

Volume 19 Number 2

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CALIFORNIA THE ORNIAN

Magazine of the California History Center Foundation/De Anza College
A Foundation Supporting the Study and Preservation of State and Regional History



**Women—
Yesterday and Today**

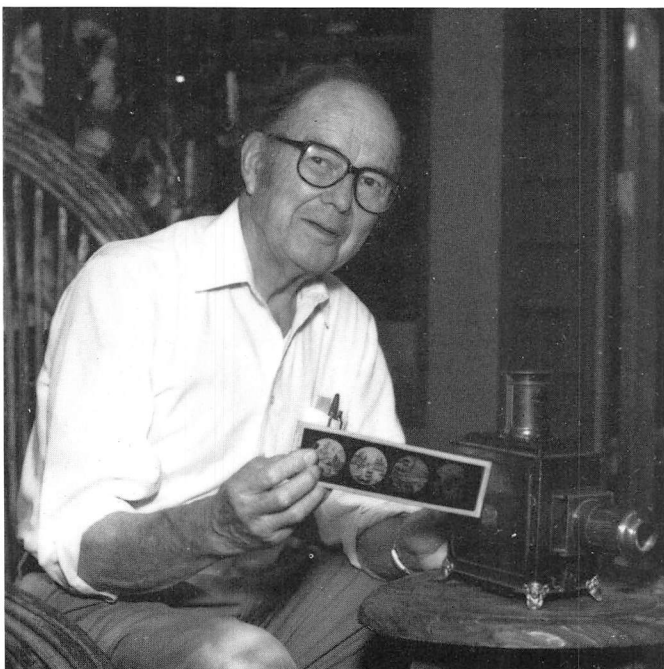
Engaging Your Political Voice

This academic year, September 1997–June 1998, is the first where a majority of our programming is based around a single California Studies topic area. We are focusing on the political process this year, from the local to the state, and how each of us can, and should, have more of a voice in the development of 21st century California.

Working with the overall theme of “Engaging Your Political Voice for the 21st Century,” the second annual California Studies conference was held on November 14th. Eureka!, a California state budget simulation, provided a specific activity to educate our students and community on the ways our elected officials get their “business” accomplished, and how we, collectively and as individuals, can participate in the political process. It also gave participants a basic foundation on which they can build and develop a more extensive understanding of the fiscal and policy issues affecting their lives.

With close to 100 participants, including faculty, staff, students and community, it was truly an outstanding day. Our thanks go to Jeanette Rapp Silva, Fred Silva and Tim Hodson from the Center for California Studies at California State University, Sacramento, for making the Eureka! activity available to the California History Center and De Anza College! I also want to thank State Assemblyman Mike Honda for participating at Eureka! by starting the day off with a presentation and discussion on the challenges and trends for higher education in the 21st century.

Additional activities are planned during the year to build upon and refine the information gained at the Eureka!



simulation, and to support the holistic approach of interdisciplinary education. Two half-day follow-up activities are scheduled, one winter quarter and one in spring.

On Friday, February 27 we are planning to have a panel of speakers engage the audience in a discussion about “Does the political process work for you, or not, as a student, as a parent, as a taxpayer, etc.?” Panelists will include local elected officials, students and representatives from the community. We want to address not only the question, but hopefully start to discuss some possible solutions for those who feel the process doesn’t work for them in their everyday lives.

Our half-day in spring, “Increasing Your Political Voice at De Anza and Beyond,” is scheduled for Friday, May 8th. We anticipate a workshop for students and community that will get to the nuts and bolts of political activism. What can I do? Where do I start? How do I do it? In effect, how do I play a role in helping the people of California be informed participants in developing our future?

And that last question is what the California History Center is attempting to answer with our California Studies programming, educating our community to be informed participants in developing the future. We all live here, we should all be concerned about the future of our state, we should all be informed about the issues that impact our lives, we should all vote, and we should all want to make California a better, healthy place to live.

I hope you will join us in our efforts, as we continue to develop California Studies. If you have ideas for topics that you feel would make a good focus for programming, please give us a call. We’d love to hear from you.

On another note, we have a wonderful event in the very early planning stages that I wanted to let you know about. In recognition of the release of our latest book *Saratoga Stereopticon: A Magic Lantern of Memory*, author Willys Peck has agreed to lead a historic walking tour of downtown Saratoga. This will give you an opportunity to see some of the sites that provided the impetus for his delightful recollections. Look for your invitations in the spring.

Have a wonderful holiday season, and I hope you plan a visit in the new year!

Kathleen Peregrin
Director

COVER:

Florence Margery Dunbar: eighth grade graduation. Lincoln School, Cupertino, California, circa 1890s. Courtesy Stockmeir Library and Archives.

