



SARATOGA HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

PO BOX 172, SARATOGA, CALIFORNIA 95071
September 2009

**Get ready for these events: September 27—annual BBQ and silent auction;
Oct. 2 –Ghosts, Champagne, and Volleyballs—new exhibit; Lincoln’s Last
Journey--a presentation on Oct. 25 at the Museum**

A Midsummer Night’s Dream

There is something about Shakespeare that smacks of anniversaries, and I’d say the fact that his works have charmed audiences for centuries has a lot to do with it. So I consider it significant that a production of “A Midsummer Night’s Dream” was given in my backyard amphitheater, called the Theater on the Ground, on the 75th anniversary of the play’s production at Dorothea Johnston’s Theater of the Glade.

Miss Johnston’s venue, which was a few hundred yards upstream along Saratoga Creek, was the site of Shakespeare productions over the following decade. Her production of “Dream” had Olivia deHavilland as Puck. The preceding year Olivia played the title role in Miss Johnston’s production of “Alice in Wonderland,” and it was soon after “Dream” that Olivia was off to her Hollywood career.

The 75th anniversary production of “A Midsummer Night’s Dream” was put on by seventh-graders from the Waldorf School of the Peninsula, in Los Altos.

There is a compelling quality about “A Midsummer Night’s Dream;” witness the fact that there are current productions by the Shakespeare Santa Cruz company and by players of the Los Gatos Shakespeare Festival in the town’s Oak Meadow Park.

By Willys Peck, Saratoga Historian



Time For the Annual BBQ and Silent Auction

Come “Dine Under the Oaks” as once again the SHF annual barbecue and silent auction takes place! Sunday, September 27 marks the annual BBQ held at the historic Garrod Ranch and Cooper-Garrod Estate Winery in Saratoga.



The event starts at 4:00 PM with award winning wine tasting and tasty appetizers. Dinner follows with BBQ, crispy salad, western beans and a wonderful dessert. Toe tapping entertainment includes the country and western sounds of the Skillet Lickers and bidding on the popular silent auction

Bring your camera for capturing the breath taking view of the Santa Clara Valley. This lovely area is reminiscent of the Saratoga of yesteryear.

Don’t Miss the Silent Auction

The silent auction, according to this year’s chair, Marilyn Marchetti, promises to be bigger than ever. This much anticipated event will be highlighted with a special dinner at Hakone Gardens, gift certificates from favorite restaurants, paintings, a weekend at Pajaro Dunes and much more. The auction committee of Marchetti, Laurel Perusa, Peggy Kimball and Marilyn White have been “shopping” for months to secure these items. Bring your Christmas list and your wallet! All funds go to the Saratoga Historical Foundation and towards Museum operation.

Dining Paul Masson Style



Mayor Chuck Page drew the lucky name while the SHF board of directors held their breath. "Let it be me" could be heard whispered across the room as everyone waited for the announcement of the winner for the dinner for 10 at the historic Paul Masson Mountain Lodge home.



Pam Garcia of San Jose is now busily deciding which of her nine best friends will accompany her to the memorable event. Out of hundreds of tickets, Garcia's name was selected as the winner during the July SHF board of directors meeting.

Rainmaker Jane Asher, also known as

the Fund Development Director organized the very successful fundraising event.

Trash to Treasury

SHF recently participated in the city-wide garage sale as a fundraising project. People opened their hearts and cleaned out their closets to help make the event a success.

Plants, clothes, dishes, books, portable TVs—even a few flashbacks to yesteryear with vintage dishes, headbands from

the 60's, wonderful vintage jewelry, and fur collars were sold.



People came as early as 7:00 AM to shop — thanks to the "gnormous" signs placed around Saratoga by John Kimball.

A special thanks to Jenni Taylor

for allowing SHF to hold the garage sale at her house.

