



SARATOGA HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

PO BOX 172, SARATOGA, CALIFORNIA 95071
January 2009

Circle these dates: January 9, attend the Saratoga Barn ceremony; January 19, new program on Coastal Defense; February 6, new exhibit on the Korean War and Vietnam War—Just to mention a few SHF sponsored events!

Coastal Defenses of San Francisco—first SHF program for 2009

Warren Riley, an Outreach Ambassador for the National Park Service will present the first SHF program of the year with a talk on the “Coastal Defenses of San Francisco” and cover the period from 1850 to 1970. The interesting slide presentation will take about 45 minutes and then be open for questions.

The program will take place on January 19 at 7:30 PM. Those participating in the potluck dinner should arrive at 6:30 and bring food to share. your own dishes and eating utensils. Beverages of water, tea or coffee will be provided. The event will take place at the Immanuel Lutheran Church at 14103 Saratoga Avenue in Saratoga. For reservations or additional information, call Nancy Anderson at 408-867-4383.



San Francisco's Presidio alone has nine historic gun batteries plus Fort Winfield Scott (beneath the Golden Gate Bridge), which guarded the Golden Gate from 1853

through the Civil War. Gun emplacements of the 1890s will also be shown as well as those on the Marin Headlands. Also included will be an eerie World War II-era tunnel and a hidden underground Cold War-Era Nike Missile Base that's been restored by veterans -- the only one in the U.S.! The presentation promises to be one you won't want to miss.

You Are Invited

You are invited to attend docent-led tours, a Green Seminar, and an award presentation on January 9 at the Saratoga Barn at 20640 Third Street in Saratoga.

The Saratoga Barn aka Sam Cloud Hay and Feed Warehouse will be open for docent-led tours sponsored by the Saratoga Historical Foundation from 3 to 4 PM. This

historically registered building was built circa 1880 by local owner Sam Cloud. The Congress Springs stagecoach was housed on the street level, with the horses on the lower level and the hay and feed on the upper level. The Saratoga Barn has been completely restored with the original wood.

Artifacts found during the construction will be on display.

The Green Seminar is sponsored by the State Bar of California Construction Subsection and will begin at 4 PM. After the seminar Mayor Chuck Page will say a few words and Developers Craig Awbrey and Bob Hausmann will be presented with the 2008 Sustainable Building of the Year Award by Jeffrey Connors. Seating is limited so if you would like to attend the Green Seminar, please RSVP to Conner & Associates, Rachael@jssonner.com or telephone(415)357-1401 by January 5.



New Exhibit Opens February 6

A new exhibit opens in the Saratoga History Museum on February 6, honoring veterans who fought in the Korean War and the Vietnam War.

Continuing the theme of “Saratogans Remember Wartime” the exhibit will include those who fought in the war as well as important artifacts.

This is the first time the Museum has had this exhibit and invites all those who might have items of interest to contact annette@saratogahistory.com or ray@saratogahistory.com or to call the Museum at 408-867-4311. Your loan of memorabilia would be greatly appreciated.

Four New SHF Board Members for 2009

The Saratoga Historical Foundation (SHF) has four new board members.



Saratoga resident **Jane Asher** will be joining the board as Fund Raising Chairperson. This important position has been open

for a long time and her interest and skills are greatly appreciated. Asher has excellent experience in producing fund raising events including organizing the popular Dicken's Faire for Cupertino.

Community leader **Ann Waltonsmith** will co-chair Fund Raising with Asher. Waltonsmith has also agreed to the position of Membership Chairperson. **Gene Zambetti** who formerly held that position recently resigned. Zambetti was instrumental in increasing the current membership level to 260 members and is thanked for his contribution.

Waltonsmith's long association with Saratoga as mayor and active interest in the community will make her very effective in her new roles. Waltonsmith is already at work organizing the current membership renewal campaign.

