

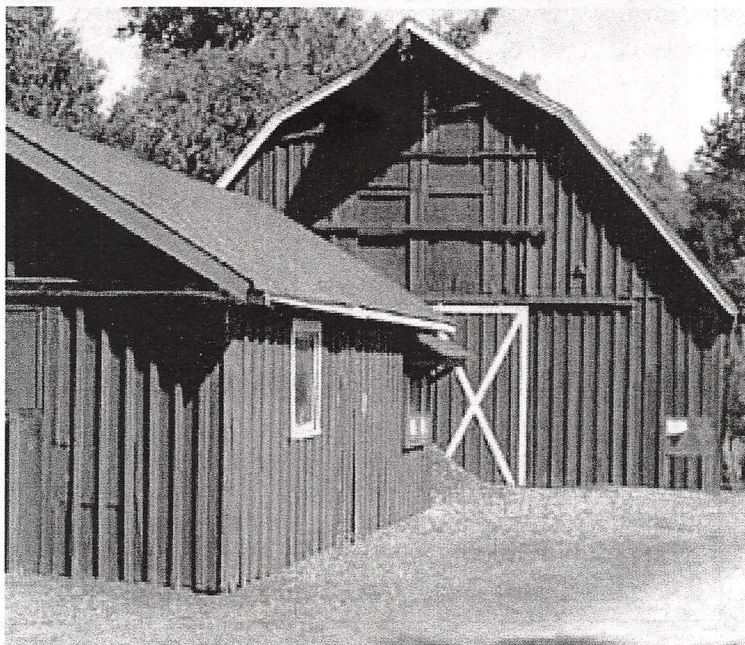


# CUPERTINO HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM

# THE CORNERSTONE

Winter 2004

Vol. 14, Issue 2



*The barn at McClellan Ranch Nature Preserve*

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

*by Donna Austin*

I am honored to serve as your president for the Cupertino Historical Society. Our society has had many wonderful past presidents who serve as role models for me, and I will try to live up to their dedication, hard work, enthusiasm, and love of history. I was born in the Santa Clara Valley, and I have lived in Cupertino for almost 27 years. I can remember the blossoming orchard days and I can remember cutting cots and picking prunes and working in my Dad's store, Gomes Grocery. I have seen the progress made as major industries moved into our community and the evolution



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## A Pause on the Dusty Corner...

*by Christine Jeffers*

Many of you in the community may not know that each Museum has a set of guiding "Equity and Excellence" Principles as set forth by the American Association of Museums. Key to these guiding principles is the assertion that museums place



## MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

education—in the broadest sense of the word—at the center of their public service role. We must continue to engage in active, ongoing collaborative efforts with a wide spectrum of organizations and individuals that can contribute to the expansion of the museum's public dimension.

I'm pleased to say that the Cupertino Historical Society has taken two monumental steps in making those assertions a reality. We have recently hired Kate Stober as our Education Coordinator and you can learn more about Kate and our upcoming educational activities in this issue of The Cornerstone.

The second step toward expanding our public service role is the birth of the *Cupertino Center for Living History*. This innovative plan will provide a venue for hands-on living history programs and activities honoring our community's unique history, from the time of the Ohlone People and early settlers to the hundreds of pioneers who came to grow wheat, plant vineyards, and create "The Valley of Heart's Delight." The venue will also include the more recent history of the community, including the industrial development, technological innovations and the people who flocked here to make it happen.

We envision an active heritage center where every school-age child will be given a life-changing

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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

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of the "Valley of Hearts Delight."

History for me has always been fascinating, and when I was in college, I decided to major in it. As a teacher, I found that my history major turned out to be a valuable part of the educational process. I have always thought that we can learn from the past about how to deal with the present, and how to face the future. I have also become interested in genealogy and have researched my roots, and I marvel at my ancestor's hard work, love of family and religion that is so much a part of my life today.

I believe that our Society in the future, in this democratic land, should be adapted to the needs of the student, the day laborer, retired people, teachers, firemen and software engineers, and should reflect every segment of our cultural society here in Cupertino. History is about living and understanding and should be rich in hands-on experiences.

