

Since 1913

# The Tall Tree Newsletter

of the PALO ALTO  
HISTORICAL  
ASSOCIATION

April 2019 Volume 42, No 6

The Palo Alto Historical Association presents

## *Tales of Timothy Hopkins: City Father <sup>AND</sup> University Godfather*



1880s portrait of Timothy Hopkins taken by I.W. Taber.  
Provided by the Stanford University Libraries.

**SUNDAY, APRIL 7, 2019**

**2:00 – 4:00 PM**

**PALO ALTO ART CENTER**

**AUDITORIUM**

**1313 NEWELL ROAD**

**PALO ALTO**

Join us on April 7 for a joint program with the Stanford Historical Society and the Menlo Park Historical Association to hear the story of Timothy Hopkins—Palo Alto's founder, Menlo Park resident, and major supporter of Stanford University for 50 years.

PAHA historian, Steve Staiger, will present his research on the intriguing story of Timothy Hopkins—revealing tales of his life and family. Hopkins' life is a fascinating story of a man whose inherited wealth and second-hand name enabled him to make significant contributions to our communities that are still visible today. Despite having his name on Stanford's Hopkins Marine Station, many aspects of his life are unfamiliar to our residents.

As our city historian for over 30 years, Steve has researched many interesting stories of our communities and finds the story of Timothy Hopkins to be one of the more fascinating.

**Free and Open to the Public ~ Refreshments Served**



**BOB STROHECKER  
IN THE ARCHIVES**

**PALO ALTO  
HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION**

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# Tale of Sub HA 19 Visit to Palo Alto

*By Bob Strohecker, PAHA Treasurer*

This tale is about a photograph acquired by the Palo Alto Historical Association from a resident clearing out her attic. The photo of a submarine on a street being toured by people elicited one question after another and made us wonder about the context of the scene.

This tale will tell the process we took to identify the location of the photo and what is known about its content.

We began by looking at the photo with a magnifying glass, trying to determine anything we could about it -- what city, what streets, the year of the photo, what type of submarine? How could we begin to answer these questions?

We started by looking at the buildings, and suspecting the city was Palo Alto, we examined the names of a couple of storefronts. Using the Palo Alto City Directory, a listing of business addresses that went back to the 1940s, we identified the street as University Ave., but what was the cross street?

The clincher was the view of the tall building with the movie marquee—

the Stanford Theater located across from the Woolworths and Walgreen stores! Note that the grate, high on the left side of the building in the photo, is still in place today.

Once the location was locked in, the next question was, “when was the submarine in downtown Palo Alto?” Referring to the movie marquee on the Stanford Theatre, we were able to determine from the barely-visible portion that the movie was *Springtime in the Rockies* starring Betty Grable. We turned to a listing of dates for all the movies shown at the theatre, and given that information, we determined the submarine came to town in mid-November 1942.

Finally, I looked at the microfilm records of the Palo Alto Times, going through every edition for the month of November until coming to November 18, 1942. The newspaper ran a short frontpage story of the submarine’s visit on November 17. I also identified the lady facing the camera as Kathleen Norris, the noted author and Palo Alto resident.

