



# SARATOGA HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

PO BOX 172, SARATOGA, CALIFORNIA 95071

November 2009

**Open House Nov. 27; World War II veteran panel, December 6; Montalvo Then and Now lecture on January 18; Feb. 5 lecture on Steinbeck and more; Happy holidays to each and everyone!**

## Honoring Our Veterans

A very special event is planned for December 6 as veterans from World War II will recount some of their memories during a panel discussion. The event will take place at 2 PM at the Saratoga Library (13650 Saratoga Avenue in Saratoga). SHF Historian Ray Cosyn will moderate.

Participating in the panel will be George Cooper who flew



CAPT. George E. Cooper (left), a veteran of 77 missions and 208 combat hours with the Ninth Air Force Fighter-Bomber Group in Belgium, features Duke, California's beloved Golden Bear, on the cockpit of his P-47 Thunderbolt. With him is his crew chief, Staff Sgt. Stone W. White of San Francisco. Capt. Cooper has destroyed four German aircraft and has been awarded the Air Medal with a Green Star. Leaf Cooper, and is recommended for the Silver Star and the Distinguished Flying Cross. (Official USAF Photo.)

P47's in the European Theater with 81 missions; Herbert Kwart who flew a Flying Fortress as part of the 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force with 35 missions; Ed Pack, with the 59<sup>th</sup> Signal Battalion and later the 8<sup>th</sup> Corp and who was part of those liberating the concentration camps; Bud Rideout, one of the Flying Tigers; and Mac McCaughey part of the 94<sup>th</sup> Division who landed on Omaha Beach. Veterans in the audience are invited to share their memories also.

Light refreshments will be

served.

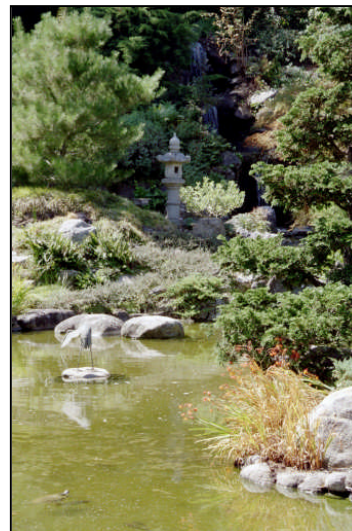
The event is free to the public and appropriate for all ages.

The Saratoga History Museum is sponsoring the event. The event is being held at the library this year due to an anticipated large attendance.

You can call 408-867-4311 for more information or go to: <http://www.saratogahistory.com>.

## Did You Know---100 Interesting Facts About Saratoga—new exhibit

“Did You Know—100 Unique Facts About Saratoga People and Places”, a new exhibit opened at the Saratoga History Museum on November 6 and will run through the end of



January. The best place to kiss; where ghosts have been seen; the official Town Character; Olympic medalists; Bocci Rock sighting at Sanford Park and more all contribute to the rich history of Saratoga. Ghosts, Champagne and Volleyball – a look at over 80 Saratoga People and Places both contemporary and historic will be running in tandem with the exhibit. Think you know the history of Saratoga? Find out more—only at the Museum!

### “An Elegant Affaire” Dinner Tickets Still Available—A Great Christmas Present!

Dinner at Hakone with appetizers from big word café; entrée, Mint Leaf Cuisine; salad, the Basin; vegetables, Ristorante Da Mario; dessert, Plumed Horse; service items, The Napkin Ring; Saratoga wineries and gifts from AFM Promotions---\$79 per person. Proceeds benefit the Saratoga Historical Foundation. Call Marilyn Marchetti to make a reservation, 408-741-0732 or e-mail Marilyn at [marilyn.marchetti@comcast.net](mailto:marilyn.marchetti@comcast.net).

## SHF Meets With the City Council

SHF President Bob Himel gave a 15 minute presentation to the City Council on October 21. The annual presentation covered the highlights of 2009 and priorities for 2010. The presentation centered on the mission of the group—to preserve Saratoga's history for the education and enjoyment of the community.



