



SARATOGA HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

PO BOX 172, SARATOGA, CALIFORNIA 95071
July 2009

**Great Events are Coming—July 4th Parade; July 9th Masson Drawing; July 19th Potluck Dinner; August 8 SHF Garage Sale; Sept. 27 SHF BBQ—
Check the Calendar Inside for More Events!!!!**

Celebrate Independence Day!!



An old fashioned Independence Day celebration will be held at Azule Park on Goleta Avenue starting at 10 AM. A star spangled parade will include the US Navy and Girl Scout color guards, patriotic music by the McCartysville Volunteer band, and early American historical characters marching. The event is free to the public. The sounds of freedom will ring out as the liberty bell will be rung 13 times for the colonies and freedom. Yankee Doodle Dandy will be rung out in this traditional bell ringing, festive event.

Special guests include veterans in uniform who will lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Biscuit the clown will be handing out ice cream, a US flag and a balloon to children. Cash donations can be made to the Red Cross Soldiers Care and Comfort Fund.

Members of the Saratoga Historical Foundation will be greeting people and selling local history books.

SHF member Jack Mallory is planning the event. If you would like to volunteer or donate, call: 408-252-7447.

Get out your red, white and blue clothes and join in this local salute to Independence Day!



The Envelope, Please

Nancy Anderson was awarded "Citizen of the Year 2008" at the Saratoga Awards Night conducted by the Chamber of Commerce on June 19.

Anderson was selected for her record of volunteerism spanning over 46 years. Her good works included volunteering for the Federated Church, president of the PTA, Girl Scout and Brownie troop leader, Sewing Chairperson for



Good Samaritan Hospital, Suicide Crisis volunteer; working with homeless children; and membership in the Senior Center; Heritage Preservation Council, Foothill Club, and Saratoga Historical Foundation.

Anderson said, "I am very, very honored to be chosen over such worthy nominees. My gosh, they were all the big guns in this town - I have just been fiddling around doing things here and there. It was interesting to hear what they had chosen to say about me and funny that the biggest "OOOHHH" and "AAHH" from the audience was, as Chair of the Sewing Committee when Good Sam Hospital first opened, I started the idea to make red Christmas stockings for newborn babies to go home in!"

Other nominees included Linda Hagelin, Bob Loudon, Jill Hunter, Aki Okuno, Sue Barrera, and Ann Waltonsmith. The nominees were submitted by the public with the final vote by the selection committee consisting of past Citizens of the Year.

The Business Person of the Year title was awarded to both Daryle Lupretta and Chris Oakes.

The Skillet Lickers serenaded guests with town historian Willys Peck requesting and joining in the singing of a favorite song, Cool Water. A special evening for all.

New Officers Elected



The Saratoga Historical Foundation recently elected new board members at an election during the membership meeting in May. The following will join the board for a term of four years: Membership Director, Ann Waltonsmith; Special Projects

Director, Ernie Kraule; Fund Raising Director, Jane Asher; and Chiiming Kao, Community Relations Director

During the June board meeting, a new executive committee was elected: Bob Himel, President; Annette Stransky, Vice President; Ron Hagelin remained as Recording Secretary; and Jane Asher as Treasurer.

According to President Bob Himel, "The goals for this year's board will be 1) The presentation of quality historical lectures, exhibits, and programs 2) Outreach to the community as a whole to make more citizens aware of our Museum and programs and 3) Continued improvement to the Museum and McWilliams House in order to provide a high quality "visit experience."

Mallory Retires from the SHF Board

Jack Mallory announced he would be retiring from the SHF board after serving six years. The former Vice President of Community Relations said he was anxious to complete some of the projects he's been working on and that he was "confident he was leaving the board in good hands."

He also added, "I will not be far away as I plan to continue my membership in the museum, attend museum functions, read the museum newsletter, and promote the town with its long history."

Mallory is thanked for his many contributions in the various board functions. During the last six years, Mallory helped drive membership to an all-time high; initiated successful fund raising activities such as the Civil War and Tank tours; actively recruited board members; obtained the current outstanding Civil War collection on exhibit at the Museum; as well as contributed in the area of Museum programs.

