



Saratoga Historical Foundation

PO Box 172, Saratoga CA 95071

November 2017

“Holiday Fun” Exhibit & Reception Opens November 24

A new holiday exhibit and reception will be held Friday November 24 at the Saratoga History Museum. Stop by and see the exhibit, listen to live music, and enjoy light refreshments from 5:30 -8 PM.

The museum, historic 1850s McWilliams house and the one-room schoolhouse will be decorated for the holidays.

The new exhibit, “Holiday Fun” has a range of over 18 collections from local residents. Mutoscopes,



Chinese wine cups, Godzillas, marbles to mention a few. The signage includes the history of the items as well as information about the owner of the collection. Jack Mallory, formerly from

Pennsylvania, collects ground hogs. Of course celebrating Ground Hog Day on February 2 originated in Pennsylvania back in 1887. Punxsutawney Phil appears at Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania every year and predicts if we'll have an early spring or not.



Often a collection is the result of a family heirloom—such as some interesting holiday drink

glasses and family recipes used for the holidays. Or beautiful chess sets from different countries. Hugh Roberts was inspired at the age of 10 to take up chess when he was seriously ill. He began collecting chess sets from that point on through adulthood. Vintage

Native American Kachina dolls, from the 1950's, often referred to as Route 66



Kachinas are also on display and from a collection of Tim Zadel. These wooden dolls were created specifically for the tourist trade by Hopi artisans in the Southwest as early as the 1940s.

The exhibit, “Holiday Fun” will run from November 24 through the end of January.

Cookies, Hot Cider, and Music!

A special free reception will be held Friday, November 24 with live music and light refreshments. The Marshall Lane Choir will walk over after the tree lighting at 5:30 PM and sing holiday carols outside of the museum. The Skillet Lickers will sing from 6-8 PM. Chairs will be available for enjoying the music.

Toy Drive

Bring an unwrapped toy for the annual toy drive. The toy drive will end December 15 and is being held in conjunction with Sacred Heart church.

Gift Shop

The museum gift shop has a wide selection of local history books to give as a gift or give the gift of membership. A special doll sale and antique items will provide some unique gifts for you or your friends.

Free Admission

The museum is open from 1 to 4 PM Friday and Sunday and 10 to 4 PM on Saturday. The museum is located at 20450 Saratoga-Los Gatos Road.

The Ghost of Christmas Past

The Ghost of Christmas Past was a fictional character made popular by novelist Charles Dickens in *A Christmas Carol*. Since Christmas is coming it is time for a Saratoga ghost story! According to popular storekeeper Mary Ann Serpa, there's a ghost in the building Skin Prophecy Boutique is located in on Big Basin Way.



She said one time the tenants upstairs went on vacation for Christmas and were gone for 10 days. Serpa fed their cats each day. She said each time she went upstairs she could hear sounds of doors slamming yet the doors were open.

She said when the tenants returned they told her they could often hear sounds downstairs, car doors closing, keys turning in the lock and low conversation. Yet, there was no one downstairs!



Saratoga Historical Foundation

The mission of the Saratoga Historical Foundation is to preserve the unique history of Saratoga for the education and enjoyment of the community.

The Saratoga Historical Park is open from 1-4 Friday and Sunday; 10-4 on Saturday. It is located at 20450 Saratoga-Los Gatos Road in Saratoga. Call 408-867-4311 for more information or go up to www.saratogahistory.com. For comments or suggestions concerning the newsletter, e-mail the newsletter editor at annette@saratogahistory.com

Educational Tales

SHF Educational Director Linda Hagelin shared a story told by one of the education docents during a Pioneer



Living session. The popular Pioneer Living classes are taught by the education docents to a range of 2-5 grades on-site at the Saratoga Historical Park. According to Susie Campo, "We were discussing the pictures of George Washington and Abraham Lincoln on the schoolhouse wall, and one boy

in particular seemed to know all the facts about Lincoln. I asked what happened to Lincoln, and the boy replied that he was assassinated. I then asked if he knew where. "Oh," he replied, "I know, but I can't remember." Trying to help him, I said, "It starts with an F." Then I added, "And it's the name of a car."

