



Cupertino Historical Society & Museum
presents
the Cornerstone

Spring 2010

Volume 20, Issue 3



|| ELISHA STEPHENS

IN CELEBRATION OF CUPERTINO

|| BY GAIL FRETWELL HUGGER

PART 3 OF 5

Spanish/Mexican rule in California lasted a little under 100 years. For the Spanish settlers, the presidios, missions and vast ranchos flourished in their golden age of pastoral and fruitful tranquility, untouched by wars in Europe and revolutions in the southern Americas. The missions taught trades, crafts, agriculture, and music and spread the European culture and

civilization of that time. The soldiers in the presidios had no wartime duties, other than controlling the Native American population, exploration and carrying the mail.

As early as 1818, Americans began trickling into California, lured by tales of wonderful climate, soil, abundant game and the hospitable lifestyle afforded by cheap land and labor. After Mexico took over California from Spain, millions of acres of land were given away, some to these early American residents of California who often intermarried into the Spanish/Mexican families.

In 1844, Elisha Stephens, a crusty wagon master, guided the Stephens-Murphy Townsend party of settlers from Iowa across the plains, deserts and mighty Sierra Nevada mountains to Sutter's Fort, California, without any loss of life along the way – the first such accomplishment in wagon train history. At this time, California was still under Mexican rule but in 1846, many of the Americans living in Alta California organized a revolution -the Bear Flag Revolt. That effort lasted 26 days and then war with Mexico broke out between the Americans and Mexico. Captain Elisha Stephens served in ordnance under Commodore Stockton,

fighting with other Americans during the two years of the war. Mexico finally signed the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo and for a time California had a part military/part civil government that didn't work well and sort of left the former province in a kind of political, governmental limbo.

In 1848, gold was discovered in the Sacramento area and the news electrified the states on the other side of the Rocky Mountains and the world. People from all corners of the globe took horrifying sea voyages and made exhausting overland treks to this land of gold. Immigrants came from most of the countries in Europe and the first wave of Chinese came as laborers in the gold mines, on the railroads, building levees in the Sacramento Delta and rock wall land boundaries in the Gold Country. California became a state in two years. By 1850, it had a constitution and legislature and the population had soared into the hundreds of thousands. The missions, presidios, vast ranchos, bull and bear fights, and sleepy pastoral lands began to pass into history. As for Captain Stephens, he wound up in the Santa Clara Valley in the 1850's. Records show he bought 160 acres from one Jeremiah Clarke (about whom we have no information as to when he arrived here) on the "Westside" (Cupertino). Stephens hunted game, fished, ate rattlesnakes for dinner and looked out of his cabin on the banks of the creek that now bears his name. (albeit spelled differently and what Font originally named Arroyo de San Joseph Cupertino)

In Bob Levy's wonderful book, "The West Side and How It Grew", there are maps showing the names and land holdings of the earliest settlers in the West Side area up to the 1860's. Another activity of note on the West Side in this time period was the Villa Maria, built by the Jesuits as a summer retreat for the priests from Santa Clara Mission and university. It was situated on Stevens Canyon Road (also named for Elisha Stephens) on what is now county park land just below Stevens Creek Dam. Mary Lou Lyon's little book on Elisha Stephens is a gem and

Continued on pg 5...



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.

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER



SNYDER-HAMMOND HOUSE: A CUPERTINO TREASURE

|| BY DARRYL STOW

One of the more interesting items in the historic "collection" of the Cupertino Historical Society is the Snyder-Hammond House. The house sits on a knoll off the west end of Stevens Creek Boulevard, just east of the Lehigh (formerly Kaiser and Hanson) Cement plant in Cupertino.

The house was built in 1881 by John Snyder, an early farmer in the area, for his daughter Martha Bell Snyder when she married Dr. W. H. Hammond, a teacher at the original San Antonio School. The house faced what was then called Permanente Creek Road, later to be the entrance to the cement plant. The Hammonds had one daughter, Muriel, born in 1884, who later lived in the house with her two children. The property was sold to the Roman Catholic Diocese of San Francisco in 1919 when the Diocese was acquiring property in the area.

