

CORNERSTONE

Cupertino Historical Society
Members Newsletter

Summer 2000
Volume 10 Issue 4

Thank you to Museum Volunteers

Success for our Museum is attributed to many things, but mostly to our group of wonderful volunteers. Without them we could not keep our doors open to serve the community with the history of Cupertino. A few of their tasks are listed below:

Docents, leading tours in the galleries.
Educational outreach into the community and the school district;
Office aides, helping to keep the files in order;
Board Members, as trustees of the collection and fiscal agents for the Museum;
Exhibit designers, helping paint, build, move, arrange and re-arrange the exhibits to make them work and meet the deadline;
Equipment maintenance people, installing, repairing, advising and working to make our equipment function properly;
Event coordinators, selling tickets, keeping the finances straight, collecting raffle prizes and doing whatever endless chores arise.
Collection research, checking facts and historical documents to supplement the knowledge needed to authenticate the collection.

Our museum volunteers range in age from early teens to senior citizens. We actually have several volunteers who are natives of Cupertino. Volunteers are touchstones to the community, reinforcing the fact that an organization is important enough to warrant their valuable time.

Roberta Zentner, our Museum Volunteer Coordinator has done a splendid job choosing the volunteer core.

Volunteers

"If you look closely, you will see that almost anything that really matters to us, anything that embodies our deepest commitment to the way human life should be lived and cared for depends on some form of volunteerism."

Margaret Mead

Society Fund Raiser-September 23, 2000 At Historic San Antonio School Site

Hanson Permanente Cement Company is co-sponsoring a fall luncheon event with the Society Board of Directors. Charles and Deborah Newman have graciously offered to host the luncheon on this historic site. Photographs, slides and historical records of the original school will be available for the guests to enjoy. Linda Schultz, former owner of the school site, will give a short history of the one room school. We are looking for anyone who attended the San Antonio school or relatives who are familiar with the site. Please call the society if you have any pertinent information. (408) 973-1495. Be sure to mark your calendars for this splendid event.



Picnic at Stevens Creek area. Parents and children from San Antonio School. ca. 1897-1899

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President's Message

The two vacancies on the Society's Board of Directors have been filled by Doris Beezley, a longtime member and active community volunteer, and Michelle Potts, a new member and an owner of the historic Picchetti Winery. See the biographical articles in this newsletter. The Board took action at its May meeting to obtain insurance coverage for Board Directors and Officers, at a one year cost of \$945. This is in addition to the required and necessary coverage which was already in place. Our contacts with other community organizations revealed that the trend has been to add the Directors and Officers insurance coverage to lower the risk and exposure of litigation to the volunteers willing to serve on the community boards. Some donations have been received to help defray the cost of the Society's insurance.

The Society has requested an annual grant of \$40,000 from the City of Cupertino, for current operations. The requested amount is included as a new program of the City Council in the proposed budget for 2000-2001, now under review. The funding assistance from the City will assure that the Society can continue its programs and accomplish the goals that have been established to carry out its mission. The City staff and Council have been assured that funding from the City will not diminish our ongoing efforts to obtain income and contributions from our members and other existing sources, and to fully explore other possible funding and support, including grants from major corporations and donors who appreciate what the Cupertino Historical Society & Museum are doing within our community.

As of early April, donations had been made of approximately \$18,000, designated for the Cupertino Historical Society ("CHS") endowment fund, including the \$5,000 from the Miriam Stelling Trust.

I am very pleased to report that a most generous gift of \$100,000 has been made to CHS by Burrell Leonard, as an endowment contribution. Mr. Leonard's gift is sufficient to more than achieve the first goal established by the Society of reaching \$25,000 in the Society's endowment fund.

The Society is grateful to have Mr. Leonard as a supporter, and recognizes the many contributions he and his family members have made to the Cupertino community spanning generations. The substantial gift will help ensure the future of the Society.

