
SONOMA HISTORIAN

2019 # 4 \$3

THE JOURNAL OF THE SONOMA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



*It's Time For Women To Do
A Centennial Dance, P. 8*

A Bright, Sunny Day At Adobe

Historical Quiz: Which came first, the chicken, the egg or Mariano Vallejo?

Petaluma might be proud of its heritage as the Egg Basket of the World, but it is well known that General Vallejo got to town first and set up a major economic operation at his famed Adobe east of town in the 1830s and 40s. Pennngrovian David Wharff brought chickens to town, but not until the 1850s.

Sonoma Historical Society members and friends enjoyed a picnic at the Vallejo Adobe in September. They learned, among other things, that Vallejo used a land grant to build an early economic empire which centered on cattle, animal hides and tallow in the pre-Civil War era.

The 60,000-acre Adobe, at its peak, hosted between 600 to 2,000 workers.

* * *

(Photo, lower right, shows the picnic group getting ready to take a guided tour.

Photo, upper right, featuring five lovely young ladies, was taken during an Adobe event some years atgo.)

The Adobe is located at 3325 Adobe Road east of Petaluma. Phone 707-762-4871 for further information.



Volunteers: We'd Love Your Help

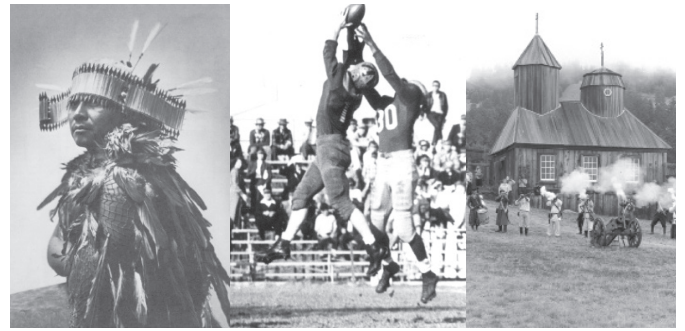
We have a need for some people to help out on some committees! Some may be fairly easy and some may require more work or help: Webmaster/Social Media: Maintains the website, Updates Facebook etc;

Editorial: Proofreading, Publishing and mailing the Historian, Advertising, Organizing and publishing a newsletter

Nominating: Nominates Officers and Board members; Events: 1) Annual meeting: welcome, AV, raffles and silent auction, exhibitors, program, speaker, awards; . 2) Organizes annual picnic and other events; Projects: 1) Historic Sites: videos, internet, history writing, selecting sites, plaques, etc.

2) County Archives; Awards: Guides nominees through the process. Contact Ray Johnson, ph 535-6476.

SONOMA HISTORIAN



The Quarterly Journal of the Sonoma County Historical Society 2019, No. 4

THE SONOMA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 1373, Santa Rosa, CA 95402

Web: sonomacountyhistory.org.

OFFICERS:

President: Ray Johnson, ph. 535-6476

Secretary: Nancy Schell, nkschell@gmail.com

Historian Editor & Archivist: Lee Torliatt, 2535 Tachevah Dr., Santa Rosa 95405, 545-7507; torliatt@sonic.net

Treasurer: Michael Von der Porten, ph. 525-1625 or 545-7520

Heritage Network: Sec., David Lightfoot, dvlightfoot@hotmail.com

Board Members At-large:

Joann Mitchell, 539-6184

Harry Lapham, Director Emeritus, 539-1786

John Schubert, toyfrog@sonic.net

Guy Smith, (cellphone), 494-0505

Jim Shere, 935-3663, jshere@sonic.net

Sharie Sbrazza, andiamotravel@hotmail.com, ph. 570-7076



Helen Putnam clips a ribbon

On the Cover

Since getting the vote 100 years ago, women have made major contributions to society in many ways.

Helen Putnam (above) was a teacher before making her way in the challenging world of politics. On the cover, she and dance partner Bob Mallott practice in his Petaluma grocery store.

Also on the cover is Essie Parrish, a spiritual leader of her tribe who performed many ceremonies at the Round House at Stewart's Point. Parrish took on the role of spiritual leader of the tribe at Stewart's Point Rancheria when Annie Jarvis died in 1943.

Award Alert

SCHS will be giving out awards for outstanding people that help preserve Sonoma County history.

There are several categories to fit every situation whether it be a new book or preserving a home or business or other activity..

Since 1984 we have presented awards to more than 250 special people. Information about the awards and the nomination forms can be found on our website: <https://www.sonomacountyhistory.org/awards>.

INDEX

WOMEN, PP.4-15, 23-25, 27, 28,
VIVIANI CHEESE, 16
SONOMA
MOUNTAIN, 18-22
FRIENDS, 22
ARCHIVE CRAWL, 26

SONOMA HISTORIAN

is published quarterly and sent to members in March, June, September and December. For information on membership, see page 27 of this issue. For an index to past articles see our website, www.sonomacountyhistory.org.

Century of Women Voting

The pot was stirring early in the 20th century as women sought the right to vote. The pages ahead are a sampler of some of the women's rights stories that appeared in the local newspapers in Sonoma County. mostly from the 1910s and '20s.

In 1907, Mrs. T. Martin, a female attorney, attacked Jonathan Rayner who interfered with Martin's client, Mrs. Rayner. The Rayners were involved in divorce proceedings. The incident occurred when Mr. Rayner stopped the buggy of Mrs. F. Martin and Mrs. Rayner as they were traveling to the house of a witness. Both women asked him to leave. Rayner refused and attempted to enter the buggy. The attorney "snatched the whip from its socket" of the buggy and lashed Rayner across the shoulders until he retreated. The distressed husband suffered a severe horsewhipping in front of scores of people."

* * *

Later in the year the judge denied the couple a divorce ruling that neither of them was guiltless.

* * *

Juries were for men only until July, 1913 when an all-woman jury acquitted another woman who was being tried in San Francisco.

* * *

Later, a second jury of all women tried a case in Sonoma County. A woman was accused of striking three young women who were trying to get their parents' cattle out of the accused woman's property, The woman was convicted, but the jury asked for the mercy of the court. The judge fined the defendant the minimum fee of \$1.00.

* * *

Another woman's jury of 12 was scheduled to hear the case of the People vs. Mrs. W.S. Waldorf in July, 1913. She was alleged to have punished the little sons of Fred Stegeman when the boys pastured their cows at Sunny Slope. According to the Petaluma Argus Courier, "This will be the first time in the history of the city that members of the gentler sex will act as jurors. Owing to the fact that a woman is to be tried the jury will be quite in keeping."

* * *

Women served on juries where women were being tried until 1917. Finally, a bill passed in California equalizing the roles of men and women serving on juries.

* * *

Grange women were granted equal voting status with men and parallel roles in the organization. However, the women prepared the food and cleaned up at the meetings.

* * *

Santa Rosan L.J. complained to the Pacific Rural Press in 1876, "I often wonder, will the millennia ever come, when we can work our eight or ten hours a day and then rest?...I do not so much wonder that our daughters seem to prefer husbands from other walks of life, or that they should prefer other occupations to housework, especially housework on a farm. They have not kept their eyes open if they have not observed in the difference between housekeeping in the country and town. I am frequently reminded, of late, of my absence from Grange Saturday meetings...Our children are in school during the week and when Saturday comes, want and indeed, need mother.

If we wish to have our house in order for Sunday that we may either rest quietly at home or go to church, it rather necessitates our being home Saturday. If the Grange could meet on any day between Monday and Saturday, I should be a much more regular attendant."

Advice For Teen-Age Girls

In 1917, Dr. Sara Wise outlined rules for teenage girls.

1. "Do not choose a life work that means you must break any of God's laws." She urges young people to think of their religion on Sunday, and avoid work or study.

2. "Choose good drink." She noted most epileptics were found to have parents who used alcohol.

3. "Don't smoke." She pointed out E.H. Harriman, a wealthy businessman asserted he would as soon employ a crew of insane men to run a train as a crew of cigarette fiends.

4. "Choose good amusement. Among 500,000 fallen women 85 percent lay their downfall to the dance. It is as dangerous for boys as for girls, and should never be tolerated in our high schools."

5. "The movies have come to stay and have their place but they often encourage the immoral and put the unreal with the good. Many children crimes have their inception with a movie."

(Cont. on next page)



Thanks to Jeff Elliott for cartoon depicting a policeman making sure women retained their modesty.

Putting Food on the Table

EARLY ROLE OF WOMAN, an article from the Petaluma Argus-Courier, Dec. 18, 1912, illustrates the role women were expected to play in the early 20th century.

“If the hands that rock the cradles in Petaluma’s households of the future are not experienced, capable hands...if they cannot broil a steak, roast a leg of mutton, bake a pie or a cake, make the babies’ dresses and make every dollar but a full dollar’s worth at the butchers the bakers and the candle stick makers, it won’t be the fault of the Petaluma Board of Education.

“Down at the Lincoln Primary School there is a sight that will make the hearts of Petaluma mamas and daddies swell with gratitude, admiration and exultation almost to the bustin’ point....

“Two rooms have been fitted up on the lower floor of the Lincoln Primary School...for a course in the science of practical, frugal and good housekeeping. A competent teacher will be employed, a graduate of one of the foremost schools in the east, and the girls of both High and Grammar school will receive instruction in every branch of Domestic Science, cooking, baking, the etiquette of the table, economy in buying, preparing and service food, etc. This is in addition to the classes in sewing that are already receiving instruction.

“And what a kitchen! It is light and airy and sanitary. It is big and roomy It is supplied with all the utensils necessary for the preparation of eighteen dishes by as many pretty young cooks at one and the same time...

“There is a large pantry well equipped with other appliances, including a large refrigerator, a big turkey roaster, an ice cream freezer, waffle irons, etc...

“The dining room adjoins the kitchen. It is provided with a roomy and ornamental built-in buffet...

“Professor Sears of Stanford visited the school recently and he pronounced the Domestic Science quarter and appliances the very best he had seen.”