A huge thanks to those who helped make the event a success: Nancy Anderson, Jane Asher, Linda Benonati, Ray Cosyn, Bob Himel, Jann Justi, Peggy and John Kimball, Yvonne Mendy, Laurel Perusa, Chair Annette Stransky, Jenni and Picket Taylor.

Spring Cleanup at the Museum

Spearheaded by President Bob Himel, a hardy crew spent two days washing windows inside and outside, weeding, sweeping, clipping plants and sweating at the Museum and the McWilliams House. A few more tasks are scheduled before the year ends. Wielding tools of mass destruction were Nancy Anderson, Jane and Jim Asher, Bill Ford, Bob Himel, Willys Peck, Peggy and Chuck Schoppe, Jack and Annette Stransky.



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

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 to arrange group or docent-led tours.

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

Welcome Aboard.....

About 70 SHF members enjoyed the "welcome the new board of directors" party graciously held at Saratoga Historian Willys and Betty Peck's Heritage Garden. The lovely garden setting, home-cooked food, and lively conversation were all an added plus.





Save These Dates!

- Sept. 12** A Taste of Saratoga, (12-8 PM) in the Village
- Sept. 27** SHF annual barbecue and silent auction at the historic Garrod Ranch and Cooper-Garrod Estate Winery
- Oct. 2** History Month—special exhibit at the Museum covering famous Saratogans
- Oct. 3** Lantern Walk (4-6 PM)
- Oct. 21** SHF Meets with the City Council
- Oct. 25** President Lincoln’s Last Journey by SHF Historian Ray Cosyn—presentation at the Museum at 1 PM
- Oct. 31** Witchy Walk A-Bout (2-4 PM)
- Nov-Dec.** Did Your Know exhibit and reception
- Nov. 27** Village and Museum Open House
- Dec. 5** World War II panel at the Saratoga library at 2:00 PM

Ghosts, Champagne and Volleyballs—New Exhibit

October is nationally acclaimed “History Month” and the Saratoga History Museum is participating with a special exhibit highlighting special people, places, and events in Saratoga—or, “Ghosts, Champagne, and Volleyballs.” Piqued your interest? Come on down and see it!!

The exhibit opens on October 2 and is followed in November by – an exhibit featuring interesting facts of Saratoga and ending in December. The Museum is open Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 1:00 to 4:00 PM.

President Lincoln’s Last Journey

As the Civil War wound down an event took place in Washington that will live forever, the assassination of Abraham Lincoln. Lincoln, who led the country through the travails of a protracted war had been vilified during its course



by many even in the North. He had narrowly won an election the previous year, but in the course of his funeral cortège was elevated to near mythical status by the

way he was brought to his final resting place. **On Sunday October 25 at 1:00 PM at the Museum,** SHF historian, Ray Cosyn, will give a multi-media lecture on the Lincoln Funeral train, a ten day event, that was seared in the memory of all those who witnessed the passing of the train. The train, the reaction of the crowds and the miracles that occurred will be

covered. Join us for this insightful look into an event that took place when the country was attempting to recover from the Civil War.

Civil War Excitement



The very popular Civil War exhibit featuring the collection of Bill Cleary will be winding down at the end of October. If you have not seen the exhibit, this will be your last chance.

SHF Historian Ray Cosyn has been kept busy this summer providing docent-led tours of the exhibit to Civil War groups as well as others from as far away as

Sacramento and San Francisco.

World War II Panel of Veterans— to Share Memories

Circle December 5 at 2 PM on your calendar. SHF along with the Saratoga library will co-sponsor a World War II panel of veterans to talk about their experiences. SHF Historian Ray Cosyn will moderate.

Last year, the event was standing-room only at the Museum so the venue has been changed to the much larger community room at the Saratoga library on Saratoga Avenue.

If you would like to participate in the panel, please call Annette Stransky at 408-867-7468 or email annette@saratogahistory.com.

Volunteer Thank You Party

Dahlias and special recipes from the kitchen of Social Director Nancy Anderson marked the annual Volunteer Appreciation dinner held in her garden. The invitation-only event is held annually to thank those people who have volunteered 30 hours of time during the year.

