



SARATOGA HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

PO BOX 172, SARATOGA, CALIFORNIA 95071

January 2014

Put these dates on your calendar: January 21, lecture on California Apricots; Feb. 9 Chinese New Year; February 15 new "School Days" exhibit at the Museum; March 22, the Blossom Festival!

California Apricots – The Lost Orchards of Silicon Valley— Free Lecture by Robin Chapman on January 21

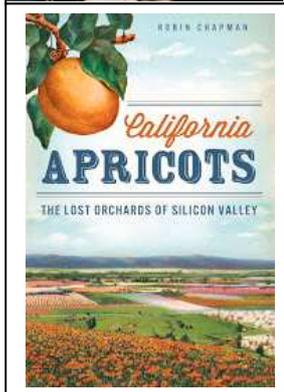
The first membership program and potluck for 2014 takes



place on Tuesday, January 21. Prepare yourself for a sentimental journey as Author Robin Chapman takes us on an interesting odyssey through the past.

The free lecture will take place at 7:30 PM with time for questions. You can purchase Chapman's book at the lecture and have her sign it. Please pay by check or money.

The lecture covers the history of apricots and segues into local history when apricots or 'cots for those in the know, were grown in the Valley of Hearts Delight. Chapman grew up in Los Altos and has many local photos as part of her presentation. To paraphrase the book when describing the times of orchard supremacy-- the taste and scent of apricots, "like a Blenheim in the Santa Clara Valley—it just doesn't get any better than that."



Participating in the potluck

Those who want to participate in the potluck need to bring plates, eating utensils, and food to share. Coffee and tea will be provided. The potluck will begin at 6:30 PM.

About the author

Author of four books, Chapman had a long career in television news. After earning her Masters Degree from UCLA, she worked as an anchor and reporter at KGW-TV, in Oregon; KRON-TV, in San Francisco; WJLA-TV, in Washington D.C.; WESH-TV, in Orlando, and covered the

nation for Group W-TV. In 2009 she returned to California. Her latest book tells how the Santa Clara Valley became the largest and richest orchard in the world, until it was gradually transformed into Silicon Valley. Follow Chapman's adventures at robinchapmannews@blogspot.com.

Don't forget

The potluck and lecture will take place on Tuesday January 21 at the Immanuel Lutheran church hall at 14103 Saratoga Avenue in Saratoga. Potluck at 6:30, lecture at 7:30.

Time to Renew!!

If you have a reminder inside this newsletter—that means it is time to renew your membership in the Saratoga Historical Foundation!! Your mailing label will also list the date of renewal.

Lifetime members do not pay yearly dues but if they are so moved, a donation of any size would be gratefully accepted.

Membership dues help pay for the many programs and services you receive--- including this newsletter.

Your membership also supports our stewardship for the museum, McWilliams house, and one-room schoolhouse.

Membership makes a wonderful gift—give a gift that lasts all year to one of your friends.

Remembering Willys Peck— and His Saratoga (1923-2013)

Willys Peck left a legacy of stories about Saratoga—a town that had a hardware store, a view of the hills, trains and blossoms and more blossoms. His memories shaped our view of early Saratoga.

The following column was printed in 1996:



The Long View Back

“When I was your age, Merina,” I said to No. 2 grandchild as we strolled in front of a friend’s house on Sullivan Way, “we used to come up this hill almost every Sunday, just to look at the view.”

Being not quite 3 ½, Merina was more interested in the stuffed toy dog she was carrying than in the ruminations of an ancient forebear. Also, there was the matter of how to convey the

concept of “view” when there was little more than an occasional tantalizing glimpse of such between houses. And while I might have been laying it on a bit thick as to age, the recollection couldn’t have been off by much.

There we veered off on what at one time may have been a road (now it’s in someone’s back yard), but seemed more of a trail, that followed a ravine up to the present Sullivan Way. The path was thickly wooded and the air, at times, was heavy with the fragrance of undergrowth in bloom.

While the climb may have taxed childish limbs the rewards were great, for at the end was a sensation of instant omnipotence, a commanding view of familiar landmarks suddenly miniaturized by distance.

