

## ALMA THROUGH THE YEARS: A PICTORIAL HISTORY OF THE 'ALMA DALE' ESTATE

Philip C. Blake, S.J.

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Some sixty-three miles south of the City of San Francisco, just within the folds of the Santa Cruz mountains, lies one of the most recent additions to the Mid-Peninsula Regional Open Space District, the Bear Creek Redwoods Open Space. For the casual motorist en route from Los Gatos to Santa Cruz, the small sign for Bear Creek Road gives no indication of the once famous property which lies in the quiet forests beyond, nor does it tell anything of the families, their houses or the gardens they built among the redwoods and firs on this eastern slope of the Santa Cruz mountains. Twisted manzanitas and scrub oak have reclaimed the formal driveway which wandered up through the trees from the old Alma rail-

road station. Overgrown roads and ruined bridges and buildings on the estate give silent testimony to this once renowned paradise of gardens and lakes—the last great show place in the San Francisco area to entertain in the “grand manner.”

In 1886, Captain Stillman H. Knowles, onetime San Francisco vigilante and later a successful miner from Baker, Oregon, traveled up the dusty Bear Creek Road to view a spot among the trees that he subsequently purchased for his mountain retreat. Even then the area showed signs of long occupancy by homesteaders and Indians.



*James Flood's 'Alma Dale' as seen in 1896. This house was remodeled by Tevis, and then demolished following the 1906 earthquake. Note the tower of Flood's imposing barn at far left.*



Captain Knowles had millions to spend. Up went a comfortable fifteen room house on his forty-nine acres. He cleared the ponds in his front yard and put in ten trout lakes with a view to building a "fish farm" for rainbow trout. After eight years his interest cooled and he sold his mountain retreat to James Leary Flood, son of the fabulous Silver King, James Clair Flood. Three years later, Knowles died, leaving the bulk of his fortune to his spinster daughter, Frances. She in turn lost most of it in the collapse of the Goldfield, Nevada mining boom.

With characteristic splendor and abandon, accompanied by the jangle of Comstock silver, James Leary Flood arrived on the scene in July 1894. Mr. Flood immediately set about enlarging the estate, buying up the neighboring property. Eventually he acquired 800 acres.

The sumptuousness of the house he built and the extent of the expenditures on his 'Alma Dale' retreat can best be seen in a contemporary report taken from the *San Francisco Chronicle* of November 3, 1895.

#### James Leary Flood (1857/60-1926)

Like many another wealthy young man before him, James Leary Flood seems to have married to disoblige his family. Maria Rosina (Rose) Fritz, formerly of Kansas City, was reputed to be a dance hall performer he met somewhere along San Francisco's infamous Barbary Coast. Flood's family attempted to buy her off (to the tune of \$25,000) and send her away to Europe, but James Leary followed and married her at Naples. On their return to California, Rose was shunned by Flood family members and San Francisco society in general. Though the Alma Dale property was viewed by Flood as a hunting and fishing lodge, it seems likely that Rose preferred Alma Dale to San Francisco. She died of cancer in January 1898, and Flood married her sister Maud Lee Fritz one year later. Maud maintained the height of respectability and was deemed socially acceptable



in comparison to her sister. Rose's daughter, Constance May, was dispatched to the care of Kansas City relatives and was later virtually disowned by the Flood family. Maud would naturally wish to disassociate herself from a place where Rose had lived with her husband and no doubt encouraged James Leary to dispose of Alma Dale.

"James L. Flood is transforming a bit of the Santa Cruz mountains into a paradise for his wife and a perfect rest place for himself..."

"The Knowles residence has been reconstructed into a handsome villa of 40 rooms, with broad verandas and every luxurious fitting that San Francisco furnishers and decorators could provide.

"In place of the big, old-fashioned barn that stood for Mr. Knowles' idea of equine comfort, there is now a structure that cost \$15,000 and in which every appointment is superb. Flooring, box stalls and all the finish of the stables are polished in native wood. There are brasses in profusion, and elegant glass, rooms for harness, whips, robes and the dozen or more vehicles already in use. Water piped under high pressure is everywhere about the stables, and throughout are labor-saving devices which enable a small force of grooms to care for the 25 animals now in use..."

"The Bear Creek county road passes the Flood mansion, but in common with the roads of the locality, it is rough and dusty. To avoid both discomforts, Flood is building a private carriageway from his home over his own property all the way, winding down the canyon to Alma station..."

"A low estimate of the expenditures involved in the purchase and establishment of the place is \$250,000. Mrs. Flood gave employment to the mechanics of the neighborhood by preference, and the weekly payment of wages to them during the 15 months of their labor have gone far toward preventing privation in Los Gatos and in maintaining an easy balance of floating coin..."