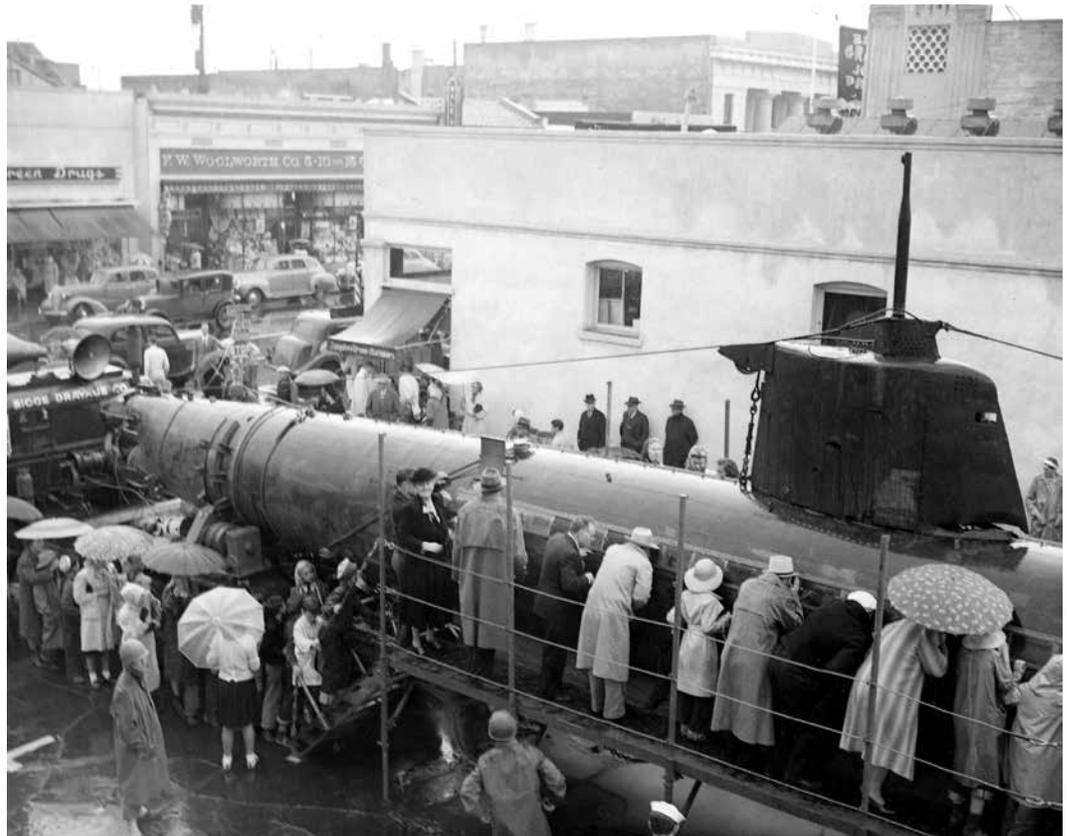
(Continued on page 3)

*The Palo Alto Historical Association, a 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.*



# Pedestrian Underpass Memory

By Karen Paulsen, Paly class of 1963

While chatting with Steve Staiger in his Archive office recently, I mentioned having attended grades K-2 at Mayfield School from 1950-1953. My family lived next to the College Terrace Library on Wellesley Street. I used to walk across California Avenue and across a huge empty field to get to Mrs. Chenault's classroom at school.

Steve asked me if I knew anything about the underground pedestrian walkways at El Camino Real. I remember one directly in front of Mayfield School as well as seeing others along the road to the north. The underpass in front of Mayfield is still there but is chained and locked. The stairs, walls, and ceiling were cement—not nicely finished like the underpass near the railroad station at Lytton Avenue and Alma Street.

My brother is five years older than I, so I asked him if he remembered the Mayfield School underpass. I was surprised to learn that in the sixth grade he was a student crossing guard assigned to stand at the top of the underpass to assist children arriving and leaving school from that tunnel. I suppose there were families living on Sherman and Grant Avenues or others in that

neighborhood. Parents could park on El Camino and let their children walk safely down that underpass to cross under to get to school. I believe there was a drive-in restaurant named Bonander's near the eastern side of El Camino as well. The underpasses were plain, but they were a safer route for pedestrians walking across El Camino Real, even in 1950.



Underpass at Mayfield School during 1940 Flood

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(Continued from page 2) The story of the submarine is quite fascinating. This submarine was a Japanese midget submarine known as HA 19. It was only 78 ft. long, weighed 47 tons, and carried two people and two torpedoes. It was part of the attack on Pearl Harbor, but ran aground before being able to release its torpedoes.

Survivor Ensign Kazuo Sakamaki was the first Japanese POW of WW II. The military decided to use the sub to raise war bonds.

HA 19 was shipped to Mare Island Navy Yard in Vallejo, CA and refitted for touring. The major change was to install 22 viewing windows along both sides. It was also built onto a flatbed trailer for ease of touring. This work was of such importance that President Franklin Roosevelt made a top secret visit in September 1942 to see the sub!

The sub toured all across the United States, visiting 2000 cities in 41 states with the goal of raising money for War Bonds. Viewing was \$1 for adults and \$0.25 for children. In my research, I found records of visits to New Mexico for 12 days as well as Hartford, CT. It visited Murfreesboro, TN, the home of General MacArthur's wife. It also traveled to the Lehigh Valley in PA making several stops, Alexandria, VA, and Washington D.C.

