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California Woman Suffrage

EXHIBITS

California Woman Suffrage: An Anniversary Exhibit

When women won the right to vote in Oregon, suffragist Abigail Scott Duniway, observed "The debt each generation owes to the past, it must pay in the future." At the California History Center, we strongly believe historical perspective fosters social responsibility. What people do in their daily lives matters not only to them personally and others around them, but also to future generations. Therefore, we are committed to understanding the fruitful links between yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

Anniversaries provide wonderful opportunities for us to evaluate our past and face challenges still before us. The 75th anniversary of the granting of suffrage to California women is such an opportunity. In October 1911, following the lead of five other western states, California women won the right to vote in an election in which only men participated. It was an event which the nation watched carefully, for California's election was an important test case in the national campaign for equal suffrage, and many California women were leaders in the national effort.

The women who originated the California Equal Suffrage League during the Progressive Era came from many community equal rights associations and women's clubs. In succeeding decades they were passionately dedicated to influencing change in many aspects of life. They wanted parks in the cities, better public sanitation, protection from contaminated food, care for the sick and indigent, child protection, improved conditions in prisons and mental

hospitals, better education, improved working conditions in factories and fields, the right to own property in their own names, the right to guardianship over their children, access to professions, and equal pay. In many cases they discovered they could not attain their goals with any reasonable certitude without the right to vote and hold public office. So suffrage became a pivotal issue.

One might think such an important social, economic, and political issue in California would have been carefully studied. In fact, historians until very recently have paid little attention to the campaign for suffrage and its larger societal significance. Only now are we beginning to understand the complexities of the issues and the campaign which joined numerous community equal rights associations and women's clubs in successfully achieving the right to vote in 1911.

Consequently, all of us at the California History Center, joined by the Palo Alto Women's Heritage Museum, are pleased to invite you this Fall's California Woman Suffrage 75th Anniversary Exhibit. With research coordinated by Judith Porter Adams from the Stanford University Center for Research on Women, design coordinated by Madeline Crawford of the San Jose Museum of Art, and the assistance of numerous volunteers, the exhibit promises to be very significant. We hope you will join us at the opening on October 11th and that you will mark your calendars for the series of special events and lectures which are being developed to accompany the exhibit through the coming months.

James Williams
CHC Director



COVER:

Suffrage efforts on the national level were introduced in 1848. However, federal legislation giving women the right to vote didn't pass until 1920, nine years after California enfranchised women. Photo courtesy Darlene Thorne.

Volunteer Marge Carrere, left, tells two De Anza Day visitors about the toy display, part of Spring Quarter's very popular California Consumer Products exhibit. Close to 300 school children toured the exhibit. Photo by David Fox.

CALENDAR

9/3 History center opens.

9/4 Evening registration.

5 to 7 p.m. CHC members may register at the history center for De Anza college/history center classes.

9/12 Volunteer Recruitment Reception.

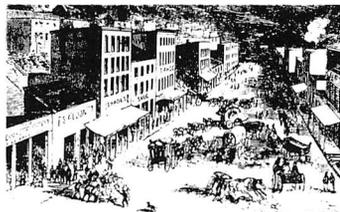
2 to 4 p.m. Anyone interested in becoming a CHC volunteer is invited to join us for a special reception to be held at the Trianon Building. R.S.V.P. to 996-4712.

9/13 Trianon Work Party.

9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wear your work clothes and bring your own tools to help us clean the Trianon building and grounds and paint the exhibit room. Lunches provided. R.S.V.P. to 996-4712.

9/23 De Anza College classes begin.

9/26-28 The Silver State: A Weekend in Western Nevada.



Bus departs at 4 p.m. Friday and returns at 8:30 p.m. Sunday. Lee Van Fossen leads an exploration of historic mining towns of Virginia City and Carson City and surrounding areas. Cost to

members \$125 and non-members \$145 includes transportation, double-occupancy lodging, honorarium, and fees.

10/11 Exhibit reception.

CHC members' exhibit preview, 1 to 2 p.m.; public celebration, 2 to 4 p.m. Join us for the opening of an original exhibit "California Woman Suffrage", heralded by entertainment, refreshments, and special presentations. \$3 per person donation requested for public celebration. R.S.V.P. by October 3 to 996-4712.

Note: The history center will sponsor a lecture series in conjunction with its exhibit on women's suffrage featuring a notable guest speaker each of the months of October, November, and December. Please call the history center for details.

10/12 Stockton Riverboat Cruise.

8:00 a.m. to 6 p.m. Betty Hirsch leads this unique tour of the Stockton Delta region. Cost to members \$48 and non-members \$57 includes bus, riverboat fare, brunch, honoraria, and fees.

The history center will be open from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. on Saturdays, beginning October 18 and running through December 13, with the exception of November 29.

10/23 Steinbeck Country.

8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Marion Card takes you to the Salinas/Monterey area for special visits to California author John Steinbeck's boyhood home and the region that provides the backdrop for many of his novels. Cost to members \$35 and non-members \$40 includes transportation, lunch, fees, and honorarium.

11/1 Julia Morgan's Architecture.

9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mardi Bennett offers a rare examination of the works of Oakland-born architect Julia Morgan, with tours of several buildings in Berkeley and Oakland. Cost to members \$35 and non-members \$40 includes transportation, lunch, and honorarium.

11/11 Veterans' Day holiday.

CHC closed; no classes.

11/27, 28 Thanksgiving holiday.

CHC closed; no classes.

Of Interest to Members

Aug. 9 - Oct. 26: Hmong Art: Tradition and Change, Oakland Museum, 415 273-3401.

Sept. 7: Opening of Vintage Reflections - Fashions of 1850-1950. San Jose Historical Museum, 287-2290.

Sept. 20 - Jan. 4: Silver in the Golden State, Oakland Museum, 415 273-3401.

Sept. 30 - Oct. 3: American Association of State and Local History, Annual Meeting, Oakland. Contact Thomas Frye, Oakland Museum, 1000 Oak Street, Oakland, CA 94607.

Oct. 17 - 19: California Committee for the Promotion of History, Annual Meeting, Bakersfield. Contact James Williams, 996-4712.

Nov. 15 - Jan. 9: Old Fashioned Christmas Display, San Mateo Co. Historical Society, 415 574-6441.

Dec. 5: Victorian Christmas Celebration, Whittier Mansion, 6 - 8 p.m., hosted by California Historical Society, 415 567-1848.

Dec. 11 - 13: Victorian Christmas Celebration, San Jose Historical Museum, 287-2290.

