



Cupertino Historical Society & Museum
presents
the Cornerstone

Spring 2011

Volume 21, Issue 3

CALIFORNIA WOMEN CELEBRATE 100 YEARS OF VOTING

By Darlene Thorne

October 10, 2011 marks the 100th Anniversary of women voting in California. However, the accomplishment did not come easily - nor swiftly.

At the Cupertino Historical Society Annual Meeting on May 24th, Darlene Thorne will present **In Their League?** - a visual PowerPoint presentation based on her collection of 100-year-old postcard images. These postcards document the era between 1895-1920. They can be serious or comical, but always thought-provoking. Many are artist drawn, but a few are actual black and white photo postcards with stunning clarity... all are authentic pieces of persuasion.

By 1883 five states already had full voting and civil rights for women: Wyoming, Utah, Colorado, Idaho and Washington. The originator of the suffrage movement, Susan B. Anthony, supported California's efforts and actively canvassed the state in an effort to get an amendment on the 1886 ballot. As it was defeated by three counties - San Francisco, Alameda and Santa Clara (loosing largely in the big cities) - it was not even added to the ballot.



When the California Suffragettes decided to try again in 1911 they had no political experience, no clout or power, and no money. They studied their 1886 defeat and decided to work with completely different tactics.

They had much to overcome. Many women, in addition to men, thought women should not vote. Northern California became the hotbed of the California Suffrage Movement. What were their strategies? What new gentler tactics did they use?

Victory! On October 10, 1911 Proposition 4 (or Senate Constitutional Amendment No. 8) granted women the right to vote in California. California became a driving force in the eventual passage of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution in 1920.

Vintage Suffrage postcards of the 1895-1920 era were not only mean-spirited; they were unfair and deceptive. They touted women suffrage advocates as home wreckers. The movement was also tied very closely to prohibition - further isolating the men. Suffragettes were depicted as anti-American. So through all the objections, how did California women win the vote and become the Sixth Star on the Suffrage Flag?



In Their League? questions modern-day men and women. Would we have been influenced, pro or con, by the barrage of posters, newspaper articles and postcards? Would we face the prospect of being constantly ridiculed, arrested and jailed, or force fed? Allow these images to test your resolve.

Postcard images courtesy of Darlene Thorne.



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

By Darryl Stow, President



Strategic Planning

Your Board of Directors held a strategic planning session in February to map out our future direction. The key areas of emphasis are:

- Recognition of historical sites around Cupertino through signage and history walks.
- Involving the youth of the community in our history.
- Be actively involved in the development and use of the Stocklmeir property.
- Form new partnerships with the library, schools and businesses.
- Recruit more members, emphasizing the need for greater diversity.

Involvement in our Programs

I encourage you to put two important dates on your calendar:

Annual Meeting, Wednesday May 25th at Quinlan Center

Darlene Thorne, board member and long-time Cupertino resident, will present a program commemorating the 100th anniversary of Women's Suffrage in California. It is also our annual meeting where we will elect next year's Officers and Directors.

A potluck dinner will NOT be part of this evening's program. Refreshments will be served.

Annual Fundraiser BBQ, Sunday, June 26th at historic Picchetti Winery

In addition to great food provided by the Outback Steak house, we will have wine tasting, tours of the winery, music and a live auction featuring some unique and exciting items. This is our major fund raising event of the year which helps to keep us solvent, so we hope you will join us for what is always a fun event!

Passing the Baton

This is my last President's Corner article as my two year term as President ends on June 30th. It has been my pleasure to serve as president for this fine community asset as we strive to build our Society, improve our museum collection and exhibits, and make Cupertino's history available and relevant to all our citizens. The next president will be announced at the Annual Meeting on May 25th so come and find out who it is!

Bye for now.

COLLECTIONS CORNER

"Mr. West Side"

|| By Julie DeVere, Collections Registrar

This June our Crossroads Exhibit will shift its focus from blacksmiths and early mechanics to one of Cupertino's founding fathers, Alexander Montgomery.

Born in Northern Ireland in 1840, Montgomery moved to the area known as West Side in 1868. Montgomery is most well known for opening Cupertino's first general store in 1892, the West Side Branch of the San Jose Home Union Store, later known as the Cupertino Store. However, he was also busy raising wheat, caring for his vineyards, distilling spirits, tending his Jersey dairy cows, producing cream of tartar, or admiring his flock of peacocks. He was also fond of ridding the still wild valley of jack rabbits with the assistance of his greyhounds.

