



SARATOGA HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

PO BOX 172, SARATOGA, CALIFORNIA 95071

November 2012

**Be Sure to See the New Exhibit at the Museum Over the Holidays—Santa's Workshop!
Come to the Lecture On Wine History by Charles Sullivan on January 22.
Make a Resolution to Volunteer At the Museum in 2013 and Do It!!!!
Happy Holidays to All!**

Just in Time for the Holidays: Santa's Workshop—Remembering Favorite Toys – New Exhibit



“Santa's Workshop—Remembering Favorite Toys” runs through the end of January at the Saratoga History Museum. Erector sets, Tinker Toys, vintage dolls, teddy bears and more are all on display—covering the period from the 1890's to 1950. The exhibit additionally includes some of the “timeless toys” that have remained popular through the ages. Find out who invented

them and why! Bring the family and stop by the Museum (20450 Saratoga-Los Gatos Road) and see your favorite toys from 1-4 PM on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

Open House on November 23



Stop by the Saratoga History Museum on November 23 from 6-8 PM and enjoy live music by the Skillet Lickers; homemade cookies and hot cider; see the new holiday exhibit and receive docent-led tours of the McWilliams House and the one-room schoolhouse. All buildings are decorated for the holidays.

Don't miss the gently used gift book sale next door at the BookGoRound!

November 23 is the first day of the sale with the sale ending in December.

Be sure to walk down to Big Basin Way where two snow machines, free carriage rides and Santa will be in the area. Craftspeople, food trucks, a wine stroll and more will also be on hand for your evening enjoyment.

Circle this Date: Membership Meeting on Wine History On January 22



The first membership meeting and potluck will take place Tuesday, January 22 at the Immanuel Lutheran Fellowship Hall (14103 Saratoga Avenue in Saratoga). The potluck will take place at 6:30—bring food to share along with plates and eating utensils. The lecture will

start at 7:15 PM. The lecture is free and open to the public.

Author and Wine Historian Charles Sullivan will give a presentation on the history of local wineries. And several excellent local wineries will offer wine tasting.

Sullivan has been writing about California wine history for over 30 years. He has written four books:

- *A Companion to California Wine: An Encyclopedia of Wine and Winemaking from the Mission Period to the Present* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1998)
- *Napa Wine: A History from Mission Days to Present* (San Francisco: Wine Appreciation Guild, 1994)
- *Wines and Winemakers of the Santa Cruz Mountains* (Los Gatos: D. R. Bennion Trust, 1992)
- *Like Modern Edens: Winegrowing in Santa Clara Valley and Santa Cruz Mountains 1798-1981* (Cupertino: California History Center, 1982)

Sullivan has also written over 100 articles for wine, food and history journals, including *Wine Spectator*, *Wines and Vines*, *Vintage Magazine*, *California Historical Quarterly* and the *Journal of the American Wine Society*.

We are very fortunate to have Sullivan as a speaker. Don't miss this informative presentation!

And as mentioned, an added highlight to the event will be wine tasting provided by several local wineries.

Famous Californians

If you're looking for something for your "California Bragbook" when conversing with neighbors this holiday season, let them know about these famous native Californians: Dave Brubeck (musician), Julia Child (chef), Joe DiMaggio (baseball), John Fremont (explorer), Robert Frost (poet), William Randolph Hearst (publisher), Anthony Kennedy (US Supreme Court), George S. Patton (General), John Muir (naturalist), Richard Nixon (President), Robert Redford (actor), Marilyn Monroe, (actress), Junipero Serra (missionary), Jack London, Upton Sinclair (authors), John Steinbeck (author), and Shirley Temple (actress & ambassador).

Puttering With the Pots

Tina Liddie, Village Gardener, Skillet Likker, Education Docent and more has volunteered to help beautify the Saratoga Historical Park. She has "adopted" the three half wine barrels located in front of the Saratoga History Museum and has promised to keep them planted and blooming. She's shown in front of the one-room schoolhouse with a sampling of her gardening power.



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>.

Citizen & Business Person of the Year

Friends recently gathered at the historic Saratoga Foothill Club to celebrate the formal awarding of the 2012 Citizen of the Year title and the Business Person of the Year.