Willys Peck, author of Saratoga Stereopticon: A Magic Lantern of Memory, with his antique stereopticon, 1997.

CALENDAR

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| <p>12/2 “Saratoga Stereopticon: A Magic Lantern of Memory” book release, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. at the Saratoga Community Library.
Presentation, sale and book signing by Willys Peck for his new book published by CHCF.</p> <p>12/4 Holiday Open House at CHC, 6:00–7:30 p.m. An evening to thank and recognize CHC volunteers, board members, and faculty.</p> <p>12/12 Fall quarter ends.</p> <p>12/22–1/2 CHC closed for winter break.</p> <p>1/5 De Anza College classes begin. CHC open to the public. History center hours are: 8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday; closed from noon to 1:00 p.m.</p> <p>1/19 Martin Luther King, Jr.’s birthday observed. De Anza College and CHC closed.</p> | <p>1/24 Field Trip: “Discovering the Past Around You.”*</p> <p>1/31 Field Trip: “James Duval Phelan.”*</p> <p>2/7 Field Trip: “California Coast.”*</p> <p>2/13 & 2/16 Presidents’ Birthdays observed and CHC closed.</p> <p>2/27 Speakers Panel: “Does the Political Process Work For You?” at CHC.</p> <p>3/7 Field Trip: “Big Alma.”*</p> <p>3/9-13 “Diverse Experience in Feminism: A Dialog Across Generations (See p. 13 for more details).</p> <p>3/14 Field Trip: “Open Space.”*</p> <p>4/97 Opening of Childrens’ Exhibit.</p> |
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- * See Education pages 4–5.

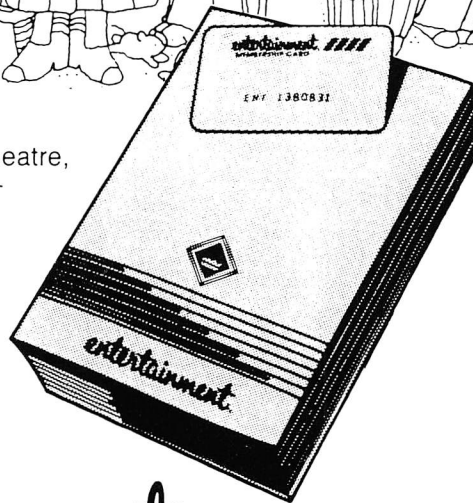
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EDUCATION

State and Regional History

The following courses will be offered winter quarter through the California History Center. Please see the California History Center class listings section of the De Anza College Schedule of Classes for detailed information (i.e., course ID #, call #, and units.) **For additional course information, call the center at (408) 864-8712.**

And don't forget, as a benefit of being a history center member you can register for history center classes (CHC classes only, not other De Anza classes) at the Trianon building.

California Coast, Where History and Wildlife Meet: *Betty Hirsch*

Every winter nature's spectacular wildlife drama is played out on Año Nuevo Island, on the San Mateo County Coast, when magnificent elephant seals come to celebrate their historic mating season. Meanwhile, on the Santa Cruz Coast, at Natural Bridges State Park, the beautiful monarch butterflies grace the landscape with their annual appearance. The elephant seal population numbered less than 100 at the turn of the century after being slaughtered for their oil rich blubber. Placed under government protection, these huge mammals (males can reach lengths of 20 feet and can weigh as much as 4 tons) rebound rapidly from the brink of extinction. Año Nuevo State Reserve was created in 1958 to protect the seals. The class will cover the discovery by Sebastian Vizcaino in 1603, history and wildlife of Año Nuevo and the surrounding coastal areas. The field trip will include visits to Año Nuevo, Natural Bridges and Pigeon Point Lighthouse.

Lecture: Thursday, January 29. Field Trip: Saturday, February 7, 1998.

James Duval Phelan and the Politics of Reform: *Chatham Forbes*

No other public official of the early 20th century so personified the pride and optimism of California as James Phelan. Like his father, an entrepreneurial millionaire, Phelan led San Francisco to major political reform, and to solution of its long standing water problems. He also successfully sponsored the women's suffrage amendment in the U.S. Senate. A legendary host, Phelan entertained many of the intellectual and political leadership of his era at Montalvo, his home in Saratoga.

Lecture: Thursday, January 22. Field trip: Saturday, January 31.



California coastline. Courtesy Stockmeir Library and Archives.

Open Space Movement and Land-Use Decisions: *Chatham Forbes*

From the days of orchards and vineyards, there have been initiatives to establish parks and protect undeveloped land. With the growth of population and technical industry, public pressure has increased to set aside large proportions of the land still remaining. Non-profit and governmental organizations comprise a coordinated regional and local support system for this growing movement.

Lecture: Thursday, March 5. Field trip: March 14.