State and Regional History

Members: Special evening registration for members taking history center classes only, 5-7 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 4. For complete details see the De Anza Fall Schedule of Classes.

Introduction to Historic Preservation: *Kent Seavey*

An exploration of the meaning of and methods used in preserving America's cultural heritage. The class will focus on historic preservation as an interdisciplinary field which emphasizes the preservation of the built environment. Students will study the history of the preservation movement, analyze preservation legislation and the financial aspects of the movement. Historic site visits will be made.

The Golden History of the Banking Industry: *Brian Smith*

The history of banking from the Spanish period through the Great Depression. Since the advent of recorded history in the Western United States, California has been a "hard money" state. This class will trace this history from shells and salt to cowhides and gold. Five field trips included.

California's Northern Gold Country: *Bill Palmer*

This course will focus on the Northern Mines area, centering on the gold-mining towns of Grass Valley and Nevada City. By the turn of the century these towns had grown to be this state's major gold producers and were world leaders in the development of mining technology. Time, circumstances and depletions have taken their toll. A weekend field trip is planned.

Native Americans - The Miwok: *Judith Cunningham*

A study of these native people through a slide lecture and intensive weekend field study. This class will address principal Miwok lifeways, hunting and food gathering methods, milling, trade, religion, traditions, social interactions and family makeup. Changes due to the influx of miners will include how their decimation from disease and loss of hunting and gathering grounds affected them, and how they adapted to the new culture while still maintaining their own.

Where To See Wildlife in California: *Tom Taber*

An overview of California's diverse wildlife, with an emphasis on how, where and when they can be seen in their natural habitat. Taber, with the aid of maps and a slide program will help students become familiar with what animals live in California, their relationship with other animals and man, and how we can best enjoy their presence. Saturday field trips to Point Lobos, Ano Nuevo and Long Ridge Open Space.

History of Santa Clara County: *Stephen Payne*

The development of Santa Clara County from the Indian period to the present. Students will study the Indian, Spanish, Mexican and American experience in this area as well as the county's political, economic, cultural, military and social history. Early lumbering, mining, agriculture and canning will be discussed. Five field trips included.

California's Great Newspapers: *Betty Hirsch*

The story of this state's newspaper industry, the people behind it and the impact they have made on the history of our state. From Sam Brannan's "California Star" to today's great metropolitan dailies, California has a great heritage of colorful newspapers and equally colorful great publishing dynasties including the Hearsts, DeYongs, Chandlers, Knowlands and others. Each has a fascinating story.

History of Los Gatos: *Chatham Forbes*

This class features a group of historians actively involved in the preparations for the town's centennial celebration in 1987. Subject areas to be studied include the Indian, mission and rancho periods, railroad and interurban influences and contemporary issues.

Victorian Homes of Santa Clara County: *Mardi Bennett*

Taught by nationally-known preservationist Mardi Gualtieri Bennett, this class is designed to show students where to find Victorian sections in local cities and how to identify the styles and architectural features of these homes built by Santa Clara County pioneering families of the late 1800s.

Treasures of the Golden Gate: *Betty Hirsch*

This course focuses on two of San Francisco's most renowned landmarks, Golden Gate Park and the Golden Gate Bridge. Their colorful history will be presented in film, slides and lecture/discussion. A one-day field trip will cover both sites and weather permitting, the class will walk across the Golden Gate Bridge.

Living History - The Mexican Period: *Mary Lou Lyon*

Examines the Mexican period of California history through four on campus lectures and three participatory events in Living History Days as presented at Petaluma Adobe, San Juan Bautista, and Sutter's Fort. At all three sites, local groups will have costumed celebrations that include food, drink, music, art and history relived.



CHC instructor Marion Card's winter class on Japanese Gardens in the Bay Area was extremely successful, with over 50 students registered. One aspect of the class was on docenting and in this photo, docents in training are practicing their techniques while leading a group through Saratoga's Hakone Gardens. Photo courtesy Marion Card.

Exhibit Program

*California is celebrating the 75th anniversary of women's suffrage during 1986 and the history center, in cooperation with the Palo Alto-based Women's Heritage Museum, will open its new exhibit **California Woman Suffrage** on October 11, the date suffrage was ratified in 1911. Five states gave women the right to vote prior to 1911: Wyoming, 1869; Utah, 1870; Colorado, 1893; Idaho, 1896 and Washington, 1910. Using the dates of the five previous ratifications as focal points, the exhibit will trace the history of California women's lives in relation to this state's suffrage efforts. The following two courses are offered to enhance the exhibit for students.*

Women in the Public Eye: Oral Histories of Women in Politics:

Judy Adams

An exploration of the roles of women in politics, local and state elective and appointive office, as well as volunteer political action/education groups, through lectures, guest lectures, class

discussion and individual oral history interview projects with women in "the public eye". Instructor Adams will provide students with first-hand historical research methods and interview skills which will include audio and video taping techniques.

Western Women and Suffrage: Jane Boyd

Throughout the westward expansion women played important roles in the ever developing West. The early influence of native women, as well as that of the immigrating women, will be explored through four evening lectures. The class will focus on women and the multiple issues surrounding the suffrage movement. How did California come to enfranchise women nine years prior to the national enfranchisement?

The Ballot for Women in Santa Clara County

by Yvonne Jacobson

The Word of God inveighs against woman suffrage, and the plans of the Creator would be, in a measure, subverted by its adoption . . . Are we ready to repudiate the Scriptures and supplant God's place with this scheme of dissatisfied women and office-seeking demagogues? . . . Let us, then leave woman where she is—the loveliest of all creation, queen of the household, and undisputed dictator of the destiny of man. In the debate on woman's suffrage, Representative Clark (D-Fla.) voiced the status quo in favor of men.

Challenging traditional society with Christian moral indignation and evangelical zeal, stern **Susan B. Anthony**, called “the thin-lipped Puritan” by detractors, undercut male complacency with concepts of reform:

There is an enemy of the homes of this nation and that enemy is drunkenness. Every one connected with the gambling house, the brothel and the saloon works and votes solidly against the enfranchisement of women, and, I say, if you believe in chastity, if you believe in honesty and integrity, then do what the enemy wants you not to do, which is to take the necessary steps to put the ballot in the hands of women.

While white men gained universal suffrage by 1860, it took the Civil War for all men, regardless of race, to gain the vote by 1870. Women won national franchise in 1920. Prior to 1920, California granted women suffrage in 1911. Who were the women locally who worked to win the vote and what were the issues? On the 75th anniversary of woman's suffrage in California, it seems appropriate to answer these questions.

