



Saratoga Historical Foundation

PO Box 172, Saratoga CA 95071

May 2019

The History of Moffett Field— Lecture on May 28

The Saratoga Historical Foundation will host a lecture entitled, "The History of Moffett Field—From Lighter Than Air to Faster Than Sound" on May 28 at the Saratoga Foothill Club (20399 Park Place in Saratoga, CA) at 7:30 PM.



In 1930, the city of Sunnyvale sold a 1,000-acre parcel of farmland bordering San Francisco Bay for \$1 to the US government as a home base for the Navy airship USS Macon. Tom Spink will give a presentation covering the displays within the Moffett Field Museum, cared for by the Moffett Field Historical Society. The presentation covers the nearly 90 years of service to the US by the numerous organizations home-based at Moffett Field through many eras. In addition, there is an Air Park with many aircraft that flew out of Moffett, being restored.

Listed on the National Register

The Hangars One, Two, and Three, and the adjacent Shenandoah Plaza are collectively designated as a National Historic District listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Hangar One is one of the world's largest freestanding structures, covering 8 acres. The hangar was constructed in 1931. Hangar One is a Naval Historical Monument, Historic American Engineering Record CA-335, State of California Historic Civil Engineering Landmarks. In May 2008, The National Trust for Historic Preservation listed Hangar One on their list of America's Most Endangered Places.

Hangars #2 and #3 are some of the world's largest freestanding wood structures. The hangars were constructed when the US Navy established ten "lighter-than-air" (LTA) bases across the United States during World War II as part of the coastal defense plan. Seven of the original seventeen of these wooden hangars still exist: two at Moffett Field, two at Tustin, California, one at Tillamook, Oregon, and two at Lakehurst, New Jersey.

The adjacent NASA Ames Research Center is also home to several wind tunnels, including the Unitary Plan Wind Tunnel (Mountain View, California) (a National Historic Landmark), and the National Full-Scale Aerodynamic Complex (NFAC).

Google leases the land

On November 10, 2014, NASA announced that it would be leasing the joint civil/military airfield to Google for 60 years.

What other changes have taken place? Come to the lecture and find out!

The lecture is free for Saratoga Historical Foundation members. A \$5.00 donation is asked for nonmembers. No reservation required.

Potluck at 6:30; lecture at 7:30 PM

If you would like to join us for the potluck which takes place at 6:30 PM, bring food to share, your own eating utensils and plates and a beverage of choice. Coffee or tea will be available. For more information go up to www.saratogahistory.com or call 408-867-4311.

Apron Exhibit Brings Back Memories

Museums capture memories and events of the past. The



recent apron exhibit touched many who shared their memories. Here are some of those memories:

“My sister-in-law made aprons for the women attending my mother’s “celebration of life.” She did it because Mom always wore an apron. Every time I wear it I am reminded of Mom and

her wonderful cooking.”

“Betty Wesson Peck and I baked hearty loaves of bread every Thursday in her kindergarten class at the Saratoga Grammar School on Oak Street for 7 years! (1978-1984). While Nancy Payne taught the children gardening and composition in our play garden, Betty Peck taught singing, games, and told fairy tales to other apron-clad boys and girls. Children clamored around the baking table, grinding wheat berries, barley, millet, and rye seeds. Then they would knead and shape the dough into round loaves after watching the miracle of dry yeast, warm water and honey cause the loaves to rise. We learned about nibbles or the consequences of upset

tummies and gas! We celebrated in the play garden, crowning the King or Queen of Ecology (hardest workers or gentle “little teachers”) and eating the wholesome bread! We would chant “I can taste the rain.. I can taste the labors of the honey bee.. I can taste the sunshine”...!” Jennie Taylor

“I remember both of my grandmothers wearing aprons whenever we were there for a visit or dinner. This was in San Jose in the late 40’s and 50’s. The one I remember the most was my dad’s mom. She always had big pockets in her apron and each time my sister and brother visited her she would reach into one of those pockets. What a treat. She would have a Hershey bar for each one of us. Thanks! Grandma G.

“I saw several aprons that reminded me of my Noni— my Italian grandmother. She wore them when she made homemade raviolis! Great display.” Tess C.

Memorial Day May 27



Memorial Day is one of Saratoga’s special traditions dating back to 1928 when the Foothill Club initiated the ceremony. At

9:30 AM in Blaney Plaza the Scouts will raise the US flag, place a wreath in front of the Memorial Arch and the audience will leave Blaney Plaza and walk up Oak Street to Madronia cemetery. Graves of veterans dating as far back as the Civil War and decorated with laurel

and US flags serves as a backdrop to the ceremony. The ceremony includes music, prayers, and a talk honoring a local Saratogan.



contact us

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 PM on Fridays and Sundays and from 10-4 PM on Saturdays. For more information, i.e. group tours, you can call 408-867-4311 or e-mail

info@saratogahistory.com or check the website at www.saratogahistory.com. Newsletter suggestions can be sent to the editor at: annette@saratogahistory.com.