In December of 1903, Flood acquired his old family home, the immense Linden Towers mansion and estate in Menlo Park. His sister, Jennie, had fallen heir to it upon the death of their mother, but had found it much too large for her needs and had given it to the University of California for use of the agricultural college. The great gingerbread structure, although the most elaborate and beautiful of all the Peninsula estates, was viewed by the authorities at Berkeley with a jaundiced eye. For them it was a white elephant. Upon hearing of her brother's nostalgic desire to live there again, Jennie repurchased the house and 60 surrounding acres of landscaped garden for \$300,000 and made a belated second wedding gift of it to her brother. After some redecorating was carried out, James was ready to move into his new 'country' place and he, in turn, determined to sell the Alma property. On July 28, 1905, Alma Dale again changed hands and began a new and even more grandiose era under the ownership of Dr. Henry Lloyd Tevis.



Harry Tevis, like his predecessors, came to the Santa Cruz mountains with millions at his disposal. Like them, much of his wealth came from mining interests. The Doctor, as he was often called by his employees, was a graduate of the University of California Medical School but no longer practiced medicine. A bachelor all his life, Tevis divided his time between family, business, social and horticultural interests. He was a philanthropist, and contributed generously to many worthy causes, including schools and hospitals, as well as helping individuals who asked for financial assistance. While the family's Stockdale Ranch in Kern County served as the home of Harry's younger brother, the Doctor chose to create something uniquely his own in the Santa Cruz mountains. He put a large amount of money and years of effort into making it the showplace of the Peninsula.

It was already the 20th century when Dr. Tevis moved into the Flood house. Building styles were changing and the house appeared hopelessly old-fashioned to the Doctor. He removed the eaves and spacious verandas and had awnings hung on the windows. The architectural effect was dubious.

#### Henry Lloyd Tevis (1856-1931)

Tevis was the eldest son of Lloyd Tevis, a forty-niner from Kentucky. His father first met fellow Kentuckian James Ben Ali Haggin in the California gold fields and they later became law partners in San Francisco. The two joined in partnership with George Hearst (father of William Randolph Hearst) in the Anaconda copper mines of Montana, as well as the famous South Dakota Homestake gold mines. Tevis acquired one-third of a million acres of land in San Joaquin County, and soon had one of the largest cattle and sheep holdings in California. The Stockdale Ranch of Kern County was once a Tevis enterprise, now home to the Stockdale Country Club. With Charles Felton and George Loomis, Tevis formed the Pacific Coast Oil Company, predecessor of Standard Oil of California. Haggin eventually returned to Kentucky where he set up as a wealthy horse breeder and racer, but the Tevis family remained in California.



The Lloyd Tevis Cup was donated in 1959 by brothers Will, Gordon and Lloyd Tevis as a trophy for the winner of the Western States Trail Ride, a 100-mile endurance race, commemorating their grandfather's connection with the Pony Express.

But the house had been built on an offshoot of the San Andreas Fault and this circumstance permanently solved the Doctor's problem a few months later. The great earthquake of April 18, 1906, made a shambles of the Flood mansion. When the Doctor saw the cracks and the blanket of fallen plaster covering his beautifully appointed rooms, he made a quick decision. He would rebuild a house away from the fault—one that would add a new dimension to the Alma property.

His splendid new home was completed in 1909. The mutilated Flood mansion was torn down and the site relandscaped. Alma Dale gradually took on a new look with sweeping lawns and formal gardens stretching down to the lake. To effect this transformation, the immediate grounds were widened, and huge concrete retaining walls were built, held together by great ship chains.

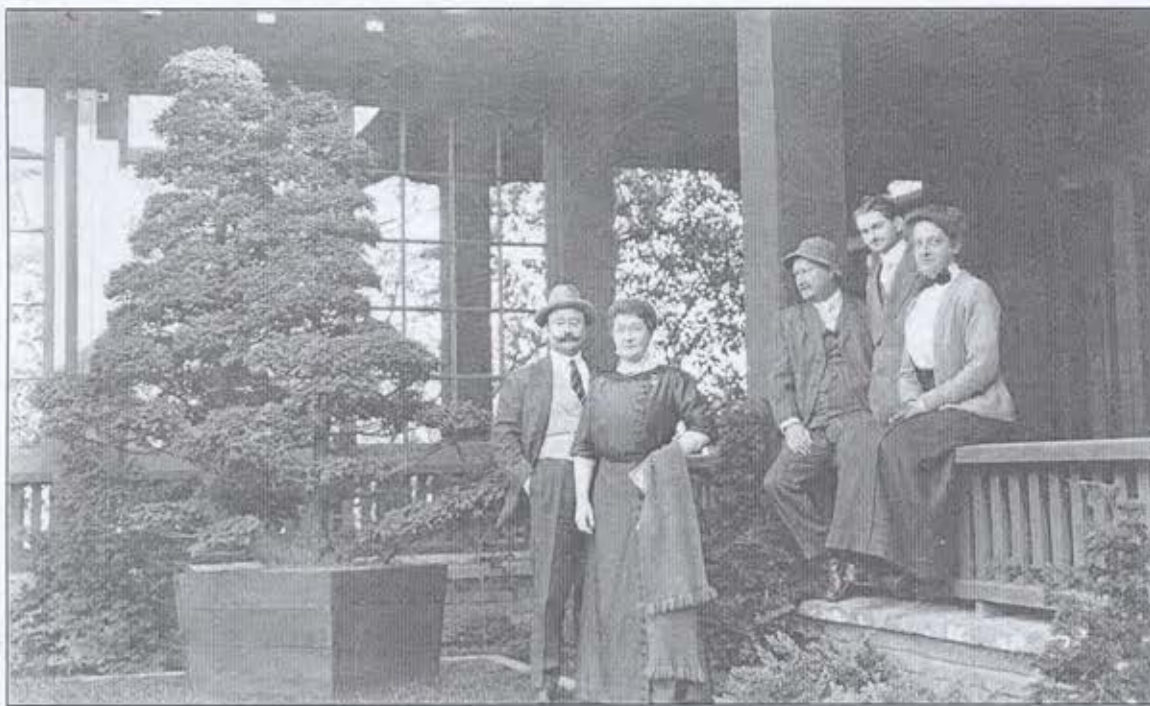
The rooms of the mansion demonstrate a complete break with the Victorian past. The redwood and gold of the new salon with its magnificent gilded chandeliers reflected a renaissance splendor. The large beamed library and the "Bamboo Porch" with its wicker chairs and fashionable potted palms offered a less formal atmosphere.

