

THE MONTA VISTA STORY - ALTOS PARK

By Gail Fretwell-Hugger

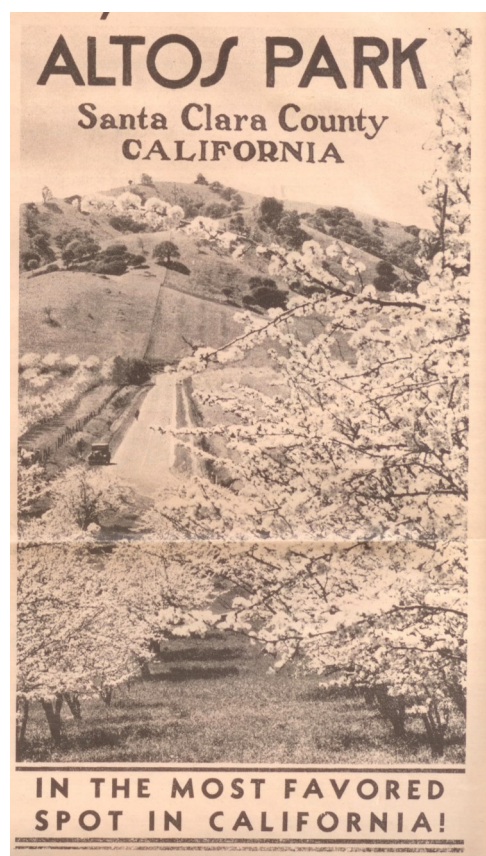
Between the years of 1900 and 1915, the vineyards of early West Side settlers, Nathan Hall and Samuel Williams virtually disappeared. Those of John T. Doyle remained in full production. Processing of wine continued in both of the Doyle Winery sites, i.e. Cupertino Winery and Las Palmas Winery. In 1906 a group of San Francisco capitalists joined together and formed a corporation known as the Peninsula Land and Investment Co., which in 1922 became known as Monta Vista Estates, Ltd. In 1907, two of the heirs of Samuel Williams subdivided their respective 12 1/2 acre plots into town lots. The Peninsular Electric Railway at that time terminated its tracks at the point of these lots which became Pasadena and Imperial Avenues.

Sales were slow for a number of years - even a distance of a few miles was a lot to folks when much unoccupied land was between towns and settlements. But in 1912-14 real estate activity picked up.

George Hensley was a wrestling champion on the West Coast. He went into real estate in the San Bruno area and netted a cool \$450 K. Then he visited the Monta Vista Estates area. Reverting entirely to the status of promoter, he failed to recognize the necessity of proper zoning requirements and Monta Vista quickly began to resemble a hastily put up mining town. George Hensley bought property for his syndicate and dubbed it Subdivision A. The Southern Pacific Railroad traversed east of Hensley's acquisition, which didn't hurt in promoting the lots which were small in frontage and area. After the usual plats had cleared Santa Clara County offices, graded streets (lightly graveled) sidewalks of minimum thickness, width and poor concrete went in and water pipes of inadequate size were installed. Sewage disposal was a problem left for the future buyers to solve as best they might.

Buses ran from San Francisco to the new tract and picnics with flags and bunting made lot hunting a festive affair. The virtues of the nearly fog-free climate were extolled, along with the benefits of country living proclaimed.

Many buyers treated their acquisitions as summer facilities - tents, small cabins and a very few modest homes dotted the subdivision. The Monta Vista business district consisted of a grocery and notions store and a plumbing shop - quite apropos, as the "water works" depended on percolation from creek flow which usually dried up in the summer months (Stevens Creek dam was not built yet). Hensley was undeterred by these minor inconveniences and after John T. Doyle died, Hensley bought



Continued on page 3 ... **Altos Park**



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

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Helene Davis, President




Board member Shannon Lee was perusing an old Cupertino Courier the other day in the museum. Both Shannon and I grew up in Cupertino, we started reminiscing, and it got me to remembering the time I appeared in the Courier as a child. It



After Spring Comes Summertime And...

Summer isn't the only thing that follows spring. This is especially true if there's a female feline around the house. Mrs. George Jacquin and her family of 11220 Palos Verdes ct. learned this during the Fourth of July when this independent cat strolled into their lives. To find out why she came calling on the Jacquins, see page three.

One Visitor Becomes...