The endowment fund is projected to earn average annual income of between 10 and 15%. The Board is budgeting using up to 5% per year of the income earned from the endowment fund for usual ongoing operating expenses, therefore a fund of \$118,000 will provide funding of approximately \$6,000 for operations in one year. I would welcome calls from anyone wanting to know more about the endowment fund, and/or how donations can be made to the Society.

As your new President, I have become aware of the extent of volunteer time and energy that is given to CHS. I am informed that the Traveling Trunk Education Outreach Program of our museum has reached about 1500 students in the 1999-2000 fiscal year. I had occasion to be present at Regnart School to see the presentation. I was fascinated and so were the students! Thanks again to all our members who volunteer to staff and otherwise support CHS programs.

Charles Newman

Annual Membership Barbecue

This year's Society barbecue will be held in the Cupertino Room and Patio in the Quinlan Center **June 20, at 5:30 PM**. Twenty Dollars (\$20.00) gets you into this great annual event. Kathy and Charlie Liggett again will be preparing a "gourmet" feast. An array of prizes will be raffled and we will have a great auction run by Gail Hugger and Dev Rendler. Ed Polan will provide his traditional old time music for everyone's enjoyment. Bring your family and friends to the annual barbecue. Tickets now on sale at the Museum, 10:00AM-4:00PM Wed - Sat.. Call 408-973-1495.

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Dates to Remember

July

- 1 Volunteer Meeting 9 am at QCC
- 12 Board Meeting 6:30 pm at QCC
- No General Meeting in July!

August

- 5 Volunteer Meeting 9am at QCC
- 9 Board Meeting 6:30 pm at QCC
- 12 & 13 Art/Wine Festival
- No General Meeting in August!

September

- 2 Volunteer Meeting 9am at QCC
- 13 Board Meeting 6:30 pm at QCC
- 26 General Meeting 6:30 pm at QCC

Membership

New Members

Wally and Carol Blabon, Roy S. Dunn, Christopher and Joyce Kelley.

And our thanks to recent renewals:

David Bates, Gordon R. Beckstrom, Ted A. Bollinger, Josephine M. Brown, Philip and Frances Bush, Opal G. Carle, Wendell and In Soon Carman, Carolyn de Vries, Mary Eade, Rosalyn Frolich, Robert F. Hetz, Laura F. Jacobson, Helen Jemin, William and Elena Kettler, Viola Lazaneo, Mort and Elaine Levine, Winifred Mardesich, Bernice Midstokke, Thelma Nauman, Betty Normandin, Herb and Mae Regnart, Shirley Reynolds, Ham Ryder, Mathilda Sousa, Winifred Thiltgen, Hector Picchetti, Richard and Kay Scanlan, Pearl Ward, Ann Zarko, Dorothy Zeszutek.

Your membership has benefits for you, but the most important benefit is to the community at large. As a community, we share a common goal in the promotion of local historical values. By networking together, sharing experiences and inviting countywide projects, we can improve the climate for the preservation of our multicultural heritage resources.

Volunteer Notes from Roberta Zentner

We are very happy to announce our new volunteers, Mary Bohn, Dorothy Gardner, Joyce Cali Kelley, Jo Pieri, and Pam Suwinsky. With their help, we will be striving to staff our museum at Vallco Fashion Park. Please volunteer if you can!

Upcoming events will need volunteer help. Please call to help at the June 20th BBQ; at the August 12 & 13 Art/Wine Festival; and at the September 23rd Fundraiser at the old site of San Antonio School.

Since I will be moving in the near future, we will need someone to be the Volunteer Coordinator. This job probably requires a commitment of at least eight hours a month. Call me at 973-1495, Thursday thru Saturday.