But Dr. Tevis soon moved out. He took up residence in the small building originally intended for servants which was located next to the main house. Why, then, his magnificent mansion? As future events proved, it was merely to entertain his friends and relatives, and this he did with an open hand and on a grand scale.

Hardly a weekend passed without a large group of friends arriving to enjoy his famous hospitality. If they came by train, a car would whisk them up the two-mile drive to the house. There the doctor provided them with every possible recreation: swimming in his three lakes, horseback riding, fishing, hunting, hiking through the forests and gardens, and exquisite meals created by his chef. Those who were present at his numerous house parties could never forget the splendor of these affairs.

During the years that Dr. Tevis lived at Alma Dale, he was constantly altering his mansion, enlarging the gardens and building more roads and bridges through the mountain canyons. At one time he retained 100 servants, gardeners and laborers on his ever-expanding estate. By the end of his life he had acquired a total of 2400 acres, traversed with 27 miles of roads (16 of these paved or oiled), and an estimated 75 acres of kept gardens and lawns. The total expenditure on his house, grounds and water system amounted to three-quarters of a million dollars.





Tevis (wearing a hat and seated on the porch railing) and guests pose next to his new house and prized junipers, 1912. The building is said to have been designed by Julia Morgan, as were several other buildings on the property. Though it is certain that Morgan built a house in Belvedere, Marin County, for Tevis's brother-in-law, Gordon Blanding, there is nothing in the Tevis papers at UC Berkeley nor in the Morgan papers at UCB and Cal Poly-San Luis Obispo to support this belief, other than a photo of Tevis's cow barn in the Morgan files. Biographer Sara Holmes Boutelle (*Julia Morgan, Architect*, 1988, revised edition 1995) lists job #214, house and barns in 1906, but apparently was confused about the location of the structures, believing them to be "demolished; now covered by a reservoir." In fact, the rebuilt Highway 17 cut through the middle of the Tevis property and it was the town of Alma, including the railroad depot, that was drowned by the Lexington Reservoir. Alma Dale is on the opposite side of the highway.

On July 19, 1932, at the age of 74, Dr. Tevis died in his suite at the Palace Hotel. His obsequies were held a few days later on the highest promontory of his estate. There, in accordance with his wish, his ashes were silently scattered on the earth. His estate went into probate in Santa Clara County as one of the largest to that date. The death of this man marked the end of an era.

On October 20, 1934, the destiny of the Alma property took an entirely new turn. On that day His Excellency, the Most Reverend Edward J. Hanna, the late Archbishop of San Francisco, dedicated the property to the service of God. In April of that year, the California Jesuits had purchased it for their new theologate and classes had begun in September. The Tevis mansion became the faculty house and the library building was turned into a chapel. Between 1934 and 1939 a number of other college buildings were constructed.

In time many of the roads fell into disuse and became overgrown and the gardens on the farther reaches of the estate dried up or were transplanted. The day of the great and wealthy at Alma had passed. In 1969 the Jesuits closed down Alma College and moved to Berkeley. A series of private schools took their turns

at leasing the Alma Dale property. In 1989 Hong Kong Metro Realty purchased the property from the Jesuits. The Loma Prieta earthquake wreaked additional havoc on the property that year. Neil Wiley, (writing for *Mountain Network News*) states that in 1994, "Pietro Denevi attempted another transformation...but his planned 'Los Gatos Country Club' was blocked by several environmental groups. Before the property could be saved for the public however, upper sections were logged by Big Creek Lumber, creating large clear-cut areas, severe erosion, and [leaving behind] hundreds of fallen and abandoned trees." The land was acquired by the Mid-Peninsula Regional Open Space District in 1999, and designated the 'Bear Creek Redwoods Open Space.' Today the remaining buildings on the property are now largely in ruins, surrounded with chainlink fencing to deter vandals and save the merely curious from harm. Although the gardens are gone, you can still see the remains of walkways, gazebos, walls, bridges, and alcoves. The private carriageway built by James L. Flood, which bypasses Bear Creek Road (formerly Dougherty Road) and is now called Alma College Road, endures as a reminder of former glory.