There was the Federated Church, where just that morning my brother and I had been to Sunday school. There was the grammar school on Oak Street, the little white Catholic Church at the corner of Sixth Street and Big Basin Way (only recently renamed from Lumber Street). There was the cluster

of buildings that made up downtown Saratoga, and, of course, mile upon mile of orchards stretching away in the distance.

Those Sunday afternoon walks were just one of the benefits of that particular location. The house, one of three at the end of Marion Avenue, was bordered on two sides by orchards, rows of prune trees extending to Shumer Road, now Reid Lane and apricots extending down to the present Burns Way, Where a large hay field took over.

There was a working windmill a few yards down that road, the source of our water supply until the momentous day when “city water” was piped in. The patient clanking of the windmill pump and the occasional car traveling Saratoga-Sunnyvale Road—then known as Mountain View Road—were about the only extraneous sounds, other than bird songs.

But then there was the orchard, which was its own source of activity. In the spring, there was plowing to be done, still in the late 1920s, with a horse-drawn moldboard plow. First, however, there would be the ground cover of yellow mustard, where my brother and I made “tunnels” by crawling on hands and knees to press the tall stalks to the ground.

A little while later, it was time for that growth to be turned under in furrows of rich, moist earth. My brother and I would trudge along behind the plowman, Chick Yamada, complaining every so often that dirt had gotten into our shoes. Yamada would rein in the horse and carefully undo our shoes to empty the dirt, then retie them and resume his work.

Of course, we weren’t following him any great distance; we soon tired of hiking. But the fact he took time at all forever enshrined Chick Yamada in my memory as the epitome of patience. Today’s kids should experience such examples.

Enough has been written about blossom time in the Valley of Heart’s Delight to last for generations; any reiteration here would be superfluous. Suffice it to say that, when one is of tender years and virtually surrounded by the fragrant blooms in season, nothing in later life can match the sensation.

I think of the rather forlorn hope expressed in an incorporation campaign slogan of 40 years ago: “Keep it rural.”

Been there. Done that. In memory, at least.”

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

Open, 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>.

Or www.facebook.com/SaratogaHistoricalFoundation



Join the SHF Board of Directors and Make a Difference

The Treasurer’s position on the Saratoga Historical Foundation’s board of directors is presently open. If you have a financial background, enjoy local history and would be interested in the position, please call Annette at 408-867-7468 or e-mail annette022003@yahoo.com.

2013-14 Calendar of Events

November 15- End of Jan	A Victorian Christmas Exhibit – at the Saratoga History Museum
January 21	Membership potluck and meeting: 6:30 potluck; 7:30, presentation by Robin Chapman
February 9	Chinese New Year, 2-4 PM at Argonaut school
February 15	School Days—new exhibit at the Saratoga History Museum
March 18	Membership potluck and meeting: 6:30 potluck; 7:30, presentation by Doug McNeil on the history of Monte Sereno
March 22	Blossom Festival held in the Heritage Orchard from 10-4 PM
May 20	May Membership potluck and meeting: 6:30 potluck; 7:30, presentation

Celebrate Chinese New Year on February 9

The Year of the Horse will be celebrated at Argonaut School (13200 Shadow Mountain Drive in Saratoga) in Saratoga from 2-4 PM on February 9. Drop by and enjoy the range of entertainment, food, and good cheer.



School Days Exhibit Opens February 14



Be sure to stop by the Saratoga History Museum to relive your school days with its new “School Days” exhibit. The exhibit opens February 15 and runs through the end of June. The museum will be packed with photos, school

equipment, yearbooks, sports memorabilia and other items. Museum visitors will be able to view photos from the early 1850s of Saratoga’s schools to the present. Remember how the school room smelled? Take a look at how report cards, school desks, slates, diplomas, and other school supplies have changed over the years.

There is even an interactive component to the exhibit. A blank notebook for visitors to share their school days memories. There will be something of interest for all ages and

a chance to relive and talk about “the good old days.” Be sure to bring your family and friends!

The Saratoga History Museum is open from 1-4 PM Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

How Can You Help?