The Phone Committee has done a great job once again. Let us all extend a VERY BIG THANK YOU TO:

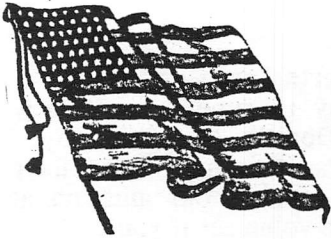
Loretta Bassman
Irene Coon
Hazel Fretwell
Joan Furusho
Esther Johnson
Elena Kettler



Phil and Frances Bush preparing for the students to view the Traveling trunk items.

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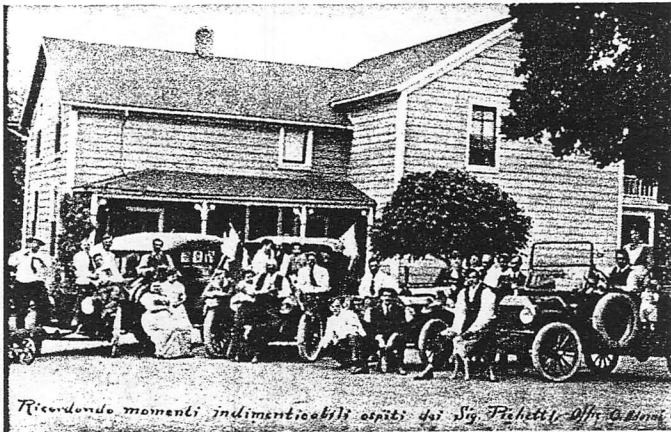
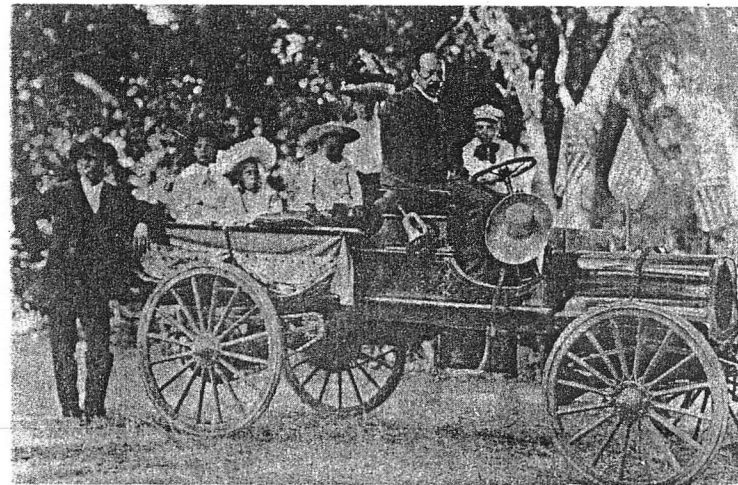
Independence Day



The first Independence Day was observed in Philadelphia on July 8, 1776 in celebration of the July 4th adoption of the Declaration of Independence. In reference to the newly established holiday, the future President John Adams stated "I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated by succeeding generations as the great anniversary festival...with pomp and parade, with shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires, and illuminations, from one end of this continent to the other, from this time forward for evermore."

Pictured to the right, in a star spangled automobile, are members of the Pavisio family on a 1909 Fourth of July family outing at Cupertino's Blackberry Farm.

Living about a quarter mile north of the Cupertino Crossroads (today's De Anza and Stevens Creek Boulevards) Henrietta Pavisio Marcotte recalls that "the rural life was good to us children...Arch Wilson (of The Cupertino Store at the Crossroads) would buy fireworks for his family for the Fourth of July, and let us watch and enjoy the skyrockets and other displays... Those were the days!"



Pictured to the left is a "moment of unforgettable hospitality" at the Picchetti home above the foothills of Cupertino. The clapboard Victorian house, which still stands today, was built in 1886 by brothers Vincenzo and Secondo and is the setting for this gathering of guests during a 1915 Fourth of July celebration. The Picchetti brothers planted grapes, prunes, and apricots on their 160 acres and gave the ridge the Italian name of Montebello meaning "beautiful mountain".

