



CUPERTINO HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM

THE CORNERSTONE

Fall 2007

Vol. 18, Issue 1

'Cots Tell a Story of History and Warm Memories

By Helene Davis



This summer my two apricot trees were laden with fruit. They were a catalyst for partaking in what was once a common activity in the *Valley of Hearts Delight*. We brought together four families to pick the fruit, and then gathered over wine and good conversation in my friend's kitchen to wash



and cut the cots, and to make jam and pie filling. It was a walk down memory lane for me. Hopefully it was an opportunity to create new memories for my children.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Now the memories of summer have moved us into the Fall. It promises to be a busy season for the Cupertino Historical Society. We will be participating in three Cupertino festivals: Fall Festival (formerly known as Jubilee or Oktoberfest) on Sept. 15 and 16, the Moon Festival, Sept. 29 and 30, and the Audubon Festival on Oct. 20. Come on down to visit us or better yet, if you have a few hours to spare, contact Nicole Rau at the museum to volunteer. We are also planning our annual fundraiser for Fall, on Saturday, Nov. 17, at the Cupertino Senior Center, so save the date!

We are also very excited about the opening of the new Whole Foods store in Cupertino. Many thanks to Nicole Rau and Donna Austin who spent countless hours working with Dusty Edwards of Whole Foods to provide the store with historical photos and fruit labels from the society's collection. If you happen to be in Whole Foods, check out the dining area near the demonstration kitchen where our photos and labels are on display and also near the front entrance. Thanks again, Nicole and Donna!

Have great autumn season and I hope to see you at an event or two.



Louisa Roberts, Jim Davis and Mark Lee engage in a familiar task from yesteryear: cutting cots

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Valuable Training from Building Code Workshop

By Nicole Rau

Last month, I attended a workshop sponsored by the California Preservation Foundation on the use and application of the California Historical Building Code. Participants at this conference learned how to identify qualified historic buildings and their features, plus how to apply standards that would preserve historic buildings and maintain their character—and at the same time meet life and safety mandates.

Several questions arose: “Is it historic?” “What is a ‘Qualified Historic’ building?” “How do you treat a building that isn’t on a list of Qualified Historic Buildings?” This past year, the



MANAGER'S REPORT

museum received numerous calls from members and residents asking exactly these questions. I felt that this workshop was the perfect opportunity to learn more about the historic preservation field and regulations from the experts in this field.

Speakers included Timothy Brandt, the senior restoration architect for the California State Office of Historic Preservation, Alan

Dreyfuss, chair of the State Historical Building Safety Board, several structural engineers and historical preservation and historical landscape architects.

It was a great honor for me to attend this conference and for the Cupertino Historical Society & Museum to sponsor me at this workshop.

Each week at the museum, I continue to preserve, research, collect, document and display our own historical objects and answer questions about the remaining historic structures around town. For our docents, board members and myself, we are all history enthusiasts and cherish our stewardship and interaction with the community.

This Fall, CHS has and will be participating in several events with various groups, setting up our booths at festivals and bringing history to the community. At the Fall Festival, we made corn husk dolls; the Moon Festival (Sept. 29 and 30) and Iranian Arts & Cultural Festival (Sept. 23) resulted in new displays in the museum of Persian and Vietnamese wedding dresses and antique snuff bottles. In October, we will be at the Audubon Festival at McClellan Ranch, hosting a new potluck and showing a film interview with Dorothy Gardner from our oral histories collection! Phew!

Also, I would like to encourage everyone to stop by the California History Center over at De Anza to view its recently opened exhibit on preservation.



New Whole Foods Serves Up A Taste of Local History

CHS makes a historical--and decorating--statement at the new Cupertino store, with an impressive display of vintage photos and fruit labels, recalling our city's agricultural past.

Pictured in front row from left: Nicole Rau, Linda Walker, Donna Austin, Ray Bortner

Back row, from left: Steve Ting, Kevin Tighe, Darryl Stow, Lynn Ching, Helene Davis, Jill Costa and Jim Walker

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Membership gifts to the Cupertino Historical Society and Museum provide a base of support for programs, services and general operating. We appreciate the support and generosity of new members and continuing members.

