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MAY 2007
www.pahistory.org

The Tall Tree

PALO ALTO HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL DINNER MEETING

Wednesday evening, June 6
Social Hour at 6:00, Dinner at 7:00
Sheraton Palo Alto
625 El Camino Real, Palo Alto
Reservations: \$42—Everyone is welcome!

Memoirs of World War II



SPEAKER:
Andy Doty,
Director of Community
Relations, Emeritus
Stanford University

Michigan and Stanford. He joined Stanford in 1963 and retired thirty years later as Director of Community Relations, Emeritus.

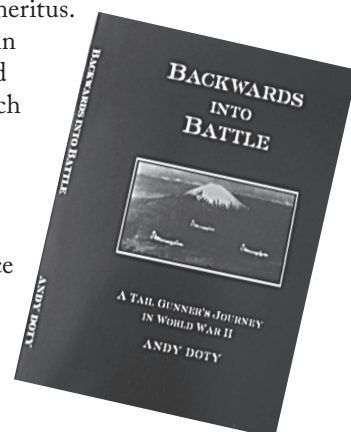
During his time at Stanford Andy was involved in many major interactions between the University and the three cities, two towns and two counties in which its lands lie. He strove to improve communications between the institution and its neighbors as the University grew.

He has served on numerous community boards over the years. He received a Chamber of Commerce Tall Tree Award in 1980 as the Outstanding Professional and in 2002 Avenidas named him a Lifetime of Achievement recipient. He responded that it was more likely “a Lifetime of Attendance.” Andy and his wife Eleanor live in Palo Alto. They have three daughters and six grandchildren.

Andy Doty, Stanford’s Director of Community Relations for 21 years, will be the guest speaker at our annual dinner meeting on June 6 which is remembered as D-Day.

Andy’s talk will be drawn largely from his book, *Backwards Into Battle, A Tail Gunner’s Journey in World War II*. Now in its sixth printing, the book evokes the innocence and patriotism of the generation of men and women that served in the war against Germany and Japan. Andy was an 18 years old member of a B-29 bomber crew that flew twenty-one missions from Guam to targets in Japan.

Andy graduated from St. Lawrence University in upstate New York after the war and worked as a newspaper reporter for two years. He then began a career in public relations at three universities: Johns Hopkins,



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PALO ALTO HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

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Ruth Lacey, *Editor*
Harriette Shakes, *Design*
Omega Printing, *Printing*

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The Palo Alto Historical Association, a non-profit organization, was established in 1948 as successor to an earlier organization founded in 1913. Its main objectives are:

- Collect, organize, and preserve materials pertaining to the history and heritage of Palo Alto.
- Spread information about Palo Alto's history by means of programs, displays, and publications.
- Recognize and preserve historic sites and structures.

The Guy Miller Archives of the Palo Alto Historical Association are stored at the Main Library, 1213 Newell Road.

Board meetings are held the first Wednesday of each month (except for August) at the Lucie Stern Community Center at 4 p.m.

General meetings are held the first Sunday of each month (Oct.–Dec., Feb.–May) at the Lucie Stern Community Center at 2 p.m. The final meeting of the year, held in June, includes a dinner and program. The public is welcome.

PAHA HERITAGE PROGRAMS
at CHANNEL 30

MAY: WHAT DID YOU SAY?
ORAL HISTORY 101

JUNE: MEMOIRS OF WW II

SCHEDULE

Wednesdays 8:00 p.m.
Thursdays Noon
Saturdays 1:00 p.m.

Videos of past PAHA meetings can be checked out from the Main Library's History Desk during historian's hours:
Tuesday evenings
Thursday afternoons

2,000 Images at www.pahistory.org

How many of you have visited our website www.pahistory.org and looked at our collection of photographs? Images online for public viewing now number more than 2000 and several hundred more are nearly ready for your inspection. Yet another 10,000 plus images have been identified, scanned and partially processed. They are awaiting completion of the steps necessary to get them out to the public. This photo digitalization

FROM THE DESK OF THE HISTORIAN STEVE STAIGER

project has been underway for more than 10 years. After several years of exploration, development and testing, we now have a process that allows us to upload more than 1000 images per year

By placing our images on PAHA's website we can share this valuable resource with a much larger audience than the few hundred people who visit the Archives each year in person. Non-residents can search the collection for images of interest to them,

such as pictures of ancestors or former residences, without having to travel to Palo Alto. Locals can search the collection from home or school at times convenient to them rather than having to visit the History Desk during my limited hours.

The problem is we are running out of money. Initially, the project was funded by a grant from the City of Palo Alto and from our own reserves. Several years ago we received a generous grant from the Cable Co-op that has financed the operation since then. But the Cable Co-op funds will be depleted later this year or early in 2008.

So now we need to identify new sources of funding to continue this worthwhile project. We are looking to find local foundations or families who might grant us enough money to sustain the project for a period of time. Compared to many other funding requests, the amount required is moderate; the results per dollar spent, considerable. For example, \$20,000 funds the project for an entire year. Perhaps some of you can suggest potential funding sources, or are interested personally in donating so we can continue to provide the images of Palo Alto's past.

