

Saratoga Historical Foundation

PO Box 172, Saratoga California 95071 May 2013

Don't miss these exciting, free events! • Quarry Walk on May 18 • Wildwood Park concert on May 19 • lecture about Stanford University co-founder Jane Stanford on May 21 • Memorial Day observance May 27 • new exhibit on Betty and Willys Peck opens May 31• Exhibit reception on June 23

Poisoned Again—The Coverup and Murder of Jane Stanford



Join us on May 21 for a free lecture when we find out if Jane Stanford (co-founder of the Stanford University) committed suicide, suffered from heart failure or was poisoned in 1905. Sounding like a game of Clue (the maid used a candlestick in the parlor)—John Hackmann, president of the Palo Alto Historical Association will give a riveting presentation.

The presentation will take place at the Immanuel Lutheran Reception Hall at 14103 Saratoga Avenue in Saratoga. The potluck begins at 6:30 PM—bring food to share, your own utensils, plates, and preferred beverage. Coffee and water will be provided. The lecture will begin at 7:30 PM. The event is free and open to the public.

The presentation is based on Dr. Robert WP Cutler's book, The Mysterious Death of Jane Stanford and printed by the Stanford University Press.

Jane Stanford was the co-founder of Stanford University together with her husband, Leland Stanford. They founded the university in 1891 as a memorial to their only child, Leland Stanford, Junior. Jane Stanford took over the directorship of Stanford University after her husband's death. She saved the university from bankruptcy but some felt she wielded too much power. Two attempts were made on her life involving poison with the last attempt in 1905, fatal. Was she poisoned?

Betty and Willys Peck —the Heart of Saratoga— New Exhibit Opens May 31

Take a sentimental journey as both Betty and Willys Peck are recognized for their many contributions to the community in a new exhibit. Betty and Willys Peck—the Heart of Saratoga. The exhibit opens May 31 with



memorabilia and photos focusing on the Peck's many contributions in the areas of drama, music, historical preservation, nature and community service.

Reception

A special reception is planned for June 23 from 1-3 PM at the Saratoga History Museum and is open to the public. Music and light refreshments will be enjoyed.

AudioTapes and Slides

During the period of the exhibit and on the third Sunday of each month, some of the presentations Willys gave will be shown: July 21—Southern Pacific; August 18 – Walking Tour September 11 – Peninsular Interurban Railway and October 20 – School Memories. These tapes will be shown at 2 PM in the museum (20450 Saratoga-Los Gatos Road). Free admittance.

Saratoga Library Celebrates 10 Years on May 18



A celebration marking the 10th anniversary of the remodeled Saratoga Library is being held Saturday May 18th from noon to 4:00 PM. This festive event will take place in the parking lot and inside the library at 13650 Saratoga Avenue.

Food trucks, a scavenger hunt, opportunities to meet local authors, carnival games, e-book information and more are planned. The event is free and open to the public.

The History Behind the Library Celebration and Memories

Contributed by Mary Jeanne Fenn, BookGoRound Manager

A celebration marking the 10th anniversary of the Saratoga Library in its remodeled building is being held Saturday May 18th. Many people, however, may not know why or how the expansion came to be. Here is a short version, as seen through my eyes.

By the mid/late nineties, it was apparent to some that the Saratoga Community Library, which opened in 1978, had outlived its capacity. It was bursting at the seams

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, 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.

with content and patrons, and could not accommodate the requirements of computer technology. The staff workroom was about the size of the current sorting room – and the Friends had no workroom on site!

The Library Commission, notably Marcia Manzo, led the charge to update the library. She convinced FSL (Friends of the Saratoga Library) board members of the need for action. Because the FSL could not act as a political group, many of us began, in addition to our FSL duties, working on the Library Expansion Committee. This, in turn, led to working on the Measure N bond election, and following expansion process.