Sponsored by the Saratoga Chamber of Commerce, the first citizen of the year award was made in 1967 when Charlotte Monroe received the honor. Monroe and Cobby Sitney were the chairs of the Saratoga Youth Center when it was built in 1966 (now the Saratoga Senior Center).

This year the competition was stiff with over 16 people competing for the honor.



Dr. Ann Walton Smith, well known for her contributions of time, service and donations to many local groups was the well-deserved recipient of the title, "Citizen of the Year."

Also awarded was the Business Person of the Year title—shared by Bill and Doris Cooper of Cooper-Garrod Estate Vineyards. Both had also been nominated for "Citizen of the Year." The field of competition was very large with 9 other people nominated.



Both Coopers have been very active and had a long list of achievements ranging from school to organization support in the community.

Each recipient had friends and associates describe the good works performed as part of the evening activities.

The announcement of the awards had been made at Celebrate Saratoga in September.

You make a living by what you get, but you make a life by what you give.

-- Winston Churchill

Make 2013 the year you decide to volunteer and help your community become a little better place to live. There are many opportunities with various organizations but we hope you'll choose to volunteer time with the Saratoga Historical Foundation.

We have opportunities in these areas:

- become a museum docent and volunteer 3 hours each month
- become an education docent and help teach children about pioneer living
- volunteer to participate on committees to plan and execute events; fund-raise; recruit members

2013 Calendar of Events

- November 9-** New exhibit at the Museum, "Santa's Workshop" and runs through the end of January
- November 23** Open House from 6-8 at the Museum with live music, light refreshments
- January 16** SHF & HPC annual joint meeting with the City Council
- January 22** Membership meeting and potluck at 6:30; Wine Historian Charles Sullivan lecture at 7:15 at the Immanuel Lutheran Fellowship Hall

The Elves Have Been Busy

Donning Christmas cheer in early November before the turkey was carved, a crew decorated the Saratoga History Museum, historic McWilliams house and the one-room schoolhouse.



If you have difficulty duplicating grandma's favorite pie recipe—try one from the 1850's. Striving to keep holiday traditions and decorations in the historic McWilliams house appropriate, some recipes have been included in the kitchen as well as references to traditions appropriate for the time period throughout the house.

Jane Asher, Ginny and Ray Sampson did a great

job in decorating!

Be sure to stop by and see each building—all decked out for the holidays.

Toy Drive at the Museum

Saratoga City Hall is starting its 4th Annual Toy Drive and this year the Saratoga Historical Foundation will also be collecting toys. The toys will be taken to Sacred Heart

Community Services on December 13, 2012 for distribution.

Drop off new and unwrapped infant toys, gift certificates, Legos, Fisher-Price toys, Playskool toys, stuffed animals, books for ages 1-16, baby dolls, toy trucks,

MP3 players, sports equipment, tricycles or bicycles. The museum is open from 1-4 PM, Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

Make a child happy this Christmas with your donation.



Renew/Membership Drive-Just Do it!



Looking for a special gift for someone? This year when you renew your membership, give the gift of history! For only \$15 more you can give a one year membership to a friend when you send in your renewal check. Membership

includes a one year subscription to the 8-page newsletter, free admission to membership programs and special discounts for certain gift shop items and programs.

Don't forget to renew your membership by using the handy form inside this newsletter. Your membership helps pay for all SHF programs and services.

Membership Program

Change of Date in 2013

Circle these dates for attending the free membership programs and potlucks at the Immanuel Lutheran Fellowship Hall: Tuesday January 22; Tuesday March 19 and Tuesday May 21. Regular attendees will be quick to note that SHF formerly met on the third Monday of the month. Unfortunately those dates were not available. On the positive side, it is expected that these dates will be better unless the noisy youth group meets on Tuesday night also!

Shopping for Christmas

If you are looking for gifts for the holidays —don't forget to check the Saratoga History Museum's gift shop. You'll find a special holiday selection of jewelry, scarves, vintage glassware and more – just for the holidays. All items were donated to the gift shop with all money going to the Museum. Don't forget a gift of history—SHF membership, DVDs, history books, and more are available.



