



THE CORNERSTONE

Cupertino Historical Society

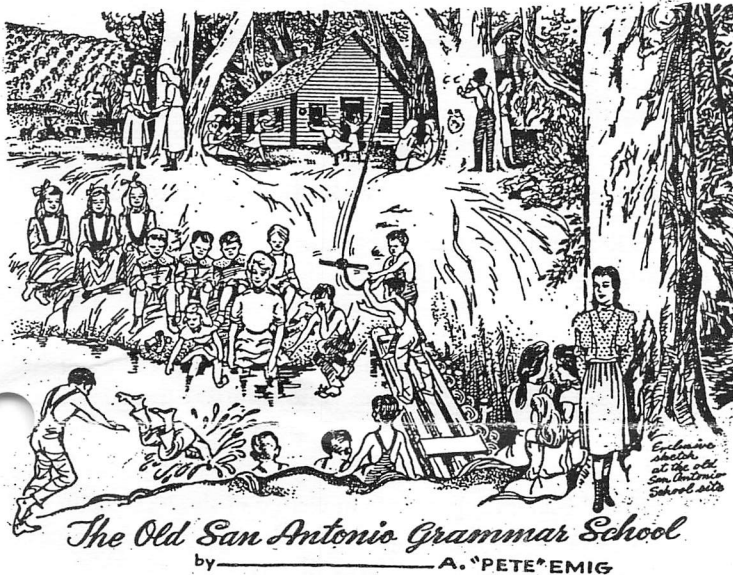
Summer 2000

Members Newsletter

Volume 11 Issue 1

Cupertino Historical Society's Fundraiser 2000

A Visit to an Historic Site



The Old San Antonio Grammar School
by A. "PETE" EMIG

San Antonio School House 1867-1917

Saturday, September 23rd

A trip to the San Antonio School site will give you a view into the generosity of William Dale, a retired gold rush immigrant who donated two and one half acres for a new school. This was part of a vast tract given to private citizens for cattle raising during California's rancho period. Dale possessed an enthusiastic zeal devoted to the early development of the San Antonio School. Together with several local residents, Dale constructed the school with lumber from the Santa Cruz Mountains. Located in the southeast corner of the original San Antonio Rancho, the school boasted eight rows of desks handmade by Dale and chalkboard on three walls, giving the school the distinction being exceptionally modern for its day. The teacher instructed the class from a raised

platform at the front of the room, and the children kept warm during the winter by a centrally located potbellied stove.

A windmill at San Antonio School was used to operate a fresh water well. In 1904, Grant Barton was hired to oil the gears of the windmill once a month. He soon began visiting the school several times each week during recess break, under the pretext of oiling the gears. He would quickly abandon the windmill and discreetly disappear into the school building. The perplexed students finally understood his frequent visits when the local newspaper reported the engagement of Grant Barton to the lovely schoolteacher, Elizabeth Doten. *

This is just one of the interesting facts you will learn when you attend the luncheon held at the San Antonio school site and receive a signed copy of a newly released publication on the schoolhouse restoration.

*Excerpt from M. Morgado essay

This year for the first and only time this historic building will be open. The tickets are \$50 per person. Our event is being co-sponsored by the **Cupertino National Bank** and the **Hanson Permanente Cement Company**. We are also grateful to **Whole Foods Market, Cupertino**, for defraying the cost of the deserts and the **Picchetti Winery** for furnishing the tables for the luncheon.

For information about attending this historic event, please call the Museum office 408-973-1495 or Sharon Blaine, chair for the day, at 408-256-6410.



President's Message

Beez Jones and John Kolski have returned to the Society's Board of Directors. Welcome back Beez and John. There is much to be accomplished this fiscal year, and their contributions, together with the other 9 continuing Board members, is needed and appreciated.

The City of Cupertino did approve the Society's request for a grant of \$40,000 to assist for current operations. Thank you City of Cupertino!

The Board is in the process of revising the Strategic Plan for the Society, and will address both immediate and long range needs, goals and objectives. We will inform the membership of our progress in our continuing evolution as Cupertino's historical society & history museum.

A major effort has been underway for sometime to preserve the Snyder/Hammond House at Rancho San Antonio. The ranch house, built in 1881 as a gift from major land owner John Snyder Sr. to his daughter, Martha, when she married W. H. Hammond, still stands and has been in continuous use on the historic site for 119 years. It has continued to serve well as a family residence in a remote location, now designated for permanent County Parks and Open Space, on lands for the expansion of the San Antonio Park and Open Space area.