Big Alma, Grande Dame of San Francisco: *Betty Hirsch*

Alma de Bretteville Spreckels, the beautiful, outrageous woman who was born on a farm in the Sunset District, scandalized San Francisco society, became an artist's model, posed for the statue in Union Square, married Adolph Spreckels (the sugar king), befriended European royalty, brought the works of Auguste Rodin to America and built the Palace of the Legion of Honor to hold them, lived in the grandest house in San Francisco, fought two World Wars, invented the garage sale, and at age 57, chartered a plane and eloped with a cowboy. The class will give a new historical perspective on this extraordinary woman.

Lecture: Thursday, February 26. Field trip: Saturday, March 7.

Discovering the Past Around You: Mary Jo Ignoffo

Join local author and historian Mary Jo Ignoffo in this course on "how to do" local history. It will explore the variety of primary source material that is available at the local level for historical research: both published and unpublished work, historic photographs, artifacts, and the physical landscape. Whether researching your family, your house, your school, your neighborhood, or an entire community, there are a host of sources that are easily overlooked. Although communities in Santa Clara County will be used as examples, many of the suggestions and principles can be applied to research other locales. There will be some discussion of sources available through the internet.

Lectures: Friday afternoons, January 16 and 30.
Field trip: Saturday, January 24.

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Boys' Winter Shoes are being closed out fast

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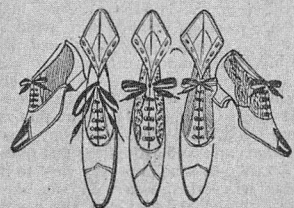


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Santa Clara

Mello's advertisement in the "Easter Edition" of the Santa Clara News, March 15, 1910. Local newspapers are just one of many sources available to historians to "discover the past around you."

PIONEER PROFILE

Pioneers in Politics

by Glory Anne Laffey and Robert G. Detlefs

The Californian commemorates the sesquicentennial of the American Women's Rights Movement with articles about women past and present. The following is drawn from "Biographical Vignettes" in County Leadership: Santa Clara County Government History (1995) by Glory Anne Laffey and Robert G. Detlefs. This article details accomplishments of the first four women elected to the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors. Photographs courtesy of each of the former supervisors.

In the 1970s, so many women were being elected to government positions in Santa Clara County that it became known as the "feminist capital" of the nation. Standing for



Geraldine Steinberg

election in 1976, **Geraldine F. Steinberg** became the first woman elected to the board, joining a wave of other women in public office including San Jose Mayor Janet Gray-Hayes, who was elected in 1974.

Steinberg's involvement in county government began in 1965 when she served as deputy county counsel following completion of her law degree at Stanford University. In 1967, she went into private practice, but her interest in land use issues brought her back to the public sphere.

She was nominated to replace outgoing Planning Commissioner Lawrence Anderson, and as the first woman to be appointed to the County Planning Commission, Steinberg worked to plan the direction of development in the county.

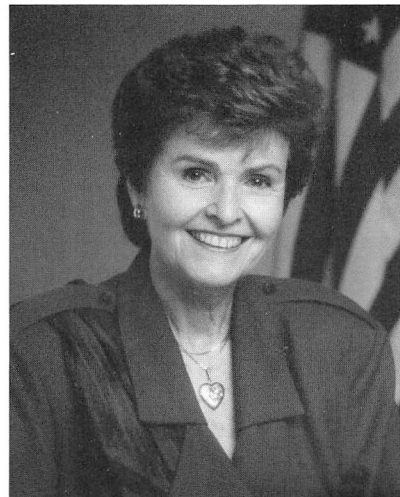
Steinberg was appointed to the county board of supervisors to replace Victor Calvo, who had been elected to the assembly. She served on the General Plan Committee for two years, helping to pass a two-year moratorium against subdivisions of unincor-

porated land until the general plan could be completed.

Steinberg was elected to her supervisorial seat in 1976. She was sworn in as the first woman to chair the board of supervisors by Judge Marilyn Pestarino Zecher, the first woman to sit on the superior court bench. In the late 1970s, Steinberg was considered for appointment to the superior court and municipal court, but decided to continue to serve on the board of supervisors.

Steinberg left political office in 1981. Together with her husband, architect Goodwin B. Steinberg, she hoped to develop public/private partnerships to help alleviate the critical shortage of affordable housing in the county.

Elected in 1978 to the county board of supervisors, **Susanne**



Susanne Wilson

B. Wilson, who had served on the San Jose City Council, became the second woman to be elected to the board of supervisors. When she was joined by supervisors Lofgren and Morgan in 1980, women held the majority for the first time.