Several Friends (including spouses, because you know full well it's always a team effort!) should be noted for their dedication and leadership roles, notably Bill & Marianne McDonnal, along with Tom & Jane Blaisdell, and Jim & Mary Givens. They enlisted Friends members, personal friends and community members to join in the work (and work it was!). Book-Go-Rounders (or future volunteers) joined the team. Alan King signed on precinct co-chief, with assistance from Jan Pemberton, precinct captains included Ginny Brobst, Ivy Chueh, Peggy Corr, Bernice Giansiracusa, Helen Lemmon, Jim MacDonald, and Caroline Stewart. I've noted only Book-Go-Rounders here. There were many other captains, and those who did phoning (I still have the volunteer phoning calendars), mailing (led by Kenny Harrington), canvassing of neighborhoods, sign distribution, and writing articles for the newspapers. It was a huge undertaking, and a huge success. Then, once the election was over, the Friends took on the role of raising funds for all movable furnishings for the building. Once again, Bill, Tom and Jim provided leadership in that fundraising effort. Their commitment and stamina was astonishing to me.

I celebrate the 10th anniversary of the library expansion, and I congratulate Marcia, Bill, Tom and Jim who, along with the cadre of other volunteers, enabled the city and library staff to create this fantastic building.

Independence Day--- Coming Up!!



Get out your red, white and blue clothes and flags. Soon it will be time to join friends and neighbors for the annual Saratoga Independence Day celebration. Activities will begin at 9:30 AM at the Kevin Moran Park (12415 Scully Avenue in Saratoga) for a morning of old time patriotic music, parade around the park, and more. The event is free and open to the public.

2013	Calendar of Events
ends May 26	Exhibit at the Museum:
May 18	"Remembering the Blossom Festival" – Saratoga Library celebrates 10 Years 12-4 PM
May 18	Let's Walk—Quarry Walk, 9:30 AM
May 19	Saratoga Community Band plays 4:00-6:00 PM at Wildwood Park
May 21	"Poisoned Again" Membership meeting and potluck at the
Immanuel	
	Lutheran Fellowship Hall, 6:30
PM	1
May 27 May 31	Memorial Day Observance, 9:30 AM New exhibit: Betty & Willys Peck: The Heart of Saratoga

Remembering the Blossom Festival exhibit—ends May 26!



"Remembering the Blossom Festival," the current exhibit at the museum ends on May 26. The exhibit covers 41 years of this signature event that put Saratoga on the map. The above photo shows famed actresses Olivia deHavilland and Joan Fontaine dancing in the festival and is one of many nostalgic photos included in the exhibit.



Let's Walk— Quarry Walk on May 18

The Parks and Recreation Commission has developed three walks for 2013 as part of a goal of becoming a "Let's Move City" which is part of an initiative_started by First Lady Michelle Obama. The initiative is designed to encourage local governments to develop long-term, approaches to reducing childhood obesity. Of course the Saratoga Historical Foundation is excited because all three walks are on historic properties!

So grab your camera, a bottle of water, dust off the walking shoes, find the sun screen and let's go!

The first walk on the calendar is the "quarry walk" with two trail options: One is a moderate 1.5 mile scenic hike and the second walk, a 2.5 mile perspiration-inducing and puffing walk. Both docent-led walks begin at 9:30 with participants invited to meet at the entrance of the quarry or at 21330 Big Basin Way.

The 64-acre site was once used for mining lime as well as a rock quarry from 1908 until 1967. This land is destined to become a city park.

Circle these dates so you don't miss these walks:

- Saturday, May 18 at Congress Springs Quarry
- •. Saturday, July 13 at Villa Montalvo (Senator Phelan's home)
- Saturday, August 24th at Parker Ranch (Dentist and Showman Painless Parker's land)



May 27—Memorial Day Observance

. Flags will mark each veteran's grave. Laurel sprays will be placed next to each flag. Taps will echo through the cemetery. The annual Saratoga Memorial Day Observance is scheduled for Monday, May 27, 2013. The gathering begins at 9:30 AM

at the Memorial Arch in Blaney Plaza . Following the flag ceremony and the laying of the wreath there will be a procession from Blaney Plaza to Madronia Cemetery by walking up Oak Street. At 10:00 AM Vietnam veteran Bill Cooper and Saratoga High School senior, Bennett Lopez, will be the keynote speakers.