UPCOMING Events

May- September

Home Sweet Home—new exhibit at the Museum

May 25

Walking Tour, 1 PM meet in front of the Museum at 20450 Saratoga-Los Gatos Road.

May 28

The History of Moffett Field- Saratoga Foothill Club Potluck at 6:30, Lecture at 7:30 PM

June 9

Honoring Saratogans – Saratoga Foothill Club, 5-7 PM Catered dinner. Must buy a ticket.

Home Sweet Home—May 17

A new exhibit, “Home Sweet Home” will debut May 11 and run through the end of September at the Saratoga History Museum. Homes and the architects who designed them will be featured in this new exhibit. Saratoga has many homes designed by famed architects



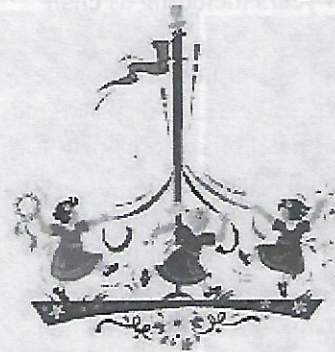
including Julia Morgan, Willis Polk and others. “The White House” shown above was designed by Williams Weeks in 1911 for George Wood. Wood named the home “Woodleigh” although locals sometimes call the stately Georgian home “the White House.” Built five years after the 1906 earthquake the house was reinforced with steel rods. Aerial photos of Saratoga will also be on exhibit. The Saratoga History Museum is located at 20450 Saratoga-Los Gatos Road in Saratoga. The museum is open 1-4 PM Friday, 10-4 PM Saturday, and 1-4 PM on Sunday. Admission is free. For more information go up to www.saratogahistory.com or call 408-867-4311.

Walking Tour—May 25



For the month of May only and in honor of Heritage Preservation month, come by the museum and take a free, docent-led walking tour. The informative tour takes you on a walk along Oak Street, Big Basin Way, and Saratoga-Los Gatos Road. Enjoy healthy exercise and learn about your community! No reservation required.

Celebrating May Day



Friends and family gathered to celebrate May Day with Betty Peck. As the trumpet announced the beginning, the costumed Queen arrived, fiddlers played, songs were sung, Spring and Winter dueled, dancing around the

Maypole took place, and mass quantities of strawberry shortcake were consumed. Happy May day, Betty!

New Facebook Page

Be sure to check out the new Facebook page for the Saratoga Historical Foundation at: <https://www.facebook.com/SaratogaHistory> and click the like button! Our thanks to Anjali Kausar for helping create the new Facebook page.

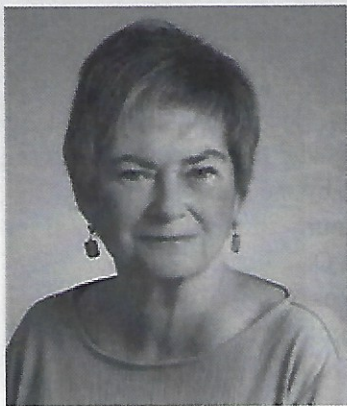
In Memoriam
Sandra Whalen

Sixth Annual Honoring Saratogans Celebration—June 9

The Saratoga Historical Foundation will honor three people for community service, local history and public service on June 9 with a catered dinner. This year's honorees are Joyce Hlava, Reiko Iwanaga, and David Moyles.

Joyce Hlava

Joyce Hlava has lived in Saratoga since 1976. After serving as an aide to the Vice Mayor of San Jose for three years, Hlava spent the next 14 years in marketing including starting a company. She later worked for five years at two high tech companies.



Hlava has always been interested in politics and the community. She was on the City Council from 1984-88 and

served as mayor from 1986-87. She has served on the planning commission for 14 years including as chair three times.

She is active in the community volunteering for the League of Women Voters for 25 years, AAUW, Friends of the Library, holding board positions as president for the Saratoga Foothill Club and Saratoga Foothill Club Landmark Foundation.

Hlava has three children and six grandchildren

Reiko Iwanaga

Reiko Iwanaga has fond memories of living in Saratoga. She notes she used to be a regular customer at Bob Cancelleri's bakery and bought her wedding gown at a boutique on Big Basin Way. Her company, At Your Request, and her business partner are based in Saratoga.