End of Year Tax Deduction

If you are looking for a way to give back to the community—support the Saratoga History Museum with an end-of-the-year donation. The current tax law requires all charitable gifts to be made by December 31 to qualify for a deduction in 2012. Even items postmarked after December 31 must be attributed to 2012, regardless of the date on the check inside. The operation of the all-volunteer museum is dependent upon membership fees, donations, grants and fundraising efforts — please support us. Make your check to SHF, PO Box 172, Saratoga, CA 95071



Remembering Father Christmas

For many long-time Saratogans, Christmas meant a photo taken with “Father Christmas” aka Don Miller.

Miller became Father Christmas in the early 1980’s as part of a fund-raising activity for the Valley Institute of Theater Arts (VITA). After each annual Christmas production, Miller would come out dressed as Father Christmas and photos taken of him would be sold.



Don Miller passed away a few years ago, but many still remember his alter ego.

Father Christmas was a character over 500 years old compared to the Dutch settler character, Sinter Klaus, according to Miller.

Father Christmas, as carefully researched by

Miller, descended from pagan predecessors including the Druids and became popular during the English Reformation period.

Dressed in a holly wreath and a red flowing robe, trimmed in white—Father Christmas was a striking fellow. Miller’s rationale was that the plump Santa Claus was too commercial and could be found on every street corner—but Father Christmas—he was unique! Unlike the jovial Santa Claus who brought gifts for children made in his toy workshop, Father Christmas would only bring good cheer in the form of food and drink and usually only to adults.

Of course, there had to be a “Mother Christmas,” which was a role his wife Fran quickly assumed. No references could be found in literature (although Father Christmas had sons!) so a persona was quickly created. Mother Christmas was no sweet, plump apron-wearing, cookie-bearing spouse! She planned the parties and drank champagne.

The duo would appear costumed at all the major holiday functions in Saratoga —Saratoga Village Open House, Saratoga Historical Museum, Montalvo’s Yuletide and Saratoga Senior Center events.

Miller was awarded the title of Citizen of the Year in 1988 for all his jolly work.

The role was a natural for Miller and his wife. They owned Fantasy Fare, a theme-event design and development business operated from their home. They produced murals, costumes and more for events and would provide all the ambiance for parties as well as research historical periods.

Miller also had other historic figures in his repertoire that he could easily impersonate—the portly vintner Paul Masson, dapper Senator James D. Phelan and even moody artist Leonardo DaVinci.

Farrington Family Home

Mine owner and Freight Man William Farrington came to Saratoga in 1879 and purchased 150 acres, a small home, three barns and a granary on Saratoga Avenue.

The property was originally part of the Quito Grant and was sold in the 1860’s to settle the estate at 20 cents an acre. Farrington built a mansion on Saratoga Avenue in 1881 about two miles east of Saratoga. The home cost a reported \$50,000 to build and was the finest home in the area. The new home had six fireplaces so an elevator was used from the basement to carry wood to the first and second floors.



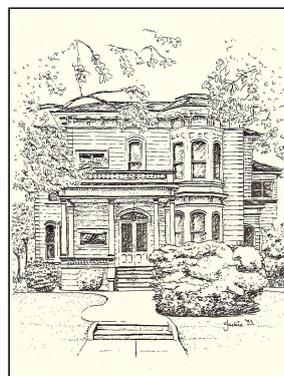
Farrington, his wife, three sons (Adam, Walter, and Howard) and four daughters (Eva, Mabel, Amy and Hazel) lived in the house.

Mostly grain was raised and the ranch was the first to grow Peruvian Clover or alfalfa in the valley. Holstein cattle were brought direct from Holland. Farrington’s was the only herd in the county and always won first place at the county fair.

Farrington was involved in real estate, lumber, wine, and the mines. He had made his fortune in Nevada with his brother where they had a mine and had teams of mules to haul ore and wood.

His luck however, ran out in Saratoga when he became over-extended financially and lost his home and most of his money. As a result, he suffered a mental breakdown and the family moved to San Jose.

The land and home was purchased by Frank (Borax) Smith (also of mining fame) and later became known as the Sorosis Fruit Packing Company.



Thanks.

