



# Saratoga Historical Foundation

PO Box 172, Saratoga CA 95071

October 2016

## Support the October 15 Saratoga Historical Foundation Estate Sale Today!!!! Celebrate India Showcase!

### Time to Shop—It's An Estate Sale!

The Saratoga Historical Foundation will be holding an estate sale on Saturday October 15 from 9 to 3 PM.

Grab your wallet and come on by and find a treasure or two.

According to Fund Development Director Bob Himel the estate sale has a big selection of vintage jewelry, collectible artwork, antiques, garden items, plants, kitchenware, and more.

Funds from the estate sale will be used to construct a blacksmith exhibit located at the Saratoga Historical Park. The educational exhibit will showcase the museum's collection of farm and timber tools. The interactive exhibit will also include sound effects.

The fundraiser will run from 9 AM to 3 PM on the museum's patio at 20450 Saratoga-Los Gatos Road in Saratoga.



The Saratoga Historical Foundation is ready to drive to the estate sale!! SHF board members Ron Hagelin, Yuchi Wang, and Michael Whalen are ready to find a bargain.

### Celebrate India Showcase

For the second year, the Saratoga Historical Foundation is hosting the India Showcase at the Saratoga History Museum October 23 from 1-4 PM and is free to the public.

The event will include Asian Indian arts and crafts, food, dance demonstration, music, and more.

According to Event Coordinator Rina Shah, "the event will include classical folk, Bollywood and other dances by five groups: Shilpa Padwekar, Saratoga High School Bollywood dance group, Sanjana, Saratoga adult dance group, and Priya Krishnamurth's dance group."

Other activities include Kailash Ranganathan with instrumental music on the sitar. Bela Desai will sing traditional songs. Mona Vijaykar, author and creator of India in Classrooms, will read a short story on Indian festivals. And an arts and craft table will keep children busy.

The Saratoga History Museum is located at 20450 Saratoga-Los Gatos Road in Saratoga, CA. Go up to [www.saratogahistory.com](http://www.saratogahistory.com) or call 408-867-4311 for more information.



## 60 Years Ago--Incorporation September 25, 1956

60 years ago Saratoga's incorporation election was held September 25, 1956, and the incorporation was declared official October 22.

This issue is dedicated to the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

In looking back at the struggles of the fledgling city it is clear some of the same issues that were faced at that time are faced today.

One of the interesting articles that popped out was one printed in 1958—two years after incorporation.

William Glennon, a member of the city council and later a mayor was quoted in a Saratoga News article as to why people live in Saratoga “even at a sacrifice.”

The article said, “Saratoga is a different kind of town. The people who live here do so by choice, and this is not true of most other communities. They live in other towns because their work has taken them there.

The great majority must sacrifice to live in Saratoga. They must commute to Sunnyvale, San Jose and even as far as San Francisco.

The community has a diverse population, including brilliant scientists, distinguished retired military personnel, blue collar workers, white collar workers, pilots for airlines, educators and artists.

There is a tremendous range of personalities in a community as small as this.

But we all have one thing in common. They apparently place a premium on the pleasant way of life. They find Saratoga a nice place to live, raise a family or retire.

Saratoga represents the pleasant way of life because of the quiet atmosphere, lovely homes and gardens, beautiful hills and orchards.”

### 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

Recording Secretary, Open position

Yuchi Wang, Treasurer

#### *Newsletter*

The Saratoga Historical Foundation newsletter is produced 6X a year. If you have comments or suggestions, e-mail: [annette@saratogahistory.com](mailto:annette@saratogahistory.com)

The Saratoga History Museum, McWilliams House and schoolhouse are located at 20450 Saratoga-Los Gatos Road and open from 1-4 PM Friday and Sunday and 10-4 PM on Saturday. Call 408-867-4311 to arrange group or docent-led tours. Be sure to visit our gift shop. Visit our website:

<http://www.saratogahistory.com>

Although the orchards are no longer in existence, Saratoga still maintains the quiet atmosphere, lovely homes and gardens and beautiful hills.