Some of the highlights for the year included:

- producing six exhibits for the Museum, including hosting the popular Civil War collection of local resident Bill Cleary
- producing five lectures at the Museum, including the popular program on John Brown's family by Alice Keesey Mecoy
- producing three programs for

membership

As a result of the above, Museum attendance has doubled since 2008—reaching toward a projected 1000 attendance at year end.

The SHF education program, where schools are either brought in or docents go to the schools to teach about life in the 1800's has reached 25 schools. The two-year old program not only is given to Saratoga schools but schools outside this area have heard about it and want to attend.

Work with the advanced placement students of Saratoga High School has continued, enabling students to learn about Museum operation. For the first time this year, SHF worked with the audiovisual department at the high school and produced a one minute commercial on the Museum that has been running on cable television.

The Louise Cooper Memorial award has been extended to all Saratoga high schools for 2010. The award was introduced in 2008.

SHF has continued to promote history by conducting walking tours of the Saratoga Village year round instead of just a few months a year.

### 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

Bob Himel, President  
Annette Stransky, Vice President, Marketing  
Ron Hagelin, Recording Secretary  
Jane Asher, Treasurer, Fund Development Director

#### 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, Gift Shop 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>.

Items in the collection continue to grow, adding books, antique lanterns, posters, typesetting items and more.



The Petaluma Cart, a handsome two-seat cart used in the 1880's to take short trips was recently restored. This cart is

part of the outside exhibits and has been in the collection for many years. Now that the cart has been restored, it will be used to promote the Museum in locally.

Membership remained at 233 people or the same as last year—despite a difficult economic year. A new membership drive will be initiated in January. Renewals for 2010 are included with this newsletter.

SHF priorities for 2010 include:

- reach families with young children –one vehicle will be a family bike tour of historic houses presently being produced in conjunction with the Park and Recreation group (November); advanced bike tours of historic houses are being planned for release in 2010; produce an additional historic house walking tour
- hire a much-needed director for the Museum so the SHF board can focus on fundraising and membership growth
- provide additional storage for a growing collection
- continue to increase membership and attract volunteers
- continue to add qualified board members
- complete the garden/landscaping for the Museum and McWilliams House while working with the city— this landscaping will be a centerpiece for the Historical Park and much appreciated
- produce a book on Saratoga history covering the period 1950-2000
- refresh and revitalize the permanent exhibits in the Museum

The City Council was thanked for their support as well as for the assistance of SHF liaison Jill Hunter.

The SHF board meets the second Wednesday of each month at 7 PM. Meetings are open to the public.

### Heritage Preservation Commission Presentation

HPC Chairperson Peter Marra gave a presentation to the City Council on the activities of the HPC at the same meeting. The charter of the group includes preserving the historic homes and buildings of Saratoga.

Marra noted that the group has an outside consultant who is updating the inventory of historic homes that was established in 1999. The new inventory will be completed at the end of this year.

The group also issued seven plaques to historic homes and buildings in 2009.

The HPC meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 8:30 AM at the Warner Hutton house on 13777 Fruitvale Avenue. Meetings are open to the public. Minutes of the meetings are also posted on the city of Saratoga's website.





## Save These Dates!

- Nov-Jan.** **Did You Know** exhibit at the Museum
- Nov. 21** **Roots & Wings** reception, California History Center from 2:00 to 4:00 PM
- Nov. 29** **Els Welch Memorial**, Saratoga Federated Church, 2 PM
- Nov. 27** **Village and Museum Open House**
- Dec. 5** **World War II** panel at the Saratoga library at 2:00 PM
- Jan. 18** **Montalvo Then and Now**, membership Meeting at Immanuel Lutheran church, 6:30 potluck; 7:00 PM lecture
- Feb. 5** **Steinbeck's Wrath, 1936-1939: The Santa Clara Valley Years**, lecture by Susan Shillinglaw, 7:00 PM at the Foothill Club

## Montalvo Then and Now

Jane Goldbach and Kelly Sicat will give a presentation on "Montalvo Then and Now" at the January 18 membership meeting. The meeting will take place at the Immanuel Lutheran Church on Saratoga Avenue with the potluck at 6:30, the presentation at 7:00 PM. The meeting is free and open to the public.