The Society has an immediate opportunity to acquire ownership of the house and a 1 acre site, separate from the adjacent lands to be in permanent public ownership. There would be essentially no initial costs to the Society, and several parties have offered generous contributions of resources to enable the property preservation and transfer to the Society. Your Board will make final decisions on this very important matter of historical preservation and use at its September 13th meeting. We will keep the membership informed on this exciting project.

Charles Newman



Charles Newman aids Michelle Potts and Gail Hugger during the auction at the Cupertino Historical Society Annual meeting and Barbecue.

2000 Historical Society Barbecue a success

The 2000 annual meeting and barbecue were held in the Cupertino Room of the Quinlan Community center. The room proved to be an ideal location in many respects. The band had a grand spot to play where everyone could see and hear them, the kitchen was handy for the food preparation and the barbecue outside in the patio afforded a spot for those who wanted to be near the "meat" in order to sit and watch.

Charlie and Kathy Liggett were in charge of the food again this year and we had a gourmet feast. Our members and the community responded with a larger than ever crowd adding more fun to our auction.

A special thank you to all those who participated in the preparation and serving of the food: Kathy and Charlie Liggett, Corinna Schoenfelder, Elena Kettler and Rose Crain; Ham Ryder and Joe Adamo aptly manned the barbecue. Charles Newman made it possible for us to have the music of Ed Polan's band and Charles took a turn on cornet, which we all enjoyed.

Our auction was a success with very special offerings. Among them, a gift basket and magnum of wine from the Picchetti winery, as well as a private wine tasting for 10 at the winery; a case of wine from Norman Damico and Martin Sorensen; a gift certificate for a Trucker Bed and Breakfast; an original watercolor from Hank Volle; and a Palm Pilot from Satjiv Chahil, Marketing Manager, Palm, Inc.

Donation drawing prizes were given by Santa Barbara Grill, Outback Steak House, Fontana's, Elephant Bar, Silicon Valley Capital Club, Basket of Meyer Lemons, Honey from Gail Hugger's bee hives, two pound box of See's candy, two 5 LB boxes of Mariani Apricots; two gift certificate from Yamagami Nursery; and a gift certificate form the Hilton Garden Inn.

H. Marcotte, history lover

BY ELISE BANDUCCI
Mercury News

Whether she was visiting local schools with her "traveling trunk" of Cupertino memorabilia or serving as the grand marshal of Cupertino's 40th anniversary parade, Henrietta Marcotte always had the history of her beloved city on her mind.

On July 21, Cupertino lost the devoted keeper of that history. The 89-year-old founding member of its historical society died of a cerebral hemorrhage.

"She loved living here," said Roberta Zentner, volunteer coordinator for the Cupertino Historical Museum, which Mrs. Marcotte helped establish in 1990 and where she served as a docent.

"She had a lot of history because she was born here, and she just didn't want it to die. She wanted to pass it on," Zentner said.

The child of European immigrants who settled in Cupertino in 1908, Mrs. Marcotte attended local schools and San Jose State University. The family home was on a one-acre plot on what is today De Anza Boulevard, near Stevens Creek Boulevard.

Her father, a cooper who made barrels and tanks for local vineyard owners, died when Mrs. Marcotte was 5. The youngest of five children, Mrs. Marcotte started working in the local orchards at an early age to help her mother with expenses.

"We were in fruit country," Mrs. Marcotte told the Cupertino Courier in 1994. "You always had to work with the fruit."

Later in life, she often longed for the old days among the orchards.

"She would say, 'Everything is Silicon Valley these days. Whatever happened to Santa Clara Valley?' " remembers Laverne Rabinowitz, her daughter.

Mrs. Marcotte started as a clerk at the Cupertino post office in 1935, retiring in 1971.

In 1936, she married the late Irving K. "Bud" Marcotte, whom she met at a local dance. The couple had two children.

Over the years, as she watched Cupertino develop and the lives of its residents — many of whom were her schoolmates — evolve, Mrs. Marcotte became more and more interested in the history of her hometown.

She started clipping and saving items about Cupertino history, she told the Courier.

When a committee was established in the 1950s to investigate whether Cupertino should become a city, Mrs. Marcotte served as its secretary. In 1967, she helped establish the Cupertino Historical Society.

For many years, she also researched and wrote about local history for her column "Roots," which appeared in the Cupertino Scene, a monthly newsletter for residents.

In addition, many local residents knew her as the lady with the "traveling trunk."



As part of a program of the Cupertino Historical Museum, Mrs. Marcotte would visit local schools and senior centers to share and describe artifacts from the city's past. Many of the items, such as farm and kitchen equipment and clothing, were donated by local residents, including Mrs. Marcotte.

An outgoing woman who wasn't afraid to let others know what was on her mind, Mrs. Marcotte enjoyed encouraging children to guess what some of the artifacts were used for.

