year old is well-known in Saratoga for his community service as well as his love of history and gardening.

The centerpiece of the garden is a lovely tile structure with



Rankin's favorite poem by Edgar Guest: *The Gentle Garden*.

"I'd like to leave but daffodils to mark my little way,  
 To leave but tulips red and white behind me as I stray;  
 I'd like to pass away from earth and feel I'd left behind  
 But roses and forget-me-nots for all who come to find.  
 I'd like to sow the barren spots with all the flowers of earth,  
 To leave a path where those who

come should find but gentle mirth;

And when at last I'm called upon to join the heavenly throng  
 I'd like to feel along my way I'd left no sign of wrong.  
 And yet the cares are many and the hours of toil are few;  
 There is not time enough on earth for all I'd like to do;  
 But, having lived and having toiled, I'd like the world to find  
 Some little touch of beauty that my soul had left behind."



## Did You Know?

The custom of "apple polishing" hails from the little red schoolhouses of yore. Young children whose math skills were less than exemplary sought to win their teacher's favor instead with a bright, shiny apple. Remember this ditty? "An apple for the teacher will always do the trick

when you don't know your lesson in arithmetic."

## **Last Chance to See the Exhibit**

The exhibit celebrating “A Century of Good Work”—covering the IOOF and the Saratoga Retirement Community is drawing to a close on May 27. The Saratoga Retirement Community bused many of their occupants to the museum on five separate occasions to see the exhibit. They were given a docent-led tour of the museum; the McWilliams House and the one-room schoolhouse. One woman said she had lived in Monte Sereno and didn’t realize Saratoga had such wonderful history. The Montalvo Arts organization will be given a tour on May 16.