



The Tall Tree Newsletter

of the PALO ALTO HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

Since 1913

January 2023 Volume 46, No 4

The Palo Alto Historical Association presents

Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About Palo Alto History But Were Afraid to Ask (until now)

Sunday, January 22, 2023 2:00 – 4:00 pm

Palo Alto Art Center ~ 1313 Newell Road, Palo Alto



This month's PAHA program is your chance to find answers to those Palo Alto history questions you have wondered about. Now you will have the opportunity to ask 'the experts' as PAHA Historian Steve Staiger will host a panel of local experts for a fun interactive program with audience participation. Joining Steve will be two PAHA Board Members, Jerry Tinney and Jeff Day, and a local journalist, Gennady Sheyner.

Since he was born in the old Palo Alto Hospital, Jerry Tinney has lived in and around Palo Alto for 89 years. During that time, Jerry has experienced a great deal of Palo Alto history that he loves to share. Although much younger, Jeff Day knows a lot of Palo Alto facts, trivia, and tidbits. Palo Alto Weekly journalist Gennady Sheyner has been reporting Palo Alto news (which becomes history after some undefined period of time) since 2008. His knowledge of the recent past will be valuable in our responses to your questions.

Are there questions about Palo Alto you have been wondering about, but never pursued seeking an answer? We hope to entertain you (and your questions) with our

answers! All questions are fair game, no matter how insignificant they may be. We hope there may be others in the audience who can contribute to your inquiries as well. If there are questions we are not able to answer during the program, we will take those back to the Archives and do the research to find an answer.

Join us on January 22nd at 2:00 pm and bring your questions! You may also be able to help provide an answer to some Palo Alto puzzles. Here are some questions to prompt you to think of others: Why does Palo Alto have two business districts? Before video games, what did kids do in Palo Alto? Which of the movie theaters in town was your favorite?

Books for Environmental Reading

In follow-up to our December 2022 program, please go to the Publications page of our website (pahistory.org/publications.html) to find a list of interesting books and articles provided by our speakers. These books can be found at your favorite local bookshop.

Free and Open to the Public ~ Refreshments Served

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Letter from the President



**Georgie Gleim
PAHA President**

Roth Building. Soon construction will begin on the future home of our City Archives. Maintaining these archives and providing access to them is one of the chief responsibilities of PAHA, and we are excited that we are one step closer to having them housed within the Museum. This important step forward is especially gratifying because the idea for the Palo Alto Museum started with the

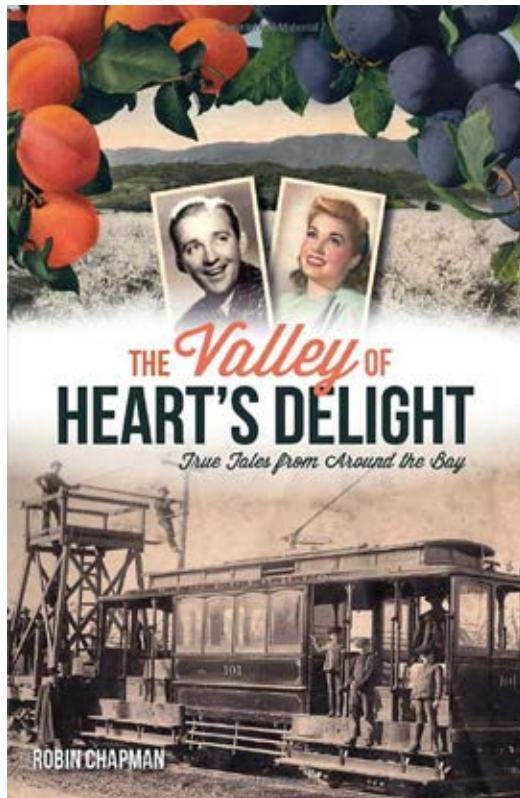
Welcome to 2023! The Palo Alto Historical Association starts the year off on an exciting note, as the Palo Alto Museum has just signed a 40-year lease with the City of Palo Alto for the historic

PAHA Board, and the two organizations maintain close connections.