Santa Clara County suffrage workers, in action since March, mobilized for the final effort a month before the October, 1911 election. **Elizabeth Lowe Watson** (1853-1927), beloved president of the largest suffrage group, the California Woman Suffrage Association, stood before the Brotherhood of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Santa Clara pleading the suffrage cause. The 68-year-old Watson, a widow bereft of three children, commanded respect whenever she spoke.

I am making the plea for woman suffrage on the ground of simple justice only. Seven million women work under terrible conditions for their daily bread, but have no voice regarding these conditions. Is this Justice? We have no government of the people, by the people and for the people. We have a sex oligarchy. . . . Are not women equally concerned in pure food, pure air and clean cities physically as well as morally; are not the women interested in parks, public gardens, the building and maintaining of churches and schools?

Suffrage women of the 19th century were driven by a moral imperative to change and improve the world. In 1880 Watson

came from New York with her husband to Santa Clara County. In Cupertino, they built an ornate Victorian in the midst of a 26-acre fruit orchard. In New York Watson had worked for reform causes, including the abolition of slavery. In Santa Clara County temperance, peace and suffrage occupied her energies. The San Jose chapter of the Women's Christian Temperance Union organized in 1880 and Watson chaired the department of Peace and Arbitration. A life-time member of the American Peace Society she epitomized the 19th century reform spirit.

Like other leaders of the suffrage movement, Watson preached. In the 19th century three groups encouraged women to do so: Quakers, Unitarians and Spiritualists. Watson, a gifted Spiritualist orator, drew large audiences as pastor of the Religio-Philosophical Society in San Francisco.

Locally, Watson belonged to the King's Daughters and De Oro women's clubs. Annually, she hosted members of the Cupertino Union Church under a tree with an 87-foot-wide span, called Temple Oak. There, she even chaired monthly meetings of the Political Equality Club. National suffrage leaders Susan B. Anthony and **Dr. Anna Howard Shaw** came to address crowds under the oak about the state's first ballot for suffrage which failed in 1896 by 13,000 votes.

Suffrage Beginnings

Elizabeth Cady Stanton introduced the suffrage question at Seneca Falls in New York in 1848. The Declaration of Sentiments espoused male and female equality. Stanton claimed human institutions withheld equality intended by nature. Voting rights, a radical demand, caused her audience to gasp, but the right to vote only highlighted the inferior and unjust position of women before the law, in marriage, work, and family.

By 1851 Susan B. Anthony joined Mrs. Stanton. Both worked on behalf of anti-slavery societies but they could not join the all male enclaves. Stanton, relegated to the balcony when she accompanied her husband to England for the World Anti-Slavery Conference in 1840, determined to improve the status of women.

Miss Anthony, a teacher, discovered quickly that she earned less than male teachers. She canvassed for an anti-slavery society, but found the prejudice against women so great that she resigned. She took up her life's work next to Stanton. Despite differences in philosophy, their friendship remained steadfast.

Stanton understood the status of women in society as a greater problem to be addressed than simply getting the vote. She blamed Biblical texts, incorrectly interpreted, for woman's inferior



Susan B. Anthony, bottom row center, worked for suffrage at the national level, but visited California numerous times to lend support to this state's efforts. Unfortunately, she did not live to vote. Photo courtesy California Historical Society.

position. In the 1890s she published her *Woman's Bible*. Today's feminists follow in her footsteps, but neither Stanton or Anthony lived to vote.

California and Santa Clara County

Women's rights in California emerged as an issue in 1868 when **Laura De Force Gordon**, later to own the *Stockton Daily Leader*, spoke in San Francisco.

Besides Watson, many of the leaders of the state-wide effort came from Santa Clara County. **Mrs. Sarah Wallis** (1825-1905) of Mayfield listened in the audience when **Laura De Force Gordon** gave her first talk. Wallis' own experience led her into equal rights work. Two unhappy marriages and complicated property problems taught her the legal disadvantages of women. In her third husband, Joseph S. Wallis, later a judge in Santa Clara County, she found a soul-mate who encouraged her suffrage efforts. They settled in Mayfield in 1857. In 1870 Wallis served as the first president of the state-wide California Woman Suffrage Society. By her effort civil law changed to allow married women to make contracts. She died in 1905 before suffrage was granted.

While laws affecting women came under close scrutiny by feminists, the law itself became a target. **Clara Shortridge Foltz** (1856-1934) came with her husband and five children to settle in

San Jose in 1874. She divorced him and with the backing of her family, undertook the study of law at a time when the bar admitted only males. She helped remove the restriction by drafting a bill, presented to the state assembly by Senator Bernard Murphy in 1877. Known as the Woman's Lawyer Bill, it passed in 1879 and allowed women to the bar. Clara Foltz and Laura De Force Gordon became the first women lawyers of California.

Mrs. Sarah Knox-Goodrich (1825-1903) worked with Foltz on behalf of the Woman's Lawyer Bill and organized the first suffrage association in San Jose, in 1869. Originally from the South, she and her first husband Dr. William J. Knox, an early banker in town and later a state senator, arrived in San Jose in 1862. State senator Knox passed Bill 252 granting married women the right to dispose of their own property by will.

A significant aspect of the right to vote debate is revealed in an incident relating to San Jose's 1876 centennial celebration on the 4th of July. In organizing a suffrage carriage for the 4th of July parade, Knox-Goodrich requested that the carriage be placed ". . . **NEXT TO THE NEGROES**, as we wished to let our legal protectors have a practical illustration of the position occupied by their mothers, wives, sisters and daughters in this boasted republic. We **DID** want to go in . . . **AHEAD OF THE**



Women's social and service clubs were an integral part of the suffrage movement. Members canvassed voters, organized teas, held social evenings and even marched on behalf of suffrage. Photo courtesy California Historical Society.

CHINAMEN, as we considered our position at present to be between the two." Behind this comment lies the resentment that blacks and Asians, often servants to wealthy women, could vote, but women could not. While the feminists appealed to the class consciousness of their day, they also resented the fact that they had toiled for the abolition of slavery, but were denied the right to vote granted to black men.