There is no single record of all the cities visited by HA 19, but its last stop was the Navy Pier in Chicago, IL in 1945 when the war ended.

Millions of dollars were raised, as support for our war effort was very popular.

On January 22, 1947 the submarine was moved to the Naval Station in Key West, FL. On December 2, 1964 it was loaned to the Key West Art & Historical Society and put on exhibit outside the Key West Lighthouse and Military Museum. On June 30, 1989, HA 19 was declared a US National Historic Landmark after being added to the National Register of Historic Places.

In 1990, Key West dropped all military items from its museum to be strictly a lighthouse museum. In 1991, HA 19 was moved to Fredericksburg, TX to be included in the National Museum of the Pacific War at Admiral Nimitz State Historic Site. A 50-year anniversary conference was held in 1991, and survivor Kazuo Sakamaki attended and saw his sub again.

It has been an amazing and fascinating journey following the path created by the gift of a single photograph. I hope to add more historical findings in the future. Thanks to online sources, you too can become a historian!

## History Jaunts for the Spring

Now that spring is upon us, think about jaunts that will take you outdoors and teach you something at the same time. The Stanford University campus provides several opportunities that are free and open to the public. Take a self-guided tour of the **Papua New Guinea Sculpture Garden**, 476 Lomita Dr., open 24 hours a day or participate in a docent-led tour on Sunday, April 21st at 2:00 pm. Join an Outdoor Campus Sculpture Walk on Sunday, April 7th at 2:00 pm (meet at the Main Quad, top of the Oval) or on Sunday April 21st at 11:30 am at the Cantor Art Center, 328 Lomita Drive.

Palo Alto's own **Museum of American Heritage** kicks off its spring lecture series with "Why Silicon Valley?" presented by Jamis MacNiven. He will describe how Silicon Valley became the epicenter of technological innovation, tracing its "can do" spirit back to the days of the Gold Rush. MacNiven is the owner of Buck's Restaurant, where many of the early risk-takers, entrepreneurs, and venture capitalists met to discuss their dreams and how to make them come true! The lecture will take place on Thursday, April 11 at 7 pm at MOAH, 351 Homer Ave., Palo Alto. The lecture is free to MOAH members, \$10 cash for non-members. For more information, call (650) 321-1004, or visit the website [www.moah.org](http://www.moah.org).

The Los Altos Garden Club will celebrate its 90th anniversary with an exhibit—"90 Years of Flowers"—at the **Los Altos History Museum**, 51 S. San Antonio Rd., Los Altos, March 7 – April 28. The Men's Club of Los Altos established the Los Altos Garden Club in 1929, with plans to organize flower shows in Shoup Park, which became a beloved annual tradition. The Garden Club went on to found the Los Altos Pet Parade, create a garden at the Veterans' Affairs Hospital, and develop a scholarship fund for students interested in careers in horticulture. For more information on the exhibit and activities related to it, such as flower arranging workshops, call (650) 948-9427 ext.4 or visit [www.losaltoshistory.org](http://www.losaltoshistory.org). The museum is free and open to the public Mondays – Thursdays, noon – 4 pm.

Going a little farther afield, don't miss "Monet: The Late Years" at the **De Young Museum**, February 16 – May 27, located at 50 Hagiwara Tea Garden Dr. in San Francisco. In the twilight of his career, mourning the deaths of his wife and son, and suffering from cataracts, Monet continued to produce monumental works at Giverny from 1913-1926, including his "sublime water lily canvases." For more information on admission and ticket prices, call (415) 750-3600 or visit the website [www.deyoungmuseum.org](http://www.deyoungmuseum.org).

### Welcome New Members!

Barry Anderson  
Brad Anderson  
Beth Schmolter  
Scott Stauter

### PAHA Upcoming Programs

May 5 - Historic Preservation Month  
featuring PAST Awards

June 5 - PAHA's Annual Dinner  
Celebration presenting Bo Crane:  
Rock and Roll in Palo Alto

### The Heritage Program

for April 2019 will feature  
PAHA's March 2019 program,  
"African Americans of  
San Jose and Santa Clara  
County" by educator and  
lecturer Jan Batiste Adkins  
Airs on Channels 28 or 30 on  
various days and times. It is  
simultaneously streamed on  
the Media Center website  
[www.midpenmedia.org](http://www.midpenmedia.org)  
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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