

The

CALIFORNIAN

Understanding the past, involved with the present, committed to the future.

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Californians from Yugoslavia



EXHIBITS

Californians from Yugoslavia Opens April 6

This spring we are pleased to present *Californians From Yugoslavia* in the Trianon's History Laboratory. This exhibit presents the story of valuable but overlooked members of California's melting pot, the Yugoslavs.

Though the Eastern Europeans did not start immigrating to the United States in large numbers until the late 19th century, the venturesome Yugoslavs may count themselves among some of the earliest explorers of this state; both during the Spanish era as well as the Gold Rush of 1849. Since that time the Yugoslav immigrants and their descendants have carved out niches for themselves in almost every aspect of business, government and the arts in this state and, indeed, the rest of America. Their very anonymity is a testimony to their success in adapting.

But the modern Yugoslavs have not forgotten their past. Many individuals and organizations strive to preserve Yugoslav history and culture, and our society is the richer for it. One of these individuals working for their heritage is Elsie Dobrich Matt.

As an instructor for the California History Center, Elsie Matt has given classes on the Yugoslavs in California which are attended by both those of

Yugoslav descent as well as others whose interest is piqued by this dedicated historian and teacher. From the time that the first exhibit opened in the History Laboratory she has planned an exhibit of her own. For over a year now she has collected material for the exhibit. She has drawn on her own knowledge as well as that of many others of immigrant descent to piece together the story. She has coaxed and weeded precious family mementos, photos and heirlooms from their owners to be displayed. As a result the History Laboratory will be able to present what may well be the largest collection of Yugoslav-American memorabilia ever displayed in California; colorful ethnic costumes and jewelry, farm implements, photos and maps will be on view.

An exhibit which follows the course of history of a single ethnic group, such as this story of the Yugoslavs in California, may be considered esoteric by some. Yet when we view the photos and possessions of these proud and hopeful immigrants and remember our own immigrant heritages we must realize that this exhibit tells us more. It is the story of all of us.

See the related article on page 7.

Cover photo: Members of the Croatian Sokol Band await the arrival of Yugoslavian dignitaries at the Oakland train station in the early 1900's. Photo courtesy of Elsie Matt.

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Hardships faced by Chinese immigrants to California were the focus of the Chinese in California exhibit which was displayed during winter quarter. A special thanks for two

their time/effort/artifacts to: Chinese Culture Center of San Francisco, Dan Chu and the Chinese Historical Society of America, Chris Huie and Gloria Brown.



Fall quarter's maritime exhibit was such a success due to the efforts of many people. A thank you to the following for their innumerable contributions; David Hull, librarian for the National Maritime Museum in San Francisco, Oakland Museum designer Ted Cohen and his Spring 1980 class, Dr. Thomas Snead and Helen Davie.

Monday, April 6

Spring Quarter classes begin

CALIFORNIANS FROM YUGOSLAVIA

Exhibit opens to the public.

Saturday, May 23

Country style barbeque at Garrod farms in Saratoga from 3pm. until dusk. In the tradition of the family farm ranch, come to a day filled with square dancing, hearty food and good fun. Admittance is \$5.00 per person and at least one item or service donated for the CHCF annual auction in June.

Sunday, June 7

The second annual **ANTIQUA AUCTION** will be held in conjunction with DeAnza Day on June 7th. Preview from 9am to noon, Auction from noon to 5:00pm. Antiques, collectibles, and services will be available. Mark your calendar now so you won't miss this great event.

This issue of The Californian will be the last for the year. The Californian will resume publication in Fall 1981.

Sunday, April 5

Experience the Yugoslav culture and tradition at a special picnic and exhibit preview from 11:00am to 3:00pm at the Trianon building, DeAnza College Campus. Treat yourself to authentic foods like Cevapcici (Serbian meat dish), Kobascice sa Kiselim Kupusom (sausage with sauerkraut), Povitica (nut roll), Rostule (fried cookies) and Turkish coffee. Capture a glimpse of the homeland as you listen to the tamburitza music and watch the authentically costumed Mladi Plesaci (young adult dance group) perform the popular South Slavic dance the "kolo" (circle dance) at noontime and 2:00 pm. Bring the entire family for this delightful ethnic experience.

In the early evening, plan on attending a special reception and dinner with Yugoslavian dignitaries at the Adriatic Restaurant in Saratoga. Owner Ejub Begovich will present a seven or eight course dinner for a limited number of guests. Cost is \$20.00 per person and includes wine with dinner, tax and tip. The festivities start at 5:00pm. with no host cocktails and dinner at 6:00pm. Paid reservation must be received at the Center by March 30, 1981.



Louis and Gladys Stocklmeir have long been supporters of the California History Center. In fact Louis was one of the founding members who spearheaded the effort to save the Trianon.

Exterior restoration of the Trianon was completed in the mid-70s after the building was moved onto its permanent foundation.