Reiko's Saratoga commitments include being

president of the Saratoga Rotary and its Charitable Foundation, Hakone Foundation, Saratoga Foothill Club,

Saratoga Sister City and stints as president of various PTAs, as her four children attended Saratoga schools.

A high energy worker and volunteer, Iwanaga was voted Saratoga Citizen of the Year in 1991 for her community service. She has also received awards for cultural and community service from the Japanese Cultural Hall of Fame, Japanese American Citizens League, Buddhist Churches of America Wisteria and Bodhi Awards, Commendations from the California Assembly, the Consul General of Japan in Los Angeles, Saratoga City Council, and San Jose Buddhist Church Besuin.

Iwanaga has four children and seven grandchildren.

David Moyles

David Moyles moved to Saratoga in 1956 with his



parents when Lockheed opened its Sunnyvale facility and transferred his father from Burbank. He recalls the commute from their Reid Lane home to Lockheed had one traffic light at the time.

Moyles grew up in Saratoga and attended Saratoga schools. He demonstrated his

leadership early by being a Student Body President at Saratoga High School.

He served on the Saratoga City Council from 1982-1990 including a term as Mayor. He became mayor at the age of 29 and was practicing law at the time. He continues to hold the title of the youngest mayor in Saratoga. Moyles served on the Santa Clara County Traffic Authority, Saratoga Fire Protection District Commissioner, Vestry of St. Andrews Church and the Board of the Saratoga Foothill Club Landmark Foundation.

Moyles worked as an attorney for 31 years at the Boccardo Law Firm in San Jose before retiring.

Moyles and his wife have two sons and one daughter.

Make Your Reservations Now

The event will take place at the Saratoga Foothill Club, 20399 Park Place in Saratoga from 5-7 PM. A catered dinner, wine, and live music will be provided.

Registration will take place until June 1—be sure to place your reservation now. SHF members pay \$50 per person and nonmembers pay \$55 per person. Send your check to: Honoring Saratogans/SHF, PO Box 172, Saratoga, CA 95071.

Then and Now Photos

Johnson Kerr built this one and one-half story building in 1910 on 14413-14415 Big Basin Way. The false front building was decorated with small towers. He also built the Saratoga State Bank (now a bar called The Bank on Big Basin Way). In 1914 the building was purchased by Dr. Robert Hogg who leased it to various tenants including a post office, drug store, grocery store and clothing store.



Today the building has been altered to have a flat roof. Many memories were associated in the 50's with this building—a drug store with real milk shakes, Whitlow's sports apparel where students bought PE clothes. Swanee's dress shop which is just a piece of roof and awning shown on the right of the photo was later moved to Saratoga-Los Gatos Road to become the museum. Today's stores include the Big Basin Burger Bar, Golden Mirror, Fat Robin, UPS and more. Star One is in the spot where Swanee's was located. Many thanks to Ernie Kraule for providing photo identification, history, and Google Earth snaps.



Foresters in Saratoga in the 1800's

The family of William W. Smead (1875-1896) recently



donated this ribbon worn by Forester members for meetings and funerals.

Smead was one of the founders of the Foresters in Saratoga Court Number 146 during the late 1800s.

The Foresters were originally a British Friendly Society, an organization that cared for the sick. Later the group was known as the Friendly Society, the Ancient Order of Foresters. The US became independent of the organization in 1874.

Dr. Oronhyatekha is credited with transforming the Foresters into one of North America's leading fraternal benefit societies. Through the 20th century it was merged with various other fraternal organizations including the Ancient Order of United Workmen.

Like other friendly societies and fraternal organizations of the time, Foresters helped transform the insurance industry by extending insurance benefits to the average working family. In addition to admitting women as full members, Foresters provided orphan benefits to the children of deceased Foresters members.



they also help local communities in need including funding educational scholarships.

The front of the ribbon has an enamel clasp and the ribbon is in red, white and blue with silver

lettering. The back of the ribbon is black with silver lettering.

New Children's Activity Book Covers Saratoga History

The Pioneer Living classes recently got an added boost with a Coloring and Activity book created by local Artist Mary Ann Henderson.

Henderson designed the lovely 40-page Activity book that tells the history of Saratoga through activities. Students can play games, bake a cake, go to the museum to see interesting items and even learn about Saratoga landmarks.

According to Henderson, "The Saratoga Coloring and Activity book is the fourth such project I've done. It's been such fun and I've sure learned a lot about our town! It was hard to leave out all the many fascinating people and places that helped make us so special and historically significant, but thanks to the guidance of Annette (Stransky) and Linda (Hagelin), we managed to pare it down to the essentials."

