



# Saratoga Historical Foundation & Museum

## Brief History:

**Old Grandview Ranch** was purchased by **Percy and Elizabeth Pike** in 1926 for \$17,000. Percy M. Pike, born in San Francisco, had achieved much success in oil drilling and was looking for a residential property. His brother Willis recommended he look in Saratoga. Once Percy saw the 40-acre property with such a **spectacular view of Santa Clara Valley**, he looked no more.

The Pikes hired **architect Lester Hubbard** to begin design. The plans included a main house, guest house, six car garage with an apartment above, and equipment shed. In late 1927, the firm of **Stanton, Reed and Hibbard** was awarded the contract to build; construction was completed in August 1928. The tennis court, swimming pool, and bath house were added in 1930.

When Old Grandview Ranch was built in 1927, it represented the unique **French Norman Revival** architecture that was popular from the 1920's to the 1930s. The adaptation and attraction to this style is attributed to our country's experiences in Northern France during WWI.

Later, adjacent land was purchased including prune, apricot, and walnut orchards which, at one time, were leased by the **RV Garrod** family.

Upon his death in 1963, Pike bequeathed part of this estate to Stanford University to be used as a Presidential Retreat.

In 1969, Stanford University sold its portion of the estate to the current owner **Dr. W. Donald Head**, an English professor at San Jose State University. Dr. Head was also able to buy back several previously sold sections of the ranch property. His success in managing medical & law offices provided him the resources to elevate Old Grandview Ranch to its current grandeur.

Under Dr. Head, extensive landscaping, a formal sculpture garden, large fountain, semi-circular loggia with curved staircases and Doric columns augmented this magnificent estate. As an art collector, he redesigned the former barn into an art gallery to showcase his many paintings and art objects. Numerous, impressive sculptures have been incorporated into the formally landscaped grounds, including **the bronze sculptures of children at play** on the lawn. Most recently an **English authors sculpture garden**, surrounded by 100 year old sculpted olive trees, has supplemented his amazing outdoor art.

In keeping with his respect for art and architecture, Dr. Head has not made any structural changes to the original buildings, maintaining the integrity of its French Norman Revival architecture.

Dr. Head has graciously opened Old Grandview Ranch for many charitable and nonprofit events. **Saratoga Historical Foundation** is exceedingly grateful that Dr. Head has awarded this privilege to our Foundation in 2018.

### Sources:

*Memoirs of J.M. Pike and Percy Mortimer Pike*, edited by Mary Pike, pp. 60-61; on loan from the Saratoga Historical Foundation.

*A Field Guide to American Houses*, by Virginia & Lee McAlester, pp. 387-389

*Grandest View in Saratoga*, Saratoga News, by Joanne Grant, pp. 1B & 4B

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