Supervisor Wilson was active on a variety of issues, ranging from the environment to the role of women in government to the functioning of county bureaucracy. Strongly supportive of maintaining open space, Wilson usually voted to limit growth but also worked to ensure that the housing needs of her constituents were met.

She fought for equal rights for women in government; the case of *Wilson vs. Superior Court* was taken to the Supreme Court. A comparable-worth plan was developed to provide equal pay for men and women with equal responsibility. The female majority on the board also secured the hiring of the first female county executive, Sally Reed.

Leaving office in 1990, Wilson established Solutions by

Wilson, a consulting business that helps people resolve political problems. In 1994, Wilson accepted the Leader in Residence position at San Jose State University, a program designed to give students an opportunity to interact with outstanding local politicians.

Rebecca Q. Morgan made her start in politics in 1973, serving on the Palo Alto Board of Education until 1978. She then worked as a corporate finance officer for Bank of America, working with many small companies in Silicon Valley.

As a supervisor, Morgan began the effort to build a new children's shelter in the county, a project that would be completed by her successor, Dianne McKenna. Likewise, she was

instrumental in construction of the new jail. She also worked to get Highway 85 constructed and made progress on development of the light rail system. Morgan was particularly concerned that county spending be controlled with well-planned and restricted budgets, putting in place more efficient accounting methods.

Morgan gave up her supervisorial seat after one term when she



Rebecca Q. Morgan

was elected in 1984 on the Republican ticket to the state senate. She returned to Santa Clara County in 1993 to direct Joint Venture: Silicon Valley. As president of this nonprofit coalition of business and government, Morgan hopes that Joint Venture will be able to stimulate economic development and create a better future for the community.

When first elected to the board of supervisors in 1980, **Zoe Lofgren** and her colleagues found the county's system of financial management in disarray. She helped reshape the county's management practices by streamlining operations and

holding department heads more accountable for their budgets. Despite strong political opposition, she fought to shift management of county jails from the sheriff's department to a newly formed Department of Correction, a move that has saved the county \$31 million since 1987.

In 1984, she spearheaded the Measure A highway funding campaign, (the first of its kind in California). Overwhelmingly approved by the voters, the measure provided a one-half-cent sales tax to fund much needed improvements to highways 85, 101, and 237. In addition to serving on the Santa Clara County Traffic Authority, the governing body for Measure A, Lofgren sat on many other transportation boards and chaired the committee

studying BART's extension to the South Bay. Her work on these issues confirmed her role as one of the state's leading experts on transportation.

As a county supervisor, Lofgren oversaw a \$1.9 billion budget and developed overall policy direction for the many county departments that serve the public's health care, transportation, public safety, and human needs. In 1990, the *San*



Zoe Lofgren

Jose Mercury News named Zoe Lofgren one of the ten most influential people in San Jose.

Lofgren, the daughter of a truck driver and a secretary, was born and raised in Palo Alto and attended Stanford University on a scholarship. Upon graduation from Stanford, she worked for Congressman Don Edwards in Washington, D.C. Lofgren later transferred to Congressman Edwards' local office while attending the Santa Clara University Law School, where she graduated cum laude in 1975. In 1994, Lofgren was elected to fill the seat left open by the retirement of Congressman Edwards.

Why I Am a Club-Woman

by Adelaide M. Coburn

In commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the American Women's Rights Movement which began in Seneca Falls, New York in 1848, this issue of The Californian features stories about women, past and present. The following article was written by Adelaide M. Coburn who was the President of Mayfield's Woman's Improvement Club in 1910. It articulates many challenges facing women of her day. The essay appeared in the Easter Edition of the Santa Clara News, March 15, 1910.

In a recent number of one of the Woman's journals appeared an article entitled, "Why I Left the Woman's Club." Because the article embodied nearly all the objections urged against the club and was withal so temperate and truthful in many of its statements aligning the weak places in the

Woman's Club movement, I felt I would like to answer it, and tell why I am an ardent club woman; why, after ten years' experience in the club work, I still think the Woman's Club the greatest factor for good which has entered into the life of women, since 1833, when Oberlin College opened its door to "females" and thus ushered in the era of the Coed.

The author's first criticism concerns the method of preparing papers submitted to the study club—papers, as she says, quoted "paragraph after paragraph from the encyclopedia, sentence after sentence from the special magazine article, without one word of credit—all strung together with loosely, illogically, unilluminated by one flash of original thought." If this be true, and often it is, is not that in itself one of the most cogent reasons for the existence of the club?

Original thought, in every case except a few, very few geniuses, simply means previous knowledge so long ago



Women and children in a carriage in early Cupertino. Date unknown and people unidentified. Courtesy Stockmeir library and Archives.

acquired as to have become part of one's self.

