



The Tall Tree Newsletter

of the PALO ALTO
HISTORICAL
ASSOCIATION

Since 1913

Oct 2021 Volume 45, No 1

The Palo Alto Historical Association presents via Zoom Webinar

AGAINST THE ODDS: PALO ALTO BUSINESSES OVER 50 YEARS OLD



Sunday October 3, 2021 2:00 to 3:00 pm

Webinar link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84632004209>

Join us via Zoom for PAHA's presentation featuring some of Palo Alto's businesses that have survived over 50 years during an era which held the largest social, economic and technological changes ever seen. Some of these businesses survived World Wars, the Great Depression, the social unrest of the 1960s, the cultural changes of the 1970s, recessions, and huge technological advancements which changed the way they do business.

Fewer than 40 businesses over 50-years old remain in operation in Palo Alto. A dozen or so of these are family

owned and have passed on from generation to generation. Hear the stories from the owners of four of these longtime family businesses including Bell's Books, Wilbur Properties (formerly Ames, Brophy and Cranston), Gleim the Jeweler, and Mills the Florist.

Join us on October 3rd from 2:00 to 3:00 pm as our guest speakers from four local business share stories of their family's history in the community and how their business has survived for so long in this ever changing world.

Recent Acquisitions For The Archives

2021 PALO ALTO HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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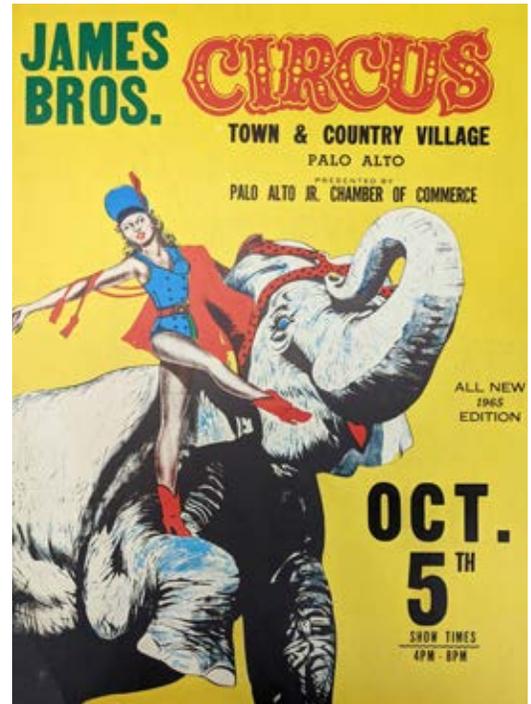
Early this year, PAHA was contacted by the Mountain View Historical Society (MVHS) about a large donation of materials they received after the death of one of their members, Garrett Hammell.

Garrett had a storage locker, and after the MVHS spent an afternoon going through it, they found a considerable amount of Palo Alto related materials. We were able to collect six large boxes of Palo Alto treasures from the storage locker!

Garrett obviously had an eye for interesting artifacts and sought out compelling pieces of history on eBay and other places. His donation includes numerous menus from Palo Alto restaurants now gone, magazine advertisements from Silicon Valley start-ups and hundreds of postcards and matchbooks from various Palo Alto restaurants, motels, and businesses.

Besides the artifacts being unique, my other favorite part of this donation is the care that was taken to preserve the items. Most of the items were sleeved in polyurethane to protect them from wear and tear. His postcards were carefully

collated in binders, and everything was boxed to prevent light damage. We recommend to anyone who has collected similar types of items to take the same kind of preservation care—it will add years to the life of your objects.



We are excited to add Garrett's collection to the Archives and want to remind everyone that if you have similar Palo Alto memorabilia, keep us in mind when you are thinking about donating!

The Palo Alto Historical Association, a 501(c)(3) charitable non-profit organization, was established in 1948 as successor to an earlier organization founded in 1913. 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 the Palo Alto Historical Association are stored at Cubberley Community Center, K-7. Although PAHA continues to operate during the COVID-19 pandemic, due to the current restrictions, the Archive is only open for prearranged appointments. To contact the Archive or to make an appointment to visit, email steve.staiger@cityofpaloalto.org or call (650) 329-2353.

Until further notice, PAHA board meetings are held via Zoom Meeting at 4pm on the first Wednesday of each month (except August). Public programs are held via Zoom Webinar at 2pm on the first Sunday of each month (October-December, February-May). Program information and webinar links are available in the Tall Tree newsletters and on our website, www.pahistory.org. The public is welcome to join all programs.

PAHA's Fall Membership Drive Is In Full Swing!



Please renew your PAHA membership now at pahistory.org/membership.

We appreciate your loyalty and support!

Tell Us A Story!

It is PAHA's mission to collect, preserve, and present Palo Alto's history, and we'd love to hear from you!

We are always interested in your stories and recollections of Palo Alto and the surrounding communities. Please consider writing your story down and submitting it for publication consideration in a future Tall Tree newsletter!