Montalvo Arts Center was previously known as Villa Montalvo, a historic landmark built in 1912 by James Duval Phelan (1861-1930). Phelan, a passionate Californian who had been a three-term



progressive mayor of San Francisco, went on to become California's first popularly-elected U.S. Senator. Villa Montalvo was Senator Phelan's favorite home and a center of artistic, political and social life in Northern California.

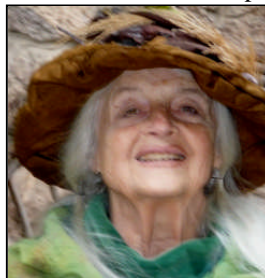
Since its conception the house on the hill, as well as its general surroundings, has been known as Villa Montalvo. Now, the historic Villa and property it resides on is Montalvo Arts Center. The name reflects the growth, new direction and other general changes the organization has made in the past few years, including the addition of the Sally and Don Lucas Residency Program in October 2004. Gone are the days that Montalvo is known only as a concert venue. New programming, exciting up-and-coming artists and more make Montalvo the only arts organization of its stature between San Francisco and Los Angeles, serving Silicon Valley and the extended San Francisco Bay Area as a center for creativity. Welcome to the new Montalvo. Jane Goldbach has been a Montalvo volunteer and member of the Montalvo Service Group for more than 35 years. She is a former member of the Board of Trustees for Montalvo, and has been instrumental in the preservation and maintenance

of the nearly century old historic Villa. Jane trains the corps of docent tour guides at Montalvo in order to help preserve the history, knowledge, and perpetuate Senator Phelan's legacy.

Kelly Sicat is Director of Programs at Montalvo Arts Center. Kelly oversees the management of the artist residency program, arts programming, and the arts education initiatives.

## Roots and Wings

A special reception is being held Saturday, November 21 from 2:00-4:00 PM for the Roots & Wings, Saratoga Community Garden exhibit. The special exhibit at the California History



Center (DeAnza College 21250 Stevens Creek Boulevard in Cupertino) is open to the public.

The community garden exhibit covers 1972 through 1987 and includes an oral history interview of Betty Peck and Jackie Welch. The once 10-acre garden inspired young and old in the delights of digging in the dirt and growing your own

vegetables. The exhibit will run through June 2010.

## A Special Memorial

Ellsworth (Els) Welch passed away on September 26. A Celebration of his Life will be held on Sunday, November 29 at 2 PM at the Saratoga Federated Church on Park Place, Saratoga. Everyone is invited.

A Memorial Fund has been set up at Los Gatos High School for those who would like to make a memorial gift. Make out the check to: "Ellsworth Welch Classical Music Scholarship" and mail to:

Los Gatos High School Scholarship Fund  
20 High School Court  
Los Gatos CA 95030

The scholarship will be presented to a graduating senior for outstanding performance in classical music.

Els was born in Long Beach, CA in 1920. He graduated from U.C. Berkeley with a degree in Chemistry, and after the war, he attended Stanford and earned a Masters in Education, and later a Doctorate in Education.



During World War II, he served on a destroyer, the USS Johnston, which was sunk by the Japanese Navy in the Battle off Samar, part of the Battle of Leyte Gulf.

Survivors clung to floater nets in the Philippine Sea for three days before being rescued. Els was one of the speakers in the SHF program at the Museum on December 7, 2008, Pearl Harbor Day.

He and Jackie moved to Saratoga in 1949 with their two little boys, Edward and David. Lee Anne was

born here several years later. Els taught Chemistry at Los Gatos High School for 38 years, until 1986.