A mother cat came to the door of Mr. and Mrs. George Jacquin on July 3. The next day she presented the Jacquins with seven kittens. Shown here answering the "chow call" are Mrs. Fourth of July's seven little ones. The three girls are the Jacquins'

"Little ones": (left to right) Denise, 10; Helene, 7, and Michela, 12. The Jacquins, still dumfounded by the visit, have put their friends up temporarily in the garage. Anyone who would like a cute, little kitten, the phone number is --Photos by Rita Powe

was the summer of 1963 and a mama cat adopted our family. That, of course, wouldn't necessarily be news but she immediately "presented" us with seven kittens! That is what passed for news back then when orchards and a slower pace of life still dominated the scene. How times have changed!


The Cupertino Historical Society & Museum has a set of Couriers from 1956 through 1972 (The Cupertino Library has the Couriers from 1972 onwards) as well as an extensive archive of reference materials, a library of local history books, and files on local pioneering families and sites. It's a great resource for local history buffs.

Our upcoming activities include our next history walk, scheduled for July 30 and our annual BBQ on June 26th at Cooper Garrod Estate Vineyards. The BBQ committee is planning a fun evening so please mark your calendars. In addition, our historical sites brochure will be ready to print and available to the public in May.

Helene Davis

Helene Davis

SAVE THE DATE



Annual Meeting and Election of Cupertino Historical Society Board of Directors

*Please join us for a
wine and cheese reception!*

**Wednesday, June 15, 2016
6:00 p.m.**

**Quinlan Community Center
Craft room**

*10185 N. Stelling Road,
Cupertino, CA 95014*

Admission is free.

Continued from page 1... Altos Park

Doyle's 321 acres and put in Byrne and Orange Avenues and called it Subdivision B. In succeeding years he developed "Colony Tract", "Altos Park" and "Inspiration Heights" on the old Doyle property. In 1920, he bought 20 acres from Mr. Russell and the newest tract became "Russellhurst (where Sunnyview Manor is now). Hensley put in a building he called the Monta Vista Country Club, and used it to facilitate real estate sales. Prospective buyers could even stay there while looking.

The famous Hoo Hoo House was installed at the very top of old Cupertino Road after it was taken down and brought to the site after the 1915 Pan Pacific Exposition in San Francisco. It burned down in a spectacular fire some years later.

From Hensley's promotional dream the little settlement of Monta Vista has come a long way. Tents, cottages and summer homes have given way to an area considered one of the premier school districts in the nation and large modern homes fill the little lots in one of the most expensive areas in the state.

And over the years, the water system has vastly improved and so has sewage disposal. But the views of the creek, golf course and Montebello Ridge are beautiful and hopefully unchanging.

OF BLOSSOMS AND ORCHARDS AND HISTORY

By Sharon Bryan

There isn't much better in life than a soft breeze, the warmth of the sun on your skin, and the sound of young and old enjoying themselves while music plays in the air around you. If you add to that the shade of a 100 year old oak tree and an orchard in blossom as a backdrop, then you have a near perfect day. And you would be describing our day at the Saratoga Blossom Festival on March 19.

The Saratoga Blossom Festival originated in 1900 to celebrate the end of a two year drought (ONLY 2 years!) and the event was sustained through the Roaring Twenties, the Great Depression and World War II. It was a day dedicated to orchards, Spring and the community. But times changed after the war, not just in Saratoga but throughout the Santa Clara Valley, and communities turned their focus toward a future less agricultural and more urban. Now, in the bustling, busy Silicon Valley, many long for a glimpse of those slower, simpler days and connection with each other.

The Saratoga Historical Foundation's Blossom Festival is held at the Warner Hutton House and Heritage Orchard. This was CHS's first year of participation, and our position at the start of the orchard trail, under the ancient oak tree, was the perfect location. Joining me in our booth throughout the day were Shannon Lee, Crystal Tai, Helene Davis, Jane Alvarado, Ragini Sangameswara and Gail Fretwell-Hugger. We spent our time with visitors, many of them walking away with books or tee-shirts and promises of visiting our museum in Cupertino. Because we had a great group of volunteers for the event, we also had the opportunity to enjoy the festival. From the children's craft area to the talented artists, authors and craftspeople, to the passionate groups educating us on safety, gardening and the environment, there was so much to enjoy. Music played in the orchard and gazebo throughout the day, and vintage vehicles and farm equipment were on display. There were volunteers portraying local historical figures who were extremely knowledgeable about "their" lives and times, and the Warren Hutton House had costumed docents and great displays.

All the communities in this valley have common history in our agricultural roots, and we were honored to be included in Saratoga's celebration. Will we be back next year? You bet! We hope all of our members will join us at the festival – if not as a volunteer for CHS in our booth, then as a visitor enjoying the day.



