



The Tall Tree Newsletter

of the PALO ALTO
HISTORICAL
ASSOCIATION

Since 1913

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The Palo Alto Historical Association and Palo Alto Stanford Heritage present

The 25th Annual Centennial Plaque And Historic Preservation Awards



329 Lincoln Avenue, built in 1920

Sunday, November 7, 2021

2:00 – 3:00 pm

Webinar link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87169096741>

Palo Alto Stanford (PAST) Heritage, in collaboration with the Palo Alto Historical Association (PAHA), will host via Zoom, the recognition of centennial buildings built in 1920. Due to Covid restrictions, PAST was unable to hold its 2020 awards program.

We will also recognize preservation projects that renovate, rehabilitate or restore local historic buildings.

This celebration is part of PAST's mission to promote the importance of preservation of the historic architecture, neighborhoods, and character of the greater Palo Alto and Stanford areas.

In addition, the program will feature PAHA historian, Steve Staiger, discussing "How to Research the History of Your Home" and architect Lee Lippert, sharing examples of results from conducting research into a historic building.



1204 Middlefield Road, built in 1920



Lee I. Lippert, Architect

Lee I. Lippert, AIA, and his wife Carol, have done business as Lippert & Lippert Design in Palo Alto for over 25 years. Lippert studied architecture at the Rhode Island School of Design and has been serving the Palo Alto community for the last 17 years on both the Architectural Review Board, and on the Planning and Transportation Commission. Lippert has also served at the executive leadership level for both the local and state level of American Institute of Architects.

Please join PAST and PAHA in celebrating the preservation of Palo Alto's unique historic character.

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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. Although PAHA continues to operate during the COVID-19 pandemic, due to the current restrictions, the Archive is only open for prearranged appointments. To contact the Archive or to make an appointment to visit, email steve.staiger@cityofpaloalto.org or call (650) 329-2353.

Until further notice, PAHA board meetings are held via Zoom Meeting at 4pm on the first Wednesday of each month (except August). Public programs are held via Zoom Webinar at 2pm on the first Sunday of each month (October-December, February-May). Program information and webinar links are available in the Tall Tree newsletters and on our website, www.pa-history.org. The public is welcome to join all programs.

Trinqual's Hydropathic

By PAHA Board Member, Amanda Brown



Alphonse Trinqual's mystery ark

Did you know that in the early 1900s there was an ark in Matadero Creek? A Frenchman by the name of Alphonse Trinqual began building the ark circa 1905 and worked on it for over 10 years. For most of the ark's existence it sat stuck in the mud, and when the tide was right, it did its best to float. Who was this mysterious ark builder and what ever happened to the ark?

Alphonse Trinqual, also known as Twinkle, arrived in the city of Mayfield in 1903. Not much is known about Trinqual's early years, but the few articles that exist describe him as a French born man who arrived in the San Francisco Bay Area in the 1870s. In 1905 he opened a bicycle and watch repair shop on Lincoln Street (now California Avenue) and began building the ark beside his shop.

The story of Trinqual and his ark was published in several newspapers nationwide, from the Washington Post in 1913 to the Evansville Press in Illinois in 1919. Trinqual named the ark Hydropathic, perhaps in preparation for another great biblical flood. The ark stood 80 feet in length and was made of redwood and pinewood with a metal interior. In

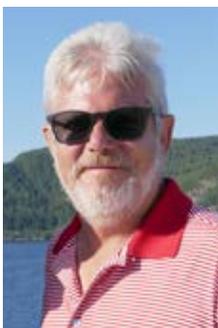
a San Francisco Chronicle article from 1913, reporters questioned how he would be able to save animals as Noah had—as 80 feet surely could not hold every animal two by two. Apparently Trinqual did not plan on housing animals, as he stated to a reporter in 1917 he wanted “nothing to do with the flesh of the Earth.”

In a 1973 San Jose News article, Harry Mills, who knew Twinkle from his teenage days hiking with friends in the marshlands, described Trinqual as “a man of mystery, a Bible student, inventor, bicycle repairman, and somehow independently wealthy; no one knows why or how he came into his wealth” and he “could quote any Bible verse you asked.” With little known of Trinqual's early life, nor how he came to settle in Mayfield, it was unclear why he felt compelled to construct an ark.

