

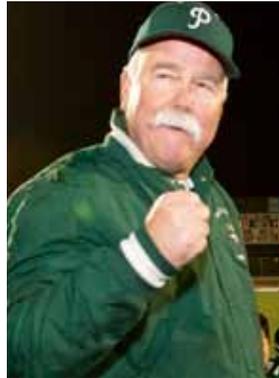
JANUARY 2011  
VOLUME 34, NUMBER 4

# The Tall Tree

PALO ALTO HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

GENERAL MEETING, FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC  
Sunday, January 30 at 2:00 PM at the  
Lucie Stern Community Center, 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto

## Victorious Palo Alto High School—Coach Earl Hansen



**SPEAKER:**  
Earl Hansen  
*Athletic Director &  
Head Coach,  
Palo Alto High School*

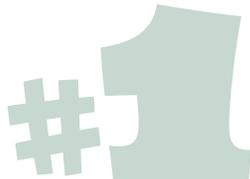
IF THE STATE FOOTBALL CHAMPION PALO ALTO VIKINGS were lucky to have Earl Hansen as their leader, head coach, and mentor this year, the Palo Alto Historical Association is lucky to have him as the featured speaker at the January 30 general meeting. Paly's stunning upset of the favored Centennial Huskies from Corona, California, capped a triumphant season that ended with a 14-0 winning streak, followed by the December 17 victory over the Huskies.

When informed of being named Coach of the Year, Coach Hansen immediately gave credit to his staff and his players, "You've got to have great assistants...



*Palo Alto team celebrates victory (courtesy of the MercuryNews.com)*

You've got to have great athletes." Members of his present team and those from the past, such as Jim Harbaugh, praise Coach Hansen's leadership style, and the influence he had and continues to have on them. Earl Hansen is the product of local schools: he played end for Cubberley and graduated from San Jose State, where he earned his teaching credential. He has been Head Coach at Paly since 1991 and Athletic Director at Paly since 1993.



See it on **YouTube**

The final minute of the Palo Alto v. Centennial game:

[www.youtube.com/  
watch?v=3bK9Pgvmf9E](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3bK9Pgvmf9E)

The championship awards:

[www.youtube.com/  
watch?v=blKHWSAgWo&feature=  
related](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=blKHWSAgWo&feature=related)

The rap that Paly football team uploaded:

[www.youtube.com/  
watch?v=wyshDqiOkXE](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wyshDqiOkXE)

*The Tall Tree* is published eight times a year by the

**PALO ALTO HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION**

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650.326.3355 • [www.pahistory.org](http://www.pahistory.org)

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The Palo Alto Historical Association, is a non-profit organization. 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 PAHA are stored at the Main Library, 1213 Newell Road. See the calendar, p.4, for the schedule of public meetings.

## WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS



Mary Kornienko Morse  
Mary Robell  
Greg Mellberg

## BECOME A MEMBER OF PAHA

- Individual \$25
- Family \$40
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- Business/Sponsor \$100
- Life \$350

Make check payable to PAHA and mail to: PAHA Box 193

Palo Alto, CA 94302

Or join online at [www.pahistory.org](http://www.pahistory.org).  
Let us know if you wish to volunteer for a PAHA committee.

# Alan Kelsey Brown, Historian

I RECENTLY LEARNED OF THE DEATH OF A HISTORIAN WHO MADE SIGNIFICANT contributions to the history of the Peninsula. Alan Kelsey Brown died in



**FROM THE  
DESK OF THE  
HISTORIAN  
Steve Staiger**

September, 2009, but I only learned of his death when the San Francisco Estuary Institute dedicated their study of the Santa Clara County watershed to his memory. Doctor Brown died in Columbus, Ohio, where he was a professor emeritus at Ohio State University. He grew up in Redwood City, graduated from Palo Alto High School, graduated from Hamilton College, and received his Ph.D. from Stanford in 1969, where he concentrated on Old English language and literature.



*Professor Alan Kelsey Brown, Ph.D.  
(courtesy Lisa Kiser)*

He enjoyed an illustrious career teaching Old English to hundreds of "Buckeyes." He mastered a number of medieval languages, including Old Spanish. In her memorial tribute, OSU faculty member Lisa Kiser, described how Dr. Brown was celebrated for his performances of Beowulf from memory, in costume, and in which he played his hand-built lyre at local Ohio renaissance fairs. She continued, "...many may not know that Alan was also a world-renowned contributor to the field of California history..." These contributions interested me. He was associated with the San Mateo Historical Association, publishing several papers and small books during the 1960s and 70s. He researched and translated the journals of early Franciscan missionaries, Juan Crespi and Pedro Font, who, historians think, were on the second Anza expedition.

He must have been a very interesting fellow! PAHA member Jeanne McDonnell knew Dr. Brown and respected him enormously. I only met him once when he visited the Archives, although we emailed and talked on the telephone as he continued his research on early California. He estimated the indigenous populations of California prior to contact with Europeans. One of his last published studies was an investigation into determining the extent of historical oak woodlands in the Santa Clara Valley by examining fungus damage to early 20th century fruit orchards. In Palo Alto, his most valuable work was in determining where the early roads were located.

Brown's *Place Names of San Mateo County*, earned acclaim and is available for purchase at the San Mateo History Museum.