## Les Landin—Mentor

Les Landin spent his career working for the residents of Saratoga through his various positions with the Saratoga school district. He was at different times, a teacher, a vice principal and finally, a principal.

However, before during and after his jobs in education, he was always an entertainer.

I have been told of experiences with Les by former Saratoga



grammar school students a couple of years ahead of me. These adventures were when Les was “Buckskin Bob.” Les had a program on early public television by early, I mean early 1950’s. Unlike most television today, Buckskin Bob was televised live.

He would fill his car with school children, an easel and drawing materials and head for the studio of KQED in San Francisco. During the

show, Les would tell stories, with teaching points easily absorbed by the children. He used his easel and played child-oriented songs on his guitar.

His show had some similarities to the more famous “Howdy Doody show.” The similarities had to do with the audience full of children and “Buckskin Bob” interacting with them.

Times changed and Les advanced with the school district into administration.

I have many memories of other school administrators. This usually involved the principal or vice principal in the role of the teacher’s boss. These individuals mainly did not have close relationships with the students. They were smiling and friendly but remained aloof from the student body—all except Les Landin. He actually knew students as individuals, not a sea of faces.

As older children moved on to high school and to college, the schools, of course, filled with younger children. Somehow, through the pervasive grapevine I guess, everyone always knew that “Mr. Landin had starred in his own television show!”

A couple of years ago I was told a story, the same story, from two different points of view. It involved a student who was without a father and a school administrator. Single parent homes were not as prevalent when I was growing up as they are today.

In this story, the administrator knew enough about the student body to know which kids needed more contact, time and effort from mentoring school personnel to succeed. This educator made time in his professional day for this student and continued it until the student graduated and moved on to Saratoga High School. The former student made it clear to me that the educator had made a real and positive impression on him, one that looking back on it, had really helped.

The former student is a lifelong friend and work mate of mine. The school administrator was Les Landin. They both told the same story.

After he retired from the Saratoga school district, Les organized the “Skillet Lickers” band in Saratoga, entertaining at Saratoga Historical Foundation events for many years. He led the band up and until his recent illness. He is now in his mid-80’s.



An author should not insert him/herself directly into a story, but I do not know how else to tell this part about Les.

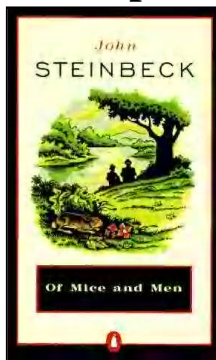
I worked much of my career in the Santa Cruz county public works department doing various things: laborer, truck driver, equipment operator, instructor and supervisor.

Les and his wife, Betty had another home outside Saratoga in the Santa Cruz county beachside community of Rio Del Mar.

One foggy day about 20 years ago (it is almost always foggy in Rio Del Mar) I led a crew of about a half a dozen people repairing a stairway leading from a county road down to the beach. We did the work without interfering with the resident’s ability to travel to the beach below. A crew member and I were bent over inspecting some part of the structure when a group of people approached. I lifted my head up and there directly in front of my face was Les Landin with his family. He immediately said, “Hello Michael Whalen” as I said “Les Landin,” and we both laughed. Even with a hard hat and reflective vest on and with me on my knees and even though I had been out of his school for 30 years, he recognized me immediately. He, of course, looks much the same as he always did, I don’t think it was amazing that he remembered me at all, let alone having my name at the tip of his tongue.

*By Michael Whalen, SHF contributing writer and long-time Saratogan.*

## Special Steinbeck Lecture!!



“Steinbeck’s Wrath, 1936-1939: The Santa Clara Valley Years” by noted author and Steinbeck authority Susan Shillinglaw will be given on February 5 from 7-9 PM. The event will be held at the Foothill Club and is a fundraiser for the Saratoga History Museum.

Well-known author John Steinbeck lived locally in this area and his wife, Carol Henning, grew up in Santa Clara Valley. They lived in a small house in Los Gatos where Steinbeck completed *Of Mice and Men*, and where he researched and wrote *The Grapes of Wrath*.