"She wouldn't just let them sit there," Zentner said. "She'd look at a little child and say, 'What do you think?'"

Mrs. Marcotte also had been the longest living member of the Philotesian Rebekah Lodge (she joined in 1932). She was active in many other local organizations.

In 1995, she was appointed to lead Cupertino's 40th anniversary parade. Two years later, the Conference of California Historical Societies recognized her for her contributions to local history.

Mrs. Marcotte stopped writing "Roots" in 1996 because her failing eyesight made research difficult. But she kept working with the traveling "trunk program," visiting sites as well as hosting groups at the museum, for several more years.

In the 1994 Cupertino Courier article, she explained why the effort was close to her heart: "I hope that when the children hear some of this, what we've done in the past, that they might go home and encourage their parents to check on their family history and write it down so that their children can have a record of everything."

Charles F. Gagliasso

Charles Fiuri Gagliasso, loving husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, businessman, sportsman and 77 year resident of Santa Clara county died July 25, 2000. Chasey was born June 5, 1923 in Los Gatos, a second generation Californian descended from Italian immigrants who came to the Santa Clara Valley in 1887, where they planted hundreds of acres in vineyards. He graduated from Fremont High School in Sunnyvale and entered the US Army at age 20 at the beginning of World War II.

Chasey met his wife Mildred on a train before shipping off to Europe during the War. They married on May 4, 1946 in New York City on his return. He and his new wife settled in Cupertino, building his own home on a corner of the family orchard in 1956. He started his own construction trucking company in 1955 with the purchase of one truck, and grew the business to its present size, running the business with his wife and children and providing more than 150 vehicles a day to construction sites throughout the Bay Area.

An avid sportsman throughout his life, he loved to hunt deer in the hills above Milpitas and ducks in the Central Valley, hunting with his sons and grandsons. He was active all his life, and spent his last day playing golf in Pleasanton with his friends.



Beloved husband of 54 years of Mildred, and devoted father of Michael, Marsha, Donald, Cheryl, Denise and Charles Jr. Proud grandfather of Shannon Wilson and Nick Elvitsky, Christopher, Danielle and Jennifer Guevara, Felicia, Donald, Louis and Rachel Gagliasso, Anthony Van Londen, and Nicole and Michael Gagliasso. Proud great-grandfather of Isabel and Gabrielle Guevara, and Vincent Van Londen.

SPECIAL THANKS

Donations in Memory of Edward J. Bradly:
Henrietta Marcotte

Donations in Memory of Janice Currier:
Donna Grce

Donations in Memory of Charles Gagliasso:
Viola Lazaneo, Charles & Deborah Newman, Linda
& Nola & Paula Quinterno, Mathilda Sousa

Donations in Memory of Sam Lawson:
Donna Grce

Donations in Memory of Henrietta Marcotte:
Phil & Frances Bush, Frances Dietz, Rosalyn Frolich,
Pat & Welko Gasich, Doug & Ardith Greenquist,
Mr. & Mrs. Augustine Jelesko, Viola Lazaneo, Fred
& Florence Lindsey, Charles & Deborah Newman,
Robert & Doreen Oliver, Linda & Nola & Paula
Quinterno, Henrietta Marcotte, Thelma & Patricia
McIntyre, Hardy & Edna Smith, Loretta Paviso
Stagen, Roberta Zentner

Donations in Memory of Leonard McCarthy:
Fred & Florence Lindsey, Henrietta Marcotte

Donations in Memory of Josephine Mikulaco:
Sharon Blaine, Mathilda Sousa

Donations in Memory of Nick Milicheich:
Donna Grce

Donations in Memory of Elio Picchetti:
Donna Grce, Yvonne & Warren Holt, Charles &
Deborah Newman

Donations in Memory of Miriam Stelling:
Frances Dietz, Donna Grce, Charles & Deborah
Newman

Matching Funds Donations:
Bank of America - Karen Parsons
Quantum Corporation - Stefanie Singer

**We are also grateful to the following for their
recent donations to the Society:**
Beez Jones, Seven Springs Foundation



**"Since memory is fallible and because all things
eventually perish, preserving these traces of the past
is vital to our ability to enjoy history's gifts."**
American Association for State and Local History.

Roberta Zentner, Museum Coordinator, moves to Nevada.

With the loss of our long-time volunteer coordinator and office manager, Roberta Zentner, we are diligently looking for a person to take over her duties. Her love of local history and knowledge of the community where she lived for over 25 years will be hard to match. We have contacted the local colleges and volunteer centers hoping for an applicant. We are vying with corporations that can pay three times what a museum can offer for a competent person. I have listed the duties below and will interview any person who feels qualified and has a love of history.