Snakes in Classroom Kept Young Students on Their Toes

My Mother, the Teacher, by Juanita Coates, in Flashback 3, 1994, a Santa Rosa Junior College writing class taught for seniors by Geets Vincent at Friends House in Santa Rosa.

In publishing her first book, Juanita gave it the intriguing title, "My First 90 Years." She died in 2004 at the age of 95.

Her story focuses on her creative mother who distinguished herself way back in early 20th century classrooms with some classroom tactics that were not generally acceptable. This story first appeared in the Historian of 2007, # 3.

First School

"In 1914 my mother, Emma Baird, became the teacher of Wallace School in Rincon Valley. The school house had been built in the 1800s and had just one classroom and two ante-rooms for coats and lunches. The roof leaked and had cans and buckets set around the room to catch the drips. We would take off our wet shoes and sit around the pot-bellied stove to dry out while we had our lessons. I can remember our parents spending a weekend building desks and seats out of soap boxes to have enough for all pupils.

A Super Teacher

"Mother was a super teacher and those first three years in school were the best in my 16 years of education. Mother believed that the fast learners should be allowed to assimilate knowledge as fast as they wished. They did not skip grades but were spared drills and needless repetition.

The older pupils helped the younger ones and that was advantageous to both student and teacher, as at times

(Cont. on next page)



Juanita Coates, top center, and other young ladies take time out from studies to pose for a group photo. Photos from SCHS Archives

Snakes in School, cont.

she had as many as 25 kids in eight grades. Some were fourteen to sixteen years old because they had been kept out of school to help on the ranches.

“The highlight of study was geography. Mother would gather all the pupils around her and make a big adventure of making an imaginary flight around the world with all of us, visiting each country and learning about its people, terrain, government and so forth.

Geography Games

“Remember, this was in 1916 and 1917 when flying was a rare method of travel. These flights were not without pretended problems. One boy got lost in Sweden. A girl broke her arm in Italy. And the big boys went too far on the Great Wall of China and we had to stay there all night. To me it was as real as a trip to town in horse and buggy and as thrilling as the Arabian Nights.

“The year before mother started teaching there, the kids had put a snake in the teacher’s drawer, and when (that teacher) saw it she became almost hysterical. She stayed just one year. Well, that was worth a repeat performance with the new teacher.

Door Opens, And....

“When mother opened the drawer and a large gopher snake crawled out, she acted delighted, And right there we had a most memorable lesson on snakes. The snake became the school mascot and we could sneak out milk from the school lunches to feed it.

“One day it started across the yard and recess and the baseball game came to a halt so the snake could get by unharmed. We were saddened one Monday morning when we got to school and found that some “brave”



Family photo includes Ma Baird, (2nd from left), Juanita Coates (2nd from right), and Juanita’s sister and father.

boys from town had killed our mascot over the weekend.

Yule Party

“Mother put on Christmas programs in which all kids participated. This was primarily an Italian community and the parents had never been invited to school before. Many came and it was a huge success. The children had translated a song into Italian and sang it to their parents, which pleased them greatly.

“On Christmas morning...Mother and Dad would visit every family and deliver gifts of penny postcards and hard candy tied in individual packages for all the kids.

Ma Baird

My mother (Emma Baird) established and taught the Part Time School in the basement of the old library on Fourth St. in Santa Rosa... the school formed to give dropouts guidance and continuing education.

“Mother kept a card file in the

classroom with personal notes about her students...one cross-eyed terror read on his card ‘Frank has plenty of brains but refuses to use them.’ He was so furious he picked up a glass ink well and threw it at mother’s head. Luckily, she ducked and it went through the window.

Success Story

“Frank’s eyes brought him such ridicule, he was extremely defensive. Finally, mother persuaded Frank’s father to pay for the eye surgery. It made a tremendous difference.

He returned to school, finished college and become a dentist, another of mother’s great successes.”

Exchange Bank An Early Winner

The Exchange Bank building, organized by A.P. Overton in 1873, was the first of its kind in Santa Rosa. It started with initial capital of only \$100,000, but quadrupled the amount in the next five years.

Ann Connor--From Poverty To History Fame in S.R.

For whatever reason, Ann Connor seems to have become an almost forgotten figure in the history world of Sonoma County. She clearly has not gotten the attention she deserves.

In 1962, Ann was a founder of the Sonoma County Historical Society and served as the editor of the *Historian* for its first four years. She was responsible for at least 10 publications, often making sure the works of others got into print, with her family doing much of the “grunt work” of typing stencils, laying out materials for offset printing and doing other tasks of the 1960s and ‘70s easily forgotten in the advanced technological world of the 21st century.

The materials included:

Tales of Sonoma County, 1965, stories humorously told by horse and buggy doctor William Shipley.

Caspar Calling, 1967; Caspar Notebook: School Days, 1979 and Golden Years of Caspar (where Mrs. Connor grew up in Mendocino County.)

McDonald Avenue, a Century of Elegance, 1970

The Church Built of One Tree, 1971

Chief of the Pomos--Allen James' own story of his life as a chief of the Kashia tribe, 1972.

Nine Vs. Mt. McKinley, mountain climbing, 1974.

The McDonalds of Mableton, 1975.

Walker Family Journals, life stories of fur trader Joseph Reddeford Walker and brother Joel P. Walker, first man



Ann Connor

to bring his family from Missouri to Oregon and California by wagon train, 1981.

A Tough Start

Ann Connor's early life was not what one would call terribly distinguished. She was born Ann Zebroff in British Columbia Sept. 24, 1921. Her father moved to the small town of Caspar in Mendocino County in 1927 and soon sent for the rest of the family, Ann's mother and three brothers and sisters.

Ann remembered “We arrived in California just in time for the Depression and conditions were on the grim and poverty-stricken side--but still it was a wonderful place to grow up in--all the great outdoors--picking wild blackberries and wild strawberries, raspberries and mushrooms and hazelnuts. We lived a great deal off the land, had our own cow, which it was my job to fetch for milking (“never did learn to milk.”)

She recalled the early 1930s with picnics, ball games, dances and

“walking 5 miles to see a matinee when we could swing a 10-cent loan--to see Flash Gordon...”

“My father made his living in the local saw mills, and most of them were closed down for several years. Half of the townspeople survived by making bathtub gin and hootch made from rice, corn or whatever was handy--and the other half were their best customers.

Dropout

“I dropped out of Mendocino High School after 2 months in the 9th grade, not only because I thought I knew it all, but to help out the family finances by working (and was terribly self-conscious because I only had two dresses for school.) My father died in 1936, and my mother raised the family the hard way--a few chickens, heating water in one of those copper wash boilers on the wood stove to wash clothes and for bath water. Cleaning lamp chimneys of an evening--chopping wood and kindling for the old wood stove--Mother always claimed later the old gas stoves didn't do the job as well.

I fell in love with Santa Rosa during several summer jaunts to ‘the valley’...mostly picking prunes, hops (on the Grace Brothers Ranch in Healdsburg) and sometimes grapes in Geyserville.” Ann lived in Santa Rosa from 1946 forward.

“I have had the pleasure of meeting many pioneer families in the course of my duties with the historical society and of learning so much of the early history of the area.

(Cont. on next page)

IN THE OLD DAYS

No Left Handers Allowed

BY Juanita Coates, (from Flashback # 9, 2005).

(Editor's Note: Young people sometimes found themselves in the grip of adults who have decided certain activities inappropriate in a civilized society. One such activity was writing "lefthanded.")

* * *

"As soon as I started feeding myself, my parents realized I was left-handed. In the early 1900s it was generally not acceptable. Our family physician, who was a practical politician, told my parents, "Leave her alone."

"That was fine with me.

"My first three years in school in the country, when my mother was teacher, I got along fine. There were a few drawbacks, such as dragging my hand through the wet ink when writing. The

solution was to keep a blotter under my fist to avoid making a mess on my paper and myself, but I usually forgot it. Writing on the blackboard was my favorite hate. With the hand above the writing, it not only looks awkward, it is.

Penmanship Peril

"When I went to 'town school,' penmanship was my Waterloo. The Palmer Method, i.e., arm movement, was mandatory.

"This was accomplished by placing the forearm on the desk and making it ride around the muscle that contacted the surface in order to form the letters. Right-handedness was required for this maneuver.

"I deeply resented being forced to do it, knowing it would result in failed grades, and besides, I knew Mother and Father felt the same way about it.

"It was wasted time as I did all other writing left-handed in order to keep up with my lessons. I learned to write backwards and upside down with my left hand.

Shopping at Pier 39

"You can imagine my delight when I discovered a left-hand shop at San Francisco's Pier 39.

"I got left-handed gifts for three other family members—and for my son, a left-handed mustache cup."

Caryl Weis Was 'On the Go'

One might wonder how Caryl Weis found time to sleep.

Weis, who died in 2010 at age 88, spent most of her life "on the go."

Born in Lake County, she spent three years as a U.S. Marine before marrying Edward Weis, Jr. When they settled in Santa Rosa in 1960, Caryl became a real estate broker, running Properties Unlimited for 30 years. In addition she was a joiner and leader of many volunteer organizations, and focused heavily on advocating for women's career opportunities.

After retiring in 1995, she was active on the Sonoma County Museum Auxiliary and the Council on Aging, where she served as Board President and chair of the educational committee.

For seniors, she said, "quality of life is crucial...keeping people independent is very important." Weis helped create programs on preventing identity theft, recognizing muscular degeneration, using computers, and understanding the complexities of the Social Security system.

Ann Conner, cont.

I have dedicated myself to preserving any and all records, booklets and clippings of early Sonoma County and Santa Rosa history."

In 1972, the Civic Arts Commission presented her with a Merit Award for her contribution to "the cultural advancement of the City." When she wrote down her memories, she was a first vice-president of the Saturday Afternoon Club and a junior at SSC (College.) Going back to school at night, she received her AA at Santa Rosa Jr.College in 1966. "Was that ever a glowing feeling...(I) went the whole cap and gown route."