More details about the event will be in the next newsletter—but save the date!

## From Quonset Hut to Movie Theatre

Longtime Saratoga residents will likely remember their beloved movie theatre, which was located on the Southwest corner of Third Street and Big Basin Way. It was one of many built in the late 1940s and early 1950s using the Quonset in its structure.

Following World War II, with the lifting of restrictions on building materials and a nationwide surge in socioeconomic optimism, a building boom swept the nation. The suburbs began their march outward from the cities, and everywhere and in every way, modernity was the word. Economical means of construction, born in the tides of war, often became suitable for peacetime. One such product of the war was the Quonset “hut,” developed in 1941. It found many architectural applications during the postwar boom, but perhaps its most sophisticated use was the movie theatre.

The 1947-48 (sixth annual) Edition of Theatre Catalog, a hardbound resource full of feature articles and product descriptions for the movie theatre exhibition trade, covers the proliferation of Quonset theatres in detail. The “Quonset 40,” being 40 feet wide, with varying length as needed, came in two structural types, “A” and “B.” The “A” type was of a lighter construction, and was suited for temperate zones of the country, and the “B” type, which included additional reinforcement, was suited for areas prone to snowfall. However, if a builder in an “A” zone wished to add decorative plasterwork and other stylish accessories to the interior, it was mandated by the manufacturer that a “B” zone structure be purchased and assembled.

Making a Quonset look like a theatre required as little or as much design work as budget and imagination dictated. Probably the most elaborate Quonset theatre ever built was the Fox in Aurora, Colorado. With its sweeping, streamlined façade; wraparound marquee; perpendicular reader board; and towering, fin-shaped neon vertical sign; plus an interior with cove lighting and undulating floral-patterned murals; any economy gained by using a Quonset for the auditorium structure was likely swallowed up with all the usual movie palace glamour. Most Quonset theatres were considerably smaller and simpler than the 670-seat, \$165,000 Aurora Fox example. According to data given in Theatre Catalog, a decent Quonset theatre of 400 to 500 seats could be built for between \$35,000 and \$55,000. In most cases, a simple stucco façade and cheerful neon marquee were applied, and the office, lobby, projection booth, and restrooms could be comfortably nestled within the Quonset’s curve. The auditorium’s interior finishes most often consisted of acoustical paneling and a simply-draped screen. Some photos of the period show seats which were clearly salvaged from older theatres.

In addition to economy and structural strength, the Quonset shape easily produced excellence in another way—acoustics. From the 400-seat Melody Theatre in Port Hueneme, California, came this report to Theatre Catalog, “The shape produces perfect acoustical results, proof of which is acknowledgement by patrons in constant increase of box office receipts.” Temperature control was apparently easy as well. In the same feature article, Roy Bolick, owner of the Keiser Theatre in Keiser, Arkansas, reported, “The Quonset was easily heated last winter, and the temperature was quite comfortable during the summer without any cooling device.”

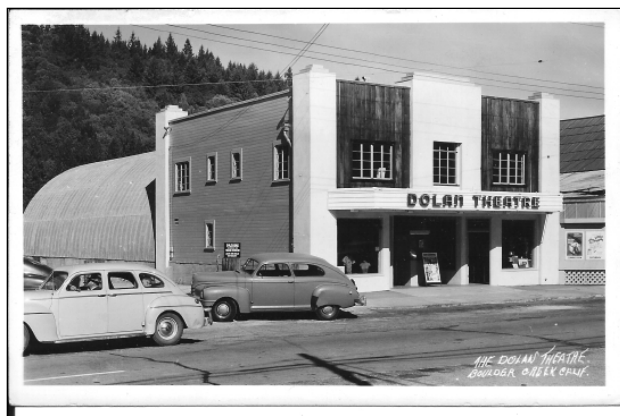
Saratoga’s own Quonset was perhaps a degree or two above the simplest type of such a theatre. In front of the Quonset auditorium stood a boxy structure which housed the ticket lobby of the theatre, flanked by two small stores. Above was a second floor which could have been used either as office or apartment space. South Bay exhibitor Mason Shaw ran things in the beginning, but it was the theatre’s later years as the “Vitaphone Saratoga,” run by Pat and Vi Moore as a home for classic film, that endeared it to locals. This writer lived in Aptos at the time, and never got to experience its cozy movie-going environment.



