
THE CORNERSTONE

Cupertino Historical Society

Winter 1999

Members Newsletter

Volume 10 Issue 2

President's Message

Beez Jones

We want to thank all of those who have given to our annual fundraising drive for their generous gifts.

Preserving the past lays a foundation for understanding the present and looking forward to the future. Cupertino has always been an area of strong individuals. The early settlers cleared the land and planted wheat, grapes, and then fruit trees. Individuals met to charter the city. Individuals made it possible for wide streets. Individuals worked to bring the companies to this area. Individuals saved treasures so that we can enjoy clothes and items from the past.

The Cupertino Historical Society is run by individuals--our docents, our Traveling Trunk volunteers, those who plan the potluck dinners, those who plan our fundraising events, and those who work on our collection.

Now you may realize how important individuals are to Cupertino and the historical Society. You, the individuals, make it possible to keep our history alive.

In order to preserve the past and give that wonderful gift of pleasure to future generations, we want to ask, if you haven't already given, please send the Historical Society the most generous gift you can.

We are most grateful for receiving:

Elisha Stephens Club

Don Allen, Cupertino National Bank
Beez Jones and Family
Edward S. J. Cali Trust
Richard and Ellen Lowenthal
Itsuo and Marian Uenaka

Museum Founder

Sandra Basel Beck
Hazel V. Fretwell
Greg Gotelli
Janet and Robert Meyers
Mathilda Sousa
Teresa Zarevich

Museum Patron

Gordon Beckstrom, Harlan and Eleanor Bortner, Charles and Kathleen Calhan, Cupertino Inn (Barbara Perzigian), Charles and Mildred Gagliasso, Bill and Virginia Guengerich, Eldon and Kathleen Hendriksen, Virginia Hamnerness, Gail J. Hugger, Charles and Kathy Liggett, George and Genevieve Luchessi, Martin P. Mathiesen, Martha McDonald, Bernice Midstokke, Herbert and Mae Regnart, Charles and Deborah Newman, Hector C. Picchetti, Hamilton S. Ryder, Seven Springs Foundation (Dorothy Lyddon), George and Lorraine Sousa, K. L. Stakey, Paula Jean Quinterno, Ann Zarko, and an Anonymous donation.

Museum Friend

Richard and Carol Atwood, Marie Schoppe Bartee, Mary F. Mariani Bigler, Ted A. Bollinger, Philip and Frances Bush, Wendell B. Carman, Robert and Audrey Butcher, Ron and Marcia Cali, Cicero's Pizza (Nunzio Cicero), Deep Cliff Golf Course, Maxine Dixon, John P. Dozier (Cupertino Properties), Dorothy S. Gardner, Doris Hijmans, Marion Alice Jarrett, Ruth Montgomery Jackson, Marilyn Lawson, Jim and Margaret Limberatos, Fred and Florence Lindsey, Winifred Mardesich, Betty Normandin, Hilles Y. Parrish, Katherine Peterson, Katherine and Richard Scanlan, Alice Z. Schlim, Patricia Schunneman, Joseph R. Tembrock, Winifred P. Thiltgen, Tung Tseung, Pearl H. Ward, Robert E. Vitro, Dorothy Petric Zeszutek.

Meet Our New Board members

Karen Parsons

Karen was born in Oakland and migrated over the years through San Francisco to Cupertino. Karen worked for the Marine Insurance Company in San Francisco then moved to the Morris Plan Company in Hayward while she lived in Castro Valley. The Security Pacific Bank was her last banking position. When the Bank of America merged with the Security Pacific in 1992 Karen stayed on with the Cupertino Branch of B of A. Karen is married to Doug Parsons and has one son, Trevor Thomas who lives in Southern California.

Karen is a great asset to the board. Her enthusiasm for the Society and all its projects is heartwarming. Stop by and see her at the Bank of America and tell her how much we appreciate the time and talents she gives to the Cupertino Historical Society and the Museum Board.