In order to make this exhibit even more amazing, we are asking you to rummage through your closet and donate or loan school-related items. Got a lunchbox? Pencil case? Old yearbook? Poodle skirt? Photos.....? If you would like to loan or donate, give a call to Annette at 408-867-7468 or e-mail: annette022003@yahoo.com. Don’t delay—items are needed by January 31.

Celebrate the Blossom Festival-March 22



Last year the Saratoga Historical Foundation brought back the Blossom Festival with a parade of blossom paintings by local artists; vintage farm motors; a wide

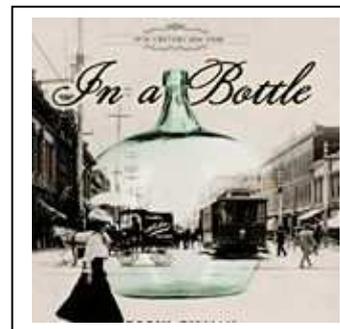
range of music; docent-led tours of the blossoming orchard; children’s activities; food trucks, famous Saratoga historical characters and more. Over 3500 people attended the free event and were able to sample locally grown prunes!

Join us on March 22 from 10-4 PM in the Heritage Orchard for a memorable day of family fun and history.

Community Event Needs You!

The Blossom Festival is a community event. If you would like to support the event with musical expertise, volunteer to help, have your organization man a table—a great way to promote your organization, provide a children’s activity or more—call Annette at 408-867-7468 or send an e-mail: annette022003@yahoo.com.

New book: In a Bottle by Tobin Gilman



A new book, “In a Bottle” by Tobin Gilman explores his life-long passion for finding and collecting bottles in San Jose, CA. There are a few references included in the book to Saratoga—including Saratoga Pacific Congress Springs, Azule Seltzer Springs and some local

tidbits. The 79-page book is a fast and interesting read.

Keep It Rural—Rallying Cry for Incorporation in 1956



Dr. Robert O'Neil passed away this month but will always be remembered in Saratoga as a doctor who made house calls and for spearheading the Citizen's Committee for Incorporation in 1956.

O'Neil was part of a passionate committee who wanted to preserve Saratoga's special ambience and stave off San Jose's

efforts to annex local small communities like Saratoga.

O'Neil spoke on the topic at a 2007 Saratoga Historical Foundation membership program saying, "The vote for incorporation was a cliff hanger—winning by a mere 159 votes." Saratoga had a population of about 12,000 people at that time. Betty and Willys Peck have a plaque in their garden commemorating the event.

O'Neil was a popular doctor in Saratoga from 1954-1993 before retiring. His contributions to the community included helping to build the Sacred Heart Church Hall, rectory, convent and school. Later he aided in developing the Sacred Heart church on Saratoga Avenue. He was also a member of the Saratoga Men's Club and Los Gatos Rotary.

Along with a few other doctors, he pioneered the first peer review system for physicians in the state of California in the 1960's; was one of the founders of Lifeguard, a nonprofit health maintenance organization and served as Chief of Staff at Good Samaritan Hospital.

In Saratoga's annals of history he will be remembered for his successful campaigning for incorporation.

UCLA Formed in 1964

The decision to create West Valley College took place in



1963. Classes began in September of 1964 at the Campbell Grammar School on Latimer Avenue hence the fond and irreverent moniker of UCLA ("University of Campbell, Latimer Avenue").

The campus is situated on a sprawling, woody 143 acres, just off the West Valley Freeway (aka Highway 85) in Saratoga.

The land was purchased in 1966 with groundbreaking taking place in June of 1967. Portable classrooms were set up during construction. Classes were transitioned to the West Valley campus in 1970 with the transition completed in 1975.

West Valley College is part of the West Valley-Mission Community College District and serves the cities of Campbell, Los Gatos, Morgan Hill, Monte Sereno, Santa Clara and San Jose.

West Valley College offers traditional programs including degrees in interior design, architecture, landscape architecture, fashion design, park management, health care technologies, paralegal, child studies, engineering and drafting and information technologies including computer information systems, computer applications and digital media.

Over 10,000 students attend the popular college.