Campaign Needs Your Commitment

\$20,000 Estate Gift Launches Effort

Two rooms of the Trianon remain unfinished, stripped of their ornate paneling, moldings and cabinetry. One room is the Baldwin's former dining room. It was the most ornate room, with carved wooden paneling, curved doors, and plaster cast decorative floral garlands. Fortunately all of the panels have been saved and now need to be pieced back together and remounted on the sheet-rocked walls. The second room is the library, where cabinetry and bookshelves need to be restored and rebuilt. This room is lit by a huge oval skylight and will be an ideal setting to house the CHC collection of regional history books, photos, and documents.

For eleven years fundraising efforts have struggled to outpace the cost of inflationary and restoration costs. "It has been an incredible effort to raise funds for what the community perceives as a tax supported institution," explains CHC Director Seonaid McArthur. "What the community doesn't understand is that the college district will only fund basic functional needs—walls and simple electrical aspects of construction. The building would not even exist today if concerned citizens, the City of Cupertino and the State Office of Historic Preservation hadn't gotten behind the restoration effort. If the building is to be completed we must obtain help from outside of the college district."

The 1981 Capital Campaign

In the fall of 1980 the trustees of the CHC Foundation decided to launch a campaign to finish the interior of the building. In the words of trustee Mort Levine, regional newspaper publisher, "Restoration of the Trianon has dragged on long enough. Let's make a final appeal and let the community know we won't need to bother them again for major restoration funds."

four

A \$20,000 gift from the **Stella Kester** estate was a major thrust for the launching of the campaign. Received in December, it also marked the formation

"BEAULIEU" A Vineyard Estate Becomes College Campus

The Chronology of "Beaulieu"

- 1887** Charles A. Baldwin purchases 100 acre farm from Andrew Mullen for \$24,400, for country home and vineyard.
- 1890s** Planting of imported Bordeaux vines, Cabernets and Semillons, begins along with orchard expansion.
- 1890s** Willis Poik and Associates, San Francisco architectural firm oversees design of country estate including underground wine cellars, servants quarters, a small home and surrounding formal french gardens.
- 1902** *American Country Homes and Their Gardens* (House and Garden publications) prints nine-page spread with full-page photos of what they consider is one of California's most exquisitely conceived estates.
- 1905** Phylloxera disease destroys the extensive vineyard farms of Santa Clara Clara Valley's "Westside" district, including those of "Beaulieu".
- 1909** Harriet Pullman Carolan, daughter and heiress to "sleeping car king"

CULTURAL PRESERVATION

*Efforts in The San
Francisco Bay Area*

of a Patrons Society especially created to recognize donations to the capital campaign over \$250.

A very special thank you to campaign pacesetters **Mort & Elaine Levine** as President's Associates, **Gladys & Louis Stocklmeir, Dorothy Varian**, (both past presidents of CHCF), **Dorothy S. Lyddon, Lorin N. Trubschenck** for **Ida Trubschenck** and **Lou Mariani** for becoming Patron Colleagues, **John S. Sobrato**, as patron sponsor and **Bud & Marion Card, E. Dean Deaton, Mabel Noonan, R.C. & Rose Olson, Robert Taylor** and **Genevieve W. Zarevich** as Patron Donors. Their spirited generosity is the impetus needed to make this a successful campaign.

Stella Kester— A Legend All Her Own

Names like feisty, huffy, and gruff fighter are synonymous with the late Stella Kester who died in January of 1979.

One of Cupertino's long-time residents, Stella, who prided herself on her gumption and minding her own business, is often and affectionately thought of as a colorful local history personality but she was reticent to discuss details of her background. As she said many times, "Details don't belong in a newspaper."

Stella was born in Stevens Point, Wisconsin in 1897. She came to San Francisco about 1916 after



During the winter of 1979 many volunteers, including students, community residents, DeAnza administrators and CHC staff, helped to complete a major portion of the interior restoration.

having seen it before when visiting a brother. "It was a champagne city then," she recalled.

She first came to Cupertino in 1917. Her husband was a friend of George Hensley, the developer of

George Pullman purchased "Beaulieu". Baldwins move to Colorado Springs, Colorado where they build a grand mansion which they call "Trianon".

1938 Martha H. Christenson purchases "Beaulieu" and dies two years later.

1940 E.F. Euphrat, owner of Pacific Can Company purchases "Beaulieu."

1959 "Beaulieu" is purchased for DeAnza College site for \$1,630,000.

1967 DeAnza College construction begins. Baldwin home is moved to make way for construction of Flint Center for Performing Arts.

1968 DeAnza College opens. Former Baldwin wine cellar is used for bookstore and campus center.

1969 Baldwin home is threatened with demolition by college district. Community members incorporate to save the building. The Trianon Foundation is formed, its first trustees include Louis Stocklmeir, Walter G. Warren, Mary S. Levine, Mary Ecclesine, William Cutler, Barbara Winstrom, Peter Hom, Walter P. Ward and William Sellier.