The Saratoga Foothill Club has brought together numerous community groups to participate such as: Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, 4H Club, local church members, Redwood Middle School musicians, the Saratoga High School choir and band, Mayor of Saratoga, and others who understand the importance of remembering and honoring the men and women who serve in the United States military, and especially those who have given their lives so we can live in freedom. Every generation is represented as we pay our respects and recognize our collective debt to those who have gone before us. Join us!"

Written by Cynthia Chang, Memorial Day co-chair and member of the Saratoga Foothill Club. The Foothill Club has been organizing the Memorial Day observance continuously since 1928.

"Putting the Story into History"--Willys Peck

Church bells rang. Poetry was read. Young, sweet voices sang. All in tribute to Willys Peck—town historian who passed away on April 16.

It was standing room only at the Federated Church - as people honored Willys and his family.

A tree was planted at the front of the church in tribute where he once turned on the furnace and rang the bells as a child. Friends and members of the Cal Glee Club sang. Favorite hymns and the poignant WWII Lili Marlene song taped from his beloved "Wax Museum collection" played while family photos appeared on the screen.

As his family paid tribute to Willys, it was clear that the signature wit and gentle kindness of Willys Peck will continue on for generations to come.

Son Bill Peck said his tribute was "to a great Dad" and included fond memories and a reading from Shakespeare.



Daughter Anna Rainville said in part, "On behalf of my family thank you for coming. Over the years my father has been

fortunate enough to receive recognition and honor for his many contributions and now our family would like to have our turn. As his chauffeur in recent years whenever we would drive into town he would remark how lucky he was to live in Saratoga. He wrote extensively and lovingly about the orchards of his youth and the eternal beauty of the hills. My father is a classic example of how the land- our hills and passing orchards- and our environment- both family and community- can deeply and artistically create our lives and our imaginations. His biography of place provided a life-long view into how he related to and served his community. What he experienced in his childhood in this small agricultural town grew with him into adulthood and flourished.

This love of words developed into a career as a journalist and into his everyday signature wit. When he left for work in the late afternoon to the San Jose Mercury, he would recite, "It is a far, far better thing that I do, than I have ever done; it is a far, far better rest that I go to than I have ever known." When his son-in-law. Don Rainville, left for work at the crack of dawn in the wee morning hours, he called that time, "Don's early light.

In the morning our family would scan the paper for evidence of his headline skill. Some favorites are I'll Take Cajun if It's Ok Bayou, or Nature Sends her Egrets or a photo caption on an auto accident, That's the Way the Mercedes Benz. His family's longstanding tradition of reading aloud Charles Dickens' Christmas Carol on Christmas Eve became our family's tradition, too. What I learned from my father is that words count. His delight and deftness with language enabled him to craft a sentence, a letter, an article, a speech in such a way as to elevate and illuminate the subject. Once when I was living in Italy, he sent some money with a note that here was something to keep the wolves from the door. He added, but if the she-wolf has twin boys in tow, think twice

As a child, my father's whole family participated and acted in the neighborhood theater productions behind the Saratoga Inn in the Theatre in the Glade. Later with marriage and a new house down the creek from the Inn, the first thing my dad built was his own amphitheatre, the Theatre on the Ground. In late summer with the sound of the crickets and the frogs in the creek below as background, I remember watching from the edge of the stage as my father and his beloved colleagues from the Merc rehearsed and performed- Histrionics as he called them. He gave us a love for theater, especially Shakespeare, and quoted the bard often, even at the dinner table with the soy sauce: "Tamari and tamari and tamari Creeps in this petty pace from day to day."

As a child my father became known for his imitation of bird calls and made the ladies' Club circuit until his voice changed. He loved to sing. At Cal he joined the Glee Club and made life long friends there who still gather the Saturday before Christmas to carol to shelters, our elders and convalescing friends. Our families have grown up together and cherish this tradition. The repertoire includes stunning four part harmony of familiar carols and Bach's "Break Forth O Beauteous Heavenly Light." The evening also ends in a circle and intertwined hands singing Cal Songs. One of the second generation admitted it took a while to realize that "All Hail Blue and Gold" wasn't a Christmas carol.