One of the oldest wineries in California, The Picchetti Winery is located at Historic Picchetti Ranch. The Picchetti Winery operates in a cooperative relationship with The Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District.

This year The Picchetti Winery will host a jazz concert series and picnic faire on Saturday, July 1 and Sunday, July 2. For more information, please contact the Winery at 408-741-1310.

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Meet your new Board members

Doris Beezley-a native of Berkeley, Doris joined the U.S.Navy WAVES and served as an occupational therapist in CA and Fla. As a graduate of Louisiana State University she was commissioned a 2nd Lt. in the Air Force reserve. Later as a Capt. she served as an aide to Gen. Little at Hamilton AFB.

After WWII she was craft director in Munich and Berlin, U.S. Army special services. She continued her training in Vienna & Templehof AFB, Berlin.

On her return to the U.S., Doris became crafts director; U.S.Army Special services at the language School, Presidio of Monterey. Later in Carmel and Monterey, Doris owned and managed two art galleries and a ceramic business on Cannery Row. She continued her Air Force reserve training for 19 years.

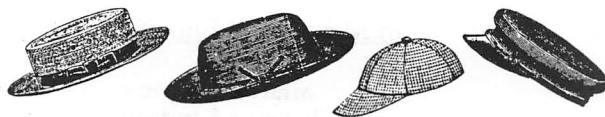
Doris has served as volunteer for the Palo Alto Red Cross, The heritage Preservation and Arts Commissions in Sunnyvale, and organized the first international photo exhibit for the 3 powers in Berlin, Germany. For the American Bicentennial she contributed her design of the 1776 DeAnza expedition bronze plaque many of which are displayed in various locations from Los Altos, to Santa Clara and at the missions along El Camino Real all the way to Los Angeles.

Doris is a long-time member of the Cupertino Historical Society and is welcomed to its Board of Directors.

Michelle Potts was born and raised in the Santa Clara Valley and now resides in Willow Glen. In her early years, Michelle picked and cut "cots". Later she worked at Sunny View Manor as an evening receptionist and was fascinated listening to the stories of the by gone days. Before coming to the Picchetti winery, Michelle worked at Dataquest for 10 years as a major account person.

Her dream came true when she went to work for Leslie Pantling, her sister-in-law and proprietor of the Picchetti winery, in August of 1998. She was the first employee for the first nine months of the business. At present she is in charge of the operations and runs all the special events.

Michelle has always loved history and working at the winery afforded her the opportunity to learn first hand about the rich history of the winery, the Picchetti family and the historic area of Montebello Road. "There are people coming into the winery that lived or worked there or with wonderful stories to tell." In the future there are plans to put together a museum at the winery with the help of the Picchetti family. It will contain all the items that once belonged to the ranch and in the winery. People who visit are amazed at the little piece of hidden history so close to the hustle of the Silicon Valley.



HATS OFF!

Roberta Zentner who put the newsletter together in March so it could be distributed on time.

All docents that aptly took care of the Museum while the director was absent.

Gail Hugger for taping our first oral history with the new video camera as well as giving a presentation to the Rotary.

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Important Gifts to the Society

Endowment Fund

BURREL LEONARD GIFT

In Honor of Phil and Frances Bush
from
Sharon Blaine

In Memory of Nine Choate
from
Florence Dixon Lindsey

In Memory of Irene Perkov
from
Sharon Blaine
Marian and Gene Ciabattari
Mrs. Catherine Labudak
Florence Dixon Lindsey
Mariani Packing Company, Inc.
George and Lorraine Sousa
Mathilda Sousa
Jeanette Wassenberg

In Memory of Elio Picchetti
from
Sharon Blaine
Florence Lindsey
Mathilda Sousa



Education Fund

Eaton School
Jay Lawson, Cupertino High School
Los Gatos Meadows
Sourisseau Academy

We are also grateful to the following for their recent donations to the Society:

Ann M. Anger, Sharon Blaine, Gail Hugger, IBM Matching Grants Program, Viola Lazaneo, Charles Newman, Karen Parsons, Devereaux Rendler, Loretta Pavisio Stagen.