1972 The Baldwin home, now referred to as "Le Petit Trianon," was placed on the National Register of Historical

1974 City of Cupertino donates \$50,000 which serves as a catalyst for moving building onto permanent foundation.

1974 The Trianon is moved and put onto a permanent foundation at the west end of the sunken garden.

1976 Gwathmey, Sellier, Crosby Architects donate restoration drawings to bring the building up to State Field Act Standards.

1977 State of California, Department of Parks & Recreation awards the Trianon a \$24,000 historic preservation grant.

1979 The California History Center moves into restored rooms of the building.

1976-1980 Many community organizations and individuals donate toward the restoration effort and the college district continues to fund the slow rebuilding process. Volunteers begin to assist with interior painting, repair, and cleaning.

1981 The capital campaign to complete the last two rooms of the Trianon is launched.



Lumber cluttered the South Gallery before it was cleared out for use as a lecture hall. Original wood paneling from this room still needs the touch of a master craftsman to be restored to its former beauty.



The library, pictured in its original state, is one of the two rooms that remains to be restored. Once completed it will house a comprehensive collection of California History reference materials.

Monta Vista. They visited Monta Vista by train or came with Hensley in his "Cadillac". Stella bought several lots in Monta Vista. "I thought I was a big time investor", she joked. During WWI, fund raiser Stella sold Liberty bonds for the war effort. In 1931 she moved to a country home in Monta Vista. Stella and her husband opened a bar in Monta Vista "at the hairpin turn in McClellan Road" in 1933 during the Depression. She closed the bar in 1942 for five years and joined the WAC's during World War II where she was a driver in the motor corps. She eventually sold her liquor license around 1969. Beneath the tough exterior, Stella had a soft heart, especially for children.

Al Carter, friend of Stella and co-executor of her estate said, "She was particularly interested in the underprivileged child regardless of race or creed." Her own poor childhood and the depression soup lines of '29 left an indelible mark. That's why she

frequently and generously donated to local schools and charitable organizations.

Founding President of the California History Center Foundation (formerly Trianon Foundation) and Cupertino city historian, Louis Stocklmeir, met Stella in 1920 when she was twenty-three years old. He recalls, "Stella had a tenacious hold onto life, to make everything come out successfully. She was a woman of the world who had a very charitable heart. She loved children and animals. If she thought something was worthwhile, she would go through anything to help that person or cause."

Through her sizable estate, Stella continues to help her community. With the \$20,000 received from her estate, the Center can begin the final phase of Trianon restoration.

Portions of this article excerpted from CUPERTINO COURIER, February 19, 1975



Californians from Yugoslavia

Elsie Dobrich Matt, instructor for the Yugoslavs in California class, has worked with students and community members to prepare the upcoming Yugoslavian exhibit and cultural festival opening.

History has recorded that a steady stream of Yugoslavs; Croatians, Serbians and Slovenes, have come to the shores of America beginning with the voyage of Columbus. However, the first to make a significant impact upon the development of California was a Croatian Jesuit, Father Fernando Kongsak.

As a result of three arduous exploratory expeditions which Kongsak led in Baja California by both land and sea in 1746 and again in 1753, he was one of the explorers to verify that California was not an island. Furthermore, the detailed maps

and diaries of his travels paved the way for future explorations of upper California.

The discovery of gold at Coloma in 1848, the single most factor which was to change the course of California's history, was also to change the lives of thousands of Yugoslavs from the coastal areas of Istria and Dalmatia. The vast majority of those who were lured by the dream of finding a fortune in the gold fields of the fabulous Mother Lode regions came as single men, either by way of Panama or around the "Horn" on sailing ships.

Others came overland, primarily from the Gulf region of New Orleans, where they were already an important part of the oyster industry. Most came to work in the mines, and some eventually became mine owners. Those who did not work in the mines ran coffee houses and saloons, supply stores and boarding houses.

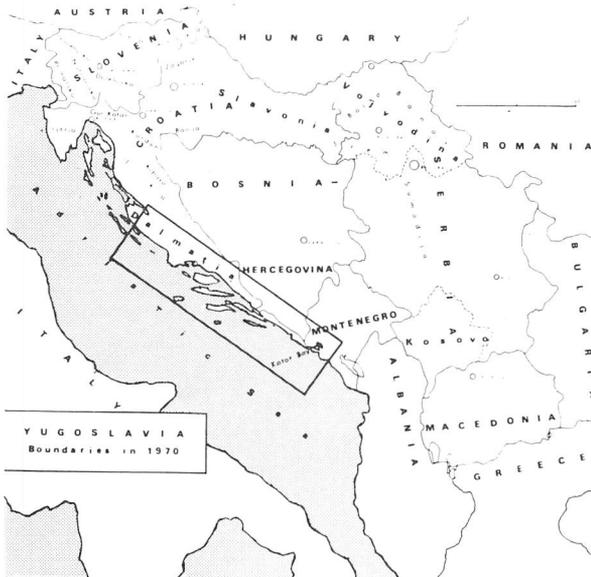
Drama remains an important way for Yugoslavians in California to promote their culture and heritage just as it was when this photo was taken circa 1930. Photo courtesy of Wija Gasich



Fruit growing and packing provided many a Yugoslavian family with their livlihoods. The Nikola Kraljevich family stands among their fruit drying trays on their farm in Mountain View. Photo courtesy of Mary Hawley.