## Cavalier Behavior in 1906

by Jeanne McDonnell

The California Academy of Sciences recently restored a film of Market Street in San Francisco made several days before the 1906 earthquake. Pedestrians dodge bravely between cable cars, trolleys, carriages drawn by horses, electric cars, and automobiles that weave adventurously around them all. To see the video, visit <http://www.calacademy.org/blogs/library/>.

# Centennial Celebration of Women's Suffrage



California Women Suffrage Centennial 1911–2011 (courtesy [www.ca2011centennial.com/](http://www.ca2011centennial.com/)).

LAST MONTH, PAHA PRESIDENT DOUGLAS GRAHAM REMINDED *Tall Tree* readers that 2011 marks the centennial year of women's suffrage in California. In a special election on October 10, 1911, voters approved Proposition 4, an amendment to the California Constitution that granted women the right to vote in this state for the first

time. California was the 6th state to extend the franchise to women. Our mothers and grandmothers fought hard for this right, beginning, as many of you recall, in the 19th century. Doug Graham's comments last month featured the career of local suffragist pioneer, Sarah Wallis. Another heroine of the movement, Mrs. Charles (Isabella) Blaney, lived in the Rancho Bella Vista estate in Saratoga. She was active locally, chairing the Santa Clara Valley Suffrage movement and was one of two women from California who played a role in the Bull Moose Party. The Saratoga Historical Foundation will open an exhibit highlighting memorabilia of Isabella (Bella) Blaney on February 6.

There, you may learn about suffragist activities in California through the buttons, songs, photos, and a letter from Jane Addams in the collection. The Foundation, open Friday through Sunday from 1–4 PM, is located at 20450 Saratoga-Los Gatos Road, Saratoga 95070 (408-867-4311). For more information, visit their website to learn of future lectures and events, to download walking and biking maps, or arrange for a docent-led tour of Saratoga. The Saratoga History Foundation is sponsoring PAHA's own Jeanne McDonnell talk on "Broad Themes within the California Woman Suffrage Movement" at 1 PM on March 20, at the Odd Fellows Grand Hall on Oak Street in Saratoga.

On the subject of suffrage in California a group, "California Women Suffrage Centennial 1911–2011," is working on a gala celebration to take place in October, 2011. Continue to look in these pages and at their website, which is under construction, for more information, [www.ca2011centennial.com/](http://www.ca2011centennial.com/).



Suffragists, Mrs. Blaney, Mrs. Willmarth, Jane Addams (courtesy of the Library of Congress, unrestricted).

## The Computer History Museum

A NEW EXHIBIT OPENED January 13 at the Computer History Museum in Mountain View entitled "Revolution—the First 2000 Years of Computing." The exhibit provides a close-up look at objects, devices and software, including recordings of many innovators describing their activities. Revolution "is for people who love cool museums and history... for tech professionals, ...for anyone who wants to understand the technical world we all live in...." Located at 1401 N. Shoreline Blvd. in Mountain View, the museum is open Wednesday–Sunday, 10–5. For more information, visit their website.



Computer History Museum, Mountain View (courtesy of the Computer History Museum).

THE FEBRUARY CABLE program, *Heritage*, on Channel 30 will be "Palo Alto Vignettes" facilitated by Karen Holman, December 5, 2010. DVDs of previous PAHA programs are available at the Main Library's History Desk, Tuesday, 4–8 PM and Thursday, 1–4 PM.

### IN MEMORIAM

Patricia Carlson  
1932–2010

Irene Sampson  
1927–2010



# Things to Do and Places to Go

**THE MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN HERITAGE ANNOUNCES ITS SPRING LECTURE SERIES:** On Thursday, February 24, Ted Atlas will speak on "The History of Candlestick Park." He will launch his new book and present images and recollections of the stadium's role in Bay Area history. The presentation is free to MOAH members, \$5 to non-members. For more information, call 650-321-1004. Visit the website for information on future speakers. The museum is located at 351 Homer Ave., Palo Alto, 94301.

**THE STANFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY** has made two of its recent public programs available online at "Stanford on iTunes." David L. Freyberg, Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering, titled his talk "Watering the Farm: Stanford's Water Systems Old and New, Near and Far." A second program featured several speakers on the subject of "Native American Life at Stanford." Go to the link, <http://histsoc.stanford.edu/programspast.shtml>, and follow instructions on how to access the programs.

**Your editors would like to know:** What kinds of topics are you interested in? What kinds of articles would you welcome in the Tall Tree? Would you like to or be interested in being a guest contributor—a place to go or visit? a book to recommend? a book review? Let us know; of course the editors will edit and decide when and how to include your thoughts.

## PAHA's Public Meetings to Come

Meetings are held at the  
Lucie Stern Community Center 2 PM

**JANUARY 30:** *Victorious Palo Alto  
High School Coach Earl Hansen*

*Save the dates*

**PAHA MEETINGS 2011:**

**MARCH 6**

**APRIL 3**

**MAY 1**

**JUNE 1: ANNUAL DINNER**

As the editors of the Tall Tree become more "green," we offer you the option of receiving your Tall Tree digitally. If you're interested, please send your request electronically (include your preferred email address) to PAHA Secretary Bardy Wallace, [bdgw@pacbell.net](mailto:bdgw@pacbell.net).

# The Tall Tree

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Coach Earl Hansen"

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Refreshments will be served.