Some of the notable people who have attended West Valley College include: Jason Tarver, current NFL, assistant linebacker coach for the San Francisco 49ers; Cug Le, Strikeforce and ELITE XC fighter and former Strikeforce Middleweight Champion, Doug Capilla, Major League Baseball player; Kit Lathrop, former NFL Defensive End/Defensive Tackle; and H. Paul Shuch, SETI scientist.

Kudos to Saratoga for Making these Lists



For those who are keeping track, during the last few years Saratoga has made the following lists:

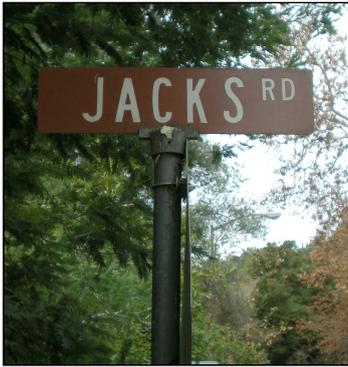
- 2008 CNN/Money ranked Saratoga number 4 in its listing of top-earning towns
- 2009 Saratoga was ranked by Forbes as one of America's top 20 most-educated small towns
- 2010 Bloomberg Businessweek named Saratoga as the most expensive suburb in California
- 2011 Bloomberg named Saratoga's zip code of 95070 the 18th richest zip code in America
- 2013 Home Listing Report listed Saratoga as the third most expensive housing market in the US
- 2013 SafeWise website ranked Saratoga as the number one safest city in California in the rankings of "The SafeWise Safest Cities in California"

Saratoga, a Town of Neat Homesteads

History of Santa Clara County, California (1881 edition) describes Saratoga: "Located as Saratoga is, on the foothills, the views from some points are magnificent. The mountains rise in irregular cones, one close upon another, some bold, others covered with timber or brush wood, and all running down into softly undulating hills dotted with evergreen and majestic live-oaks, which shelter many a neat homestead."

Just the Fact, Jack

Ever wonder how a street gets its name in Saratoga? In 1949, Dr. John E. Cox built his home on a road bordering Hakone Gardens. The city later named the road, “Jacks Road” to honor the memory and contributions of Dr. Cox.



Dr. Cox became a partner with Dr. Louis Mendelsohn (Senator Phelan’s private physician) after he received an MD degree in 1944 from

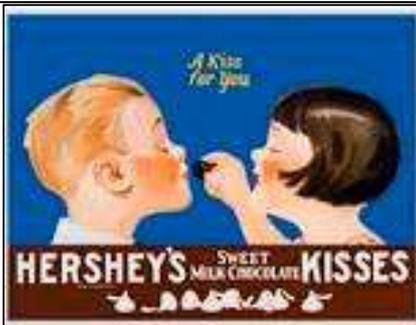
Stanford University.

He apparently once said he was one of the oldest students as he didn’t decide to become a doctor until late in life. He had quit school as a young teen and worked as a lithographer’s assistant in New York City. He worked in a veterans hospital in New Mexico before moving to California where he worked as an orderly and surgeon’s assistant at the Palo Alto Veterans Hospital. He later transferred to San Francisco where he decided to go back to high school, earn a diploma and obtain a degree in medicine.

He was very active in the Saratoga community. In addition to making house calls, he became a member of the Saratoga Men’s Club. He was elected to the Saratoga School District’s Board of Education and served for eight years. He also played a key role in the founding of the Saratoga Good Government Group which originated in his living room in the mid-1950s.

Wondering Where to Go to Celebrate Valentine’s Day?

Where is the best place to smooch (kiss) and for romance in Saratoga? According to a Fodors travel book, the best place to take a date, is Montalvo; to enjoy music, go to the Mountain Winery; for a romantic walk, stroll the Hakone Gardens; and for a kiss, back to the Mountain Winery.



Of course, “The Best Place to Kiss—a Romantic Guide in Northern California” and published by Zagat awards LaFondue restaurant (14450 Big Basin Way) that designation according to the

restaurant’s website. And those who follow fondue etiquette know that if a woman drops a piece of food in the pot she owes her date a kiss. If a man drops food in the pot, he must buy the next round of drinks! Such romance!