The Kraljevich family, friends and neighbors at the loading shed. Photo courtesy of Mary Hawley.



For those Yugoslavs who made a “strike,” their thoughts began to turn to purchasing land, building a home and marrying. As there was a shortage of eligible Yugoslavian women in the mining camps, the men wrote home for their sweethearts to join them, or as was often the case, married the local Irish or Mexican girls. Some, even returned to their homeland to find a bride.

Amador County, where the largest number of Slavonians remained after the “gold fever” lost its fascination, was the site of the first Yugoslav building, at Sutter Creek, to be erected in America. The town of Jackson was the site of the first Serbian Orthodox Church to be built in the new world.

In late 1848, as activity once again resumed in San Francisco following the initial exodus to the gold fields, numerous Slavonians were among those who returned to the city to take part in the opportunities for gaining wealth. Records reveal that

FEATURE EXHIBIT

in 1860 there were as many as 50 Slavonian business establishments on Davis Street (Barbary Coast) alone.

San Francisco was also to have the distinction of being the birthplace of the first Yugoslav protective and benevolent society to be organized in the United States: **The Slavonic Illyric Mutual And Benevolent Society**, established in 1857. The society was to assist in the organization of the **Croatian And Slovene Catholic Church Of Nativity Of San Francisco** in 1901.

Adventurous Dalmatian sea captains and mariners, were also to play an important role in early California history.

As early as 1860, over 300 Dalmatian were part of the fishing industry of the Monterey and San Francisco areas. As the ports of Los Angeles and San Diego opened in the early 1900's, they became prominent in the fishing industry of these areas also.

Some, such as **Captain Stefano Splivalo** and **Andrea Malovos**, were to settle in the Santa Clara Valley where they and their descendents were to become important members of their communities.

In the early 1870's the Yugoslav pioneers, attracted by the fertile valleys of California, began to turn to ranching, mainly as fruit growers. In the Watsonville area of Pajaro Valley, "**Marko-Rabasa-Apple Dealer**", is credited with starting the apple



Nikola Kraljevich and his family in front of their ranch house, corner of Truman and Bryant, Mtn. View. Photo courtesy of Mary Hawley.



The actors gather for a group picture after a successful performance of Yugoslavian drama.



Young women in traditional dress prepare to dance some Yugoslavian folk dances. Music is important to the Yugoslavs and the young people grow up listening to the music of their heritage.

business in 1870. In the San Joaquin Valley they grew grapes and a young Croatian immigrant, **Peter J. Divizich**, was able to turn a wasteland of sand and tumbleweed into a multi-million dollar vineyard empire of national and international fame.

In the Santa Clara Valley, the Yugoslavs nurtured and tended their prune, apricot, peach and cherry trees. Although the influx of the aerospace and electronic industry have forced most of the orchardists to either sell or transfer their ranches to other valleys in California, some of the pioneer families are still active as fruit growers: the **Spaich Brothers, Nedjo and Seku**, considered the largest independent growers of prunes in the state; **Ivan Milovina And Sons**, considered one of the largest ten

independent growers of pears in the state, and the families of **Paul Mariani Sr.** who founded the Mariani fruit drying and packing empire in the 1920's are now considered one of the largest family-owned agribusiness conglomerates in the world.

Many familiar Valley names such as, **Saich, Lopina, Pavlina** and **Vidovich**, come to mind when looking at the early family farms of Yugoslav immigrants.

Life for the early Slavonian orchardist was not easy, and the road to the "good life" was strewn with many hardships and challenges: the language, customs and traditions of their homeland, economic depressions and the sometimes unpredictable weather conditions. However, a strong sense of family unity, an emphasis on education for their children and above all a stubborn determination to succeed, enabled them to become productive and respected members of their communities.

Hard work was another important part of their formula for success. "Everyone in the family worked," says Cupertino resident **Catherine Gasich**, whose father, **Luka Paviša**, settled in the valley in 1886. "The women worked right along side their men and when a new baby arrived, it too went into the orchard with the mother, carefully wrapped in a blanket and gently carried in a clean fruit packing box."

The children also worked, picking and preparing the fruit for the drying trays. "When unexpected rains hit, all the family members were summoned from their sleep and hustled outside, where the drying apricots, peaches and prunes had to be quickly stacked, only to be spread out to dry in the morning, if the sun reappeared," recalls **Matt Popovich**, whose family had a ranch on Grant Road in Mountain View.