Connor worked together with her husband Ed who served as an officer in World War II and worked with Exchange Bank from 1948. He spent a good deal of energy on hiking trips and photography.

Around 1970, when the book on McDonald Avenue was written, the Connors lived at 1220 McDonald Ave. in a two-story, four-bedroom home built in 1963. They had 4 children, 3 grandchildren.

She died Mar. 11, 1994 of a heart attack at age 72. Ed, 79, died in 2000.

Most of her materials are on the shelves at the History and Genealogy Section of the Sonoma County Library--contact Katherine Rinehart at 308-3212.

--Lee Torliatt

A War, a Teacher And Irate SRHS Students

By Mike Daniels, class of 1959 and retired SRHS teacher

While the campus events of March and April 1942 may seem rather trivial in today's troubled times, they certainly were not taken lightly by the Santa Rosa High School administration, the board of education or the community at large.

Back then a threat to curtail athletics and other activities because of the declaration of war after the attack on Pearl Harbor and the threat to fire a popular first-year teacher because she was married, rallied the 1942 students into action. They issued a threat of their own—to strike if matters were not resolved in their favor.

The Sports Factor

The possible loss of athletic competition was disturbing, but campus energy was harnessed when it became known in March that the contract of first year English and journalism teacher Mary Frances McKinney would not be renewed.

McKinney, who had come to SRHS after a teaching stint at Fairfield High School, had earlier married Navy Ensign DeWitt Treewit in August, just before he was sent to the Pacific and just before she was hired at Santa Rosa. She didn't inform the board of education about her marriage because married women often were not hired to teach.

Irene Wilton, a close friend through McKinney's high school and college years, explained the policy this way, . . ."it was practically standard procedure in school systems not to hire married women. And if you (an unmarried woman) were teaching, the minute you

became engaged it was assumed that you would resign, as you would not be rehired."

Longtime SRHS teacher and counselor Barbara Noel remembered the McKinney marriage was a badly kept secret on campus. The faculty knew about it as did many students.

The board was forced to act when budget constraints and individual teacher contracts became important issues in February and March. Along with pending cuts to athletics, the board had to decide how to trim the teaching staff since enrollment had declined as students left school to join the war effort. McKinney's marital status and her single year on the faculty targeted her as most likely to go—in spite of her popularity.

Student Anger

Student resentment began to boil. A protest group promised to walk out if the board did not change its position.

At an April meeting with the board, the protest group took a firm stand, expressing their anger at the loss of sports activities. They also protested the decision on McKinney when her husband "is out there somewhere in the Pacific fighting for us."

The students won assurances that spring sports would continue and that the board would reconsider its position on McKinney's dismissal. But it noted that a cut in teaching staff was necessary.

A Deadline

In response, the protestors, through spokesman Al Perillot promised not to "take any drastic action—yet" and gave the board until noon on Friday, "zero hour," to make a final decision about McKinney.



Teacher McKinney

They indicated they did not want to strike but would do so "unless Miss McKinney gets what we feel is a fair deal."

On Wednesday, Principal T.H. Battelle (unceremoniously known as "The Bat") stepped into the struggle to announce that no more meetings "can be held in the auditorium to consider this matter." Students were outraged at what they saw as a heavy-handed ruling from a principal for whom they had little respect to begin with. Battelle retreated, indicating he would allow an auditorium meeting to hear the board's decision.

Getting Ready

Preparations for a walkout continued..

By now the faculty had become involved. Some supported the idea of a strike. Barbara Noel provided her home as a place for students to discuss and make plans. With the coaches present, the Block S Club voted to support a strike, a decision that rankled sponsor Orb Fortier, who tried to calm matters as they emerged on Friday..

Ed Rosseau, Block S president, remembered Fortier "came to French class and talked to me. He thought we should stay out of it. Told me to cool it. I didn't. I thought we were right. We

(Cont. on next page)

War, cont.

were for her.”

That morning word leaked out that the board had decided not to renew McKinney’s contract, a decision that would likely lead to a student walk out.

Rosseau said that when the walkout actually took place, it was “more of a spontaneous thing. It wasn’t organized with a bullhorn or anything. The kids were milling about in front of the school during the noon hour.”

Principal Battelle made a vain attempt to restore order, then notified Superintendent Lloyd Wood, a beloved former SRHS principal. Wood came to campus and asked the students to come into the auditorium. For over an hour he listened to complaints, answered questions and explained board actions.

He told the students he would tell the board of their position but reminded them the board had the final say and its policy was not to hire married teachers.

Showdown Time

Unsatisfied, they finally went back to class., Student Body President Frank Gugliemetti suggested sending a student committee to again talk to the board, and the students agreed. But they promised to walk out the next Tuesday if the board did not give them what they wanted—justice.

Over the weekend, McKinney acted before the board or the students could. She submitted a letter of resignation. It effectively ended the strike movement and student life on the SRHS campus quieted.

The next September Mary Frances McKinney Treewitt was teaching at Palo Alto High School where she remained until she retired in 1981. Her husband survived the war and spent a career flying for Pan American Airways.

Roots of the 1940s-- Still Valid Today?

Roots, by Beverly Johnson, Flashback Magazine 9, Friends House Writing Class, 2005

(Do the Roots of the 1940s still take hold in the 21st century?)

“Though no longer active, I recently attended a 75th anniversary for a group I’ve been a member of for 58 years. It is the Young Ladies Institute.

“A neighbor had seen me at Mass at St. Rose’s (church) and asked if I would like to join. Having just moved to Santa Rosa (in 1947) a young wife and mother, I was eager to make friends. Y.L.I. was so important to me in those days. I looked forward to Thursday night meetings, to get out of the house and be with my peers. I became president and made lasting friendships.

A Real Belonger

“When I told a friend of receiving a pin for my long membership, she laughed and said, “I don’t know anyone who belongs to things as long as you do.”

“I thought of her remark and realized it is true that once I made a commitment it is hard for me to let go. I’ve been giving it a lot of thought lately and I believe I have been trying to establish roots I never felt I had when I was growing up. We moved eight times by the time I was seven, when we moved into my grandmother’s house in San Francisco. I felt a need for a sense of belonging.”

“From the friendships made in Y.L.I. we formed a “potluck” group made up of five couples. For over 50 years we met at each other’s homes for dinner. There are only five of us left. We no longer meet for dinner but keep in touch.

“The Wednesday Bridge Club originated with Y.L.I. members. There are new faces now. I am the only original member.

Good Causes

“In 1958, a group of us started an auxiliary of Children’s Home Society. For years we raised money for CHS. Our money now goes to support the Roseland Clinic. I am past president and a charter member.

“I am also a charter member of St. Eugene’s Cathedral, volunteering at the thrift shop for 15 years. My husband Bob and I joined a dance group over 40 years ago. We have the longest membership.

“I enjoyed ushering at Luther Burbank Center for 17 years before resigning two years ago.

“It is not that I am resistant to change. I delight in new experiences and love to travel, having been in 20 foreign countries and most of the United States. However, we’ve lived on the same street (in two houses) since 1951.

“Marrying at a young age, I pictured myself in a crisp white apron with a sweet pink baby in a rose covered cottage. It was all going to be so simple just like in the books I had read and the movies I had seen. To say I was naive is an understatement. Fortunately, I married a good man. Now, after four daughters, nine grandchildren, one great-grandson and almost 62 years of marriage, I have put down my own roots.

“So in my tree of life I may never feel my roots go deep enough, but hopefully I have formed enough strong branches to sustain me.”

The Two Helens, Putnam and Rudee, Dabbled in Politics

Helen Rudee was a rather quiet North Dakota farm girl who went to Stanford and became a nurse. In Santa Rosa, the wife of a doctor, she came on the Santa Rosa School Board to replace another woman, Alice Zieber. She impressed her colleagues with what Press Democrat columnist Gaye LeBaron called her “quiet determination” and calm demeanor.

Told her main duties would be the typical woman’s job of taking notes and making coffee at board meetings, Helen surprised the boys by becoming the first woman to rise to the post of Board President.

Then she declared her candidacy for a post on the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors. Since the founding of Sonoma County following the Gold Rush, there’d never been a woman on the Board of Supervisors.

Rudee often recalled that she’d never had a problem working with males as an equal — five boys had been born to her family before she arrived in Anamoose, North Dakota, on Feb. 21, 1918.

1976 Race

She won the 3rd District supervisorial race in 1976 and served three four-year terms in the seat representing the central portion of the county. As a supervisor, colleagues said Rudee kept an open mind while inviting debate, investigation and analysis.

By her example, she motivated other women to pursue their political ambitions.

Eventually, Rudee earned praise for building the foundation of the current Board of Supervisors, the first ever in Sonoma County on which women make up the majority.

Women’s Rights

“She was such a strong supporter of women’s rights and women entering the workforce, and certainly the political arena,” said Supervisor Susan Gorin, who represents Sonoma Valley and the east county. Lynda Hopkins’ addition as west county supervisor has currently solidified the board’s first female majority.

Lynn Woolsey, the former North Coast congresswoman, said on the House floor in a tribute to Rudee’s 86th birthday in 2004.

“She is a trailblazer who has made it better for all women,” Woolsey told the House.

“Helen Rudee broke the glass ceiling in these chambers



Helen Putnam, standing, and Helen Rudee (seated) were respected by Board of Supervisor colleagues. Sonoma County Library photo when she ran for office back in 1976 and won as the first female supervisor,” Supervisor Shirlee Zane, the 3rd District incumbent, told the assembly.

Rudee retired from the board in 1988 at age 70.

Longtime friend Gaye LeBaron, the Press Democrat

(Cont. on next page)

Helens,cont.

columnist and writer of Sonoma County history, said that all through her long run in public service Rudee “was a master of serenity in the face of criticism, a determined woman, with no trace of militancy — not an easy task in today’s ‘us vs. them’ world.”