The Farrington Historical Foundation, located in San Jose, was recently hosted by SHF. The Foundation donated the money used to finance the one-room schoolhouse. They sent a thank you that said in part, “it was a real treat to see the results our funding made in one of our very favorite grants. We all enjoyed the tours you provided. “ The Farrington

house in San Jose, formerly owned by Dorothy Farrington is shown. It is believed that there is no relation to the above Saratoga Farringtons.

Welcome Becky Winchell



New museum docent, Becky Winchell has lived in Saratoga for 48 years and enjoys every minute of it.

“Living in Saratoga is a pleasure,” says Winchell. “It is rich in history and caring residents.”

In her new role as a docent, she says, “I hope museum visitors will get an understanding of how this community has grown and prospered in the years past. Also, what it takes to keep it that way. People do come together and manage remarkable things when Saratoga really needs them to respond.

Stop by the museum and say “hello” to Winchell.

Dick Miners also a Museum docent recently moved to Southern California. He is thanked for all his volunteer activity at the Saratoga History Museum

Celebrate Saratoga Was a Big Success!



Celebrate Saratoga was a success for those attending the activities on Big Basin Way and at the Saratoga History Museum. The Saratoga History Museum included a free exhibit on Senator Phelan’s life and staged a variety of events including a treasure hunt in the museum, children’s games, and an “Afternoon with Senator Phelan” that included classical music, poetry reading, and a reader’s theatre play.

Saratogan Audry Lynch said, “This was one of the loveliest afternoons I have ever spent. I enjoyed all of it. The event made me feel just like one of Senator Phelan’s guests must have felt. The string quartet from Saratoga High School was outstanding and so professional. The interview between

Senator Phelan and a member of the press was informative and amusing. The poets offered poems that were diverse and provocative. And to top off the afternoon I discovered a book by Willys Peck in the museum that I didn’t have and he was available to sign it. It was just a delightful, delightful afternoon at the museum!”

Heritage Day--A Day to Remember



Heritage Day was held in September and was memorable to all. The museum hosted Tim Stanley, author of “The Last of the Prunepickers” and a film covering the Santa Clara Valley in the 1920’s shown.

Betty and Willys Peck attracted many people to the museum and all visitors enjoyed the exhibits, children’s games, and touring the McWilliams House.

Several of the costumed “historical characters” shared their feelings about participating in the event:

Councilman Howard Miller who portrayed first mayor, Burton Brazil said, “I have known Anne Kolb and her kids for nearly 20 years. It was an honor to portray their dad / granddad. Also, much of Saratoga’s perspective in our city formation comes from Burton. Not to mention the recent clean-up of his oversight in cutting the Garrod farm in half...which we just fixed!

City Manager Dave Anderson remarked on the opportunity to portray Senator Phelan: “It was an interesting and enjoyable experience. Visitors were genuinely interested in what we were doing and interacted with us, learning about Saratoga history, in an informal manner. It is also a good way to get people to visit the museum.”

Resident Paul Hernandez was vintner Paul Masson and humorously said he chose the character because, “I knew I’d be able to respond when people called me by my name and I liked the idea of being a bon vivant!”

Councilwoman Emily Lo portrayed Mrs. Hatakayama who lived in Saratoga before being interned when WWII started. Lo said, “Even though I was just representing an ‘ordinary’ resident in Saratoga, my story had strong significance. It represented a sad story of war, of separation and discrimination.”

Saratoga's Version of the White House



Woodleigh, sometimes called “the white house” because of its stately appearance turned 101 years old this year. It was originally designed by well-known

architect Williams Weeks for Mr. and Mrs. George A. Wood and built in 1911. As an interesting sidelight—their “neighbor” just off the Saratoga-Los Gatos Road, Senator Phelan, began building his home during that time.

The Woods had moved to Saratoga from Minnesota, attracted by the climate. Both were very active in the community. George Wood helped organize the Saratoga Inn, Saratoga's first bank, Madronia Cemetery District, helped fund the Memorial Plaza (now Blaney Plaza) and was an active member in the Congregational Church, Improvement Association and other community groups.

Caroline Wood was president of the Foothill Club, donated the land along with Mrs. Lina Bell for the new clubhouse and was active in cultural and fund-raising activities in the community.

The Woods had eight children. They lived in the home until 1929.

Wood was in the lumber business and chose the materials for the Classic Revival style house very carefully. Redwood was used throughout with white oak and walnut used for the floors on the first floor.