Twenty years later, Susan B. Anthony came to California for eight months on behalf of the 1896 suffrage ballot, and she used the same argument. During her stay, large contributions to the campaign came from Anthony's two avid supporters **Jane Stanford** and **Phoebe Apperson Hearst**. Knox-Goodrich hosted her in San Jose. In her speech before the San Jose Republican League on September 4th Anthony said,

Before the days of reconstruction I was with Mr[s]. Knox-Goodrich, one of those who petitioned for the enfranchisement of women. We were told to wait, as the negro had been enfranchised. . . . All manner of men except idiots, lunatics and unpardoned criminals have now been given[n] the ballot. The women have virtually been placed in the category of the prescribed class by the refusal of the men to enfranchise them.

Since rampant anti-Asian feelings existed in California suffragists addressed the issue in relation to women. **Miss Sarah M. Severance** (1835-1928), founder of the Severance Seminary



Clara Shortridge Foltz undertook the study of law in the 1870s and became one of the first two women lawyers in California. Photo courtesy San Jose Historical Museum.

in Gilroy, was called the Susan B. Anthony of California and the Gladstone of the WCTU. She wrote in a San Jose newspaper article on the eve of the 1911 election that the power of Asians would not be significantly increased by giving women the vote. To show that women backed white supremacy, Severance suggested adding voting requirements for Asians.

Feminist racism reflected class structure. Women challenged the structure which kept them from voting, but they did not challenge the structure itself. As Severance put it, *Orientalists have no desire to be one of us*. One of us meant the class from which most suffragists descended: native-born, Anglo-Saxon, white Protestant American stock, the same class which fed the growing ranks of the Progressive movement in California and the West at the time, the same class which had brought suffrage to the five other Western states: Wyoming, Utah, Colorado, Idaho and Washington.

Knox-Goodrich, known nationally for tax protests, also nominated herself for Assemblywoman through an advertisement in the *San Jose Pioneer*, 1877. In 1896 she served on the Joint Campaign Committee for state suffrage, but she died in 1903 before the vote.

Women's Clubs

Despite the death of early leaders, new energy emerged nationally and locally through college-educated women. The number of jobs open for women rose from seven in 1850 to over 300 by 1900. Land grant colleges, open to women, trained them for increasing opportunities.

College educated women who married planned to leave work for their homes and families. They also expected to serve their communities through volunteer work. The woman's club became an important factor in their lives. Today, women's clubs seem tame, but then opposition swirled around them. Former President Grover Cleveland expressed disapproval as late as 1905 when he said, *I believe that it should be boldly declared that the best and safest club for a woman to patronize is her home.*

Study clubs, like San Jose's Monday Club, (1884), focused on subjects which the women researched, presenting their findings to the group. The San Jose Women's Club formed in 1894 as a service and social club. So many women's clubs existed by 1890 that the General Federation of Women's clubs organized nationally. They claimed 200,000 members; only the WCTU had a larger membership.

The WCTU thrived in Santa Clara County and worked for issues besides temperance. In San Jose, they began a kindergarten, coffee houses as alternates to saloons and they actively supported equal rights for women and suffrage. National leaders realized that mixing temperance and suffrage caused the failure of the 1896 suffrage election in California. The Liquor Dealers Association organized in San Francisco and defeated passage there and in Alameda County. In the 1911 election, national leaders requested the WCTU withdraw from the forefront of battle. Temperance women, like Sarah Severance, worked through their own clubs.

Every small town in Santa Clara County had a woman's club, from Gilroy to Palo Alto. Interlinking networks existed between club members and suffrage amendment societies of the same city. Members canvassed voters, organized teas, held social evenings and entertainment on behalf of suffrage. After the election, women's clubs garnered high praise for helping to win the vote.

Since most clubs excluded them, black women worked for suffrage through their own Garden City Women's Club, organized in San Jose by 1908. The integrated Political Equality Club, endorsed black woman **Sarah Massey Overton** (1850-1914) to canvass black voters on behalf of suffrage in the 1911 election. The Political Equality Club, in San Jose since 1870, first began

in Oakland based on an English club model. Overton also served as second vice president of the San Jose Suffrage Amendment League.

The Independent Suffrage Amendment League of San Jose organized early in 1911 from at least 20 San Jose affiliated women's clubs. Mrs. Sara E. Ayres of San Jose acted as president. Thirteen suffrage organizations county-wide came under the umbrella of the Santa Clara County Equal Suffrage Association with Mrs. Jennie Arnott of Palo Alto serving as president. Ayres and Arnott belonged to clubs in their respective towns.

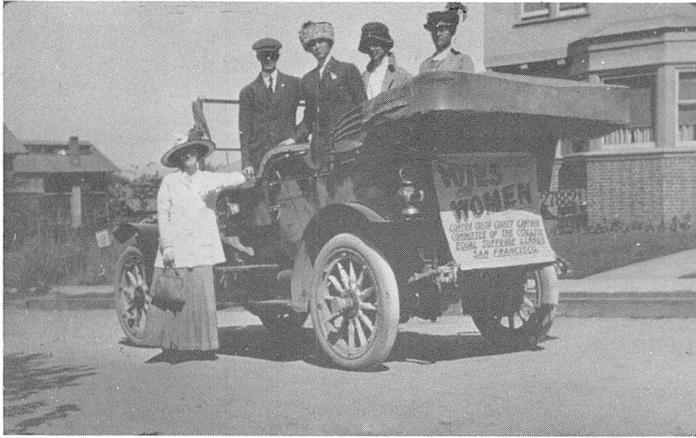
Mrs. Charles D. Blaney of Saratoga, another club woman, worked for the franchise, providing her open car for the pioneers of the movement in the Labor Day parade of September, 1911. Elizabeth Lowe Watson, Miss Sarah M. Severance, Mrs. Laura Watkins, Mrs. H. Herman, Mrs. W. L. Coombs and Mrs. A. O. Hooker all sat in the lead car. Two more cars followed. As requested by the organizers, the women wore white dresses and carried yellow parasols, yellow being the official color of the suffrage movement. More than 100 women walked behind waving banners. Loud cheering greeted them.

Arguments Against Suffrage

Many men recoiled at suffrage because it spoke of radical change in the status quo. In 1879 at the Second Constitutional Convention, delegate James Caples of Sacramento claimed that equality of the sexes, not just the right to vote, was what the women's rights movement really demanded. "Your wife is elected to Legislature and your daughter is elected constable, and you are at home taking care of the babies."

The *Sunnyvale Standard* wrote approvingly when the 1909 effort to get the vote by an amendment collapsed before the legislators in Sacramento. The editor cited woman's nature - emotional, given to details, unable to understand the broad picture of politics, intended for the home and family, but not national concerns. As to the college educated women who could make better judgements than uneducated men: ". . . we venture to assert that a male ingoramus is better qualified to vote than a female ignoramus," skirting the question and insulting college educated women with one deft stroke!

