



Cupertino Historical Society & Museum  
presents  
**the Cornerstone**

Winter 2010

Volume 20, Issue 2



## IN CELEBRATION OF CUPERTINO

BY GAIL FRETWELL HUGGER

PART 2 OF 5

Juan Bautista De Anza's expedition in 1775-76 was remarkable in that none of the over 100 men, women, and children who walked the near-trackless miles from Tubac, Arizona, to the presidio at Monterey in Alta, California died along the way. In fact, two babies were born and survived – a miracle under the harsh conditions.

De Anza forbade his soldiers to mistreat Indians they encountered along the way. But, as his small scouting party wound its way along our creek, the shouting Indians that emerged from the trees could not have known what was in store for their band and thousands of other Native Americans in the valley in the coming years. Disease epidemics, military actions, labor under the mission-rancho system, and assimilation into the Spanish-Mexican culture decimated their number into the mere dozens by the late 1800s.

Two historic Native American figures contributed to the rich history of Cupertino.

The legend of Chief Marcello, Cupertino area's most famous Ohlone, covers a lifespan of 125 years. One inscription reads that Marcello was born in 1750 and died in 1875. His ancestors are supposed to have been royal Yumans of the Colorado River Valley, and he was hailed as a chief by the Ohlone. Until his death he was a walking encyclopedia of mission history. According to corroborated stories, he aided Padre Jose Antonio Morguia in

building the mission on its second site. Under the direction of Padre Magin Catala, he and his tribesmen planted the four rows of black willows along the road known as the Alameda in San Jose.

Marcello stood 6 feet and 2 inches and weighed 250 pounds. According to "Ripley's Believe It Or Not," Marcello had five wives. His great strength enabled him to place the bells into the high mission towers. He loved to ring the bells, calling the faithful to mass. During his long lifetime, he saw the hunter-gatherer Ohlones become cultivators, and watched as his people faded away.

James Boholi, another Ohlone, was called the "last of the Santa Clara Mission Indians." (pictured here in this drawing by Pete Emig) Boholi worked for the first governor of California, the Hon. Peter Burnett, who had a 20-acre orchard where Prospect and Stelling roads are now – the former Painless Parker ranch.

The Ohlones, who called themselves the Tares, spoke a different dialect of the Mut-Sun language than the tribe at San Francisco. Boholi said the Lord's Prayer in the dialect spoken as far south as the Mission San Juan Bautista and as it was spoken at Mission Santa Clara.

Historic accounts tell of the clear, sonorous singing voices of these early converts to Christianity and how the Franciscan missionaries used colored notations to mark the music sheets to enable the Native Americans to follow the leader of the mission choir.

However one views this part of our early history, we are grateful to have accounts of these historic men.

*In Celebration of Cupertino: Pt. 2 of 5 was originally published in the May 2005 issue of The Scene.*

*Resources: Drawings and partial excerpts from the stories of A. "Pete" Emig in the Cupertino Courier; 'The Five Franciscan Churches of Mission Santa Clara' and 'Marcello, Last of the Mission Indians,' by Rev. Arthur D. Spearman and Charles D. South.*

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## Cupertino Historical Society & Museum

### MISSION STATEMENT

We preserve and illuminate Cupertino's past to inspire youth, strengthen the sense of community, and shape a better future by making Cupertino history relevant and available to all.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND STAFF

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Kwik Kopy | **Printer**

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# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

BY DARRYL STOW



The Cupertino Historical Society is one of the key players in helping the City of Cupertino plan the second phase of the Stevens Creek Corridor Project. We have been part of a group known as the Stocklmeir Task Force working with the City and other interested non-profit groups on the usage of the old Stocklmeir house and farm, as well as determining the location of the northern continuation of the Stevens Creek trail through the Stocklmeir property. The property is located south of

Stevens Creek Boulevard and west of Stevens Creek and the Blackberry Farm Golf Course. One of the exciting proposals by the task force is to create a legacy farm on the property, which would provide many opportunities for vocational education for our local high school students.