Since the construction of the house took place after the 1906 earthquake, steel Ibeams were used in the foundation. The steel railway that ran past the site was in the process of being dismantled and it is upon these rails that the 13 inch thick foundations were poured. Another interesting feature of the house is that it was the first house in the area to have a central vacuum cleaning system.

During that time, large homes were frequently given names—Senator Phelan called his home, Villa Montalvo; the Bells called their home, Bellgrove. The imposing home was called “Woodleigh”—a combination of the Wood name and the word “leigh” which means meadow. The home is listed on the Heritage Resource Inventory.

Two Historians and A Yellow Car Were Driving Down the Street and.....

If you see a new, bright yellow Porsche tooling around Saratoga, it most likely belongs to Saratoga Historical Foundation Director Bob Louden. Shown here with his neighbor, Town Historian Willys Peck, the two are discussing the statistics of brightly colored sports cars attracting unwanted police attention.....



Honoring Mayor Henry Kraus



Former Saratoga Mayor Henry Kraus passed away in September.

He had devoted 60 years of his life to IBM and 20 years to community service.

Henry Kraus started working for IBM in 1940. He moved all over the country for his job, eventually landing in California in 1956, moving to Saratoga in the early 1960s. He first became involved in politics when he joined the Saratoga Planning Commission. He was later

appointed to the city council. He was on the council when the library was moved to its current location at 13650 Saratoga Avenue. Before then, the library was on Oak Street, where the Book-Go-Round is today.

According to his son, Richard, “He had many accomplishments but the one that stands out was the bond measure for a new library. Dad was the catalyst of the council and to make it happen he knocked on every door in Saratoga. Ultimately the first library bond measure was passed in Saratoga of which we all now benefit.”

Kraus became Saratoga's eighth mayor and served from 1978-1980.

Early Day Religion in Saratoga

Sunday school classes, camp meetings and occasional preaching services made up the religious life of early settlers coming into the Los Gatos and Saratoga lumbering and milling communities. No churches were built until the 1870's.

By 1872, a small group of nine men and one woman organized the Congregational Church, the first in Saratoga. They met in homes and halls, ministered to by students from the Pacific Theological Seminary in San Jose until Rev. William Merritt became pastor in 1875.

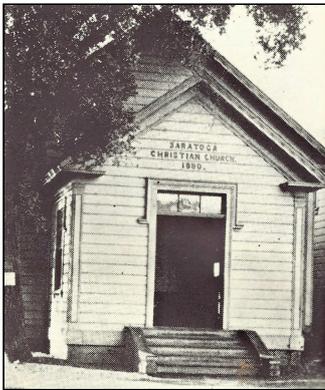


During his leadership, a building was erected on the upper end of Fourth and Oak Streets, furnished with handmade benches and a bell. Members came to church in buggies and on horseback,

hitching them to the fences around the buildings.

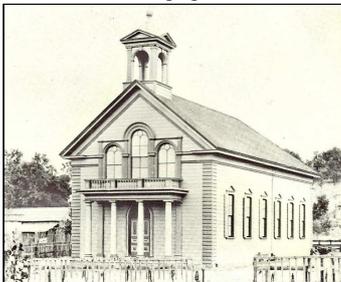
The Methodist South Rucker Chapel, built in 1876, stood at the corner of Saratoga Avenue and Williams Road north of Saratoga and was ministered to by circuit-riding preachers.

The Disciples of Christ organized the Christian Church in 1878, Through the efforts of local orchardists, Rev. WD Pollard and William Rice, a building was erected on Lumber Street between Second and Third Streets in 1880.



Twenty-three Presbyterians, under the direction of Rev. JM Newell, organized the first church in Los Gatos in 1881. Church services and Sunday school were held every Sunday morning with GW McGrew as pastor, in Lyndon Hall, a hotel on Santa Cruz Street. By 1884, after meeting in various locations, a church was built at a cost of \$3000.