Coming forward in time to October, 2000, the Catholic Diocese sold its holdings in the area to the O'Brien Group who developed the Oak Valley subdivision on part of the land. The remaining land was deeded to the County of Santa Clara as open space parkland. The O'Brien group had plans to demolish the Snyder-Hammond House before transferring title to the County. Instead, the Cupertino Historical Society under the leadership of Charles Newman, was offered the opportunity to purchase the historic house on one acre of ground to save it from being leveled. So, for the sale price of one dollar, the Cupertino Historical Society became the new owner of the Snyder-Hammond House.

Today, Tim Summers, a longtime resident of the area, and his wife Laura and their four sons, reside in the house as caretakers of the property. They and the Society are dedicated to the preservation of this oldest farmhouse in the Cupertino area and the historic farmland surrounding it. The Snyder-Hammond House is being considered for historic designation under the City of Cupertino's Historic Preservation Policy.

CUPERTINO'S HISTORICAL PRESERVATION POLICY

II BY HELENE DAVIS

In 2007, The Cupertino City Council directed the Cupertino Planning Department to update and re-evaluate the existing historical site list in the General Plan and the historical sites listed in the 1997 Historical Report with an eye to implementing an Historical Preservation Policy for the City of Cupertino. An ad hoc Historical Preservation Committee was formed in 2008 with three community members, myself included as a representative of the Historical Society. The Committee used the 1997 study as a starting point. Historical Society members served on the 1997 committee and it was an invaluable resource for us as we began our process.

Over the next two years we visited, photographed and researched the history of the selected sites. We then evaluated them for their historical significance by determining if they met one or more specific criteria. If the site met any one of the criteria, preservation or commemoration was recommended.

On April 20, 2010, Planning staff, along with the representatives of the ad hoc committee, presented the recommendations before the City Council. Staff recommended that City Council authorize them to move forward with the Historic Preservation Policy and related General Plan Amendment. I am happy to report

that the Council voted 5 to 0 for Planning staff to bring the recommendations before the Planning Commission (the next step in the process) before bringing it back to the Council sometime in June 2010 for public input and a final vote.

The City Council provided the ad hoc committee with the following parameters:

1. Limit the policies to Public/Semi-Public and Commercial Properties
2. Update and re-rank the existing historic structure or site list
3. Define a public hearing, review, and noticing procedure process, which includes the involvement of property owners
4. Define the potential methods of preservation:
 - Physical preservation or relocation
 - Commemorative measures (plaques or pictures, recycle building or architectural materials/elements)
 - Proper disclosure of significance (special zoning or covenants)

If you would like more information on what was presented to the Council, you can find it on [Cupertino.org](http://64.165.34.13/weblink8/0/doc/131162/Page1.aspx) or input the following link: <http://64.165.34.13/weblink8/0/doc/131162/Page1.aspx>

SPOTLIGHT: CHS BOARD MEMBER, DON SUN

I BY CHS



Don Sun moved to Cupertino just three years ago. His passion and love of this great community are as deep as one who has resided here their entire life.

With a masters degree in economics from the University of Pennsylvania, a law degree from the Peninsula Law School, plus two years at the Stanford Hoover Institute, he prefers to combine theory with practice. Don is also a member of the Cupertino Rotary Club

and has hosted a radio book review talk show for the past eight years.

Don believes that understanding history can provide us with a broader vision of this world and our life... be it the story of a tank house or a creek... and that this understanding can be conveyed to our children.

He expects to bring yesterday, today and tomorrow together by working with the Cupertino Historical Society and the entire Cupertino community.

SPOTLIGHT: CHS OFFICE MANAGER, LYDIA VEALE

I BY CHS

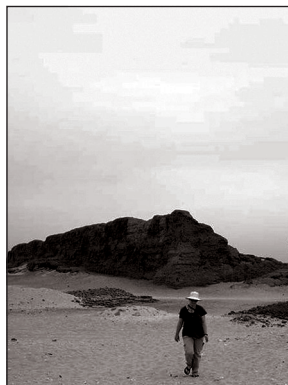


Lydia Veale has joined the Cupertino Historical Society as Office Manager. She is a familiar face in Cupertino, having worked previously for Whole Foods Market and the Cupertino Chamber of Commerce.