A source of unlimited good ideas for success and people, the former Councilman and Citizen of the Year's contributions will be greatly missed.

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 Director

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

Museum and Gift Shop

The Saratoga History Museum and McWilliams House are open from 1-4 PM Friday through Sunday. Call 408-867-4311 Visit our website: <http://www.saratogahistory.com>.

**You are Cordially Invited to
Meet the New SHF Board
With A Potluck Dinner
Sunday, July 19 at 4:00 PM**

At

**Betty and Willys Peck's
Heritage Garden
14275 Saratoga Avenue
Saratoga, CA**

**Please bring a favorite dish of
food to share**

**Contact Nancy Anderson
408- 867-4383
Dander2567@aol.com**

RSVP



Schoppe Retires as SHF Board President

Chuck Schoppe announced at the May members' meeting that he was retiring as President of the Saratoga Historical Foundation board after the June board elections. He has held that position since coming to the board in 2004.

In his announcement, Chuck noted some of the highlights that have occurred during his presidency, which included the completion of the museum Resource Center and installation of new furniture, new computer and video systems; renovation and furnishing of the McWilliams House which figures so prominently in our successful education program; listing of the McWilliams House in the Bay Area House Museums tour book; establishment of the SHF website; expansion of the museum gift shop; the mural design for Wells Fargo Bank; improvement in SHF and City Council relationships; the negotiation of a new building lease agreement with the City; fire and intrusion alarms; and increased membership and participation.

Chuck remains as an active board member as Technical Systems Director, and is thanked for his many hours of dedicated work and contributions to the Foundation and the museum.



Save These Dates!

- July 4** **Independence Day** celebration at 10AM in Azule Park on Goleta Avenue.
- July** **Walking tours** of historic Saratoga Village—Call 408-867-4311 for a reservation. Free.
- July 18** **Saratoga Swings** (5-8PM) in the Village--rock with the Keane and West band.
- July 19** **Welcome SHF board** at the Peck's Home on Saratoga Avenue—all members are welcome.
- August 1** **Saratoga Swings** (5-8PM) in the Village—wiggle with the Bollywood theme
- August 8** **City-wide garage sale**—go to the SHF garage sale on 14672 Oak Street.
- Sept. 12** **A Taste of Saratoga**, (12-8PM) in the Village
- Sept. 27** **SHF annual barbecue at the historic Garrod Ranch and Cooper-Garrod Estate Winery**
- Oct.** **History Month**—special exhibit at the Museum covering famous Saratogans
- Oct. 3** **Lantern Walk** (4-6PM)
- Oct. 21** **SHF Meets** with the City Council
- Oct. 25** **President Lincoln's Last Trip** by SHF Historian Ray Cosyn—presentation at the Museum at 1 PM

Fund Raising Events

The Saratoga Historical Foundation has several fund raisers taking place in order to continue to provide quality programs and services. Membership dues provide only 33% of the money needed to fuel the Foundation and Museum. Please join us and help make these events successful!

Garage Sales Can be Treasure Hunts!

The city of Saratoga is having a city-wide garage sale on August 8 and the friends of the Saratoga History Museum are participating!!



SHF has already started gathering donations of an antique table, Cymbidian orchids, wrought iron plant

stands, books, tools, and vintage jewelry to sell. All items are donated by individuals and all money goes to the Museum. If you would like to donate, drop off your donation in front of the gate at 14672 Oak Street in Saratoga between the days of August 3-7. Please do not open the gate and let the dog out!!

If you would like to help setup the garage sale; sell during the day; or help clean up after the sale—we could use some volunteers. It's a great opportunity to meet people, to donate an hour or two for some exercise, and to find a treasure. If you are interested in helping, call Annette at 408-867-7468 or e-mail annette@saratogahistory.com

The garage sale starts at 8:30 AM and ends at 3:00 PM on Saturday, August 8. Jenni Taylor has generously loaned us her driveway at 14672 Oak Street in Saratoga. We'll have n extra chair or two for those who would like to come and chat with friends. But don't forget to bring money for buying those bargains!

