



The Tall Tree Newsletter

of the PALO ALTO HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

Since 1913

May 2022 Volume 45, No 7

The Palo Alto Historical Association and Palo Alto Stanford Heritage present

The 26th Centennial Plaque and Historic Preservation Awards

Sunday, May 1, 2022 2:00 – 3:00 pm
Webinar link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8351200029>



Roth Building: Future Home of the Palo Alto Museum



Palo Alto Stanford (PAST) Heritage, in collaboration with the Palo Alto Historical Association (PAHA), will host, via Zoom, the 26th Centennial Plaque and Historic Preservation Awards to recognize buildings constructed in 1921. Along with a presentation about historic preservation, awards will also be presented to completed preservation projects. This year the topic is the exciting story of preserving the Roth Building at 300 Homer Avenue.

The recognition of the Roth Building Preservation Project will include a history from its early days as the Palo Alto Medical Clinic to the current plans to rehabilitate and repurpose the building as the home of the Palo Alto Museum (PAM). PAM President Rich Green, and speakers from Garavaglia Architecture and Vance Brown Builders, will share their intimate

knowledge and the challenges faced in planning the restoration of this building, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, while designing a unique site for the Palo Alto Museum.

This annual celebration is part of PAST Heritage's mission to promote the importance of preserving the historic architecture, neighborhoods, and character of the greater Palo Alto and Stanford areas. PAST Heritage holds this Centennial Plaque and Historic Preservation Awards program each year during the month of May (with the exception of 2020 due to the COVID pandemic) in celebration of National Preservation Month.

Please join PAST and PAHA in celebrating the preservation of Palo Alto's unique historic character.

Details on how to login to the Zoom webinar can be found on our website, www.pahistory.org. You will also find information on how to become a PAHA member, how to receive our newsletters and learn more about future PAHA programs! And don't forget to explore our photograph collection.

**2022 PALO ALTO
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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:

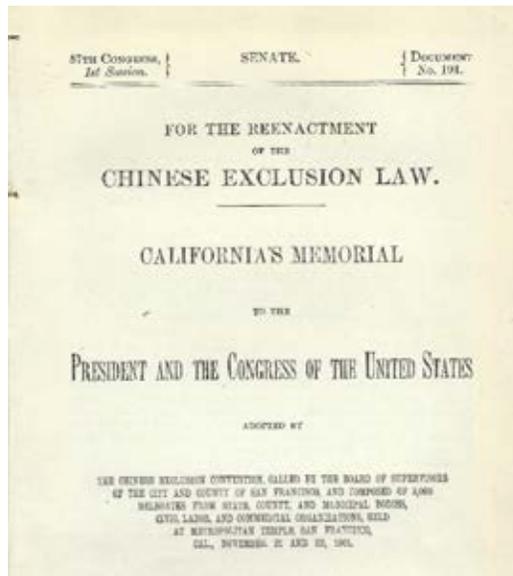
- Collect, organize, and preserve materials pertaining to the history and heritage of Palo Alto.
- Spread information about Palo Alto's history by means of programs, displays, and publications.
- Recognize and preserve historic sites and structures.

The Guy Miller Archives of the Palo Alto Historical Association are stored at Cubberley Community Center, K-7. PAHA continues to operate during the COVID-19 pandemic and no appointments are needed during public hours. 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 5pm 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.

Palo Alto And The Chinese Exclusion Act

by PAHA Board member William Warrior



"...Whereas in the opinion of the Government of the United States the coming of Chinese laborers to this country endangers the good order of certain localities within the territory thereof: Therefore, be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That... the coming of Chinese laborers to the United States be... suspended; and during such suspension it shall not be lawful for any Chinese laborer to come, or... to remain within the United States... That hereafter no State court or court of the United States shall admit Chinese to citizenship; and all laws in conflict with this act are hereby repealed... That the words "Chinese laborers", wherever used in this act shall be construed to mean both skilled and unskilled laborers and Chinese employed in mining..."