Past president Mark McKenna has also made a presentation to the city's Parks and Recreation Commission with a proposal whereby the Cupertino Historical Society would develop historical signage along the Stevens Creek Trail. The location of Elisha Stephens's home, the encampment site of the De Anza expedition and the area where early Indian tribes resided would be featured. Once the Stevens Creek Trail is completed to Stevens Creek Boulevard, the Cupertino Historical Society would like to offer guided tours of the historic areas around the Stocklmeir property.

### NEW BOARD MEMBERS



The society is delighted to welcome two new members to our Board of Directors, **Daniel Nguyen** and **Don Sun**. A biographical sketch of Daniel appears in this issue and we will feature Don in our next issue.

### THANKS TO OUR DONORS

We continue to operate only through the generous support of our members and donors. Some key donations made during these past few months were:

- Our annual fund drive returned \$4,700
- The **family of Cynthia Lee** made a memorial gift of \$10,000
- Memorial gifts for **Hazel Fretwell**, a long-time member and past-president, totaled \$1,000
- **Ron Cali** donated **Cali Brothers caps** that were sold by **Rik Jones at Cicero's Pizza** and netted the Society \$1,000

And speaking of donor support, please mark you calendars for **Sunday, June 27, 2010** for our **annual BBQ and Fundraiser** at beautiful Picchetti Winery.



# STEVENS CREEK HISTORY TOUR

BY DONNA AUSTIN, VP - MEMBERSHIP



On the evening of February 25<sup>th</sup>, history lovers came together for the Cupertino Historical Society's quarterly meeting and potluck.

Over 60 guests attended **Gail Fretwell Hugger's** lecture about the history along the Stevens Creek trail and creek. Gail began her presentation talking about the Ohlone Indians who fished the creeks, gathered acorns from the

numerous oak trees and hunted wildlife in the area. Gail's presentation also covered the history of the Juan Bautista de Anza party that "arrived at the Arroyo San José de Cupertino" on March 25, 1776 and left a plaque for later generations to find. Louis Stocklmeir, founder of the Cupertino Historical Society and the California History Center, did much research about this plaque and verified that de Anza did indeed camp by the creek which his cartographer and diarist, Padre Pedro Font, named for St. Joseph of Cupertino. A California State Historic Landmark marker about the de Anza party stands in the Monta Vista High School parking lot today.

Gail continued on to talk about Captain Elisha Stephens (1804-1887), one of the earliest settlers in "Westside", who loved to cook rattlesnakes. He had a great recipe for it and said it "beat frogs any day".

Historical maps of the area, photos, and black and white ink drawings by E. Pete Emig were featured in a power point presentation compiled by Donna Austin. Emig created historical drawings and local portraits of people and places in Cupertino. His drawings were featured in the *Cupertino Courier* paper of old and he later donated these original drawings to the historical society.

Gail Hugger ended her presentation with a photo of Stocklmeir and his cottage by the creek and offered to provide history walks of the Stevens Creek trail to anyone interested. The last parcel of Stocklmeir's property is currently being considered by the city of Cupertino for preservation as a legacy farm.

A good time, boosted by good food, was had by all. Please consider joining us at the next meeting and becoming a member of the Cupertino Historical Society. We need you! We'd love to have you be part of our history!



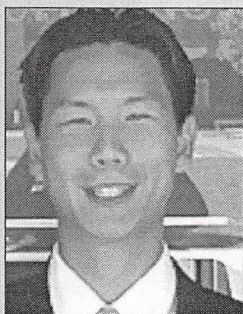
Beez Jones and Audrey Butcher enjoyed catching up on current news



Don Sun and Brian Chung learned about Cupertino's early history.

## SPOTLIGHT: CHS BOARD MEMBER, DANIEL NGUYEN

BY DANIEL NGUYEN



Daniel Nguyen is a life-long resident of Cupertino, educated at Garden Gate, Kennedy, and Monta Vista. After college, he returned to his roots to serve the community that has given him and his family so much. Daniel joined the Cupertino

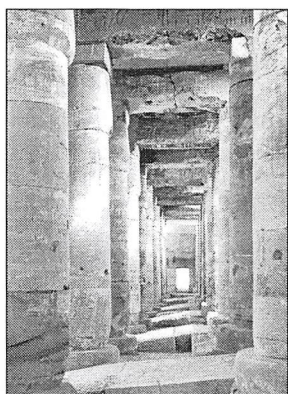
Historical Society's Board of Directors because he believes that a thorough understanding of a city's history is central to its culture and identity.