### The Society of Jesus in the Santa Clara Valley

**1851:** A college was established at Mission Santa Clara; this would eventually evolve into the Santa Clara University and Bellarmine College Preparatory School.

**1854:** California officially became a mission of the Jesuits' Turin Province of Italy.

**1877:** The Jesuits completed construction of the present St. Joseph's Church in San Jose, which today serves as the Cathedral of the Diocese of San Jose.

**1886:** Los Gatos land was purchased by Santa Clara College. More parcels were added over the years.

**1888:** Sacred Heart Novitiate opened in Los Gatos to train Jesuit novices as a separate entity from the CA Province.

**1925:** Opening of El Retiro Retreat House, recently renamed the Jesuit Retreat Center of Los Altos.

**1934:** Purchase of the Alma Dale estate and establishment of Alma College.

**1968:** The Sacred Heart property ceased to be used as a Novitiate, that program moving to Southern California. The original 1888 building was torn down in 1967 and replaced with a modern one, though two remaining wings date from 1914 and 1927 respectively.

**1969:** The Jesuits moved from Alma College to the Jesuit School of Theology at Berkeley but continued to own the Alma property until 1989.

**2000:** The Los Gatos property is used as a retirement center, an infirmary, and as California Province headquarters.

**2005:** The Novitiate wine label is resurrected by Testarosa Vineyards, which now operates the historic winery.

### The Archives of the California Province

When the California Province took over Harry Tevis's estate at Alma Dale, they inherited a box of photographic plates that had been left behind by the Tevis heirs. These were photos taken of the estate during the years of Tevis's occupation of the property. The California Province has continued to preserve these photographs in their archives since 1936. They have created photo albums that also include pictures taken during their own residency at Alma Dale. The present archivist, Brother Daniel Peterson, kindly allowed us to select additional garden photos to illustrate this article and put them on a CD for us. CGLHS has made a small donation to the archives as a gesture of appreciation. We particularly wish to thank Father Philip Blake (who celebrated his 80th birthday earlier this year), Brother Daniel Peterson and the Reverend Alfred E. Naucke for their assistance in the reprinting of this article. Thanks also are due to Richard Gehrer, who provided us with a scan of Flood's 1900 survey map for Alma Dale (held in the Province's archives).

### Exploring Alma Dale

If you wish to explore the Bear Creek Redwoods Open Space, you must first acquire a hiking/parking permit. At least three to five days before you wish to visit the site, call 620.691.1200 and ask for Kathleen Hart. If she is away from her office you can leave a message; include your name, address, area code + telephone number, number of people in the party, what you will be doing there (hiking), what dates and times are preferred for your visit (the park is open from dawn to dusk), a brief description of the vehicle you will be parking there and the license number. She will mail you the permit. The master plan for this site has not yet been completed and it is currently an "undeveloped" site, which means parking space is very limited, and there are no restrooms or trash disposal containers. You must pack out anything you bring in. The site is closely patrolled by rangers who *will* enforce the permit restrictions. The road itself is not wide enough to safely allow parking off to one side. Access must be maintained for fire protection, and such illegally parked vehicles may be towed. Additional information may be found on the Mid-Peninsula Regional Open Space District website, [www.openspace.org](http://www.openspace.org).

### SUSTAINING MEMBERS

*Our heartfelt thanks to those members who have helped to put us on solid financial ground by becoming Sustaining Members at \$60 and up.*

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### A GARDENER JUST LIKE YOU OR ME

A perusal of the Tevis papers at the Bancroft Library did not, unfortunately, provide any definite clues as to who was responsible for the original or subsequent design or layout of the Alma Dale landscape. It does, however, give us a window into the past, a look at the everyday activities of Tevis the garden lover. Unlike many wealthy owners of large estates, Tevis was an avid gardener and lover of plants. Diary entries make it clear he was not afraid to get his hands dirty; while he had many paid helpers (a notation in the Tevis papers indicates that he employed as many as 12 men on the grounds, with a payroll of \$9,000 per month), Tevis himself undertook many of the planting and pruning chores. "Planted a number of roses today. Box of roses came from Lüdemann [a Peninsula nurseryman]." "Worked on roses until after lunch. Afternoon train to city." Of course there was much more to the property than just the ornamental landscape. The Tevis estate also boasted several orchards, vineyards, greenhouses, and vegetable gardens.

