

THE CORNERSTONE

Cupertino Historical Society

Fall 1999

Members Newsletter

Volume 10 Issue 1

Henrietta Marcotte "the Traveling Trunk Lady" Retires

By Roberta Zentner

After nearly ten years as the chairman of the Traveling Trunk Committee, Henrietta Marcotte has decided to retire. She will be sorely missed by everyone involved in the education outreach program, especially the thousands of children that she delighted with her tales of years gone by. Ask any third grader what a calf weaner looks like or what "easy Pees" are and they will know the answer because Henrietta told them.

Henrietta has been a walking history of Cupertino for many years. She was born in Cupertino in 1911 and ever since then she has been its greatest fan. "Her wonderful memory of who lived where and all about the early days is a boon to the Historical Society." For seven years prior to her career as "Traveling Trunk Lady" she wrote ROOTS articles in the *Cupertino Scene*. While she was busy researching and writing those articles she helped make the Cupertino Historical Society and Museum the success it is today. She was and still is involved in all aspects of the Society. We sincerely thank you, Henrietta for all that you have given us.



Henrietta showing the calf-weaner
to third grade students

Generous Gift from Rotary International of Cupertino

The Rotary Club of Cupertino has awarded the Cupertino Historical Society \$1000 to purchase a video camera. It has long been the museum's wish to put its long-time residents' stories on film. We want to capture their memories of past Cupertino for all of the future generations to enjoy and understand. Gail Hugger, a Board Member and author of *Roots*,

will be conducting the sessions and video taping the histories. The museum plans to have these important personal histories as part of its archives for all to share. We will also make these tapes the basis for future programs. Thank you Rotary.

Annual Exhibit Opens at the Quinlan Gallery

To Have and To Hold: The Story of Cupertino from the Museum's Collection is a very special exhibit. While other exhibitions in the past have focused on a particular theme such as *Women of Cupertino* or *From the Ground Up: How Business grew in Cupertino*, *To Have and To Hold* departs from the typical thematic approach. This exhibition will be launched on one main premise: that each person has a story to tell.

About a year and a half ago the museum was given a very special gift of Jeannie Ryder's beautiful costume collection by Ham Ryder. At that time I talked with our curator John Handley, and expressed a wish to display the collection. Our new exhibit took shape from that conversation last year.

The idea that the museum collects things is often misunderstood, particularly for a local history museum. A museum is as concerned with the story and the history as it is with things—things are the very means by which it captures and presents the history and the story in an understandable way. If this premise is true—then the reason that people make donations of objects to the Museum is, in essence, to preserve and include in the collective history, a piece of themselves—a bit of their own story. When we look at the beautiful bed donated by the Picchetti family, (on permanent display at the Vallico Satellite Museum) we are looking at more than a piece of old furniture; we are looking at a slice of history—their history—a story of an Italian family that immigrated here, and worked hard to make this place their home. And now, years later, one of the few remnants of this story is a bed, their tangible contribution to the collective story of Cupertino.

This is just one example of the collection following our mission, i.e. *The Cupertino Historical Society and Museum is dedicated to ensuring that the heritage of Cupertino stays alive for all to understand and share, and for all to feel that this heritage is their heritage.*

This year, our exhibit has taken on a new look. Thanks to Charlie Liggett, we have six custom built platforms for displaying our objects. One of the most attractive features of these platforms is their secondary use as storage. All museums are plagued with storage problems, therefore our new platforms, designed by John Handley, will partially solve that problem.

The Museum wants to thank our sponsors, **The Questers International Historical Preservation Foundation, and The Edward J. Cali Trust.**

No exhibit could be mounted without in-kind contributions from the community. This year we want to thank Charles Liggett; Ham Ryder; Eagle Scouts, of Troop 407; Michael Wu, Museum Volunteer; Kelly-Moore Paint Company, Cupertino; Orchard Supply Hardware; City of Cupertino; the Coffee Society and the Cupertino Historical Society Board of Directors. These generous persons and local companies have helped to make our exhibit a success.

Please come into the Quinlan Center Gallery to experience this beautiful exhibit.