A highlight of the evening was the presentation of a water color painting from the SHF board of directors as a thank you to Chuck Schoppe for his five years as president and Peggy Schoppe’s ongoing service. Lynn Bonetti painted the lovely water color of the Saratoga History Museum and historic McWilliams House.



Picking Prunes—A Look Back

The first thing that needs to be said about picking prunes is that we picked prunes. By stating this, the prune-picker is invariably accused by those outside the fraternity of using poor grammar. They tell us that we should say that we picked plums. Mr. Webster comes to our aid by stating that a prune is, "A plum dried or capable of drying without fermentation," but the critics remain entrenched. In recent years the packers, tired of being harangued for "incorrect" grammar, have dropped the name "prune" in favor of "dried plum." Maybe they were also trying to get away from the prunes association with constipation, I don't know. But as a former prune-picker, I've got to use the older term or I won't know what I am talking about.

Plum varieties harvested for eating fresh, like Santa Rosa or Japanese plums, are picked from the tree branches; prunes for drying are shaken out of the tree and gathered up. Today prune harvesting is done with mechanical harvesters, but in the heyday of prunes in the Santa Clara Valley they were picked up off of the ground by hand, usually by school kids.

A picker was given two large galvanized buckets, which when filled were dumped into a forty pound wooden fruit box. A shaker went before the pickers with a long pole that had a metal hook on the end. The shaker placed the hook on a tree branch, pulled on the branch to take up the slack, and then shook it to release the fruit which thundered down as hundreds of plump prunes hit the ground at nearly the same time.

Sometimes there was the unpleasant effect of getting a face-full of dust while thus engaged, or of being covered with tiny white flies if a tree was infested. But it was, in my opinion, a lot easier to be a shaker than to be on your hands

and knees all day picking up the fallen fruit. That, dear reader, was *hard* work.

Each picker was assigned a row of trees in the orchard. You could not jump around the orchard to find the best trees that had the thickest blanket of prunes under them. When you finished your row, you went up to the top of the orchard and started on the next row that had not been picked. In the mid 1960s, pay was 35¢ a box. That included helping load the boxes onto the orchard truck and then transferring them from the orchard truck onto the truck that would be driven to the dehydrating facility. In earlier years, before I came along, the drying was done on site and the piece-work rate also included helping dip the prunes in hot lye water to keep them from spoiling, and then setting them out to dry in the sun.

Good picking depended upon how big the prunes were, how thick they were on the ground and of course upon your own motivation. Picking prunes was a matter of overcoming. The first thing you needed to overcome was your bed in the

morning. If you didn't start early, well before the sun was hot, it wasn't worthwhile to come out at all. This meant that you had to go to bed early, and this meant that certain other things had to be sacrificed. The next thing to overcome was the dirt clods. As soon as you knelt down to pick you realized that there was some discomfort involved. There was also the stickiness of some of the prunes to overcome. By itself this usually wasn't too bad, but then there were the flies—big flies, little fruit flies, tiny white flies. The fruit flies were the worst as they have a true fascination for the inside of your ears and nose. Added to the flies and the sticky prunes was the heat of the day. The prunes were ripe in late August which was the hottest time of the year, so you sweat profusely. Sticky hands from the prunes and dripping sweat combined with the dust and dirt and chasing of flies so that the face of the picker clearly displayed his occupation. These unpleasantnesses, plus a sore back from bending over, and stiff legs from being on your knees all day sent some of the kids home before the first day was over. Others lasted a few days and some continued until the crop was in.

The struggle that went on in a new picker's mind could easily be seen by a veteran. He wanted to earn the money, but was not accustomed to the unpleasantness involved. So overcoming was essential to success and those who overcame developed the mental toughness of a marathon runner. I

suppose that at a certain point a decision was made that went something like this: "I'm already dirty and grimy. I want the money. I might as well just do it." Thus a life of discipline was learned by many young kids.