The Doctor had a special fondness for junipers and other evergreen shrubs and trees, and was also attracted to anything unusual. He particularly liked to pose guests (as well as himself) in front of—or sometimes peeping out playfully from behind—the giant leaves of an enormous clump of gunnera. He created a special garden behind the house just for his collection of nandina. Dr. Tevis had an equal appreciation for flowers of all kinds. There are photos of delphineums and hollyhocks growing six feet tall. Tevis loved roses and gathered a large collection of them for his garden; he tried breeding his own hybrid crosses, one of which he named 'Los Gatos'. He was a member of the Santa Clara chapter of the American Rose Society, and exchanged cuttings and budwood with another avid rosarian, Dr. Emmet Rixford of Los Altos. One letter from Rixford indicates that rose breeder Father Schöener of Santa Barbara may have written to Tevis asking for financial backing or perhaps cuttings. The Doctor in turn apparently wrote asking Rixford's opinion of Schöener, and Rixford replied negatively, citing Schöener's impracticality and poor financial history in his dealings with rose nurseryman John Smith of Hayward. Rixford also offered to bring Miss Wilmott's two-volume book, *The Genus Rosa*, down from the UC library to assist in straightening out some mislabeled roses. Tevis was invited to participate in organized club visits to the gardens of other society members such as Rixford and Mrs. Charles (Isabella) Blaney at Rancho Bella Vista.



*Dr. Tevis (seated at center) poses with guests in front of one of his giant gunnera plantings, 1910.*





*Guests (two in bathing costumes) sitting on steps of brick and wood arbor by the pool, 1917.*

Perhaps the Doctor's greatest pride was his dahlia collection. He took up breeding them on a large scale and produced a pink variety which he named 'Dr. H. Tevis' after himself, in defiance of conventional naming rules. A 1921 letter from Elizabeth W. Lymberg, proprietor of the Bessie Boston Dahlia Farm in San Mateo, gently chides Dr. Tevis for undercutting her prices in his "catalogue" of surplus dahlias, and mentions that she has a red variety she called 'H.L.T.', but which her gardener kept referring to as the 'Red Dr. Tevis'. She finally changed its name to 'The Doctor'. In 1926 she made reference to a fire that burned down Tevis's cottage, destroying all work-room garden records, reference books and catalogues. She offered him the loan of her own catalogues and a list of growers to replace lost information, adding that "I was hoping that some day you would put all your data in a book."

Tevis's correspondence files reveal the network of well-to-do friends who had been weekend guests at Alma Dale and shared his horticultural interests, at least to some extent. Mrs. Leo Carillo wrote to thank Tevis for "the wonderful bulbs just arrived...I do love dahl-

ias." Her husband sent his own note of thanks for the visit and the dahlias. "I shall think of you, the creator of the 'Dr. Tevis' when they bloom." Agnes Bourn of Filoli wrote in 1919 to say "Long ago you were very kind in asking Will and me to see your lovely place and we couldn't go." She was now wishing to bring some friends with her on a visit. Francis Carolan wrote in 1922 to ask for any surplus violets Tevis might have on hand. "They are difficult to obtain and your varieties are famous." He wrote again a few weeks later to say "I was so impressed with your junipers I have planted a lot of them."

James Duval Phelan frequently invited Tevis to come by for lunch or dinner, ("It is 'Blossom Day' at Saratoga and I have invited a few friends."), but there is no indication that Phelan shared Tevis's passion for plants. The occasions were more often cultural than horticultural: musical recitals, plays, meetings with writer Gertrude Atherton or the the Ernest Markham chapter of the English Poetry Society. Phelan did send one thank-you letter "for the beautiful specimen of dahlia bearing my name."



Once the gardens became well-known, in addition to invited friends and relatives, Tevis received a steady stream of requests for visits from local garden clubs, visiting friends of friends and the like. Nurseryman and garden designer Carl Purdy came to visit one day in 1908 and stayed for lunch. Margaret Kittle Boyd (author of a book on the garden history of Marin County) was a good friend. "Thanks for the lovely box of plants [violets]. They will be another reminder of my wonderful visit at your place." The Doctor would often take visitors with him on plant-buying tours of local nurseries such as the Gem Nursery in Los Gatos, the California Nursery Company in Niles, and the Domoto Brothers or Eric James, both in East Oakland. There is one mention of a visit to the Coryell estate's orchid nurseries at Atherton.

Like other avid gardeners, Tevis was happy to share the bounty of his gardens. To express admiration was to receive seeds, bulbs, plants and cuttings. Berkeley real estate magnate Duncan McDuffie and his wife Jean were frequent visitors at Alma Dale. In one letter of thanks, McDuffie wrote, "I was overcome to think how much I had asked for and how generously you had responded. But I admit with perfect frankness that I am glad to have every plant and seed and have a place for them all...Please accept my thanks and let me one day make a return in kind."

Indeed, the traffic in plants went both ways. A 1926 letter from Mrs. James K. Moffitt of Piedmont explained that she was sending seed of a pale lavender viola the Doctor admired when visiting her garden with the McDuffies. C.M. Redfern, assistant geologist to the Southern Pacific Company, promised "I will gladly save [you] seeds of several cactus varieties." Opera singer Emma Eames was a close friend and Tevis expressed an interest in some yellow-flowering plants he'd seen in her garden, which turned out to be the Oregon grape, *Mahonia aquifolium*. Eames replied, "Let me know how many plants you think you can use and I will see what can be done." Architect and landscape engineer Gardner Dailey wrote from Costa Rica to offer seeds of a different variety of gunnera he had found during his travels. "Thought

you might care to let your gardener try this one." On another occasion, finding the Doctor away from his suite at the Palace Hotel, Dailey deposited a note and a plant for Tevis. "I left a little passion vine with the bell captain," he wrote.