No doubt it was such an editorial which ignited **Mrs. Sophia Durst** of Sunnyvale into action. An officer of the Eastern Star, a Methodist and an active member of the Sunnyvale Women's Club, she must have been galled by the editor's comments. She spoke and canvassed in numerous cities, often accompanied by



Methods used to gain support for suffrage were little different than methods used today. Some Walnut Creek supporters, with banner on their car, drove the streets prior to the 1911 election. Photo © Anne B. Page, courtesy San Francisco Maritime Museum.

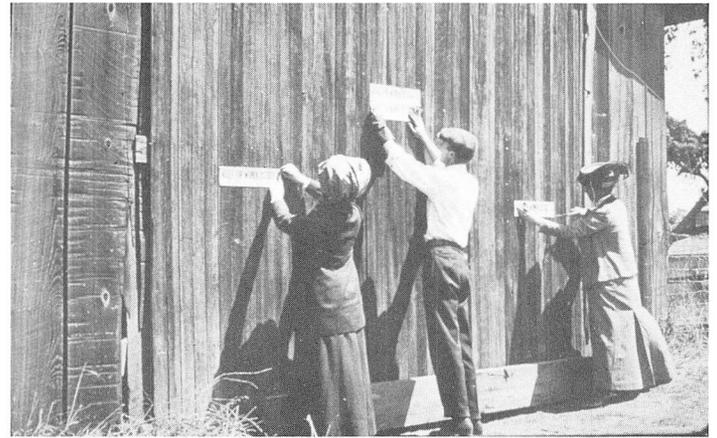
her son and daughter, and earned high praise as the woman who did more than any other individual in the county on behalf of suffrage.

The arguments of woman's nature and woman's sphere used so frequently by adversaries, were turned on their ear by male and female speakers alike. **Mrs. W. C. Kennedy**, mother of seven sons, former president of the San Jose Women's Club and a teacher born in San Jose, spoke from an open car to an outdoor rally just before the election, the topic of her speech, "The Mother's Side of the Question." Kennedy argued that since mothers have a stake in their children's welfare and in training them to be good citizens women needed the vote in order to do the job better. Like Mrs. Watson, Kennedy spoke on behalf of working women who needed a say in issues which affected their homes.

The Rev. George W. Brewster took this argument to its conclusion when he addressed a standing room audience at the Christian Church in San Jose two days before the election. *Because of her home and home interests woman should be given the ballot for its protection. By training and nature women are housekeepers, so let them have the city's housekeeping at heart.* This position reassured male voters of women's place in the status quo and helps to explain why the period from 1920 to 1960 might be called "the great sleep of feminism." The revolutionary nature of Stanton's concern for women in society took the back seat to women winning the vote. Even "Equal Pay for Equal Work," disappeared as an issue.

With the vote gained, women turned to volunteer work or numerous causes, among them international peace. Without a national focus and national leaders, women's rights fell behind pressing concerns of the Depression and World War II.

Behind much of the rhetoric on behalf of woman suffrage lay the belief that women, morally superior to men, would change the world. Mrs. Watson believed that if women could vote there would be peace in the world; the life and purity of the nation



A last minute push to get the vote for women was made, including putting posters up around town. Even so, the measure passed by only a little over 3,000 votes. Photo © Anne B. Page, courtesy San Francisco Maritime Museum.

would be uplifted; prostitutes would disappear; the utopian age would dawn. Several fliers voiced these beliefs and the *Daily Palo Alto Times* claimed in a special suffrage edition, *The admission of women to the elective franchise in California would liberate in the political life of the state a preponderantly moral element.*

No sooner had women received the vote than the Suffrage Amendment League in San Jose disbanded and organized study groups to educate women in issues of the day, to prepare them for assuming their new role. Nationally, the League of Women Voters emerged in 1919, even before the 19th amendment to the United States Constitution was ratified in 1920, giving women the vote.

Woman's suffrage won by a narrow margin of 3,587 votes in California's 1911 election. In trying to assess who helped them win, women credited unions, Grangers, the suffrage clubs (both male and female), and pioneers of the county. This coalition favored political action against Southern Pacific railroad and the banks, against vested interests which controlled the life and welfare of the individual. In 1910, the Progressives voted for Hiram Johnson as governor and reforms. The Progressive agenda included the recall, referendum, direct primary and suffrage for women. In reaching for greater equality, white middle class men began to see women as allies in their own efforts to attain political power. The right to vote came to women because moral indignation prompted women to challenge men and the status quo and finally because men saw it in their own self interest.

Jacobson is author of the book "Passing Farms – Enduring Values" and has been involved with the study of women's history since the early 1970s.

© Yvonne Jacobson

PIONEER PROFILE

Alice Locke Park

by Kathryn Larson Akatiff and Judy Porter Adams



Photo courtesy Palo Alto Historical Association.

Alice Park, following a tradition set by her mother's cousin, the Quaker abolitionist and feminist Lucretia Mott (1798-1880), also devoted much of her life to the woman's movement. Born in Boston in 1861, Alice attended her first suffrage convention at the age of 17. During her full life of 100 years she wrote, spoke and traveled for five decades to promote suffrage, pacifism and a broad variety of other causes such as prison and legal reform, vegetarianism, environmentalism and simplified

spelling. She worked to establish community playgrounds; to put an end to animal abuse at rodeos; to pass a California bill granting equal parental custody of minor children. She authored the California Bird and Arbor Day bill which provided for environmental education in schools. Her home in Palo Alto served as the meeting place for the organization which was to become the American Civil Liberties Union.

After her marriage in 1884 to mining engineer Dean W. Park, she began a decade of travel and temporary residence in several western states. In every location she actively espoused her feminist and pacifist views. The Parks settled in San Francisco in 1893 with their two children and remained there until the 1906 earthquake. They relocated in Palo Alto where both children attended Stanford University. Alice Park was on hand with the Votes for Women Club in Palo Alto to protest the establishment of a female quota at Stanford.

As secretary of the California Equal Suffrage Association, prolific letter-writer, and contributor to the mainstream and feminist press, she was well-known and respected by leaders of the suffrage movement. She immersed herself in the raging British woman suffrage movement, picketing outside Holloway Jail where Mrs. Pankhurst was imprisoned. She was a state-appointed delegate for California to the International Woman Suffrage Alliance in Hungary in 1913.