He immediately brightened and shouted, "Ferrari!" Only in Silicon Valley.

A Tribute to Willys and Betty Peck



By the time you receive this newsletter the dedication and unveiling of the Willys and Betty Peck Blessing Bench will have occurred. The striking bronze statues will last for generations to come in memory of the two well-known citizens.

The bronze statues were crafted by former Mayor

Jerry Smith and are remarkable for the detail.

Our thanks to Hugh Roberts who spearheaded the Peck Bench committee and the many donors.

Take a moment and stroll down to Blaney Plaza and sit on the bench. There's always time to count your blessings

UPCOMING Events

November 24

5:30- 8 PM Open House—Come and have munchies, enjoy music, see the new exhibit

November 24 - January 29

New Exhibit: Holiday Fun featuring 18 collections

January 24

“Soil Before Silicon: Glimpses of Our Agricultural Past” 6:30 for potluck; 7:30 for film

March 24

Blossom Festival

March 28

Sartoga Historical Foundation Lecture

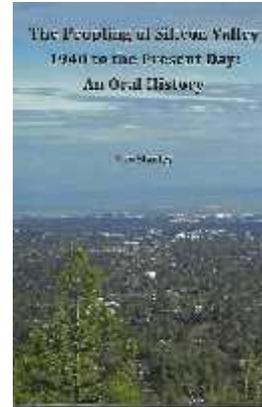
“Soil Before Silicon: Glimpses of our Agricultural Past”



The Fruit Cocktail Club will take a lighthearted look at films of Saratoga and the Santa Clara Valley when it was known as The Valley of Hearts Delight. The presentation includes clips from the 20s, 40s, and 60s showcasing locally shot orchard footage. These will be woven with some clips from newsreel, documentary, and corporate films over the decades to show the general change from agriculture to technology. Audience participation is encouraged so experiences of growing up, working, and living in the Santa Clara Valley are shared. Potluck will be at 6:30 PM and the film at 7:30 PM on Wednesday, January 24. If you participate in the potluck bring food to share, your own utensils and cups. Coffee or hot water for tea will be provided. The film will be free for members, \$5.00 donation asked for nonmembers. The meeting will be held at the Saratoga Foothill Club at 20399 Park Place in Saratoga, CA. Come prepared to reminisce.

Museum Gift Shop Has Treasures!

Books make a lasting gift for the holidays. The



museum’s gift shop has one new book and one reprint we know you’ll enjoy.

Tim Stanley, author of the *Last of the Prunepickers*, has a new book: *The Peopling of Silicon Valley 1940 to the Present Day: An Oral History*. This new book encompasses the five major migrations to the Valley since WWII by people you may know. The second new



item is a reprint of an article written by Author Connie Young Yu covering, “*John Heinlen’s Legacy--- Chinatown and Japantown in San Jose.*” This article traces the history of the two towns.

The gift shop has over 20 books on Saratoga history—perfect gifts for all ages. You can also give the gift of

membership—as low as \$30. Stop by the museum and shop for the holidays!

Blossom Festival Will Blossom on March 24

Save the date of March 24—the Blossom Festival will once again return to the Heritage Orchard and Civic Center. Antique cars, old time music, and blossoms upon blossoms will fill the air with sweet scent. Come see craftspeople, enjoy some history, meet some local organizations, and munch tasty food. The festival is fun for all ages.

Membership Renewal Time

Soon you will receive a reminder to renew your Saratoga Historical Foundation membership in the mail. Consider giving a little more this year and help us continue to bring quality programs and services. And consider volunteering! We need docents for the museum; docents for the educational program; help with typing and the list goes on! Contact info@saratogahistory.com and find out how you can help!

