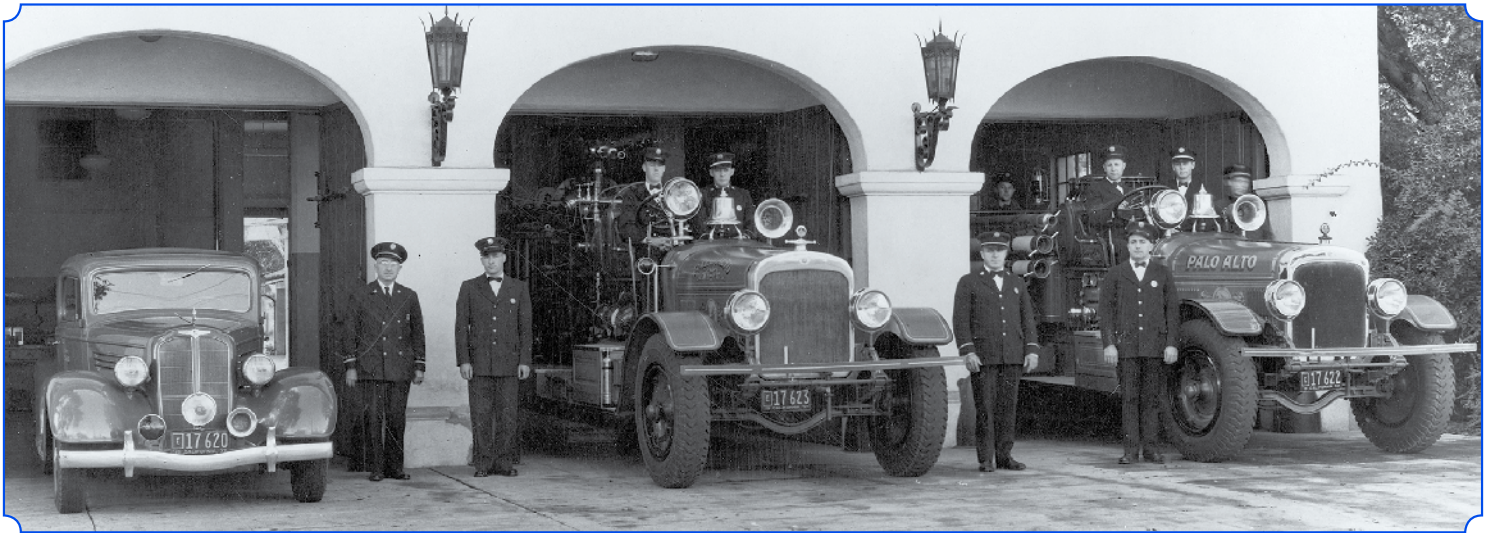


The Palo Alto Historical Association presents

IF THERE'S SMOKE, THERE'S A FIRE DEPARTMENT!



POSTPONED: Date To Be Determined **Palo Alto Art Center - 1313 Newell Road, Palo Alto**



Nick Marinaro
Retired Palo Alto Fire Chief

Look for a future announcement of when Nick Marinaro, retired Palo Alto Fire Chief, will be talking about the history of the Palo Alto Fire Department from inception to present day.

Nick will be focusing on the growth of the department, changes in call volume, the nature of fire calls, changes in service delivery, and the transition to emergency medical services.

Nick's entire 37 ½ year fire-fighting career was spent with Stanford and Palo Alto Fire Departments. He began as a student firefighter with Stanford prior to graduation, and in 1973 he joined the Stanford Fire Department full time. Stanford Fire later merged with Palo Alto and Nick remained with Palo Alto, rising through the ranks until his promotion to Fire Chief in 2004. He retired in 2010.

Free and Open to the Public ~ Refreshments Served



COVID-19 and PAHA: We apologize for any inconvenience due to the postponement of our March 8th PAHA program. The plan is to reschedule Steve Staiger's talk on Alpine Inn to later this year. We are sensitive to the changing level of concern over the virus and will make a determination of whether to postpone each program as we get closer to the date.

If you did not receive our email about this recent cancellation and would like to be alerted by email about potential postponements or cancellations of PAHA programs, please send us your email address to pahamembership@gmail.com.



Darla Secor
PAHA Historian

**2019 PALO ALTO
HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION
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The Palo Alto Historical Association, a 501(c)(3) charitable non-profit organization, was established in 1948 as successor to an earlier organization founded in 1913. Its main objectives are:

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

The Guy Miller Archives of the Palo Alto Historical Association are stored at Cubberley Community Center, K-7, Phone (650) 329-2353.