Or perhaps you favor a kiss of a different type—if so, you can get a Passion Kiss smoothy at Blendz (18560 Prospect Rd, Saratoga) or munch a chocolate Hershey kiss found at local store. Now that we have you thinking— where is your favorite place in Saratoga for a kiss? XOXOXOXO

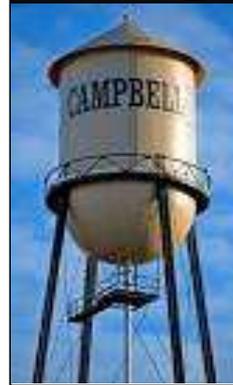
Home Sweet Home

This charming craftsman house was built in 1895 by Alice and George Hyde on 11995 Wallbrook Drive in Saratoga. The home was originally surrounded by 20 acres of walnut orchards—more than enough room for sons Otis, Elmer and



Ralph to romp in. They owned this home until 1929-30.

The house is listed on the Saratoga Heritage Resource inventory. Some of the key



features include the use of creek stone as support for the chimney, columns, and the foundation.

Hyde was superintendent of several ranches (including the Wakefield ranch) when he purchased the Campbell Fruit Growers Union and converted the property into a cannery and dehydrating plant in Campbell. In 1909 he became the major stockholder and changed the name to the George E. Hyde Company. Fruit canning began under the name of

Hyde Company in 1913 and was located on 13 acres. He operated this until 1929-1930. This complex later became known as Sunsweet until 1971, then it was known as “The Factory” in Campbell with retail stores. In 1918, Hyde bought the Campbell Water Company and was the owner until his death in 1933. His wife Alice was the president until her death in 1938. The Hyde family is credited with much of the development of Campbell and the downtown area.

In 1904 Hyde purchased land on either side of the drying yard for subdividing into housing lots. The first lot was built on March 27, 1917 and the Hyde family claimed it. The street was called Alice Avenue (sometimes called Alice Way)—the first street to be completed with homes—and named after Alice Hyde.

According to the Campbell Press, the garage was sometimes built first, and the property owners lived in it a season or two until funds and materials for the house could be built. One advertisement read, “In Hyde’s residence tract, a lot with nice double garage suitably arranged for housekeeping. Inquire at Millers’ Store, Campbell, California.”

President's Message

By Annette Stransky, President

The Saratoga Historical Foundation will have its annual review with the Saratoga City Council on January 15. The SHF board of directors always looks forward to meeting with the City Council and sharing the goals and opportunities being faced at the Saratoga Historical Park. Here's a sampling of what will be presented.

Highlights of 2013

The year 2013 was a good one for the Saratoga Historical Park with successful events, great exhibits, growing membership, and continued fiscal soundness.

Great Attendance At Events

Events are a good vehicle for creating awareness for SHF. Typically SHF information and membership forms are always available.

Three membership programs including one with standing room only were conducted. Noted Wine Historian Charles Sullivan gave a standing room only presentation on the history of local wineries. Four local wineries participated in an excellent wine tasting. Tim Zadel of Madronia Cemetery provided an entertaining presentation on people buried in Madronia entitled, "The Dead Speak." And a tantalizing presentation on "Who Poisoned Jane Stanford" was given by Historian John Hackmann.

Other off-site events where SHF had a booth included the annual 4th of July celebration, the 10th year celebration of the library and the Parks and Recreation Open House.

In 2013 the Blossom Festival was organized and produced by SHF with over 3500 people visiting the Heritage Orchard. Many community group participated making the event successful.

Heritage Day, an SVDC event, brought craftspeople demonstrating old time crafts, a band, Saratoga characters and many people to enjoy and explore the Historical Park.

The annual Open House, a Chamber of Commerce event, was very successful with wine tasting, Marshall Lane choir, Skillet Lickers, children's crafts, and a holiday exhibit.

Three special exhibits brought people into the museum including: The Blossom Festival; Betty and Willys Peck, the Heart of Saratoga; and A Victorian Christmas. Special events are a good vehicle for getting people to either return to see the museum or for a first time visit.

Successful Education Program

The education program received recognition from the City Council for its achievements. The education program, under the direction of Linda Hagelin, attracted 1000 students and scouts to learn about pioneering life in the 1870s. The Louise Cooper award was given to a high school student for work at the museum. And high school students are receiving

community service hours for working as a docent along with an adult.