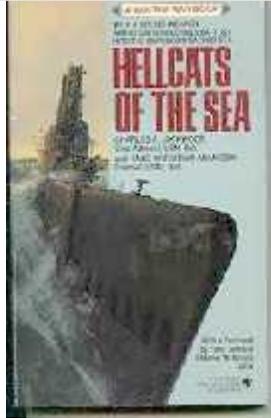
Saratoga's Impressive Hall of Fame Of Authors

Each year the Friends of the Library has an extensive display of books written by Saratogans in the September timeframe. The careful documentation of the authors has been handled for many years by Mary Jeanne Fenn.

Some are by current residents and some are by Saratogans that have moved.

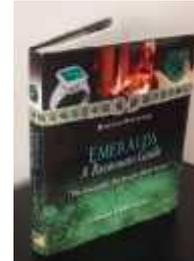
Take a moment and see how many people you recognize!

William Abeloe, Rev.
Zoe Ackerman
Hans Christian Adamson, Col.
Katie Alexander
Susan Noyes Anderson
Elizabeth Ansnes
Mark Arnold
James J. Asher, Ph.D.
Dennis F. Augustine
Jean Thompson Barrick
Dipak Basu
Colin Beaton, MD
Edwin Beilharz
Kathryn Beyers
Michele (Ungaro) Borba
Brian Bose
David Bowman
Jean Boyce-Smith
Burton Brazil
Florence Brooks
Muffet Laurie Brown
Noel Brown
Paul Fremont Brown
Sylvia Browne
John R. Bruning, Jr
Rollin Buckman
Lois Burke
Catherine Wall Burr
Justin Buzzard
John D. Callon
Scott Callon
Albert H. Campbell
June Canoles S.N.D.
Bernice Carey

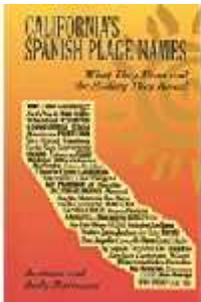


Helen R. Caswell
Jacqueline Cathcart
K.T. Change
Dan Chen
June Chen
Naomi Clark
Pat Compton
Alice Cooper
Joanne Cornbleet
Diana Cornelius
Julie Hicks-Herman Craig
Alfredo Croce
Anne Wickett Cross
Holmes Crouch
Charles Cunningham
Florence Cunningham
James Cunningham
Charles Daney
Richard D. Davis
Starr Davis
Olivia De Havilland
Johnny DePalma
Esther Dickler
Jerry Ditto
Stephen Dougherty
Richard V. Drake
Albert Dressler
John T. Dwyer, Rev.
Jan Eby
Mark D. Emerson, DC
Andy Eschenfelder
Arturo Fallico
Marjan Fariba
Beverly Fauvre
66. Robert S. Feigelson

Nicolas Ferentinos
Teresa Ferracci
Nancy Ferreira
Jackie Moyer Fischer
Joan Fontaine
Steven Frankel
Valerie Frankel
Catherine Pagano Fulde
Michelle Gabriel
Bill O. Gallmeister
Mary Gardner
Emma Garrod
R.V. Garrod
Vince S. Garrod
Amy Gibson
Jean Gill
Henry M. Gladney
Wesley Goddard
Michael J. Goldberger
Charles F. Goldfarb
Dulce Maria Gray
Carol Lynn Grellas
Katerina Romanov Grizzell
Barbara Gruber
Hans Guth
Linda Hagelin
Harriet Handler
Ellen G. Hawkes
William Darryl Henderson
Leona Hering
Mark Himmelstein
Ted Hinkley
Melville Hodge
Harold Hodges
Eva N. Holmquist
Beverly Rose Wall Hopper
Robert Hull
Gregg Andrew Hurwitz
Mamoury Inouye
Tanso Ishihara
Mahir Jethanandani
Keith Johnsgard
Hortense Virginia Johnson
W.E.(Bill) Johnson
Jean Peckham Kavale
Catherine Kay
Karen Kleinberg