Dining in a Historic Home!

The drawing date for the Paul Masson dinner is just around the corner—July 9--- and it's not too late to buy a ticket!!

For just \$20 you have a chance to win dinner for 10 (ten people!) in a lovely 1936 home in the hills of Saratoga. This



historic home was once owned by vintner Paul Masson. You have the opportunity to see the rooms where Masson once lived and partied.

Surrounded by a working vineyard, the pastoral beauty of the land can only be

surpassed by a sip or two of the wine provided. Gaze back into yesteryear..... For only \$20—a lovely dinner with friends; wonderful wine; and historic ambience. Don't miss this opportunity! Call Jane at 408-255-1883 today to buy a ticket.

SHF Barbecue and Silent Auction

Dust off that Stetson, polish your belt buckle---it's time for the annual SHF barbecue! Scheduled for Sunday, September 27, the day promises to be one of good cheer, excellent food and wine, and a chance to bid on an item or two.

The annual barbecue is one of the largest events of the year for the SHF organization and traditionally held at the historic Garrod Ranch and Cooper-Garrod Estate Winery in the Saratoga foothills.

The Garrod Ranch and Cooper-Garrod Estate Winery provides a spectacular view of the San Francisco Bay and Santa Clara Valley from a thousand foot elevation. The Garrod family became involved in agriculture in 1893--making it one of the oldest working ranches locally.

The Skillet Lickers will provide musical entertainment and the annual silent auction will lighten your wallet.

According to BBQ Chair, Nancy Anderson, "This year's BBQ will be one of the best. Last year was a sellout—so buy your ticket early." All money goes to SHF and the Museum.



Silent Auction Back By Popular Demand!

A weekend at Pajaro Dunes, gift certificates from popular restaurants, and other exciting items will be on hand for the annual Silent Auction held during the BBQ on September 27. This much-anticipated event is chaired by Marilyn Marchetti and ably assisted by Laurel Perusa and Marilyn White. Items donated in the past have included estate jewelry, collectible books, and more. If you would like to donate an item please contact Marilyn Marchetti at 408-741-1127. Remember donations are tax deductible. The committee promises a surprise or two so bring your checkbook.

Actress Joan Fontaine Shares Memories of Saratoga in an Exclusive Interview

Joan Fontaine nee Joan de Beauvoir de Havilland was born on October 22, 1917 in Tokyo, Japan. Her father was a professor of French and English at Tokyo Imperial University and a well-known international patent attorney. Due to Joan and her older sister's (Olivia de Havilland) recurring ailments the family moved to California with the hopes of improving their health. Mrs de Havilland and the two girls settled in Saratoga while their father went back to his practice in Japan. This is Part I of the interview conducted by Audry Lynch with Joan Fontaine.

“When Mother, Olivia and I arrived in California from Japan in 1922, Saratoga was the most wonderful little hamlet in the world,” says Joan Fontaine fondly from the vantage point of ninety-one years of living.

“I remember catching water dogs in the creek, Maypole dances, a little hill on the way to Los Gatos where we had children’s entertainments,” she said. Continuing, “I can still see in my mind little children in costumes twining around Maypoles. People don’t do nice things like that anymore.”

“Saratoga was at its best in early spring”, she claims. “When we lived at 21 La Paloma we were surrounded by prunes and apricot orchards. We lived in a world of blossoms and when one stepped out of doors in the evening, the scent was paradise.”

Both of the sisters attended Oak Street school although Joan missed a lot of school due to recurring ailments. In fact her ill health was one of the prime reasons that the family moved to Saratoga. She missed a great deal of school due to rheumatic fever and bouts of pneumonia.

At one point there were two schools with the old one being torn apart to make way for the new. She laughingly remembers how Olivia de Havilland, her older sister, saw an opportunity for a prank. “Olivia figured out how to get into the old school bathrooms,” she says, “and led a group of us into it. Guilt-ridden, but giggling we stuffed newspaper into all the johns, flooding the lower floor.”