She said to herself that her "long suit was the distribution of free literature." She lists over thirty pamphlets, postcards, leaflets that she wrote and distributed between 1906-1911. She used what she called "personal advertising" with phenomenal success. When traveling she didn't lose a moment, for she plastered her luggage with slogans and unfurled the yellow suffrage banner from her hotel windows. On a suffrage speaking tour in Nevada, she signed the hotel guestbook, "Alice Park, California, where women vote." She notes: "I wore a "votes for women" button on my coat after 1911 only when in a state or country where women were not voters . . . The badge led to questions from persons who could not read the three English words . . . I anticipated this barrier, and planned to learn the necessary words in each new country before I passed the border."

When suffrage was passed in California, she held registration teas at her home and at one, where the registrar was a guest, 37 new women voters were registered. Ironically, she "spoiled" her first California ballot by making an error in marking her vote, but redeemed herself, according to a local paper by making a helpful suggestion about methods of tabulating votes.

Alice Park's first home in Palo Alto was on Gilman Street, a name that had personal meaning for her because of her friend and colleague Charlotte Perkins Gilman. In 1929 she convinced the City to retain the street name, among others named after women (Gilman Street was named after a local woman property owner). Today, adjacent to where her house once stood, a parking lot serves the community as the site of a Saturday morning farmers' market benefiting the local senior center—something Alice Park would have liked. Today's "old timers" with good recall of Palo Alto in the 1920s can still remember her as the eccentric older woman who rode her bicycle around town.

Akatiff of Palo Alto, is a research associate for the Women's Heritage Museum and staff member for the Palo Alto Historical Association. Adams, research associate for the Women's Heritage Museum and affiliate scholar at Stanford's Center for Research on Women, is also coordinating research for the CHC California Woman Suffrage Exhibit. Adams and Akatiff hope to collaborate on a book about Alice Park.

Resources: Hoover Archives at Stanford University has Alice Park's peace papers, including her autobiography from which we have quoted.

Women's Heritage Museum

by Jeanne McDonnell

The Women's Heritage Museum, in the process of being founded in the Bay Area, will be an uncommon place in that it will be one of the few institutions in the world that collects and displays multi-cultural materials specifically about women's history. Many women have been leaders in preserving reminders of the past, but their preservation efforts have not usually explicated their own history.

Cultural preservation has come to refer primarily to keeping and restoring meaningful objects, places, and buildings in something of their original state, a pursuit hardly to be controverted except to question what is "meaningful." Past generations infrequently concluded that women's journals, objects they made for their own or their families' use, or their art was sufficiently valuable to warrant the expense of saving for future generations.

To create a contrast for the sake of illustrating the point, consider for a moment that sanitation and transportation have this in common, that they are both cornerstones of modern life. Both contribute to human health and well being, but possibly, sanitation contributes more. Yet there are no great household cleaning museums on the scale of railroad or automobile museums. In fact, very possibly, there are no household cleaning museums at all. The very idea seems as ludicrous as women voting once did to a majority of the populace.

It is not only the generalized achievements of women that have been slighted. Even women in the highest ranks of creative genius don't usually achieve name recognition, like California architect Julia Morgan, who set up practice in San Francisco in 1904. Not one comprehensive book has yet been published about her (although one is coming), even though thousands visit her masterpiece, San Simeon, every day.

Seeing artifacts and physical objects influences our beliefs, but those objects are not experienced separate from their context. If designers of exhibits display Native American baskets but fail to mention that they are one of the great tools of Native American civilization and the proud creation of women, they have not provided a meaningful context. Those baskets are objects of beauty, but they are also a tribute to the inventiveness of women.

An Indian arrowhead or a stone age spearpoint conveys a great deal to an observer without any explanation. We have all heard about the craft in searching out the necessary materials and shaping such a tool, the precision use of it in hunting, and the importance of hunting to the sustenance of the people.

Very few people respond as knowledgeably to an Indian basket. Interpreters of artifacts have not educated the public equally well about the creativity and skill that fashioned those baskets, the sensitivity to plant life required to find and mold the materials, and the critical role of the basket to the health and survival of the Native American people. The women gathered and carried foodstuffs, carried babies, cooked and preserved food, winnowed, and passed along the treasured knowledge of making baskets to the young. These baskets were such a matter of pride to them, that early photographs of Indian women sometimes show them surrounded by their baskets.

All of us gather mental images from many sources, including advertisements, television, and childhood textbooks, and although we may not be able to recall a specific drawing, we have seen enough representations of primitive hunters to imagine quite readily the agility, accuracy, and vitality of those hunters and their skill with the tools they have fashioned. With a little determination, it is possible to create an image of a woman, fleet-footed and strong, running and climbing to distant places where the foods she is gathering, at just the right moment of ripeness, are located, but there is no cultural reservoir of visual images to draw upon for such a mental picture.

The Women's Heritage Museum interprets cultural preservation broadly to include, beyond the care and collection of material objects, the shared perception of the past in the minds of the people. This museum's purpose is to influence public understanding by enlarging acceptance of an interpretation of history that bestows equal attention on what women have been doing all along and how they have affected the course of events. We are bringing separate attention to women to correct the impression that women's contribution to civilization has been of secondary importance.

To do justice to its subject, the Museum's founding requires careful planning, extensive public participation, and scrupulous fidelity in research and interpretation. We owe no less to the memory of the great women who have gone before us.

McDonnell is director of the Women's Heritage Museum.

FOUNDATION NOTES

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*Women's History Week, March 3-7, was celebrated at the center with a brown-bag lecture series. CHC Trustee Yvonne Jacobson, right, led off the series, which was based on the theme **Women Building Dreams Into Reality**, talking about the history of women in Santa Clara Valley. The week was funded by Seven Springs Foundation of Cupertino, and also included a panel discussion with Lockheed's Marci Flynn, San Jose City Councilwoman Iola Williams and Santa Clara University Professor Joyce King on Wednesday. The concluding talk was given by Billye Ericksen-Desaigouard, president of CAPSCO, Sales Inc. of Sunnyvale. Photo by Ward Winslow.*

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A Word of Special Thanks

Special thanks to the docents who conducted over 25 tours of the exhibits, and to the docents and volunteers who staffed the center on Flea Market Saturdays, most notably Mary Jane Givens, Betty Petersen, Helen Riisberg, Kay Peterson, Betty Tuttle and Lorene Speth; thanks to Marguerite Turner and Helen Ewbank for their consistent dedication to providing clerical services.

Many volunteer hours were spent in the library identifying and indexing photographs, clippings, books, tapes and student research papers by Helen Riisberg, Marge Carrere, Betty Petersen, Maria Griffiths, Robert Carlton and library technician intern Margaret Hamill. Thanks to all of you!