Rudee lived for decades in the home on Santa Rosa’s stately McDonald Avenue that she’d moved into in 1957 with her husband, the late Dr. Bill Rudee. Rudee died in 2018 at age 100 after celebrating at a special tea party with close friends.

The Other Helen

Elegant and statuesque, Helen Putnam, born in Bakersfield in 1909, was a teacher-principal in rural Two Rock when she began her political life.

As mayor of Petaluma for 13 years, she was known as “Madame Mayor.” One observer noted that she had a “sense of style” that included wearing silver arm bracelets from wrist to elbow.

Major Issues

During her time on the Council, there were, among other issues, expanded residential growth, a case that went to the U.S. Supreme Court. At one point, her car, parked outside her school, was firebombed, presumably by political opponents.

Undeterred, Putnam moved on to join Rudee on the Board of Supervisors. She retired after 38 years in political office and died in 1975.

(For those who missed it, Ms. Putnam’s photo is on the cover of this issue, showing her dance steps to a local Petaluma grocer.

Quake Survivor

St. Rose Cathedral, finished in 1900, was the only brick or stone structure to survive the 1906 earthquake with only minor damage.

Mei Nakano Spoke Up for Japanese in U.S.

Mei Nakano, born in Colorado to Japanese immigrants, died in 2017 at age 92. She was one of eight children to writer parents who worked as tenant farmers in Colorado in the 1920’s. Eventually moving to Los Angeles with her family, Mei attended high school during which time she met her husband, Shiro (Shi), who she married in 1942 while incarcerated in a World War II internment camp at Amache, Colorado. After the war, Mei and Shi returned to California and raised three children.

Schooling

At age 46, Mei graduated from San Francisco State University. She subsequently earned a master’s degree and taught English at Laney and Diablo Valley Colleges. Finding a passion for writing, Mei co-founded Mina Press Publishing and published a children’s folk tale, *Riko Rabbit*, later authoring a description of her experiences living in an internment camp as a U.S. citizen and documenting the struggles of Japanese Americans, women in particular, in



Mei Nakano

her book, *Japanese American Women: Three Generations* (first published in 1991).

By the mid-1990s, focusing her concerns on human and civil rights issues, Mei engaged in a range of activities centered largely in Sonoma County.

She helped to establish and chair the first Sonoma County Commission on Human Rights, participated on the board of the Sonoma County Japanese-American Citizens League, and was active in the Peace and Justice Center of Sonoma County.

The Rotary’s Approach

Rotary clubs in the U.S. have had numerous strict rules, one of which was the organization was there for men only. Wives, if they wanted to be involved, could serve as helpers, known as Rotary-Anns.

In the late 1980s, in spite of some resistance, the Downtown Santa Rosa Rotary Club voted to accept women. It was the first North California club to take such action. Since then, women have become active members in many communities. Credit for the change of mood in Santa Rosa went mainly to President Rich DeLambert. He pursued the change in policy and got majority support along with some naysayers who grumbled in the background.

It’s seems to have been a popular move. Recent statistics indicate more than 25 percent of current members are women, many of whom have taken leadership roles.

In 1998, Jeanne Levin became the first female president of the downtown group.



Left to right: Penny Hastings, Jany Maximov, Karen Engman, Karen Carlton, Janet Grant, Mary Jo Simpson, Maureen Byrne, Mr. Jamison, instructor.

Senior Girls at SR High Break Barrier, Slip Into Male-Only Aggie Program

(First published in Historian of 2014, # 1)

Penny Hastings remembered the time when she and seven other girls “integrated” the famed agricultural program at Santa Rosa High School. Fearing that they might be forced to go to school at newly-opened Montgomery High School in 1958, they came up with a plan to “circumvent the system.” There were some unexpected results.

Hastings said “though we knew the difference between the nose and tail of a cow, that was about the only familiarity most of us had with animals aside from dogs and cats. Yet we decided to challenge the district’s male-only ag program at SRHS. (MHS did not offer agriculture.) We pled our case to Asst. Superintendent Mitch Soso and I guess we were persuasive enough because we became the first “large group” of female “aggies” in SRHS history.

Complications

“Wes Jamison, long-time boss of the ag department, was not happy to have girls invade his domain. He thought many of the topics discussed by the boys were unseemly for young ladies...our class of eight was sequestered and a special curriculum developed without reference to animal reproduction and reproductive parts...We went on a lot of field trips in the old Ag bus, driven by the student teacher whom Jamison assigned to teach our girls’ class.

“One of the most memorable trips was to the old MacMurray Ranch owned by (movie star) Fred MacMurray and his actress wife June Haver.

“We eight girls bonded, not over how to saddle a horse—although we learned to do that, plus use a curry comb—but over being pioneers. We faced ridicule and clearly were the ag department’s second class citizens. But today, aggies—both girls and boys—sit side-by-side learning the same curriculum.”

Thanks to New and Renewing Members

Thanks to our new and renewing members, whose support allows us to help make history come alive in Sonoma County for the past 57 years.

Eileen Barrow, Robert Beedle, Carlton & Carol DaVega, Jim and Linda Dunwoody
 Ann Galantine, Trudy Hickey, Rochelle (Shelley) Hoffman,
 Lucy Kortum, Tom & Jake Lueder, Alida Morzenti, Diana Painter, Staci Pastis,
 Dan and Nancy Schell, Sonoma County Chapter Japanese-American Citizens League, Gary & Beverly So,
 Frank Sternad, Linda Tobes, Mary Jo Tobey, Lee and Marjorie Torliatt

Title IX Gave Aid to Females

The U.S. Congress in 1972 took a major step in expanding the rights of women.

The so-called Title IX action required educational programs receiving federal assistance to avoid discriminating on the basis of sex.

The move opened doors to expand programs for girls' athletics.

Longtime Piner High School girls' basketball coach Pat Simpson called it the "beginning of the future for girls' athletics."

Equal Schedule

In 1977, for the first time in the school's history, the women's basketball team played a full sports season matching the boys' schedule.

Piner finished that season with a record of 26 wins and 2 losses.

Piner volleyball coach Betty Castino said, "It was difficult being a competitive athletic program with no funding before Title IX came into effect."

After Title IX, Castino's volleyball teams won titles in 1978, 1979, 1982 and 1983.

Title IX changed the landscape of women's athletics locally and nationally, offering opportunities for female athletes to excel in sports previously dominated by men.

It Was the Odor

Gracing Santa Rosa for many years, the Grace Brothers Brewery gave off a pungent aroma and was characterized by a piercing whistle that told local folks the time of day.



Young basketball player from early 20th century didn't have Title IX to give her support but she managed to enjoy a chance to play with her SRHS basketball team.

A SONOMA TRADITION

How Vivianis Brought Tasty Cheese to County

Sadly, the aroma of rich, soft, tasty Jack Cheese has faded away in the city of Sonoma.

But the era of the Sonoma Cheese Factory is a happy 20th century memory for anybody who looked for extra special treats in those extra-special times.

The story of Sonoma and its cheese days actually goes back to a small town in 11th century Italy. The name that's attached to the cheese era is Viviani, simple folks who lived in Lucca in Tuscany.

Its main claim to fame, it's the birthplace of the famous opera composer, Giacomo Puccini.

Sonoma County has been pleased that some folks from Lucca made their way to Sonoma County.

The Vivianis didn't get to Sonoma

until around 1910. Celso, at age 26, first got a morning job working in the quarries north of town and spent the latter part of his work days putting in long hours at the Sebastiani Winery.

He was able to send for his wife and two children a few years later.

As Prohibition limited opportunities in the "spirits industry," Viviani and partner Tom Vella opened their Sonoma Valley Creamery in 1931.

Celso experimented with a treasured recipe for a mellow, creamy cheese he called Sonoma Jack. Patrons were definitely pleased.

The partners originally turned out cream and cottage cheese which they sold to the Kraft Cheese Co., later moving more into dry and Jack cheeses. They also promoted golden Sonoma cheddars and Caraway jacks.

A new plant was built at the end of World War II. The cheesemakers worked in the back part of the building

and a retail operation was carried on at 2 Spain Street. Expansion led to new operations in Nicasio and Grants Pass, Ore.

Dedication

Dedicated June 8, 2008, a plaque from the Native Sons of the Golden West reads:

THE SONOMA CHEESE FACTORY

This building is dedicated to Celso Viviani, an Italian immigrant who came to Sonoma, California, in 1910.

Celso began making cheese in 1921 and started his cheese making business in 1931. He constructed this building in 1944 and opened the cheese factory in 1945. It was a manufacturing plant and a retail store, as it is today.

When Celso died in 1955, his son Pete took over.

World War II Duty

Pete had distinguished himself in

(Cont. on next page)



Early photo of Viviani brothers, Ulderigo, Celso and Noni. Photos for this story courtesy of Pete, in WW2 uniform at left, and other members of the Viviani family.



Truck comes in early in the morning, ready to start another busy day on Spain St.

World War II, going into the service in 1944 and serving in the heavy fighting in the South Pacific near the end of the conflict. After the war, he kept the company afloat.

He was joined eventually by son David, a former student body president at Sonoma Valley Union High School. As more and more tourists came to Sonoma, business boomed.

This was true especially in the 1970s. There have been no recent operations at the property at 2 Spain St.

(According to newspaper reports, the current owners, Naria Viviani and Nina Respicio, are working on plans to reopen the facility.)

Windsor Beer

The Windsor Historical Society hosted its ninth annual Hop Harvest and Heritage Day on a warm September day on their museum on Foxwood Drive in Windsor.

Windsor, noted for its hop production through the first half of the 20th century, continues to keep the memories of those golden days alive with this annual event. It's a special treat for people who only get a chance to pick hops once a year. This year, the museum also marked its 10th anniversary of its opening in 2009.



SONOMA MOUNTAIN

The Magic of A Great Place

“Mountains should enter into the imagination of the people that live in their shadows.”

– Roderick Peattie,

By Arthur Dawson (from the book *Where the World Begins, Sonoma Mountain Stories and Images*, published by Sonoma Mountain Stories and Images, \$40.