In addition to the old Oak Street school, she mentioned that she loved Hakone Gardens. She described it as: “It was a child’s paradise. We were exposed to musicians and opera stars there. I especially loved Tojo, the gardener who gave me my first ‘just for me’ present---a Japanese white ceramic cat. I understand he and his family were interned in

Colorado during WWII. I remember seeing pictures of Olivia and me dressed in kimonos in the gardens.”

Montalvo was another favorite spot that lives on in her memory. She thinks it was totally appropriate that her mother’s (British actress Lilian Fontaine) ashes were scattered there. She is especially pleased that there is a garden named for her mother at Montalvo, the site of many theatrical experiences for the whole family.

The movie theatre in Los Gatos was the family destination every Friday night. She recalls that if you misbehaved during the week you stayed home and that was the ultimate punishment. She also remembers the Vendome Hotel, their home in San Jose before moving to Saratoga. Vendome

Hotel, was the place to go in San Jose and is where her mother met George M. Fontaine their future stepfather. Her stepfather was the manager of the O.A. Hale department store at that time in San Jose.

Some of the people in Saratoga she remembers; author **Kathleen Norris**: “We used to go to tea at the Norris’ house.”

Mr. and Mrs. Llewellyn Peck: (newspaper editor): “We used to visit their house. I loved Mr. Peck.”

Mr. and Mrs. Willys Peck: “They are so sweet to invite me to a party every spring. Unfortunately, it is too far for me to go.”

Mr. and Mrs. Yehudi Menuhin: “We got to know them because they used to visit his mother in a rest home in Los Gatos. Once on a trip to Europe I stayed with them in their

home in Switzerland.”

Marilyn Morris O’Donnell: “We both are dog lovers.

She always inquires about mine and I’m writing a Christmas card right now to give her an update.”

Louise Garrod Cooper: “She’s a wonderful woman.” (I had the sad task of informing her of Louise’s death and the dedication of the tree in Louise’s honor. Joan responded quietly, “She would have liked that.”

Author **John Steinbeck**: “I never met him when he lived in Los Gatos but his wife, Elaine, lived next to me in New York City on East 72nd Street.”

Mr. and Mrs. Lundblad: “When we first came to California we stayed at their guest house on Oak Street. They were like grandparents to us and we would go to their home for Christmas. Grandpa Lundblad would take us for rides in the horse-drawn wagon and I learned much about cooking watching ‘Grandma’ while sitting around the kitchen table.”

Audry Lynch, conducted this telephone interview in December with Joan Fontaine who is presently living in Carmel Heights, California. A local Saratogan, Lynch teaches English at Mission College and is active in several writing groups. Part II will be in the next newsletter.

Editor’s Note: Joan Fontaine, daughter of actress Lilian Fontaine, lived in Saratoga from 1920-1933. She received an Oscar for her role in the Alfred Hitchcock film, *Suspicion* and has a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. She has starred in Broadway plays, film and television with a career that spans over 60 years. Fontaine also wrote an autobiography in 1978, “No Bed of Roses.” A book signing was held locally.



An Affaire to Remember

The bubble machine was cranking out champagne bubbles and American flags were waving on the table as the SHF folk sold their wares along Big Basin Way. People were eager to find out more about the Saratoga History Museum by buying books and joining the organization.

A Sidewalk Affaire, held June 20-21 drew both venders and shoppers to the Village.

Back at "the ranch" the Museum was host to several classic car clubs organized by Chuck Schoppe. The visitors were rewarded with a tour of the Civil War exhibit at the Museum and a tour of the McWilliams House.

Several colorful Saratoga characters were dressed up and seen roaming the streets including Charles Maclay; Mrs. Martha McWilliams, Joan Fontaine, Olivia deHavilland, Painless Parker and Paul Masson. A Civil War soldier was also seen searching for a spot to bivouac at the Museum after viewing the Civil War exhibit.