These are exciting times for us. We have a wonderful director, Christine Jeffers, who is dedicated, talented, and enthusiastic, with a passion for history. We have an exciting slate of names for our board of directors. They generate new ideas and are ready, willing and able to work hard to promote and serve our society. Our board is working to promote volunteer programs, find donors, initiate fundraisers and seek new members. Our membership is a vital, integral part of our society and we appreciate and count on your continuing support.

I think our new mission statement says it all, and I think I almost have it memorized: *The mission of the Cupertino Historical Society & Museum is to create a passion for lifelong learning, preserve a vanishing past and serve as a bridge to a shared future. We believe that reflecting a broad representation of experiences, perspectives and cultures encourages stewardship and interaction, honoring the past and enhancing the lives of current and future citizens.*



### **We're Everywhere!**

**Loretta Bassman (left) and Linda Walker pose with items from the Cupertino Historical Society & Museum during the Rotary Club's annual Oktoberfest in Memorial Park. The two women were among volunteers who helped staff our booth at the event. Thanks to all who participated!**

## MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

*Continued from page 1*

experience through hands-on educational activities. We expect families to participate in after-school and weekend activities as well. When they come, they will be able to participate in programs such as apricot cutting, canning, winemaking, blacksmithing, farming, animal care, candle making, orchard care, and nature appreciation. They will be able to climb on the actual tractor and farm equipment that used to farm the land where Apple Computer is today. They will get to wash clothes on a washboard and crush grapes with their feet.

We will undertake a significant campaign to raise the funds needed to renovate the barn and blacksmith's shop at McClellan Ranch Nature Preserve and the Stocklmeir gardens, buildings and orchard. The board and I are thrilled to be mounting this endeavor and hope that the community will embrace its heritage and support our future efforts.

We look forward to serving the community by providing this rich resource for our children and generations to come.

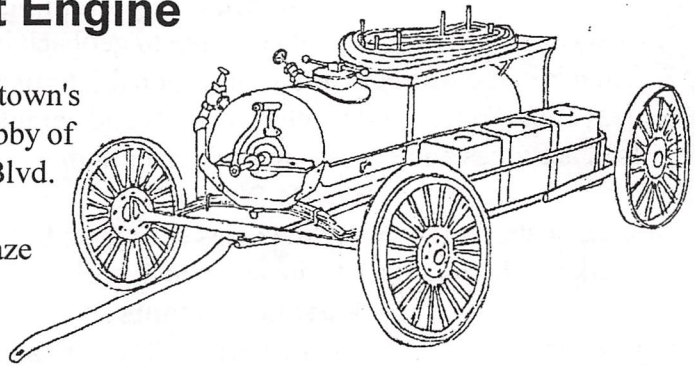


# COLLECTIONS UPDATE

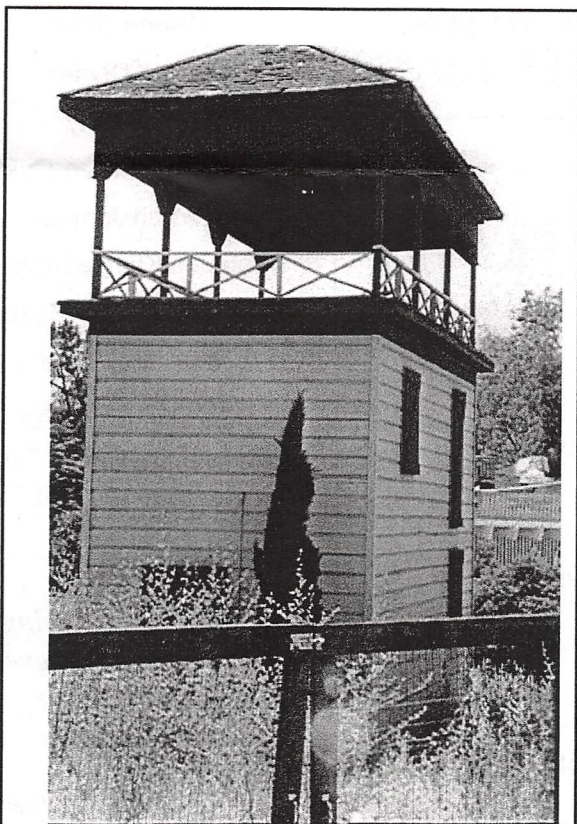
## Fire Station Shows Off First Engine

Cupertino's first fire engine, built in 1919 by the town's blacksmith, Charlie Baer, is now on display in the lobby of the Cupertino Fire Station at 20215 Stevens Creek Blvd.