I have lived within sight of Sonoma Mountain now for nearly half my life. Its long ridge fills the southern horizon and culminates in a rounded spur whose shape, from my home in Glen Ellen, resembles a human shoulder. The mountain is a steady presence in my daily life and I often find myself literally shoulder to shoulder with it in the same way I might walk alongside a close companion. I don't know if there's any true reciprocity in the relationship, but I welcome the sense of easy familiarity it gives me, the friendly feeling of traveling through life side by side.

Lack of Awareness

There was a time when I didn't have that sense of kinship, didn't even know Sonoma Mountain existed. After years of traveling the world with my wife, Jill, we returned to California to settle in her childhood home of Glen Ellen.

In the beginning, I was only casually aware of Sonoma Mountain. That first winter I noticed dusk falling early, saw the December sun setting behind the mountain, and realized I was standing in its shadow. I saw storms blow in over the ridge and in summer, fingers of fog spilling over from the Petaluma side.

Three of Sonoma County's ma-

gor streams – Sonoma Creek and the Petaluma and Russian Rivers – have headwaters on the mountain.

Ringed by human towns, roads, and vineyards, Sonoma Mountain still supports a wealth of natural habitats and native species, including redwood forests, oak woodlands, mountain lions, badgers, golden eagles, and phantom orchids.

Blanket of Snow

On rare occasions over the following years, I'd awaken to discover the upper slopes blanketed with snow. Arising before dawn to get my kids off to school, I often caught a glimpse of the ridge top turning pink as the first light flooded the mountain's eastern slopes, marking the start of the day.

Sometime in those early years I acquired a slim collection of stories called *Dawn of the World*, stories that had been told by Coast Miwok speakers for generations in the oral tradition, long before being written down.



Author Arthur Dawson

One story described how the world began on top of Sonoma Mountain and how humans were created there. I began to think of it that way – as a center of the cosmos, the focal point of a landscape, a place of beginning.

Streams

Exploring that point of view revealed Sonoma Mountain to be more than just an important location in the old stories.

Three of Sonoma County's major streams – Sonoma Creek and the Petaluma and Russian Rivers – have headwaters on the mountain. Ringed by human towns, roads, and vineyards,.

Habitats

Sonoma Mountain still supports a wealth of natural habitats and native species, including redwood forests, oak woodlands, mountain lions, badgers, golden eagles, and phantom orchids.

It's a place where writers, artists, and seekers have long found inspiration and where anyone can go for recreation and renewal.

Hidden Places

It didn't take long for the mountain's magnetic pull to draw me to hidden waterfalls and redwood groves and sunny meadows at Jack London State Historic Park and nearby lands, but it was almost twenty-five years before I made it to the summit.

During most of that time, the top of the mountain was private property. Some people went there anyway and I heard about a grumpy old man who lived up there and chased trespassers off at the point of a shotgun.

A Bit of Danger

The one time a friend and I ven-

(Cont. on next page)

Magic, cont.

tured near the top, a silhouette appeared between the trees, walking briskly in our direction. Without waiting to find out if it really was the Grumpy Old Man of the Mountain, we stumbled away in a rush. Such were the good old days.

Over the decades, I've come to know Sonoma Mountain as a trickster that plays with human assumptions and aspirations.

Tricky World

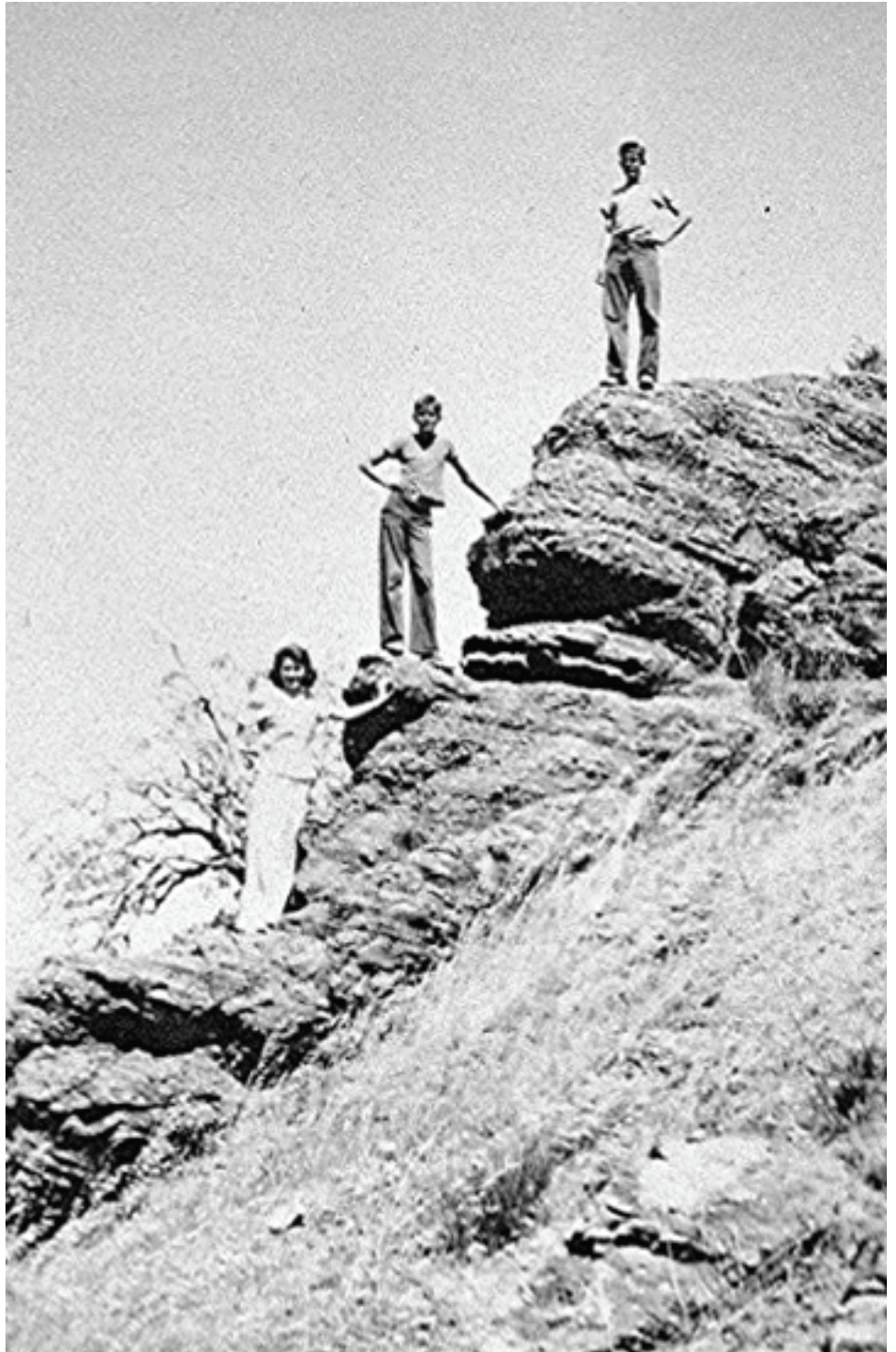
Gravity Hill is just one example. Another is the fact that the location of the summit is vague from all directions. Standing on it, it's easy to wonder if you're really at the highest point.

Even the United States Geological Survey, usually the authority about such things, got confused and originally placed the official benchmark a mile from the summit's true position.

Sometimes, in the middle of our summer drought, creeks that have been dry for months begin flowing as tectonic forces squeeze water back out of the ground. By the same token, "reliable springs" can go dry for no obvious reason.

The mountain is also a shape shifter with steep and unstable slopes that can bury and block streams as large as Sonoma Creek and undermine houses and roads to the point where they're either abandoned or take years to fix. I have affectionately nicknamed the area Old Slumpy.

(Cont. on next page)



Hikers conquer a rock formation on Sonoma Mountain

*100 Years Ago--Women Won Their
Long Fight to To Get in Line To Vote*

Magic, cont.

Amazingly, in 2009, the summit property was acquired by the Sonoma Land Trust and the Sonoma County Ag + Open Space District. (“Ag” stands for Agricultural Preservation.)

The Grumpy Old Man was gone and there was some limited public access. Busy with a career and a growing family, I took a few more years to get there. When I finally did, it was like discovering my unassuming neighbor was actually a Nobel Prize winner.

Summit Plateau

The summit plateau extends over several square miles of rolling, grassy hills interspersed with groves of California bay trees and oak woodland. On clear days, San Francisco Bay, flanked by Mount Diablo and Mount Tamalpais, stretches to the south; the Pacific Ocean glints over the western hills; and Mount Saint Helena stands tall to the north.

Emotional Feelings

In every direction, the ridges of other mountains and ranges are stacked to the horizon like green, blue, and gray stones. Though I can almost see my house from the top, it feels more akin to a much higher and more remote mountain than to my everyday life.

It reminds me, just a little, of the Bolivian Altiplano – an island in the sky full of light and distance.

And somehow, the millions of people and all their trappings within that huge landscape are barely visible.

To stand at the top of Sonoma Mountain and see the earth rolling out from under your feet in all directions is to stand at the center of a huge circle, to know it as a place where the world begins.

Banquet On Tap Mar. 29

A Runner's View Of The Great Mountain

By Tracy Salcedo

Back when I was a runner, this was my *modus operandi*. After writing for hours, I'd bog down, brain cluttered and distracted. Done, I'd think. And I'd head out. I'd run from my home on the lower skirts of Sonoma Mountain up London Ranch Road, into the state park, and out to the ruins of Jack London's Wolf House. I'd lay hands on the mossy ruins, channeling the writer who had come before. I'd breathe in the fragrance of redwood and yellowed rye grass; I'd sweat out stagnancy and lethargy. Then I'd run home to begin again. I'd re-created myself by recreating on my mountain.

For me, Sonoma Mountain holds an irresistible lure. There are miles of trails up there to discover, to explore, to become favorites to tramp down again and again. Jack London State Historic Park is my personal touchstone.