Robert E. Vitro

Bob, as his friends know him, was born and raised in Seattle where he attended Seattle University (BCS) and the University of Washington (MBA). Bob worked for GE from 1957-1985 during which time he moved to California (1962) and then to upstate New York before returning to California in 1979. After he retired he became a CPA and opened an office in Cupertino at 10420 So. De Anza Blvd. In 1986,

Bob is married to Ingeborg (Inkie) and has three sons, six grandchildren, and one great grandchild. "Looks like we have a basketball team with reserves."

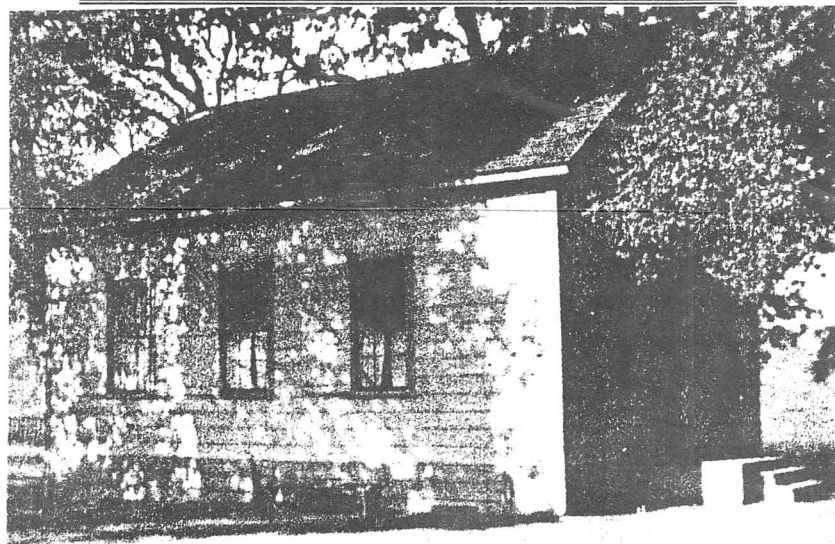
Bob has always been interested in history, from the rise and fall of the Roman Empire and the Middle Ages to American history including the Lewis and Clark expedition, the Gold Rush and the Civil War. He is now immersed in the history of Cupertino through his position on the board.

Welcome, Bob, your enthusiasm for history is just what the Society needs.

SYMANTEC. Helps Computerize History!

The SYMANTEC. Corporation has once again helped to underwrite the computerization of the Collection Management Program. The project started three years ago with a generous \$5000 contribution has been underwritten in part by the corporation for three years.

Computerization is an on going part of the long-range plan for the Museum Collection. The program has been effective and our registrar, Corinna Schoenfelder has computerized over 2000 artifacts, photos and documents that are the property of the Society. The generous \$1,333.00 gift from SYMANTEC in 1999 will allow us to continue this significant project. Many thanks for their continuing support.



Historic San Antonio School Site chosen for the Society's spring fundraiser.

Hanson Permanente Cement Company and the Cupertino Historical Society will once again co-sponsor a spring luncheon. Charles and Deborah Newman have graciously offered to host the luncheon on this historic site. Historical records and slides of the original school will be available. We are looking for anyone who attended San Antonio School, or whose relatives attended the school. Please call the Museum 408-973-1495 if you have any information. More details in March.

"Cupertino Remembers"

On November 4, 1999 a series of sculptural- mural panels were dedicated at the front entrance of Whole Foods market. The panels give a glimpse into the community's rich and diverse historical past. The artist focused on aspects that nourish the soul and body connecting them to the mission of Whole Foods.

Emmanuel Montoya worked closely with the museum, researching and verifying the materials for the murals. This body of work was executed in his studio in Berkeley during the fall of 1999. The individual pieces are vignettes, windows into the times past, "a place as it was once known."

There are four panels.



The *Ohlone* panel serves as a base, a beginning, symbolic of the areas early inhabitants a mere 200 years ago.

