



# Saratoga Historical Foundation

PO Box 172, Saratoga CA 95071

July 2016

## Support the August 13 Saratoga Historical Foundation Estate Sale Today!!!!

It is not too late to rummage through the garage, check your closet, or poke through drawers to find items to donate to the Saratoga Historical Foundation's estate sale according to Fund Development Director Bob Himel.

Funds from the estate sale will finance programs, services, and events. Membership, donations and fundraising events are the main sources of income for the museum and children's education programs.

### ***How You Can Help***

There are three ways you can contribute: donate items, buy something, or donate money!

### ***Donate Items!***

Bring your items before the sale—the sale takes place Saturday, August 13 from 9 to 3 PM at the museum. The museum is located at 20450

Saratoga-Los Gatos Road. It is open from 1-4 on Friday and Sunday—from 10-4 PM on Saturday. If you have difficulty coming those days or need transportation, please call 408-867-4311 and we'll make arrangements.

### ***Buy Something!!!***

If you don't have anything to donate—come on by and find a treasure or two. Need a vase for the next time you take flowers to a friend or maybe a pretty plate to take some cookies to a neighbor. Or maybe you want to re-decorate your house with some new artwork? Buy a framed photo of San

Francisco. Or maybe buy a collectible postcard, Coca-Cola item, or a giant letter from San Francisco's Playland! Remember Playland? There are many items to choose from—jewelry, plants, lovely dishes and more—just waiting for your discriminating selection. Cash or check, please—no credit cards.

But come early, the good items will sell fast!



### ***Donate Money!!!***

Or make a donation the old fashioned way!!Cash or check makes a handsome donation, too! Tax deductible and best of all you're helping us preserve Saratoga's rich history. Mail your check today to SHF, PO Box 172, Saratoga, CA 95071.

## Honoring Betty and Willys Peck



How does a city honor citizens who have been critical to the evolution and character of the city?? One way is by works of art. Saratoga's well-known historian Willys Peck, now deceased, and his legendary teacher-author wife, Betty are such people.

The Saratoga Historical Foundation is sponsoring the creation of life-size bronze figures of Willys and Betty Peck sitting on their famous "Count Your Blessings" bench, with room for people to sit next to them. Noted sculptor Jerry Smith has agreed to render the statues using the "lost wax" process. Smith has created many sculptures including a bronze work for the Saratoga Foothill Club, Bellarmine College, Santa Clara University and more. No public money is being sought for the project, instead it will be financed by private donations.

### 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>.

Willys and Betty Peck have both contributed much to the community. Willys Peck a historian, lawyer, newspaperman, train buff and playwright died in 2013. Peck worked for the Mercury News for a total of 55 years. The lifelong resident of Saratoga documented his memories of Saratoga in several books and worked to preserve Saratoga's rich history.

Betty Peck, known as an innovative educator has spent over 55 years in early education. She created the first community garden in Saratoga. She is also an author of two books on early education.

City Manager James Lindsay, Vice Mayor Emily Lo and Council member Mary-Lynne Bernald are supporting this effort to bring more public art to Saratoga. Placement of the final work will be determined later, but two locations are currently being considered: Blaney Plaza facing Willys and Betty's beloved town; the front area of the Saratoga History Museum.

A committee, chaired by Hugh Roberts, has been formed to raise the funds. The idea of creating artwork to recognize Betty and Willys Peck originated in the Peck's garden with a group of like-minded individuals several years ago. The two embody the heart and spirit of Saratoga. The goal is to raise \$70,000, half right away to get the project underway in order to have it completed within one year.

Names of all contributors will be on a scroll given to Betty Peck. Contributions over \$250 will receive a copy of Willys' book, Saratoga Stereopticon, autographed by Betty Peck in appreciation. All contributions should be sent to the Saratoga Historical Foundation, PO Box 172 Saratoga CA 95071 noting ATTN Peck Bench. Tax deductible confirmation will be provided. More information can be found by e-mailing [info@saratogahistory.com](mailto:info@saratogahistory.com) or contacting Hugh Roberts at: [Hugh.Roberts@icloud.com](mailto:Hugh.Roberts@icloud.com). You can also donate: [www.gofundme.com/willysbettypeck](http://www.gofundme.com/willysbettypeck).  
By Hugh Roberts

## Calendar at a Glance

August 1-	Celebrating a Century of Key Events in Saratoga—new exhibit
Nov. 15	
August 13	Fund raiser for the museum: Wstate Sale on the patio at the museum— donate your items today!
September 17	10 AM- City of Saratoga Parade along Big Basin Way 1-4 PM Open house at the museum with free walking tours, author book signing and more

## Attend the Mid-Autumn Festival on September 18—Free!



The Mid-Autumn Festival will take place September 18 at the Saratoga History Museum from 1-4 PM. Highlights include moon cake tasting, music, children's crafts and more. The event is produced by the Organization of Chinese American Women-Silicon Valley Chapter (OCAW-SVC).

