



The Tall Tree Newsletter

of the PALO ALTO HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

November 2014 Volume 38, No 2

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC * REFRESHMENTS SERVED

GENERAL MEETING

Sunday, November 2, 2:00–4:00 PM
 Lucie Stern Community Center
 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto

*Presenters: Brian Tuomy, Teacher, Gunn High School
 and the High School History Interns*

“Out of the File Cabinet, Into the Classroom: A Palo Alto Historical Association Project”



Brian Tuomy
 PAHA Supervisor for
 Grant Project
 Teacher, Gunn HS

THE PROGRAM ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2, WILL FEATURE A PRESENTATION BY GUNN HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER, BRIAN TUOMY and his four interns. This summer, they worked with Steve Staiger in PAHA’s Guy Miller Archives. Mentored by Steve and Brian, these stalwarts delved deeply into the primary source materials available in the archives. Julian Moran and Maya Miklos from Gunn and Zofia Amad and Kenton Kwok from Paly examined old maps, photographs, newspaper articles, documents, etc. They were excited by their discoveries in PAHA’s treasure trove and could occasionally be distracted by the odd, the interesting, or the irrelevant. One of the criteria supporting their investigations was to create lessons and align them to the Common Core’s emphasis on a strong knowledge base, incorporation of evidence, and critical thinking. The outcome was that they crafted lessons appropriate in 3rd grade classrooms.



High school History Interns work with Steve Staiger, Historian at the Archives



Interns and Brian Tuomy, Intern Supervisor, at work with others at work in the newly relocated Archives.

PAHA's Public Meetings

GENERAL PROGRAM MEETINGS

are held monthly

2:00–4:00 PM

October – May

at the

Lucie Stern Community Center
 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto

PAHA'S PUBLIC MEETINGS 2014

Sunday, November 2

“Out of the File Cabinet...”

*Speakers: Brian Tuomy, Teacher and
 High School History Interns*

Sunday, December 7

“Palo Alto Vignettes”

Hosted by: Karen Holman

PAHA'S MEETING DATES 2015

March 5

April 5

May 3

June 4, Annual Dinner

The Stanford Red Barn

FROM THE DESK OF
THE HISTORIAN
Steve Staiger

A FEW WEEKS AGO I ATTENDED A PROGRAM OF THE STANFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY on the Stanford Red Barn. The program included a brief talk about the history of the Red Barn and how the facility is being used today for the Stanford Equestrian Team; plus a tour of the barn and grounds.

There is confusion of what and where is the Stanford Barn. There is the Stanford Barn, the



Stanford Red Barn [Photo: terragalleria.com]

building located between the Stanford Shopping Center and the Medical Center. While the building was a cow barn for a brief time, it was built as a winery for Leland Stanford's vineyards on his Palo Alto farm (including the lands that today house the Stanford Shopping Center).

The Stanford Red Barn, surrounded by the opening holes of the Stanford Golf Course, was part of Leland Stanford's Palo Alto Stock Farm, his world-famous trotting horse facility where some of the most successful race horses of the 19th century were bred and trained. Originally there were 4 large red barns plus all the other facilities needed to house and train several hundred horses and the men who cared for them. After a fire destroyed one of the large barns and killed many of the horses stabled within, Stanford had a "fire-proof" brick stable built to protect his beloved horses. But the dampness of the brick structure created another problem, horses became ill with pneumonia.



Stanford Red Barn [Photo: Stanford News]

With horses like Electioneer, Palo Alto and Sunol established numerous world records in trotting horse races throughout the country. While his horses were very successful, the Palo Alto Stock Farm was never profitable. It was a rich man's hobby, although Leland Stanford thought that his "hobby" would benefit the country by improving the performance of the horse, which was still the major form of transportation in the late 19th century.



Equestrians at Stanford Red Barn [Photo: Geek Guide to Silicon Valley]

Leland Stanford could not foresee the coming of the automobile. After his death in 1893, the Stock Farm's assets were sold off to benefit the new university.

The Stanford Red Barn has undergone several renovations and restorations in its long life. It is surrounded by beautiful grounds. It is worthy of a visit for its beauty and for its history if you have the opportunity.

PALO ALTO HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

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30 Years as PAHA Historian—We Thank You

The PAHA Board and the many members who have benefited from and enjoyed Steve's magnificent work as our historian. Steve Staiger has been PAHA's historian for 30 years. He is in charge of the archives and as part of that job, he wrote, "Working as a local historian is the best job in the world." It seems insufficient just to say "You are the best, Steve," but it is true. He has maintained the archives, supervised their various moves, answered thousands of questions, spoken to countless groups and been a cheerful, helpful friend for 30 years. Many thanks, Steve!



from *Rings of Growth*

by Ryland Kelley



Rings of Growth

by Ryland Kelley
Poems Celebrating
Palo Alto's
100 Years

Unique, fascinating,
factual and

engrossing both as story and as art, Mr. Kelley recently published this book to benefit the Palo Alto Historical Association and the Centennial Endowment Fund. Even more than those two nonprofit causes, the book benefits anyone fortunate enough to read it. He dedicated the book to his father, who came here in 1925. This history of Palo Alto in poetry and impressionistic photos is spectacular, so it is difficult to choose only one poem, but many others would compete with this one for high ranking.