Saratoga-born and SHF supporter, **Ernie Kraal** has joined the board in the role of Special Projects Chairperson. One of the first priorities for Kraal is the current landscaping and hardscaping of the Museum grounds. Kraal was instrumental in the building of the new fire station and his past experience in effectively working with various groups will be very useful in his new position.

Paul Conrado, another long-time resident and key supporter of the Village and SHF, has joined the board as SHF representative on the Heritage Preservation Commission. The Heritage Preservation Commission is an important area and SHF has always prized its position on the

Commission. Part of Conrado's role will be liaison to the SHF board reporting on the Commission's activities. **Jim Sorden** formerly held that role but had to relinquish his position on HPC when he joined the Madronia Cemetary Board. Conrado's skills as a businessperson and keen interest in the community in his new position will be an asset.

A formal vote will be taken by membership in May. In the interim, the addition of these talented, well-known people and their "can-do" spirit is welcome.

Presidential Happenings in Saratoga

As the inauguration of a new president takes place in 2009, it's an occasion to reflect on notable politicians that have graced the town of Saratoga, California.

The most well-known event appears to have occurred in 1915 when Senator James Phelan invited President Wilson to attend the Blossom Festival and stay in his home, Villa Montalvo in Saratoga. The San Francisco Panama Pacific International Exposition was taking place at the time and the primary reason for the president's visit to California. Due to the concern about war with Germany, however, Wilson sent Vice President Thomas R. Marshal instead.



The entourage to Saratoga included then Assistant Secretary of the Navy, Franklin Roosevelt as well as the Vice President and his wife, Secretary of the Interior Franklin K. Lane and Assistant Secretary of State William Phillips. Although Marshal did not attend the Blossom Festival due to the inclement weather, Roosevelt did and was one of the key speakers.

Another claim to fame is that the E. Grant Taylor House, circa 1906, and located on 14421 Saratoga-Sunnyvale Road once had a "president" sleep there. The Julia Morgan designed home was once used as a vacation boarding house and a young Richard Nixon stayed there.

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

Chuck Schoppe, Pres., Technical Systems Dir.
Jack Mallory, Vice Pres., Community Relations
Ron Hagelin, Recording Secretary
Bob Himel, Treasurer

Newsletter

The Saratoga Historical Foundation newsletter is produced 6X a year. If you have comments or suggestions, please e-mail to:

annette@saratogahistory.com

Museum

The Saratoga History Museum and McWilliams House is open from 1-4 PM Friday through Sunday. Stop by and see the many exhibits.

Visit our website: <http://www.saratogahistory.com>.



Save These Dates!

- Jan. 9 Saratoga Barn docent-led tours and Green Seminar, 3-4 PM
- Jan 15 Chamber of Commerce Mixer at the Museum, 5:30-7:00 PM
- Jan. 19 SHF Program: Coastal Defense of the San Francisco Bay by Warren Riley Immanuel Lutheran Church, 6:30 PM for dinner, program follows
- Jan. 19 Write a Love Note in the Village event championed by the SVDC
- Feb. 6 New exhibit opens at the Museum: Saratogans Remember the Korean War and Vietnam War
- March 6 New exhibit opens at the Museum: 150th Anniversary of Harper's Ferry—Mary Brown Comes to Saratoga
- March 16 SHF Program: Interurban Railway by Ray Cosyn at the Immanuel Lutheran Church at 6:30 PM for dinner, program follows

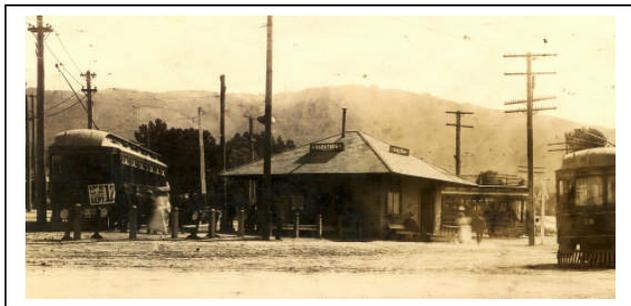
SHF Hosts Chamber of Commerce Mixer

The SHF will host the monthly Chamber of Commerce mixer for the first time at the Museum on January 15. The event begins at 5:30 and ends at 7:00 PM. Gene's Fine Food has generously donated food for the event.