The Cupertino Historical Museum has a one-year part-time position available. This is an entry-level position for a combination job of Office Manager and Volunteer Coordinator. The applicant may have a flexible schedule, but must be able to work some Saturdays during the year. The position could work into a permanent, part-time position in time.

The candidate should be flexible, organized, and a self-starter to manage the office duties to further the mission and purpose of the Museum. The duties can be classified as financial, membership and maintaining equipment.

The volunteer coordinator will provide volunteers who will enhance the museum and work with the staff of the museum by complementing, expanding and supplementing the staff. Reviewing the mission and purpose of the museum, the coordinator will determine how volunteers can help further that mission. The Coordinator is responsible for recruiting, training and scheduling volunteers, maintaining records and overseeing the work of the volunteers. A sense of humor always helps!

The position can be broken into two positions if a qualified candidate can do only one portion of the job. Please call the museum office for an appointment if you are interested. (408-973-1495)

DATES TO REMEMBER



- 4 QCC closed in observance of Labor Day
- 9 Volunteer Meeting, 9am at QCC
- 13 Board Meeting, 6:30pm at QCC
- 23 Society Fund Raiser at Historic San Antonio School Site, 12-3:30pm
- 26 General Meeting, 6:30pm at QCC
Jim Arbuckle will present and comment on his father, Clyde Arbuckle's, video *Restless Santa Clara Valley*.



- 7 Volunteer Meeting, 9am at QCC
- 11 Board Meeting, 6:30pm at QCC
- 14 9th Annual Audubon Education Day at McClellan Ranch Park, 10am-2pm
- 24 General Meeting, 6:30pm at QCC
Phil and Frances Bush, and Loretta Bassman will present The Cupertino Historical Museum's Traveling Trunk.



- 4 Volunteer Meeting, 9am at QCC
- 8 Board Meeting, 6:30pm at QCC
- 23-26 QCC closed in observance of Thanksgiving
- 28 General Meeting, 6:30pm at QCC

VOLUNTEER NOTES

Please note that the September Volunteer Meeting has been changed from the 2nd to the 9th so as not to interfere with the Labor Day weekend.

In October, The Cupertino Historical Museum will be hosting a cookie sales table at the 9th Annual Audubon Education Day at McClellan Ranch Park, 10am-2pm. Please sign up to bake cookies or volunteer at the table.

The Museum is still looking for someone to fill the role of Volunteer Coordinator. This job requires a commitment of at least eight hours a week. Please contact Ethel Worn at 973-1495, Thursday thru Saturday.

ON DISPLAY



The Museum display case at The Cupertino National Bank on Stevens Creek Blvd. houses a new exhibit. An extensive collection of cut glass pitchers, tumblers, bowls, water bottles, and relish dishes will delight the eyes. Please drop in during business hours Monday - Thursday, 9:30am - 4:30pm.

MEMBERSHIP

New Members:

Selma Arellano, Harold C. Nelson, Jeanette Stansfield

Recent Renewals:

Scot & Donna Austin, Marie Schoppe Bartee, Sandra Basel, George & Loretta Bassman, Richard & Sharon Blane, Cupertino Federated Women's Club, Maxine DixonDonna Grce, Hung & Cay Horstmann, Augustine & Myrna Jelesko, Esther Johnson, Donna Lawler, Marilyn Lawson, Robert & Louise Levy, Margret & Jim Limberatos, Fred & Florence Lindsey, Martha McDonald, Marie Moore, Karen Parsons, Jane Haskins Payne, Keith & Kay Peterson, Laverne M. Rabinowitz, Bill & Jane Reed, Patrick & Barbara Rogers, Alice Z. Schlim, Bill & Nancy Schott, Roger & Linda Schultz, Patricia Snow, Martin & Laualee Sorensen, Itsuo & Marian Uenaka, Ethel Worn

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.



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



Clyde Arbuckle's
Restless Santa Clara Valley
September 26, 2000 General Meeting

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Charles Newman, President
Devereaux Rendler, Vice President
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Karen Parsons, Secretary
Doris Beezley, Trustee
Sharon Blaine, Trustee
Gail Hugger, Trustee
Beez Jones, Trustee
John Kolski, Trustee
Michelle Potts, Trustee
Robert E. Vitro, Trustee

MUSEUM STAFF

Ethel S. Worn, Director
Corinna Schoenfelder, Registrar

Museum link City of Cupertino Web Site

City of Cupertino Home page Civic Organizations
<http://www.cupertino.org/update/civic/chs.htm>

Also under Community Events Page

<http://www.cupertino.org/update/events/htm/>

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