

MAY 2011
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The Tall Tree

PALO ALTO HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

GENERAL MEETING, FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
Sunday, May 1 at 2:00 PM at the
Lucie Stern Community Center, 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto

Watering the Farm: Old and New, Near and Far



SPEAKER:
David Freyberg
Stanford
Engineering Professor

textbook, *Water-Resources Engineering*, he is also a popular and award winning lecturer. He won the Tau Beta Pi Teaching Award for the outstanding educator in the School of Engineering and was named a Bing Teaching Fellow. In addition to his research on local and California water issues, he and his students have studied hydrologic processes and water resources challenges in Nigeria, Canada, Singapore, Mozambique, and Hawai'i.

On a more personal note, Professor Freyberg spends as much time as he can outdoors, here and in Colorado, birding whenever possible.

PEOPLE NEED WATER. PEOPLE LIVE IN ARID AND semi-arid places. That contradiction requires daily monitoring for Stanford University's dense population. David Freyberg, Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Stanford, will explain the challenge and adventure of devising systems from limited sources for pumping, diversion, reclamation, damming, providing for fish, and much more in the past on this former farmland and for the future.

Dr. Freyberg came to Stanford, where he earned his graduate degrees, from Dartmouth College. He has been on the faculty since 1981. An eminent contributor to the field of hydrology and co-author of a widely used



Postcard of Searsville Lake, courtesy David Freyberg



Felton Lake during construction, courtesy David Freyberg

The Cable program, Heritage, Channel 30 in May, will be "The Pacific Art League: Celebrating 90 Years," by the League's Executive Director, Richard Ambrose, taped at the April 2011 PAHA meeting. Program DVDs are available at the Main Library's History Desk, Tuesday 4-8PM and Thursday, 1-4PM.

The Tall Tree is published eight times a year by the

PALO ALTO HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION
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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.

IN MEMORIAM

Meri Ehrlick
1922 – 2011
Life Member of PAHA

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBER

Katherine Crist

BECOME A MEMBER OF PAHA

- Individual \$25
- Family \$40
- Sustaining \$60
- 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.
Let us know if you wish to volunteer for a PAHA committee.

Palo Alto Street Names

STREET NAMES DERIVE FROM A NUMBER OF DIFFERENT REASONS. SOME NAMES are descriptive of the road's use, such as Arastradero Road from the Spanish "to drag" indicating the road's use in hauling large timbers to the Santa Clara mission and the pueblo of San Jose from the wooded hills above today's Portola Valley. Other names indicate where the road led to or came from, such as Page Mill Road (from William Page's sawmill to the town of Mayfield) or Embarcadero Road (leading to the landing on San Francisquito Creek).



FROM THE
DESK OF THE
HISTORIAN
Steve Staiger

Most of Palo Alto's street names were selected to honor a person, place or event in our past. There is the story of how Timothy Hopkins went to his library to choose the names for the original streets for University Park, thus the predominance of English and American literary references. When Mayfield was laid out in 1867, the names selected honored the military leaders of the recent Civil War, such as Sherman, Grant and Lincoln, which was renamed California Avenue when Mayfield was annexed into Palo Alto.

For many years, developers named the new streets in their subdivisions. Thus the real estate developers of the College Terrace neighborhood used eastern college names. In south Palo Alto, a major street was named for the farmers whose land was being developed, but Diss Road, for the Diss brothers, sounded poorly and was later changed to East Meadow Drive. During the 1950s, when many subdivisions opened in Palo Alto, developers named some streets for themselves, their wives and children, and even one for a secretary.

The City Council finally decided to assume responsibility for street naming in Palo Alto and included the Palo Alto Historical Association's role in suggesting appropriate historic names in the City's policies and procedures. In my 26 years



Odd Fellows Hall in 1890 at the corner of First St. and Lincoln Avenue (now Ash Street and California Avenue), Guy Miller/PAHA archives.

with PAHA, we have suggested numerous names for the various newly created streets. Most new streets in Palo Alto are cul-de-sacs or lead into developments, such as the housing that replaced Rickey's.

Over time, the lack of significant new streets has created a problem. We now have names (individual or families) that deserve that recognition, but only short streets. The Association was recently criticized by Councilmember Klein for suggesting Packard Court for a new cul-de-sac in Barron Park. We suggested that name, realizing that the Packard family certainly deserved recognition; but also that we did not anticipate any new significant opportunities in the near future. Also, this street was located in the neighborhood where the Packard family lived for many years.

Anna Zschokke is another name deserving recognition. But like the Diss family name, the spelling/pronunciation of her family name would be problematic for the residents of any street with her name. We had been "reserving" her name until we were recently able to suggest it for the small park on High Street between University and Hamilton Avenues.

I would suggest that Palo Alto, the mature developed community, might be ready to consider honoring other deserving persons by re-naming some of our less distinguished street names. Perhaps we might start with Third Street, since First and Second have already been renamed Ash and Birch Streets.