We also look forward to continuing to host our in-person programs. Instead of eight programs and eight Tall Tree newsletters, in 2023 we will be hosting six programs and producing six newsletters. The dates of our 2023 programs are listed on page 4 of this newsletter. We will be presenting our programs at the Palo Alto Art Center—another local treasure that provides excellent facilities for these programs. Look for our program announcements in the Tall Tree and via our emailed announcements.

On behalf of the PAHA Board, thanks to all our supporters. We appreciate those who were able to attend our in-person programs in 2022 and look forward to seeing you attend in the coming year. Best wishes to our membership for a healthy and prosperous 2023.

Book Review by Steve Staiger



"The Valley of Heart's Delight: True Tales from Around the Bay"
by Robin Chapman, published by History Press, 2022

When I introduced Robin Chapman as the November PAHA program speaker, I mentioned her success as an author of local histories. In fact, she noted that with the completion of the book being reviewed here, she now has completed her trilogy of local history books, adding to "California Apricots: The Lost Orchards of Silicon Valley" (2013) and "Historic Bay Area Visionaries" (2018).

This latest book, "The Valley of Heart's Delight: True Tales from Around the Bay" (2022), features 45 articles that previously appeared in the Los Altos Town Crier newspaper over the past few years where Robin writes a local history column. The stories are grouped, thematically, into seven chapters. There are new stories, but she has also written several updates to stories that were found in one of her earlier titles.

In the chapter titled "Apricot Days", she reviews the history of the apricot tree and its introduction to the Santa Clara Valley. She also recalls the first meeting of celebrated valley orchardist Charles Olson and celebrated technology leader, and amateur apricot orchardist, David Packard. Olson remains one of Robin's friends to this day. (Continued on page 3)

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.

PAHA Board meetings are held at 5pm 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 and 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.

George Horine: Paly Alum World Record Holder

By PAHA Board member Bo Crane



George Horine, 1912 Olympics

In 1912, a Palo Alto resident and Stanford student named George Leslie Horine twice set a world record in the high jump.

In 1886, George's mother, Elnora "Ella" Webb married William Warren Horine, one year out of the University of Michigan. William was a fruit grower in Escondido, 30 miles north of San Diego. George was born in 1890. In 1892, William died. Five months later, George's sister was

born. Moving her two children along with her maiden aunt to Palo Alto, Ella began attending Stanford University. In 1902, she got a degree in Latin and started teaching at Orange County's Santa Ana High School. She then went to teach in "Carson, Nev." and left her son and daughter in the care of her aunt.

George took up high jumping during his senior year at Santa Ana High School, graduating in June 1907 as Ella began teaching at Palo Alto High School in the fall. His sister's name does not appear at Paly until the fall of 1909. He had two terms out of school before enrolling in Stanford as a freshman and competing in the spring 1910 track season. Prior to entering Stanford, George practiced high jumping in his backyard at 264 Channing Avenue, now a restored Victorian. Apparently, his home's backyard layout forced him to approach the bar from the left. He rolled his right leg over the bar, a style now known as the "western roll."

On March 26, 1912, George set a new collegiate high jump record. On March 29, he cleared 6 feet 6 1/8 inches, setting a new world record, bettering the then record height by a half-inch. At the Olympic Trials at Stanford, George broke his own record by being the first to jump 2.00 meters, recorded on an Angell Field plaque as 6 feet 7 inches.

The July 1912 Olympic games were held in Stockholm. Horine earned a bronze medal for third place in the high jump, making 1.89 meters (6.2 feet), then

missing at 1.93 meters. Jim Thorpe, the famous Native American athlete, tied for fourth, and later won the pentathlon and decathlon.