Those helping with the SHF events included Dave and Carmel Moody, Dick Angus, Jenni Taylor, Myrna Thompson, Yvonne Mendy, Ray Cosyn, Peggy and Chuck Schoppe, Joan Bose, Katie Alexander, Yvonne Lampshire, Laurel Perusa, Jack Mallory, Jane Asher, and Annette Stransky.

Many thanks to those who made the day a big success for both the Village and SHF! Photos courtesy of Brian Berg.

Plaques Debut at the Sidewalk Affaire

Councilwoman Jill Hunter reports five new plaques will soon grace the buildings in the Village. The new plaques were on display at the "Sidewalk Affaire."

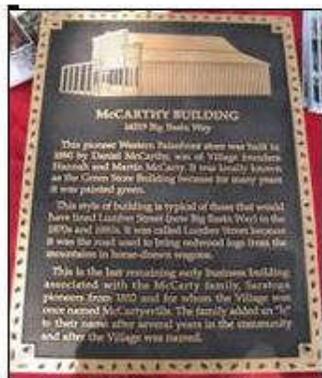
The handsome bronze plaques with acorn borders will be placed on these buildings on Big Basin Way and Saratoga-Los Gatos: Saratoga State Bank built in 1912 and was Saratoga's first bank; the McCarthy building built in 1890 and was known locally as the "Green Store Building." It is the last business building still standing and built by the McCarty's from the McCartyville era; the 1884 Hutchinson building built by John Hutchinson next to the 1895 Victorian home built by Sam Cloud; and the 1895 Methodist/Episcopalian church which was used by famed artist Theodore Wores.

One of the Oldest Homes



One of the oldest treasures in Saratoga is the McWilliams House, a restored building on Saratoga-Los Gatos Road presently used for tours and educational purposes. The 1860's home has original lumber as well as the

original glass windows. The inside is filled with period furniture and items representing the times. You can visit this house as well as the Museum from 1 to 4 PM Friday-Sunday. Or schedule a docent-led tour by calling 408-867-4311. Photo courtesy of Jim Sorden.



A Distant Cousin: Jeb Stuart

Written by Ray Cosyn, SHF Historian.



Saratoga resident Craig Awbrey lays claim to a family tie with one of the Civil War's most famous generals, Jeb Stuart. Stuart was born in Virginia, graduated from West Point, became an officer in the U.S. Army only to resign from the Army and join the Confederate States Army (CSA) when his state Virginia, left the Union in the spring of 1861. But before he left the Union Army, he became the aide-de-camp to then Col. Robert E. Lee just in time to accompany Lee and a company of U.S. marines in capturing John Brown at Harpers Ferry in

the fall of 1859. Stuart knew Brown as "Old Osawatimie Brown" from his earlier service in Kansas.

Awbrey's great great great grandfather was Alexander Stuart secretary of the Interior under Millard Fillmore who was the first cousin of Congressman Archibald Stuart whose son was none other than Confederate General Jeb Stuart making him his first cousin, once removed.

Awbrey, a fifth generation Californian and property developer found, while researching his family, a letter from Jeb Stuart to his great, great, grandfather Hunter McGuire. In the letter, Stuart is requesting a real estate loan—so Awbrey notes, "real estate still runs in the family!"

"Another bit of history," he said "H.H. Stuart's daughter, Mary Stuart (my mother is named after her) married Hunter Holmes McGuire, Stonewall Jackson's chief surgeon. After Stonewall Jackson died McGuire recorded his last words."

So who was this man Jeb Stuart and why is he venerated to this day in the South. Stuart was the eyes and ears of Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia. He distinguished himself in a series of battles from 1861 through 1863 when he was gunned down by a 48 year old private at the battle of Yellow Tavern. Prior to that engagement he terrorized the Union's Army of the Potomac. Wherever Lee was, Stuart was, providing the intelligence needed to develop the winning battle plans.