Lydia was raised in New Jersey and has also lived in New Hampshire. She has a grown son and daughter and recently became a grandmother. Lydia enjoys playing softball and tennis and has acted in community theater. Recently Lydia discovered the abundance of bluegrass music in the area and has been enjoying it since. She is looking forward to working with the board, volunteers, and members of the Historical Society.

EXPEDITION TO EGYPT!

|| BY JULIE DeVERE, COLLECTIONS MANAGER



|| JULIE IN EGYPT

For the past ten weeks I have worked as the assistant registrar for the North Abydos Project in Abydos, Egypt. The project is part of the ongoing University of Pennsylvania, Yale, and New York University Institute of Fine Art's Joint Expedition. Since the late 1960s, the expedition has been excavating multiple sites in and around Abydos, Egypt. Abydos is located about 300 miles south of Cairo, on the western side of the Nile. Our work focused on the largest feature in the Abydos landscape, the Shunet el-Zebib. Originally built

around 2775 BCE, the Shuneh is a massive mud brick enclosure which was built to be the royal funerary enclosure for Pharaoh Khasekhemwy.

As the assistant registrar I worked to sort, record, catalogue and

COLLECTIONS CORNER : WISH LIST



|| BY JULIE DeVERE, COLLECTIONS MANAGER



Collections are the heart of a museum. Keeping our collection safe from the ravages of time is a big part of my work with Cupertino Historical Museum. However, archival supplies can be expensive; many little things can really add up. If you love our photography collection, help us protect it with new archival sleeves and acid free folders. Maybe you admire our textile collection

and an archival hatbox is more your style. Basic collections materials are always in demand and benefit all of the objects in our collection.

Here are some current materials the museum collections could greatly benefit from:



ITEM	DONATION
Archival storage boxes	\$10-\$13 ea.
Mylar envelopes for negatives & prints, package of 100	\$35
Archival hanging file folders, package of 25	\$22.55
Pigma fade-resistant pens, black 3/set	\$8
Archival hat box	\$30

store approximately 4,000 objects discovered during the course of our excavation and conservation work. We had an exciting season with a number of important finds being made. I was constantly challenged to be creative with our collections storage, to utilize local materials, and to limit our imported archival materials for the most at risk objects. Archival materials are a luxury in the Egyptian desert - we only had what we brought with us. All of the objects remain in Egypt under the care of the expedition and the Egyptian Supreme Council of Antiquities.

Although I was often hot and dusty, I had a wonderful winter in Egypt. It was my privilege to work with such a talented team of individuals. As always, I found Egypt to be a friendly and welcoming country full of wonderful people. I made a number of friends whom I will miss dearly. I am excited to be home and back to work on a number of museum-related projects. This summer I will continue to re-house our museum collection in archival storage materials and will work with the exhibits committee on upcoming exhibits here at the museum. It should be an exciting and busy time for the museum.

KAISER EXHIBIT

Inspired by *Together We Build*, a 1989 booklet celebrating Kaiser Cement Corporation's 50th anniversary, the Cupertino Historical Museum's current exhibit entitled **Henry Kaiser and His Cement Plant, The Legacy Continues** documents the natural geology of our foothills, the evolution of the Permanente Cement Plant, the cement making process, and the man behind the company.

Highlights about the Permanente Cement Company, overlooking Cupertino's Permanente Creek, include:

- 1939** - Supplied 1.1 million tons of cement for construction of Shasta Dam.
- 1940s** - During WWII, 99% of output went to the U.S. government.
- 1954** - Cement sold equaled one sack every second.
- 1967** - Henry Kaiser dies at age 85.
- 1970s** - The semi-conductor industry creates a huge market for products.
- 1981** - New plant constructed.
- 1986** - Kaiser Cement purchased by Hanson PLC.
- 1994** - Supplied aggregate and cement for construction of Highway 85.
- 1999** - Kaiser Cement takes the name Hanson Permanente Cement.
- 2000s** - Received two important awards:
 - Cupertino Chamber of Commerce Star Award for Large Business
 - Environmental Eagle Award from the National Stone, Sand, and Gravel Association
- 2007** - Permanent plant merged with Heidelberg's Lehigh Cement Companies and is renamed Lehigh Southwest Cement Company, Permanente Plant

To learn more about the man and his legacy, come visit the Cupertino Historical Museum or visit the Lehigh Permanente website at www.lehighpermanente.com (History tab).