. What I learned from my father is how an artistic life deepens, enlivens and sustains and in that respect, he never grew old. His creativity served him to the very end, dashing off a birthday

poem the week before he died. I think one of the secrets of his childhood was that he played. There are stories about the creek and the orchards, about constructing and inventing. As a dad he built an airplane for us to climb

Memorial cont. from page 4

on and the ever evolving train. And we played and played and played. He was always creating- a new script, a poem, a building project. He found the perfect partner in my mother, who was a kindergarten teacher and a true believer in the power of play. Together they created a home and garden that continues to nourish the creative spirit in all of us.

My father lived a life of gratitude. In his later years he and my mother would walk slowly around the garden three times before tea and enjoy the beautiful fruits of their many years together. They rested halfway in a rocker for two overlooking the creek. They would sit there admiring the view. When I asked what they were doing, the answer was, "Counting our blessings." I am grateful for the many gifts my father gave me and to my family. It is truly remarkable to hear about the place he held in your lives. We are all so fortunate. My father had quiet integrity and an eloquence that was revealed in his every word. Stories can create community or they can divide one. In my father's case, he put the story into history. His stories about growing up in Saratoga are now your stories, part of the town's history. He has given us a sense of place. As he wrote little is left of the atmosphere he experienced as a boy, 'but the hills are eternal and memory is a potent force."

Laundry Day

by Sarah Rainville, granddaughter of Betty and Willys Peck

With a bag of laundry and a half-finished crossword sticking out of his back pocket,
My grandfather gets into the car for the weekly trip to the Laundromat.

"It's a born again day" he muses,

As we watch the streams of cars pass by on Saratoga Avenue.

"You have to be born on the other side of the road to get anywhere."

Once a gap in the traffic appears—like the Red Sea parting,

We're off down the road, passing the only orchard, Its blossoms waking from winter Amidst the knee-high mustard.

I met the man behind the green visor on these errand runs:

To Safeway, the bank, the laundry, The strong routine of his week, creating a life of habit.

My grandfather's character unfolds As he tells stories of his childhood— Spending Saturdays cleaning windows for nickels And finding gold nuggets in the orchards I learn about his time during the War Of half-tracks, the rifle that didn't work, And Lili Marlene inscribed in his German phrasebook.

We pull up at the Laundromat He gives the bag to the shrunken lady behind the counter,

Counts the coins buried in his corduroy pants pockets, Then folds the bill and stuffs it between the pens and his little black book in his shirt pocket. There's a quiet rhythm to his motions While washing machines whirl, the tv blaring in the background.

As the clothes start the spin cycle we head home, Playing word games with license plate letters, Back to the dog and the dishes.

We pull into the driveway under the oaks Just in time for tea.

He says goodbye and slowly heads up the stairs. I watch until the door creaks closed.

In the kitchen, the tea kettle whistles Like the sound of the train coming to the station— The last stop on a remarkable journey.

It Just Doesn't Get Any Better Than This

By Willys Peck an excerpt from a column printed in the Saratoga News July 24, 1996: Hills or mountains, "conspicuous elevations of the earth's surface," to use dictionary language, have inspired some of civilization's greatest creative

efforts. From the psalmist's beatific "I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills" to the achingly poignant "Home to Our Mountains," sung by the dying Azucene in Verdi's "II Trovatore," the imprint is indelible. Valleys have done their share of inspiring too, but you can't have a valley without hills or mountains, and Saratoga has the best of both.

Just look around. If it had been possible to order topography from a cosmic menu, I submit that no more favorable combination could have been forthcoming. There are the lower foothills, stretching away to the north. There are the higher brush-and-tree-covered hills, the "Sierra Azul" (Blue Range) of the Spaniards, looming protectively to the south and west. In the distance is the jagged contour of Summit Rock dominating the skyline on the farthest visible range.

If while driving home, you somehow find yourself feeling out of sorts because of hard knocks from the software, lift up thine eyes unto the hills and recall that it just doesn't get any better than this.

Naming Streets

Driving around Saratoga—it is sometimes puzzling how some streets received their name. Here's the origin of three streets.

Approximately 140 acres of walnut groves in the northern part of Saratoga were originally owned by the Joe Pon family. This large parcel included the Brookview area, Prides Crossing, and Prides Crossing Estates in Saratoga.