Stuart distinguished himself at the First and Second Battles of Bull Run, later he supported Lee in routing Mc Clellan during the Battle of the Peninsula in 1862. His men fought at Antietam and later in 1863 at the Battle of Chancellorville. It was here that Stuart accompanied Stonewall Jackson on his famous flanking maneuver where Lee's army laid waste to General Hooker's Army of the Potomac. When Jackson was shot, Stuart assumed command of the Second Corps. He then proceeded to lead the corp. in a well coordinated attack against the Federal troops at Chancellorville.

Not all went smoothly for Stuart as the next major engagement for the CSA was Gettysburg, where Lee is said to have been disappointed in the lack of intelligence on Meade's Army of the Potomac (Hooker had earlier been removed by Lincoln after the debacle at Chancellorville). It was here that Lee had the greatest need to understand the strength of the Union Army he was facing. There remains a great deal of

controversy over what Stuart's orders were so it will never be known as to what he thought his responsibility was leading up to the epic battle.

In 1864 he faced Union Cavalry Commander General Phil Sheridan launched a concerted attack against Stuart and his Cavalry which would lead to the Battle of Yellow Tavern. It was here that Stuart was killed and the legend began. He is looked upon today as one of the top generals who has ever worn a uniform. I am sure that Craig and his family look upon him as the greatest cavalry general to ever ride a horse. It would be interesting to see a show down between Craig's people and those of pint size Phil Sheridan as to who could rightly claim the title. Perhaps we could sponsor the event here in Saratoga.



Civil War Exhibit Runs Through October

Don't miss the "War Between the States" exhibit at the Saratoga History Museum. The exhibit will run through October and features Civil War items from the collection of resident Bill Cleary. The Museum is open from 1 to 4PM on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.

An Update on Abolitionist John Brown

John Brown's great great great granddaughter, Alice Keesey Mecoy, is presenting a paper, "Silent Warriors," on the women of John Brown's life at the John Brown Remembered Academic Symposium in Harpers Ferry Oct 14-17, 2009. She says, "I am excited, nervous, and honored that I will be a part of a group of scholars to discuss my favorite topic, John Brown. The Symposium expects presenters from twenty-five states and Germany." The event is part of the 150th anniversary of the raid on Harpers Ferry.

Key to Being Famous



Few people know that the grandson of Francis Scott Key is buried in Madronia cemetery in Saratoga according to paperwork submitted. Of course, Francis Scott Key is known for writing the "Star Spangled Banner."

The writing was inspired during the War of 1812 when Key was forced to watch the bombarding of Fort McHenry during a prisoner exchange negotiation. When the smoke cleared, Key was able to see an American flag still waving. On the way back to Baltimore, he wrote a poem describing his experience, "The Defense of Fort McHenry," which he published in the Patriot on September 20, 1814. He intended to fit the rhythms of composer John Stafford Smith's "To Anacreon in Heaven." It has become better known as "The Star Spangled Banner."

Working People—A Reminisce

Written by Michael Whalen, SHF Museum docent
“There are two Saratogans that I remember well from the second half of the twentieth century. They were neither kids nor lauded residents—they were working members of the community. Their names: Lenny and Billie Bee.

Lenny was the principal of Saratoga Elementary (Oak Street to us) school after World War II until he retired in the early 1970’s.

Billie was secretary of the school on Oak Street during the 1950’s and moved to the high school when it was established in the early 1960’s. She remained at Saratoga High school until she retired.

Both Lenny and Billie were full-blooded Native American Indians— Cherokee. Lenny was also an ordained Methodist minister. They emigrated from North Carolina to Hollywood then to Palo Alto before settling in Saratoga.

I remember Lenny as having a positive, friendly relationship with the student body when I attended Oak Street (1953-1961). Lenny was able to smooth out differences between students, their parents and the community at large.



Oak Street School looked, in the 1950’s and early 1960’s very much like it does today. There have been additions, especially the “Big Remodel”, but the additions were meant to blend in to the old structure.

The school in my time looked just as it did when my father attended there. He was one of the first students in the school as it looks today, starting school in the older building in 1924 (today’s structures were built in 1927 when he was 9 years old.).