If the woman has had so little opportunity to acquire knowledge, that she is forced to give her paper to her club undigested, is not that *prima facie* evidence that she needs the club?

If she has average intelligence and a thirst for knowledge (and if she has not both, she will not be in the club) her second paper is better arranged, her English is more forcible, her ideas are more vividly portrayed, and before long she is able to produce something tolerably interesting without the encyclopedia.

The study club, I believe, has been the greatest educational factor which has ever entered into the life of the average wife and mother, to whom a college course has been a boon denied. It has made her the companion of her children and the queen consort of her husband. It has given her something to talk about to her long-suffering family beside the trivial perplexities and annoyances of the day.

Plagiarism is a knotty problem after all. I am reminded of the experience of a young minister in an eastern town years ago. He came to the little church immediately after the completion of his divinity course. His presence was pleasing, his personality magnetic, his oratory full of charm, and his sermons a revelation to the little mill town congregation. Pretty soon his church was crowded, while the ministers of the other denominations, hard-





Cupertino branch of the international King's Daughters Society. The local group was founded in 1887. The Society made clothing for orphan homes, and provided financial aid to the poor in San Jose and in other areas. Left to right (back) Mrs. Crosely, Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Wood, Mrs. Gonsolus, Miss Melissa Williams, Mrs. Lydiard, Miss Annie Craft, ?, Mrs. Blake, ?, Mrs. North, Mrs. Proctor, Mrs. Van Dyne, Mrs. Dent, Mrs. Jollyman, Mrs. Elizabeth Lowe Watson, (Middle) Mrs. Craft, Mrs. Baer, Mrs. Wheeler, Mrs. Abbott, Miss Edna Hall, Mrs. Grimes, Mrs. Hall, Mrs. Blabon, Mrs. Porter. (Front) Miss Frankie Biennis, Miss Sue Lydiard, Miss Sarah Blake, Miss Ella Saunders, Miss Jennie Saunders, Miss Lucretia Watson.

working, somewhat discouraged, commonplace men, were preaching to the walls. People flocked to hear him who had not entered a church for years. All went well till some man whose reading was more comprehensive than his fellows, discovered that the successful aspirant was giving them verbatim Talmage's sermons. Of course he had to leave the town and the denomination, and eventually the ministry; due, no doubt, to his perverted

sense of honor, but here was something about those hard-working, uncultivated paper mill hands which made them see the difference between Talmage's genius and the threadbare, commonplace sermons upon which their mental and moral nature had been fed but not nourished hitherto. And I wondered, I still wonder if there may not be some way of grafting Talmage pears onto John Smith crabapple trees. Some honorable and honest

Elizabeth Lowe Watson was a spiritualist and suffragist who live in Cupertino in the early part of the 20th century. Her poem, entitled "Susan B. Anthony" appeared in the "Easter Edition" of the *Santa Clara News*, March 15, 1910.

Susan B. Anthony By Elizabeth Lowe Watson.

*God's witness to His truth she stood,
Amid a world of woe and wrong,
Gentle and sweet, but wondrous strong—
The highest type of Womanhood.*

*Her prayer no pleading of the lip,
Nor servile bending of the knee,
But work for Justice, Liberty,
And loving human fellowship.*

*An uncrowned Queen by Nature's grace,
To pomp and pride she paid no heed,
Nor caviled at the name of creed—
Her children were the human race.*

*She is not dead, but more alive
Than in her fairest youthful days;
Her work has brightened all our ways.
Rejoice! She need no longer strive!*

*From holy heights our Saint shall see
The fruits of toil and sacrifice,
And happier be in Paradise
For Freedom's stainless victory.*

largely in the newspapers, because, as she says, the women reporters do not care for refined women, just simply good wives and mothers, but are looking for sensationalism; and the woman who can throw an "oratorical bomb into the camp," is the one whose picture appears in the paper the next day and who figures in the press as a "brilliant club woman."

As I look back over an acquaintance of ten years with the presidents and other officers of the largest clubs in both east and west, and review the character and qualities of each, I cannot believe this to be true. As a rule, it seems to me, the leaders are the most intelligent and broadminded women to be found. They are women who have won the respect of their contemporaries by a consistent genius for leadership.

Occasionally a woman forges to the front out of the blue, like the tramp comet of 1910; but even then, as a rule, the brilliant qualities to which she owes her elevation sustain her in her position, with credit both to herself and her club.

I recall the appearance of a man in the political arena who owed his introduction to the American people largely to his sensational entree into Cuba; but many of us thought Roosevelt's administration as President compared very favorably with this predecessors.

It seems to me to be one of the strongest arguments for the Woman's Club, that if it is an oligarchy, it is an oligarchy of brains alone.

Not wealth, nor fashion, nor the reflected lustre of a husband's name, makes a woman a leader in the club—for once in her life she stands on her own feet, and is weighed by her own inherent ability, with all externals brushed aside.