As a wealthy client, Tevis naturally received some preferment from the Bay Area nurserymen he patronized regularly. A 1919 letter from Donald McLaren, son of San Francisco Parks Superintendent John McLaren and co-owner of MacRorie-McLaren Company, states, "We wish to advise the receipt of some wonderful *Juniperus prostrata* which we felt might interest you." Tevis was delighted to share some of his rarities in return. The Lynch Nursery Company of Menlo Park received some of Tevis's *Nandina domestica* 'Alba'; San Francisco nurseryman Charles Abraham got plants of the beloved gunnera; and Eric James of Oakland received rooted cuttings of the 'American Pillar' rose. In 1919 Leonard Coates wrote from his Morgan Hill nursery to thank Tevis for the dahlias he'd sent.

A 1915 letter from the Bureau of Plant Industries in Washington D.C., reveals that Dr. Tevis obtained plants from government sources as well as nurseries and friends. He was asked, as "one of the experimenters to whom bamboos have been sent by this office" to inspect his plantings for any sign of the Japanese smut disease.

Of course Tevis attended the 1915 Panama-Pacific International Exposition at San Francisco. Naturally he made lists of all the plants that attracted his eye there, arranged to receive copies of catalogues from

Eastern nursery exhibitors, and purchased plants on site in large quantities where he could. When the show closed for the night, Tevis retreated to his suite at the Palace Hotel, where he spent his quiet time making lists of things to be done in his garden. "Get gladiolus. Dig up violets for pots. Send gunnera to W. Crocker. See if I can get *Tsuga caroliniana* from Niles." At the close of the Exposition, Tevis sent one of his employees up to the city to collect three pick-up truck loads of plants and bring them back to Alma Dale. Given enough money and space, what gardener wouldn't do the same?



Tevis posed with delphiniums, 1909.



## SLATE OF OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS: CGLHS ELECTIONS FOR 2007-08

Susan Chamberlin has recently advised the Board that, due to unforeseen circumstances, she is no longer able to run for the position of Recording Secretary, replacing outgoing officer Phoebe Cutler. Ann Scheid has kindly accepted the nomination in her place. The election will be held at the Annual Meeting in Saratoga on October 21st.

### The Slate

**President:** Tom Brown (1st term), replacing Thea Gurns, second term expiring at the end of 2006. Thea Gurns will remain on the Board as Immediate Past President, replacing Laurie Hannah in that position.

**Vice President:** David Blackburn (incumbent - 2nd term).

**Treasurer:** John Blocker (incumbent - no term limits).

**Recording Secretary:** Ann Scheid (1st term), replacing Phoebe Cutler, second term expiring at the end of 2006.

**Membership Secretary:** Linda Renner (incumbent - no term limits).

### **Members-at-Large (3):**

Margaretta J. Darnall (1st term), replacing Tom Brown, second term expiring at the end of 2006.

Judy M. Horton (incumbent - 2nd term).

Carol McElwee (incumbent - 2nd term).

## IN MEMORIAM

Carol Greentree ( -2006)

It is with great sadness that we report the death of founding CGLHS member Carol Greentree of San Diego in September. Carol graduated from Cal Poly-San Luis Obispo with a degree in Ornamental Horticulture. Her final term paper was a study of the gardens at the Jack House, which had just been deeded to the city in 1975. "This is the project that hooked me into a serious interest in California garden/landscape history. Family members who had lived there in the 1920s were available to interview, and that added to the fun of investigating the nature of mid-Victorian gardens in California."

For years Carol endured debilitating health problems believed to fall under the all-encompassing but vague heading of "chronic fatigue syndrome." A 2005 move into a residential care facility forced her to begin reducing her collection of research materials. Her magazines, books and old papers on preservation went to San Diego's Save Our Heritage Organization. Various clippings and materials that might be relevant to future issues of *Eden* came to the editor. In May of this year, Carol wrote to say that she had been diagnosed as having an incurable and terminal (though non-contagious) form of tuberculosis. She had been given only months to live. In her usual cheerful manner, Carol began quietly disposing of the remainder of her research materials, the accumulation of a lifetime cut short. Her reference library was sold to local dealers; she donated her full run of *California Garden* magazines and other resource materials to the Copley Library at the University of San Diego.