New Member

Beth Wichmann

Renewing Members

Marie Schoppe Bartee
George & Loretta Bassman
Mildred Gagliasso
John Gatto & Pat Dowd
William & Virginia Guengerich
Kathleen Hendricksen
Deborah Jamison
Marion Alice Jarrett
Betty & Alan Johnson
Esther Johnson
Jefferey Johnson
Angelo & Judith Marchi
Paul & Wanda Mikulaco
Bob & Janet Meyers
Charles Newman
Mahesh Nihalani
Charlotte Niemeyer
Barbara Nunes
Laverne Rabinowitz
Bill & Jane Reed
Roy & Kay Roberts
Linda & Roger Schultz
Marlene Sulaver

In Memorium

Robert Rivola

Thanks

A very special thank-you goes to Sonja & Michael Cook for their tech support help with the Museum.

Cupertino Historical Society Membership Application

☐ New ☐ Renewal

☐ Individual \$35 ☐ Family \$50
☐ Patron \$125 ☐ Sponsor \$250

Total Membership \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

City, State & Zip _____

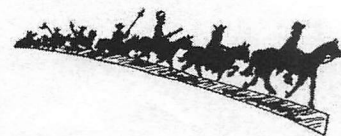
Phone _____ Email _____

I'd like to do more...here is my tax-deductible donation of \$ _____

Please make checks payable to Cupertino Historical Society and mail to:

The Cupertino Historical Society & Museum
10185 N Stelling Road
Cupertino, CA 95014

Thank You!



A Call for Volunteers

The time a volunteer spends at the Cupertino Historical Museum is often just as rewarding to him or her as it is to us.

If you have a love for the community, please join ours and help us show off Cupertino's past and present.

If you are available two Saturday afternoons a month, come down and interpret Cupertino history for our museum visitors and keep our Museum open!

Anyone interested in volunteering with the Cupertino Historical Society and Museum should call 408-973-1495 or email us at cuphistorysoc@juno.com.

John and Margaret Garcia Share Memories of Old Cupertino

By Donna Austin

On July 16, I interviewed John and Margaret Garcia. John is 90 years old and Margaret is 87. The couple will celebrate 62 years of marriage this Dec. 9. They have lived at 21815 McClellan since 1948, the year that John built their home, which has been added on to throughout the years. It was built directly across the street from the present day Monta Vista High School. Before the high school was built



in 1969,

there were

prune and apricot orchards in the neighborhood. Margaret Garcia said the prune trees were so beautiful in the spring with the mustard a bright yellow and the white blossoms against the blue sky. Now, there is a school with traffic and parking problems, she said with a sigh.

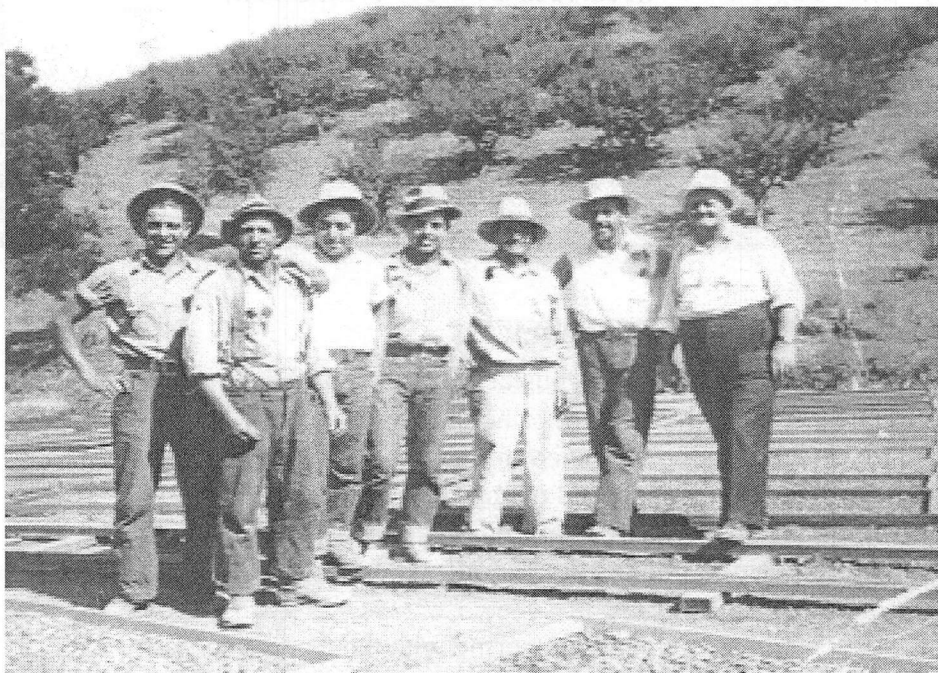
John remembers in the early years working at the Seven Springs Ranch. He said the ranch was very large. The ranch was owned by Grant Stauffer and his house was near where the fire station is on Stelling Road. John thinks the house is still there. On the ranch, they grew crops and vegetables and raised horses and raced with two-wheel buggies.