Alexander Montgomery came to be known as "Mr. West Side" due to his many businesses and "Uncle Alex" due to his kind spirit and generosity. Cupertino's first philanthropist, Montgomery donated an acre a piece to the Horticulture Viticulture Association, the Presbyterian Church (later the Cupertino Union Church), and St. Joseph's Catholic Church. Not one to leave anyone out, black X's marked his gate alerting passing hobos to a warm meal and possibly a good night's rest.



Alexander Montgomery (1840—1922)

From the collection of the Cupertino Historical Museum

Join us this June and learn more about this fascinating early resident of Cupertino.

THE CALIFORNIA WESTERN AMERICANA COLLECTION AT THE CUPERTINO LIBRARY

|| By Helene Davis

Did you know that the Cupertino Library is the repository for a very special collection within the Santa Clara County Library System? It's called the California Western Americana Collection (CWA) and Cupertino is indeed lucky to house this collection.

In order to bring more visibility to the collection in the community, The Cupertino Library, The Cupertino Library Foundation and the Cupertino Historical Society are working together to highlight one to two themes a year related to the collection - pulling items from the CWA collection as well as from the Cupertino Historical Society (CHS) collection for display in a special cabinet in the library.

To kick off this new collaboration, there will be a reception and a presentation by CHS board member, Darlene Thorne, on the first chosen theme "The Valley of Hearts Delight".

Postcard Vignettes of the Valley of Heart's Delight

with Darlene Thorne

Cupertino Community Hall, 10350 Torre Avenue, Cupertino

Saturday, June 11th

1:00 p.m. – Reception

2:00 p.m. – Featured Presentation

The event is co-sponsored by the Cupertino Historical Society, the Cupertino Library Foundation and the Cupertino Library.

The following is a description of the collection taken from the Santa Clara County Library Blog: California's Western Americana (CWA) Collection dated September 21, 2010.
(http://146.74.224.231/archives/2010/09/californias_wes.html)

"The California Western Americana (CWA) Collection, housed at the Cupertino Library, includes materials on the American trek west to California and on California history, including the history of many of its cities, towns, and counties. It is a reference collection for in-library use. This special collection of the Santa Clara County Library is the result of decades of special purchases and donations preserved for future generations. CWA includes some unusual and special titles as well as the standard works on California and San Francisco Bay Area history. If you love history and older books, browse the CWA collection and examine gems such as the 1935 edition of *The Letters of Western Authors* and the 1915 catalogue of the Panama-Pacific international exposition, and Yosemite illustrated in colors, published in 1890. All books are included in the library's catalog. Titles that are housed in locked cases can be requested at the nearby reference desk."

IN MEMORIAM

By Gail Hugger

This winter the Cupertino Historical Society lost three wonderful old-timers; Doris Beezley and Mildred Gagliasso and Phil Bush.

Doris Beezley (1925 – 2010) was a woman of many talents. She had a studio in Carmel where she did wonderful paintings. She was an accomplished photographer and went by burro into the Atlas Mts. to photograph people in remote areas. At the request of King Hussan of Morocco, she came and set up a pilot lapidary program. She did ceramics and was a juror for the Smithsonian. She was in the Navy in WWII and after the war she joined the Air Force Reserves and attained the rank of Captain. However, Doris' most likely claim to fame came from dogs belonging to her and her son. Now these were not ordinary dogs. They had titles. They were known as "The World's Ugliest Dog(s)". And they were. If you have never seen the breed known as Chinese Cresteds, go to Google to view them. You will most likely find Doris' name and her dog's accomplishments there. The dogs were shown on TV with Jay Leno and other late night television shows. They were on TV in the morning on the Today Show and they won awards. If there was prize money given to the dogs, Doris donated it to various charities. My mother had some glossy 8 x 10's of the dogs that Doris proudly gave her and the pictures were real conversational pieces. I'm not sure what else to say about the dogs... beauty, as they say, is in the eye of the beholder. But Doris was a wonderful, fun lady and her great sense of humor lightened up the seriousness of life.



