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The Tall Tree

PALO ALTO HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

GENERAL MEETING

Sunday, January 25 at 2:00 p.m.

Free & open to the Public

Lucie Stern Community Center

1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto

Seeing Our Places from Above



Speaker: Ben Hatfield
Aerial Photographer

2003 San Francisco Photoshoot
(courtesy Hatfield Aerial Surveys/Archives)

THE PAHA PROGRAM ON January 25, 2009, will feature Ben Hatfield, who will talk to us about his father's amazing collection of aerial photos of Palo Alto and its environs. Ben's father, Adrian Hatfield, was one of the first aerial photographers in the Bay Area. He amassed a collection that spans the years 1947–1979.

Trained during the Second World War as an Aerial Mapper/Aerial Photographer, Adrian Hatfield translated his military experience into the business, Hatfield Aerial Surveys/Archives, photographing housing develop-

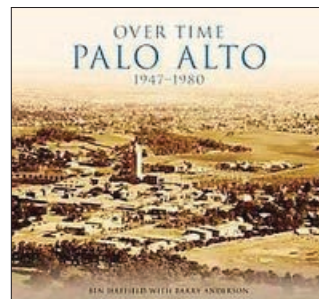
ments, the Stanford Industrial Park, Great America, the construction of Highway 280, nurseries, orchards, and more.

Cities, towns and the State of California took advantage of his expertise to chronicle and preserve the history and expansion of this area.

Ben Hatfield and his colleague, Barry Anderson, have recently published *Over Time: Palo Alto, 1947–1980*, which documents Adrian Hatfield's accomplishments. The book is available at several locations in Palo Alto. 🌲



ADRIAN HATFIELD, 1949
(courtesy Hatfield Aerial Surveys/Archives)



Over Time in Palo Alto, 1947–1980 by Ben Hatfield and Barry Anderson is available locally.

The Tall Tree is published eight times a year by the

PALO ALTO HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

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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:

- ④ Collect, organize, and preserve materials pertaining to the history and heritage of Palo Alto.
- ④ Spread information about Palo Alto's history by means of programs, displays, and publications.
- ④ 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 on the first Wednesday of each month (except August) at the Lucie Stern Community Center at 4 P.M. Schedule of public meetings on p.4.

The Palo Alto History Museum

As we begin this new year, we are very happy to report that a prominent Palo Altan has pledged \$2 million dollar for restoration of the Roth Building as the home of our local history museum. This commitment is our single largest to date, and will serve to lead others to fulfill

our goal of providing the new center for educational and cultural activities.

History teaches us many things, much of which goes without examination absent a museum that seeks to highlight the knowledge, events, and even mistakes, that have led us to this point in time. It is through examination of our history that we are guided into the future. This is the continuum that our multi-generational lives represent.

The Palo Alto History Museum will provide both traditional and creative new ways to explore our Palo Alto-Stanford past and provide tools to design the future.

Have a wonderful, successful new year in whatever your endeavors. As we look forward to a successful year working for our community history museum, we thank each of you

who has already joined in our effort and look forward to including new supporters who will join our \$2 million donor in becoming stewards of our history.

The Palo Alto History Museum is a 501(c)(3) organization.

P.O. Box 676, Palo Alto, CA 943020

650.322.3089, kholman@pahistorymuseum.org



KAREN HOLMAN
Executive Director,
Palo Alto History
Museum Project

In Memoriam—Carol Murden Historian, Preservationist

Palo Alto and The Palo Alto Historical Association mourn the death of beloved supporter of historic preservation and Palo Alto's history, Carol Murden. After raising her two sons, Christopher and Andrew, Carol became deeply involved in a variety of organization devoted to local history: she joined and served on the board of PAST (Palo Alto Stanford Heritage); she was appointed to the Palo Alto Historic Resources Board; she served on the PAHA board, as well as that of the Palo Alto History Museum; she joined the History Committee of the Woman's Club of Palo Alto. In 2002, PAST acknowledged her many contributions with a lifetime award. A memorial service celebrating Carol's life took place on January 17, at the First Congregational Church of Palo Alto. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Carol's name to the Palo Alto History Museum (P.O. Box 676, Palo Alto, CA 94302.)



WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Susan Bass
Joanie Keast

BECOME A MEMBER OF PAHA

YOUR TAX-DEDUCTIBLE MEMBERSHIP HELPS PAY FOR PRESERVING INFORMATION about the history of Palo Alto and informing the public about that history. Annual membership dues are: Individual \$25, Family \$40, Sustaining \$60, Business/Sponsor \$100 and Life Member \$350. Members receive this newsletter in the mail and a renewal notice in July.

You can join by mail or online. Make checks payable to Palo Alto Historical Association, mail to PAHA Membership, P.O. Box 193, Palo Alto, CA 94302-0193. Let us know if you require a receipt.

Or go to our web site www.pahistory.org. Click on MEMBERSHIP, then on Network for Good. Once on that site, press Donate Now, and put "membership" in the designation field. Give us your name and address. For gift memberships, also email us at PAHistoricalAssn@aol.com with the name, address, and e-mail address of the recipient.