*This article was condensed from the soon to be released book, *The Last of the Prune-Pickers* by Tim Stanley. Mr.*

Stanley is an alumnus of the Robert Pitman farm which was located one mile north of uptown Saratoga on highway 9 at what is today the housing tract on Paramount Drive. He can be reached at: tstanley69@cox.net



Duncan Hines?

Those taking the historic Saratoga Village walking tour will



hear how the Lundblad Lodge on Oak Street was once listed on the Duncan Hines restaurant guide. Duncan Hines, of course, is best known for a brand of food today.

He was actually a pioneer in restaurant ratings for travelers due to his own position as a traveling salesman. By the mid-30's he began to tell his friends about the "good restaurants" across the US. The list became so popular that he began selling a paperback book entitled "Adventures in Good Eating." Restaurants in the book were given permission to hang a sign in the window that read "Recommended by Duncan Hines." Call 408-867-4311 for a free docent led walking tour today!

Capturing This Old House -- Thanks to Jane Garrod

Many of you may have seen the Saratoga Historical Foundation logo gracing its letterhead and other materials –it is the creation of Jane Garrod—long-time resident of Saratoga.

The drawing of the museum has been in use since about 1985.

Garrod has been drawing since about 1978 when at the age of 60, a friend, also an art teacher challenged her by saying “I can teach anyone to draw.”

Garrod responded to the challenge or as her teacher said, “she just slurped it up.” She quickly progressed from simple drawings to painting with water colors.

She’s always been involved in art in one form or another including mastering silver jewelry making, quilting, knitting, crocheting, and pottery--to mention just a few.

The talented lady, however, has chosen one of the more difficult mediums— painting with water colors and delights in capturing local scenes. She belongs to a group of “plein air” artists that meet once a week to paint. And she attends special classes taught by other artists including one on painting portraits. She notes seascapes are one of her favorite subjects — using pictures as inspiration if she can’t get to the ocean.

Friends covet the images painted for Garrod Christmas cards and the family cherishes the framed images received each year as Christmas gifts. With a family of 20---she has to paint fast to ensure each receives a painting!!

In the past she’s exhibited in shows and won prizes – but she says, “I don’t paint to compete.” At one time she exhibited at the Gallery in Saratoga which she said was good for learning about marketing but she prefers to exhibit independently. She’s had shows at the Garrod Ranch on Pierce Road. And notes, paintings of the Garrod Ranch are very popular and are purchased immediately.

Some of the special images of Saratoga that she’s drawn include Congress Springs, Oak Street school and the Methodist Church (where Theodore Wores had a studio).

Jane has lived in Saratoga since 1927. Her family lived on three acres of land on Bucknall Road where they had a vineyard and chickens. She can recall her father commuting to San Francisco each day via train which took an average of 1 and ½ hours.



Jane went to Campbell schools until her mother decided she wanted Jane to have different friends! Jane recalls commuting on the street car where she was dropped off on Oak Street and walked the rest of the way to school. She became licensed to drive at the age of 14 and drove to Los Gatos High School in a Model T Ford roadster. The car cost \$25 in those days.

At that time Los Gatos High School was the only high school in the area. The same high school is standing today—including the gymnasium. She recalls sitting on the rolling green lawn during lunchtime gossiping with friends. After school, the students would go to the drugstore on Main Street where she had to “learn to drink Coca-Cola since she did not like carbonated drinks.”

After high school she went to the University of California at Berkeley and later to Stanford University where she studied nursing and public health. She graduated in 1941—and married a few months later to Vince Garrod.

Vince had one more year of school at the University of Berkeley.

While living in an apartment in Berkeley, she remembers December 7 vividly and hearing on the radio that Pearl Harbor was bombed. She was a private duty nurse at the time and recalled the blackouts and

hearing rumors about Japanese submarines in the San Francisco Bay.