IN CELEBRATION OF CUPERTINO CONTINUED

...Continued from pg 1

well worth reading. He was definitely one of the most colorful characters in Cupertino's history. The book is available at the library and the Cupertino Historical Museum. After the California Gold Rush and the first mass wave of immigration and migration from the east, the land on early maps of this area formerly labeled as "unfit for cultivation" began to lure those European immigrants from hilly towns in Italy, France and Slovenia,

Ireland, Scotland and England who cultivated miles of vineyards in the California hills and flat lands. Vineyards began replacing cattle ranching and wheat farming. The owners of the ranchos struggled in vain to hold onto their huge land holdings, often spending years in courts, but the one era was ending and another was beginning.

In Celebration of Cupertino: Pt. 3 of 5 was originally published in the June 2005 issue of The Scene.

THE TRAVELING TRUNK



Looking for a Unique Experience? The Traveling Trunk Educational Program is **in need of a substitute docent** to fill in when one of the regular docents is not able to attend a presentation (perhaps one morning a month).

Our show-and-tell program teaches the history of many items used in homes and orchards around 1900 to young audiences in local schools. No public speaking experience required.

Feel free to come and observe for several sessions to get acquainted with the program; we work in pairs so there is always the support of another docent.

Please contact the museum or **Loretta Bassman** at lorbass@comcast.net for additional information.



THE TRAVELING TRUNK HAS RECEIVED RAVE REVIEWS FROM THIRD GRADE STUDENTS.

"Dear Traveling Trunk presenters,
Thank you for coming to my school....
The part that surprised me was that a sugar or potato bag from long ago the mothers used it by using it for the babies diaper....The thing that was awesome was the toaster. What was also cool was the hair curler....Thank you for coming." A.H.

"Dear presenters,
I never knew history could be so amazing. The old shoes were so cool. I also loved how they boiled eggs back then. Thank you for showing us all that amazing stuff."
- S.

"I loved your lecture about old Cupertino. I always wanted to go to a museum but you brought one to me. I was surprised by the lantern...

sincerely, N. S."

FUNDRAISER BBQ!



The Cupertino Historical Society & Museum is holding its "Back to the 50s" Annual Summer Fundraiser to help support efforts to serve the community with educational programs and the preservation of the historical collections.

Sunday, June 27, 2010, 5:00PM to 9:00PM

at the Picchetti Winery

BBQ dinner provided by the Outback Steakhouse

Root Beer Floats provided by Alotta's Deli

Live Auction and Music

Tickets are \$50 and are on sale now

For further information, please contact the Cupertino Historical Museum at 408 . 973 . 1495

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<input type="checkbox"/> Spring, Vol. 21, Issue 3	early May, 2011	April 1, 2011
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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

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

PUT SNOOPY ON YOUR LICENSE PLATE



The Cupertino Historical Museum is excited to support The California Association of Museums campaign to bring the world's favorite beagle, Snoopy, to license plates in California and support our state's great museums at the same time.

So how do we make it happen? If we can get 7,500 registered California drivers to support this campaign, we can be the first state in the union to feature Snoopy on an official license plate. Note that you are simply registering interest at this point. Once there are enough supporters, the state will collect a \$50 fee from anyone who wants to get their own Snoopy plate.

Registration proceeds from the plate will go towards supporting our state's great museums, such as The Cupertino Historical Museum. As you know, museums are truly special places, community forums where families, friends and neighbors can meet, learn and discover together.

Please, go to www.snoopyplate.com today to support the Snoopy license plate and museums. And, ask your friends and family to help us achieve our goal.

Thanks for your support!



CUPERTINO HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM

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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, June 16
5:30 p.m., contact CHS Museum for details

Wednesday, July 21
5:30 p.m., CHS Museum

Wednesday, August 18
5:30 p.m., CHS Museum

HOLIDAYS

Quinlan Community Center
CLOSED
Memorial Day - May 31st
Independence Day - July 4 & 5

ANNUAL FUNDRAISER BBQ

Sunday, June 27, 2010
5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.,
Picchetti Winery

See pg. 5 for more details!

VOLUNTEER MEETINGS:

Saturday, July 10
9 a.m., CHS Museum

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

www.CUPERTINOHISTORICALSOCIETY.ORG