But, there was time for relaxation also, and as **Mrs. Anne[Popovich]Putnam** remembers, "family and friends would celebrate the end of a harvest by having a lamb barbeque." There was a great deal of singing and dancing of the "kolo" a Yugoslavian circle dance, as music has always played a very important part in their culture.

As a way to preserve their culture and provide a wholesome place for the young people of the Yugoslav community to meet during the prohibition years, the **Napredak Club** (meaning progress) was organized in 1925. The club held its socials in a renovated storage barn on the Paul Mariani ranch. The club now meets at a social hall in San Jose and the culture of the Slavonians continues.

The Yugoslavian people have contributed a great deal to the growth of California, while maintaining their own ethnic culture and traditions. It is these contributions and traditions that provide the focus for Spring Quarter's Californians from Yugoslavia exhibit, opening Monday, April 6. 🐾

Elsie Matt

Elsie Matt has been teaching the Yugoslavs in California for the History Center for over 2 years. She is presently working on her master's degree in history at San Jose State.

Courses designed around community interest, visiting historical sites—with credit/no credit option.

California Documentation: History 30

Tracing our Past: *Ilse Gluckstadt*

A chance to record your memories, as well as your classmates' memories, as they pertain to life in California before World War II. Students will write, tape and edit these memoirs and compile them into a booklet. Thursday afternoon lectures at the Mountain View Senior Center.

Industrial History: History 37

Central Coast Wine: 1769-1980: *Charles Sullivan*

The Central Coast region of California wine making runs from San Francisco/Alameda to San Benito, Monterey and San Luis Obispo Counties. The most important wine growing area has been Santa Clara Valley; with some of the oldest and most historically significant wine growing districts in California. Students will learn of the aspects of winegrowing with particular emphasis on the Santa Clara Valley. Tues. eve. lectures with 3-4 field trips to area wineries.

Railroads to the California Coast: *Bruce MacGregor*

A tennis-shoe tour of three of the most historic railroad sites in the San Francisco Bay Area: Drawbridge, scene of the first track laying for a narrow gauge railroad; Summit Tunnel, a tunnel deep in the Santa Cruz Mountains and San Lorenzo Gorge, a spectacular river canyon. Five Thurs. eve. lectures 4/9, 16, 30, 5/14, 28 and four Sat. trips; 4/18, 5/2, 5/16, 5/30.

California Gold: History 38

Bodie: The Legend and the Reality:

Palmer/Mann

Bodie had the reputation "Toughest Town in the West" — perhaps it was deserved, what with killings occurring with monotonous regularity and almost daily stage hold-ups, robberies and street brawls for variety. This colorful and historic region will be discussed and some of the neighboring gold camps will be visited. Tues. eve. lectures with weekend trip to Bodie May 29-31.

Sierra Gold: *Brian Smith*

John Muir once remarked of the Sierra: "here is the air the angels breathe." Many throughout history and from season to season have come to these mountains to harvest gold from its streams and lumber from its mountainsides. Students will explore the unique relationship between those early rugged individuals and these majestic mountains. Wed. eve. lectures with 5 Sat. trips to Yosemite, Mother Lode, Placerville, Stockton, Grass Valley/Nevada City.

Homes of Commercial Giants: *Walt Warren*

Those who came with little to pioneer California, profited in new found opportunity and wealth. To celebrate this new wealth, the finest architects, builders and artists were employed to build monuments to those who monopolize California's economy.

Ethnic Heritage: History 42

Swedes in California: *Ruth Sahlberg*

Traditions and cultural activities born in Sweden and carried to California by early immigrants to the Golden State will be studied. Students will participate in Walpurgis Night (the greeting of Spring), a Crayfish feast in Sacramento and the Swedish Midsummer. Tues. eve. lectures with trips 4/17, San Jose; 5/16, Sacramento.

Yugoslavs in California: *Elsie Matt*

The unique and fascinating history of the Yugoslav-Americans will be explored through lectures, films, research and field trips to historical points of interest in the Bay Area and the Gold County. Thurs. eve. lectures with 3 Sat. field trips.

Monterey and Early Heritage: *Walt Warren*

Lecture/Orientations: 4/8, 22; 5/6, 20; 6/20. Field trips: 4/11, San Juan Bautista; 4/25, Carmel; 5/22, Customs House; /23, Larkin House; 6/5, Adobe Tour/Monterey; 6/6, Carmel Valley; 6/10, Monterey and 6/9, Colton Hall.

Nob Hill Irish: *Walt Warren*

A study of the Irish contribution to California history. Trips to local areas associated with the great Irish families of San Francisco and Santa Clara County.