There was a time when the West Side hills were thick with vineyards established by European immigrants from France, Italy, and Germany



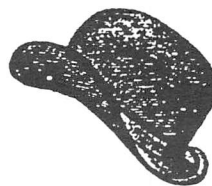
Fruit and nut orchards then covered the valley with its springtime stand of mustard covering the orchard floors. Worked by men, women and children who migrated from all over the country and as far away as Portugal and Italy and deciding to stay, because it was a good life.



Cupertino also remembers a time when the immigration of Asian peoples brought the area knowledge of working the soil. The Chinese population has had a presence in Cupertino since the 1800's.



These are just a part of the cultural heritage. Make it your own by taking the time to investigate your past and its relationship to the area. (Excerpted from the speech that Emmanuel Montoya made at the dedication.)



HATS OFF TO...

Charles Liggett-for the Paul Harris Award given by the Rotary to outstanding Community Volunteers.

John Handley our curator for *To Have and To Hold* the new exhibit, received first prize from the American Association of Museums for his exhibit *Animal Eyes* which toured the United States.

Sharon Blaine for securing a \$1000 grant from IBM Corporation through the retirees plan (Dick Blaine a retiree)

Corinna Schoenfelder- working diligently on the collection and finally getting many of the old records in order.

Mathilda Sousa-for her willingness to fill in for absent docents, with enthusiasm and charm.

The Society acknowledges the following contributions from:

- Bank of America, Exhibit Fund
- IBM, Exhibit Fund
- Symantec Corporation, Collection Management
- Macy's West Inc., General Fund
- Philip and Frances Bush; Audrey Butcher; Hazel V. Fretwell; Beez Jones; Fred and Florence Lindsey; Martin Mathiesen; Linda, Nola, and Paula Quintero; William and Nancy Schott; Mathilda Sousa; and Itsuo Uenaka have made donations to the Memorial Endowment Fund in memory of Miriam Stelling.



Corinna Schoenfelder, Registrar



Dates to Remember

January

- 8 Volunteer Meeting 9 am at QCC
- 12 Board Meeting 6:30 pm at QCC
- 25 General Meeting 6:30 pm at QCC

February

- 5 Volunteer Meeting 9am at QCC
- 9 Board Meeting 6:30 pm at QCC
- 22 General Meeting 6:30 pm at QCC

March

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

New Members

Richard and Carol Atwood, Nathalie Benetti, Deep Cliff Golf Course, John P. Dozier, Ronald and Linda Hagelin, Virginia Hammerness, Doris Hijmans, Ed Hillman, Richard and Ellen Lowenthal, Richard Marcotte, Barbara Nunes, Peacock Lounge, Barbara Perzigian (Cupertino Inn), Kim M. Rose (Comp-U-Word), K. L. Stakey, The Driving Machine, Robert E. Vitro, Teresa Zarevich

And our thanks to recent renewals:

Carol N. Ames, Doris, Dave, Grace Beezley, Irene Bennett, Robert and Audrey Butcher, Charles W. Carle, Paul and Judith Carmichael, Michael Chang, Pat and Chuck Corr, Frances M. Dietz, Hazel V. Fretwell, Kathleen and Eldon Hendrikson, Fenton and Winifred Hill, Gail Hugger, Anne and Triffle Ivancovich, James and Patricia Jackson, Tom and Nicol Legan, William W. Lester III, George and Genevieve Luchessi, Mary Lou Lyon, Angelo and Judy Marchi, Bud and Carol McDowell, Robert and Janet Meyers, Charles and Deborah Newman, Elizabeth E. Petersen, Mr. and Mrs Giuliano Raviola, Christopher and Stefanie Singer, Darryl and Dorothy Stow, Joseph and Judith Tembrock, Darlene Thorne, Vincent Torre, Paula Jean Quinterno, Roberta Zentner.

