



# Cupertino Historical Society & Museum The Cornerstone

Summer 2008

Vol. 18, Issue 4

## Next Generation Has Its Place in History

By Helene Davis

This summer marks two important milestones for me, the completion of my first year as President of the Historical Society and the graduation of my first child from high school. It will be a nostalgic experience for me as she walks up to the podium, as I graduated from the same high school in Cupertino, oh so many years ago.



### Message from the President

I hope my daughter will have learned something from my years of involvement in the historical society, and that I have passed on to her my love of history. As she goes off to college, she will take away with her knowledge and memories of Cupertino. When someone asks where she is from she will say, "Cupertino, the place that used to be called *The Valley of Hearts Delight*, but now is part of *Silicon Valley*, you know, the *home* of Apple Computer." After all, the history of our community is one of profound change.

The next generation of Cupertino is moving out into the world to make their mark. I'm a bit wistful but couldn't be more proud. And I'll still be here wrapping up my final year as president. Have a great summer!

## Annual Barbecue Kicks Off Summer Season

*On June 22, CHS celebrated summer with a barbecue at Picchetti winery.*



*Frances Bush and Loretta Bassman demonstrate the Traveling Trunk before the barbecue (right). At left, Nita and Anita Picchetti in a photo taken sometime during the 1970s.*



*Continued on page 4*

### What's Inside

|                              |   |
|------------------------------|---|
| A History of the Helmet..... | 2 |
| Membership News.....         | 3 |
| Winery Hosts CHS.....        | 5 |
| Cupertino? Close Enough..... | 5 |

# Tracing History of the ‘Helmet’

By Donna Austin

*Note: At the suggestion of former resident Alan Minor, who now lives in Cupertino’s sister city, Toyokawa, Japan, the author embarked on a mission of finding out more about the symbol of Cupertino – embodied in the city’s landmark statue, a replica of which stands in Toyokawa’s sports center. The “morion,” or helmet, is the headgear of a Spanish conquistador.*

The City’s choice of the morion is a fascinating one, even if it is historically not quite accurate. I began with the *Cupertino Monta Vista Courier*, date June 30, 1971, stored in the Cupertino Historical Society & Museum. The museum has a complete bound set of *Couriers* from 1955 to 1971. (Since doing this research, I’ve discovered that we have Clyde Noel, former mayor in 1971/72, to thank for this collection.)

The article in the *Courier* says:

*“Cupertino’s latest landmark is this 21 foot high corten steel sculpture of a conquistador’s helmet which serves as the main attraction in the city’s newly completed civic plaza. The plaza links city hall and the library. The helmet commemorates the encampment here in 1776 of the De Anza expedition on its trek to San Francisco Bay. A feature of the sculpture is its fountain – to a reflecting pool at the other end from where it is pumped back again to the hat.*

*The rust colored, \$10,000 edifice in the “tradition and heritage of the Spanish occupation” was made of cotillian (sic) steel by John Augsburg of San Luis Obispo. City manager Bob Quinlan says the rust indicates the passage of time since the occupation. The legs forming the base of the statue, which rust will not damage, are in keeping with the shape of the library.”*

I called Barbara Rogers, former mayor. She said she remembers that when our new city manager, Bob Quinlan came in 1970, he said we needed a city symbol. She referred me to Jim Jackson, another former mayor. Jim was intrigued with my questions about the morion but said it was before his time and referred me to Clyde Noel and Gary Stokes, who were both mayors in the early 70s.

Today Clyde lives in Los Altos Hills and Gary lives in Gilroy.

When I called Clyde Noel, his wife answered and when she heard what I was researching, she said, “You mean that snail?” I laughed. I had heard that not all people liked the morion. But it sure beats Quetzacoatl in San Jose. Clyde referred me to Gary Stokes.

I asked Gary about the city council’s thinking on its choice of a city symbol. Gary said the council didn’t have too much choice about the symbol, but they did have a say in the cost. The morion was \$10,000. That was lot of money in those days. They had talked of a statue of a man on a horse with a plumed hat, but that would cost so much more. So the choice wasn’t historical, wasn’t aesthetic, it was the cost!