Annette Ladowitz
 Les Landin
 Milton Lanyon
 Mark Lavine
 Jeanine Leichner
 Wayne Lepsosavic
 Jean Lin
 Beth Lisick
 Ruth M. Long
 David Bruce Louden
 Robert B. (Burt) Louden
 Robert K. Louden
 Jacqui Lucas
 Coralyn Lundell
 Audry Lynch
 Terrence Lynch
 Zack Lynch
 Tiffany Lyon
 Terry Maas
 Helen MacKinlay
 Vinita Mahajani, Dr.
 Monte Malhotra
 Gerre Mann
 Barbara Marinacci
 Rudy Marinacci
 Phil Marquez
 Jill Zabkar Martin
 Melinda C. Maxfield
 Donna McBryan
 Lyle McCarty
 Maxine McGinnis
 G.W.McGrew
 Glen McLaughlin
 Mary Domenico McNamee
 S.N.D.
 George H. Miller
 William "Skip" Miller
 Donald Brittan Miller
 Ian Millett
 Roger C. Mills
 Laurie Mobilio



Lillian Natsue Morgan
 Gisela Nesheim
 John L. Nesheim
 John L. Nesh
 Lynne Noel
 Charles G. Norris
 Kathleen Thompson Norris
 Greg Ogden
 Cora Older (Mrs Fremont
 Older)
 Fremont Older
 Jud Ostle
 William C. (Bill) Pack
 Alyce Parsons
 Beulah Morse Pease
 Betty Peck
 Willys Peck
 Gwendolen Brooks Penniman
 Marcia Sbarbaro Pezzella
 Marjorie Pierce
 Richard Pinsker
 Anna (Peck) Rainville
 Eleanor Kamb Ray
 Bertha Marguerite Rice
 Ron Ringsrud
 Albert J. Robinson
 Matt Roloff
 Alan Rosenus
 Lou Currier Schaefer
 Anita Schiller
 Carol Thomas Schmid
 W. David Schwaderer
 Gail Scott
 Sue Sende
 Udaya Shankar



Herman Shapiro
 Pat Shelly
 Kay Shimizu
 Ana Siljak
 Elizabeth Leonie Simpson

Ariel Smart
 Rosalie Sogolow
 Vern Solberg
 Diane Carty Speicher
 Donner Spencer
 Eve Paige Spencer
 Jeannette Dyer Spencer
 James Stafford
 Tim Stanley
 Robin Stark
 Charles Warren Stoddard
 Bonnie Stone
 Cindy Summers
 Inna Tauglich
 Mary Lou Taylor
 M.C. (Celeste) Tillson
 Barbara Sher Tinsley
 Cindy Tolliver
 David James Trapp
 Jann Turner-Lord
 Jennifer Hemmes Tynes
 Richard Tyrell
 Gerald Uelman
 Clarence Thomas Urmey
 Dan Ungaro
 George D. Vendelin
 Kristin Clark Venuti
 Mona Vijaykar
 Lana Waite
 Lynn Bowen Walker
 Mundee Walsh
 Helen Wang
 Phil Ward
 George D. Wells
 C. Morris Wheeler
 Luther Whiteman
 Paul Edgar Williams
 Walter P. Wilson
 Beth Wyman
 Gene Luen Yang
 Robin Yeamans
 Steven Hayes Young
 Norma R. Youngberg
 Chi Yu

The History of Horseshoe Drive

by Bill Bangerter



Bill Bangerter wrote in a welcoming letter to a new neighbor in 1994, "I am told by an old timer who was a little boy living on Glen Una at the time that back around or before WWI, what is now Horseshoe Drive/Belle Vista was an orchard owned by an 'old lady' who kept wild animals on it and opened it up for carriage rides through the orchard on Sundays for the little children. He also relates remembering Senator Phelan at about the same time bringing down the San Francisco Symphony orchestra to his Montalvo get-away and driving in his chauffeur driven Rolls Royce with a chrome plated hood.