Dates to Remember

October

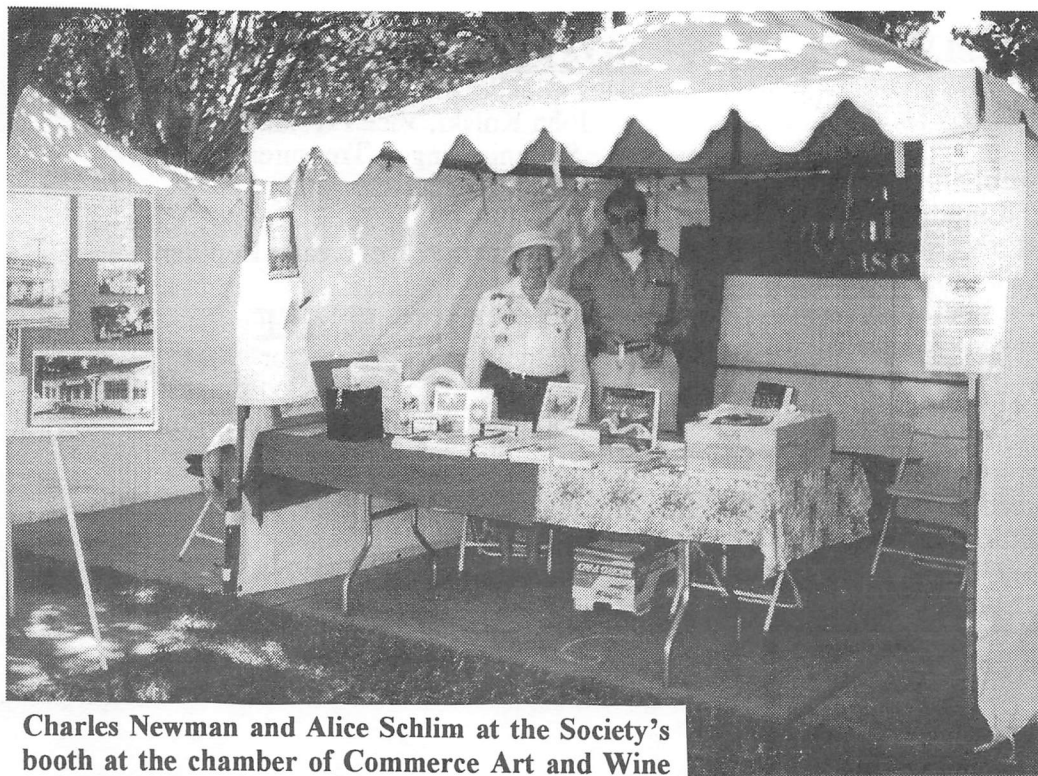
- Thru January 2000 at the Forbes Mill Museum in Los Gatos, "Loma Prieta, 10 Years Later"
- 2 Volunteer Meeting 9 am at QCC
- 7-30 "WHAT'S NEW IN ART '99 at the Los Gatos Museum of Art & Natural History, at Tait Ave. & Main Street, Los Gatos
- 13 Board Meeting 6:30 pm at QCC
- 26 General Meeting 6:30 pm at QCC, Jeanne Watson, "Life in a Doll's House-The Victorian Lady."

November

- 6 Volunteer Meeting 9am at QCC
- 10 Board Meeting 6:30 pm at QCC
- 23 General Meeting 6:30 pm at QCC

December

- 4 Volunteer Meeting 9am at QCC
- 8 Board Meeting 6:30 pm at QCC



Charles Newman and Alice Schlim at the Society's booth at the chamber of Commerce Art and Wine Festival

Volunteer Notes from Roberta Zentner

The Art & Wine Festival was lots of fun this year. Volunteers in the booth were Mary Bohn, Norma Epler, Gail Hugger, Anne Ivancovich, Beez Jones, Elena Kettler, Judy McLaughlin, Shirley Morgan, Charles Newman, Karen Parsons, Dev Rendler, Alice Schlim. We met many new people and sold things from the museum store. Soon we will be taking part in the Oktoberfest in Memorial Park. We have a new volunteer here in the QCC museum, Judith McLaughlin, who is also a new society member. Please help us out by becoming a volunteer.

Mary Lou Lyon is honored with an award for Special Assistance to CCHS President During 1990-1999

Mary Lou Lyon has performed the demanding task of setting up criteria and sites for symposia and annual meetings for many years throughout the state for CCHS. This task requires persistence, patience, and coping with large numbers of "people problems" all of which she meets head on. Mary Lou was CCHS president in 1983-84, and she continues to be of support to each incoming president.