Project Immortality

Phase III of the tiled courtyard adjacent to the Trianon Building continues. Tile donations were made to honor the following individuals and businesses.

| | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------|
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Thank you also to the many individuals who donated to the following projects: Japanese Legacy book, Sunnyvale Oral History Project, Woman Suffrage exhibit and the Saratoga Home Tour.

We gratefully acknowledge the following businesses for their in-kind donations:

| | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Acorn Florist and Accents | International Coffee Exchange |
| Bella Mia | Marjolaine French Pastries |
| California Cheese Company | Saratoga Florist |
| Gene's Market and | Saratoga Plaza Bakery |
| International Deli | Trattoria |



The Saratoga Home Tour, co-sponsored with the Saratoga Heritage Commission, was held on April 20 this year. Four homes were toured and CHC volunteer Marguerite Turner, center, was on duty at Betty and Willys Peck's house. Photo by David Fox.

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1985-1986

Letter to CHCF Members

As we reflect upon the past year the California History Center Foundation has experienced a period of transition and personal commitment in achieving its goal with real accomplishment.

Our new Director James C. Williams, was introduced to the Board of Trustees at the September meeting and welcomed to the staff, a position vacated by the retirement of Seonaid McArthur. Also, Sy Syvertson a former NASA-Ames director was seated as a new trustee, however, Molly Malovos and Carole Pavlina, trustees with years of dedicated service, resigned from the board.

This year our standing committees have been more formalized and very active in their assignments. Being chaired by trustees, the Public Relations and Membership Committees met monthly to address specific needs and plan strategies.

At le Petit Trianon Gallery, the **NASA-Ames** exhibit continued through December. It was followed by the exhibit, Label Art of Santa Clara Valley's Cannery, Packers and Shippers. The theme was **Visualizing the California Dream** and the exhibit was on loan to the CHC from San Jose Historical Museum. Complementing the exhibit were paintings and drawings of local artist, Margaret O'Keefe.

Our Spring exhibit, **California Consumer Products** opened in April, and featured 201 trademarks from the California State Archives dating from the 1890s to the 1950s. Local consumer artifacts were added to personalize the exhibit, with many tours conducted, including about 300 visiting school children.

During the year in publication, our first release in December was **Japanese Legacy**, a book on farming and community life in Santa Clara Valley from 1895-1945. Already considered a master work on local Japanese history, the authors are Timothy Lukes and Gary Okihiro, with the foreword being written by Congressman Norman Mineta. A book on 100 years of Milpitas history, **A Century of "Little Cornfields," 1852-1952** by Pat Loomis, a retired Mercury News reporter was released in January. Then in March, a pictorial essay on San Francisco entitled **The Spirit of the City 1935-1985** was released. It was researched and written by Elizabeth D. Soreff and CHF staff members Kathi Peregrin and Janet Brynjolfsson. San Francisco Federal Savings and Loan Association funded the book to commemorate their Golden Anniversary.

Also in March, a very successful Brown Bag Lunch Lecture Series celebrating **Women's History Week** revolved around the theme "Women Building Dreams Into Reality". The three-day series was funded by a grant from the Seven Springs Foundation of Cupertino. CHC Trustee Yvonne Jacobson led off the series and over 80 people attended her talk on the history of women in the Santa Clara Valley pre-World War II.

There were numerous foundation activities throughout the year. The Saratoga Home Tour was held in April and co-sponsored by the Saratoga Heritage Commission with many volunteers assisting. Weekend trips were conducted to Santa Barbara Channel Islands, Mendocino, and Lake Tahoe with De Anza Biology Instructor Lee Van Fossen as tour leader. Also, a recently restored 200-acre 19th century working farm, at Ardenwood, was visited and led by Bruce MacGregor. A total of 18 hours were offered including A Day at the Races - Bay Meadows, Primate Discovery Center at the San Francisco Zoo, San Francisco Architecture, and the Legacies of Woodside.

Plans have commenced on the Sunnyvale Oral History Project to record on video the stories of early area canneries and their workers. Approximately \$3,000 has been received in grants and individual donations toward the completion of this interesting and eventful project.

The Board of Trustees is very proud of its achievements for the past year and is looking forward to serving our community by documenting and preserving the events of today as history for tomorrow.



Anthony J. Lopina
President, Board of Trustees
California History Center Foundation

Docents/Volunteers Had a Busy Year

From September 1985 thru June 1986 the docents/volunteers contributed over 1450 hours to the California History Foundation. Like all non-profit organizations, the CHC staff requires many hours of assistance to maintain and update the Louis Stocklmeir Library, set up and dismantle the exhibits, work on the membership and public relations committees, input data in the computer, help with many clerical chores and conduct tours of the exhibits, Le Petit Trianon, and the campus grounds.

In addition to the "regulars", relatives and friends of the CHC contributed 345 hours of recorded time. The majority of the hours were accumulated when the Saratoga Heritage Home Tour was held in April. Also, students in the history classes and other interested people volunteered many hours of unrecorded time setting-up and dismantling the exhibits, and working in the library.

The California Consumer Products Exhibit was the most popular this year. Several grammar school classes attended, and were also taken on tours of the campus. The open house from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Flea Market Saturdays proved to be popular.

This was a sad year as three of our volunteers, June Atlas, Ben Gruzen, and Mary McLean passed away. We miss them and their willingness to help.

The following docents/volunteers gave 40 or more hours to the center from September thru May 1986:

| | |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| Marjorie Carrere | *Elizabeth Petersen |
| Shirley Clements | *Helen Riisberg |
| *Mary Jane Givens | *Betsey Soreff |
| Maria Griffiths | *Marguerite Turner |

*These people did over 100 hours volunteer work.

Helen Riisberg

Docent/Volunteer Coordinator

Library Collection Evaluated, New Books Received

The Louis Stocklmeir Library book collection has recently been appraised by George Kane, a local rare book expert. He donated his expertise to the CHC and subsequently became a member. He is a most welcome addition to our membership.

Among the present collection Mr. Kane evaluated about a dozen volumes worth more than \$40. These books are not new, their value being due to a copyright date, scarcity, autograph by author, etc. The total collection is worth about \$6000.

In May the library accepted a large donation from the Harold G. Schutt family. The Learning Center will be processing over 300 titles this summer. Among the collection are 34 volumes worth \$40 or more. The total collection has been appraised at \$7143. In addition to the book collection the library will incorporate many historical society newsletters and periodicals. We greatly appreciate the Schutt Family donation.