--May 6, 1882

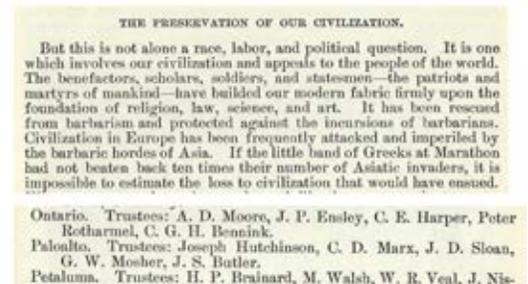
The stonemasons were still at work on the emerging Stanford campus, and the town of Palo Alto was just a twinkle in Leland Stanford's eye when the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 became law.

Born out of the concerns of organized labor in California's mining industry in the 1850s, and progressing through the ensuing decades to include the support of virtually all labor and trade unions in America, the Exclusion Act appears in its reading only to exclude Chinese laborers.

However, intentionally or unintentionally, the Act in 1882 carried between the lines of its legislation the sum total of race animosities and the love/loathe relationship existing between the Chinese in America—70% of whom resided in California—and their less-than-hospitable fellow immigrants who just happened to get to America first.

The Exclusion Act was subject to renewal every ten years. When Congress prepared to consider renewal in 1902, Palo Alto was not shy about joining with the other municipalities and unions of California to gather in San Francisco for a convention whose objective was to lobby Congress for an extension. The Palo Alto Times led the charge for renewal with this editorial in their August 16, 1901 issue:

"...Not one in a thousand ever adopts American customs or becomes Christianized. (The Chinese) are tricky, treacherous, unscrupulous, and nothing can change their ways, which are the heritage of three thousand years of blind obedience to degrading customs and laws. They are a blot upon our civilization, a menace to our prosperity, both moral and material. A determined effort is being made in California to secure the reenactment of the exclusion law..."



Palo Alto city fathers listed

The convention, held in San Francisco in November 1901, included five members of the Palo Alto Board of Trustees, among them the first mayor of Palo Alto, Joseph Hutchinson. The San Francisco convention produced the desired result with Congress voting to make the Chinese Exclusion Act permanent in 1902.

The Act was finally repealed in 1943 when China became an ally of the U.S. against Japan in World War II.

Lin Murray, A Palo Alto Tennis Champion

by PAHA Board member Bo Crane

The most famous Palo Alto athlete you may have never heard of is Robert Lindley “Lin” Murray, a Palo Alto High School and Stanford graduate, who won two U.S. tennis singles championships. The only other Stanford alumnus to win more is John McEnroe with four titles.

Lin’s father, Augustus, was born in Manhattan on what is known as Murray Hill, in an estate established by his great-great-grandfather, Robert Murray, a wealthy New York merchant. Augustus attended Haverford College where he was a star tennis player, a fullback on the football team and played baseball as well. He married in September 1891 and the next year, at the age of 26, Augustus became Professor of Classics at Stanford, arriving for the 1892-93 school year after having taught Greek and Latin at two small universities. Robert Lindley Murray, named for Augustus’s father, was born that same year in San Francisco. Augustus had a house built on Bryant Street in Palo Alto’s Professorville. Completed in 1893, the house was where he and his wife raised three sons and two daughters. The couple remained in the house the rest of their days. Robert Lindley Murray, or “Lin” as he was called, attended Palo Alto High School (Paly) and starred on the tennis and track teams. Graduating from Paly in 1909, he entered Stanford, where he continued with both tennis and track. His first official tennis competition was in 1910 at the intercollegiate Ojai Valley Tournament.

As a junior and captain of the tennis team, Murray led Stanford to a victory over Cal, the school’s first win against Berkeley since 1907. The following year as a senior, Lin was the only singles tennis match winner against Cal. In track versus Cal, he also finished 3rd in the mile. His younger brother, Frederick “Feg” Murray, also a Paly grad and then a Stanford sophomore, won his hurdle event and would go on to win a bronze medal in the high hurdles at the 1920 Olympics.

Lin graduated from Stanford in 1913 with a degree in chemistry. That year he won the intercollegiate championship and finished 2nd in the state open championship. He continued at Stanford to get his master’s degree in chemical engineering while also coaching the tennis team.