The Chamber of Commerce conducts a monthly mixer for all members. It is a nice opportunity for chamber members to meet socially.

March Program Features Interurban Railway

SHF Historian, Ray Cosyn will give a slide presentation on the Peninsular Interurban Railway--Saratoga's railroad-- at the March 16 meeting which will be held at the Immanuel Lutheran Church. The development of the electric railway began in 1903 and provided both passenger and limited freight service up until 1932 when the automobile drove it from the scene.



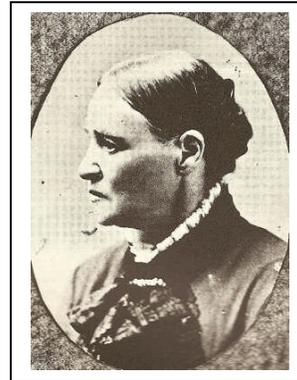
According to Saratoga Historian Willys Peck, "those awaiting a ride at night on the streetcar would hold up a lighted paper to help the motorman stop at the right place."

The line ran out of San Jose down what is today Stevens Creek Boulevard to Saratoga Avenue where it turned south to make its way to Saratoga. Once in Saratoga, a passenger could continue on to Los Gatos or change cars to go on to Congress Springs by Big Basin Way.

The Peninsular Interurban is the grandfather of the current light rail system. The presentation includes never-before-seen photos from the archives.

March Exhibit Focuses on 150th Anniversary of Harper's Ferry and Saratoga Resident Mary Brown

The National Park Services in certain areas of the US have planned events commemorating the 150th Anniversary of Harper's Ferry during 2009.



The Saratoga History Museum will debut a personal version of Harper's Ferry through the eyes of one-time resident Mary Day Brown and some of her children. Mary Brown, second wife of Abolitionist John Brown moved to California after his death to begin a new life. The Museum's archives will provide a poignant portrait of the family. The exhibit opens

March 6 in the Museum and includes items never before exhibited.

Cupid Draw Back Your Bow...



Love Notes—a new event sponsored by the Saratoga Village Development Council (SVDC) is an opportunity to tell someone you care—and very publicly!

Starting January 19, you can write a loved one a special Love Note using stationary provided at the Village Jeweler (14519 Big Basin Way), Lupretta's Delicatessan and Catering (14480 Big Basin Way) or Flobell (14519 Big Basin Way). Return the completed message to one of the above businesses by February 6 and your note will be specially framed for posting on Village store fronts and posted from February 6-17th. If you want to use your own stationary—it must be 8 1/2" x 11".

Bring your loved one for a special meal in the Village or to choose a special Valentine's day present and watch their surprise when they see your Love Note! Be sure to only post one Love Note or you could be in trouble!

Nancy to the Rescue

If you need someone to count on—ask for Nancy Anderson. The SHF Social Chair does her job and then some.

If you need food for an event—Anderson comes up with an extraordinary menu—green beer for the St. Patrick's day potluck. Or for the recent World War II Veteran's Panel event held at the Museum—chipped beef on a cracker, toasted gourmet Spam...the woman has a sense of humor.

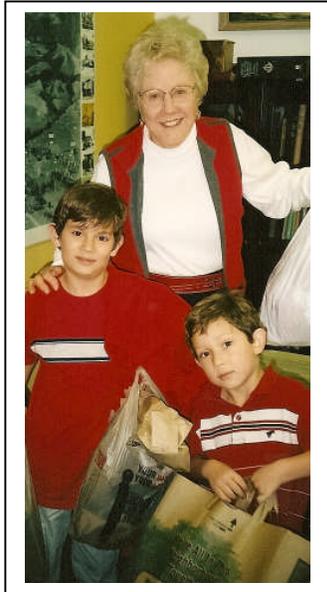
And if you have noticed that the garden in front of the museum looks tidier—thank Anderson who has put her gardening muscle to test.

