



THE CORNERSTONE

Cupertino Historical Society
Members Newsletter

Volume 9 Issue 3
Spring 1999

TANGIBLE EVIDENCE: THE COLLECTION OF THE CUPERTINO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Why do museums collect things? What purpose does the Cupertino Historical Museum Serve? Questions like these have been the driving force behind Tangible Evidence: the Collection of the Cupertino Historical Museum. This year's exhibition explores how the museum's objects were used to tell a story of Cupertino history.

Perhaps it is easy for some to miss the importance of the Museum's collection. The Cupertino Historical Museum is a small museum, and its collection consists mainly of common agricultural implements and household objects. But the importance of this collection lies not in its monetary value, but in its historical significance; through these objects the history of Cupertino can be retold.

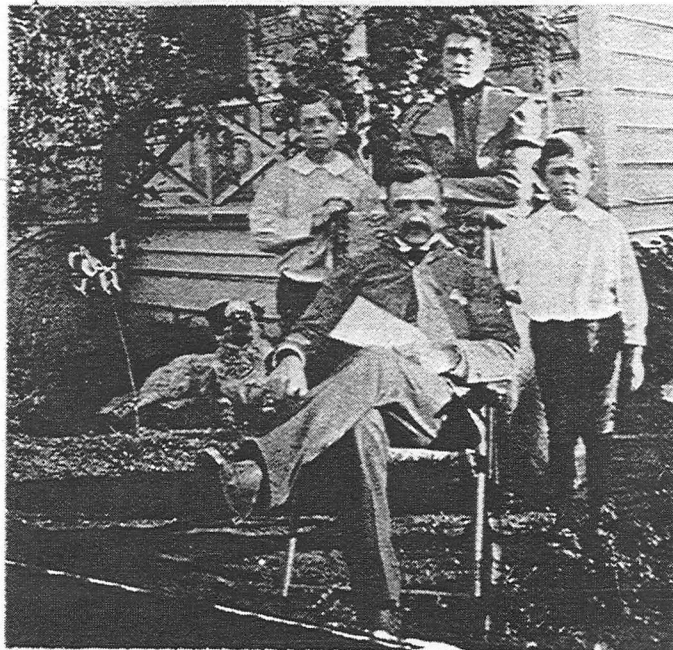
From the Gols rush to the end of WWII, the livelihood of Cupertino was agriculture. Over a century ago Italian imigrants first planted vineyards and produced wine. These early crops were completely wiped out though a root microb called phylloxera and other crops then were chosen; mainly prunes, apricots, cherries and later flowers. The new crops flourished, and their harvests were shipped worldwide. After WWII, the local industry began to shift from agriculture to technology with the birth of Silicon Valley. By 1900 nearly every orchard had vankshed.

Although agriculture had been the backbone of the area, Cupertino was more than just orchards. The Crossroads served as the "downtown" of the area. Here the Cupertino Store was established to provide the many necessities of life for a growing population. Under its roof the first post office would operate and also the first lending library.

As the population increased, churches, schools, and clubs were established; couples were married, babies were born; and people died. Early Cupertino was a community of people, many of whom had emigrated from the four corners of the earth to make this place their home.

What remains of this amazing story? Scattered about Cupertino there are a handful of historic buildings like those at McClellan Ranch Park or the DeOro Club that was the old Collins School. But unlike San Jose, which has made great efforts to preserve historic buildings, much of Cupertino's history has all but disappeared. The one remaining effort to capture and preserve this history can be found, here, in the Museum.

All the objects used in the next exhibit will be the property of the society. We do not have the opportunity to show some of these items often. They were generously given to the society, as a public trust for all to understand and share.