EDUCATION

Spring 1981

Refer to DeAnza College 'Schedule of Classes' for additional information or call the CHC at 996-4712

The San Lorenzo River Gorge was the last link in the South Pacific Coast's thrust to get its rails over the Santa Cruz Mtns: here in 1882 one of its engines was photographed in the very heart of the deep treacherous gorge. Photo courtesy of Bruce MacGregor.



Opera has always been an important entertainment for San Franciscans. In its heyday, many times a different opera was presented each night at the Tivoli Theater. Photo courtesy of California Historical Society.



Topics in California History: History 44 Villa Montalvo—Cultural Center in

Retrospect: *Marion Card*

Trace the California events of the past 100 years relating to the life of Senator James D. Phelan, his Saratoga estate Villa Montalvo and its activities concerning the cultural heritage Phelan left to the Bay Area. Two Wed. lectures at Montalvo with one Fri. trip to Fremont Older Home and Ralston Mansion.

Field Studies: History 45

Yugoslavs of California: *Elsie Matt*

An intensive 3-day class to familiarize docents with the artifacts, cultural traditions and contributions of the Yugoslavs to California history for the exhibit opening April 6. Class sessions 4/6, 8, 10 with one day a field trip.

Sir Francis Drake: *Hugh Thomas*

Sir Francis Drake plundered the Spanish treasure ships, defeated the Spanish Armada and sailed around the world—1577-1580. Find out about Drake's life and time, and visit Drake's Bay and other Drake sites in Northern California. Wed. eve. lec. 4/8; 5/27, 6/3. Trip 5/30.

The Big Four—San Jose, Santa Clara, Alviso, New Almaden: *Frances Fox*

While the bonanza kings and railroad magnates each had their "Big Four" in Calif. history, Santa Clara Valley had its four communities that played a major role in its early development. Learn how the "Big Four" were inter-related; San Jose as the first civil settlement and later pruned capital of the world; Alviso once a leading seaport and shipping center; New Almaden with the richest mine in California which broke an international monopoly and Santa Clara with its mission and university. Four Wed. lectures 4/8, 22; 5/6, 20 and four Wed. trips 4/15, San Jose; 4/29, Santa Clara; 5/13, Alviso; 5/27, New Almaden.

Exploring the Bay Area: *Ilse Gluckstadt*

Explore fascinating places, through walking tours in Alameda among the Victorian houses, Sausalito's Army Corps of Engineers, the Filoli Estate, Alviso and Half Moon Bay at Festival Time. Tuesdays at Mountain View Senior Center.

Six Flags Over Sonoma: *Betty Hirsch*

History of legendary Sonoma County. Learn about the legends concerning the meaning of the name Sonoma; the legend of how the county clerk stole the court house records, thus making Santa Rosa the new county seat; the heroes and legendary figures who carved the history and color of this wonderful area: General Mariano Vallejo, Auguston Harasthy, Luther Burbank and Jack London. Three Thurs. eve. lec. with 4 Sat. trips planned to Sonoma County.

Port Cities: *Betty Hirsch*

Nowhere can the excitement and color of California history be better portrayed than in the history of our port cities. It is here it all began. Several exciting port cities will be studied and visited. Come and see what made these cities so exciting and significant both yesterday and today. Tues. eve. lectures with field trips 5/23, Santa Cruz; 6/6, Sacramento and 6/13, San Francisco.

History of San Francisco: History 46

San Francisco—The 1980s: *Pat Lynch*

An in-depth examination of San Francisco's historical background to discover the sources of today's violence in the streets in contrast to the continuing contributions of artists, musicians, museums and folk art. Two Tues. lectures, 4/14, 6/16 with five Saturday trips, 4/18, Mission District; 4/25, City Hall/Chinatown; 5/23, North Beach; 5/30, Golden Gate Park/Haight Ashbury; 6/13, Nob Hill/Lombard.

Cultural Heritage: History 47

Saratoga's First Hundred Years: *Frances Fox*

Its first settlers brought the lumber industry to the area in 1847 followed by manufacturing, factories, milling, fashionable mineral spas, agriculture, art center and today an affluent residential community. Learn the fascinating past of Saratoga, formerly known as Campbell's Gap, Tollgate, McCartyville and Bank Mills. One Mon. eve. lec. 4/13 and one Sat. trip 4/25.

Ghost Towns of The Santa Cruz Mtns: *Carolyn deVries*

Study the vanished towns, colorful characters and exciting settlements of the Santa Cruz Mountains. Learn about one of the most exciting areas of local history by exploring the true stories as well as the tall tales about the pioneer settlements in the mountains just south of San Jose. Wed. eve. lectures with one Saturday trip in May.

San Francisco Opera: Gold Rush, Tivoli and Now: *Mary Jean Claus*

Opera in the San Francisco area has a vigorous tradition that reaches back to Gold Rush Days. This class will examine the cultural, social and economic conditions which fostered the local manifestations of an international art form, 19th century opera. The field trips and performances will reveal the richness and diversity of local opera companies which flourish today. Fri. afternoon lec. with 4 field trips to rehearsals and performances.