## Free Lecture on Heinlenville Chinatown on September 18 at the Museum



A special presentation will be given by Author Connie Young Yu on Heinlenville Chinatown as part of the Mid-Autumn Festival on September 18 at 1:00 PM. Heinlenville Chinatown was one of five Chinatowns that existed until the 1930s in San Jose. Connie has been producing a documentary on the area with sponsorship by the California History Center at De Anza College. She researched and wrote the documentary with Barre Fong providing the filming. The property is slated for development as a complex of housing and



multi-use buildings. Featured in the film's narrative is Saratoga-born Sgt. Sing Kee, hero of WWI, who was welcomed back in Heinlenville.

John Heinlen, a farmer and businessman, planned a six block Chinatown with brick structures with water and pipes in the area of Sixth Street and Cleveland Street in 1887, to the dismay of the non-Chinese public and caused public outrage. The area was then known as "Heinlenville" and contained a variety of merchants, barbers, traditional doctors, and Chinese herbal medicine. and the Ng Shing Gung temple. The area was surrounded by Little Italy and co-existed harmoniously, but then dwindled in the 1920s as the younger generations sought careers outside the area and with a lack of new Chinese coming in due to the Chinese Exclusion Act, the area lost almost all of its Chinese population. Some artifacts from this Chinatown are now located in Kelley Park. At the time, an existing Japantown nearby was evacuated due to the war, but was repopulated after the internment of the Japanese-Americans.

## Type-Cast—the Blickensderfer Typewriter



One of the more interesting aspects of the Saratoga History Museum are some of the donations received. Recently a Model 7 Blickensderfer typewriter was donated by the estate of Fred

and Carol Evans. The 1897 typewriter, one of the first portable typewriters, came with its original oak case.

George Blickensderfer introduced the Model 5 in 1893 at the Columbian Exhibition in Chicago. His secretary demonstrated the machine typing letters to her parents at 60 words per minute.

The Blickensderfer typewriter was originally intended to compete with Remington desk typewriters, but ended up being known for its portability.



Instead of the common mechanism with letters on the end of individual bars connected to the keys, the Blickensderfer used a cylindrical wheel with letters embossed on it. Pressing a key caused the

cylinder to turn so the correct letter was positioned over the paper, and continuing caused it to be inked by a roller as it moved to press down on the paper. The mechanism is very similar to the IBM Selectric design introduced decades later, with the only major change being the shape of the striker. Like the Selectric, one could easily change the typeface on a Blickensderfer simply by changing the type cylinder.

The Blickensderfer system dramatically reduced complexity of the design. A typical example

contained only 250 parts, compared to the 2,500 parts of a standard typewriter. It was much smaller, lighter, and cheaper than other typewriters. The first known aluminum typewriter (marketed as the Blickensderfer 6 or the "Featherweight Blick") was made by Blickensderfer, as was the first electric typewriter.

Early Blickensderfers were also notable for their keyboard layout. The home row of keys contained the most commonly used letters, DHIATENSOR, allowing the keyboardist to keep their hands on the home row as much as possible, minimizing extraneous hand movement and increasing efficiency. Since the Blickensderfer used the letter wheel, the "scientific" keyboard layout could be used for maximum typing efficiency.

The Model 5, was so good that 35 years after it first appeared, Remington bought the tools and dies and marketed through Sears an exact replica.

The export market was important for the Blickensderfer typewriter company from the very beginning. The machine was sold to England, Germany, France, New Zealand and Canada to begin with. One of the strong points was the interchangeable type-wheel that was produced for many different languages, including Slovak, Armenian and Hebrew. By 1896, he was producing some 10,000 machines per year.



When World War I begun it was a heavy blow for the Blickensderfer export market and the company almost went under. However,

George invented a device to feed cartridges into machine guns along a belt. Again, he signed a tremendous export order and sold the device to the French government for several years.

In 1901, George invented the first electric typewriter, a breathtaking electric typewriter, that in functionality and speed was not matched until IBM introduced the famous typeball (golf ball model) half a century later. Although the machine was advertised, sales never got off the ground and only three samples of the Electric are known to exist today.

## Saratoga's Arch Once Endangered

The stately Memorial Arch that stands in Blaney Plaza was built in 1918 as a monument to those who lost their lives during World War I. It was one of the first monuments dedicated to WWI in the state.