*This circa 1948 photo of the Saratoga Theatre shows how a separate lobby and retail structure was added to the Quonset-built auditorium. It was demolished in the mid-1980s.*

Finally, it should be said that not all vintage movie houses with barrel-vaulted ceilings are Quonsets. The Cerrito in El Cerrito, the Park in Menlo Park, and the Capitola in Capitola date from the late 1930s through 1940s. They are built from scratch, however, with no use of the Quonset “kit” as a structure, even though many people have referred to them as Quonset theatres. This shows that the humble wartime all-steel barrel vault had etched itself on the consciousness of the American moviegoer.

*Article written by Gary Lee Parks. Gary Lee Parks is Western Regional Director of the Theatre Historical Society of America ([www.historictheatres.org](http://www.historictheatres.org)) and author of the new Arcadia Publishing title *Theatres of San Jose*, which includes most of the South Bay theatres built from 1899-1970. Purchase this book from the author at ([Ptahhotep1@earthlink.net](mailto:Ptahhotep1@earthlink.net)) or from the publisher at [www.arcadiapublishing.com](http://www.arcadiapublishing.com).*



*This 1940s postcard view shows the Dolan Theatre in downtown Boulder Creek. It was later known as the Burl. Long since converted to office and restaurant use, it appears much the same today, but without the marquee. (Gary Lee Parks collection)*



## Dining Under the Oaks

This year's annual barbecue, held in September, and at the Garrod ranch was once again, a rousing success. Over 115 people enjoyed the great weather, good food, and camaraderie.

Some of the highlights included the music by the Skillet Lickers, the reminiscences of the inimitable Vince Garrod, and the wonderful collection of Silent Auction items.

A big thanks to the Cooper and Garrod families for their support of this event. And a thanks to all those who donated items for the Silent Auction:

Lynn Bonetti, Benson's Antiques, Ann Walton Smith, Nancy Anderson, Skin Prophecy, Karen McCallister, Barbara Williams, Saratoga Library, Dan Tellep, Sierra Toy Soldier Shop, Paul Conrado, Saratoga Chocolates, Saratoga Historical Foundation, Book-Go-Round, Brad Richardson, Agnes Women's Boutique, Mayor Chuck Page, Saratoga Oaks Lodge Harmonie European Day Spa, Sally Reed, Delgado Photography, Bella Saratoga, Hong's Gourmet, Yen De's Treat, Bai Tong, Demitri's Hair Salon, The Fat Robin, Cinnabar Winery, Jenni Taylor, Vienna Woods Deli, AFM Promotions Hakone, big word café, Mint Leaf Cuisine, The Basin restaurant, Ristorante Da Mario, The Plumed Horse, The Napkin Ring and AFM Promotions.

Congratulations to the Silent Auction committee on an outstanding job: Marilyn Marchetti, chair; Laurel Perusa, Peggy Kimball, and Marilyn White.



## Our Condolences

SHF extends condolences to the family of Mrs. Mamoru Inouye, who recently passed away. She was pre-deceased by her husband Mamoru Inouye, a long-time member of SHF. The Inouye family lived in Saratoga until they were interned during World War II. His father died during the internment but his mother returned with her two sons to Saratoga after the war. They owned property on what was once Glen Una ranch where his father had once worked as a ranch foeman. Mamoru Inouye authored the book, *The Heart Mountain Story*, the story of the World War II internment of Japanese Americans.