San Francisco's Champagne Years: *Frank Claus*

An in-depth study of San Francisco's history from 1870 to 1906. The course covers: princes and paupers of the Comstock Lode; growth of the city; establishment of San Francisco's elite areas of Nob Hill and Pacific Heights; the building of distinctive neighborhoods of Victorian homes; the development of the city's "high society;" journalism and culture; "French" restaurants and free lunches; railroad construction and dominance of politics; corruption of political bosses; waterfront strife; the first of the city's three world fairs, the Midwinter exposition of 1894; the city's destruction by earthquake and fire, and its reconstruction. Wed. eve. lec. with 3 Sat. trips.



CHC Historian Contributes to Book Published By U.S. And U.S.S.R.

Cabrillo, Portola, Sir Frances Drake, Father Junipero Serra, Ivan Kuskov—all familiar figures from early California history.

Ivan Kuskov? Rarely mentioned in American history books, Kuskov was the founder of Fort Ross, the 19th century Russian settlement near the mouth of the Russian River, 80 miles north of San Francisco.

CHC Instructor Nicholas Rokitiensky documented Russian/American relations as a contributor to a new book for Russian and American scholars, *The United States and Russia: The Beginning of Relations (1765-1815)*. He provided materials on Russian involvement in California for the book, which was published jointly by the U.S. National Archives and the Main Archival Administration of the USSR.

Rokitiensky is recognized as an international authority on Fort Ross. In 1976, as part of the Bicentennial, he was invited to speak before the USSR Academy of Science and Moscow University on the fort and on Russian settlement in California. He is a member of the Fort Ross State Park Advisory Committee and was chief researcher for the book *Fort Ross: Indians, Russians, Americans*.

Written by a consortium of American and Russian historians, the new book documents early commercial, scientific, cultural and diplomatic relations between the two countries. It contains copies of correspondence between prominent Russians and Americans, including a letter from Catherine the Great to George Washington seeking help in compiling a universal dictionary. There are letters written by James Madison and Benjamin Franklin, correspondence from Czar Alexander I to Thomas Jefferson, numerous dispatches, and excerpts from the diary of John Quincy Adams.

Published simultaneously in Russian and English, the book is the first of a projected series of three documenting the history of U.S.-Russian relations. It provides previously unavailable background information for use by history scholars and textbook authors, according to Rokitiensky, "enabling American scholars to analyze the documents and make their own interpretation."

If interested in a copy of the book, please contact Nicholas Rokitiensky through the California History Center, DeAnza College. 🐾

CHC instructor Nicholas Rokitiensky is a recognized authority on Fort Ross and the Russians in California. He has contributed to a book which is a joint venture of the U.S. and U.S.S.R.



Pioneer Santa Clara Valley orchardist R.C. Olson stands surrounded by his world famous cherries. Photo by Yvonne Jacobson.

Passing Farms: Enduring Values

In Memorium—R.C. Olson (1899-1980)

It was April, 1979. My father, brother and I sat talking about the future of the farm. We looked out the window of the office, down the driveway which runs between the barns, one built in 1922 and the other in 1955, toward the cherry orchard.

The familiar was everywhere around me. I could see where I picked prunes as a child, cut apricots in the shed and jumped in the bins of dried prunes with my friends from the top floor of the barn into the soft, stickiness of dried fruit below, my father's voice in the background, "You kids, get out of there."

It was on that April morning that it suddenly became clear that these surroundings, so much a part of me, could not last forever. Nor could my father, at that time approaching 79 years old. Something should be done for my grandchildren. The revelation that I must quit my teaching job, get a camera and go to work came in the form of a shiver. I know now that the shiver was the awareness that my father would not live long.

fourteen

As I began I realized that recording our farm whose beginnings reach back to the turn of the century and cover four generations, had significance beyond our family history. Our story symbolized something of the history of the Valley; we were a remnant of the family farms which stretched from one end of the Valley to the other until recently.

In the coming months I would sit with my father and ask questions. He was my source; he proved to be an encyclopedia of knowledge about Santa Clara Valley. His memory was a history book of information experienced, absorbed and remembered over a lifetime.

He was the farm. He was the force behind it, keeping the cherry trees standing "a stone's throw from city hall", as he liked to say about his close proximity to Sunnyvale. It was the high quality of the cherries that made him famous among fruit growers and cherry lovers. I asked him why he held onto the land when everyone around him sold out to the developers. His answer reflects the constraint of his character and a sure knowledge of what he wanted from life.

"We had the most fertile land in the world right here. What more could I wish for? We were doing what we wanted to do, so why should I want to leave it or change?"

He was as steadfast with people as with the land. If the land sustained him just as he, in return, sustained it through years of care, he was as profoundly attached to people: to friends he made and kept for a lifetime; to individuals who worked for him fifty years ago that he never forgot; to customers who came to buy his fruit year after year.