Stop by the museum and see, “A Century of Key Events in Saratoga” to see if you agree. The exhibit covers 1866 to 1956.



1952 aerial view of the Saratoga Village. Blaney Plaza can be seen in the center of the photo. The Beckham-Joslin Chrysler dealership is on the left and the Methodist church (now Bell Tower) can also be seen. The long curving street in the center of the picture was once the right-of-way for the Peninsular Interurban, a trolley that ran from 1903-1933 and connected many cities such as Los Gatos, San Jose, Palo Alto.

### Save the Date!!!

<b>August 1- Key</b>	Celebrating a Century of
<b>Nov. 15</b>	Events in Saratoga— exhibit
<b>Oct. 15</b>	Estate Sale-9-3 PM at the Museum
<b>Oct. 23</b>	India Showcase 1-4 PM
<b>Oct. 22</b>	Archives Crawl
<b>Nov. 1-Dec. 10</b>	Annual toy drive
<b>Nov. 25- Nov. 26</b>	Holiday Exhibit opens Exhibit Reception

### Archives Crawl on October 22



The Santa Clara Valley Library is hosting an archives crawl with 11 museums participating on October 23. The one day event includes the following participants:

Gilroy Museum, Heritage Pavilion of the Santa Clara City Library, History San Jose, Santa Clara University Archives, Saratoga History Museum, Ainsley House, California Western Americana Collection at the Cupertino Library, California History Center, Campbell Historical museum, Casa Grande and the New Almaden Quicksilver Mining Museum and the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library. The event is promoting museum attendance and the opportunity to learn more about each participant. For additional information and hours:

<https://www.sjpl.org/blog/santa-clara-valley-archives>.

### Annual Toy Drive Opens November 1



Bring a new, unwrapped toy for the annual toy drive held by the city of Saratoga and Sacred Heart church. The museum will be collecting toys for this drive until December 10.

### Holiday Exhibit Opens November 25

The Saratoga History Museum will feature a special holiday exhibit that runs from November 25 to the end of January. The exhibit highlights over 20 collections and their history from local residents.



Some of the collections include baseball cards, Pez , advertising collectibles, doll houses, bells, minerals and many more. Ever wonder why people collect items? Some of the reasons include advancing knowledge, creativity, commitment to a good cause, and fostering a social connection. The exhibit also includes a list of collections owned by celebrities. Come on by and find out what people enjoy collecting!! The exhibit is free.

### Special Exhibit Reception on November 26

This year's Holiday Festivities will be celebrated on



Saturday, November 26. The Chamber of Commerce will conduct a wine stroll from 2-5 along with many other festivities. The annual Christmas tree lighting will take place at 5:30 PM

at Blaney Plaza and will be followed by an hour-long musical program.

The Museum will be all decked out for Christmas including the McWilliams House and One-room Schoolhouse. A local preschool is making snowflakes for the schoolhouse this year and have promised a snow flurry.

Stop by between 1 and 4 PM on November 26 and see the new exhibit, bring an unwrapped toy, munch a cookie, sip hot apple cider and enjoy some live music. Happy holidays.

### When Holiday Shopping, Don't Forget AmazonSmile!

Did you know that the Saratoga Historical Foundation has a unique AmazonSmile link that makes it easier for people to find and support us? It is: <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/51-0178189>

If you enjoy shopping on-line at Amazon.com—it only takes a minute to sign up.

When customers click on our organization's unique link, they skip the process to search for a charity to support among over 1 million eligible charities. Instead, they're taken to smile.amazon.com and are automatically asked if they want to support Saratoga Historical Foundation.

Do you have to click on my charity's AmazonSmile link every time I shop? No. Once customers select our organization, SHF will receive 0.5% of the price of all their eligible smile.amazon.com purchases, regardless of whether they use your unique AmazonSmile link to return to the site.