Growing List of Volunteers

The dream of the museum is to have the museum open more hours but to date the lack of volunteers has prevented fulfillment. We thank our museum docents for their hard work with a list of 21 people participating. And kudos to the education docents who worked 33 days to teach pioneer life. And a big thank you to the volunteers who helped make all the events so successful.

New Projects to Enhance the Saratoga Historical Park

Two big projects underway include the blacksmith exhibit and furnishings in the McWilliams House. The blacksmith exhibit, in planning stage, will be an interactive display explaining the agricultural, timber, and other items on display.

After review by three consultants, a committee was formed to furnish the McWilliams House in the 1860-1880 period.

Thanks to grants in 2013 by the Saratoga Rotary, Summit League and the city of Saratoga, money is available to make improvements.

Donations

The Museum's collection continues to grow—so much that the city is leasing a storage unit to SHF. We

appreciate the community donations which enable us to improve our permanent exhibits as well as to create interesting special exhibits.

Membership

Membership continues to grow with a dynamic campaign planned for 2014. We appreciate the continued support of SHF members.

Funding-Grants

SHF received financing from three sources in 2013: the city of Saratoga, Rotary, and Summit League—the largest number of grants in one year received.

Our BBQ held at Hakone Gardens had over 180 people attend—or one of the largest.

Challenges of 2014—Civic Pride

The challenges of 2014 will continue as we look to increase membership; improve membership offerings; improve our revenue stream; improve our image and create increased awareness for the value of preserving history.

The late Willys Peck said it best, "A community that mushrooms into a city without consciousness or regard for its historical antecedents too often is a community without character, a community which, to its thousands of new inhabitants, has nothing to distinguish it from others in which they have lived. It is, too often, just another city.

"But when the life of a community can be seasoned with tradition and an awareness of the contributions of its past citizens the benefits extend far beyond the momentary interest stirred by the revelation of some particular historical fact.

For then there is identity, a standard to maintain, a stimulus for further creative effort. Of such ingredients is that most desirable of municipal traits, civic pride.."



Vince Garrod—Story teller and Saver of Memories (1918-2013)



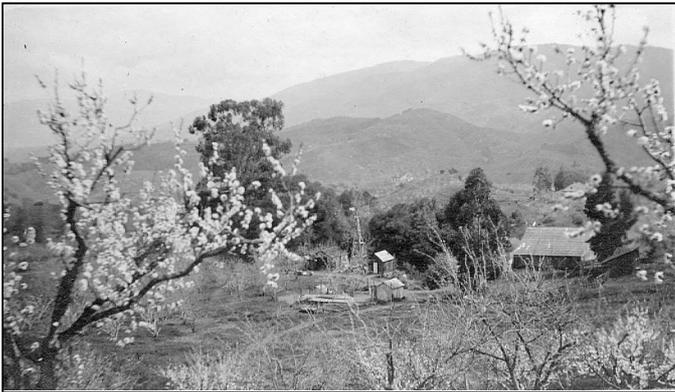
Vince Garrod delighted friends and family with hospitality on Mount Eden Road and with his many stories of early Saratoga. The following are a few of his stories captured in the book, *Gulchin' Out* by Vince Garrod.

“Gulchin’ Out”—This expression is a colloquial term that means “to haul out of a gulch.” It was probably originated by the early woodcutters and is used almost exclusively in Santa

Clara and San Mateo Counties by those who lived and worked in the coastal mountains.

We used it all the time when we talked about hauling out fruit from the orchards or hauling out firewood and any other time we had to bring something in from the orchard or pasture.

Dobe Gulch—These stories are about my experiences and memories of a life in Dobe Gulch. This is what the natives called the little valley of the Calabasas Creek through which Mt. Eden Road now travels.



This little valley had many names. Early on, the residents of the village of Saratoga called it Cow Hollow. It was unclaimed land, mostly open grassland and easy to send the cows over to graze. The grass stayed green longer because of the very heavy (adobe) soil and heavier rainfall than out in the Santa Clara Valley.