L-R : Helene Davis, Shannon Patrick Lee, Crystal Tai, and Sharon Bryan volunteering at CHS booth



L-R : Helene Davis, Bill Kerr, Shannon Patrick Lee, and Crystal Tai displaying the Cupertino History Blanket



L-R : Jane Alvarado, Ragini Sangameswara, and Sharon Bryan with a visitor

EAGLE SCOUT CONTRIBUTIONS TO CHS

By Gail Fretwell-Hugger

Museums are always in need of display cabinets and storage shelving. Cupertino Museum has been fortunate to have Eagle Scout candidates from Cupertino Troop 476 who designed and constructed display and storage items for the museum.

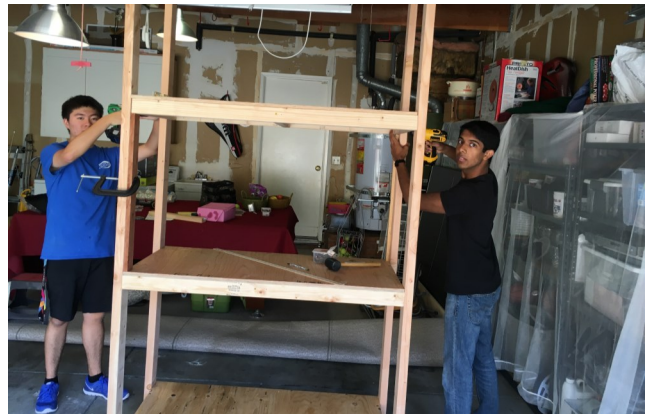
In 2014 Sujay Patwardhan constructed a beautiful display cabinet with storage drawers underneath the glass enclosed display area. Using the museum's mitre saw, Sujay spent many, many hours converting a large piece of furniture into a lovely and useful cabinet, currently showing antique bottles from the museum's collection. On top of the removable glass cover stand several items given to the museum from our sister city of Copertino, Italy - a papier mache figure of St. Joseph of Copertino with his history. Also shown are photos and text depicting the Cupertino Cross-roads in 1946, along with text and drawings depicting the Juan Bautista de Anza expedition through Cupertino in 1776.

Last year scouts from Troop 476, led by Karthik Manickam, built and installed a large, sturdy shelving unit which was placed at the Snyder-Hammond house and will be used to store metal museum artifacts and rodent-proof containers with other museum items that do not need temperature controlled storage. Having items that are easily accessible for museum exhibits, rather than packed and stacked in various boxes or locations is a big help to exhibit planners.

Many, many thanks to Sujay Patwardhan and Karthik Manickam and their fellow scouts for all their hard work on these construction projects for Cupertino Historical Society and Museum and congratulations on achieving Eagle Scout rank.



Eagle Scout Sujay Patwardhan and Kartthik Manickam setting up the display cabinet in the museum



Eagle Scout Karthik Manickam (on the right) building shelving unit with Brandon Wui.

IN MEMORIAM

Nola Ann Quinterno

March 25, 1939 - April 13, 2016



Nola passed away very peacefully at home surrounded by relatives, friends, and her long-time caregiver, Almaz. She was born in San Jose and spent her entire life in Cupertino, and like many children of her day, picked prunes and cut "cots" in the summer. She was a member of Pat Mauldin's majorette group, "The Sparklers", in the 1950's. She attended the Cupertino Union Grammar School and graduated from Fremont High School in 1957. Nola was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis in 1972, but was able to work at Lockheed-Martin for 31 years, retiring in

1989. She was a Giants fan, and loved her trips to Las Vegas and Hawaii.

Nola was preceded in death by her father, Angelo (Cheet) Quinterno and is survived by her mother Linda Quinterno; sisters Faye Faulhaber and Paula Quinterno; nephews Frederick Faulhaber and wife Kellyanne Cassell-Faulhaber, Richard Faulhaber and his wife, Heather; great nephews Nicholas and Alex Faulhaber; great nieces Annalise Cassell-Faulhaber, Clementine Faulhaber, Kimberly, Michaela, and Annamarie; many dear friends and relatives; and last, but not least, her devoted "Oreo Cookie Sister" /caregiver of 20 years, Almaz Hagos.

Excerpts and photo from Mercurynews.com Obituaries.

SPOTLIGHT

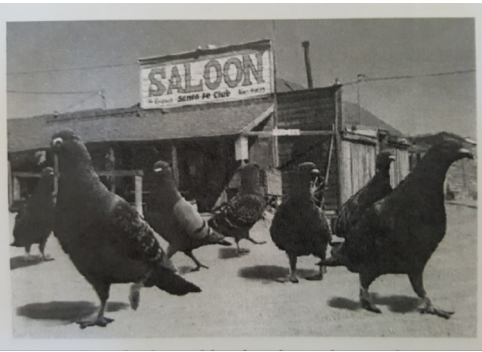
CHS Thanks Valerie Abid for her volunteer service

Valerie grew up on a farm in southeast Nebraska. After graduating from the University of Nebraska with a teaching credential, she taught in Nebraska three years before moving to California. She taught one year in southern California before moving to Los Angeles where she “retired” from teaching and worked for the State until retiring again to raise her daughter. Her family moved to Cupertino in 1980. She retired from Tecan Systems in San Jose (her third and final retirement) in 2009 and is enjoying the benefits - travel, grandchildren and volunteering.