From its trailheads paths rise toward the crest, across high slopes overlooking Sonoma and Bennett Valleys and Hood Mountain, into deep woodlands and across wildflower meadows, to the lake and down Asbury Creek. For me and my Glen Ellen neighbors, the park trails are familiar, comfortable, easy on both body and mind. But even after decades of living in the mountain's shadow, I have found myself, on occasion, wandering into new places with long histories, my feet treading in the footsteps of those who passed here decades, perhaps centuries, before.

I love that. Even when I am alone, these ghost companions keep me company. Did the Sonoma Valley's indigenous people stroll the mountain's meadows and canyons for pleasure? Choosing a route from village to neighboring village, or to the harvest oak or hunting ground, why not choose the way with the view, or along the cooling creek, or through the redwoods?

I can imagine Mexican dons taking horseback rides to the summit to enjoy the views. We feel the same impulse when we turn to each other and say, “Let's go for a hike.”

Walking and talking bridges culture and time. The modern era of recreation on Sonoma Mountain – the era with a record – began with the arrival of American settlers. By the late nineteenth century, both locals and visitors from San Francisco and beyond were blazing trails. They came for the same things we cherish now: secluded redwood groves, tucked-away cascades, wild flowers in bloom. But outdoor activity was drawn from a wider palette in those days.

Local elders Milo Shepard and Jim Berkland recall fishing the mountain's streams for steelhead and rainbow trout. Others remember hunting deer and wild boar in the canyons above Glen Ellen and Eldridge. Such activities have since fallen out of favor.

These days, a hunter descending the trail hefting a gutted deer or a boy strolling into town to sell his catch of a hundred crawdads – as Berkland did in the late 1930s, at a penny apiece – would draw surprise, anger, and likely arrest. The arrival of two railroads in the 1880s brought an influx of tourists to the sleepy

(Cont. on next page)

Runner, cont.

agricultural hamlets at foot of the mountain.

Pleasure seekers from nearby cities not only meant a bigger market for local goods but also spawned a crop of boardinghouses and guest ranches. Tourists would pile off the trains and head for the hills, where local families offered overnight hospitality.

While the best known ag-ranch-turned- dude-ranch was Jack London's Beauty Ranch, which Charmian London and Jack's half sister Eliza Shepard opened to guests in 1934, many others sprawled across the slopes.

Bruning's Waldruhe Resort, high on the mountain's north side, was a popular destination. After long hikes or rides, guests would return in the evenings to home-cooked meals and dancing to fiddle music. The owners of some nearby resorts, like the Thompsons, the Sutherlands, and the Kennedys, were pioneer families who had already been on the mountain for decades.

Tourists didn't always arrive by train.

Mickey Cooke, who was born in 1931, recalls her mother telling her about a trek she made as a young lady in 1917. Traveling by ferry from San Francisco to Sausalito, she and her companions then hopped on bikes and rode forty miles, much of it on unpaved roads, to the Sonoma Valley. Reaching Glen Ellen, they decided to visit the London estate. "But it was a terribly hot day as they rode up the road to the Beauty Ranch," Cooke related. "When they got to Eliza Shepard's house, she saw how drenched they were with sweat and brought out a big pitcher of cold water. The memory of that gesture stayed with my mother all of her life."

To the modern wanderer these sound like glory days. The only rule



Waterfall is part of beauty of Sonoma Mountain. Sonoma County Library photo

was to leave a gate as you found it – open or closed. At the mountain resorts, local teens were often the grunts, making beds, prepping meals, scrubbing dishes, and maintaining the grounds. But when they had a few hours, they ventured to swimming holes, waterfalls, meadows, and shady dells – magical places where they fostered friendships and fell in love. The railroads shut down in the 1930s and early '40s. Pat Eliot, who was born in 1929, remembered that during World War Two, the London ranch was still "very popular, because if you had a gas ration card and lived in San Francisco, Sonoma was as far as you could make it on your allotment. You couldn't get to Yosemite or Tahoe so you were happy to be in Sonoma." After the war, these places became accessible again and were preferred by local tourists; most Sonoma Mountain resorts were out of business by the end of the 1950s.

Today recreation on Sonoma Mountain is dependent on inter-connected parks, preserves, and conservation easements – a wealth of open space that has taken more than half a century to build. Jack London State Historic Park, established in 1959 and greatly expanded since, now encompasses more than 1,400 acres and twenty-nine miles of trail. It includes segments of the Bay Area Ridge Trail, such as a four-mile link to North Sonoma Mountain Regional Park (opened in 2015), and the East Slope Sonoma Mountain Ridge Trail, which extends along an easement south of the park boundary.

In 2006, 600 acres of the Sonoma Developmental Center (SDC) were transferred to the historic park, legalizing paths long poached by locals. The property encompasses a historic orchard and the Grandmother Redwood tucked in a dell above Fern Lake. There is hope that one day hundreds of more acres of former SDC land on Sonoma Mountain will also become parkland.

(Cont. on next page)

Runners, cont.

On the mountain's west side, 128-acre Crane Canyon Regional Park offers five miles of trails meandering through grassland, oak woodland, and alongside Crane Creek, as well as a disc golf course and picnic area.

Preserves

Preserves like the Van Hoosear Wild Flower Preserve, along lower Carriger Creek, and Fairfield Osborn, on the mountain's upper slopes, offer limited public access to some of the thousands of acres currently under the preservation umbrella on the mountain.

Whether you can set foot on the land or not, these open spaces buffer the experience of the hiker and the city dweller stuck in traffic.

Today, besides hikers, mountain bikers, and horseback riders, you'll also see runners, birders, geocachers, botanists, and ropes course participants discovering the mountain for themselves.

It's the View

They flock here for eternal reasons – for views that stretch to Mounts Tamalpais, Diablo, and Saint Helena; for blooms of shooting stars and rare phantom orchids; for acorn woodpeckers in the oaks and red-shouldered hawks riding the thermals. Not least of all, many come to deepen friendships old and new, walking side by side on paths well traveled and long loved.

These days, I don't run. I walk. And my old dog walks with me.

Our haunts are low on the mountain, near home, on quiet streets shaded by old oaks and fragrant bays. When I can go long, I'm not so much drawn by the lure of the summit, but by rambling routes that follow the creeks and meander through the meadows. I still re-create by recreating, and my touchstone remains my home mountain.

FRIENDS WE HAVE LOST

Civil Rights Leader Willie Garrett

I first met Willie Garrett when, as a young teacher, I volunteered to join his tutoring program at South Park School around 1970.

Willie was black and his fidgety young students were also black and not totally focused on school-style learning.

He and I and two other teachers met at the school on a warm weekday evening. I decided to bring along an observer, my Japanese wife, who had come from a school system that was far less relaxed than what was usually found in America in those days.

We teachers did the best we could with ten or so high-energy youngsters. My wife was stunned when she saw several kids jump out open windows when his or her tutor looked another way. Some came back, some, well, we never did know where some of them ended up that evening.

Some people would have given up or snarled excuses, but Willie maintained his rather magical calm and positive attitude. Ultimately he helped many minority kids expand their horizons in education and beyond, working with schools, the NAACP and any other place where he was needed.

Characterized as a major civil rights pioneer in Sonoma County, Garrett died in August at age 90.

Garrett, a native of Texas, broke many racial barriers in his busy lifetime. He did his early schooling in all-black schools, but got into ROTC and became the commander of an all-white platoon during the Korean War.

Garrett came to Sonoma County when he got a job with the state at Los



Willie Garrett

Guilicos School for Girls near Oakmont east of Santa Rosa.

Willie took the job seriously, tapping local teacher friends, including myself, to bring students to LG to hold "friendship sessions" with the girls there. Many Fridays Harold Gordon from Analy High School and I brought students to share thoughts. It was a learning experience for all of us.

Life was not always smooth for young blacks in those days, especially in terms of finding housing. It was a long struggle before Willie and wife Ida were able to build a dream house high up on scenic Los Alamos road.

Garrett spent many years as head of the local NAACP and trouble-shooter when racial problems came up in the

(Cont. on p. 23)

Women on Events Calendar

Sonoma County 2020 Women's Suffrage Project Centennial Kick-Off 2-4 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 8 at the Saturday Afternoon Club, 430 10th St., Santa Rosa. Event is a start of a year-long project celebrating the centennial of the 19th amendment, giving women the right to vote. Since seating is limited, RSVP is required. Contact socowomen2020@gmail.com. There'll be guest speakers, music, tea time, photo parlor and trivia contest.

Burbank Gardens will hold its annual Holiday Open House Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 7-8, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Burbank Home and Gardens, 204 Santa Rosa, Ave.

Free parking is available at First & "D" Streets. Free rides on "Rosie the Trolley" are available to and from the Handmade Holiday Crafts Fair at the Finley Community Center.

Friends, cont.

community.

In 1962, he and a group of other blacks worked to desegregate a bar, the Silver Dollar Saloon on Fourth St., that would not serve minorities.

There were some tense moments but the affected customers won access after filing an anti-discrimination lawsuit.

In later years, Garrett became the first black appointee to a Santa Rosa board or commission when he was named to the Santa Rosa Parks and Recreation Commission. He also taught at Sonoma State University, co-founding the ethnic studies department.

A celebration of his life was held in Santa Rosa in September.---

By Lee Torliatt



Three politically savvy women from left, Susan Gorin, Shirlee Zane and Lynda Hopkins, make up a majority of the five-person Sonoma County Board of Spervisors.

Grand opening of the "Extraordinary Women Exhibit" will take place at the West County Museum Saturday, Dec. 7, at 1 p.m. at, 261 Main Street, Sebastopol.

The West County Museum presents a collaboration of Sonoma County Museums with a look at some of the extraordinary women who contributed to local communities in various ways.

Contributions from the Bodega Bay Historical Society, Cotati Historical Society, Geyserville Historical Society, Healdsburg Museum, Petaluma Historical Library and Museum, Russian River Historical Society, Santa Rosa Historical Society, West County Museum and the Windsor Historical Society will fill the showroom.