## How Does My Garden Grow?

Many of you have noticed that the Saratoga Heritage Park has a new look. According to SHF Special Projects Director Ernie



Kraule, the new landscaping project undertaken by the city is in its first stage.

Some of the plants such as the ornamental grass and others formerly growing in front of the Museum have been re-planted at other Saratoga parks.

A new irrigation system is planned for installation in November with landscaping planned for mid-winter or early spring.

The new plants planned for the landscaping are from a grant by the Saratoga Horticultural Foundation. Many might remember that the SHF group was located on Verde Vista Avenue in the early 1950's. The group developed and promoted interest in drought-tolerant plants and plants that would grow well in California. Once a year they would hold a plant sale that was very popular. Evidence of their work can be seen throughout Northern California.

Many of the plants developed carry the names of local Saratogans, i.e. Coulter, Saso, etc. These plants will be part of the landscape with appropriate signage.

Once completed, the garden will be a treasure in the community and a pleasant place to walk.

## Wringing Out Life in the 1800's



The SHF education committee recently showed 60 school children what life was like in the 1860's. Students were able to read a lesson with the "school marm"; learn how to wash clothes and hang them on a clothes line; see an old fashioned kitchen; and play parlor games.

# Saratoga Springs—the Fountain of Youth

Saratoga Springs, the namesake for Saratoga, California had its roots in the medicinal springs. Fort Saratoga was built in 1691 on the west bank of the Hudson River and was known as Saratoga until 1831. In 1767, Sir William Johnson, British soldier and a hero of the French and Indian Wars, was brought to what would become the city of Saratoga Springs, by Native American friends, to treat war wounds at a spring thought to have medicinal properties.



The first permanent settler at the springs arrived around 1776, and a tourist trade swiftly grew, with hotels being constructed by such Revolutionary War luminaries as Gideon Putnam. Congress Spring, the original spring discovered in 1792 by Nicholas Gilman received its name because Gilman was a member of Congress. Dr. John Clark purchased the spring in 1826; bottled the water; and shipped it throughout the world.

In the 19th century, the famed doctor Simon Baruch encouraged bringing European style spas to the US, and thus the Saratoga, with its wealth of mineral waters developed as a spa. Many elaborate hotels were built, including the Grand Union Hotel billed as the largest hotel in the world, and the famed United States Hotel. In addition, the Saratoga Springs area was well known for its gambling. The Casino, built in 1870 by John Morrissey still stands and it houses the Historical Society of Saratoga Springs and Walworth Memorial. Morrissey was a one-time champion prize fighter, congressman, and state senator.

The Saratoga Race Course, established in 1863 remains a big draw and is one of the nation's oldest race courses. Well-known horses such as Seabiscuit, Man O' War and Secretariat have raced there. President George Washington served as an official at race meets. President Andrew Jackson raced horses on the course.

The Spa State Park features naturally carbonated, mineral springs throughout the 2200 acres. In 1909 a bill creating a State Reservation provided preservation of the springs. Within the next twenty years, two bathhouses were built—The Washington and the Lincoln. Today, the Washington Bathhouse is the National Museum of Dance—the only museum dedicated to dance. The Lincoln and Roosevelt Bath Houses still offer mineral baths and massages.

In 1935 an elegant European-style spa was opened and included a pool complex, hotel, bottling plant, Hall of Springs, theatre and golf course. The 1930's marked the golden era of the Spa with people coming from everywhere "to take the cure" which included drinking the spring water, bathing therapy and exercise.

After World War II, interest in spa therapy began to wane and more focus was made on recreational activities.

During the 1950s, the gambling houses were shut down. The city's rebirth began in the 1960s with the construction of the Saratoga Performing Arts Center, which featured classical and

popular music, and dance. Saratoga Springs has about 27,000 in population and continues to bottle water under the Saratoga name.

## Volunteer Opportunities

Got a few hours to spare? We have some opportunities for you to help!! If you see an area of interest, call Ray Cosyn at 408-741-1868 or e-mail Ray at ray.cosyn@sbcglobal.net.