Valerie has always loved history and has enjoyed touring many of the area’s historical homes and museums. As a member of the Cupertino Historical Society she’d like to help preserve our local history as well as share it with members of our community and beyond.



PLASTERED PIGEONS TAKE A PASS



Two millionaire oilmen from Long Beach bought up 22,000 acres of “worthless” high desert east of Victoryville in the 1940s. Even at the giveaway price of \$2.75 an acre, people thought Bud Westlund and Newton Bass were crazy. The area was known as Apple Valley and the pair fully expected to turn a profit, which ultimately did, by about 70 million dollars or so within 15 years.

Located about 90 miles east of Los Angeles, on a plateau 3,000 feet above sea level, Apple Valley had milder year-round temperatures than world-famous Palm Springs about an hour to the south. Underground was water - an underground lake of pure mountain water from the nearby Mohave River.

Westlund-Bass visualized a community, the Apple Valley Ranches. They hired prominent architect Hugh Gibbs to lay out a master plan for a 6,000– acre town site, centered around a fabulous inn with plush guest houses designed by interior designer Albert Parvin. Parvin was to become the premier decorator of fabulous Las Vegas hotels.

All this was followed by a publicity blitz aimed at the rich and famous. Movie and television stars, business, political and sports figures flocked to the luxurious accommodations in this beautiful scenic setting.

The remoteness of the location caused the local phone company to balk over the expense of installing telephones in the guest cottages. This left Newt and Bud with the untenable situation of guests being unable to communicate with the main inn.

Their solution was inspired. Place by the door of each guest house was a small cage containing a homing pigeon. When guests required anything from the main lodge, they simply wrote their request on a notepad provided for the purpose, inserted it into the holder attached to the pigeon’s leg and released it. Within a short time, a waiter would appear, not only with the guest’s order but also a fresh pigeon to await the next command.

The homing pigeon idea, a delightful novelty for the guests, worked beautifully until one guest, perhaps feeling sorry for the busy birds, began feeding them biscuits soaked in brandy, which put an immediate end to their industriousness and, ultimately, the whole pigeon plan. By the time the pigeon plan went south, the Apple Valley Inn was doing so well that the phone company had a change of heart and guest phones replaced guest birds in each of the cottages.

Info by Steve Vaught published in California Historian, Volume 57, Number 3, Spring 2011

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

THE TRAVELING TRUNK

The Traveling Trunk Educational Program offers a unique opportunity to share your love of Cupertino history with children and adults in schools and senior centers. Our show-and-tell program teaches the history of many items used in homes and orchards around 1900 to young audiences in local schools and adults in senior centers. Our presentations are always warmly received and it is so rewarding to open up that bygone era to a new generation. The children are amazed at what life was like before electricity and how dressy the clothes were.

If you think you might like to volunteer with this program, please contact Ragini Sangameswara at the CHS office at cuphistsociety@sbcglobal.net for additional information. Feel free to "shadow" us to see if this is a good fit for you.



A CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS



The time a volunteer spends at the CHS&M 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 Museum at 408-973-1495 or email us at cuphistsociety@sbcglobal.net.

MEMBERSHIP GIFTS

Memberships to the CHS&M 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 CHS&M are many:

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



"Like" us on Facebook :
<http://tinyurl.com/CHS-facebook-page>

NOVEMBER 2015 thru APRIL 2016

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Diane Benedetti
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Eno Schmidt
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Darryl and Dorothy Stow
Sean Sullivan
Steve and Jeannie Ting
Janet Trankle
Irvin Webster

NEW MEMBERS

Connie and Dennis
Cunnigham
Thomas and Ping
Pian



Cupertino Historical Society & Museum

Quinlan Community Center
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Cupertino, CA 95014
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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.

BOD Meeting

Wednesday, May 18, 2016. 5:30 p.m. Cupertino Room, QCC

Annual Meeting and Election of Board of Directors

Wednesday, June 15, 2016. 5:30 p.m. Craft Room, QCC

Holidays: QCC closed

May 30, 2016, Memorial Day

WWW.CUPERTINOHISTORICALSOCIETY.ORG