

The Tall Tree Newsletter

of the PALO ALTO HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

October 2014 Volume 38, No 1

Wednesday, June 4 at 6:00 PM

GENERAL MEETING

Sunday, October 5, 2:00 4:00 PM

Lucie Stern Community Center

1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto

Speaker: Jon Parsons, Palo Alto attorney

PAHA's Public Meetings

GENERAL PROGRAM MEETINGS

are held monthly

2:00-4:00 PM

October - May

at the

Lucie Stern Community Center

1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto

PAHA'S PUBLIC MEETINGS 2014

Sunday, October 5

"Notorious Murders in Palo Alto"

Speaker: Jon Parsons, attorney

Sunday, November 2

"Showcasing PAHA Interns"

Speakers: TBA

Sunday, December 7

"Palo Alto Vignettes"

Hosted by: Karen Holman

PAHA'S MEETING DATES 2015

January 25

March 5

April 5

May 3

Annual Dinner, June TBA

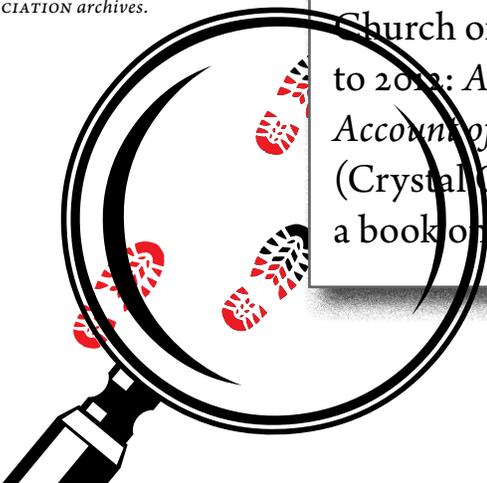
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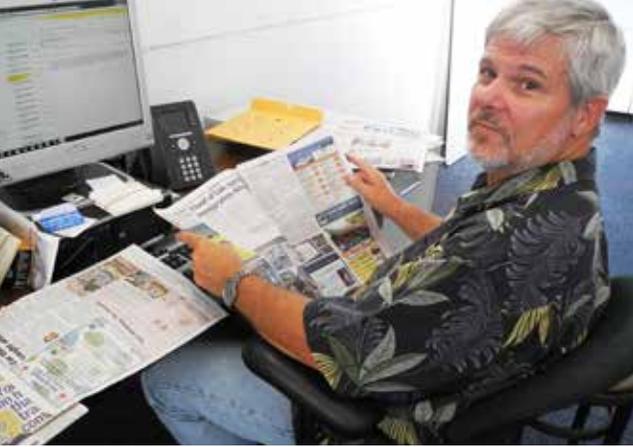
Notorious Murders in Palo Alto

AT PAHA'S FIRST GENERAL MEETING OF THE YEAR, JON PARSONS WILL provide a brief overview of remarkable murders in Palo Alto's history before focusing on the 1958 "urge killing" of Cubberley student Deena Bonn. She was killed by the boy who lived across the street, Thomas W. Cordry III, who immediately reported and confessed to the senseless killing. The story resonates with the famous Leopold and Loeb murder in 1924 and provides opportunity to reflect upon living, and dying, in Palo Alto in the 1950s.

Jon Parsons is an attorney living and practicing in Palo Alto for the last 35 years. He has represented many Palo Alto residents and businesses over the years, and has published a book about his representation of the Ananda Church of Self-Realization in its 12 year legal battle, 1990 to 2012: *A Fight For Religious Freedom: A Lawyer's Personal Account of Copyrights, Karma, and Dharmic Litigation* (Crystal Clarity Publishers 2012). He is currently writing a book on historically significant murders in Palo Alto.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC * REFRESHMENTS SERVED





Historian Steve Staiger at his desk in our new spacious archive location.

The Archives Have Moved—Again!

THE GUY MILLER ARCHIVES HAVE MOVED AGAIN. WHEN THE MAIN LIBRARY CLOSED for its remodel in 2013, the Archives relocated to the Cubberley Community Center (4000 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto). Due to the alterations at City Hall, that original space was needed for the Human Resources Department; we moved again. Monique LeConge, the Library Director, found space in the K wing at Cubberley, where we have been since late July.

City staff prepped the room with new paint and carpets. Jack Parkhouse and Brian George expertly supervised the move and installation of 38 file cabinets, map cabinets, and sundry other stuff. K-7 will be a fine home for the Archives, with ample space for researchers to spread out documents, files and maps, including the availability of the microfilm collection of local newspapers and a photocopier. Until the Main Library reopens later this year, we are functioning well in Cubberley K-7. We do need additional work tables and chairs and are exploring options and sources. If you can help, please let us know.