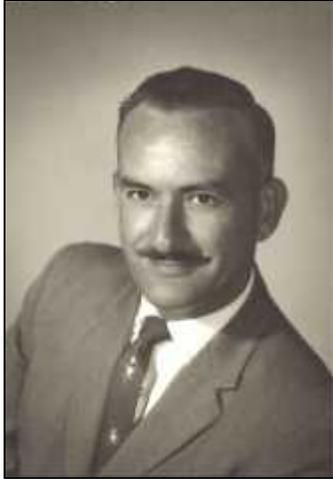
## Then and Now –A Special Look Back

The following article was written by Writer Audrey Lynch. Lynch contacted former Mayor William Glennon, the second mayor of Saratoga; former Mayor Jerry Smith, and long-time Saratogan Gene Zambetti for this article.

### William Glennon

#### (Former Mayor – 1962-1968)

The city of Saratoga incorporated in 1956. Having received the majority of affirmative votes for incorporation, Burt Brazil was named the first mayor.



Mayor Burton Brazil

Burt was a professor at San Jose State University a result of which gave him a knowledge of government which was his subject matter. Unfortunately, it also made him somewhat didactic. Being so was not the most favorable way to conduct meetings in connection with citizen problems.

Late in 1956 I was asked by a friend, Bill Bullier, to join a newly formed citizens group called "The Good Government Group". As the oldest of the group and having been a resident of Saratoga longer than anyone else, Dr Jack Cox was elected president. A problem immediately surfaced when Dr. Cox announced that the group would take no positions with respect to city business. I responded that if that were the case I would not be interested in serving in the Good Government Group. In addition, I had learned that Dr Cox was a member of the notorious John Birch Society which paid for and ran billboard adds advocating the resignation of Chief Justice Earl Warren of the Supreme Court of the United States. I was then selected to be the vice president of the group and despite Dr Cox being president he was deprived of all authority over the group actions.

The first critical event the Good Government Group took on was to look for someone to run for city council as Ray Williams decided not to run for reelection.

As vice president I chose to test my authority by asking Admiral Joe Conly and General Jack McMahn to attempt to seek out a citizen capable of replacing Ray Williams as city council man. At the next meeting of the Good Government Group (known as the GGG) the McMahn, Conly committee reported that they had interviewed several individuals but found no one they

would recommend. Then as luck would have it the committee asked if I would run for election. Being over worked on other activities I was of the opinion my wife, Susie, would strongly object to my agreement to run. The committee then shocked me by immediately going to speak with Susie. To my utter surprise Susie did not object. I joined the council in 1958. I was elected to replace Burt as mayor on July 7, 1963 and was reelected July 20, 1967. The city council at that time was besieged by ranch owners who objected, violently, to the proposed minimum lot size of 10,000 square feet as to the 6000 square feet then permitted by the Santa Clara County Planning Commission and used by the City of San Jose. One of the most important and advantageous items taken on by the new council was to hire the planning firm Lawence Livingston to create a general plan for the future development of the City of Saratoga. The plan dictated minimum lot size of 10,000 square feet for which was designed to help create a city of low density. The plan called for a maximum population of 35,000 and a low tax base.

I resigned in 1968. During this time I was not only Mayor of Saratoga, I chaired at one time or another the following organizations: Inner City Council, San Jose Junior Museum, Saratoga Men's Club, Sacred Heart Men's Club, Santa Clara County Planning Committee. When my closest friend suggested getting together I looked through my calendar and there were only 4 Wednesdays during that year that I was free. When I realized this at my next council meeting I resigned immediately.



Mayor William Glennon

Saratoga – Then and Now cont.

### **Jerome Smith**

(Former Mayor; City Council '68-'74; State Senate '74-'80; Judge in San Jose Appellate Court – 17 years)

“The number of people in Saratoga hasn't changed dramatically thanks to the plans set for Saratoga by the early city councils,” Jerry Smith remembers. “They



Former Mayor Jerry Smith

were very strict about no huge rise in density or the introduction of commercial enterprises to the town. The only thing we had that was in that category was the Paul Masson Winery.”