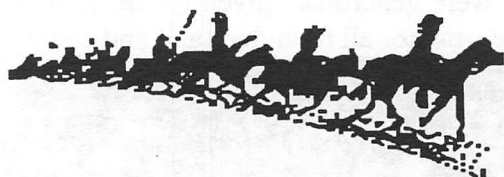


James Knox Polk Dixon and family, c. 1898



Books for Sale at the Museum

- A Companion to California Wine, Charles L. Sullivan, 1998, \$40.00
- Captain Elisha Stephens, Mary Lou Lyon, 1995, \$4.00
- Chinatown San Jose, USA, Connie Young Yu, 1991, \$20.50
- Montebello School Centennial Cookbook, Cookbook Committee, 1992, \$5.00
- The Murphys, Earl F. Schmidt, 1992, \$5.50
- Saratoga Stereopticon: A Magic Lantern of Memory, Willys I. Peck, 1998, \$8.50
- Some Pioneer Women, Mary Lou Lyon, 1996, \$5.00
- Voices From the Orchards, Carolyn Marie Downey, 1997, \$14.95



Bits and Pieces

The Museum Brochure has been reprinted with a few changes. We have added two new membership categories between the \$125 Patron and the Life member. They are: Sponsor at \$250 and Sustaining at \$500.

The Museum has a new Fax Number 973-8049.

Eagle Scout to the rescue!

December 1998, Life Scout, Eddie Gavidia lent his assistance to the Cupertino Historical Museum by offering to design, build, and install shelving in one of our museum storage cupboards at Quinlan Center.

Eddie's project for the museum contributed to his required community service towards Eagle Scout Status

Eddie's work was thorough, timely, and of outstanding workmanship. We greatly appreciate his offer of assistance to the museum and are certain he is highly qualified for the status of Eagle Scout.



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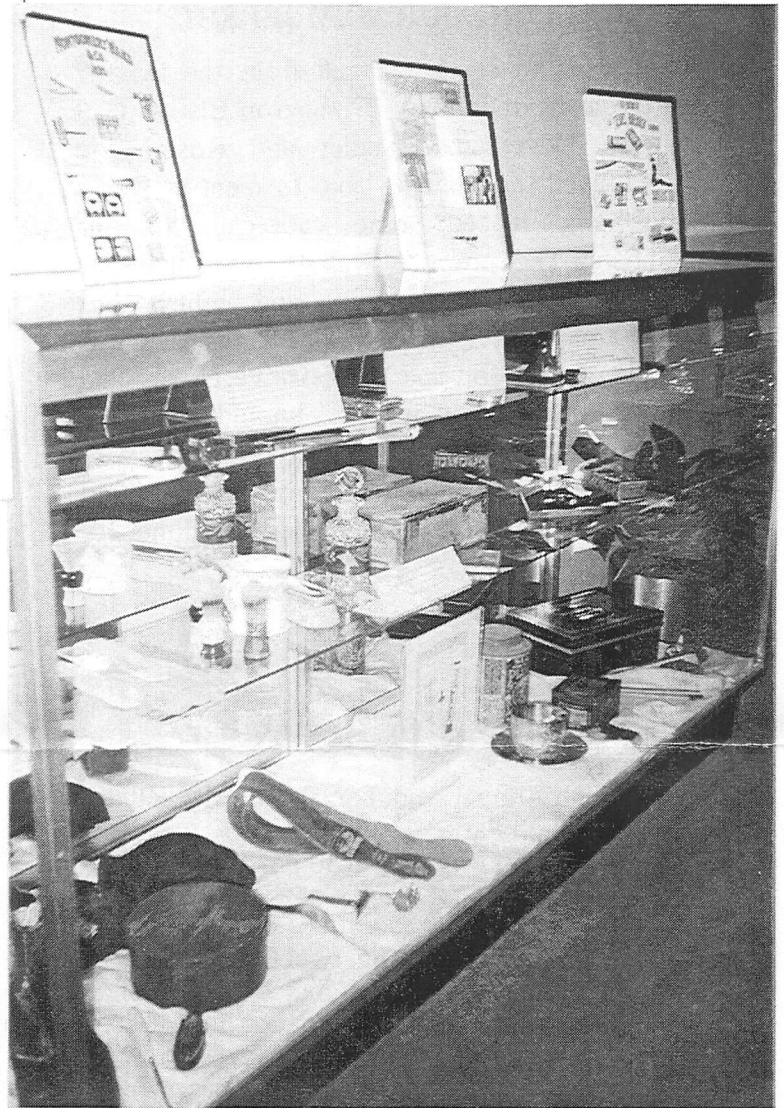
Traveling trunk on the move.