Board meetings are held at 4pm on the first Wednesday of each month (except August) at the Guy Miller Archives. Public programs are held at 2pm on the first Sunday of each month (October-December, February-May) at various locations in Palo Alto. Programs include speakers. The final program of the year is held in June and includes a dinner and a program. The public is welcome at all programs.

Letter from the Archives

Last month the PAHA Archives received an exciting acquisition! PAHA member, Jim Lyons, contacted us to let us know that 66 bound volumes of The Daily Palo Alto Times (an almost complete set from 1893-1933) were ready to be moved from the Los Altos History Museum to PAHA's new storage area in the basement of Rinconada Library.

Jim had wanted to donate these volumes to us in 2010, but we were unable to find the space needed to house them.

Los Altos History Museum has been storing them these past years, and on February 7th, Jim, Steve, and I headed over to their vault to move the volumes to their new home. It took a considerable amount of muscle and patience to haul them up from the basement (thankfully there is an elevator!) and out to our vehicles.



Our new acquisition safely in the PAHA Archives



A quarter of the volumes in the back of my mini-van

They filled Steve's pickup truck, Jim's station wagon, and the back of my mini van! Now safely housed on our shelves in the basement of Rinconada Library, we hope to provide access to them in the near future.

A Bit of England on Ramona

by PAHA Board member, Anita Delaney



The London House, photo courtesy of Morgan Wade

In the 1970s and 80s, the place to go to relax with a cup of tea was the London House on Bryant Street. It was an English pub and tearoom with imported British

items for sale on the mezzanine level. The owner was Sheila Shadwell, an English lady born and bred. She missed the many tea rooms found in England, and in 1969, she saw an opportunity to open one.

The first tearoom was a small space with a large fireplace and a tiled floor. By the following year, the shop had expanded into more of the building including the patio out in front.

Soon after the expansion Sheila lost the lease for that site, but fortunately, she was able to move the tea room to a larger historic building at 630 Ramona, originally designed by Birge Clark. The new building was large enough to include a tearoom, a pub, and a Celtic gift shop.

The interior of the London House exuded charm. Sturdy, dark brown tables and chairs inhabited (Continued on page 3)

Finding the Best Home for a Piece of History

by Ross DeHovitz, M.D.



Bound volume of the St. Louis Post Dispatch from 1942

Palo Alto historian Steve Staiger recently received a call from a local resident asking if he would be interested in taking a book of newspapers a local resident had in their home. While cleaning out the home, the residents had found a bound copy of newspapers from the March 1942 St. Louis Post Dispatch. This is the type

of bound volume often prepared for library reference bookshelves. But for some unknown reason, this volume was in a person's home library.

Steve knew the PAHA Archives would not be particularly interested in keeping a file of newspapers from St. Louis, but he offered to help find a more suitable home for it and brought it to the Archives.

While I was visiting the Archives to drop off some items, I noticed the huge bound copy of the Post Dispatch. I asked about it and Steve told me where he got it. Having been born and raised in St. Louis, I was very familiar with the paper. This particular year was in the middle of World War 2 and every front page had a different story about the war. It also had a robust sports section discussing the St. Louis Cardinals getting ready for the regular season.

Steve asked me if I was willing to investigate whether any libraries in St. Louis might be interested in acquiring the papers, and I agreed to see what I could

find out. I also thought it would be great to show it to my mother who grew up in St. Louis and was 13 years old at the time these papers were published.



Dr. Ross DeHovitz' mother perusing the newspaper volume

After sending a few emails, I found a library in St. Louis interested in the volume for their rare book collection. The St. Louis Mercantile Library is an affiliate library for the University of Missouri, St. Louis. It is the oldest library west of the Mississippi, having been founded in 1846 by civic leaders and philanthropists. Today, it concentrates on the history of Western Expansion and the St. Louis region.

I took the book to a FedEx office where they boxed it up and sent it on its way. The library received it a week later and wrote to thank me for sending it on. While the purpose of an Archive is to store and make available items of local interest, sometimes it's just as important to find the best home for items we don't really have a reason to keep. For both the March 1942 St. Louis Post Dispatch bound volume and the St. Louis Mercantile Library, it worked out perfectly.



(Continued from page 2) a light filled room. On a bookcase, boxes of tea were on display and available for purchase.

Enjoying lunch or tea at the London House was one of the pleasures when shopping downtown. Their menu of sandwiches and desserts were unique and tasty. When I had lunch there, I usually selected the beef tongue sandwich (with mild mustard) along with Eccles cake for dessert.