Daniel majored in statistics and earned a master's degree in Biostatistics, from UCLA. He also works full-time at the Veterans Hospital and is chair of the Cupertino Public Safety Commission.



# EXPEDITION TO EGYPT!

BY CORINNA DIXON, VP - MUSEUM COLLECTIONS



Julie DeVere, our Collections Manager, has been honored with the opportunity to serve as the assistant registrar for the North Abydos Project in Egypt this winter. As a part of the joint Pennsylvania University, Yale University, and New York University Institute of Fine Arts' expedition, Julie will assist with the collections side of archaeological fieldwork – processing, registration, and storage of artifacts generated by the project's excavations.

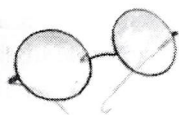
Abydos is located about 300 miles south of Cairo, on the western side of the Nile and about 9.5 miles from the river.

Considered one of the most important archaeological sites of Ancient Upper Egypt, the sacred city of Abydos, which covers over 5 square miles, was the site of many ancient temples and tombs, including the Great Osiris Temple (to the lord of the netherworld), Temple of Seti I, and the Temple of Ramesses II.

Julie is taking a ten week leave of absence from The Cupertino Historical Museum to participate in this expedition to Egypt. We are proud that she was selected for the position and are confident that this exciting professional opportunity will only increase her skills in collection management, making her an even greater asset to the Cupertino Historical Society and Museum. We look forward to hearing about Julie's experiences in Egypt when she returns to us in May.

## COLLECTIONS CORNER

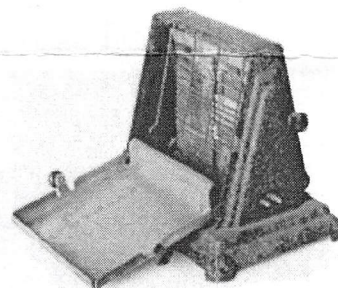
BY JULIE DEVERE, COLLECTIONS MANAGER



Keeping the museum's collection safe from the ravages of time is a big part of my work. Thanks to donations made this past year, we were able to rehouse the historic photograph collection in individual archival sleeves. Archival photograph sleeves help protect photographs from fingerprint oils, scratches, and even rubbing from other photographs. The sleeves can also help support the weight of the photographs in storage, helping to protect them from curling. The second part of this rehousing project involved scanning each

photograph. Having an archival quality scan allows the museum to better protect the original images from over-handling in the future. The process also helps make the photograph collection more accessible for researchers and historians.

Our rehousing projects will continue this year; we have many historical objects that are awaiting new homes in archival acid-free boxes. If you would like to assist us with this ongoing project please send your Collections donations today. Thank you for helping us protect our history.



## IN MEMORIAM

BY SONJA COOK

**DOROTHY MABEL GARDNER: JULY 28, 1917 - JANUARY 17, 2010**

We all are sorry to hear of the passing of our longtime member **Dorothy Gardner** on January 17, 2010.

She was a loyal supporter of the Cupertino Historical Museum, being a weekly docent, helping at the Museum table at the Audubon Wildlife Education Day, faithfully attending docent meetings and generally helping wherever she could for so many years. Dorothy was invaluable for craft projects, providing both ideas and endless supplies.

Having grown up in San Jose just off the Alameda, she had lots of stories and readily shared them with visitors – stories of

annual floods in San Jose, care-free life as a child in her neighborhood back then and playing in an empty lot for hours (now under Hwy. 880) with no one worrying.

Her degree in Library Sciences fitted her perfectly for detailed work both at the Museum and in her volunteer work at the library and her church.