Anderson has been in SHF for 10 years and for just as long on the board. In addition to the Social Chair position, she has also served on the Membership committee.

For some people it's a task to work with one organization...but Anderson? She says, "I am co-chair for the third time for the Committee on Homeless Women and Children section of the Association of University Women (AAUW). Was co-chair for 15 years for our fund-raising English Tea and will do that again in 2009. I am on the Foothill Club House and Grounds committee and am the liaison between the Club and the Men's Club. I co-chaired the November Tea. I try to help out each year at the tuber/cuttings sales for the John Stowell Dahlia Society. I worked on the Mustard Walk/Faire for four years and am very sorry to see it go."

Occasionally she takes a breath to respond to the next question—why does she volunteer? Anderson says, "I enjoy meeting new people and working with them for the organization."

Volunteering isn't new to Anderson. She notes, "What might be unusual today is in 1961 and I went to the County Council of Churches and volunteered for their Migrant Ministry program. At that time they had a clinic in Almaden on Thursday nights for the migrant farm workers in our valley. My job was to go to the orchards here in Saratoga and ask if the children had had their inoculations and/or did they have any other health problems. I would then help get transportation for them and would translate for the doctors. At that time the workers and families had housing on the ranches in Saratoga. I also would go to the school storage building at Blue Hills and get left over or outdated textbooks and with other books I collected would have a lending library out of the back of my station wagon. We also had a program at the Federated Church on Thursday afternoons where junior high students would work one on one to tutor the migrant children. I did this for 15 years. How I loved walking out into those orchards, especially in the Spring



with all the blossoms. If I ever get the time I want to write about this for the museum newsletter."

She's also served a term on the Saratoga Heritage Preservation Commission and was chair of the Social Services Advisory Commission to the Santa Clara Board of Supervisors.

Fun memories of Saratoga as a resident since 1956, recalls Anderson, "Memories? Going to the Barn and Ye Old Junkee Shoppee to buy wonderful antiques. Ye Old Junkee Shoppee was attached to the Plumed Horse restaurant – just a roof over all the stuff laid out in rows on a dirt floor."

And Anderson is off to see to another project without missing a beat.

Road Trip



Drive two miles west of the Saratoga Village and you'll find one of the oldest concrete bridges in California. Long Bridge was built in 1902 and is 165 feet in length. The narrow two-lane bridge is posted to the National Register of Historic Places as Saratoga Creek Bridge but is locally known as "Long Bridge." The arch style bridge is faced with local stones and fits handsomely in with the rustic look of the area.



The bridge spans Saratoga Creek and replaced a wooden bridge built during the nineteenth century. At that time the bridge was considered the longest and highest bridge in Santa Clara county.

At one time sawmill workers trundled across the bridge heavily laden with loads of lumber. The men who drove the rough road would stop and water their animals under the bridge before continuing their journey. Horse and buggy traffic brought guests to nearby Saratoga Springs to escape the valley heat.

Today it continues to be one of the many "postcard pretty" areas of Saratoga.

Plaques in The Village

The Saratoga Village will soon be taking on a new look as informative historic plaques are added. The plaques are part of a program initiated by the Saratoga Village Development Council.

According to City Councilwoman Jill Hunter, "The handsome bronze plaques will have block writing in the original manner of historic plaques with descriptions written by Jackie Welch and April Halberstadt and will include a photo of the original building."

Plans are to affix plaques on the Kocher building, the Grover House, Arthur Mintz building, Bella Saratoga, the Sam Cloud Hay and Feed Warehouse, and the Water district building.