The arch stood as a silent sentinel for 46 years until 1965. At that time, the arch formed a perfect frame of Saratoga-Los Gatos Road—as far as the eye could see. The need to alleviate traffic on Highway 9 and Saratoga-Los Gatos Road called for a re-design by Cal-Trans. The new design would roll through a corner of the Plaza, taking the arch and an Italian pine with it.

Somewhat ironic since the man who spearheaded the founding of the park and the arch was the state's first highway commissioner, Charles Blaney.

The city council had to decide whether to move the arch to the city corporation yard where it would be stored or to raze the arch.

Then Saratoga Historical Foundation and President



Willys Peck championed to preserve the arch intact and to return it to a position of prominence after Blaney Plaza was redesigned and finished. Peck said that it was important to preserve parts of the past and that since it was no longer possible to preserve the Congress Springs for public view, that restoration of landmarks such as the arch were all that is left.

The arch was moved 75 yards away to a location behind the firehouse. In 1966 the arch was returned to the re-designed park. The original fountain/gold fish pond was no longer part of the design, The arch could not be placed in the center because the plaza was reduced in size -- but preserved the vision of the Saratogans of 1916 who gave to future generations a tree-shaded city park and a lasting monument to "The War to End All Wars."

One additional change was made to the arch. In 1998, the Heritage Preservation Commission voted to paint the arch back to its original state of white – somewhere along the ages it had been painted yellow.

### *Symbol of Preservation*



There was one more symbol that became part of the Saratoga's Historical Foundation's legacy—a seal with the Memorial Arch was developed. Shortly after the

Memorial Arch was returned to the park, the Saratoga Historical Foundation unveiled a seal, commissioned by Harry Hambly, picturing the plaza with the arch. The design was created by Mrs. Frederic Nylander. The seal is presently used on the SHF newsletter masthead—a graphic reminder of the Foundation's mission—to preserve Saratoga's history.

### **SHF Executive Board Re-Elected**

The Saratoga Historical Foundation board of director's voted in June to re-elect Annette Stransky as president; Bob Himel as vice president; and Yuchi Wang as treasurer. The term is for one year.

President Annette Stransky notes, "As an all-volunteer group we've accomplished much this last year. Some of the highlights:

- ) increasing the number of hours the museum is open on Saturday – we are now open from 10-4 PM—enabling more people, especially working people to enjoy seeing the museum, McWilliams house, and one-room schoolhouse. We continue to be open from 1-4 PM on Friday and Sunday.
- ) resident John Che donated \$10,000 towards the blacksmith exhibit—moving us closer to our \$80,000 goal.
- ) the Blossom Festival, in its fourth year, continues to grow and adds to our mission's success in preserving Saratoga's history thanks to funding by the City of Saratoga
- ) outreach to the community with the Mid-Autumn festival and India Festival
- ) produced 3 well-received programs and exhibits, and recognized 3 Saratogans for their contributions with the Honoring Saratogan event.
- ) completed the scullery in the McWilliams house and are now working on the kitchen
- ) education group continues to reach many schools and students by teaching pioneer living classes. A fifth grade class was added this year.
- ) continue to accept and care for the many donations for the museum collection—one donation was highlighted in this issue
- ) continue to remain fiscally stable

These highlights could not be achieved without the support of the board of directors: Ray Cosyn, Bill Ford, Ernie Kraule, Linda and Ron Hagelin, Jim Sorden, Rina Shah, Michael Whalen; and our liaisons Lynette Breed, Jeff Johnson, Alex Nugent, and Mary-Lynn Bernald.

Thank you, also, to our membership for your loyal support.

## Living On Evans Lane



Fred and Carol Evans lived in Saratoga many years ago. Their orchard was on the property now known as Evans Lane just off of Sobeys Road.

Fred's father, William B. moved to

Campbell from Racine Wisconsin at the turn of the century.

Carol Knapp grew up on Oak Street in Saratoga. Her father Burt Knapp owned a quarry.

## Celebrating Olivia deHavilland's 100th Birthday

Two 48- page books were filled with birthday wishes and sent to Olivia deHavilland. People came from up



and down the peninsula to pen a message.

One person wrote, "Happy 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday! Thank you so much, again, for helping to save Oak Street School. You

wrote a letter for us when we were discussing closing the school. I know your letter made a difference and we saved the historic school."

Another wrote, "Dear Miss deHavilland, my family has always loved your movies and your performances.



I teach kindergarten at the Oak Street/Saratoga Elementary school—now some 165 years old. I pass by your beautiful photo at the

entrance to the school, and I'm reminded of the importance of teaching the arts to the children.