DONATIONS

Exhibit Fund:

Edward S. J. Cali Trust
Anonymous

Education Programs:

Patricia Cooper
Yvonne Jacobson
Gary and Tanya Krall
Rotary Club of Cupertino

Endowment Fund:

In Loving memory of Al Carter
Nola, Paula, and Linda Quintero
Mathilda Sousa
Florence Lindsey



New Members

Virginia Hammerness
Judith V. McLaughlin
Karen Parsons
Alan E. Winterbotham

And our thanks to recent renewals:

Donna & Scot Austin, George & Loretta Bassman, Gerry & Dorothy Billard, Richard & Sharon Blaine, Doris Nasmeh Bliven, Laura C. Calloway, California History Center Foundation, Cupertino Federated Womens Club, Maxine Dixon, Charles & Mildred Gagliasso, Dorothy Gardner, John Gatto, George J. Glumac, Donna V. Grce, Bill & Virginia Guengerich, Aileen Hertweck, Robert F. Hetz, Yvonne & Warren Holt, Cay Horstmann & Angela Hung, Marion Alice Jarrett, Augustine & Myrna Jelesko, Esther Johnson, Jeffrey B. Johnson, Charles T. Kilian, Donna M. Lawler, Marilyn Lawson, Jim & Margaret Limberatos, Henrietta Marcotte, Martha McDonald, Thelma & Willis McIntyre, Kathy Nellis, Jane Haskins Payne, Kathleen Peters, Katherine Peterson, Laverne Rabinowitz, Bill & Jane Reed, Robert S. Rivola, Roger & Linda Schultz, Tomasina Smith, Patricia Snow, Martin & Lauralee Sorensen, Mathilda Sousa, Loretta Stagen, Mr. & Mrs. Pete Sulaver, Rose-Marie Twu, Its & Marian Uenaka, Mildred Petric Vierra.

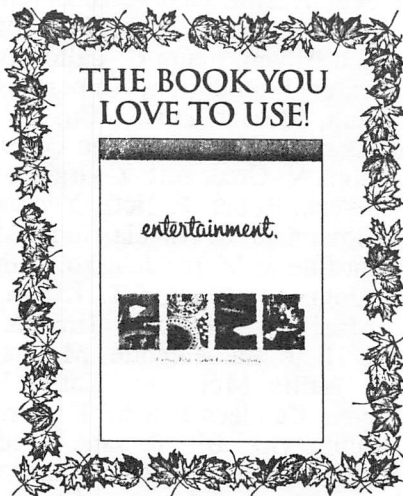
THE CORNERSTONE IS PUBLISHED
QUARTERLY BY
THE CUPERTINO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Society is a private non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation and interpretation of the history of Cupertino and the surrounding region. It operates a main museum in the Quinlan Community Center, along with a satellite museum at Vallco Fashion Park on Stevens Creek Blvd. Museum hours are 10-4pm, Wednesday thru Saturday. The Vallco site is open Tuesday and Saturday Noon-3pm. Admission is free and the public is invited. General meetings are held the 4th Tuesday of the month and are preceded by a potluck dinner. For additional information and recorded message call the museum at 408-973-1495.

WISH LIST

The museum would like to purchase a **Zip Drive** to replace the one that was stolen during the month of August. Our insurance coverage has a \$250 deductible, and a **Zip Drive** can be purchased for \$150. We need this important piece of equipment to back-up our computerized collection list.

CUPERTINO HISTORICAL MUSEUM
Quinlan Community Center
10185 N. Stelling Road
Cupertino, CA 95014
408-973-1495 (FAX 408-973-8049)



ENTERTAINMENT 2000
On Sale At The Museum!!!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Beez Glendenning Jones, President
John Kolski, Vice President
Stefanie Singer, Treasurer
Gail Hugger, Secretary

Trustees: Sharon Blaine, John Kolski, Charles Newman, Karen Parsons, Devereaux Rendler.

MUSEUM STAFF

Ethel S. Worn, Director
Roberta Zentner, Volunteer Coordinator
Corinna Schoenfelder, Collections Mgmt.

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