The historical engine arrived at the scene of a blaze pulled by a tow truck. Its tank contained water and soda, but firefighters brought along a bottle of acid, which they added to the mixture when they got to the fire. The reaction sent the water forcefully through the hose, attached at the back of the engine.



Local historians say one of the most memorable fires the engine responded to occurred at the corner of Miller Avenue and Bollinger Road--where Safeway now stands.



### Facelift Planned

At the request of the City Council, the Cupertino Historical Society will be working closely with the owners of the Nathan Hall tank house, pictured above, on future restoration.

## Donors Expand Collection

We have recently received some stellar additions to our collection which include:

- ◆ Several historic photographs of Cupertino families from Kay and Keith Peterson
- ◆ World War II war ration books with the original stamps from Carl Perkov and his family
- ◆ A framed lithograph of Cali Brothers from Robert Hawn
- ◆ The water analysis sign for the Putnam Well from Tom Watson
- ◆ Several lovely Victorian dresses, and 1930s hats, shoes, cape and a handbag from Patti-Ann Bossert

## Collections Assessment

We have received a subsidized collections assessment survey from the Balboa Art Conservation Center in San Diego. Representatives from the center will visit us this May to examine our environmental conditions, storage, handling procedures, and disaster preparedness policies.

This subsidized survey was made possible by a grant from The Endowment for the Humanities. The survey includes a final report that can be used to formulate a preservation plan and to solicit grant funds for the future care of our collections.





## Indulge Your Interests: Be a Volunteer

Want to help out at the Museum? We need volunteers in a number of areas:

### • Educational Programming

Are you a former teacher who'd like to get back in the classroom? Then join the Museum as an Educational Interpreter. Take the Traveling Trunk to elementary schools and community groups or lead activities and educational programs at the museum.

### • Events Planning

The museum hosts many wonderful events each year. Put your organizational skills to work and help us coordinate and plan them!

### • Museum Docents

Museum Docents keep the Museum running. They are an essential part of daily life here, opening and closing the Museum, greeting visitors, answering questions, and leading tours.

### • History Detective

Every day the Museum is asked questions about Cupertino and Santa Clara Valley history. We need volunteers to search for the answers.

Let us know where your interests lie! Call the Museum at (408) 973-1495 or email us at [cuphistorysoc@juno.com](mailto:cuphistorysoc@juno.com).

## Hands-On History

Join us every other month, starting in February, for this new and exciting program. Children of all ages are welcome to learn, explore and create.

### Upcoming programs

#### February 14, 1 to 3 p.m.: Victorian Valentines

Participants will learn about the history of Valentine's Day and design some classic Victorian-era valentines to take home.

#### April 10, 1 to 4 p.m.: Quick Quilting

Create your very own quilt square as you learn about the development of quilting as an American art form.



## Blankets Offer Warm Memories

We will soon be selling beautifully woven blankets with images of Cupertino's past and present.

Each tapestry includes images from Cali & Bro. Mill, the Cupertino Library, Rifredi's General Store, the Portal House, Kaiser Cement, the Collins School, fruit orchards, Apple Computer, the Lunar Unity Parade and other events and landmarks in Cupertino. Each blanket is 50" x 65" and is made of 100% cotton. Blankets sell for \$65 each. Quantities are limited so place your order today by calling (408) 973-1495.

*This project was generously underwritten by Intero Real Estate Services.*

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

*Membership gifts to the Cupertino Historical Society and Museum provide a base of support for programs, services and general operating. We appreciate the support and generosity of new members and continuing members.*

### Welcome New Members!

Patricia Bustamante

Nolan Chen

Sonja Cook

Helene Davis

Dwain Dryden

Rhoda Fry

Jim and Constance Guidotti

Deborah Jamison

Bob and Kathee Kraker

Mike and Joanne Mansch

Mark McKenna

Kaye Steinback

Steve and Jeannie Ting

Kris Wang

*Thanks to renewing members who have upgraded their memberships:*

Jim and Linda Walker

Kathy Stakey

Richard and Sharon Blaine

Dorothy Gardner

Darryl and Dorothy Stow

Kathy Nellis



## CHS SPOTLIGHT

### Kate Stober

There's a new smiling face in the CHS office.