Palmtag Drive

Jack Palmtag, a real estate broker, discovered the Brookview property and told his friend John Rodriguez, a developer. Rodriguez contacted the family and purchased the property. At one time Brookview plots were selling between \$2500 and \$2800. Seven principal builders were involved in the housing development including George Day, Al Woolworth, and Rose Owens.

As Rodriguez began to develop the next portion of the property he remembered his friend, Jack Palmtag and named the street after him.

Bollinger Road

John Bollinger (1829-1913) first came West to mine, but he soon returned to Missouri and brought his family to Santa Clara by covered wagon in 1866. His 80-acre ranch near the border of Campbell and San Jose was the family homestead for many years. Bollinger Road is named after the family.

Worden Wav



According to long-time Saratogan, Ernie Kraule "Worden Way was named after the Willie and Roberta Worden family. They owned a home at the end of Squirrel Hollow Lane. The property was

accessible from Worden Way and Squirrel Hollow Lane. Willie Worden, Terry Worden's father was on the street naming committee, which helped coordinate names of streets between the City and the US Post Office.

The Saratoga High School property was owned by Terry Worden's grandfather (along with other members of the family) and was part of a large prune orchard. There were several buildings on the property including a large barn in the vicinity of the football field. I might mention, I helped pick up the last prune boxes before the trees were removed."

On the Road

Have you ever seen a labyrinth? There's one located on the property of the Church of the Ascension on Miller Avenue. The labyrinth is a replica of the Chartres Labyrinth, Chartres Cathedral in France. The Chartres Labyrinth was built into the cathedral floor during the Crusades, in 1206, to provide a spiritual journey for those who couldn't make the pilgrimage to Jerusalem. Christians would walk the labyrinths, often on their knees in penance, meditating. The paths of the



Chartres labyrinth was a journey of 858 feet. Imagine walking on your knees on cold, hard marble for almost the length of three football fields!

Remembering the 1960's in Saratoga

"I came to Saratoga as a young bride in 1967 and lived there until 2000 "remembers Jean Teeple. Now living in Modesto, California, Teeple still returns to Saratoga to visit friends and family.

"My husband, Roy grew up in Saratoga and attended Saratoga schools. He graduated from Los Gatos High School in 1956. He was a volunteer fireman for 20 years and knew everyone in Saratoga.

My father-in-law and brother-in-law owned the Flying A gas station on the corner (now the location of the Starbucks coffee shop) of Big Basin Way.

I owned a beauty salon on Big Basin Way that I had purchased from Jeane Spaich in 1973. There were many orchards around town at that time but I met only a few owners.

It used to be delightful to walk up and down the street in the Village and be able to say 'hi' to family and friends that worked in the various businesses.

I enjoyed the coffee house (it became a Christian Science reading room), too.

One of the homes we lived in was on Saratoga-Sunnyvale Road. We called it "the cabin" because it had a log cabin feel. The home was built by Sigrid Jones, the photographer. The home had large windows, hardwood floors and sandstone fireplace. It has since been torn down."

Journalist Lived in La Mirada



Hugh A. Studdert-Kennedy served as a foreign editor for the Christian Monitor in San Francisco for ten years. The prolific author lived with his wife, Clarissa, in La Mirada, an estate on Hill Avenue in Saratoga during the 1930's and 40's.

Kennedy had been ordained to the ministry of the Church of England and came from a family of

clergy men. He graduated with a Master of Arts degree from the University of Dublin.

Kennedy wrote over 10 books about Christian Science including Mrs. Eddy, Her Life, Her Work and Her Place in History. He felt Mrs. Eddy, a biographical piece on the founder of the Church of Christ, was his finest writing. The book was published in 1947 just before his death.



Kennedy married Clarissa Hale in San Jose and the two of them lived with her mother, Mary Hale at La Mirada. Mary Hale was the widow of Oliver A. Hale, one of the founders of the retail chain, Hale Brothers. Mary Hale built the house in 1920 originally as a summer home. The sprawling one-story Mediterranean stucco villa with a red tile roof has five bedrooms a caretaker's cottage and a tiled-roof archway. The gates have mountain lions on top studiously guarding the entrance. The home is listed on the Saratoga heritage resource inventory. La Mirada loosely translated from Spanish means "The Look."