The cost will be paid for by the Saratoga Village Development Council. More plaques will be added after a series of fund raisers take place in 2009.

Hutchinson Building

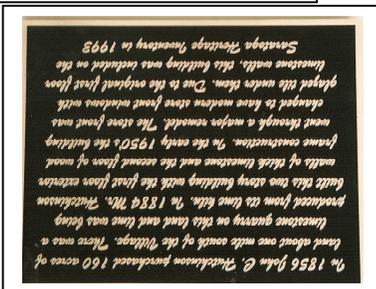
The Hutchinson building presently has a plaque paid for by the owners when the building underwent renovations in 1950. The building was originally built by John Hutchinson in 1884.

In 1856, John C. Hutchinson came to Saratoga and purchased a lime kiln along with 160 acres of land.



At that time, lime was used for construction of early brick buildings. Under Hutchinson's ownership, lime was hauled in ox-drawn carts to the Guadalupe mines where it was used to reclaim quicksilver. After two years, the mine was able to develop its own source of lime and Hutchinson closed down the kiln and returned to farming.

Hutchinson sold his land in 1884 and moved to downtown Saratoga where he engaged in the mercantile business. This two-story building originally had exterior walls of thick limestone on the first floor and the second floor had a wood frame construction.



The Hutchinson building on Big Basin Way (near Third Street) was once the Oldham Meat Market while Hutchinson's Hall occupied the second floor. Today the Saratoga Cleaners is located in the building.

Turning Over a New Leaf

Mario Chisessi, from the Odd Fellows Chapter near the Saratoga History Museum is a good neighbor. He volunteers to clear the leaves around the Odd Fellows building and has volunteered to do the same for the Museum.

Open House

The Saratoga History Museum participated in the Village's annual Open House in November. The popular Skillet Likker's raised the Museum's roof with an hour of rousing Christmas carols. Social Chair Nancy Anderson kept spirits high with a sweet supply of Christmas cookies and hot cider. Gift Shop Manager Peggy Schoppe dressed in vintage



holiday style while maintaining the ambience of the Museum. Jenni Taylor, also dressed in vintage clothing and gave tours of the McWilliams House to all interested people. Both the Museum and the McWilliams House were decorated for Christmas.



Giving Thanks

Tony Palma, Saratoga High School Media Teacher and his students, recently helped the Museum complete a 10-minute tour of the Museum ably hosted by SHF historian Ray Cosyn for running on KSAR. It's part of a Marketing plan to raise awareness for the Museum. The



professionally produced video will begin appearing on KSAR in January.

Two Hours With 'True Heroes'

"I believe these gentlemen are the true heroes of the day" said a member of the audience and referring to the special panel of World War II veterans taking part in the December 7 event at the Museum.

The Museum hosted a panel of five veterans with Moderator and SHF historian Ray Cosyn. The packed room contained 70 to 80 people—one of the largest events held at the Museum. It was standing room only as young and old alike listened attentively to the stories of the panel as well as those of the audience.

Panelist Els Welch, lieutenant commander of the USS



Johnston told the audience of his experiences in the Battle of Leyte Gulf— still known as the largest battle in US naval history. After his ship was sunk he spent four days in shark-infested water with the men of his ship waiting to be rescued.



Ed Vincent flew

32 missions on a B-29. He was stationed on Tinian Island where the Enola Gay was parked. The Enola Gay was the plane that dropped the atomic bomb on Japan.

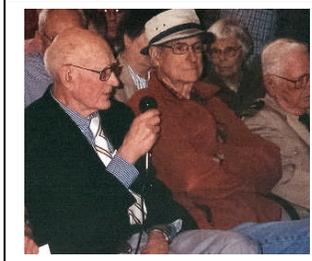
John Monjar brought a framed set of medals and recalled participating in D-Day as well as in the Okinawa invasion. He served on five different ships during the war.