Kate Stober, recently hired as Education Coordinator, has lived in the Bay Area since 1985. She attended Castilleja School in Palo Alto and received her BA in History from Washington University in St. Louis in 2003.

Kate has been published in the *Gateway History Journal* and enjoys researching American, Soviet, and



women's history. When she has the time, Kate loves to travel and recently returned from a trip to New Zealand and Australia.

Kate currently lives in Pleasanton with two cats and two dogs.

## THANKS TO OUR SUPPORTERS

We are grateful to the following individuals for their recent contributions:

*As of 12/4/03*

Donna Austin in honor of Richard Lowenthal

Christine and Richard Jeffers

Victoria Emmons in honor of Kate Stober

Jean Libby

Kathy Stakey

Itsuo Uenaka

### Memorial Contributions

*As of 12/4/03*

In Memory of Robert Butcher: Paula Quinterno

In Memory of Charlie Rifredi: Laverne Rabinowitz,  
Warren and Yvonne Holt

### Save the Date!

*Cupertino Antique Crossroads Show* is coming to town! So dust off the treasures in your attic or basement and join us on Saturday, March 13, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

## BULLETIN BOARD

### Upcoming Events

#### **Gathering at the Crossroads 2004**

**January 27:** Susan Shillinglaw (Martha Heasley Cox Center for Steinbeck Studies) will speak on the life and times of John Steinbeck, including his time in the Santa Clara Valley.

**February 24:** Phyllis Butler, writer, historian and founding chairman of the Santa Clara County Historic Heritage Commission, will speak about her book, *Valley of Santa Clara: a Guide to the Heart of Silicon Valley*, which covers the historic landmarks and personalities of the Valley.

**March 23:** Charles Grant and Mary Boudrias, Rengstorff House docents, will speak on the history of the Rengstorff family and house, located in Mountain View.

**April 27:** Connie Young Yu, author, historian, and member of the Chinese Historical and Cultural Project, will speak about San Jose's historic Heinlerville, which she has written about in *Chinatown: San Jose, USA*.

#### **Board Meetings**

January 21	6:30 p.m.
February 18	6:30 p.m.
March 17	6:30 p.m.

#### **Volunteer Meetings at the Museum**

January 31	9 a.m.
March 27	9 a.m.

### Special Notice

#### **History Field Trip**

In April, the Cupertino Historical Society & Museum will sponsor a field trip to Filoli Gardens. For a nominal fee, the trip will include transportation, lunch, and a guided tour.

History field trips provide a fun atmosphere to learn about history with others who share your interest. Those interested should contact Kate Stober at the Museum, (408) 973-1495.



Cupertino Historical Museum

Quinlan Community Center

10185 N. Stelling Road

Cupertino, CA 95014

Telephone: (408) 973-1495

Fax: (408) 973-8049

E-mail: cuphistorysoc@juno.com

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## MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Cupertino Historical Society and Museum is to create a passion for lifelong learning, preserve a vanishing past and serve as a bridge to a shared future. We believe that reflecting a broad representation of experiences, perspectives and cultures encourages stewardship and interaction, honoring the past and enhancing the lives of current and future citizens.

## CUPERTINO HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Located in the Quinlan Community Center, the museum is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday. Admission is free and open to the public.

*Gathering at the Crossroads* lectures are held the fourth Tuesday of each month, preceded by a potluck dinner. For additional information, call the museum at (408) 973-1495.



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Donna Austin	<i>President</i>
Mark McKenna	<i>Vice-President</i>
Darryl Stow	<i>Treasurer</i>
Helene Davis	<i>Secretary</i>

D. Michael Foulkes	Steve Ting
Mike Mansch	Robert E. Vitro
Devereaux Rendler	Jim Walker
Stefanie Singer	Linda Walker
Kaye Steinback	Kris Wang

## Museum Staff

Christine R. L. Jeffers	Executive Director
Kate Stober	Education Coordinator

*The Cornerstone is published quarterly by the Cupertino Historical Society, a private, non-profit organization.*