Of course there was also the Saratoga-Los Gatos-San Jose street car.

Anyway Horseshoe Drive must have been one of the first post WWII developments in Saratoga, because Saratoga-Los Gatos Road didn't exist at what is now Horseshoe Drive entry until sometime after WWII. Mendelssohn Lane was the route.

When we built in 1951 about half of the lots had houses.

It was County. There was no city government. There were no street numbers. Mr. Peck (Llewellyn) the postmaster, knew where all the houses were and letters needed only names to be delivered. We used Lot 3 (14531 Horseshoe Drive) but Peck said it wasn't necessary. The postman rode a bicycle.

When our children were old enough to go to school, Saratoga School District buses stopped door-to-door, took them to school and brought them home. How quaint!

Deed restrictions were still legal, and there was a Horseshoe Drive Improvement Association, led by one retired Col. Palmer who enforced the regulations. He had a huge flag pole in his front yard and raised and lowered it every day just like in the army. He lived where the Snowdens now live (14591). (The only deed restriction I remember now is that we couldn't sell liquor on our property!). Palmer wanted to increase the restrictions so we couldn't paint even a front door without his approval. The association did do one positive thing, though, it put up the first street signs at the end of the Horseshoe, ratty remnants of which still remained at last look.

One of the houses at the head of the Horseshoe was built by a famous writer, Col. Adamson. His fame came from a WWII experience, when he was shot down with Captain Eddie Rickenbacher over the Pacific and they spent several weeks in a life raft. "Where is Capt. Rickenbacher" headlines, photos in Life magazine, etc. While living on Horseshoe Drive, he had a regular column in one of the national magazines.

Across the street from Adamson, Lot No. 1, was being built as investment property by one of the local Yugoslavian prune growers, Mr. Seagraves. The interesting thing was it was built with used lumber from his other enterprises, and was the same plan as two other houses he was building on the corner of Brookwood Lane. Bill Higgins, the architect, had sold the property on Brookwood Lane and required that houses built there have an architect. So Seagraves paid for the one house design and used it for the other two. Anyway, it did look funny seeing old lumber on a new house.

He rented to Mr. and Mrs. Fels who gained renown for their Christmas lighting. I was in Buenos Aires on business once when an Argentine businessman asked where in Saratoga I lived. I told him on a street just opposite the Montalvo entrance. He said you mean the one where the house is all lit up at Christmas times?!

The Wyatt house (14630) had its moment of fame one weekend, too. A visit from Shirley Temple. The original owners got old and moved away about the same time Wells Fargo put its first branch in the area, in downtown Los Gatos. They sent Bill Barkan, a young executive from San Francisco headquarters to supervise the start up. Since Wells Fargo handled the financing, He found out about the Wyatt house and pounced on it for his family where they became good neighbors for five years or so. Bill's roommate at Stanford was Charlie
Continued on page 7

Cont. from page 6

Black (Mr. Shirley Temple) so naturally they visited. Some years later I had extended business with Charlie on projects in Oman and Yugoslavia, so Jean and I met



the famous former child star, as well.

The Starks home (14611) was built by the Gibsons. The interesting thing was that Mr. Gibsons was a WWI veteran

that I guess you would call a paraplegic, and Mrs. Gibson had been his nurse. When wounded, he had to choose between a permanent standing or a sitting configuration. He chose the standing, and it was something to watch him maneuver into a position and weed his half acre lot, which he did every day.

Farther down the street at the Hoffman house, (14571) lived the Loweyes. He owned the Monarch Match Company and was a very nice guy, who, unfortunately had Col. Palmer as his next door neighbor. His hobby was fruit trees, and he planted one each of every kind of he could find. A magnificent arboretum!! They eventually sold to Ron and Joan Richmond Naess who were prominent in their own right.