Volunteer Notes from Roberta Zentner

We have lots of new visitors to the museum now that the Senior Center has moved into Quinlan Center. We still need volunteers, especially on Thursdays from noon to 2 pm and on Fridays from 10 am to noon. I hope you will visit our Vallco site, lower level near Sears furniture store, now that we have touched up the exhibit a bit. On the advice of Charles Calhan, we have added the lovely picture of the early blossoming valley that was taken by the Sunset Prune Company and is on loan to us from Kay Peterson. Corinna, has replaced Mabel William Noonan's dress with the wedding dress worn by Pauline Grove. The display windows are brightly lit up so everyone who walks by can see in. Hours at Vallco are Tuesdays and Saturdays, 1pm to 3 pm provided we have volunteers---call 973-1495 to confirm!

I found this article in the Fall 1998 edition of the *California HISTORIAN* and want to share it with you!

What Do Docents Do?

A museum docent is both more or less than the dictionary "tour guide and lecturer."

Our museum docents don't usually guide. Mostly they just show folks around. And they never lecture. Instead, they try to answer questions and often find that guests know more about history than they do.

So just what do docents need to know? They need to know how to unlock doors, turn on lights,...man the gift shop. They need to be friendly while gently reminding visitors that they can look but not touch.

...in the search for volunteers, people are too often put off because they feel they must be bona fide historians. Not so...Often just your physical presence makes the difference in how many hours a museum can be kept open. It is surprising how fast you'll learn the history and begin to love the place that houses it. Try it!

Curiosities and Questions

One of the pleasures of reviewing our museum's collection is the investigative work required to establishing a 'history' for many of the items - the 'who, what, where, when, and why' that one asks oneself when inspecting a piece.

One such item in our collection which raises many questions is a beautiful colored and framed certificate awarded by the Girls Friendly Society, of Dalton-in-Furness, to Maggie Steele upon her marriage to John Seed in 1900. Unfortunately, no background information accompanies the item. The questions raised and some of their answers follow.

What is a Friendly Society? Friendly Societies were first formed in the United Kingdom in the 17th century as non-profit organizations for the benefit of the working class. Societies provided a means of banding together for health insurance and social fellowship. They were community, work, or ethnically based and often developed strong social and fraternal activities. Many friendly societies still exist today throughout the UK providing health services, financial investment services, retirement and aged homes, and social activities.

After quite a bit of investigative work I was able to confirm that today there still exists in London, England a branch of the Girls Friendly Society. I hope to hear from them soon regarding the history of their society and about the branch located in Dalton-in-Furness in 1900.

Where is Dalton-in-Furness? Dalton-in-Furness refers to a peninsula on the northwest Irish Sea coast of England. Centuries ago the peninsula was known as Fore-ness, which can be roughly translated as meaning 'further promontory'. Today it is called Furness, and the town of Dalton, with a rich historic background, is situated in the center. The Dalton Castle, built in the fourteenth century, still stands today, open to the public, under the ownership of the National Trust.

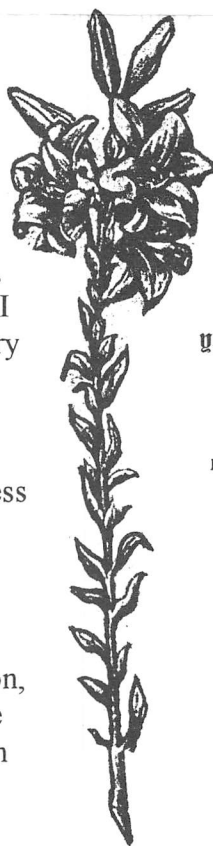
Who were Maggie Steel and John Seed? No record of the Steel or Seed family names can be found in our museum records. Were they Cupertino residents? Did they, or their descendents, immigrate to the Cupertino area from the UK and **When?**

Why was this intriguing and attractive piece left to the museum? This is the point at which I turn to our readers and ask that any information that can be shared with us would be most welcome. Those of you who recognize the names or organization on the document, or can provide insights into why we were entrusted with such a piece, please do contact us. Thank you.

Corinna Schoenfelder
Collections Management Registrar

Presented to
Maggie Steele

4 years member of the Girls Friendly Society



A virtuous woman is a crown to her husband: her price is far above rubies. The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her. She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life.

