



SARATOGA HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

POST OFFICE BOX 172, SARATOGA, CALIFORNIA 95071

September, 2007

**Please join us for our
Annual End-of-Summer Barbecue
Sunday, September 23rd, at the Cooper-Garrod Winery**

President's September Message

Mark your calendars! Reserve Sunday, September 23rd for our annual end-of-summer barbeque dinner, to be held at the historic Garrod Ranch and Cooper-Garrod Winery! You'd have to go far to find better tri-tip, cooked just the way you like it, served up with all the fixin's which make this event such a hit each year. A great meal and entertainment too! Get your reservation in now, as this event has sold out the past two years. Check for details in this newsletter.

Nancy and Doug Anderson's beautifully designed and manicured garden was transformed as we gathered there to honor our treasured volunteers who have given of their time and talents to our Saratoga History Museum over the past year. It is gratifying to see our volunteer numbers grow, and anyone who appreciates our community museum will join me in sending our volunteers a big thank you! Now, I

hope that you don't get the idea that I am fixated on food here, but I'd say that the delicious dinner that Nancy served, together with the beauty of the Anderson garden made the ambience of the afternoon

of August 19th eligible to compete with any of Saratoga's better outdoor restaurants.

Volunteers who joined us this year include our educational docents who specialize in presenting the story of Saratoga's unique history to our school-age visitors, as well as our Furnishings Committee, which has been charged with preparing and decorating the McWilliams House as it might have been during the time it was occupied by this Saratoga blacksmith and his family. But we still have a need for more

volunteers! If you have a love of history and can give just three hours a month to spend hosting and talking with our museum visitors, we want to talk to you. The only commitment is your time. You'll find that the rewards of learning more about Saratoga's rich history and the opportunity of meeting new friends and visitors will more than compensate for your time.



Our Jack Mallory Leads Saratoga's July 4th Celebration!

About this time last year the fences had just gone up around the McWilliams house and the renovation of this old Saratoga treasure was about to begin. A year has now passed, the fences and the noise of hammers and saws, as well as all the

sawdust have disappeared. Progress and momentum continue toward making this old pioneer cottage one of our highlight attractions. The interior is almost completely furnished now, thanks to several much appreciated donors and a very enthusiastic and active Furnishings Committee. I am looking forward to the grand re-opening celebration which is planned for October 20th. I know that this will be an event that you won't want to miss.

Although not sponsored by our Foundation and Museum, there is an event coming up on September 9th that I'd like to mention here. The 7th annual "Antique Autos in the Park" will take place from noon to 5 PM at History San Jose, near Kelly Park on Senter Road, in San Jose. The history park will be filled with antique autos of all makes, along with antique fire equipment, tractors, bicycles, motorcycles, and early day internal combustion farm and industrial engines which power everything from washing machines and pumps to saws and corn and grain grinders. Dixieland bands, movies, ice cream and antique trolley rides combine to make this an old fashioned day of entertainment in a park atmosphere. Peggy and I participate in this popular event each year and always enjoy the day. And the best part? It's free to everyone!

But all is not fun and entertainment. During the past several months I have been negotiating a new lease agreement with the City of Saratoga for our two museum buildings and grounds. After several rounds of talks and exchanges of emails I am happy to report that we now have a long-term lease agreement which, once approved by the City Council, will be signed by your Foundation officers and the City Manager. Other projects that are in progress are fire and intrusion alarm systems and the park landscaping plan. Look for more details in future newsletters or stop by the museum for an update.

---Chuck Schoppe, President

McWilliams House Is Re-Opening

Please join us for a very special celebration as we officially re-open the wonderful McWilliams House on Saturday, Oct. 20 from 11 AM - 3 PM at the Saratoga Historical Park. The restored and furnished McWilliams House will be open for docent-led tours. You can see photos of the real McWilliams family, too.

There will be old-time activities for young and old to enjoy, including a calliope, corn husk doll making,

fabric flower making, lace-making demonstrations, docents in costume, refreshments, balloon creations from 1:30 on, and more.

To make this a true success, we need additional SHF and community volunteers for a shift at the refreshment tables, the hands-on activities, or to help with set-up/clean-up. We also need donations of purchased or home-made baked goods. Please call me at 867-9229 and let me know how you'll support SHF on this unique day. Be part of this historic day as the McWilliams House comes alive again!

—Peggy Schoppe, McWilliams House Committee
Co-Chair & Volunteer Coordinator

Silent Auction Coming in September

On September 23, in conjunction with our legendary BBQ, SHF will be hosting a silent auction. Village businesses and friends of SHF have donated wonderful items for our silent auction. Twenty items will be featured. This is a great opportunity to support SHF, begin holiday shopping, or treat yourself to something special. Cash and checks are welcomed. For more information please contact Laurel Perusa at 354-7153.

—Laurel Perusa, Corresponding Secretary

Warren Heid Exhibit Opens Sept. 7

SHF honors one of its own with a new exhibit featuring the lifetime work of Saratoga architect Warren Heid. In January, 2008, Warren will have been in his Saratoga office for 50 years!