Everyone knew everyone else at least by name, but not personally unless one shared grade and classrooms.

Billie was the supervising clerical worker at our high school—everyone in town who had children knew Billie.

The town was VERY different in those times than today. We actually had stores like “The Saratoga Variety Store” run first by the always smiling Mr. Flory. He sold me my BB gun which I still have today (and it still works.) He sold it to me for, get this--\$1 down and fifty cents a week until the purchase price of \$9.95 was achieved! After Mr. Flory, the store was run by our mayor, Larry Tyler.

We also had a real hardware store, run by Nels O. Edmonds. Mr. Edmonds was to be seen about town driving his Model “A” Ford. He was a great help in the store, it seemed that he knew how to DO anything and FIX anything.

Our newspaper, then as now, The Saratoga News, was actually produced in downtown Saratoga, being printed in the newly (2008) restored yellow barn next to the hotel.

The Bees had two children, a daughter, Ruthella and a younger child, Lloyd.

I worked with Ruth in the early to mid-1960’s at the Los Gatos-Saratoga Recreation Department. I remember her ability to control a large group of children on the bussed outings. She was a pleasant person—reminiscent of her parents in her political skills.

Lloyd worked locally and died at the young age of 30.

Billie died of cancer soon after retiring so Lenny re-married another Saratogan—Hattie Bee.”

Ernie Kraule adds, “After his retirement from teaching for many years, Lenny applied to the Saratoga Fire District for a part-time general office position to keep himself active in the community. As Fire Chief, he assisted me, and also worked for the Fire District Board of Commissioners, specifically managing accounting and record maintenance. During the mid 1970s, the community was growing and more equipment and fire fighters were hired to maintain a high level of service to the community. Lenny often told me that he only wanted to work part-time, but as the demands of his job increased with the expanding department, he began working 40 hours a week.

One day at lunch time, as he was driving down Saratoga Avenue, he was involved in an auto accident which took his life.

Lenny was very involved in the community, and was also a member of the Saratoga Men’s Club where he often delivered an inspiring sermon before dinner.”

Whalen recalls that the Bee home on Franklin Avenue was always postcard-perfect—charming with a replica of a ‘beehive’ in the front yard. The Bee’s contributed to the community and were loved in return to the end of their lives. Hattie still lives in the community-- in “The Beehive.”



Ask a Historian

The SHF website, <http://www.saratogahistory.com> offers a

quick history answer in case you have a question. One of the questions recently asked was about copper mining in the creek near Citrus Lane.

Historian’s Response: Copper was indeed discovered in Saratoga in about 1854! The strike was found on the site of the old County gravel quarry, which is located on Highway 9 between Tollgate and the old Congress Springs Hotel site, now the San Jose Water filtration facility. Much excitement ensued and stock was sold in the “Campbell Creek Copper Mining Company”. However, it was found that the strike was not worth the effort of further work and the project was abandoned. Although I am not aware of any mining activity in the area of Citrus Lane it is probable that these hills were also explored. From a response by Chuck Schoppe

What's New at the Gift Shop

If you're looking for a special gift....stop by the Museum gift shop. Beautiful silver bud vases, bookmarks, napkin rings, lapel vases (posey pin), photo easels, ear rings, and pendants are all available. Handcrafted in California from vintage silverware, these sparkling pieces of silver would make a wonderful gift. Prices for SHF members include a 10% discount.

The gift shop is open from 1-4 PM Friday through Sunday—cash or check.



Those Were the Days--New Museum Acquisition

BookGoRound Manager Mary Jeanne Fenn recently donated two Fiesta de Las Rosas ephemera for the years 1930 and 1927. These charming programs contain photos and information about the festivities in San Jose which began in 1925. Many say the festival in San Jose was started after seeing the success of the Blossom Festival held in Saratoga. The image below was an advertisement for the Saratoga Blossom Festival.



Saratoga Historical Foundation
PO Box 172
Saratoga, CA 95071