During World War II, Jane taught Red Cross Home Nursing, averaging 8-10 people in each class.

After college, Jane worked at the county hospital in the emergency room for a time and also taught nursing school. Mostly, she notes, she was busy raising seven children! Jane was very busy in the community racking up over 20 years as a community leader in PTA, 4-H, and other community work. She is also active in AAUW.

Jane and Vince Garrod have seven children—four live on the ranch with one daughter living on each side of the house and a son nearby. Another son lives in Hawaii and is the Dean at the University of Hawaii; another son grows hay in Reno for the ranch and a foster daughter lives in Texas. She says the two daughters and son come over for breakfast each morning when Vince cooks.

Both Jane and Vince enjoy music and are involved with the Skillet Lickers. Once a month the sounds of the irrepressible Skillet Lickers fill the hills surrounding the ranch when the group gathers to practice.

The historic ranch that has been in the Garrod family for over 100 years originally had orchards of prunes and apricots. The last 45 years the ranch has focused on stabling horses and teaching horseback riding. Jane said, “Its great to have all the children around as well as the farm animals.”

And it’s great to know such a creative lady!

Life in the 1800's—the Diaries of Rancher Frank Farwell

Volunteer DiAnne Davis has an interesting task—transcribing the pencilled diaries of local rancher Franklin M. Farwell to computer files for the Saratoga History Museum.

Approximately 20 in all, the fragile diaries begin in 1881 when Farwell was 47 years of age. The diaries are considered a treasure since they document early life in the valley. Few other documents exist in Santa Clara County that provide such a personal view.

Davis said she has had to create a relational database to keep track of all the people he meets. She bought a copy of the Florence Cunningham book to keep track of the Saratogans and the book provided useful background. Farwell, she said, would reference Mary Brown, James McWilliams, the blacksmith and many others. She notes his spelling is terrible and punctuation, almost nonexistent!

And some of the terms used in the diary are confusing also—she said it took time to figure out “wheels” meant a bicycle; felloes, the outside rim of a wagon wheel and cream ice was actually ice cream. And a visit to “Willows” meant the area that is now known as Willow Glen.

Farwell and his sister were very social. Sister Jennie was a Sunday school teacher and often went to church twice a day on Sunday. Social outings took place each month with Farwell driving a big wagon and taking young people to the

Blackberry Farm in Cupertino.

Handmade personal gifts such as knitted scarves were especially appreciated. And she notes, Farwell was always sending flowers to someone.

He was very interested in new plants and would go to nurseries throughout the valley. He was also interested in grafting to create new varieties of trees. His ranch, located on what is now Bella

Vista Avenue, Farwell Avenue and Three Oaks Way, originally contained 160 acres—sixty acres in trees, 34 acres of French prunes; twenty-two acres in winter pears for shipping, two acres in peaches, and one acre of a variety of fruits.

Symbolic of the times, little cash was used in transactions—rather items were bartered. Meat, fruits and vegetables were grown for personal use. Occasionally he would need to sell land in order to have cash.

She says it is not difficult to imagine him at the end of a long work day, sitting in a chair and carefully recording the day's events. If he was gone on a trip, his sister Jennie would write about the day on the ranch.

The most exciting entry to date was in 1883 when a murder occurred near Lexington dam. Farwell was interested and went down to the jail to talk to the men arrested. Davis was so

intrigued she purchased the book, “Bad Man from Bodie” to find out about the incident because Farwell never mentioned the men or the trial again!!



Each diary takes about 40 hours to transcribe—and Davis has been working on the project since 2008. The typed diary usually results in about 50 pages.

She has worked for 52 years in office administration and is happy to be retired.

She also volunteers at the Friends of the Saratoga Library twice a month. Davis laughs and says she has never done this type of work before but has been enjoying it. She's presently working on the diary covering 1887.

Photo of John and Nancy Farwell in front of their home around the 1850's. The home is no longer standing.



