GENERAL MEETING

Sunday, May 6 at 2:00 p.m.
Lucie Stern Community Center
1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto

Free & open to the public
Cookies & coffee

PART—Palo Alto Rapid Transit
Streetcars & Interurbans Once Ran in Palo Alto

Streetcars, trolleys, and busses have been a part of Palo Alto life since the Marguerite wagons first brought Stanford students from the rail line to campus in the horse and buggy days.

This month PAHA historian, Steve Staiger, and videographer, Brian George, join their talents and interest in urban transportation to bring us the history of rapid, and not so rapid, public transit in Palo Alto.

Steve has been historian for the Palo Alto History Museum for the past twenty-two years. Born in Mill Valley in Marin County, he graduated from Tamalpais High School before going on to the U.C. Davis where he earned a B.S. in History and then U.C. Berkeley for a Master’s degree in Library Science. He is a regular columnist for this publication.
Peninsular Railways’ Number 52

In preparation for this month’s talk on the streetcars of Palo Alto I visited a great little museum. Well it is not really that small—it stretches more than 18 miles in length.

For many years I have known that one of the streetcars that ran on the interurban rail line in Palo Alto was alive and well in Solano County. On a Saturday in March our videographer Brian George and I, accompanied by our wives, drove to the Western Railroad Museum. The museum is located on the former Sacramento Northern mainline which intersects Highway 12 between Fairfield and Rio Vista. At one time the Sacramento Northern ran electric interurban trains from Oakland to Chico via Sacramento.

When the volunteer staff at the museum realized why we were there, they gladly adjusted the schedule to feature Number 52 on the first run that morning. Brian, as you will see on May 6, filmed the car inside and outside as it ran down the rails. We also rode other cars and were able to examine numerous other examples of streetcars and interurbans from Bay Area electric rail lines, including Napa Valley, San Francisco Muni, Sacramento, and several from the Key System which operated in the East Bay into the 1950s.

The museum operates a visitors center with a library, gift shop plus a snack shop and picnic grounds. There is also a restoration barn where you can observe the volunteers repairing and restoring additional cars in their collection.

In the past I have discussed some of the fine local history museums that can be visited in the Bay Area. To that list of museums worthy of your interest, I would add the Western Railroad Museum (www.wrm.org). It is a great place for children or grandchildren, but also for those who remember the streetcars and interurbans that ran throughout the Bay Area.
Palo Alto Historical Association

ANNUAL DINNER

Everyone is welcome to attend

Wednesday, June 6, 2007

Social Hour, 6:00 PM
Dinner, 7:00 PM

Sheraton Palo Alto
625 El Camino Real, Palo Alto

featuring

Memoirs of WWII

Guest Speaker: Andy Doty
Director of Community Relations (Retired)
Stanford University

MENU

Caesar Salad

Entrée choice of
Marinated Grilled Free Range Chicken Breast
Garlic Mashed Potatoes
Steamed Asparagus

or
Porcini Ravioli
Gorgonzola Cream Sauce & Roasted Pine Nuts
Dessert of Tiramisu
Coffee, Herbal Teas

NOTE: Sheraton Palo Alto now charges for parking so we encourage you to carpool.

To make your dinner reservations, fill out the form below. Reservations must be received before June 1, 2007.

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<th>Name(s)</th>
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I/We wish # __________ reservations at $42.00 each for a total of $ __________

I/We want to contribute $ __________ to PAHA
(anything in excess of the dinner price is tax deductible).  Total enclosed: $ __________
**NOMINATIONS FOR THE PAHA BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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

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

Members at large may put a name in nomination by preparing a petition signed by at least 10 members of PAHA and submit it to Jan Murphy, Recording Secretary, at 650.493.2477 before Wednesday, May 2. The membership will elect new members to the Board at the PAHA Annual Dinner on Wednesday, June 6, 2007.

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**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.*

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**The Tall Tree**

**April 2007**

**Palo Alto Historical Association**

*www.pahistory.org*

**P.O. Box 193**

**Palo Alto, CA 94302**

**Next Meeting:**
May 6, 2:00 p.m.

Free & open to the public
Cookies & coffee