The San Jose Business Journal was sufficiently impressed with our student-produced index to donate a subscription and funding for a continuation of the index. This weekly newspaper is an ongoing history of the Santa Clara Valley and the publishers have not indexed it.

The plant services of the Foothill/De Anza College District met the difficult challenge of installing the ducting necessary for air conditioning the library. It is not only a nicer place to work but the materials (newsprint, film, etc.) are in less jeopardy now.

Along with the photo archival updating that is still going on and the continued cataloging of Father Abeloe's papers, being done by Helen Riisberg, we now have a Foothill College Library program intern, Margaret Hamill, working on the student research papers. This is a tremendous task as we have over 2000 papers in the files and more coming each quarter through the California History classes. They are a tremendous resource for the CHC and we are happy to have the consistent progress we have had since Margaret started.

It has been a productive year for the library.

Shirley Clements

Librarian



Librarian Shirley Clements, left, talks with two visitors on De Anza Day about the many books in the Stocklmeir Library collection. Photo by David Fox.

Reaching the Community 1985-86 Exhibits

NASA-Ames: A History of Looking Forward

This spectacular exhibit, funded by a grant from NASA-Ames, was extended through fall quarter. The display documented the development of the Ames Research Center from 1938 to the present.

Visualizing the California Dream: The Art of Santa Clara Valley's Agricultural Industry

This colorful exhibit, on loan from the San Jose Historical Museum, displayed label art of the local canning industry; it was supplemented by artifacts from the Charles Olson Cherry Ranch and the paintings and drawings of California artist Margaret O'Keefe.

California Consumer Products

A display of trademarks on loan from the State Archives was augmented by many local artifacts depicting early 20th century consumer products, including items from the Gilroy Historical Museum and Westinghouse Corporation.

Publications Released

Japanese Legacy: Farming and Community Life in

California's Santa Clara Valley by Timothy J. Lukes and Gary Y. Okihiro documents the history of the Japanese in the Valley from 1895-1945. The publication was funded by a matching grant from the California Council for the Humanities.

Milpitas - A Century of "Little Cornfields" by Patricia Loomis examines the history of this Bay Area city from 1852-1952. The book was funded by grants from the City of Milpitas and the Milpitas Historical Society.

San Francisco: The Spirit of the City, 1935-1985 is a pictorial compiled by Elizabeth Daniels Soreff and CHC staff members Kathi Peregrin and Janet Brynjolfsson, grant funded by San Francisco Federal Savings and Loan Association to commemorate their Golden Anniversary.

Video Production

David Fox began production of a series of video tapes recording the history of the canning industry in Sunnyvale. Funded by grants from the Sunnyvale Historical Society and the Sunnyvale Chamber of Commerce, the production places special emphasis on recording oral histories of those who worked in the canneries.

Library

An appraisal of the library books was completed by George Kane, who graciously donated his services. Our collection

is valued at \$6,000. In addition, a collection of over 300 books and periodicals worth over \$7,000 was donated this year by the Harold G. Schutt family.

Education

The history center offered 34 credit courses and 18 non-credit educational programs this year.

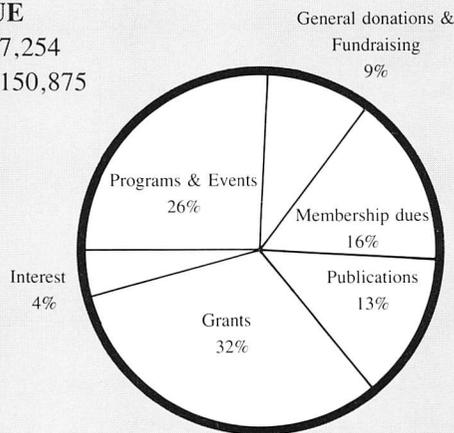
Special Community Events

Women's History Week was observed with a well-attended brown-bag lunch series grant funded by the Seven Springs Foundation of Cupertino. The Saratoga Heritage Home Tour was co-sponsored again this year with the City of Saratoga's Heritage Preservation Commission. De Anza Day, an annual community event sponsored by De Anza College, was celebrated at the Trianon by a special booksigning and sale attended by California authors Clyde Arbuckle, Yvonne Jacobson, Patricia Loomis, Sandy Lydon, Gary Okihiro, Charles Sullivan, Tom Taber, and Austen Warburton.

Financial Summary

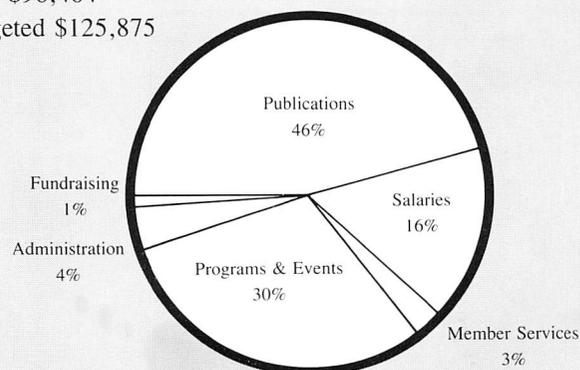
REVENUE

Total \$117,254
Budgeted \$150,875



EXPENDITURES

Total \$96,464
Budgeted \$125,875



California
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Foundation



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Cupertino

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TIME VALUE



California History Center & Foundation

A Center for the Study of State and Regional History

De Anza College

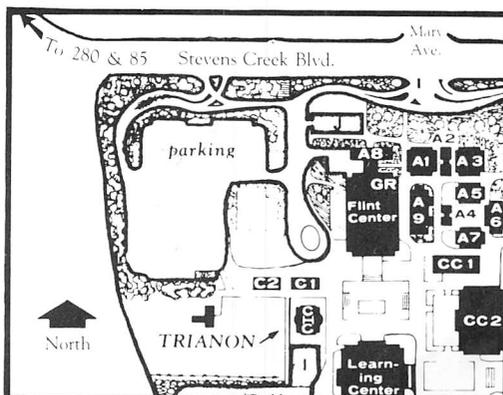
21250 Stevens Creek Blvd., Cupertino, Calif. 95014 (408) 996-4712

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.



The Californian Staff

Editor

Kathi Peregrin

Printing/Production

Composite Artts

David Lippenberger

Cheryl Kiehlbauch

Contributing Writers

Judith Adams

Kathryn Akatiff

Karol Fladager

Beth Gross

Yvonne Jacobson

Jeanne McDonnell

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