Summer Reading

As summer is upon us, let's take time to enjoy a few lazy days and read some of the wonderful books the Museum has to offer.

Captain Elisha Stephens, a True Pioneer

Some Pioneer Women

Both by Mary Lou Lyon

Like Modern Edens

Charles Sullivan

Saratoga Stereopticon

A Magic Lantern of Memory

Wyllis I. Peck

Bitter Melon-

Inside America's Last Rural Chinese Town

Robert Coles

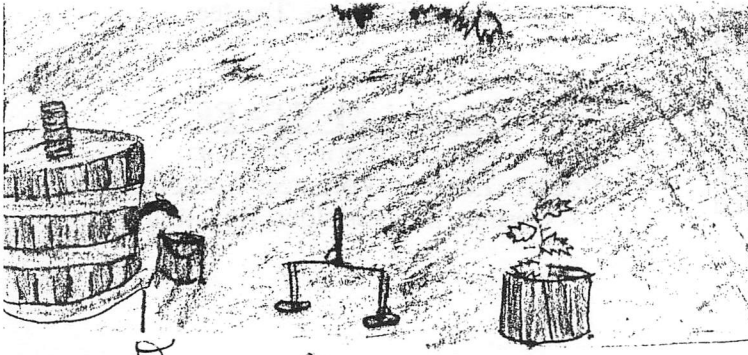
The Odyssey of a Manchurian

Belle Yang

Local History Videotape!
"A Place Called Cupertino"
available only at the
Cupertino History Museum

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Each time the *travelling trunk* visits a school, students send letters of thanks to the volunteers who presented the material. We have posted a few in our window at the Quinlan Center Gallery. I have included a few in the newsletter.



Dear Mrs. Bush,
Thank you for teaching us all the wonderful things today. My favorite part is the part when you told us about the grape vine, the grape squisher, and the gold scale. I hope you can teach us more about the gold rush.

Sincerely,
Rose



Traveling trunk on the move.

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Bush,

Thank you for touring us. It was fun looking at the old things. I learned that most people couldn't make it rich to the Gold Rush and some people could. It was really fun!

Thank you again.

Sincerely,
Sophia

Garden Gate School

Dear Mrs. Bush,

Thank you for teaching us.

I learned about Ancient

Cupertino. I like the

golden scale the best.

Sincerely,
Anita Cox

THE CORNERSTONE IS PUBLISHED
QUARTERLY BY
THE CUPERTINO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Society is a private non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation and interpretation of the history of Cupertino and the surrounding region. It operates a main museum in the Quinlan Community Center, along with a satellite museum at Vallco Fashion Park on Stevens Creek Blvd. Museum hours are 10-4pm, Wednesday thru Saturday. The Vallco site is open Tuesday and Saturday 1pm-3pm. Admission is free and the public is invited. General meetings are held the 4th Tuesday of the month and are preceded by a potluck dinner. For additional information and recorded message call the museum at 408-973-1495.

WISH LIST

**A Corporation who will print our
newsletter quarterly**

CUPERTINO HISTORICAL MUSEUM
Quinlan Community Center
10185 N. Stelling Road
Cupertino, CA 95014
408-973-1495 (FAX 408-973-1495 call first)

San Antonio School 1867



Fall Fundraiser at Original School Site
September 23, 2000

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Charles Newman, President
Devereaux Rendler, Vice President
Stefanie Singer, Treasurer
Gail Hugger, Secretary
Doris Beezley, Trustee
Sharon Blaine, Trustee
Karen Parsons, Trustee
Michelle Potts, Trustee
Robert E. Vitro, Trustee

MUSEUM STAFF

Ethel S. Worn, Director
Roberta Zentner, Volunteer Coordinator
Corinna Schoenfelder, Registrar

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