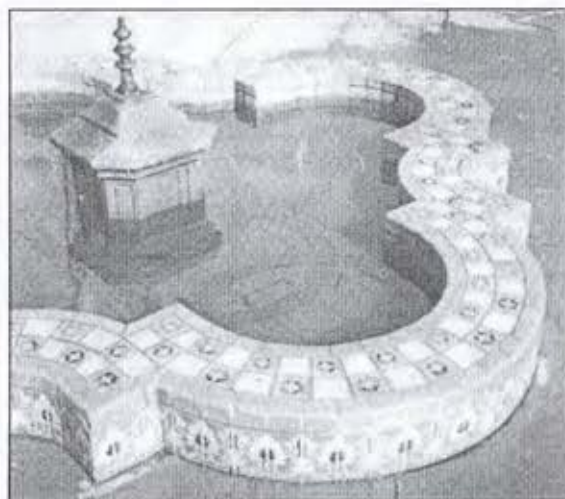
"I am hoping (it's a long shot) that through the accession of new garden-related resources, USD history professors will be encouraged to assign more students to do research into the landscape aspects of local history, including the photographers who documented early local gardens and parks. That is how I began my own serious study of local landscape history: through the option of researching the professional life of San Diego's first woman commercial landscape architect, Harriett Wimmer. My choice of topics was offered as one of only two garden-related options on a list compiled by the professor. Other choices related to the aerospace industry, tuna fishing, unsolved murders, local businesses, etc.! My term paper won two prizes at the Institute of History, sponsored by the San Diego History Society, and was published in the Summer 1988 issue of the *Journal of San Diego History*. Trying to persuade USD to encourage greater serious study of local garden/landscape history will be a chancy strategy, but I'd love to see this city build a teaching program that includes an emphasis on doing horticulture-related history. If the idea were to succeed, *Eden*-worthy student papers might even make their way to CGLHS, because I plan to introduce the USD librarians to *Eden*. Wouldn't it be ducky if something came of *that* idea?"



A few weeks later, Carol wrote again to advise that the USD librarians had come by to pick up the magazines. "I showed the librarians a batch of my most recent *Edens* and their eyes visibly brightened when they saw them. They had never heard of CGLHS, so I committed my whole set of *Edens* to USD, knowing that the history librarian will engage USD professors in getting acquainted with the publication." We replied that CGLHS would wish to honor Carol's memory by continuing her gesture with a complimentary subscription to the Copley Library.

Carol also had concerns about finding a good home for her slide collection, which included hundreds of images with an eclectic range spanning subjects such as old local ranchos, cemeteries (as mirrors of popular garden ornament styles), and Pasadena bungalow historian Bob Winter's garden, which was filled with tilemaker Ernest Batchelder's designed well-heads, walled fountains, decorative Mayan-inspired panels and the like. Winter allowed Carol to photograph it all for posterity.

"My assortment of subjects is pretty motley, yet I'm wondering about finding a good, accessible home for such slides," Carol wrote. She wanted the images to be seen and used, not just hoarded. "I've talked to Russ Beatty about my puzzlement, and he's been wondering the same about his own collection — where can we archive our slides to be made available to the greatest number of savvy researchers? Could a statewide photo-archive be initiated somewhere, for garden/landscape researchers?"



Damaged tiled pool, Alcazar Gardens, Balboa Pk. (Greentree).

Carol asked if CGLHS could initiate a discussion on this topic, before a cumulative need arises. Since her own need was fairly immediate, we referred her to the Architectural Visual Resources Library at UC Berkeley, a part of the Environmental Design Archives. Their collection includes architectural subjects, landscape architecture, and also art and design. She replied that Beatty had also mentioned UC, but had some doubts about their strict rules on label-

ing and the like. He mentioned Filoli as another possibility. Landscape architect Mai Arbogast left her slides there, but that library, excellent as it is in many respects, has very limited access — only open to the public one day a week for a few hours — and has no online services. The California HALS website sponsored by UCB may prove to be useful for this purpose eventually, but is still in the creative stages of development. Carol was also considering Cal Poly-SLO and Cal Poly-Pomona as possibilities. The CGLHS board will address the topic of archival storage at our next meeting in Saratoga. In the meantime, we welcome all suggestions and comments on the subject from our members.

In the course of our own research on the players in California landscape history, we have observed that those whose writings are preserved seem to have the best chance of maintaining a place in history. The clarity of Carol's writing should ensure that she is not overlooked by future generations of landscape historians.

### The Writings of Carol Greentree

#### Eden - Journal of CGLHS

"World's Fairs and California Horticultural History," Parts I-III, (Spring, Summer, Fall 1999).

#### Journal of San Diego History

"Harriett Barnhart Wimmer: A Pioneer San Diego Woman Landscape Architect," (Summer 1988).

#### Landscape Architecture

"Outdoor Art Museum - UC San Diego," by Jean F. Feinberg and Carol Greentree (March-April 1987).

#### Pacific Horticulture

- "The Moor in Our Midst: Andalusian Interlude," (Winter 1982).
- "The Moor in Our Midst: Inspiration from Africa," (Summer 1982).
- "The Viana Patios," (Winter 1987).
- "Three Spanish Gardens," (Winter 1990).
- "Parque Maria Luisa: A Public Garden in Seville," (Spring 1991).
- "Diana, El Cid, and Bischofia," (Summer 1991).
- "Emily Durbin's Garden," (Fall 1991).
- "Expo Gardens: The Spanish Connection," (Winter 1992).
- "Lanzarote: Agriculture as Art," (Spring 1992).
- "Hunting Our Horticultural Heritage," (Spring 1996).