In 1910, Trinqual sold his bike shop, and soon after had wheels secured onto the ark and rolled it into the marshland where he spent most of his time. But as the area continued to develop, the ark's location was in the way. Trinqual was moved off the land, and his ark was burned. According to Mills, it took “over a week to burn fully.” What was the ark's replacement, you may be wondering? It was the MacKay Radio and Telegraph Company's 626-foot radio tower, a Bayshore Highway landmark.

Then, just as quickly as Trinqual wandered into town, he disappeared the same way. As to where Trinqual went, Mills stated, “the last anybody heard he has gone up to a ranch near Chico.”

Five Things Palo Alto is Known For



Steve Staiger
PAHA Historian

In my travels across the country (which includes all 50 states) and when I'm in other countries, I often talk about Palo Alto with the people I meet. In doing so, I frequently hear five attributes that non-Palo Altans bring up. The top two features Palo Alto is

recognized for, by both Palo Altans and non-Palo Altans alike, is that it's the home of Stanford University and the birthplace of Silicon Valley. After these, the third most identified link to Palo Alto by non-Palo Altans is the Grateful Dead!

A few years ago I met a young Norwegian teacher in a museum in Bergen. When he learned I worked in Palo Alto, he brought up his interest and knowledge of the Grateful Dead. (Continued on page 3)

Tiger Poet

By PAHA Board Member, Bo Crane



Tim Barnes

Forrest Barnes was a Hollywood screenwriter in the 1930s before moving his family out of Beverly Hills to Carmel, where he directed plays and drove a taxi. He contracted polio and died in October 1951. In 1953, his widow Evelyn, a novelist, relocated to Palo Alto with her two sons, one of whom, Tim Barnes, became one of Palo Alto High School's (Paly) most storied football running backs.

Tim Barnes, Paly class of '64, played football on one of the school's most successful teams. He and the other senior starters—Brill, Bishop, Brakesman, Brandin, Lerch, Forse, Catania, Thomson, Martin, and Greene—as sophomores and Varsity Juniors, had lost only one game in each of their prior two seasons. In the fall of 1963, Paly played cross-town rival, Cubberley, at Paly for their season's first league game. Barnes scored the winning touchdown that day, as the Vikings won 28-26. The game was written up in the local paper "as fine a football game as ever seen on the Peninsula." The team shut out the rest of their league opponents with Barnes, nicknamed "Tiger" in the yearbook, having set records in rushing yards gained and touchdowns. He was the

league's greatest back on a heralded team producing the league's greatest season. With over 1,000 rushing yards total, Barnes was selected by the San Francisco Examiner as the "Northern California Back of the Year."

Unfortunately, Barnes tore his knee ligament in the season's last game, requiring surgery, but recovered by the spring to run track. He went to Oregon State, but football was not the same. He left the team and returned to Palo Alto, playing for Foothill Junior College the following year. In the season ending bowl game, Foothill's lone touchdown was attributed to "Tom" Barnes, misspelled by the local paper only two years from his remarkable season.

After Foothill, Tim moved to Portland where he resides today. He obtained a masters degree from Portland State University and pursued his love of poetry. He has published five books of poetry while teaching in the English Department at Portland Community College for 25 years. In 2014 he published his book of poems, *Definitions for a Lost Language*, wherein he wrote,

*What do they call him now, that boy?
Tim, which almost spells time.*

That which made him special in football, he put into his writings and poetry teachings.



(Continued from page 2) The Dead frequently comes up in conversations with others from outside Palo Alto. It is surprising how many people, and not just "Deadheads," are knowledgeable about the Grateful Dead's connection to Palo Alto.

The fourth Palo Alto thing known by non-Palo Altans is Joseph Eichler and his mid-century modern Eichler homes. Eichler is recognized as one of the leading proponents of the mid-century modern architectural style. In numerous books and journal articles, his name and his connection to Palo Alto is mentioned. He built nearly 10,000 homes in California with a quarter of them in Palo Alto, and operated from an office he built on Embarcadero Road near the Edgewood Shopping Center.