Mildred Gagliasso (1922 – 2011) and her husband Chasey Gagliasso were great supporters of St. Joseph of Cupertino Church and the Cupertino Historical Society, along with other local organizations. Mildred was the daughter of Italian immigrants in New York. During the Great Depression, she and her sister were placed in an orphanage until their father could recover from the tribulations of the hard economic times and reunite the family. Mildred served in the armed services during WWII, married Chasey after he came home from the war and they established their home in Cupertino, raising 6 children. Mildred never learned to drive, but she traveled extensively in the US, learned Italian in her 70's and visited the town in Italy where her parents lived before coming to America. She traveled to other places in Europe, also went to China and walked on the Great Wall. She and her husband started a successful company, Gagliasso Trucking and after Chasey passed away, she stayed involved in the business to the end. She cut and dried apricots in their backyard every year and made wonderful gnocchi, polenta, and with the grandchildren, hundreds of cookies at Christmas. She was strong, independent, and practical and loved to laugh. There were always children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and friends in her home. She made everyone feel welcome and there was always an extra chair for a visitor to pull up and eat at the big kitchen table. It was great to have her nearby in Monta Vista and pop in to visit. Along with the rest of the family, I shall miss her very much.



I'm hoping we don't have to say goodbye to any more old-timers for awhile. It always leaves such a hole in the fabric of the Cupertino community when they are gone. Goodbye dear friends and loved ones. We will miss you, your strength, stories, and all your contributions to our lives and our town.

Saying Goodbye to Doris, Phil, and Mildred was originally published in the March 2011 issue of The Scene. A memorial article about Phil Bush was featured in the Winter 2011 issue of the Cornerstone.

HAZEL REGNART FRETWELL

A memorial park bench to honor Hazel Regnart Fretwell (1910-2009), a long time educator, historian, and friend of the Cupertino Historical Society, will soon be placed along the Stevens Creek Trail.

The construction of the bench was undertaken by Cupertino Rotary and includes Monta Vista prune label artwork.

To view the bench, please visit the CHS Museum.



FENCES TO BENCHES

Cupertino Rotary salvaged redwood fencing panels from the 2009 Blackberry Farm renovation project and "The Good Old Boys Sawdust Shop" is building park benches as a community service project. The bench design replicates historic fruit boxes and includes fruit label artwork from early local orchards as provided by the Cupertino Historical Society.

Full size benches can be ordered for \$475 and a scaled-down "Son of a Bench" version is available for \$425.

For additional information, please contact Tom Dyer at tomdyer4@earthlink.net.

MEMBERSHIP MEETING REVIEW

At the Cupertino Historical Society & Museum's Quarterly Membership Meeting on Feb. 22nd, Connie Young Yu presented *From Confinement to Community: A Family History Uncovered* - compelling stories and images about her family's experience of detainment at San Francisco's Angel Island Immigration Station and life in San Jose's Heinlenville Chinatown. Thank you Connie!

To learn more about these topics, please visit:

DETAINED at Liberty's Door:

The Story of Liberty Lost on Angel Island, and a Legacy Regained

Presented by

The California History Center, in conjunction with the Chinese Historical Society of America

The exhibit runs from **January 28 through June 24, 2011**

Exhibit hours: Tuesdays - Thursdays: 9:30 a.m.-noon / 1:00 p.m.- 4:00 p.m.

California History Center, DeAnza College, 21250 Stevens Creek Blvd., Cupertino, CA



DISCOVERY DAY

By Loretta Bassman

This past March the Traveling Trunk featured Elisha Stephens in its presentation at Regnart School's Discovery Day. The Trunk docents have participated in the school's well organized program for at least 13 years, but this is the first year we have taken Mr. Stephens into the classroom.

Discovery Day is a day of excitement and learning for children and adults. A variety of professionals in our community share their expertise with the students – representing such diverse fields as a dentist, robotic engineer, artist and others. As the children rotate from classroom to classroom they have the opportunity to hear all the speakers.

The Traveling Trunk fits right in as the docents explain the development of Cupertino from its early settlers, gold rush days, agriculture, schools and more. The children are captivated by such simple items as the old toaster, kerosene lamp, ice scraper, high button shoes and the 1900's box camera - all of which use no electricity!

During the five successive sessions which last about a half hour each, something will catch the children's imagination to prompt comments and questions such as... Why did women always dress up to go out? How much could you buy with a gold coin? and Did they sew their own purses?.. keep the docents alert and using their own imaginations.