George Horine setting the high jump record at 6' 6 1/8", 1912

While a patient with a knee injury, George met Annamay van Thiele when she was his nurse. She was born in London and was living in San Jose. In March 1915, George married Annamay. The couple moved to Winton in Merced County, where she gave birth to their daughter in December 1915. WWI cancelled the 1916 Olympics along with his hopes of bettering his 1912 medal result. In a New York Times article, George said he was retired to Winton to "devote all his time to the three things dearest to his heart—his wife, his baby daughter, and his farm." They eventually had two more children.

George and Annamay remained on their farm on Winton Way. Both are at the Winton Cemetery, their names inscribed side by side on a singular headstone.

(Continued from page 2)

Stories introduce Bing Crosby, Esther Williams, and Alfred Hitchcock and their connections to the Santa Clara Valley in the "Famous Faces" chapter.

Some of us may have been aware that Alfred Hitchcock spent time away from Hollywood in Santa Clara County, but were you aware his movie "The Birds" was influenced by an event reported by local newspapers

about an incident involving the strange behavior of some birds in Santa Cruz County?

If you have read any of Robin's previous books, you will enjoy this latest exploration of local history stories. I especially enjoyed the various updates to previous stories. If you are unfamiliar with her writings, "The Valley of Heart's Delight" is a good place to start. You can find Robin's books at local bookstores like Bell's Books, Books Inc., and Kepler's, as well as online.

January Jaunts

January through March is a great time to visit two coastal landmarks in south San Mateo County—**Año Nuevo State Reserve and Pigeon Point Light Station State Historic Park**

Six miles south of the intersection of Highway 1 with Pescadero Creek Road, is the **Pigeon Point Lighthouse**. The white-plastered masonry tower is 115 feet tall and is tied with the Point Arena Lighthouse for the tallest lighthouse on the U.S. west coast.



Pigeon Point Lighthouse

The lighthouse was built in 1871 and originally burned refined lard oil and later kerosene through a one-ton Fresnel lens manufactured in Paris. The lens is now lowered and on display. The lighthouse is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and designated as a California Historical Landmark. Although the tower is currently closed for restoration, a small cluster of buildings, including a hostel and a museum, provide plenty to see.

For more information, call (650) 879-2120 or visit: https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=533. The park is open 8am to sunset. The Visitor Center and Park Store are open Thursdays-Mondays, 10am-4pm.



Elephant seals at Año Nuevo State Reserve, Año Nuevo Island in the distance

Año Nuevo State Reserve is another 6.5 miles south of Pigeon Point. Sebastian Vizcaino sailed by this point on January 3, 1603 while exploring trade routes for Spain. A priest on the expedition, Antonio de la Ascension, named the point because of the turning of the New Year (año nuevo).

Each year, up to 10,000 elephant seals return to this location to breed, give birth, and molt their skin on the dunes and beaches. The park's Marine Education Center, located in a restored 19th century dairy ranch, includes a natural history exhibit, bookstore, and theater.

2.5-hour docent-led walks occur between December 15 and March 31 in order to view the elephant seals. The walk is a moderate 3-4 mile walk. A Visitors Center is located at the state beach at 1 New Years Creek Road. For more information, call (650) 879-2025 or visit: https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=523. The park is open 8:30am to sunset. Reservations for Guided Seal Walks can be made at www.ReserveCalifornia.com.

Welcome New PAHA Member William von Kaenel

2023 Program Dates

- January 22
- June (TBD)
- March 12
- October 1
- May 7
- December 3

Programs are held in person at the Palo Alto Art Center. Check our website at www.pahistory.org for program information.

Previous PAHA Programs

If you missed the December 4th program, *A Climate of Unrest Gave Rise to the Environmental Movement*, you can find it and other recent PAHA program videos on Vimeo by following this link: <https://vimeo.com/779826150>

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
Betty Gerard, PAHA Board Member

It is with much regret and sincere apologies that we mistakenly listed Jeanne McDonnell In Memoriam in our December Tall Tree Newsletter.

The Tall Tree is published six times a year by the PALO ALTO HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

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