Our docents, Phil and Frances Bush and Henrietta Marcotte have started their spring visits to the schools in our district and beyond. In the month of January the History Club of Los Gatos visited the Museum as one of the local history projects. Florence Dixon Lindsey, Mathilda Mariani Sousa and Henrietta Marcotte acted as historians during that presentation. As a result the History Club gave our team Bravos in their newsletter. The docent team also visited Chateau Cupertino, an adult community in Cupertino, who enjoyed the presentation immensely.

The Lincoln School, Bethel Lutheran School and the Eisenhower School each had presentations of our popular trunk. By the way, Phil Bush was a teacher at the Lincoln school in the 1950's. In the 1998 school year the trunk visited 17 schools and reached 789 students and teachers. Many letters of thanks have been sent to the museum about the traveling trunk. They are a delight to read.

March 1st found the docents at the Montebello School for the first time. The whole school turned out for the presentation. We hope to make it an annual affair.

Our hats are off to these dedicated docents.



The Cupertino National Bank on Stevens Creek requested some memorabilia for the case near the back entrance of the bank. Frances and Phil Bush took some objects from our collection and made a beautiful display. If you are near the bank, please go inside and see this lovely exhibit. Thank you Frances and Phil.

From our Membership Chairman

Rose Marie Twu

CALLING OUR MEMBERSHIP!

Surprised to receive a call from the Board? On the night of January 27, Sharon Blaine, Gail Hugger, Devereaux Rendler and Rose-Marie Twu braved the freezing cold to meet at Dev's office, and placed some 150 calls to our members. The purpose was to humanize our voice to our membership, and renew our connection. Guess what? The consensus was that the connection sparked positive energy and left you asking for more. Should we have missed you be chance, do call US! Onward with the membership committee's mission to build towards a goal of 500 members by June 30. HELP!



Dates to Remember

March

- 20 8th Annual Audubon Day at McClellan Ranch Park
- 23 General Meeting, 6:30 pm at QCC
Willys Peck, history of Saratoga

April

- 3 Volunteer Meeting, 9am QCC
- 10 "Voices of Gold" at San Jose Historical Museum, call 287-2290 for info
- 14 Board Meeting 6:30 pm QCC
- 27 General Meeting 6:30 pm at QCC,
Louise McIntyre, The McIntyre Family

May

- 1 House and Garden Tour of the Fremont Older Estate known as Woodhills, call 973-1495 for ticket information.
- 1 Volunteer Meeting, 9am QCC
- 12 Board Meeting, 6:30 pm QCC
- 25 General Meeting 6:30 pm at QCC,
Joe Marchi-Music of the 20's & 30's

June

- 5 Volunteer Meeting 9 am at QCC
- 9 Board Meeting 6:30 pm at QCC
- 22 Annual BBQ at Senior Center,
5pm to 8 pm, call 973-1495 for tickets!

A Salute to our Lifetime Members!

Joseph & Doris Adamo
Don & Sally Allen
Audrey M. Breeding
Cupertino Host Lions Club
Gordon W. Frolich
Ruth Jackson
Marty Mathiesen
Miriam Stelling
Rose-Marie Twu

Welcome New Members

Dolly Babbitt
Laurie Garcia
Joan Haug
Carol Wood Herndon
Geneva E. Johnson
Henry Mikulaco
Sheila Rawcliffe

And our thanks to recent renewals:

Carol N. Ames, Mary Frances Mariani Bigler, Irene C. Coon, Fred & Shirley Dong, Hilles Y. Parrish, Patricia M. Schunneman, John & Nilofer Statton.

Volunteer Notes from Roberta Zentner

We bid a sad farewell to Rosemary Holdway who is moving back to Canada after a brief residence in Cupertino. We will miss her. But, we are happy to announce two new volunteers to add to our staff: Jim Limberatos and Wendy Hsieh. On March 20th we will take part in the 8th Annual Audubon Day at McClellan Ranch Park. It is always a fun event for us. Dennis Cunningham, Bob Levy, Louise Levy and Henrietta Marcotte will represent the Society that day. Thanks to those baking cookies to sell: Loretta Bassman, Dorothy Billard, Sharon Blaine, Phil and Frances Bush, Charles and Kathleen Calhan, Irene Coon, Gail Hugger, Charles Liggett, Carol McDowell, Janet and Bob Meyers, Jane Reed, Corinna Schoenfelder.