Performing in plays is always one of the kindergartner's favorite activities. Happy 100<sup>th</sup> birthday!

Another wrote, "Happy Birthday, I'm the daughter of Dolores Chaboya, she went to grammar school with you. Do you remember being late for school one day and climbing in the window? You accidently gave her

a bloody nose. She always thought you were so pretty. Hope you day is wonderful."

One wrote, "Olivia—No reason to remember me, but I did meet you several years ago at Los Gatos High School's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. What we have in common is the citizenship cup which you received in 1934 and I received 16 years later in 1950. I was so honored to have my name on the same beautiful trophy. We were allowed to keep the beautiful, tall silver trophy for a whole year! I bragged a lot about being a winner of a trophy with your name on it! God bless this world for having persons like you."

Another person wrote, "Dear Olivia, Just wanted to wish you a wonderful birthday and many, many more!! My wife and I live on the street named after you which we purchased 21 years ago and have enjoyed every minute especially knowing it's named after such a special person."



And another wrote, "Dear Olivia, I wish you the best birthday ever! I lived on Douglass Lane in Saratoga from 1973 until the late 1970's.

I lived in Miss Harriet Parson's home on 10 acres of apricots, across the one lane road from the Goodrich estate, the Hayfield House. During the time I was privileged to meet Mary, Mr. Goodrich's housekeeper. She was so kind to let me use the swimming pool many times, and also tour the big house. She told me of your visits there and showed me pictures of you they had around the home. The house now has another owner, and I'd heard that the Goodrich's had left a home for Mary on La Paloma, the street where your family home had been. Your family home still looks the same on the outside as I had seen it years ago."

The birthday books were mailed with an assortment of Saratoga-themed gifts.

Historian Ray Cosyn showed the first half of the film, *Gone With the Wind* as part of the celebration.

## Celebrating a Century of Key Events in Saratoga— New Exhibit

A new exhibit opened August 8 celebrating key events that occurred in Saratoga's first one hundred years. The exhibit starts with the Pacific Congress Springs in the 1860s and ends with the year Saratoga was incorporated.

The exhibit runs through mid-November. The museum is open from 1-4 Friday and Sunday and from 10-4 PM on Saturday. Free admission.

## City Parade Sept. 17— Museum Open House



Circle the date—a parade is coming to Saratoga. The parade is in celebration of the anniversary of Saratoga's incorporation. Floats, cars, people walking, bands and more will be featured in the free parade.

The last parade was 10 years ago when the city celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The event was celebrated throughout the year with organizations planning various activities.

The Saratoga History Museum will feature an Open House that day with free walking tours, light refreshments, music, author's signing books and more from 1-4 PM.

## New Book About Pacific Congress Springs Available



A new book about the Pacific Congress Springs, once the largest resort on the West Coast, and located in Saratoga is available in the Saratoga History Museum's gift shop.

The book was written by Ian L. Sanders and Michael F. Brookman. Brookman is a former Saratogan.

The two gave a presentation on the topic earlier in the year to the SHF membership. The 92-page book is filled with interesting postcards and images of the famous resort. Coverage of Azule Mineral Springs is

also included. The first two books written by the duo on mineral springs in Santa Clara County were "The Mineral Springs of Santa Clara County" and "A Hundred Years of Gilroy Hot Springs, 1860s — 1960s."

## Thanks to All Our Volunteers

The annual appreciation party was held on July 10 to thank the many volunteers who help produce events, programs, and more for the Saratoga Historical Foundation.



The volunteers included museum docents, education docents, Blossom Festival, McWilliams house committee, decorating committee, walking tour guides, photography volunteer and more.

According to President Annette Stransky, "History museums give us roots, enhance community pride, teach and inspire us. Museums make a community more attractive and dynamic. We are fortunate to have such a wonderful museum,

McWilliams House, and schoolhouse. It is thanks to you, our volunteers who help us produce programs and services for the enjoyment of the community.

Thank you for helping preserve Saratoga's history!"



And thank you Rina Shah for organizing the food and music.





**Saratoga Historical Foundation**  
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### Getting Organized



This hardy crew worked for two days, five hours a day to straighten the museum’s resource files. The new system was recommended by former Santa Clara librarian Mary Hanel. The crew looked happier than this picture shows after enjoying a pizza!.

### Your Own Neighborhood Library

This little neighborhood library was recently seen in



Saratoga. Neighbors simply bring a book to share and put it in the slot. Or borrow a book and return it so others can enjoy.

Remembering Doug Anderson— Our thoughts and prayers are with your family