Seen from Above by a Historian



Aerial photographs are one of my favorite kinds of images. I know some people have difficulty interpreting aerial photographs because of the unfamiliar perspective. I can examine one and see streets, neighborhoods, and other landmarks to help identify where and when the photograph was shot.

FROM THE DESK OF THE HISTORIAN Steve Steiger

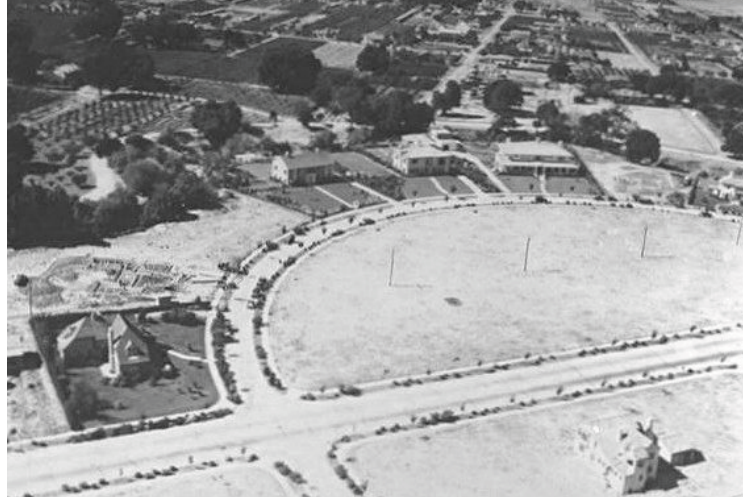
In the Palo Alto history archives, we have many aerial photographs, some shot by Adrian Hatfield between 1947 and 1980. He was the father of the speaker at our January public program. But our collection demonstrates that aerial photography goes back even earlier than the first airplanes that were flown on the Peninsula. Some of our photographs date to more than 100 years ago. They were taken from atop water towers, or perhaps from remotely triggered cameras suspended from kites or balloons.

These earliest images were taken by amateur photographers who were experimenting with new technologies just for the fun of it, but later, many were shot for commercial or government reasons. Adrian Hatfield aided the military during World War II and subsequently made a career of selling his aerial photographs to developers, planners, and property owners.

Aerial photographs still continue to be produced, although like other documents of today, more often these images are digitally shot, stored and viewed. Google offers aerial views of much of the world, seen via the internet. Such digital images allow zooming in to identify individual neighborhood landmarks such as trees or automobiles parked in the driveway, or zooming out to see a neighborhood in context. See your neighborhood up close or as a part of the rest of California at Google Maps.



Intersection Cowper & Tennyson, circa 1910.



University and Crescent Drive, 1929



Aerial Downtown Palo Alto, 1930s. (All photos courtesy of Guy MillerArchives unless otherwise noted.)



PAHA Heritage TV Programs Cable Channel 30

WEDNESDAYS 8:00 PM,
THURSDAYS NOON,
SATURDAYS 1:00 PM

In February: See "Vignettes, the 7th Annual Storytellers," December's program about growing up in Palo Alto. Currently showing: "100 Years of Humane Caring," the story of the Palo Alto Humane Society.



Time & Place

Museum of American Heritage

Lecture: *A Musical Tour on Candalmas Eve*
Commentary and performance by The Crones,
Music from Medieval to Modern
Livermore Learning Center at MOAH
Members: Free, Non-members: \$5
Sunday, Feb. 1, 3 to 4:00 p.m.
351 Homer Avenue, Palo Alto, California
650-321-1004 Fax: 650-473-6950
Continuing exhibit, *Music to One's Ears*, through March 29.

Gamble Garden

Classes in winter gardening are available.
1431 Waverley Street. For more information call 329-1356

Bill Lane Center for the American West

is sponsoring *Lincoln and the West: The Legacy of the Lincoln Administration in the American West*, February 5 and 6.
Free and open to the public, RSVP required, contact:
<http://west.stanford.edu> or call 650-721-2252.

Los Altos Hills Historical Society

Jeanne Farr McDonnell, speaker about
Juana Briones: Her Land, Her House,
February 22, 3 to 5:00, Town Hall, 26379 Fremont Road.



PAHA's Public Meetings to Come

Most of our public meetings are on the first Sunday from October–May at 2:00 PM at the Lucie Stern Community Center.

NEXT MEETINGS:

MARCH 1 AT 2:00 PM

Geology of the Bay Area

Speaker: Bonnie Murchey

U.S. Geological Survey

APRIL 5 AT 2:00 PM

Mayfield Brewing Company

Speaker: John P. Alderete

President/CEO

MAY 3 AT 2:00 PM

History of the Palo Alto Women's Club

Speaker: Margaret Feuer

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10:

Annual Meeting

Dinner at the Sheraton

The Tall Tree

JANUARY 2009

PALO ALTO HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

P.O. BOX 193

PALO ALTO, CA 94302

www.pahistory.org

NEXT MEETING:

January 25 at 2:00 PM

Followed by a social hour
and refreshments