The Historic Farwell Family

John W. Farwell and his wife Nancy were born in New York. They left New York City and came to San Francisco in 1849. John was involved in the mercantile business and spent most of his time in San Francisco. Farwell soon moved his family to Saratoga where his son Charles had a squatter claim.

The Farwells had six children with only four living to maturity. Charles drowned in 1864; William died in 1877. Frank died in 1903 and Jennie died in 1923. Son Frank went to the California mines in Nevada and mined for 4-5 years. He returned to Saratoga and worked on the ranch until 1871; moved to San Francisco where he lived from 1871 to 1878 until he returned again to the ranch in Saratoga after his brother William died.

He and his sister Jennie lived on the ranch with their mother until she died in 1885. Neither Frank nor his sister Jennie married.

Frank served on the Saratoga school board of trustees for 15 years and on the Madronia Cemetery board for 37 years. He and his sister Jennie were members of the board of the Saratoga Village Improvement Association, organized in 1887 to beautify the community by planting trees, improving sidewalks, and maintaining the dusty roads by sprinkling water.

He was also interested in rail transportation for linking Saratoga with neighboring cities. A railroad, however, was not realized until after his death.

After he died, Jennie sold the acreage to their cousin, Charles Blaney. Blaney built the Rancho Bella Vista home on Bella Vista Avenue. The historic home was designed by famed architect Willis Polk and still stands today.

Joan Fontaine Shares Fond Memories of Her Youth in Saratoga, Part II

Fontaine's parents were not religious so they did not attend any church. There were some connections to St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, then called the Community Church, however, through the sisters. "Olivia was so independent," Joan recalls, "that she got herself baptized on her own." Then Joan remembers with pride that she once played the Virgin Mary in the Nativity play.

The pastor, Mr. Eimerech, and his wife, the local librarian, knew Joan well as her many illnesses had turned her on to reading. Joan usually stopped by on her way home from school and put away returned books. It is not odd that her own library in her Carmel Highlands house is her favorite room.

Joan remembers her mother as the guiding light in their childhood. She describes her as a "consummate artist" who was skilled at singing and playing the piano. A graduate of the Royal London School of Dramatic Arts, her mother found herself isolated in Saratoga from all the theatrical things she loved." I think she decided at that time that her two kids would help her create a life for herself," says Joan. "Her plan, although she never voiced it, was to make us actresses, hoping that we had the talent for it."

Joan admits that her mother was disappointed in their lack of musical talent and gave up on their singing and piano lessons. Instead she took them to plays and concerts and gave them diction, drama and ballet lessons. She taught them Shakespeare and fostered their talents in every way. When the sisters arrived in Hollywood they realized that their looks were more essential to getting ahead than their talents. "In a way, she had given us looks, too, genetically speaking," says Joan.

Their mother was determined to point them in the direction of an acting career and she never wavered. "There was no place to waver," says Joan. "In our growing up years there were no distractions—no sports, no boyfriends, no relatives in the area, no holidays or even birthdays were celebrated and no friends were invited to the house. There were just the four of us," says Joan, "hermetically sealed off from the rest of the world."

Why were the girls so isolated? "I think my parents isolated themselves first," says Joan. "My mother was quite English and never understood democracy. She came home in tears from the grocer one day because she had said, 'thank you, my good man' and he had taken offense."

Fontaine won an Oscar for her role in "Suspicion" and was nominated for one in "Rebecca" and "The Constant Nymph." Most critics feel that her best performance was in Max Ophul's "Letter from an Unknown Woman."



Because of her long career - 49 films – she had many friendships and insights into the famous actors, actresses, and directors of her era. Here are some of her observations:

Charles Boyer: "He was my favorite leading man. He wasn't just a movie face because he was also a stage actor. I thought his talents were supreme. He was also very religious."

Katharine Hepburn: "She wanted to help me when I was starting out and did."