Ming's—55 Years of Fine Chinese Dining

MING'S RESTAURANT, LOCATED AT 1700 EMBARCADERO, ORIGINALLY OPENED JULY 26, 1956 BY OWNER Dan Lee at 4100 El Camino Real. This location, pictured below, was in unincorporated Barron Park in a building previously occupied by the popular Longbarn Restaurant. Ming's quickly became even more popular than Longbarn had been, and for the next 13 years was considered the premier restaurant in Barron Park's "Restaurant Row," which then was Santa Clara County's leading restaurant district. Ming's featured Peking Duck, Shark's Fin Soup and other delicacies that completely outclassed the Chop Suey and Chow Mein being served in the area's other Chinese restaurants. The owners of Ming's through the years have changed the menu, but believed that they were always ahead of the competition. The many restaurant reviews in PAHA's file support this contention.



DOUG GRAHAM
President, PAHA

In 1968, Ming's relocated to the Embarcadero site just off 101 because planned widening of El Camino Real was going to take much of their Barron Park property. The new location featured an award-winning design with two large dining rooms, several smaller ones and three kitchens, including one for Dim Sum only. In the 1980s, KGO Radio voted Ming's Dim Sum "the best in the Bay Area"

After 30 years of ownership, Dan Lee sold Ming's to Felicity Tse for \$4.2 million in 1986. Tse spent \$1.5 million more in renovating and remodeling the building, and renamed it "Ming's Villa". The new menu featured "Fortune Chicken" baked in clay, presented to a dinner guest of honor who got to crack the clay with a hammer.

Since 1991, Ming's has been owned and managed by Vicky Ching. Vicky has emphasized Ming's traditional dishes, including Ming's Beef and Ming's renowned Chicken Salad (considered by KCBS's Narsai David to be "the best"). Ching also introduced a full vegan/vegetarian alternative menu. By 2007, the *Palo Alto Weekly* noted that more than 200 dishes were offered.

The PAHA Board of Directors invites all members to sample the delights of dining at Ming's for our Annual Dinner on June 1, 2011. See you there!



Ming's restaurant, now at 1700 Embarcadero, originally opened July 26, 1956 by owner Dan Lee at 4100 El Camino Real.



Ming's today, courtesy C. Mei-yun/Yelp.com

Facebook for PA History Fans

The new PAHA Facebook site is up and running. We have info on our upcoming events, speakers and publications. In addition, each week, we will post 10 photos from the PAHA Archives that have never before been on the internet.

On Facebook, search for Palo Alto Historical Association. If you click to "like" us, you will get regular updates in your Facebook Newsfeed. You may also email Matt Bowling for an invitation at mtb324@gmail.com.

Preservation Month

The nation allocates May as the month to seriously think about preservation. Each May, PAST recognizes local people who honor and act upon the concept, and PAST at that event distributes plaques for owners of centennial structures.

This year, at their annual celebration, PAST will host a speaker, Inge Horton, author of the recently published *Early Women Architects of the San Francisco Bay Area*. Her talk is titled "Julia Morgan's Cohorts," since it has long been assumed that, except for her, few women practiced that profession in this region.

Public is invited, 1:00, Sunday May 22, Women's Club, 475 Homer Ave. More information at the PAST website.

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.

80th Birthdays Shine

Gleim Jewelers have gleamed for 80 years, as noted in *Gentry* magazine, which wrote that Frederick Wilhelm Gleim founded the store on April 1, 1931. His son Arthur succeeded him, and Georgie Gleim has worked with the company for 40 years. In 1999, she won the Robert M. Shipley Award as "an individual who has made significant contributions to the jewelry industry."



Georgie Gleim with Pearls, Guy Miller/PAHA Archives

Things to Do and Places to Go

When Law Discriminated

The *Wall Street Journal* wrote, in a recent article, about Sandra Day O'Connor, who graduated from Stanford Law School in 1952 and got one job offer, that of legal secretary. Professor Barbara Babcock's book about the first woman law professor in California was published this year. She will speak about Clara Foltz at 4:15 on April 28, at the Serra House Clayman Institute.

Walks: Saratoga, Cypress Lawn in Colma

Saratoga Historical Museum's first Sunday of the month walking tours of about an hour in length begin in May. They start at 2PM at the Museum, 20450 Saratoga-Los Gatos Road. Tour length is a mile with museum volunteers. Call 408.867.4311 for information.

Cypress Lawn Heritage Foundation holds walking tours on the third Saturday April through October. May 14 at 1:30 will be "A Celebration of Outstanding Women" at Cypress Lawn; the June 18 subject will be "The Streets of San Francisco."

PAHA's Public Meetings to Come

Meetings are held at the
Lucie Stern Community Center 2 PM

MAY 1: "WATERING THE FARM—OLD
AND NEW, NEAR AND FAR"

Speaker: David Freyberg

◆ Save the Dates ◆

For the Centennial of California
Woman Suffrage:

OCTOBER 2: "SARAH WALLIS,
LOCAL SUFFRAGIST"

Speaker: Douglas Graham

NOVEMBER 6: "CLARA FOLTZ: FIRST
CALIFORNIA WOMAN LAWYER"

Speaker: Professor Barbara Babcock.

🌀 JUNE 1: PAHA'S ANNUAL DINNER 🌀

"THE BEST STORIES" *Speaker: Jay Thorwaldson, former editor of the Palo Alto Weekly*
Ming's Restaurant, \$39 per person, reservations required.

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Sunday, May 1, 2:00 PM

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Refreshments will be served.