As we settle into our new space, we hope to expand our services and display some of nicely framed copies of interesting photographs from the collection. Perhaps we will have space to have a museum-like display of artifacts to generate interest in the future Palo Alto History Museum. I urge and welcome you to drop by the Archives in its new home in K-7 at Cubberley. The hours remain the same, Tuesdays 4–8 PM and Thursdays 1–5 PM.



Steve Staiger, far left, Brian George and Jack Parkhouse, far right, with city workers on moving day.

On another note: I recently completed my 30th year as PAHA's historian. It has been a treat! Working as a local historian is the best job in the world: I have spoken to thousands of third graders, new City employees, and members of numerous civic groups; I have helped individuals with family genealogies and research on their homes; I have answered countless inquiries on Palo Alto history. I thank you for the opportunity to share my love of local history with those of you I have encountered as your Historian.

PALO ALTO HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

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Update: Palo Alto History Museum

THE CITY COUNCIL EXTENDED THE LEASE OPTION for the Roth Building to June 30, 2015. Raising the money required to close the funding gap and rehabilitate the building—\$2.4 million—remains the urgent job of the Board of Directors.

Also, a national search has attracted many qualified applicants for the post of Executive Director. The Board expects to make a decision soon and is grateful for a generous gift that initially funds this full-time position.

A new website, www.paloaltohistorymuseum.org, launched in May, introduces visitors to people who have shaped Palo Alto's history. It pictures the Roth Building, plans and hints at the process of designing an interactive museum. The website highlights recent news relating to the Museum. —Bardy Wallace



PAHA's New President Speaks

AS I BEGIN MY TERM OF OFFICE, I AM HONORED TO PRESIDE OVER this venerable organization that has proven so effective in preserving the artifacts of Palo Alto's history and providing for their accessibility to the public. I am a lifetime

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN
Ralph Britton



resident of Palo Alto, attending Walter Hays, Channing, Jordan and Paly, so I am personally acquainted with a significant period of Palo Alto's history. My effort will initially be directed to ensuring that PAHA continues to have the resources to keep up its fine work.

This centennial year provides an opportunity to celebrate the PAHA's fine compilation of historic documents and images. But more than that, it's time to acknowledge the efforts made over the years by the many volunteers and others who have given their time and effort to maintain and preserve the Guy Miller Archives. Those hundred years have seen Palo Alto go from quiet town situated adjacent to a growing university surrounded by productive farms and orchards with many of its citizens commuting by train to San Francisco, to a burgeoning center of science and technology. Now, much of its weekday population commutes to Palo Alto. As Santa Clara Valley evolved from the Valley of the Heart's Delight to Silicon Valley, much of the idyllic character has disappeared—the smell of the apricot blossoms in the spring, the kids taking summer jobs in the canneries, picking up fresh eggs at Ms. Rochambeau's just south of town. However, the seeds for the technological revolution were sprouting: 1939 saw Bill Hewlett's and Dave Packard's oscillators and voltmeters appear on the scene along with the Varian Brothers' and Hansen's Klystrons to power WWII radars (none of which involved silicon electronics.) Now we are accustomed to seeing incredible innovation in electronics, medicine, computer science, materials technology and information technology develop all around us. Altogether, a fascinating 100 years and PAHA has compiled an impressive archive of it all!

Summer Updates!

"Out of the File Cabinet, Into the Classroom"— A PAHA Project by Students, for Students

THIS SUMMER, UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF GUNN HIGH SCHOOL HISTORY TEACHER BRIAN TUOMY, four eager PAHA Interns from local high schools—Kenton Kwok, Julian Moran, Zofia Ahmad, and Maya Miklos—explored the Guy Miller Archives. Their task was to choose interesting primary resources that would entice third graders to learn and care about local history. They examined old maps, newspaper articles, and compelling photographs that fit into four local history themes: Early Palo Alto, The Stanford Family, Childhood, and Schools. Using primary sources to teach history is an important component of California's new Common Core English and History Social Science standards. Thanks to a generous grant from the Palo Alto Weekly Holiday Fund, PAHA financed the "Out of the File Cabinet, Into the Classroom" Project. The interns generated information to help create and pilot online units of instruction in third grade classrooms. Some of the interns will talk about their research experiences at PAHA's November meeting.

Brian Tuomy reflected on his work with the interns, "I am proud as an educator, Palo Alto native, and community member to be a part of this effort and to see that kids can be passionate about this community." —Rachel Kellerman

5,739 and Counting—PAHA's Photo Cataloging Project

PAHA'S MISSION INCLUDES A COMMITMENT TO PRESERVE, expand, and share our photo archives. We are in the process of uploading digitized copies of more than 13,000 photos on to our website. The project started in 1999 with Palo Alto Library funding for photo digitization. In 2004, PAHA received a Legacy Fund grant from Cable Co-op to facilitate the operation. This grant provided funds to digitize images and continue cataloging. However, PAHA now covers all the costs to support the project.