The home was frequently visited by actress Lilian Fontaine and her two daughters for dinner and evenings of classical music. Former actress Joan Fontaine called the couple Uncle Hugh and Aunt Claire.

The Blossom Festival Brings Back Saratogans

Locke Jorgensen brought his grandfather's fruit truck and a buzz saw to demonstrate at the Saratoga Blossom Festival held in March.

Jorgensen said, "I displayed a portable buzz saw patterned after Arch Colangelos' old rig. The name of



the saw comes from the sound it makes when cutting wood.

"Arch Colangelo was the woodcutter for the many agricultural orchards and farms in the Santa Clara Valley in the 40's and 50's before chain saws were in use. He drove to your wood pile and cut logs for use in fireplaces and wood stoves. He cut firewood on my grandmother's orchards (Jean Currier) and her brother's orchards (Fred B. Smith) both in Saratoga. The last time Mr. Colangelo cut wood for us was in 1958 shortly before he died.

"I grew up in Saratoga and lived on Rawdon Dell Ranch on Saratoga Avenue. My ancestors came to Saratoga in 1878. Wheat, grapes, prunes, walnuts, apricots and cherries were grown at various times.

"As a very young boy I remember sitting on the operator's lap as the Caterpillar "20" pulled the six-foot disc between the rows of fruit trees and dozens of black birds flew in to eat the worms uncovered by the plow. Or even better, walking behind the tractor and finding a coin in the freshly turned soil.

"I remember cutting 'cots being a family affair and the smell of the sulphur house. I picked prunes and remember the wonderful odor of the dehydrator across Saratoga Avenue and owned by Walter Seagraves. Once my brother, Dad, and I were given a tour inside the furnace room!

"In the fall many kids would have green hands from picking walnuts on the family orchard. It was a bit of a status symbol!

'I have great memories attending Oak Street and Fruitvale schools. I remember the old post office, bank, volunteer firestation in town and shopping at Campbell's market.

"Today I live in Fremont and I am retired after working 22 years with American Garden Products. I look after the three acres left at Rawdon Dell in Saratoga."



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Boy's Outing Farm Newspaper Donation BookGoRound Manager Mary Jeanne Fenn recently donated a 1911 copy of the newspaper, The Journal and



produced by The Boys Outing Farm with Roland Rice, Editor.

The Boys Outing Farm, was an organization created by Bertha Rice in

1907 and operated until 1938.

It was a farm where boys from San Francisco and other locations could vacation and experience country living. There were small farm animals and chickens kept on the place to give guests an idea of country farm life. Carts pulled by donkeys provided transportation.

The farm was located half way up "the John Brown Mountain" off Bohlman Road and surrounded by a native growth of shrubs. Today no remnants of the farm exist and the land is owned by the county.

In addition to the Boys Outing Farm, Bertha Rice founded the local Audubon Society, the Santa Clara Historical Society, a Poets Club, and met suffragette Susan B. Anthony. She also wrote several books.

Willys Peck had fond memories of Rice which he wrote about in one of his columns: "My own memories of Mrs. Rice are, to express it mildly, vivid. This is because she latched on to me at a time when, because of a laryngeal quirk, I was able to imitate birdcalls, a talent that disappeared with the years. But back in the mid-1930s, I was at my reluctant height and Mrs. Rice would include me in presentations she made at schools concerning nature study, wildflowers and bird lore.

As Roland Rice was driving us to one of these schools in their Model T Ford coupe, I remember Mrs. Rice remarking that she was getting \$5 for the gig. What I got was fame, which was OK with me, only I wished she hadn't kept introducing me as "Willard."

Donation's to Saratoga's collection are always appreciated and are tax deductible.

Willys Peck Memorial Fund

Those wishing to donate money to the Willys Peck Memorial Fund can send money to: Willys Peck Memorial Fund c/o Saratoga Historical Foundation PO Box 172, Saratoga, CA 95071.