Kay, Sonja and I felt it was well worth the time and effort - 98 third graders and their teachers were able to compare life "in the old days" to life in Cupertino today.



At the end of the sessions the presenters gathered together for a delicious luncheon with the staff where we were able to mingle, compare programs, and share ideas.

With many thanks from the principal and staff, each participant received a Certificate of Appreciation that made everyone feel special and eager to return the following year.

Mr. Stephens Goes Visiting

Docents, Loretta, Kay and Sonja are prepared to describe the use of everyday items from the early 1900's to a class of third graders. A special thanks to Ragini for helping to transport Mr. Stephens.

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☐ FAMILY \$50

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MEMBERSHIP NEWS

February 2011 thru April 2011

RENEWING MEMBERS

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David & Shirley Bates
Ray & Ellie Bortner
John & Judith Bruzus
Mary Eade
Cray Foley
Patricia & Welko Gasich
M/M James Jackson
Ruth Jackson
Francis & Margaret Keeler
Marjorie Mancuso
Mark McKenna
Bod & Janet Meyers
Henry Mikulaco
Paul & Wanda Mikulaco
Kathy Nellis
Donald Parsons
Keith Peterson
Hector Picchetti
Pat & Barbara Rogers
Clare & Jim Schoenfelder
Martin Sorensen
George Sousa
Darryl & Dorothy Stow
Don Sun
Darlene Thorne
Steve & Jeannie Ting

NEW MEMBERS

Eleanor Holt
Morris & Louise Hosoda
Gail & Howard Jensen
Orrin & Carolyn Mahoney
Eva Martin-Long
Joanne Longoria
Bill & Mercedes McCarty
Anne Ng
Darcy Paul
Inge Roberts
Linda Sanders
Eno Schmidt
Irvin Webster
Bill & Judy Wilson

Welcome!

Thank You!

The Cupertino Historical Society & Museum is holding

"A Sip of History" Annual Summer Fundraiser

BBQ dinner provided by Outback Steakhouse
served with complimentary wine paring.
Live Auction and Tours of historic Picchetti Winery.

Sunday, June 26, 2011
5pm - 8pm
at the historic Picchetti Winery



Tickets are \$50 and are on sale now.
For further information, please contact the
Cupertino Historical Museum at 408-973-1495.



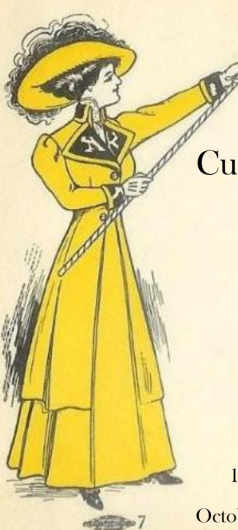
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VOTES FOR WOMEN

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Cupertino Historical Society Annual Meeting
presents
IN THEIR LEAGUE?
by Darlene Thorne

Wednesday, May 25, 2011
7:00 pm
Quinlan Community Center, Cupertino Room
10185 N. Stelling Road, Cupertino, CA

A visual PowerPoint presentation based on Darlene's collection of 100-year-old postcard images document the era between 1895 - 1920.

October 10, 2011 marks the 100th Anniversary of women voting in California.

Please note, potlucks have been discontinued. Refreshments will be served.

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.
Website info: www.cupertinohistoricalsociety.org

Annual Meeting IN THEIR LEAGUE?

- ♦ Wednesday, May 25, 2011

Quinlan, Cupertino Room,
Annual Membership Announcements
at 6:30 p.m.

Presentation at 7:00 p.m.

Please note, potlucks have been discontinued.
Refreshments will be served.

CWA Collection Event

*Postcard Synthesis of the
Valley of Heart's Delight*

- ♦ Saturday, June 11, 2011

Cupertino City Hall

Reception at 1:00 p.m.

Presentation at 2:00 p.m.

Annual Summer Fundraiser

A Sip of History

- ♦ Sunday, June 26, 2011

Picchetti Winery

5:00 p.m.—8:00 p.m.

Cupertino Historical Society & Museum The Cornerstone

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Holidays—QCC closed

May 30, 2011

Memorial Day

July 4, 2011

Independence Day