We looked at many pictures and the Garcias let me take home five pictures to scan, two of the old Seven Springs Ranch, one of the old Firehouse on Blaney, and two of their front yard looking toward a prune orchard where Monta Vista High School now stands.

John and Margaret Garcia are such a beautiful couple, with so many memories of early years in Cupertino.



Garcia family, 1956. Prune orchard is site of Monta Vista High

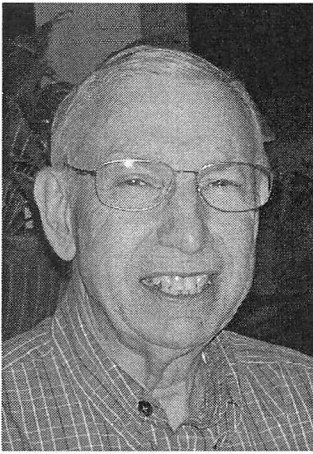


Seven Springs Ranch workers: Larry Garcia, Tony Azevedo, John Garcia Jr., Sal Garcia, John Garcia Sr., Frank Rivas, Elmer Shepard. 1930s.

Leave a Legacy

One way to have a lasting impact on your community is to help the Cupertino Historical Society & Museum preserve our history for future generations. We welcome an opportunity to talk with you about including the Society and Museum in your will or in other planned gifts.

Please contact Nicole Rau at (408) 973-1495 or via email at cuphistorysoc@juno.com.



CHS TREASURER'S REPORT

By Darryl Stow

An important question the treasurer of any non-profit organization needs to answer is, "What is our financial condition?" For the Cupertino Historical Society, the answer is that we are in fairly good condition, but we need to build a more solid revenue stream to ensure long-term viability.

Our total income for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2007 was just \$33,000, compared to almost \$60,000 for the previous year. The main reason for this drop is that we did not have a summer fundraiser this year. An event is now planned for Nov. 17, 2007. Obviously, at this level of income, we have limited capability to increase the size of our staff or add new programs and exhibits.

We do have one important asset, however, which is our endowment. The endowment was started a number of years ago and the initial contributions were modest. By June 2000, the corpus totaled only about \$20,000. But that June, the Cupertino Historical Society became the recipient of a generous \$100,000 donation from longtime Cupertino resident Burrell Leonard and subsequently, two additional donations totaling \$130,000 were granted from the Burrell Leonard estate.

Our endowment funds were initially invested with Community Foundation Silicon Valley and by November 2005, they totaled \$274,000. At that time, the Board of Directors made the decision to move our account to Smith Barney. As of the end of the 2006-2007 fiscal year, our account balance for the endowment was \$316,000. While the corpus of our endowment cannot be spent, we are permitted to use the interest and dividends from it for current operations. Our endowment funds are invested three fourth in equity accounts and one fourth in CDs.

We also keep any operating funds not needed in the immediate future, in layered CDs at Smith Barney, in order to gain as much interest income as possible and not leave large amounts of cash in our checking account.

If you have any questions about our financial condition or financial statements, please call me at (408) 252-3117 or e-mail your questions to: darryl_s@pacbell.net.

BULLETIN BOARD

Board Meetings

October 17
November 21
December 19

Special Events

Diwali Festival	October 13
Audubon Festival	October 20
Fall Fundraiser & Dance	November 17

Gathering at the Crossroads

Oral History screening and Potluck
October 22
6 to 8 p.m., Social Room

Volunteer Meetings

Held at 9 a.m. at the Museum
October 6
November 3
December 1



New Arrivals

Come in and take a look at some of our latest additions:

"Chinese in San Jose and the Santa Clara Valley" is a book from the Chinese Historical and Cultural Project, Lillian Gong-Guy and Gerry Wong.

Collections

Several photos and scrapbooks that belonged to Philip Storm (Cupertino's first City Manager) donated by Sylvia Alison Storm Cloniger.

An original Grun model #1930 duster that held sulfur in the front. This was used on Saich Ranch where Quinlan Community Center now stands and was used to protect crops against pests. Donated by Augie and Myrna Jelesko

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MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Cupertino Historical Society and Museum is to create a passion for lifelong learning, preserve a vanishing past and serve as a bridge to a shared future. We believe that reflecting a broad representation of experiences, perspectives and cultures encourages stewardship and interaction, honoring the past and enhancing the lives of current and future citizens.

CUPERTINO HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Located in the Quinlan Community Center, the museum is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday. Admission is free and open to the public.



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Museum Manager