Browsing the many beautiful imported items in the Celtic shop was an after-lunch must. One of the unique items for sale was the Sherlock Holmes Deerstalker hat. When you tried one on, you could almost imagine yourself talking to Watson about a case!

A holiday tradition at the London House was a Christmas dinner theatre. Since I was on a teacher's

salary and the tickets were pricy, I only attended the extravaganza once. I did get my money's worth as the dinner was delicious, and the entertainment was magnificent. Christmas crackers were popped, and everyone enjoyed the holiday festivities.

In January 1993, after 24 years, the London House closed its doors. The primary reason was that Sheila had started a new enterprise, The London Aunts Travel Consultants. Managing two businesses proved too much of a challenge.

Information for this article was taken from the booklet, London House, English Tea Room, recipes, 1969-1993 by Sheila Shadwell. "... I sincerely hope that you will have fond memories of the London House Tea Room when you make a batch of scones or some chocolate cake and sit down for a quiet cup of tea or cuppa, as the English say." [Page 11]

History Jaunts for the Spring



A NOTE TO OUR READERS: Be sure to check the website or call the sponsors of events to confirm availability. Many are cancelling or postponing events due to the novel coronavirus outbreak.

Palo Alto Stanford (PAST) Heritage offers eight walks in its Spring line up, including two new tours: Barron Park on Sat, March 17 and Greenmeadow Eichlers on Sat, March 23. All PAST walking tours start at 10:00 am and last about 90 min. Mark your calendar now for the Homer Avenue Walk on Sat, April 25, led by Steve Emslie and beginning at the Woman's Club, 475 Homer Ave., Palo Alto. For the full schedule of upcoming PAST Heritage tours, visit www.pastheritage.org/tours.html.



Wilder Ranch State Park offers an opportunity to hike and enjoy the scenery just north of Santa Cruz. The drive and the \$10 vehicle fee are well worth the investment. Wilder is a historic site housing an 1800s dairy ranch, with farm animals and an interpretive center. There are 35 miles of hiking trails, some for the intrepid and some for amblers. Grab a map at the kiosk or the ranger station, and pick your route! If hiking is not your thing, visit the restored ranch and chat with the friendly and well-informed docents. Wilder Ranch State Park is located 1401 Coast Road in Santa Cruz. For more information visit www.parks.ca.gov or call (831) 423-9703.

The Cantor Arts Center at Stanford continues to offer a varied calendar of events and docent tours, which are free and open to the public. Reservations are not necessary.

- Cantor highlights: Wed, Thur, Fri, Sat and Sun, 1:00 pm
- Anderson Collection: Wed. at 12:30 pm, Sat and Sun at 12:30 pm and 2:30 pm
- Rodin Collection: Wed. 2:00 pm, Sat 11:30 am, and Sun 3:00 pm
- Memorial Church: Fri. at 1:00 pm. Meet at Church entrance on Main Quad.
- Windhover: Sat. at 11:00 am. Meet at Santa Teresa and Samuel Morris Way, Stanford.



From the Cantor Museum website

The Cantor is located at 328 Lomita Way, Stanford. Open Wed–Mon, 11:30 am – 5:00 pm, Thurs. 11:00 am – 8:00 pm. For more information, visit museum.stanford.edu.

Don't miss the kick off of San Francisco's year-long celebration of **Golden Gate Park's 150th anniversary**, Saturday, April 4. In addition to the Park's perennial treasures, there will be special activities, food offerings and an illuminated 150-foot tall observation wheel intended to provide sweeping views of San Francisco. For more information, check in regularly on the website www.goldengatepark150.com.

PAHA Upcoming Programs

May 3: PAHA/PAST celebration of 1920 Centennial Buildings, presentation of Awards for Historic Preservation/Restoration, and a guest speaker

June 10: PAHA annual dinner, and 50th anniversary of Gryphon Music

The Heritage Program

Airs on Channels 28 or 30 on various days and times. It is simultaneously streamed on the Media Center website midpenmedia.org/heritage Check website for schedule

DVDs available from the Guy Miller Archives, Cubberley Community Center, K-7
Tues. 4-8 pm, Thurs. 1-5 pm



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Betty Gerard, Peggy McKee, Leslie Mills, Luana Staiger, Melissa Verber, *Editorial*
Jon Kinyon, *Editorial & Design*
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Photographs courtesy of PAHA Guy Miller Archives unless otherwise noted.

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