I asked Gary about the historical accuracy, since De Anza never wore that helmet (it was worn more than 150 years before his time). De Anza was born in Mexico. He was not a conquistador like Pizarro or Cortez. He did an exploratory expedition in 1774 for Spain and a colonization expedition in 1776 when he camped in Cupertino. But he wore a plumed hat, headgear that looks a lot more comfortable than the helmet.



Morion in 1971 (above) had wide legs and a base for catching and recirculating water. It was put in storage while the library was being built, and the modern version (below) emerged after construction. Today’s morion has more narrow legs and base.



**Gary Stokes**



# 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.*

## **New Members**

Welko Gasich  
Roberta Hollimon  
Francis & Margaret Keeler  
Dianna Paviso Stern

**In Memorium**  
Margaret Chrisman

## **Renewing Members**

|                           |                                      |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Shirley Bates             | Myrna Jelesko                        |
| Dianne Benedetti          | G.. Johnson                          |
| T. A. Bollinger           | Shari & Bill Kerr                    |
| Richard & Sharon Blaine   | David & Kay Knapp                    |
| Ray & Ellie Bortner       | Robert & Lousie Levy                 |
| John & Judith Bruzus      | Charles & Kathleen Liggett           |
| Pat Bustamante            | Janet London                         |
| Andy Butcher              | Mark McKenna                         |
| Audrey Butcher            | Bob & Janet Meyers                   |
| Charles Calhan            | Henry Mikulaco & De Anza<br>Plumbing |
| Victoria Candlearia       | Keith Peterson                       |
| Paul & Judith Carmichael  | Hector Picchetti                     |
| Malkah & Donald Carothers | Letizia Picchetti                    |
| Jill Costa                | Dolly Sandoval                       |
| Roy S. Dunn               | George & Lorraine Sousa              |
| Mary Eade                 | Darryl & Dorothy Stow                |
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| E. Gerald Hall            | Rose Ann & Bruce Woolpert            |
| Marion Alice Jarrett      |                                      |

# Thanks

## **To Our BBQ Sponsors**

### **Gold:**

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### **Silver:**

Bob Adams  
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D. Michael Foulkes  
Apple Computer

### **Donations:**

Donna & Scot Austin  
Mark Linder  
Hector & Nita Picchetti

Thanks to everyone who attended this year's fundraiser!

And a big thank you to Savannah Chanelle Winery for hosting our May Board Meeting

## **A Call for Volunteers**

The time a volunteer spends at the Cupertino Historical Museum is often just as rewarding to him or her as it is to us.

If you have a love for the community, please join ours and help us show off Cupertino's past and present.

If you are available two Saturday afternoons a month, come down and interpret Cupertino history for our museum visitors and keep our Museum open!

Anyone interested in volunteering with the Cupertino Historical Society and Museum should call 408-973-1495 or email us at [cuphistorysoc@juno.com](mailto:cuphistorysoc@juno.com).

## **Leave a Legacy**

One way to have a lasting impact on your community is to help the Cupertino Historical Society & Museum preserve our history for future generations. We welcome an opportunity to talk with you about including the Society and Museum in your will or in other planned gifts.

Please contact the Museum at (408) 973-1495 or via email at [cuphistorysoc@juno.com](mailto:cuphistorysoc@juno.com).

## Cupertino Historical Society Membership Application

☐ New    ☐ Renewal

☐ Individual \$35    ☐ Family \$50  
☐ Patron \$125    ☐ Sponsor \$250

Total Membership \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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City, State & Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

I'd like to do more...here is my tax-deductible donation  
of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*Please make checks payable to Cupertino Historical  
Society and mail to:*

**The Cupertino Historical Society & Museum**  
10185 N Stelling Road  
Cupertino, CA 95014

**Thank You!**



## Barbecue

*Continued from page 1*

It was such a perfect evening as people strolled, mingled, ate and listened to the barbershop quartet sing eloquently about "Sweet Adeline" and other favorites.