She worketh willingly with her hands. She stretcheth out her hand to the poor; yea she reacheth forth her hands to the needy.

Strength and honour are her clothing; and she shall rejoice in the time to come. She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness. She looketh well to her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness.

Favor is deceitful, and beauty is vain; but a woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised.

On her marriage December 10th, 1900

To John Seed
Dalton-in-Furness Branch

 Roots

By Gail Fretwell Hugger

Memories of Miriam

Recently, we attended a memorial service for Miriam Stelling, a West Side old-timer. The *San Jose Mercury News* and the *Cupertino Courier* wrote good stories about Miriam, who, along with her husband, Don Stelling, had many ties and many friends in the valley. The Calverts and Stellings go back a long time in the history of the West Side.

Many, many years ago, my family lived in a little rental house in Monta Vista owned by Don and Miriam Stelling and Miriam's wonderful, elderly father, William Calvert. Mr. Calvert was a true gentleman in every sense of the word. He had a genteel, courtly manner and was kind and generous to everyone. He drove his big car into his 90s and would come over and prune the trees on the large lot where the little rental house stood.

Miriam would telephone. "Gail," she would ask in her ladylike voice, "Is Daddy on the ladder, pruning the trees again?" I didn't want to lie, but I didn't want to get Mr. Calvert in trouble, so I'd say, "Well, yes, but he's not up very high." She would sign, "Oh dear."

The first of the month, Mr. Calvert would come to collect the rent. In those days, we paid \$125 a month for the two-bedroom, one-bath house with a huge yard, complete with a little rock goldfish pond spanned by a tiny bridge.

He always brought my two little daughters a treat. At Christmas time, he would give them petits fours in a gold box. They were almost too pretty to eat. One year, when the girls were still in diapers and it was a miserably cold January day, he showed up at the back door with a washing machine so we wouldn't have to spend hours at the laundromat. He passed away at age 103, a beloved man in the Cupertino community.

Everyone who knew Miriam always mentioned her German Shepherd dogs. They rode

in the back seat of her big Thunderbird; they were huge and not particularly friendly to strangers. When Miriam and Don came over to the rental property, the dogs came too. "Gail," Miriam would say, "put Mikey in the house; the dogs are coming in the yard." So Mikey, our small russet-colored mutt, went into the house to pace up and down aware that there were other dogs in the yard, but having no clue as to their size or disposition.

One summer day, Miriam's dogs were wandering around near the back door. Mikey was pacing in the house as usual. Suddenly, he charged the length of the house, hitting the kitchen screen door. The latch gave way and he flew out the doorway and down the back steps like a small, unguided missile.

I ran out just in time to see one of Miriam's dogs swallow Mikey's head in his enormous jaws. I froze. The German Shepherd stood still with a surprised look on his face and I could hear Miriam quietly and patiently and in her most controlled, ladylike voice, repeating to her dog. "Drop him." "Drop him." Now, drop him." Finally the canine equivalent of "JAWS" opened his mouth and Mikey staggered back with a look that Jonah might have had when the whale threw him up on dry land.

After a few years, we moved to another house and I'd see Miriam from time to time at the grocery store. We'd visit and I'd walk out with her, keeping a respectful distance as we neared the car. The second or third generation of German Shepherds would somberly eye us through the back windows of the car.

As she grew more frail in the passing years, we enjoyed so much seeing her each month at the Historical Society potluck meetings. She volunteered many hours at the reception desk at the museum at Quinlan Center, answering the phone and questions for a steady stream of visitors, and was supportive of all the activities and events connected with the society and museum.

Miriam will be greatly missed by family, friends and all who knew her.

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 1pm-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.

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, Robert E. Vitro.

MUSEUM STAFF

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

✦ Wish List ✦

Hand Vacuum (new or in excellent condition)
New Feather Duster
Security System (for locking equipment,\$50)
Two new Telephone/Answering Machines

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HAPPY YEAR 2000!