Submit your story to pahatalltree@gmail.com

Palo Alto Businesses Over 50 Years Old

It's been nearly 15 years since the Palo Alto History Museum sponsored an event entitled "60 over 50". The event celebrated over 60 businesses in Palo Alto that had been in business for at least 50 years as of 2006. Of those 2006 celebrated businesses, the following still remain today:

Alhouse King Realty, Inc.	1955	Mills the Florist	1903
Alta Mesa Cemetery	1904	The Pacific Art League	1921
Art Craft Carpet Linoleum	1950	Palo Alto Bicycles	1930
Avis Rent A Car	1956	Palo Alto Creamery	1922
Bank of America	1927	Palo Alto Medical Clinic	1932
Barker Residence Hotel	1925	Peninsula Creamery	1922
Bell's Books	1935	President Barber Shop	1949*
California Paint Company	1946	Safeway	1927
Campus Barber Shop	1955	See's Candies	1940
Cardinal Barbershop	1930*	Stanford Shopping Center	1956
Cardinal Hotel	1924	Stanford Theater	1925
Country Inn Motel	1956*	Town & Country Village	1953
Ernie's Wines and Liquor	1953*	Travelodge Palo Alto	1954*
Gallery House	1957	Vance Brown, Inc.	1932
Gleim the Jeweler	1931	Varian, Inc.	1948
Hengehold Motor Co.	1948	Walgreens Drug Store	1937
Hertz Rent A Car	1940	Wells Fargo Bank	1956*
Hewlett Packard Company	1939	Wilbur Properties	1955
Kirk's Steakburgers	1948	(formerly Ames, Brophy & Cranston)	
Mac's Smoke Shop	1940	Additional businesses that have achieved 50 years in operation now include:	
Michaela's Flower Shop (formerly Stapleton's)	1945	The Old Pro	1964
		Gryphon Stringed Instruments	1969

In the years since the 2006 event, 23 of the businesses have permanently closed their doors in Palo Alto, with only a small handful having relocated to other cities. They include:

The Bargain Box (1956), Beaudoin's School of Dance (1932), Beckman Coulter, Inc.** (1956), Bill Young's Automotive (1932), California State Automobile Assoc. (1930), Carnes Piano Co. (1955*), Century Liquors (1954), Congdon & Crome (1904), John F Dahl Plumbing Heating & Air Conditioning (1895), Economy Cleaners (1932), Edwards Luggage (1952), Fran's Market (1948), JJ&F Food Store (1948), Jost Heating & Sheet Metal (1936), Kurt & Dorn's Auto Service (1928), Ming's Restaurant (1956), Palo Alto Sport & Toy World (1930), Peninsula Hardware (1953), Roller, Hapgood, and Tinney (1899), S-O-S Fine Foods (1924), Stanford Electric Works** (1914), University Art** (1947), West Coast Glass (1928), Williams Cutlery (1956).

* Indicates business may have opened prior to this date

** Indicates business moved out of Palo Alto but is still in business

Jaunts for Fall

The **Great Glass Pumpkin Patch** returns to the **Palo Alto Art Center** on October 2 and 3 from 10am-5pm! This annual event presents an amazing array of glass pumpkins, autumnal fruits and vegetables, as well as glass-blowing demonstrations. It is free and open to the public. Call (650) 329-2366 or visit www.cityofpaloalto.org/artcenter, 1313 Newell Road, Palo Alto.

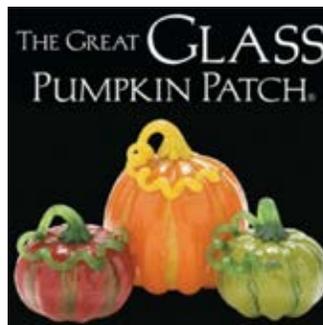


Image courtesy of Palo Alto Art Center



Image courtesy of City of Los Altos

No time like the present to visit and embrace local redwood groves at **Shoup Park** and **Redwood Grove Nature Preserve** in Los Altos! Shoup Park, at 400 University Ave., is free and open to the public daily from 6 am to 9 pm. Begin your jaunt on the park's paved trail and connect to the path to the Redwood Grove Nature Preserve at the Patriot Corner Picnic Area, which will loop you back to Shoup. Call (650) 947-2790 or visit:

www.losaltosca.gov/recreation/page/shoup-park and
www.losaltosca.gov/recreation/page/redwood-grove-nature-preserve

PAST Docent Guided Walking Tours

Except where noted, all tours begin on Saturdays at 10:00 am.

Tours are subject to ongoing COVID restrictions.

October 2: **Downtown**. Meet at City Hall Plaza, 260 Hamilton Ave.

October 9: **Greenmeadow**. Meet at 4010 Nelson Drive.

October 16: **Crescent Park**. Meet at 900 University Ave.

October 23: **College Terrace Extended**. Meet at 2310 Yale St.

October 24 (Sunday): **Professorville**. Meet at 1005 Bryant St.

October 30: **Architectural College Terrace**. Meet at 1181 College Ave.



For an out-of-town adventure, drive down to **Avila Beach**! This charming central coast community near San Luis Obispo has a rich maritime history and offers a variety of activities including sightseeing, hiking, biking, kayaking, and docent-led tours of the scenic and historic area. Of special interest is the Point San Luis Lighthouse, built in 1889 and the only Prairie Victorian model lighthouse left on the West Coast. For more information visit www.visitavilabeach.com and www.pointsanluislighthouse.org.

Welcome New PAHA Members

Frank Merrill
James W. Pollock
Robin Ringler
Michal Sadoff
Sunny Scott

Upcoming Programs

Save the dates for our upcoming programs:
November 7
and December 5

Check our website at www.pahistory.org for program information

Previous PAHA Programs

If you missed the June 6th program, *Peter Couitts: The Frenchman and his Tower*, you can find this and other recent PAHA program videos on Vimeo by following this link:
<https://vimeo.com/561080355>

The Heritage Program

You can also watch the most recent PAHA program on local TV. Visit <https://midpenmedia.org/local-tv/> and enter the word "Heritage" in the search box to find the broadcast schedule for PAHA programs.

The Tall Tree is published eight times a year by the PALO ALTO HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION



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