The exhibit runs through next Mar. 15.

The Women's Suffrage Movement will be the topic Monday, Dec. 16, at 7 p.m. at the Forum Room, Sonoma County Main Library, 211 E Street, Santa Rosa,

Dr. Sally Roesch Wagner, editor of *The Women's Suffrage Movement (2019)*, an intersectional anthology of works by the known and unknown women who shaped and established the suffrage movement will explore the effort to give women the vote. It's a presentation of the Suffrage Movement Speaker Series of the Sonoma County History & Genealogy Library.

Dr. Khal Schneider will discuss voting rights within the context of the Native American experience at 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 25, at the Forum Room of the Sonoma County Library, 211 E St., Santa Rosa.

Schneider is a Sacramento State University assistant professor of history who specializes in American Indian and 19th-century U.S. history. He is a tribal citizen of the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria and a member of the California Indian Curriculum

(Cont. on p. 25)

A TRAGIC LEGEND

The Story of Frog Woman Rock

The story of the Rock has been told many times. Here is the story as told in the 1926 History of Sonoma County by Honoria Tuomey It's titled "The Story of Lover's Leap, in The Russian River Valley."—Lee Torliatt

This is the beautiful but tragic legend of the "Lover's Leap" or "Squaw Rock," as it is termed by many. It bears directly upon the romantic story of the Russian River.

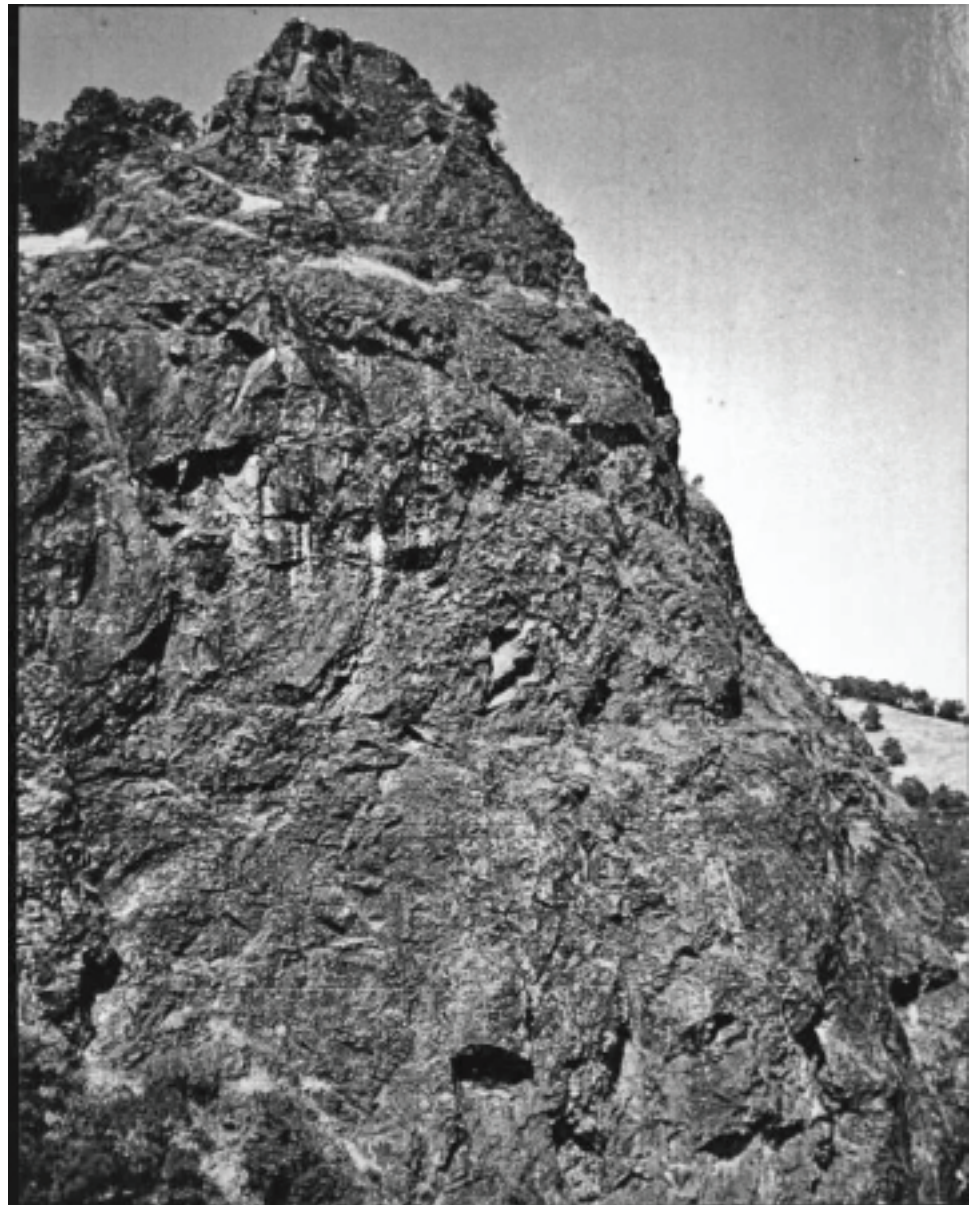
"In the deep canada through which the Russian River comes cascading down with rollicking music from the mountains into the broad valley below, a great majestic rock towers several hundred feet perpendicularly from the bank of the river which runs near its base, and visitors gaze with awe and admiration on this great monument of nature's marvelous work, and listen attentively to a romantic legend familiar to those who dwell in its vicinity.

The Story

"The story as related by a native California lady, Miss Chatta Feliz, who was reared near this great rock, and who was contemporary with the principal actors in the tragedy, runs nearly as follows:

"Before the conquest of this country by the United States, and when the old Catholic missions had much of their primitive glory and beneficent power, many of the Indians were gathered into their folds for religious instruction. With the holy inspiration of the church, which these simple children on nature imbibed, they also developed a passionate fondness for the fashions and ornaments of civilization.

"About ten miles south of the



Frog Woman Rock, once known as Squaw Rock, tells a tragic Native-American love story. The rock looms out on a rural setting north of Cloverdale overlooking the turbulent Russian River below. Sonoma County Library photo.

great rock, near where now stands the beautiful village of Cloverdale, dwelt a tribe of Indians, among whom was a young chief, a sort of Prince Imperial, whose name was Cachow.

Chief Cachow

He was a fine looking fellow of faultless physique, a mighty hunter,

skilled in the use of the bow and arrow, renowned for his prowess and rich in the trophies of the chase as well as in the plunder of the battlefield.

"To all his unheard of wealth and personal accomplishments he had added the glamour acquired by a short

(Cont. on next page)

Deadly Triangle at Frog Woman Rock

sojourn at the mission of San Rafael, and many beads and other trinkets, the gifts of the kind padres of that once famous mission. Of course, Cachow was, as well as a distinguished prince and a hero among the braves, a great favorite with the dusky ladies of his own and neighboring tribes.

Beautiful Daughter

“About six miles north of the great rock, on a beautiful plateau called Sanel, on the banks of the river, were the wigwams of the Sanelanos. The chief of these Indians had a handsome young daughter named Satuka, whose small feet and hands, wealth of dark hair, grace and comeliness, and more than all, her extraordinary skill in the cooking of venison and grasshoppers and making buckeye mush, made her as famous within the radius of her acquaintance as was the Queen of Sheba in her own country.

The Feast

“About the time of which I write, in the early autumn when the golden harvest of wild oats had been gathered into the great willow baskets, and the deer and rabbits were still fat and fish were plentiful in the streams and easily caught,

Satuka’s father made a feast and sent his heralds forth with hospitable greetings and invitations to his neighbors. Among the invited guests was the distinguished Cachow, who, with all his fame and manly beauty and gorgeous trappings, was the cynosure of all eyes, and at once became the idol of the royal Satuka.

“The juiciest acorns were roasted and pounded with Satuka’s own hands for Cachow, and the choicest delicacies of her basket were selected for him.

Betrothal

In short, which Cachow had completely enthralled the heart of Satuka, he was not insensible to her great beauty and personal accomplishments, so this, their first meeting, resulted in betrothal.

After an exchange of souvenirs, like lovers of other races, and the festivities being over, Cachow returned to his home with a promise to come back in two moons with a deerskin full of beads for Satuka’s father and make the lovely daughter his bride. But Cachow, like many who have succeeded him, was unfaithful to his promise, and before two moons had wedded another.

Dangers

“It happened in the course of events that Cachow and his new love, in making their bridal tour, built their camp fire at the base of the great rock underneath the precipice. Satuka had already become apprised of the perfidy of her lover and while busily meditating and planning revenge,

was informed by one of her scouts of the camping place of the bridal party.

When night came, Satuka left her wigwam and alone hastened through the darkness to the great rock. Ascending the western slope, she approached the precipice and looked down where by the light of the little campfire, she saw her faithless lover and his bride fast asleep.

Three Lives

“With the merciless vengeance of ‘love to hatred turned’ and the desperation of unrequited affection, she clasped in her arms a stone as large as she could lift, and sprang off the fearful height upon her sleeping victims.

“On the morrow, the Sanelanos and the tribe of Cachow held a grand imposing inquest over the dead trio, and having built a great log heap, they placed upon it the three mangled bodies and lighted the funeral pyre. Then, to the music of a solemn dirge, the wailings of the mourners, and the roaring of the flames, the spirits of the departed, as the Indians say, rode upon a chariot of smoke to the happy hunting grounds. “Since this tragic scene, the great rock has been known as “The Lovers’ Leap.”

Events, from p. 23

Coalition. His presentation is part of the Suffrage Movement Speaker Series of the Sonoma County History & Genealogy Library.