Alfred Hitchcock: "He was a superb director, always jovial and always helpful. I think he was my favorite director."

Laurence Olivier: "I think he felt that movies were a real letdown after his stage triumphs. I thought he was brilliant in Henry V."

Harry Belafonte: "He was a wonderful man. Once he came to see me perform at an English theatre in Vienna where I was playing in "Lion in Winter". After the performance he sent me red roses."

Rossano Brazzi: "You could never rein in those Italian or French men. We were working on a film and he started an affair with a young girl in the cast. One of the secretaries told his wife about it and she answered, 'What took him so long?'"

Conrad Nagel: "He was my first beau and he was 20 years older than I. I was attracted to older men I think because I never had an attentive father."

Elizabeth Taylor: "She was a darling girl but rather reclusive because she was never well. Zsa Zsa Gabor, Merle Oberon, Loretta Young and Elizabeth were always nice to other actresses."

Joan Crawford: "It was hard to get to know her because she was so defensive about her background. She had come up the hard way."

Douglas Fairbanks: "He was a great asset to the U.S. during World War II. I was so glad that he was knighted by the Queen."

In addition to acting, Joan excelled in many other areas of her life. She's a world traveler who thinks that "maybe Outer Mongolia is the only place I've missed." From early childhood, she "read everything and now particularly likes to read about science and archaeology." She is a very good golfer and prides herself on two holes in one. She made a hole-in-one at Cypress and one at Quail Valley in Carmel.

Additionally she was a licensed pilot, a balloonist, "Rode to Hounds" in Ireland, a prize-winning tuna fisherman, a student at the Cordon Bleu Cooking School in New York and a licensed interior decorator. I guess when she scored 160 on an infant IQ test at the age of 5, the results were accurate.

Despite the lifetime of glowing achievements, Fontaine was not so lucky in love. She married and divorced four times to the following men: Brian Aherne, William Dozier, Collier Young, and Alfred Wright Jr. In addition, she received several marriage proposals from Howard Hughes. She never accepted.

She delights instead in her five A.S.P.C.A dogs. She describes them fondly as "my family". "I'm a very affectionate person", she explains, "And no man was ever able to satisfy that need for affection as well as my dogs do."

Editor's note: This is Part II of a telephone interview conducted by Audrey Lynch in December with Joan Fontaine who is presently living in Carmel Heights, California. A local Saratogan, Lynch teaches English at Mission College and has written several books on John Steinbeck. Famed actress Joan Fontaine, daughter of actress Lilian Fontaine, lived in Saratoga from 1920-1933. Photo of the Fontaine home on La Paloma Drive in Saratoga.

New Museum Acquisitions

The Oak Street school reunion in July brought old friends together. Many stopped by the Museum to take a peek at the latest exhibit. And some donated priceless memorabilia.

Old cookbooks, school yearbooks, a dinner triangle and even an old-fashioned big wheel bicycle are now part of the Museum's collection. Thank you from the Saratoga History Museum for these additions.



Regret the Passing of Longtime Members

SHF regrets the passing of Don B. And Frances Miller who were well-known in the community for their willingness to volunteer. And for the passing of Kathryn Kennedy, who brought so much to the wine industry. Our condolences to the families.



Saratoga Historical Foundation
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Saratoga, CA 95070

On the Road-- Spirit of 76 Gasoline Station



Stop by the Union 76 gasoline station at the corner of Big Basin Way and Sunnyvale-Saratoga and go inside the store. There you'll find an excellent selection of framed 8 x 10 black and white photos of

Saratoga from the 1800's along with photos of vintage gasoline stations. Photos are from the archives of the Saratoga History Museum and the collection of Chuck Schoppe.

Volunteer Poem

"I am only one,
But still I am one.
I cannot do everything,
But still I can do something;
And because I cannot do everything
I will not refuse to do the something that I can do."

By Edward Everett Hale

Whether you have an hour or more, support SHF and volunteer today! Call 408-867-4311.