Former mayors, Jim Jackson and Sandy James were in attendance, as well as our current mayor, Dolly Sandoval. Our City Manager, Dave Knapp, and his wife Kay and Mike Foulkes from Apple with his wife Jennifer and baby also enjoyed the barbecue and the camaraderie.

Shawna Holmes was there to represent HP. In addition, Bob Adams, Chamber president, and past presidents of the Cupertino Historical Society, Donna Austin, Sharon Blaine, Charlie Liggett, Mark McKenna and Paula Quintero all had a great time.

The Picchetti family was well represented with Letizia Picchetti and her daughter Mary, Hector Picchetti (91 years young), Michael and Judy Picchetti, and Nita Picchetti and her husband.

The perfect ending to the evening, after the auction items were snapped up, came with guests building their own sundaes.

## Bulletin Board

|                               |          |                |              |
|-------------------------------|----------|----------------|--------------|
| <b>Board Meetings:</b>        | July 16  | 5:30 p.m.      | Location TBA |
|                               | Aug. 20  | 5:30 p.m.      | Social Room  |
|                               | Sept. 17 | 5:30 p.m.      | Social Room  |
| <b>Volunteer Meetings</b>     | July 12  | 9 a.m.         | Museum       |
|                               | Aug. 2   | 9 a.m.         | Museum       |
| <b>Potluck/Speaker Event:</b> | Aug. 16  | 6:30-8:30 p.m. |              |

*Museum will be closed the last two weeks in July to install new exhibit*





## CHS tours Savannah-Chanelle Vineyards

On a beautiful, sunny April day, board members of the Cupertino Historical Society were treated to an afternoon at the Savannah-Chanelle Vineyards – tasting the wines, touring the estate and cellars and learning the history. CHS thanks Vicki Seelig, Greg Gorham and Tony Craig, winemaker and guide for the afternoon, for their hospitality!

In 1892, French immigrant Pierre Pourroy established a winery upon the eastern slope of the Santa Cruz Mountains above the town of Saratoga. Pourroy christened his estate of 58 acres, Ville de Montmartre in honor of his hometown of Montmartre, a suburb of Paris. (Pourroy dropped the first silent “t”)

Pourroy farmed Pinot Noir, Cabernet Franc, Zinfandel, and Chardonnay. The Zinfandel plantings date back to 1910, and the Cabernet Franc plantings, California’s oldest, date back to 1920.

In 1976, Daniel Gehrs purchased the property. Recalling the days of the nearby turn-of-the-century bathing resort Congress Springs Hotel, Gehrs renamed the winery Congress Springs and is credited for rescuing the neglected old Zinfandel and Cabernet Franc vines.



**Guide Tony Craig**



In 1990, the winery fell into the hands of a British conglomerate, which over expanded and collapsed the operation. The Mariani family took over for a time until they sold to Michael and Kellie Ballard in 1996. The Ballards renamed the winery Savannah-Chanelle, after their two young daughters.

Pourroy’s Mediterranean style chateau (1923) still stands as does the old redwood winery (ca. 1910) that the Ballards salvaged and opened to the public as the Savannah-Chanelle tasting room.

## Cupertino Meets Copertino: A Short History

*Exerpts from Louis Stocklmeir*

The name used to designate the arroyo by the early Spanish explorers of what is now known as Stevens (formerly Cupertino) Creek was “Arroyo de San Joseph Cupertino.”

This arroyo (rivulet) was named after Saint Joseph of Cupertino (Copertino, Italy) born on June 17, 1603.

“Copertino,” a present day town in Southern Italy, is situated in the heel of the “Italian Boot” in the region of Puglia.

“It would seem that our City’s appellation of “Cupertino” follows the original name given to the area now named “Copertino” in Italy — the words are synonymous, however, both names, so distinctive, are fittingly applied to their respective localities and well qualify for the appellation of sister cities.”

Louis Stocklmeir  
May 15, 1963

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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.



## Board of Directors

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