When did he decide to move to Saratoga? “That was in 1960 when we got married and bought our home which is near to downtown Saratoga.”

But Jerry remembers that he knew and loved Saratoga long before that. “Most of my friends lived here so I was always in Saratoga. I went to St. Patrick's School, Bellarmine, and Santa Clara University. When it was time for Law School I rented a room in the Quito Road area and lived there all during graduate school.”

“All during those years it was easy to get to know everyone in Saratoga,” he remembers. “Saratoga was the place where all the local professionals moved – doctors, dentists, lawyers. It was easy to get to know all your neighbors so it was a very friendly place.”

“In recent years we became part of Silicon Valley and the residents are technical people,” he says. “They come from all over the world so it's more exciting but it's harder to get to know your neighbors.”

The other biggest change came according to Jerry, because of the freeways. “People needed them and wanted them but it meant more traffic in our area. That is bound to continue.”

“But Saratoga still retains its charm,” Jerry concludes. “We're still keeping to low density and minimal commercialism, just as the early city fathers advised.”

### **Eugene ( Gene) Zambetti**

Fire Commissioner (9 years)

“When I moved to Saratoga in 1956 San Jose was in a big rush to develop their town”, Gene Zambetti recalls. “At this time you could buy a quarter of an acre lot and build a house on it for \$10,000 in the Quito Road area.”

All the small towns like Saratoga, Cupertino, Campbell, Monte Sereno and Los Gatos who did not want to go for urbanization decided to incorporate. The

race in Saratoga was close but the residents who wanted to preserve their own town prevailed. “Saratoga became a full-fledged city with limited lots and minimum services. “Saratoga was a perfect square,” says Gene proudly. “The square consisted of 12 square miles. It was still called – “City of blossoms “.

The town took other measures to insure that it kept its small town ambience. It was decided that there would be no strip commercial property. “The Village area – which used to be called McCarthysville, would keep some of its historic buildings. Gene is proud of the fact that he personally saved the Judge Foster Building.

“The town took lots of measures and passed ordinances to keep our rustic qualities”, explains Gene. “We had a strong sign ordinance. There were to be no sidewalks or industrial zoning. We preserved the hillsides. As a former prune and apricot capital we wanted to preserve an atmosphere that was rural, rustic and open.” “There were other changes too”, says Gene. “It was more lucrative to farm in other places so the farmers moved away. The freeways brought new traffic and new roads so it was now impossible to ride your horse from Sobey Road over to the Garrod Ranch.”



“We tried to keep a balance between the old and new”, Gene summarizes. “We had to accept the freeways or we would have been in total gridlock. There was an ordinance against drive up windows so we don't have fast food places. People didn't want West Valley College here and now it's one of our gems.”

“The community works well together”, says Gene philosophically. “We have 13 different churches and synagogues and there is very little racism or conflict. We work to preserve our trees and hillsides. Our fire department responds in 6 minutes. We had a better football team in 1965 but we have a better school band today”.

The biggest downside to living in Saratoga is the high cost of housing. “It's a shame that our city workers, especially our teachers, can't afford to live here”, says Gene sadly.

Overall Gene says that Saratoga is still a great place to live. “It's a great place to grow up in, or raise a family, or retire”, he says. “I ought to know because I've done all three of them here.”

## 60 Years At a Glance

Written by Elicia Yee, Saratoga High School

Decades before the Silicon Valley became home to many of the world's largest high-tech corporations and other startup companies, most of the Bay Area was covered in vast farmlands and orchards.

Saratoga, with its scattered houses and unpaved roads, depended on its farming industry of growing prunes and apricots, which were then transported to the Dole Food Company in Sunnyvale.