Panelist Jack Thompson was 23 when he went to war. He was in a bomber group stationed in Australia. He poignantly could recall seeing the face of a Kamikaze pilot shot down.

Panelist Willys Peck told what Saratoga was like during the war including his own World War II experiences with a rifle that didn't work.

Members of the audience also contributed remembrances - Andy Echenfelder was an engineer who built the airfield on Tinian Island; Alan Breed brought

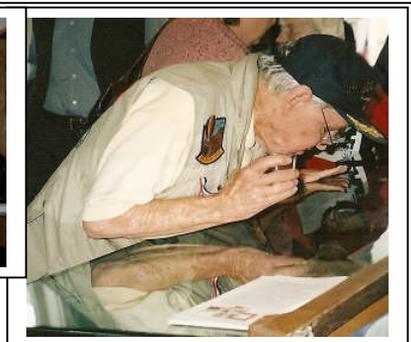
but later escaped. His comments best summed up the day, "We don't want people to forget the war. It's wonderful to keep these stories alive and to refresh memories. It was a horrible war that we went through."



military papers needed for shore leave; Don Loughridge told of his submarine experiences as well as the research talents

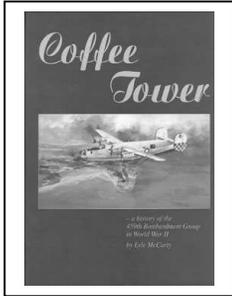


of his father during the war; Bill Meeham vividly recalled serving on a destroyer and hunting German and Japanese submarines. Ransom Rideout flew 38 missions and was one of the famed Flying Tigers. Ransom was captured in China



Some Interesting Books to Read

Several books are available either mentioning local Saratoga veterans or are written by local authors about World War II.



You can find these books either in the Saratoga library or at your local bookstore.

Saratoga Librarians Joan Zedlar and Barbara Morrow have created an interesting exhibit of books on World War II for the Museum and included the Museum's exhibit schedule in the Saratoga Library. Be sure to see the exhibit for additional titles.

Here are just a few books:

Ghost Soldiers, Hampton Sides (mentions Saratogan Col. Curtis Beecher) Covers the rescue of 513 US POWs in the Philippines and the Bataan Death March.

The Rape of Nanking, Iris Chang (Sunnyvale author) The story of the Chinese Holocaust during World War II.

The Last Stand of the Tin Can Sailors, James D. Hornfischer (mentions Saratogan Els Welch) The book covers the greatest naval battle in US history in Leyte Gulf.

Sea of Thunder by Evan Thomas (mentions Saratogan Els Welch) Covers the naval battle of Leyte Gulf through the Japanese and US perspective.

The Heart Mountain Story, Mamoru Inouye (Saratogan) Personal story of Japanese internment during the war.

Coffee Tower, by Lyle McCarty (Saratogan) history of the 459th Bombardment Group while stationed in Italy.

Gore and Glory by Captain William Crawford, Jr. (The book mentions Saratogan Jack Thompson) Stationed in Australia and covers a personal narrative on World War II airfare.

A Soldier's Prayer

*Lord when it comes my turn to take up arms,
Against my fellow man in deadly strife.
I seek no heaven release from harm,
That should befall and endanger my life.*

*But Lord I seek the strength that has been born of trust,
In thee, and in the cause for which I fight.
The job I do is for a world more just,
Where right alone will be the source of might.*

*Let not the crises find me faint of heart,
Nor falsely boasting willingness to dare.
But may they say of me, "he did his part;
"The time that he was needed he was there".*

Written by Willys Peck upon entering the Army in March of 1943

Death of a World War II Veteran



Dr. Harry Slesnick, one of the veterans featured in the World War II exhibit in the Museum, passed away on December 22.

Dr. Slesnick was a hero—as a B-17 navigator in WWII, he flew 32 missions before being shot down in Europe and taken prisoner by the Germans. His World War II memoirs are presently on exhibit in the Museum along with many items including a tin bowl he painstakingly made while a prisoner. Slesnick's family said he would get together each year in various parts of the country with the men that were his POW bunkmates in Germany.