At the end of the school year in 1914, Murray surprised the East coast tennis world by winning the New England championship, the New York Metropolitan title, and a

tournament in Southampton. Lin was rangy at 6 foot-1 ½ inches, left-handed, and had endless endurance from running track. His play dropped off in 1915 as he took a position with a chemical company in Oakland. Playing locally with moderate success, his career seemed over. Later that year, he joined Hooker Electrochemical (Hooker) in Niagara Falls, New York, where he eventually became the president and CEO.

As 1916 began, Murray won the National Indoor Championship in New York. That May he returned to Palo Alto to marry the girl next door, Ramona Belle McKendry. Ramona was older by a year but in Lin’s same Paly and Stanford graduating classes. Ramona, along with her younger sister Marion, are namesakes of Marmona Drive in Menlo Park, where their grandfather, a Union officer in the Civil War, had owned a farm in the Willows neighborhood.

While working at Hooker, Murray competed at the U.S. National Championship (now called the U.S. Open) in 1916. After winning in the quarterfinals, he was called “the tall blonde youth from Palo Alto.” However, Lin lost in the finals in straight sets. Murray was then prevailed upon by company founder, Elon Hooker, to play in the national tournament, held at Forest Hills, NY in August 1917. After losing the first set in the finals, Lin won the next three sets, taking the championship.

The following year, Murray was dutifully managing his company’s Niagara Falls plant and did not play all summer. Although originally not scheduled that year due to WWI, the U.S. National Championship was held, and once again, the company’s owner implored Lin to play. With the championship only eight days away, Murray agreed to play. He practiced hard and lost an invitational match to Bill Tilden with the tournament now a few days away.

Bill Tilden was undefeated for the year. He was four months younger than Lin, shorter by just a half-inch, and twenty pounds lighter. But with his left-handed slice and a week’s worth of practice, Murray beat Tilden in straight sets to win his second U.S. Title! Tilden would go on to win six straight championships and three Wimbledon titles.

Lin continued competing in tournaments and exhibitions for another five years. He was selected to the Tennis International Hall of Fame in 1958. He passed away in 1970 in New York.



Photo of Lin Murray from the 1912 Stanford University yearbook

May Jaunts

As the pandemic retreats, jaunting may include visiting indoor sites, though reservations and masks may still be recommended. Call or visit the website for the latest guidelines.

The Cantor Arts Center offers "A Loaded Camera: Gordon Parks" through July 2, 2022. Don't miss the opportunity to view these powerful images, drawn from his long, extraordinary career as photographer, musician, author, and filmmaker. Curator Elizabeth Kathleen Miller commented that Gordon Parks "... forged a visual language, thinking about civil rights in America... and changed how we represent Black life and racial problems." The Cantor Arts Center is located at 328 Lomita Drive at Museum Way, Stanford, Admission is free, but reservations are required. For more information, call 650-723-4177 or visit <https://museum.stanford.edu/visit>



Image courtesy of Capital Group Foundation, Photo Collection, Stanford



Image courtesy of Lighthouse Art Space

The stunning "Immersive Frida Kahlo" recently opened at the Lighthouse Art Space. Frida Kahlo's "otherworldly, folk art style" creations have captivated audiences for decades. The exhibit, better described as an experience, offers state-of-the-art technology in its 360° audio-visual exploration of the works as well as the life of Frida Kahlo. Masks and proof of

vaccination are required. Located at SVN West, 10 S. Van Ness, San Francisco. For ticket information, visit www.immersive-frida.com/san-francisco/

Experience California's spectacular wild flowers "up close and personal" by hiking Peninsula Open Space Trust's (POST) **Arastradero Creek Loop**. Starting at the Pearson-Arastradero Preserve, the 3.7 mile hike is defined as "easy" and takes about 2 hours—more if you stop to admire the views and wildflowers! Access the trail at 1530 Arastradero Road parking lot. For more info visit: <https://openspacetrust.org/hike/arastradero-creek-loop/>



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Upcoming Programs

June 5: The Parkey Sharkey Story

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

Previous PAHA Programs

If you missed the April 3rd program, *The Greer Family: Our Land Was Their Land*, you can find it and other recent PAHA program videos on Vimeo by following this link:
<https://vimeo.com/696315022>

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.



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