Are you aware of the many buildings Warren has designed and how he has impacted Saratoga and neighboring cities? So far in his career, Warren has designed 44 single-family Saratoga residences (140 homes in total), 25 buildings in the Village, 19 major projects in Saratoga, many other well-known buildings in the South Bay Area, and a hotel in Tahiti.

Did you know that Warren is a California native, and that he and Willys were in the same Boy Scout troop? What other interesting facts will you learn? What special shopping area was his high school? What musical instrument did he study as a child? What special girl did he meet in 3rd grade? What did he plan for his career before he became an architect? What university did he attend? (Can you guess from the colors in the exhibit?) Where did he

serve in World War II? How many years has he been a Rotarian? On which Commissions has he served? How long has Warren served on the SHF Board of Directors? When was he honored as Saratoga's citizen of the Year? What are the six architectural design awards he's received?

Find the answers to the above questions, and see the listings and photos of Warren's buildings at the museum. You'll recognize many of them, and may be surprised to learn about some others.

---Peggy Schoppe, Exhibits Chair

Thanks to McWilliams House Donors

The McWilliams House Committee is still working hard, and having fun, authentically furnishing the house in the 1864 – 1880 period that the McWilliams family lived there. We have a wonderful team of dedicated volunteers. As Co-Chair with Marilyn Marchetti, I send my heartfelt thanks to Committee Members Linda Benenati, Judy Moring, and Linda Williamson. If you'd like to join the fun and work with a great group, just contact me. And yes, men are welcome!

We extend our special thanks to the SHF and community members who have responded to our need and generously donated vintage items to our furnishing effort: M. E. Benson Antiques, Marty Clevenger, Dana (Nardi) Hansen, Amy June Jorgensen, Don Loughridge, Chuck and Peggy Schoppe, Doug Vaughn, and Mike and Sandra Whalen.

We also thank those who have donated time and effort to this project with their sewing talents: Nancy Anderson for all the McWilliams House curtains, and the first child pinafore and bonnet for the Education Program photo shoot; and Sophia Cooper and Girl Scout Troop 473, and Anna Kruchin for the child pinafores, and the adult docent aprons, dresses and bonnets.

Committee Member Linda Benenati and husband Michael Albaugh have done a great job adding the appropriate patina to the new shiny brass hanging light fixtures – a BIG improvement to the look and feel of the rooms. Committee Member Judy Moring got her husband's help picking up our "new" 1870 cast iron cook stove. And our President Chuck Schoppe has pressure-washed the stove; helped move furniture, including the stored furniture from History San Jose and our rented space, and from donor

homes; drove 7 hours to pick up our ice box; and so many other support tasks that I can't remember them all!

We thank Nancy Anderson and the Jane E. Morgan Estate for donating all the fabric for the Education Program child pinafores and adult docent aprons/dresses/bonnets. We also thank the Johnson children for being great models for the Education Program photo shoot.

In addition to hours spent locating vintage items for the House, Committee Members Linda Benenati, Judy Moring, and Peggy Schoppe have also spent hours locating and purchasing items for the Education Program: a stereo viewer, a wringer for the washing activity, rug beaters, and blacksmith-style aprons for the boys and male docents. What value-conscious shoppers!

We appreciate each of you and your generosity. Your donation has become a special part of our local treasure – the McWilliams House!

---Peggy Schoppe, McWilliams House Committee Co-Chair

April's Museum Director's Report

We regret to report the passing of Jim Arbuckle, one of our members, in a bicycle accident. Jim apparently had a puncture and went over the handlebars. Jim was also a member of the Clampers, the Preservation Action Council and the Santa Clara Chapter of the California Pioneers.

A different type of loss is the resignation of Beth Wyman from the Saratoga Heritage Preservation Commission. Beth served two terms several years ago and was asked to serve additional time. She was also a member of the County Heritage Commission. Beth will be moving to the Morgan Hill community. Beth recently chaired a committee to put the four structures owned by the City of Saratoga, including the McWilliams House, on the National Register. Two of the applications have been accepted at this time; the other two are still pending. Beth has donated all of her HPC reference material to the Saratoga Historical Foundation for our collection.

Facilities: It's a very small thing, but very frustrating. We are still searching for the missing pieces for our filing cabinets. Repeated phone calls to the local representative for Steelcase, the manufacturer, have not turned up the needed parts, despite several discussions with their parts department. We need these pieces so that we can

complete our administrative organization and filing projects.

We have sent a note to the City of Saratoga, asking that the sidewalk segment in front of the Museum be included in the current Caltrans safety project grant. Saratoga recently received \$900K to improve bike and pedestrian safety in the Village, and much of the construction has been completed.

Landscaping: We held a second meeting with Saratoga's Heritage Preservation Commission regarding the plan on July 10th. They approved the planting plan in concept, approved the proposed signage program in concept and will be recommending that the City of Saratoga remove an additional redwood tree from the site. The members feel that the City should follow the initial recommendation of the consulting arborist, and that leaving the redwood will cause problems in the future.