It was also called Mt. Eden Valley, named after the first large vineyard in it owned by Mr. Guppy, who called his vineyard, Mt. Eden. The road was named Mt. Eden, after this vineyard.

Another name for it has been Azule Valley, named after the soda springs that are up in a canyon just off the valley. It was at these springs that a resort was developed in the early 1900s and the railroad junction and station at Saratoga-Sunnyvale Road was called Azule Station. During Prohibition, these Azule Springs had a brief term as a speakeasy club and, a little later, as an actual location for a large still.

New London was what it was called by some because most of the settlers on the upper (northern) end were all from England.

But the best name is Dobe Gulch, called this because of the very heavy clay soil that is unbearably sticky when it is wet. The other place in the county where this type of soil is found

is around Alviso. People described it as only workable between 12:00 PM and 12:30 PM. Because it was in the hills, they also described it as a good piece of ground that had been put up on its edge so it could be farmed on more than one side. I called it home. “

Actress Joan Fontaine—Famed Resident of Saratoga (1917-2013)

Joan Fontaine daughter of actress Lilian Fontaine and sister Olivia deHavilland, lived in Saratoga and received an Oscar for her role in *Suspicion* and has a star on the Walk of Fame. She starred in Broadway plays and had a career that spanned over 60 years. Fontaine also wrote an autobiography in 1978, “No Bed of Roses.” A book signing was held in Saratoga.



In an interview with author Audry Lynch in 2010, Fontaine recalled fond memories of Saratoga including the Hakone Gardens, the first library (BookGoRound) where she organized books for five cents, Montalvo, and the orchards.



Everyone a Happy New Year with Good Luck and

The new year-- symbols of good luck include a four leaf clover—good luck to the person who finds one. Or carrying a rabbits foot—rabbits were considered harbingers of spring and to see a rabbit running through your yard meant it would be a good year to have children (not to have a garden). Luck did not apply to the rabbit.

Finding a penny was good luck--remember the rhyme, “find a penny, pick it up, and all day long you’ll have good luck?”

Saving the wishbone from a turkey, drying it and then two people using their pinky finger to pull each end-- while making a wish meant the one with the snapped off larger piece would be granted their wish.

A horseshoe hung in homes protect and attracts good fortune. Hung upside down, it meant the luck would run out.

Goldfish, considered harbingers of good fortune, and kept in bowls or ponds brings good luck (and raccoons).

Seeing a rainbow is lucky because if you find the end of the rainbow, you’ll find a pot of gold.

Wearing three keys together symbolizes unlocking the doors to health, wealth and love.

Wearing amber protects against injury, evil and brings good luck.

Hanging a dreamcatcher enables the dreamcatcher to catch the negative parts of dreams and brings good luck.

Saratoga Historical Foundation



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Gertrude Atherton---Friend of Senator Phelan

California Author Gertrude Atherton spent so much time in Saratoga, Senator Phelan reserved a bedroom in his home at Villa Montalvo just for her. The two remained fast friends throughout their lives with a common interest of the arts and politics. The bedroom was decorated in her favorite color, pink.



Gertrude was courted by George Atherton, heir to the 500 acre Atherton estate. After his father's death in 1877, his estate became the town of Atherton.

According to Jim Rawls, "Theirs was a stormy relationship. Gertrude blossomed into a successful writer, eventually producing nearly sixty books. Among her most popular works were romantic California histories, *Before the Gringo Came* (1894) and *The Splendid Idle Forties* (1902). She also was an outspoken feminist. Some of her novels and essays were powerful critiques of domesticity and the subjugation of women. One of her later novels, *The Sophisticates* (1931), included sensational scenes of the rejuvenation of older women. Meanwhile George was becoming increasingly possessive and intensely jealous of his wife.

After ten years of fractious marriage, George Atherton sailed to Chile. A few days out at sea, he died of a ruptured kidney. His body was packed in a barrel of rum and shipped back to the family in California. According to popular legend, the barrel arrived at the Athertons' home where an unknowing butler popped the lid to get at the rum and was shocked to find his master floating inside. "

**Dr. History's Whizz-Bang—Favorite Stories
of California's Past by Jim Rawls**

In memoriam

Roy Denman
Alice Hunt