**Grant Writing:** We need someone to research and help write grants to cover some of the projects planned for the Museum. Computer skills and Internet connection needed.

**Research:** Like to research and are familiar with genealogy techniques? John Key, the great grandson of Sir Francis Scott Key (wrote the Star Spangled Banner) is buried in Madronia cemetery and is a person of interest.

**Research:** TS Montgomery, a developer that lived in Saratoga in the 1940's is another person of interest to research.

**Telephone Skills:** We need someone to take reservations for an event coming up. You can work from home.

**Help Setup Exhibits:** Good at laying out items in exhibits? Or would you like to research information for use in a future exhibit? Any assistance would be appreciated.

**Ambassador:** Got a good smile? We need someone to greet people attending the next membership meeting on January 18.

**Education Docent:** Enjoy children? The education committee is always looking for people to help with demonstrations of life in the 1800's. Training provided.

**Museum Docent:** Learn about local history while becoming a docent—training provided. A commitment of 3 hours per month is required.

## The Best Bargain in Town!



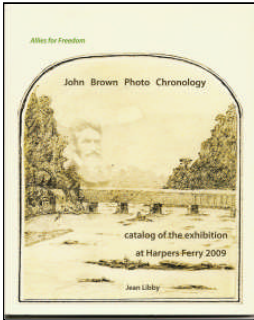
"This is the best bargain in town" said one of the Lantern Walk visitors and referring to the tour of both the Museum and the McWilliams House. The Lantern Walk was held in October with about 150 children accompanied by parents or grandparents. All expressed interest in the Civil War exhibit; most were amazed at the small size of the McWilliams House. Each participant received candy and the adults received a flyer on SHF membership and upcoming events. Many thanks to Dick Angus and his daughter Dorothy, Jack Mallory and Annette Stransky for helping make this event a success for SHF. A few weeks later... Snow White came and a giant panda



showed up, too. The annual Witchy Walk-About came to the Museum as well as to the Village. Young and old received a treat.

## Open House at the Museum and the Village

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas when the annual Saratoga Village Open House takes place on November 27. The event kicks off at 5:30 PM with the annual tree lighting ceremony sponsored by the city.



The Village will come alive with festivities that include wagon rides, petting zoo, pony rides, opportunities for having a picture taken with a pony or picture with Santa, free popcorn and balloons for the children and caroling.

Merchants along Big Basin Way and other areas including the Saratoga History Museum and BookGoRound will have extended hours. Some are

offering special discounts. The fire station will be giving out hot cider and cookies.

Stop by the Saratoga History Museum for some light refreshments prepared by Social Director Nancy Anderson and Lyn Johnston. The gift shop is well-stocked and has a new book, *John Brown Photo Chronology* by Jean Libby. Jean Libby gave a lecture at the Museum earlier this year.

**The Open House hours will run from 6 to 9PM but many merchants and restaurants will have later hours. The event launches a month of special Village holiday promotions.**



Saratoga Historical Foundation  
PO Box 172  
Saratoga, CA 95070

## Expanding the Collection

New items recently donated to the Saratoga History Museum include several 1800's lanterns; materials on Saratoga Springs, New York; and a book on discovering Borax. These items are greatly appreciated.

## Domo Arigato to Our Sister City



Visitors from Muko, our sister city in Japan recently visited Saratoga and parts of California. They took time out from their busy schedule to visit the Saratoga History Museum and the McWilliams House. Membership Director

Ann Waltons Smith gave them a guided tour of each building.

## Looking for Old Photographs

The Saratoga History Museum is always looking for old photographs of Saratoga. These days, photographs from the 1940's-1980 qualify as "old!" If you would like to loan the Museum photographs—the photos can be quickly scanned and the original photos returned to you. A few photographs in particular are being searched for: the Dotswood house (built on the Hume/Handy ranch); Steven Spielberg's yearbook photo (1965); and the Sam Cloud barn any date prior to 1970.