Today, after years of work by volunteers and catalogers, PAHA has nearly 6,000 images online. Dedicated volunteers, led by Steve Staiger and Beth Bunnenberg, reviewed and described the images, using a template to allow for online searching. We have been fortunate, for the last year, to have Cataloger Janet Lin working 8 hours per week to increase the online images from 3,200 to over 5,700. Our website designers, Digital Fish, play a critical role as the intermediary that monitors/uploads the data to the PAHA website. The costs to PAHA to enlarge this valuable online photo collection comprise a major expense. Please consider providing financial support so we can reach the goal of placing all 13,000 photos online. Visit <http://images.pahistory.org/>. —Brian George

Student interns, standing, working alongside researchers Bob French and Jack Parkhouse. Note: all photos on page 2 are courtesy of Brian George.

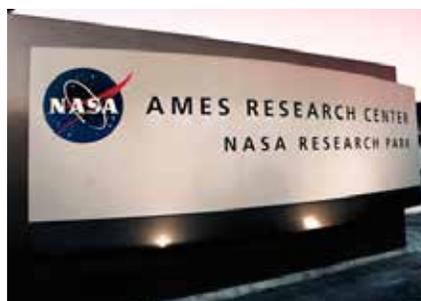
History Jaunts

The Anza National Historic Trail and the Spanish Settlement of the Bay Area
presentation and discussion by Hale Sargent of the National Park Service Museum of the American Heritage, 351 Homer Ave., Palo Alto; Sunday, October 26, 1:30–3:30, free and open to the public.

PAST (Palo Alto Stanford Heritage) resumes its guided walking tours of Palo Alto in October: Professorville on Oct. 11; Crescent Park on Oct. 18; Homer Avenue on Oct. 25. Visit www.pastheritage.org

The San Mateo County History Museum, 2200 Broadway, Redwood City: The exhibit, “Scenes of San Mateo County,” continues through December 31. It features 8 original paintings of historic sites, such as the Sanchez Adobe at Pacifica, 1964, by artist June B. Alley. The museum is open Tuesday–Sunday, 10–4. See: www.historysmc.org or 650.299.0104

Wind Tunnels and Simulated Martian Landscape
NASA Ames Research Center Open House, Moffett Field. Celebrate the Center’s 75th anniversary on Saturday, October 18, 9 am–5 pm. Tickets are free; backstage passes also available. For information, about parking and shuttle buses, see <https://nasaamesopenhouse.eventbrite.com>



NASA Ames sign, University Innovation webpage

Gamble Garden Community Day Sunday, October 5, 10:00 am–5:00 pm, Gamble Garden, 1431 Waverley, Palo Alto. This fall day of family fun features activities for children, demonstrations, food, entertainment and digging for worms. Free and open to the public. For information www.gamblegarden.org

Cantor Arts Center at Stanford, 328 Lomita Dr., Stanford. The Cantor Arts Center, free and open to the public Wednesday–Sunday, offers a visual feast in its galleries as well as docent tours. Opening September 21, is Cantor’s new gallery housing the Anderson Collection, Information: <http://museum.stanford.edu/> or <http://anderson.stanford.edu>.

Welcome to New Members

Dennis Garcia
Michele Williams-Forrest
Susan Smith

Heritage Program on Channel 30

PAHA’s October 2014 program will replay the November 2005, “The Mayors Recall.” It features 16 Palo Alto mayors telling stories of their terms in office.

Gary Fazzino; moderated the program which spans 40 years of local politics, a timely program as elections are near:

Wednesdays: 8 PM
Thursdays: 10:30 AM
Saturdays: 1 PM

DVDs of previous programs can be borrowed at the Archives which are temporarily located at Cubberley, Room K-7. Hours:

Tuesdays, 4–8 PM
Thursdays, 1–5 PM

In Memoriam

Tom Cotter
Life Member

Become a Member of PAHA

We invite you to become a member of the Association and join those who care about Palo Alto and enjoy learning about its history. Your dues make our work possible: we maintain the archives, assist researchers, and disseminate historical information through our publications and public programs. Your generosity will be appreciated for generations to come. Join today!

Individual \$25 Family \$40
Sustaining \$60 Business/Sponsor \$100 Life \$350

Make check payable to PAHA and mail to: PAHA Box 193, Palo Alto, CA 94302. Or join online at pahistory.org. Let us know if you wish to volunteer for a PAHA committee. (Note: current members will receive renewal notices in July.)



The Tall Tree is published eight times a year by the
PALO ALTO HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION
Our mission is to collect, preserve and make
available to the public information
about the history of Palo Alto.



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