Robert P. J. Cooney, Jr., author of *Winning the Vote: The Triumph of the American Woman Suffrage Movement*, will speak Saturday, Feb. 15 to the League of Women Voters at the Rohnert Park Library, 6250 Lynne Conde Way, in Rohnert Park. On this date 200 years ago, Susan B. Anthony was born and the League of Women Voters was established on February 14, Cooney’s talk will be part of the Suffrage Movement Speaker Series of the Sonoma County History & Genealogy Library.

*Sign Up a Friend for
SCHS--Details, p. 27*

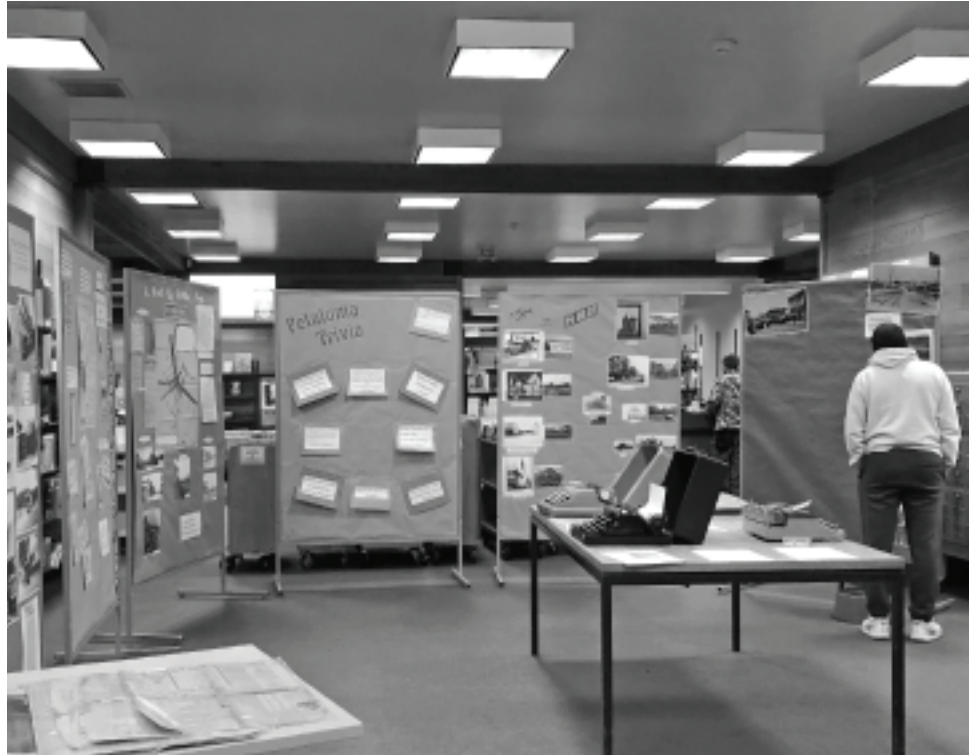
First Archive Crawl a Success

Sonoma County's first Archives Crawl, showcasing local archives and special collections, was held Saturday, Oct. 5. Organizers designed it to encourage visitors to explore institutions that collect archival material.

Sonoma County Library's three special collections, the History and Genealogy Library, the Wine Library and the Petaluma History Room along with partner organizations, hosted open houses.

Many Groups

Groups involved included Sonoma Valley Historical Society, the Sonoma County Genealogical Society, The Sitting Room Community Library, Sonoma County Historical Society, John C. Burton of Northwestern Bottle Collectors Association, Lesbian Archives of Sonoma County, Sonoma County LGBTQI Timeline, Historical Society of Santa Rosa, Sonoma County Historical Records Commission, Sonoma County Clerk-Recorder-Assessor-Registrar of Voters and Santa Rosa Rural Cemetery Preservation Committee.



Visitors get a feel for local history at October Archives Crawl

Award for 'Sonoma' Film 'Call of the Valley'

Call of the Valley: The Enduring Lure of Sonoma, the popular documentary film on the history of Sonoma Valley, was screened at the La Femme International Film Festival in Los Angeles in mid-October.

Call of the Valley, which premiered at the 2019 Sonoma International Film Festival and was shown at the Sebastiani Theatre numerous times, is written and directed by Sonoma's Julie Morrison.

It depicts Sonoma's colorful and struggling growth beginning with First Nation Native Americans; through the arrival of Europeans, then Spanish and Mexican rule; and the effects of the Gold Rush and influx of settlers.

It describes how Sonoma, the birthplace of California and the Bear Flag Revolt, grew from a sleepy valley growing fruit and dairy farming to become an international arena of premium wine.

Morrison has been invited to screen the film at the Sonoma Valley Authors Festival in May 2020 at the Fairmont Sonoma Mission Inn and Spa.

Call of the Valley will show at the Sebastiani Theatre Saturday Nov. 30, at 3:30 p.m. Tickets (\$11) can be purchased online at www.sebastianitheatre.com, and are also available at Readers' Books in Sonoma.

Air Show A Big Hit

Many Sonoma County residents were looking skyward the last weekend of September, and with good reason.

The Pacific Coast Air Museum, celebrating its 30th anniversary, presented another dazzling air show for the thousands of viewers who came to watch at the Sonoma County Airport.

The organization, operating since 1989, recently expanded its operation into new quarters near the Sonoma County Airport.



Glen Ellen Honors Shere

Jim Shere, longtime member of the Sonoma County Historical Society board and leader of efforts to save the historical values of recently closed Sonoma Development Center, was honored by his friends in and out of Glen Ellen. Jim was given a free ride downtown on a warm October Sunday as Grand Marshal of the annual Glen Ellen parade.

Let's Hear From the Suffragists

Seeking Your Ancestors involved in Women's Suffrage Movement

The U.S. Constitution's 19th Amendment granted women the right to vote (women's suffrage) after a century-long struggle.

The Amendment was finally ratified nationwide on August 18, 1920.

Were any of your ancestors involved—female or male?

Please Make Contact

If so, please provide us their biography (please submit to SCHS Board Member Sharie Sbrazza by 12/15/19 at andiamotravel@hotmail.com).

If your ancestor was a member of Native Daughters, Woman's Relief Corp, Woman's Christian Temperance Union, Woman's Suffrage Association or a church/social group, she was probably a suffragist.

Share her story! This is the year we really have a chance to show off our female ancestors.

Honoree

Dr. Ed Neal has been honored with the coveted Pioneer Award by the Healdsburg Museum and Historical Society. At the award dinner in September, it was noted that the doctor was one of the first family practice doctors in the area. He also helped organize the drive to provide the Healdsburg area with a modern hospital and set up medical programs to serve low-income clients.

New Member Dues Rates

New membership prices and categories have been announced by the Sonoma County Historical Society. The prices will be effective as we enter the new year Jan. 1, 2020.

Single fee is \$30 a year, Family is \$50, a Contributing Corporation charge is \$200 and includes a small ad in the Historian; Supporting Corporation is \$500 and includes a large ad in the Historian. Lifetime Single is \$500 and Lifetime Dual is \$750.

Memberships include four issues a year of the Historian and discounts or free entrance to events.

Join the Sonoma County Historical Society and receive Sonoma Historian. Your membership in the Sonoma County Historical Society includes one year (four issues) of Sonoma Historian. (Choose category below)

Name _____

Address _____

State _____ Zip _____ Telephone _____ E-mail _____

How did you hear about the Sonoma County Hist. Soc. _____

Check if this is a gift subscription. Gift from _____

Regular - \$30 Supporting - \$150 Life - \$500

Make your check payable to SCHS and mail to:

Sonoma County Historical Society, P.O. Box 1373, Santa Rosa, CA 95402

Sonoma County
Historical Society
P.O. Box 1373
Santa Rosa, CA 95402

Change service requested.

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Santa Rosa, CA
Permit No. 489

Banquet Honors Women

In 2020, there will be Sonoma County-wide celebrations, lectures and exhibits honoring the Women's Vote 1920-2020 Centennial. SCHS will present a special event at our 51st Annual Awards Lunch set for Sunday, March 29 at Santa Rosa's Flamingo Resort.

Journalist Gaye LeBaron will moderate a panel of speakers—in realms of government, media and education—who will reveal the historic role women played to improve the quality of life for all Americans; especially for used in Sonoma County and the North Bay.

Panelists

Panelists include event producer Leslie Graves, a Steering Committee member who sits on Sonoma County 2020 Women's Suffrage Project.

As a community activist, promoter and non-profit program manager, Leslie has organized local events such as Women's March 2018-19, Families Belong Together Rally and Wednesday Night Market 2016-18.

In addition to the 2020 Women's March on January 18, she is organizing Santa Rosa's Rosie the Riveter Rally on International Women's Day for March 8. Leslie also serves on Santa Rosa Courthouse Square Public



Gaye LeBaron, noted author and longtime columnist for the Santa Rosa Press Democrat, will moderate a panel on “Women With the Vote” at the SCHS banquet Sunday, Mar. 29. She is shown with her husband, the late John LeBaron.

Art Committee and Downtown Area Specific Planning Advisory Committee

More details and Luncheon Reservation Form will appear in the next issue of the Sonoma County Historian.

Help Wanted

The Annual Awards Lunch Committee seeks your help:

- 1) By 12/15/19, kindly send us nominations for awardees; see our website for categories.
- 2) By 12/1/19, kindly advise if you can donate an item or gift card for raffle by emailing Lunch chair Sharie Sbrazza at andiamotravel@hotmail.com

Nick Green's Legacy

It's been 25 years since Nicholas Green, a seven-year-old boy from Bodega Bay, was killed by bandits while vacationing in Italy in late September of 1994.

The world was touched when the innocent boy's parents, Reg and Maggie Green, donated his internal organs and corneas to seven Italians, five of whom were critically ill. The actions of the Green family created a great chance to build a bridge between Americans and Italians that is still quite strong.

To mark the anniversary of the tragic event, the parents returned to Italy to take part in their continuing efforts to meet with people who survived because of the donations and work with medical specialists on issues related to organ donation.

A bell tower in Bodega Bay remains to remind residents and visitors of the efforts of the Greens to remind the world that in spite of tragedy, there are ways to make the world a better place—LT