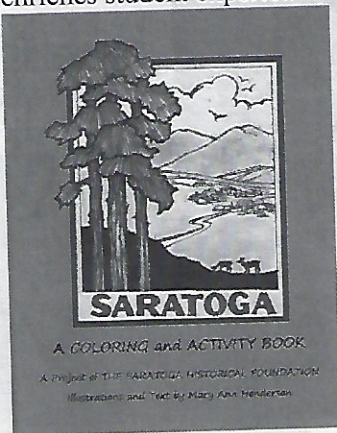
The activity book will be provided to all third grade classes in public and private schools this fall. The teachers will also receive a resource book for additional information..

Education Director Linda Hagelin says, "The book enriches student experience with facts and activities right out of the history of our town."

Henderson has generously donated quantities of the Activity book.

Additional copies can be purchased in the Museum gift shop if you would like to give one to a child.

Henderson lived in a suburb of Cleveland, Ohio before moving to Saratoga, California in 1990. She received her BFA degree from Notre Dame College in Cleveland and studied one year at the University of Vienna, Austria. She did her graduate work in art history at Case Western Reserve University and worked as a librarian until moving West and focusing full time on making art.



She has exhibited in numerous local and regional shows and has received many major awards. She is a member of Allied Artists West (AAW), a group of nationally known and emerging professional artists of Santa Clara County. Her work can be seen at the Aegis Gallery of Fine Art in Saratoga and The Museums of Los Gatos Gallery in Los Gatos.

Henderson's work is permanently on display in the Saratoga Foothill Club (portrait of Julia Morgan) and the Saratoga Public Library (two paintings of historic Saratoga Libraries).

Congratulations Audry Lynch!!!

Author Audry Lynch was the recipient of the 2019 California State Distinguished Career/Professional



Service Award given by the Delta Kappa Gamma Society. The award recognizes her work in the area of scholarly

research on California author John Steinbeck and her dedication to share Steinbeck through publications and presentations. The award was presented at the DKG Convention in May.

Lynch's home is decorated throughout with photos, movie posters and memorabilia of all things John Steinbeck. She has been a Steinbeck collector since moving to California in 1970. She has one of the largest private Steinbeck collections in Northern California.

The award winning author has written several books including "Steinbeck Remembered", "With Steinbeck in the Sea of Cortez" and "The Rebel Figure in American Literature and Film: The Interconnected Lives of John Steinbeck and James Dean."

School Days in the 1800s



May is a popular month for the Pioneer Living classes conducted by the Education Program docents. Grades 2-5 attend the popular classes that teach how people lived during the 1800s. Classes are offered in Fall and Spring.

Schools from as far as San Mateo sign up as well as local Saratoga schools. Private, public and home schooled students can all participate. Education Director Linda Hagelin says that all the Saratoga schools participate.

Students wear pinafores and blacksmith aprons and spend the next hour or so going through various stations in the McWilliams house and the one-room school house. They also get to play old fashion games on the patio.



At the end of the two-hour session students are asked what activity they liked best. Not surprising pumping water, the laundry station and the school house are

frequently mentioned. Depending on age, the responses are varied:

“The stinky sock laundry!” shouted one child referring to the wash boards and wringer washer used. Usually at least one child will offer that he wished his mother had one.



“The paddle stick in the kitchen” suggested another child. Paddle stick? Hmm, Gail Hugger must have gone off script

again in the kitchen--- there’s no paddle stick.

“The mouse trap”, called out several children excitedly. There is a mouse trap in the kitchen because in “the old days” mice were a BIG problem.

“The bed warmer” suggested another child. This is a brick heated to warm the bed.

“The slates” yelled another child. Students get to write on slates with chalk in the school house. During this time paper was scarce so slates were used.

Volunteers welcome

Over 1000 students go through this program each year.



The education docents who teach the program are all volunteer. Many are former teachers who enjoy being with children. If you would like to join this group, please contact Linda Hagelin at

lhagelin1@gmail.com.



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The Last of the Prune Pickers

Ernie Kraule came across an old ledger maintained by Robert Pitman recently. The ledger documented the fruit picked on the Pitman ranch. The ranch was located across from the Argonaut shopping center on Saratoga-Sunnyvale Road. Ernie, like many youngsters in Saratoga, worked in the summer picking prunes. This is the time period that many Saratogans and others remember as the Valley of



Heart's Delight. Children picked up prunes off the ground—hot, sticky, work. Typically money earned was for purchasing school clothes.

According to the ledger, Ernie picked four boxes of 189 pounds of prunes.

He doesn't recall

how he spent the money earned-- he just remembers it was hard work!

Prunes

By Louis Phillips
The prune is created
From head to toe,
Or, (if I might quote
President Taft)
"The prune is wrinkled
Fore and aft...
Pity the prune,
That misunderstood fruit.
A prune is a plum
In an unpressed suit.