Our Historical Park signage designer, Suzanne Bauer, met with the former president of the Saratoga Horticultural Foundation, Carol Coate, to discuss signage for the landscape plan. Carol would like the Foundation commemorated with a bronze plaque imbedded in a rock. They also discussed signage for the individual plant specimens that will be installed.

We have an additional comment from Book-Go-Round board member Mary Jeanne Fenn, regarding the visual clutter and some safety concerns at the site. We have taken some additional photographs of the intersection and signage in question and will add those comments to our list. Mary Jeanne feels that the existing hedges and shrubs should be removed soon because they obscure oncoming traffic from cars waiting at the Oak Street stop sign.

There appears to be a substantial problem with the soils in front of the Museum and Ken Fisher, our volunteer gardener, is extremely frustrated with the current plantings. We have discussed having the City do a soils analysis. In addition we appear to have lost a lot of the leaves from the citrus on the front of the Museum due to a visiting deer. We plan to cage the plants until they recover.

Collections: The major accomplishment this month is to have an inventory of the newspaper collection nearly completed. Myrna, our regular Friday afternoon volunteer, has been a terrific help in this particular endeavor. We wanted to make some significant headway on this project because we

understand we will soon be receiving some newspapers from the Peck family as part of their donation. Since space at the Museum is always critical, we wanted to avoid duplication. As part of this project, I have contacted Dolly Barnes, the senior librarian at the Saratoga Library. The Library will be microfilming a significant portion of the newspapers in our collection and will make them available at the library.

Duplicates of newspapers in our holdings can go to the archives at History San Jose for their collection, pending approval by the Foundation Board. Early newspapers are a critical and unique resource for historians. Dolly Barnes also discussed the possibility of holding a study session at the Museum in the next few weeks so that Saratoga librarians can look at the reference materials in our collection.

More Landscaping: I met July 24 with two of our landscape designers, Hank Helbush and Rebecca Dye - the husband and wife team of Design Focus, along with the Saratoga Public Works Director John Cherbone and Landscape Supervisor Kevin Meek. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the process and the time frame for moving the Landscape Proposal to the next level. We need to have irrigation designs and cost estimates as well as a grading plan to accomplish the next step. Hank and Rebecca have agreed to submit an RFP to Public Works for those plans and will be paid for their time and effort. Depending on the costs and the irrigation system complexity, John will then move forward to find a contractor to install the irrigation and the plants. Design Focus is a contractor who is already on Saratoga's list of vendors, so this project is now being handled in a routine manner through the Public Works Department.

I spoke in favor of installing in stages, in order to minimize the dust and disruption at the site. They agreed that doing it in sections may make sense but again, they will look at the cost estimates as well as dividing the irrigation into the logical zones. We also reviewed the other critical elements that are moving along under other contracts - the trenching for the alarm system and the signage proposal. Thomas Scott is taking the second half of his vacation, and I hope the security alarm plans will be completed when he returns. The City went out to bid on the system and selected a vendor, but then discovered the vendor was not going to supply a drawing of his work. So creating a drawing has added several weeks to our schedule.

The next step for the SHF Board is to forward the Plant Proposal to the City Council with a letter stating our comments and recommendations. The complete blessings and approval of SHF are not critical; the HPC approval was the only legal requirement. John Cherbone estimates that we should be prepared to send our letter to the City Council for the Council meeting in September. He should have the other cost information by that time and will prepare the staff report. Although the City begins its fiscal year in July, the CIP budget cycle starts in September. So if the irrigation estimates are higher than first budgeted, we are in a good position for a possible additional allocation. There was also some discussion among the four of them regarding the problem of the swale that runs through the property and various design remedies. Design Focus will include remedies in their RFP.

Hardscape improvements will be minimal. Since the existing paths are already rolled crushed-granite, the surfaces will be improved rather than replaced. The retaining wall could be either brick, to match the existing paths and hard surfaces, or rock, to match the material used for the "dry creek" that will address the problem of the swale. I forwarded the Board's request for a water feature, and John Cherbone felt that a drinking fountain that included a dog basin was a reasonable addition to the park. So that will be included in the proposal. We also looked at the safety hazards related to the existing landscaping at the

corner of Oak and Saratoga-Los Gatos Blvd. That problem was brought to our attention by the Book-Go-Round Board and will be addressed immediately. I felt the meeting was extremely productive.

---Historically Yours, April Halberstadt

**Saratoga Historical Foundation's
Annual Western BBQ
Sunday, September 23 2-5 PM
at the Cooper-Garrod Estate Vineyards**

**The price - \$35.00 - includes wine tasting,
dinner and entertainment by the Skillet Lickers.**

The deadline for required reservations:

September 15.

**Please cut out this form and mail with your
check to: Saratoga Historical Foundation
P.O. Box 172, Saratoga, CA 95070**

For information call Nancy Anderson - 867-4383

Name (names).....

Number attending.....

Amount enclosed.....

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