He was enmeshed in a community of people whose roots represent an older, settled America, an older, settled Santa Clara County. The family farm system, it seems to me, involves values worth keeping before our eyes so they are not forgotten: commitment to family, hard work, honesty, pride in quality of produce, concern for one's neighbors, tolerance for people of different nationalities and religions and a sense of community.

The photo-exhibit, *Passing Farms: Enduring Values* scheduled to open in March at Syntex Gallery in Palo Alto will be dedicated to my father and to my mother, who worked alongside him through every fruit season since their marriage 47 years ago, but it will also be dedicated to all those who helped make the Santa Clara Valley the premier fruit growing region of the world and a premier place in which to live and grow.

Yvonne Jacobson

This exhibit was made possible through grants from:

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The Community Foundation of Santa Clara County

BankAmerica Foundation

The Luke B. Hancock Foundation

The R.C. Olson Memorial Fund

The National Endowment for the Humanities

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CHCF Association News

December seems long past, but we had two events before the holidays, which once again, thanks to our many volunteers, were very successful. On Friday, December 12 the CHC had an open house for DeAnza students, staff and friends. Cookies and punch were served to all who dropped by. At 2:00pm the 14 columns which have been purchased and the first portion of the tile courtyard were dedicated. A warm thank you to the West Valley Federated Women's Club for decorating our tree.

Villa Montalvo provided the setting for the Annual holiday party on December 13. Over 200 members and guests of the CHCF and the Montalvo Association enjoyed good food and good wine in this beautiful historic setting.

We had 28 different people volunteer to help at the two December galas. I hope more and more people will want to participate when they realize how much enjoyment we receive from the classes and fields trips emanating from the center. Two good examples of dyed-in-the-wool supporters of the CHCF are **Zee Tieger**, who lives in Los Altos Hills and **Betty Reed** coming from The Villages. We have many who have full time occupations yet still gave time to CHC—people like **Mandy Dean**, **Jill Martin**, **Doris & Marty Grushkin**, **John Lyle**, **Ed Metz**, **Walter Matt**, **Ken Givens** and many, many others.

The monthly Docent & Volunteer meeting was held on Dec. 5th at Mimi's in Old Town in Los Gatos. We had a lovely tea (instead of luncheon) which was a nice change. The response for the Maritime Exhibit was good and with two more docents **Lorene Speth** and **Helen Ewbank** — added to our roster it made things easier for all of us.

On Sunday, March 8th, there will be a preview of the exhibit *Passing Farms: Enduring Values* at Syntex in Palo Alto. Our docents will be needed there and it will be early training for us since the exhibit will be at the CHC in September 1981.

The Spring Exhibit will be about *Californians from Yugoslavia*. **Elsie Matt** is responsible for coordinating most of the research for the exhibit and the training of the docents. Since Elsie is a docent herself, it shows the kind of people we are attracting to our Volunteer and Docent program at CHC.

DeAnza Day, June 7th, is 6 months away as I write but it will be less than 3 months away by the time you read this. Do you have any antiques or services you would be willing to donate to DeAnza Day CHCF Antique Auction? This is a fine way to support CHCF so please see if you have anything that can be used at the Antique Auction on June 7th. You can call either the Trianon or me to let us know about your donation. My number is 296-7734.

I want to thank all of you for being so willing to help whenever I ask for assistance. I also want to give my special thanks to Lesley McCortney for all her help. If you haven't met her yet, she is our very efficient receptionist and all around "handy-woman".

Don't forget about June 7th and the DeAnza Day Antique Auction. We need all the help we can get to make the auction a financial success. ↘

Mary Jane Givens

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Dedication of the first phase of the memorial tiles was held in a special ceremony in December. Tiles and columns may still be purchased. It is a very special way to remember loved ones.

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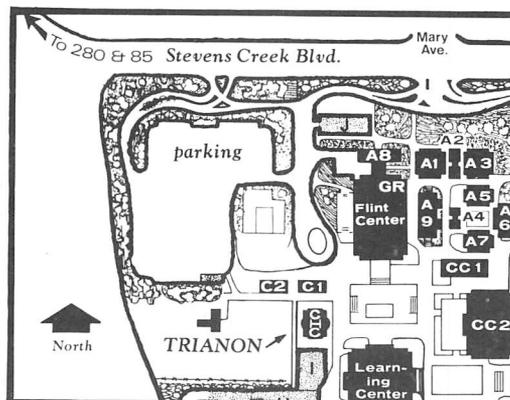


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21250 Stevens Creek Blvd. Cupertino, Calif. 95014 (408) 996-4712

Trianon Bldg. Hours:
Monday—Friday:
8:00 am—noon, 1:00—5:00 pm

Exhibit Hours:
Monday—Friday:
9:00 am—noon, 1:00—4:30 pm
Docent Tours may be scheduled
by calling 996-4712.



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