The last and most vital criticism concerns the value of the work accomplished by the Woman's Club as it exists today. The author whom I am quoting claims that the Woman's Club has come to be a political organization where "old friendships are broken, party lines are drawn, small jealousies are fanned into bitter enmities, and whose members are not in sympathy with any movement which they do not lead." She says, "you will find ex-club women like herself, working in playground associations; in the fight on tuberculosis, in settlement houses and in institutional churches; in city recreation centres; in congested sections of foreign quarters spreading the gospel of fresh air, sunlight and nourishing food; and fighting anarchy with the weapons of farm schools for the poor and wholesome fun for the overworked."

method of lifting the men and women a few advantages out of the rut of their daily lives; out of the original perhaps, but at the same time, the deadly commonplace.

The author's second criticism concerns the personality of the women who come to the front in the club work; figuring

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The New Season's models in Tailored Suits are most pleasing—the materials are the most beautiful, styles sure to meet with popular approval. Many new arrivals the past week, giving us a showing embracing all the most recent style departures.

Do not fail to pay our Garment Section a visit tomorrow or some day this week and see the most interesting styles shown in spring wearables. We say most interesting, because the collection embraces the very choicest selections for the coming spring and summer.



**\$22.50 Spring Suits
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Women's Spring Suits made of Serges, Panamas, Broad Wales and Fancy Worsteds. Every wanted Spring shade in the lot. Skirts are new models in eleven, thirteen and fifteen Gore Plaited effects. Coats 32 and 34 inches long, full satin or silk lined, some trimmed with all silk Shark Satin to match; others come in strictly tailored styles. Exceptional values at **\$17.50**, \$22.50. On sale for.....

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Women's Suits for Spring. In models that are strictly up-to-the-minute. Made of self-striped Serges, in Gray, Navy, Green and Black. Plaited Skirts, 34-inch Coats, full satin lined. This Suit would be considered a good value at **\$12.50**.....

**New Spring Skirts
Values to \$6.00
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New spring skirts made of a fine quality of Panama. In plaited or kilted styles. Others with the long yoke, side plaited effects. All colors and black. An exceptional value at **\$4.50**. On sale at.....

**New Spring Suits for Women
Values to \$22.50
On Sale at \$15.00**

Made of English, French Serges and Fancy Worsteds; plain tailored and braid trimmed. Others with Moire, with full plaited skirts. All the new and desirable shades. A sample line showing all the latest spring models. Values to \$22.50 on sale at..... **\$15.00**

Beautiful Woolen Dress Goods & New Linens

Several large shipments of Spring and Summer Suitings placed in stock the past week. **SEE OUR GREAT COUNTER DISPLAYS.** New Dress Linens at every price stage.

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**Santa Clara
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Complete Showing of Pongee & Foulard Silks

Our lines consist of the most prominent Pongee Silks and Foulard Silks for the season, shown here in all the best colors.

Advertisement which appeared in the "Easter Edition" of the Santa Clara News, March 15, 1910.

In my experience with club work, I have been brought in touch with two kinds of women's clubs. So far as I know the clubs of the country may be roughly divided into study clubs and civic clubs. Often the two are combined and certain sections are devoted to the study of various arts and sciences, while others pertain to civic work in the community. Since it is not fair to demand of study clubs work along any of the lines mentioned, the arraignment must be directed entirely against the civic clubs which are formed for the express purpose of bettering the town

or city in which they are located.

And right here I have to admit that the weakest place in our armor has been found. I believe that here the Woman's Club is wandering away from its early ideals.

But I also believe that it is largest because under present conditions it has discovered its impotency to deal with the problems, political and economic, which confront our cities. What earthly use is it for the Woman's Club to train flowers in the school yard, when every person inside the building, from the



Cupertino de Oro Club officers. Date unknown. Courtesy Stockmeir Library and Archives.

principal to the janitor, owes his position to political pull, backed by the liquor interest.

The club woman may as well save her breath, as to preach the gospel of fresh air and sunlight in a tenement owned by city officials or endowed churches, accommodating three thousand persons whose rooms open on air shafts or into three-foot alleyways!

How can one preach the doctrine of pure food to the family whose combined efforts, working fourteen and sixteen and even eighteen hours a day, only serve to pay the landlord, keep a roof over their heads, and buy enough bread to prevent actual starvation.

The problem is too gigantic for the woman, having as she does, no legal power to better economic or social conditions.

It is like pouring water into a sieve.