Thank You, Archives Volunteers

pahistory.org Small type but this PAHA project is making our extensive, historically significant collection of photographs available to local and

FROM THE BOARD BETH BUNNENBERG

national web surfers (see above). It is necessary in today's rapid research and reporting world to have photographs available digitally. This also protects old photographs from excessive handling.

Our PAHA Archives Committee appreciates the following volunteers who have spent hundreds of hours working in the archives: Barbara Lawson, Molly Meschke, Charles Kasiatis, Suham Essaid, and Jack Parkhouse. PAHA is also extremely grateful for the services and support from: Faith Van Liere (our photo cataloger), Jerry Jue and Lynn Murphy of Digital Fish Designs, the City of Palo Alto Libraries, PAST, and a substantial grant from Cable Co-op.

Williams House Exhibit

The Museum of American heritage celebrates the 100th anniversary of the Williams House with an exhibit that highlights the family's life, 1907–1932. The exhibit runs February 9 through June 3, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, 11–4.

Located at 351 Homer Avenue in Palo Alto, admission is free. See www.moah.org for more information.

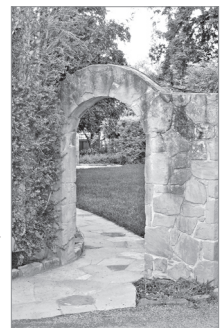


Photo shows the garden gate of the Williams House.

A Day in the Life of a Tail Gunner by Andy Doty



Andy Doty - Tail Gunner

The B-29 tail gunner's day begins in earnest the moment he hears the heavy "click" that precedes an announcement over the public address speakers that reach every corner of his air base on Guam.

Until that moment he had been writing letters, eating lunch, playing softball or visiting the base PX. But that strong sound, and the loud message that follows, immediately causes him to drop whatever he is doing.

"Attention, attention" the voice says. "The following crews are alerted for a mission. Report to the briefing tent at 19:00 hours." One by one, the names and numbers of the crews are read off. The gunner hears his called out: "Crew Number 12, Captain Heath."

With hours to spare before the briefing, the gunner and his crew mates make their way to the flight line, where their B-29 waits in its paved revetment. Men are clambering all about the big machine...



Crew of the "City of College Park" (GA) on Guam, 1945. Andy Doty is at the far left in the bottom row.

The above photo, drawing and excerpted article are from Andy Doty. See website: <http://home.att.net/~sallyanns/b29/andy-guest2.html>.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Virginia DeMarchi, Leah McGarrigle,
Elizabeth T. Billington, Susan Rosenberg, Scott Mellberg

Palo Alto Historical Association Membership Application Form

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: Individual \$25 Family \$40 Sustaining \$60
 Business \$100 Sponsor \$100 Life \$350

Name: _____

Address: _____ City/State/Zip _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

Total Amount: \$ _____ Payment Method: Check Mastercard Visa

Card # _____ Expiration Date _____

Signature _____

 Please make payment to PALO ALTO HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION. Mail it with this form to PAHA at P.O. Box 193, Palo Alto, CA 94302. Thank You!



Congratulations! The Palo Alto Historical Association Board of Directors is pleased to announce the election of the following officers for the upcoming year:

President: Dick Rosenbaum,
 First Vice President: Jan Murphy,
 Second Vice President: Gwen Barry,
 Treasurer: Bob Jack,
 Secretary: Bardy Wallace

PAHA Elections: Current Board members standing for a new three-year term are: Gwen Barry, Judy Leahy, Michael Litfin, Peggy McKee, Carol Murden, and Dick Rosenbaum.

The Nominating Committee recommends three new Board members for three-year terms: Jeanne McDonnell, Bardy Wallace and Ruth Lacey.

The membership will elect new members to the Board at the PAHA ANNUAL DINNER on Wednesday, June 6, 2007.

VOLUNTEER AT PAHA

The Palo Alto Historical Association (PAHA) has openings for volunteers who may or may not be interested in serving on the Association's Board. Here are examples of positions currently in search of a volunteer:

Program Committee Chairperson: Work with other Program Committee members to plan, schedule, and produce the eight monthly general program meetings that PAHA holds each year. Interact with very talented and creative folks in presenting vignettes of Palo Alto's history. Time requirement: variable but probably 10-12 hours per month.

Tall Tree Editor-in-Relief: Until our regular editor, Ruth Lacey, is able to resume her duties, work with our graphic designer to produce PAHA's monthly publication, "Tall Tree". Were you editor of your high school or college newspaper? Do you have writing skills in your mind and printer's ink in your veins? We need you. Time requirement: variable but probably 15-20 hours per month.

Webmaster Volunteer: If you are Internet literate and have a creative flair, managing PAHA's website (www.pahistory.org) may be ideal for you, and you may be a godsend for PAHA. Time requirement: variable.

Refreshments Facilitator: Help set up the refreshments table and serve goodies to our ravenous members at our monthly programs. Time requirement: variable but probably 1-2 hours per month.

If any of these opportunities catch your fancy, or if you'd like to help but aren't sure how, please leave a message on the PAHA answering service (650-326-3355). Or, write to Volunteer Opportunities at PAHA, P.O. Box 193, Palo Alto, CA 94302. We'll all be glad you did.

The Tall Tree MAY 2007

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June 6, 6:00 p.m.

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Reservations: \$42

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