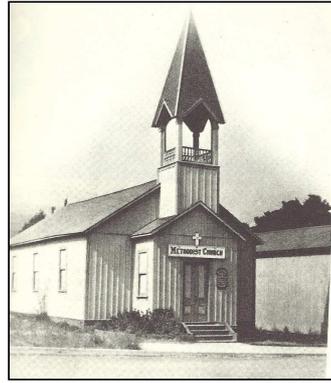
Catholics engaged in lumbering up the canyon built the Church of St. John above Long Bridge in 1890. Town people wanted a church closer, so after meeting in homes and hotels for several years, built the Sacred Heart Catholic Church at Sixth and Lumber Streets in 1895.



Visiting priests from Santa Clara College and St.

Joseph's Church in San Jose conducted masses here for the next 18 years.

The Methodist Episcopal Church began building on the Saratoga-Los Gatos Road in 1895 with Rev. Thomas Hopkins as pastor. After serving the community as a religious center



for almost 30 years, the little church was used as an art gallery and antique shop.

Written by Edith Brockway in 1975

Annual BBQ—A

Lot of Fun!

The annual BBQ held in October was a lot of fun. Held at the Cooper-Garrod Estate Vineyards—the smiles on these people's faces tell the story!



Statewide Julia Morgan Festival

The idea for a Julia Morgan festival in California was promoted by John

Welborne, Windsor Square, member of the Landmarks California Committee. He said the celebration focuses on the life and work of Morgan, the first woman architect to be admitted to the L'Ecole National Superieure des Beaux-Arts in Paris in 1899.

She was also California's first licensed female architect, one of the first female civil engineering graduates of UC Berkeley, and the creator of more than 700 structures in California alone. Morgan is best known for her work as the lead architect on the Hearst Castle in San Simeon. That work spanned the years 1919 to 1947, ended only by William Randolph Hearst's declining health.

There are several Julia Morgan designed buildings in Saratoga. The home shown was built in the 1920's for Commander John Sisson Graham. The charming home includes some of Morgan's signature architectural styles including outdoor "sleeping porches."



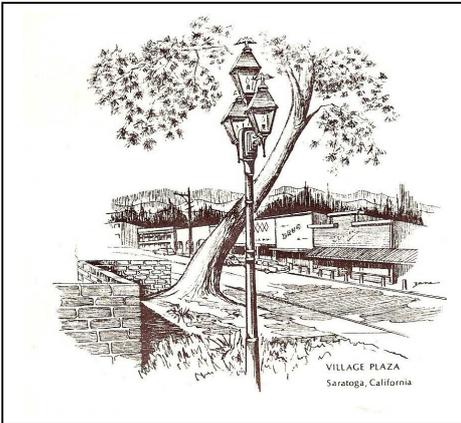
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Donation by Zane Family



The family of Saratoga Artist Victor Zane recently donated to the Museum some cards and posters created by Zane. Zane died in 2010.

The talented Zane became interested in art when he was in the US Marine Corps during WWII. During that time

he gained recognition for sketching and painting every day military life.

He was also honored by having his work included in a select group of artists representing the US with a show in 1976 in the Louvre Museum in Paris. During his lifetime, his work was exhibited in many art galleries across the US.

Zane used water color, oil, pen and ink with which to create art. His subjects reflected his wide travels and many interests: marine, American West, Africa, Haiti, Caribbean, Mexico, and the Canadian Rockies. His last series of paintings were studies in ballet.

He was well-known in Saratoga often seen sketching or talking to people. The above card is of Big Basin Way.

Bugged About Computers?

Where did the term “computer bug” come from, and which computer got it first? Back in 1945, after WWII ended, the Mark II computer which ran calculations for the U.S. Navy shut down. Technicians eventually found that a moth trapped between two of the machine’s relay points was the culprit. Navy personnel preserved the moth in the daily log and noted “the first actual case of a bug being found” in a computer, hence “computer bug.” However, the culprit being a bug was sort of a coincidence, because the term “bug” had been used to describe a mechanical malfunction since Thomas Edison’s day. Today the term “bug,” & “debugging,” is techie jargon and one we all have come to understand to mean a major pain.

Big Basin Redwood State Park Celebrates 110th Birthday



Big Basin Redwood State Park officially celebrated its 110th birthday this year.

Established in 1902, Big Basin Redwood State Park was originally called California Redwood Park.

It is the oldest state park in California with more than 20,000 acres in size.

It is home to the largest continuous stand of ancient coast redwoods south of San Francisco.