So the club woman has come to devote her energies to such innocuous things as planting trees in parks and roadsides, in placing pictures of George and Martha Washington in school rooms, in erecting mission bells and drinking fountains, in removing inartistic and offensive billboards, in giving a program now and then on the Consumers' League or the Age of Consent in Girls, or the Children in Southern Cotton Mills or The Breaker Boys in Mines, or the Hookworm Among Poor Whites in the South.

But it is all talk and she knows it.

She can do nothing.

Even such settlement works as Jane Addams have come to feel that the united efforts of all the cities of America, under the present political and economic system is merely a drop in the bucket; their results in their inefficiency out of all proportion to the vast effort which went into them.

Fresh enthusiasms are worn out in this losing struggle with the political boss and the greed for wealth which builds tenements where human beings are herded in conditions which the health boards would not consider sanitary enough for the cattle which supply the milk for the family table. The chances are that those boards have money invested in those very tenements. We are always so much more careful of our own children's stomachs than the morals of some Philistine's child down at the East Side or North Side, or West Side.

The Clubs are so impotent, in spite of the vast aggregation of women composing them. We boast of the fact that there are nearly 900,000 women enrolled in the clubs of the United States, but the whole 900,000 have not the actual power of one Tim Sullivan who holds in the hollow of his hand the puppets who control the political and economic development of the State of New York, and whom he moves about like pawns on a chess board.

Nor do I believe that if these 900,000 women carried in their hands 900,000 votes that the situation would be materially changed. Good men allow bad men to handle the public funds and make the public laws, and control the franchises of the public utilities. I can see no reason why good women should be wiser or more far sighted or more public spirited. You cannot legislate men to be just and unselfish. It seems to me the solution of the difficulty lies deeper than that. Until the men of ability in the financial world, the masters of finance, come to see that the piling up of million upon million, upon ruined industries and the mutilated souls and bodies of men and woman, is unworthy of their own ability, that the game isn't worth the powder, even if the money is returned to the people in the shape of colleges and libraries and hospitals; until men and women are freed from industrial bondage—then and not until then will dawn the era of the brotherhood of man and the federation of the world—and then the woman's club may accomplish the great and glorious work which the vision of its founders beheld.

FOUNDATION NOTES

Board News

The CHC Board of Trustees has undertaken a number of projects for the academic year 1997-98. A committee has formed to pursue the preservation and upgrading of the cottages adjacent to the Trianon. The two buildings pre-date De Anza College, and indeed, their arched architecture provided the theme for the style of buildings throughout the De Anza campus. The committee is led by Trustee Bob Peepari, a retired architect with a keen interest in historic preservation.

The board of trustees continues to recruit professionals from a variety of fields including marketing, architecture, history, accounting, and education to help the CHC carry out its programs. Recently, the board approved changes in the bylaws wherein the Executive Director and the Legal Advisor are *ex-officio* members, rather than active members. This has opened up two more spaces on the board, bringing the total possible number of trustees to 15.

Fundraising is the most crucial task of the board of trustees. Committees are being formed to promote CHC publications sales and coordinate a fundraising event in the spring of 1998. New member recruitment is also an ongoing task.

During the summer, the board of trustees received a letter of resignation from Nan Geshke who has served the CHC since 1995. Geshke participated in a number of CHC projects, and her work, insight and good humor will be greatly missed. The board of trustees regretted to accept her resignation.



CHC Board of Trustee John McLaughlin,
September 1997.

Holiday Gift Ideas

Don't forget the California History Center's publications as gifts for your holiday shopping.

entertainment Book (see page 3 for more information)

Saratoga Stereopticon A Magic Lantern of Memory

published in 1997

by Willys I. Peck

This collection of entertaining and insightful articles that have appeared in the *Saratoga News* in a column entitled "Saratoga Stereopticon" is sure to make the reader smile. The vignettes offer glimpses of a rapidly fading past of Saratoga. Mr. Peck has been a newspaperman for over 40 years and has also been dedicated to historical groups including as a trustee to the California History Center Foundation. Soft cover 100 pp. \$9.20 (tax included).

Santa Clara Sagas

published in 1996

by Austen Warburton, edited by Mary Jo Ignoffo

The late Austen Warburton, an attorney and ardent history buff, wrote a series of historical articles about families of Santa Clara's history which appeared in the *Santa Clara American* during the 1970s and 1980s. They have been compiled here along with over 90 photographs. Additional historical essays about Santa Clara added by the editor, compliment the family sagas.

10 x 8-1/2 108 pp. hard cover \$29.95 soft cover \$19.95 plus tax

Scow Schooners of San Francisco Bay

published in 1995

by Roger Olmsted

In describing the history of the "scow schooner . . . an ugly barge-like craft with the aesthetically appealing lines of the much more graceful sailing vessel . . . it's a work that will find a warm place in the hearts of anyone who loves tales of sailing vessels and their hardy crews. Very highly recommended." *Scale Ship Modeler*.