Our condolences to the family.

War Remembered

Mac McCaughey earlier this year received a World War II Memorial medal from the Czech Republic. The Czech Republic celebrated the 60th anniversary of the liberation from the German's World War II occupation. Only 2000 veterans were awarded this medal. The letter accompanying the medal said in part, "The Czech Nation will never forget your merits and bravery.." The letter was signed by Major General Emil Pupis, Defense, Military and Air Attache.

New Year's Resolution

It's not too late to add a few items to your 2009 New Year's Resolutions. If you joined SHF between January and the end of July of 2008 you should have received a membership renewal form with your last newsletter. If you haven't returned the form, be sure to send in your check for renewal this month so you don't miss any events planned for 2009. And if you want to include a donation with your membership—this would be a great time!

The tradition of the New Year's resolution was created by the Babylonians 4,000 years ago. The first day of the year for this ancient civilization was March 23 and one of its popular resolutions was to return something borrowed from

a friend during the previous year.

The Romans celebrated the New Year on Jan. 1 and shared a similar tradition with the Babylonians. A common resolution in ancient Rome

was to ask forgiveness from enemies of the past year. The Chinese New Year has been celebrated for thousands of years as well. Their New Year is somewhere between late January and early February. One of their resolution customs is housecleaning, which tops many modern-day New Year's resolution lists.

For members of SHF—it is the custom to write a check and renew membership! Do it today!

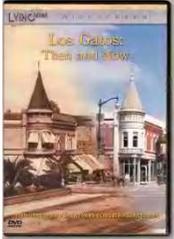


New DVDs in Gift Shop



Two new DVD's are available at the Museum gift shop: ***Villa Montalvo: The Evolution of an Arts Center*** and ***Los Gatos Then and Now***. ***Villa Montalvo: The Evolution of an Arts Center*** is a 90-minute documentary film that traces the history of the Villa

from its inception as a lovely mansion for Senator Phelan through its development into a vital cultural resource for the Bay Area. Produced by Filmmakers Valerie Archer and John Wainwright, the DVD is 90 minutes in length and includes over 300 photos and footage of never-before seen photos as well as interviews with the Phelan family. The cost is \$27 for nonmembers and \$24.50 for members.



Los Gatos Then and Now (same price structure) is 85 minutes in length and also contains rare film footage. This film brings the history of Los Gatos to life with digitally enhanced historic photographs. In the early years, Los Gatos was a railroad town, playing a prime role in one of the world's greatest

fruit-growing regions. The DVD captures both the unique spirit of Los Gatos yesteryear and today. The DVD is very fast-paced and includes some areas of Saratoga.

You can purchase these items at the Museum Gift Shop which is open from 1-4 PM Friday through Sunday.

Saratoga Historical Foundation
PO Box 172
Saratoga, California 95072

If you missed shopping at the Museum during Christmas— new this year are Saratoga-themed t-shirts, new Saratoga-themed bookmarks, wooden toys and other items—perfect for that Valentine's gift.

Apple of My Eye



Valentine's day is right around the corner and we are dedicating this space to something Saratogan and something sweet: **Olivia de Havilland's recipe for her favorite cake. Famed actress Olivia de Havilland lived in Saratoga for many years and went to school on Oak Street. It's not known if she developed the recipe while living in Saratoga but....bon appetit!**

Olivia's Applesauce Cake

½ cup butter
1 cup sugar
1 cup applesauce (cold, unsweetened)
1 teaspoonful soda
1 cup raisins and nuts (cut small)
½ teaspoonful powdered clove
2 cups flour

Cream butter and add sugar gradually. Add soda to applesauce and include butter and sugar to the mixture. Put in other ingredients, and bake in buttered and floured pan for 40 minutes in moderate oven 350 degrees.