The Gringo house was first built by the Jacobs, who owned five acres going back from the street to the creek and a big Eucalyptus grove along the creek. Our architect recommended that lot, but the Jacobs who were elderly and had long planned to build there, but wouldn't sell. We always regretted this. They sneaked by Col. Palmers restrictions somehow and built what was then a tiny cottage for two.

There are more stories going around the Horseshoe and up the hill, but I don't have the time nor space. The Abbotts, the Egans, the Suhrs, Pipers, Beckhams, Greshams, Buechners, Kirkwoods, Fosters, Stewarts, etc. were all pioneers.

Merry Christmas!

PS Your neighbors to the South are the Wernes (14650), who built shortly before we did and raised two sons, one of whom, Roger Wernes could be seen interviewed on the McNeill-Lehrer News hour on Channel 9 PBS. Roger is Chief Engineer and Associate Technical Director for Lawrence Livermore Laboratory. Early in his career, while at Los Gatos High School, he

gained some notoriety by building a bomb with a fellow student and setting it off on the campus as an experiment. Louise could tell you more, but would probably like to forget it."

Trivia About the Name

Horseshoe Drive got its name because the drive is in the shape of a horse shoe!

Neighbor Hans Christian Adamson

Hans Christian Adamson (July 20, 1890 – September 11, 1968) was a Danish-born American writer, who, along



with Eddie Rickenbacker, survived adrift for 24 days in the Pacific Ocean in 1942.

In October 1942, Eddie Rickenbacker was sent on a tour of air bases in the Pacific Theater of Operations. After visiting several air

and sea bases in Hawaii, Rickenbacker was provided an older B-17D Flying Fortress as transportation to the South Pacific. The bomber strayed hundreds of miles off course while on its way to a refueling stop on Canton Island and was forced to ditch in a remote and little-traveled part of the Central Pacific Ocean.

For 24 days, Rickenbacker, Hans Christian Adamson (then an Army Captain), and the rest of the crewmen drifted in life rafts at sea. Rickenbacker was still suffering somewhat from his earlier airplane crash, and Capt. Adamson sustained serious injuries during the ditching. The other crewmen in the B-17 were hurt to varying degrees. The crewmen's food supply ran out after three days. They lived on sporadic rain water and food such as seagulls.

A US Navy patrol float-plane spotted and rescued the survivors on November 13, off the coast of Nukufetau in Tuvalu. All were suffering from hyperthermia, sunburn, dehydration, and near-starvation.

After retiring from the US Air Force as a full colonel, Adamson wrote a number of radio drama scripts and books.



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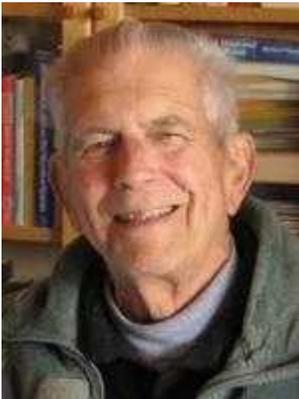
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Remembering Ron Hagelin

Ron Hagelin (Jan. 6, 1931 - Sept. 27, 2017) was a San Jose native, a San Jose State graduate, and a math teacher at Buchser (Santa Clara) High School for 30 years. A naval aviator during the Korean War, he retired as a Captain (O6) in the Naval Air Reserve. Ron was a long-time member of the Saratoga Historical Foundation and on the board of directors. He will be remembered best as



a friend to all.

In Memory of Jeff Bright, Ron Hagelin

What's New at the Saratoga Historical Park?

A new hutch is in the McWilliams house kitchen. The pine hutch will store some of the dishes and other items. Stop by and see some of the new improvements that have been made to the 1850s pioneer cottage.



All three buildings at the Saratoga Historical Park have been decorated for Christmas. Our thanks to Joan Bose, Ginny Sampson, Alex Nugent,

Valerie Richardson, Nancy Kirk and Annette Stransky.