Recent Donors:

Patricia Cooper (Quester Event), Elsie Matt (Education Fund), and Ann Zarko (Quester Event).

1998-1999 Annual Fund Drive

I want to take this opportunity to thank all the donors to our Annual Fund Drive. It has been heartwarming to receive so many meaningful gifts from the community. A loyal donor who the Society can count on is the most important person who gives us support.

Your donations help the Cupertino Historical Society and Museum achieve its mission of preserving and presenting Cupertino's history to diverse audiences throughout the community. Through donations from generous community members we can continue to offer quality history programs at the Museum.

In addition to those donors who were acknowledged in our Winter 1998 Cornerstone Newsletter, the Cupertino Historical Society has received donations from:

De Anza Club
Don and Sally Allen

Elisha Stephens Club
Cupertino Host Lions Charities, Inc.

Museum Founder
Mathilda Sousa

Museum Patron
Fontana's Italian, Seven Springs Foundation,
George and Lorraine Sousa, Vincent Torre, James
and Linda Walker.

Museum Friend
Richard and Carol Atwood, Norman Damico,
Dorothy Gardner, Marshall and Roberta Hollimon,
Ruth Montgomery Jackson, Alice MacAllister and
Michael O'Quinn, Kathleen Peters, Steven and
Jeannie Ting, H. W. Toensfeldt.

President's Message

Spring has arrived in Cupertino and as I gaze at the spectacular flowering trees and the bright mustard covering the few remaining fields, I try to imagine how beautiful this area must have been when orchards were everywhere. That, indeed, must have been a "Joyful Vision."

On February 11, the community was treated to another kind of "Joyful Vision." - the Questers, an international group dedicated to the study of antiques and to encouraging the preservation of historical landmarks, held a lovely event to raise funds for the Cupertino Historical Museum. Guests arriving at Quinlan's Cupertino Room found a glorious display of antique bridal gowns, clothing, lace, valentines and other items in keeping with the theme, "Joyful Visions." A presentation of 100 years of bridal fashions by the noted costume historian, Theory Berger, was highlighted by Mrs. Berger's 20 inch porcelain dolls. The dolls were dressed in 19th century clothing, "from the skin out."

Following the lecture, dainty and delicious sandwiches, sweets, and tea were served. Several of our members were there to help. A big thank you to Dorothy Billard, Frances Bush, Dorothy Cunningham, Yvonne Holt, Gail Hugger, Beez Jones, Kathy Liggett, Florence Lindsey, Kathy Nellis, Jo Piazza-Chisolm, Alice Schlim, Rose-Marie Twu, and Roberta Zentner. Thanks also to Ethel Worn and Corinna Schoenfelder for their assistance with publicity and the exhibits.

We are extremely grateful to all the Quester members and to Dolly Babbitt, the Tea Chairperson, for devoting so much time and effort to benefit the Society and Museum. It was truly a wonderful afternoon.

The next few months will offer our members many different activities. Be sure to mark your calendars so you will not miss them! Remember to invite your friends and family. Everyone is always welcome at our meetings. See you there.

Sharon

**THE CORNERSTONE IS PUBLISHED
QUARTERLY BY
THE CUPERTINO HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

The Society is a private non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation and interpretation of the history of Cupertino and the surrounding region. It operates a main museum in the Quinlan Community Center, along with a satellite museum at Vallco Fashion Park on Stevens Creek Blvd. Museum hours are 10-4pm, Wednesday thru Saturday. The Vallco site is open Tuesday and Saturday Noon-3pm. Admission is free and the public is invited. General meetings are held the 4th Tuesday of the month and are preceded by a potluck dinner. For additional information call 973-1495.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sharon Blaine, President
Beez Jones, Vice President
Itsuo Uenaka, Treasurer
Gail Hugger, Secretary

Trustees: John Kolski, Kathy Nellis, Charles Newman, Devereaux Rendler, Stefanie Singer, Rose-Marie Twu

MUSEUM STAFF

Ethel S. Worn, Director
Roberta Zentner, Volunteer Coordinator

CUPERTINO HISTORICAL MUSEUM
Quinlan Community Center
10185 N. Stelling Road
Cupertino, CA 95014
408-973-1495 (FAX 973-8049)

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**JOIN
US!**



**Annual Barbecue
June 22, 1999**