10 x 8-1/2 112 pp. soft cover \$14.95 plus tax

A Diverse Look at Women's Lives

Recap of California Studies Conference

Last year the history center took a very personal approach to recognize Women's History Month. Working with the theme of "What does feminism look like in different cultures: personal perspectives of four California women," four De Anza College staff members talked about their evolution as women within the context of their cultural and ethnic background. All four presentations were very personal and very powerful, and we were asked by many De Anza faculty, staff and students to do a similar program this coming March.

Beginning on Monday, March 9 and running five days, one hour each day, we will be offering a series called "Diverse experiences in feminism: a dialog across generations." Each of the first four days we will hear a dialog between two women of similar backgrounds, talking about how their experiences as women have been different, or similar, based on the generation in which they grew up. We hope to include a dialog between two disabled women as well as women of different cultural backgrounds.

On Friday, March 13 we will have a panel of men, again across generations, talking about their experiences with women and feminism. During a second hour, the presenters from the earlier dialogs will join with the men's panel and the audience for a discussion about how to ensure that all voices in society are heard.

This series will be offered as a 1/2 unit class during winter quarter. Others may attend on a space available basis. If you have questions or are interested in registration information, please contact the center, 864-8712.

Exhibit

A children's exhibit entitled "How My Family Came to California" will be featured in the CHC exhibit room for the months of April and May 1998. The CHC has entered into a pilot program to work in cooperation with San Miguel Elementary School in Sunnyvale. Approximately 90 fourth grade students will create works of art depicting their families' arrival to the state. An announcement of the opening of the exhibit will be sent to CHC members.

We have all been warned, in the old saying, against watching laws or sausages being made. The only sausages were at the nearby Oktoberfest, but the Center for California Studies at CSU Sacramento, in its 9th annual "Envisioning California" Conference, gave conference attendees a closer look at the law-making process with analyses of the merits and problems of the "professional" or "full-time" legislature on its 30th anniversary.

The conference, called "The House We Live In," took place September 25-27, 1997 at the Capitol Plaza Holiday Inn in Sacramento, and "celebrated" the legislative format used starting in 1967 when Proposition 1A became law. Opening and closing plenary sessions concerned the value, pros and cons of a legislature which does not depend on "day jobs" for breadwinning, leaving the work of law-making to off-hours or to those who didn't need paid employment. Term limits, or lack of them, concentration of real power in the hands of the few, and the influence of charismatic and powerful politicians, like Jess Unruh and Willie Brown, were also discussed.

Three tracks, "Governance," "Terrain" and "Community" offered sessions on libraries in the 21st century, development of the Central Valley for housing, multi-cultural diversity, art education, environment and the solid waste dilemma, as well as panels on the initiative, term limits, the press and the legislature, and a look at the legislative bodies of other states.

A thought-provoking address by author Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston filled our minds and ears at Friday's conference luncheon and Assemblyman Phil Isenberg entertained and informed us post-prandially that evening, replacing Mayor Willie Brown of San Francisco, who had been scheduled.

"Governance" track sessions were videotaped and are available for viewing at the California History Center by appointment. We will soon receive audio tapes of the "libraries" and "Central Valley housing" sessions for use in the center. The staff at the history center is pleased to share California Studies materials with all who are interested and hopes friends of the center will participate in future California Studies conferences and other activities.

Lisa Christiansen, Librarian
Stockmeir Library and Archives, for *The Californian*

New Members

Special Donations for Huell Howser Event

*The following names were inadvertently left out of the
September 1997 issue of The Californian:*

Ann and Pete Bjorklund
Betty and Alan Dale
Elayne Dauber.

Individual

Mary Carol Burdett, Eugene Fujimoto, Susan Kozdon, Roberta Pabst, Machiko Tamura.

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Family

Philip & Francis Bush, George Holtzinger, Herbert & Norma Lee, Bill & Lorrene Palmer, Gladys & Garrie Thompson.

Individual

Marie Adams, Ann M. Anger, Helen Frazee, Helen Guida, Mary Hanel, Janet T. Hoffman, Henrietta Marcotte, Dale C. Mouritsen, Marjorie Pierce, Betty J. Rogaway, Joseph Rosenbaum, Howard Sklar, Barbara Wood.



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Editor

Mary Jo Ignoffo

Printing/Production

Composite Artts

David Lippenberger

Contributors:

Adelaide M. Coburn

Robert G. Detlefs

Glory Anne Laffey

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Your contribution is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. The value of goods received as a benefit of membership must be deducted from the amount of all contributions claimed as a deduction. CHCF members receive tri-annual issues of "The Californian" magazine and members who contribute at the \$50 level and above also receive a yearly Local History Studies publication.

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