The fifth thing may be a surprise to many Palo Altans, since I believe its existence and history is far better known outside of Palo Alto than by most local residents. The "Third Wave," which was a social experiment conducted by Cubberley High School teacher, Ron



Ron "Pigpen" McKernan's grave at Alta Mesa Memorial Park, he was a founding member of the Grateful Dead.

Jones, in 1967. He led his sophomore students in a role-playing experiment that culminated in a social atmosphere reminiscent of Nazi Germany. Today, the "Third Wave" concept is taught to students in schools throughout the world, but especially in Germany. Ron Jones and several of his students from that experiment travel the world today and talk with students about their experiences.

Several years ago, I helped some of the former Cubberley students with their production of a documentary film called "The Wave." However, very few Palo Altans know about this event that took place in Palo Alto before they were born or moved to Palo Alto.

In the future, some of these "things" may drop in the rankings as newer events or persons become more recognized or identified with our community. The story of Google or Facebook may supplant one or more of these stories in the near future, leading one to wonder what Palo Alto will be known for in the decades to come.

Jaunts for Fall

While we are, for the most part, returning to normal or adjusting to the “new normal,” be sure to phone and/or check websites for updated pandemic protocols.

With Halloween right around the corner, jaunt over to **Winchester Mystery House** for their All Hallows’ Eve events! Available through October 31, reservations are required. Located at 525 S. Winchester Blvd in San Jose.

For time ticket information, call 408-247-2000 or visit www.winchestermysteryhouse.com/all-hallows-eve.

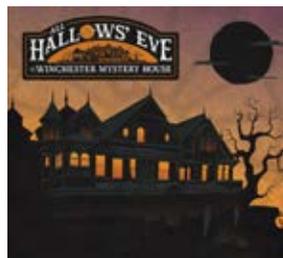


Image courtesy of Winchester Mystery House



PAST (Palo Alto Stanford Heritage) Docent Guided Walking Tours

Tours begin on Saturdays at 10:00 am. All participants must be vaccinated and wear a mask. Check the PAST website at www.pastheritage.org for more information.

October 30: **College Terrace**. Meet at 1181 College Ave.

November 6: **Barron Park**. Meet at Cornelis Bol Park, 3590 Laguna Ave.

November 13: **Homer Avenue**. Meet at Woman’s Club, 475 Homer Ave.

The **Oakland Museum of California** reopened in August with its stunning Mothership: Voyage into Afrofuturism (through February 2022). “Afrofuturism is a lot of things. It’s the past, present, and future reimagined through a Black cultural lens.” Don’t miss this opportunity to “experience the intergalactic cosmos of Afro futuristic icons.” The Oakland Museum of California is located at 1000 Oak St. in Oakland and is open Wednesday-Sunday, 11 am – 5 pm.

Ticket information and pandemic protocols are available at 510-318-8400 and at www.museumca.org.

Make plans to participate in a variety of fall events at Palo Alto’s treasure, **Elizabeth F. Gamble Garden**, located at 1431 Waverley Street. Pandemic protocols remain in place and reservations are required. For updates and ticket information, call 650-329-1356 or visit www.gamblegarden.org.

Sunday, November 7, 4:00-5:30 pm: The Chamber Music Society of San Francisco will perform

Tuesday, November 16, 1:30-2:30 pm: Tour the house and grounds. The tour is free for members, \$5 for non-members.

Saturday, November 20, 9:30-11:30 am: Celebrate the Thanksgiving season with a seasonal flower arranging class



Image courtesy of Gamble Garden

Welcome New PAHA Member & New Lifetime PAHA Members

- Joan Norton
- Jennifer DiBrienza
- David MacKenzie
- Steve & Luana Staiger
- Arthur Keller

Upcoming Programs

- December 5
- January 30
- March 6

Check our website at www.pahistory.org for program information

Previous PAHA Programs

If you missed the Oct 3rd program, *Against the Odds: Palo Alto Businesses Over 50 Years Old*, you can find this and other recent PAHA program videos on Vimeo by following this link: <https://vimeo.com/625782882>

The Heritage Program

You can also watch the most recent PAHA program on local TV. Visit <https://midpenmedia.org/local-tv/> and enter the word “Heritage” in the search box to find the broadcast schedule for PAHA programs.

In Memoriam Richard Whaley

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