Fortunately she was able to maintain her schedule until quite recently. Dorothy will be sorely missed by family, friends and the organizations which benefitted from her generous gift of time.





# CUPERTINO HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

☐ NEW MEMBER ☐ RENEWING MEMBER

☐ INDIVIDUAL \$35

☐ FAMILY \$50

☐ PATRON \$125

☐ SPONSOR \$250

☐ DIRECTOR'S CIRCLE \$500

☐ COLLECTOR'S CIRCLE \$1000

☐ PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE \$2500

☐ BENEFACTOR'S CIRCLE \$5000

☐ \$ \_\_\_\_\_ I'D LIKE TO DO MORE! ENCLOSED IS MY TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATION

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ADDRESS

CITY

STATE

ZIP CODE

PHONE

EMAIL

please make checks payable to  
**The Cupertino  
Historical Society & Museum**  
10185 N. Stelling Road  
Cupertino, CA 95014

*If you would like to charge your membership fee to your credit card, please contact the museum at (408) 973-1495 with your credit card information. We accept Master Card, VISA, American Express and Discover.*

*The Cupertino Historical Society & Museum's Federal ID number is 94 2694547.*

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

### 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 help show off Cupertino's past and present.

**Our volunteers help keep our museum open!**

If you are available to volunteer for a two hour shift, **Wednesday through Saturday** between the hours of **10 a.m. – 4 p.m.**, please contact the Cupertino Historical Museum at **408-973-1495** or email us at [cuphistsociety@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cuphistsociety@sbcglobal.net).

### THE TRAVELING TRUNK

The Traveling Trunk Educational Program is **in need of a substitute docent** to fill in when one of our regular docents is unable to attend a presentation. Presentations, to elementary school classrooms and adult groups, last 30-45 minutes and teach about the history of many items used in homes & orchards around 1900.

**Don't be shy** - the program is easy to learn and you'll have the support of your Traveling Trunk co-docents!

Please contact the museum or **Loretta Bassman** at [lorbass@comcast.net](mailto:lorbass@comcast.net) for additional information.

### MEMBERSHIP GIFTS

Membership Gifts to the Cupertino Historical Society & Museum provide a base of support for programs, services and general operating costs. We appreciate the support and generosity of new and renewing members.

The benefits of being a member of the Cupertino Historical Society & Museum are many:

- Store discounts
- Quarterly potluck
- Quarterly newsletter
- Special events invitation
- Access to museum library

**NOVEMBER 2009 THRU JANUARY 2010**

#### NEW MEMBERS

Michael Gottswald | Don Sun

#### RENEWING MEMBERS

Steve Andrews | Doris Beezley

Paul Carmichael | Mary Egan

Rosalyn Frolich | Mildred Gagliasso

Marshall and Roberta Hollimon

Janet London

Paul & Wanda Mikalaco

Charles Newman | Hector Picchetti

Barbara Rogers | Dolly Sandoval

Clare & Jim Schoenfelder

Mavis Smith



## CUPERTINO HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM

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Part 2 of 5
- Stevens Creek History *By Donna Austin*

# the Cornerstone

## BULLETIN BOARD

### MUSEUM HOURS:

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

### BOARD MEETINGS:

- Wednesday, March 17  
5:30 p.m., Quinlan, Cupertino Room
- Wednesday, April 21  
5:30 p.m., location TBD
- Wednesday, June 16  
5:30 p.m., location TBD

### ANNUAL MEETING:

Wednesday, May 19  
5:30 p.m., Quinlan,  
Cupertino Room

### VOLUNTEER MEETINGS:

- Saturday, May 8  
9 a.m., CHS Museum
- Saturday, July 10  
9 a.m., CHS Museum

### ANNUAL BBQ: SAVE THE DATE!!

Sunday, June 27, 2010  
5:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.,  
Picchetti Winery  
Rumor has it that this will be a 50's  
themed event

— stay tuned!!

You can now view all of our events, as well as receive our newsletters,  
on our website at

[WWW.CUPERTINOHISTORICALSOCIETY.ORG](http://WWW.CUPERTINOHISTORICALSOCIETY.ORG)