"We would climb the hills, and we could see Saratoga and its neighboring cities in a sea of white



prune tree blossoms," said Ernie Kraule, whose family moved from San Francisco to Saratoga in the 1940s when he was 8 years old. Children joined their parents in picking prunes on the piece of land where Saratoga High School was later built in 1959.

Before Saratoga had its own high school, students went to either Los Gatos High School or Campbell.

Many who went to the grammar school on Oak Street attend the annual Saratoga Grammar School reunions. Peter Hamm, who lived in Saratoga from 1943 to 1950 attends each year to keep connected to his former classmates.

"Not all of the roads were paved, and it was okay to carry a gun downtown," remembers Peter Hamm, whose mother was one of the founders of the Saratoga Historical Foundation.

Being in an overall rural atmosphere, Saratoga started developing in 1954 when more people moved to the town as the multinational technology company IBM built a manufacturing building on Blossom Hill Road.

Furthermore, after World War II service people were stationed in Saratoga, and other military jobs attracted people and companies to the small town. Families from the East coast moved here for job offerings and chose to stay because of the Mediterranean climate, as opposed to the cold winters and hot summers in the east.

Before Safeway was built in 1960, downtown Saratoga was where people did their shopping. The

downtown area was "very versatile," said Ernie Kraule, long-time resident of Saratoga.

There was a volunteer fire department where young adults including Kraule, former fire chief, volunteered. Downtown also included many essential services such as a library, clothing boutiques, paint stores, auto repair garages, pool hall, hotel, two restaurants, three grocery shops, and many more.

As more corporations started in the South Bay, such as Hewlett-Packard, Saratoga began a gradual transition from a farming society to a more modern and urbanized town. Orchards were cut down to be transformed into business areas.

While the city developed sewage system and paved roads, many old-timers and the military wanted to maintain the rural quality of Saratoga, part of the reason being to keep taxes low. On the other hand, the new influx of population advocated for orderly change and urbanization.

After reaching a compromise, Saratoga, which was officially incorporated in 1956 to avoid being annexed by San Jose, has preserved its rural ambience yet welcomed modern changes.

"The city was incorporated under the condition that [the government] keep it rural," Kraule said. Unlike its neighboring cities such as Sunnyvale and Cupertino, which expanded rapidly, Saratoga developed slowly yet steadily, creating somewhat of a bubble surrounding the community.

"Saratoga, especially downtown, hasn't changed much over the years," Kraule said. "Just the stores and the restaurants; but other than that, nothing has really changed."



## Celebrating 60 Years as a City

On September 17, Saratoga celebrated its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a parade down Big Basin Way. Over 65 entries proudly marched or rode in the parade. Grand Marshal Yosh Uchida led the way in a vintage Rolls Royce. Dubbed a hometown parade, a shark, colorful lion dancers, miniature horse, children pulled in wagons drew hundreds to cheer the parade, wave US flags and celebrate the day. Former Mayors Jerry Smith, Marti Clevenger, and David Moyles served as judges. Afterwards ice cream and cookies were served to the delight of young and old.

The Saratoga History Museum held a reception from 1-4 after the parade. People were invited to go on free docent-led walking tours, view all three buildings, participate in a scavenger hunt, and listen to the Skillet Lickers and the West Valley Jazz Quartet.

Happy anniversary Saratoga!! Photos provided by Maria Guldner.





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[www.facebook.com/SaratogaHistorical Foundation](https://www.facebook.com/SaratogaHistoricalFoundation)

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### **Donations to the Museum**



The museum recently received a donation of items from the Pat Bucaria barbershop. The popular barbershop resided on Big Basin Way for over 40 years.

### **Mid-Autumn Festival, a Success!**



Over 300 people gathered to celebrate Mid-Autumn Festival last month at the museum, produced by the OCAUW. Historian Connie Young Yu gave a 60-minute presentation on Heinlerville, one of the original Chinatowns in San Jose. Afterwards, people were treated to traditional moon cakes, three groups of Chinese dancers and students from the Chinese Youth Symphony. Arts and crafts tables kept children busy.