In an article in the August issue of the magazine of the Organization of American Historians, Andrew Huebner wrote, "Evoking feeling does not have to distract us from our primary goal as historians—to vividly convey the character of human life in the past—and in fact helps achieve it...Let's unleash the emotion of history for our readers, and awaken theirs along the way."

Lucie Stern and Birge Clark Confer

The small bright eyed lady wondered what did he think would be helpful?

He had thought about, may even have induced her question
What would be right would be a place for children,
For community to gather, to perform.

I like that she said. A place for everyone to gather. Activities,
education.

He suggested theaters, a common hall, something to focus hopes.

Yes, and the arts would flourish there. Spirit.

It will take a great deal of money, he said.

I am fortunate, that's why I want to do it.

With this dreadful Depression, anything I can do will help.

Will you design it?

We'll design it together. Then he laughed

That shrill delightful laugh of his

And gave her the first thanks of generations since.

Or the first lines of:

Emil Belloni and His Truck

His old truck laden with crates and trays
a Model A traveling cornucopia of vegetables
and fruits moving along at top speed 6 MPH...

Museum of American Heritage A to Z: October 10th, 2014 – March 15th, 2015

The Museum of American Heritage (MOAH) boasts a collection of roughly 5,000 historic electrical and mechanical inventions. It's newest exhibit, "Museum of American Heritage A to Z," introduces visitors to the breadth and depth of the collection with a variety of artifacts. This exhibit features artifacts beginning with the letter A (abacus) and continues all the way through the alphabet to items beginning with the letter Z (zapper). Among the unique artifacts in this display are antique medical devices, including an embalming pump, a collection of typewriters, extraordinary culinary devices and much more. Visitors are welcome to identify each letter of the alphabet as they tour this fascinating display of unusual historic inventions.

MOAH is located in the historic Williams House in downtown Palo Alto. Regular exhibit hours are 11 AM to 4 PM, Friday, Saturday and Sunday (unless otherwise noted). Closed for holidays. Admission to the galleries is free. MOAH is located at 351 Homer Avenue Palo Alto between Bryant and Waverley Streets.

History Jaunts

MOAH (Museum of American Heritage) will sponsor a program by Steve Dabrowski on “Henry Ford and the Farm Tractor” November 12 at 7:00 PM. Ford is remembered primarily for the Model T, first sold in 1909, but a major achievement of his was his lifelong quest to end the farmer’s daily drudgery by developing an affordable tractor. The lecture explores the journey from Ford’s early experiments to a revolutionary machine that is still basic to such equipment today. Lectures are \$10 per person and free to MOAH members. For more information, phone 650 321 1004. Location: 351 Homer Avenue in Palo Alto.

PAST (Palo Alto Stanford Heritage) advocates for the preservation of historic architecture and neighborhoods. In support of that goal, the organization will offer a house tour at College Terrace on Saturday, November 15, led by Carolyn George. The group will meet at 10:00 AM at the corner of College and Harvard. Tours are free and open to the public. For more information, go to www.pastheritage.org. To learn about and help research centennial homes, email Brian George at president@pastheritage.org

Palo Alto Humane Society is part of a sponsoring team of an exhibit, “Sheltered, Art for Animals at Risk,” at the City of Davis Art Center at 1919 F St. The exhibit, which will close on November 15, displays over 50 works of art related to the need for help for animals running free. PAHS will benefit in sharing income from paintings sold from this exhibit. Money raised will help support PAHS’s Mow Wow Animals, an educational program for children, K–5.

Palo Alto Art Center, “Preserving Your Life: Saving a Record of the Past for the Future,” Sunday, November 16, at 2:00 pm by Brian George, President of PAST and board member of PAHA in charge of filming and making available on tv their monthly public programs. His talk will be about the importance of digital preservation of family and community history. The Art Center is located at 1313 Newell Rd.

Palo Alto Art Center’s fall exhibition, I’ll Show You Mine: Contemporary Artists Explore Family Portraiture. Examines unique ways that artists portray family. September 27 – December 14. Visit website for information.

In Memoriam
Ellen Wyman
Life Member

Heritage Program on Channel 30

PAHA’s October 2014 public program will be on television in November, “Notorious Murders in Palo Alto” by Jon Parsons, a local attorney who is writing a book about that subject.

Wednesdays: 8 PM
Thursdays: 10:30 AM
Saturdays: 1 PM

DVDs of previous programs can be borrowed at the Archives which are temporarily located at Cubberley, Room K-7. Hours: Tuesdays, 4–8 PM
Thursdays, 1-5 PM

Unless otherwise noted, images reproduced in the Tall Tree are from the PALO ALTO HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION archives.

Become a Member of PAHA

We invite you to become a member of the Association and join those who care about Palo Alto and enjoy learning about its history. Your dues make our work possible: we maintain the archives, assist researchers, and disseminate historical information through our publications and public programs. Your generosity will be appreciated for generations to come. Join today!

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 pahistory.org. Let us know if you wish to volunteer for a PAHA committee. (Note: current members will receive renewal notices in November.)



The Tall Tree is published eight times a year by the PALO ALTO HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION
Our mission is to collect, preserve and make available to the public information about the history of Palo Alto.



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