In addition to her work as a journalist, Carol contributed six biographical essays (on Roland S. Hoyt, Cliff May, Richard Requa, Kate Sessions, Hazel Wood Waterman and Harriet Barnhart Wimmer) to the first edition of *Pioneers of American Landscape* (2000). She was also asked to write the foreword for the reissue of Winifred Starr Dobyns' book, *California Gardens* (1996).



## THE SARATOGA BLOSSOM FESTIVAL

Long before the Santa Clara Valley was dubbed Silicone Valley for its fame as the home of the computer chip, the area had gained value and renown for its horticultural qualities. The nineteenth century was witness to several shifts in the horticultural evolution of the "Garden of the World." As elsewhere in California under the Spaniards, ranchos produced cattle hides and tallow. With the Gold Rush came a demand for wheat, making the widescale growing of grain profitable. By the mid-1870s, that market peaked, when 1.7 million bushels of wheat were produced in Santa Clara Valley, with about 185,000 acres of valley land planted to wheat, barley, oats, rye, corn and hay.

Fruit also brought high prices during the Gold Rush, but fruit trees and vineyards take up to five years to mature, while farmers could grow two crops of wheat a year if the weather cooperated. The coming of the intercontinental railroad made eastern markets available in 1869, and as the mid-western states came into the grain market, more California farmers began planting commercial orchards, with great success. Nurserymen such as the Lewelling brothers, Louis Pellier, Captain Joseph Aram, Bernard Fox and his nephew R. D. Fox, and George W. Tarleton soon made a variety of fruit trees more readily available to local farmers. John Rock joined forces with R. D. Fox and others to form the California Nursery Company, the largest in the state. By 1884 the firm was offering a total of 1600 different varieties of fruit trees.

Most of the orchards in the valley were small family plantings of 50 acres or less. The early focus on production of dried fruit, for transport to the East and overseas, continued in this county for one hundred years. Prunes were the principal crop, and even today, all the prunes in the United States still come from California. Campbell, once known as "The Orchard City," was the home of the world's largest drying yards and canneries. By the early twentieth century, local industry was dominated by fruit canning. At one point, the valley supplied 90 percent of the nation's canned fruit. Local families formed cooperatives such as the Los Gatos Fruit Packing Company and the Campbell Fruit Growers Union. In the 1880s, the first cannery—the San Jose Fruit Packing Company—was built in "The Garden City" by Dr. James Madison Dawson. Others soon followed.

A slightly satirical article in an 1893 *Harper's Weekly* labeled the county "A Paradise of Prunes," describing their Columbian Exposition display of a horse with mounted knight in full armor made entirely of prunes. (The 'Great Prune Bear' was featured at another fair.) "A ride through one of the vast prune orchards when the trees are in full bloom is an experience never to be forgotten."

The springtime beauty of this area, with its vast display of blooming fruit tree orchards, the ground beneath them often swathed in wild mustard and California poppies, became a popular tourist attraction. Visitors came from all over the Bay Area to marvel at the sight and heady smell of the "Valley of Heart's Delight." According to one local resident's calculation, 8,000,000 fruit trees in the valley were adorned with no less than 100,000,000,000 blooms, all easily visible from the hills above Saratoga.

An article printed in the May 1912 *Overland Monthly* attributes the origins of the Saratoga Blossom Festival to the drought of 1898-99. Though many vineyards suffered losses, the fruit trees came through just fine in spite of the farmers' initial fears, and the story told is that a Congregationalist minister named Rev. Edwin Sydney Williams wanted to perform a church service of thanksgiving for the bountiful rainfall that ended the drought. He is credited with the idea of combining the ceremony with a celebration of the blooming orchards. On March 20, 1900, the ceremony was performed at the little Christian Church in Saratoga, and the first Blossom Festival commenced thereafter. The event was an immediate success and subsequently, the local county business bureaus soon made a point of dispatching boxes of blooms and literature to San Francisco, Los Angeles and other major cities as a means of publicizing the event. Special trains were scheduled to carry people to Saratoga from all over the Bay Area.

By its twelfth year, the day-long celebration had expanded to provide such entertainments as athletic games, allegorical parades with decorated floats, a literary and

### HOW TO JOIN CGLHS

To become a member of the California Garden & Landscape History Society, send a check or money order to Linda Renner, Membership Secretary, 3223 E. First St., Long Beach CA 90803. See our website: [www.cglhs.org](http://www.cglhs.org) for an application form.



Membership rates:  
Individual \$30  
Household \$40  
Institution \$50  
Sustaining \$60 and up.



musical program, speeches by local politicians and other dignitaries, picnic luncheons, flower drills and folk dances by local school children. Re-enactments of "Events in California's Early History" (the Spanish mission era, invasion of the Argonauts in search of gold, pioneer immigration complete with oxen and wagons) were also held. "During the interim between the morning and afternoon events, visitors from 'the bay cities region' and from out of the State were given automobile and carriage rides to points of nearby interest, and they vied

with one another in extolling the beauties and grandeur of the meadows, orchards and quaint nooks of 'The Crown of the Valley.'" Clark B. Waterhouse, who later studied to be a landscape architect at UC Berkeley and left behind his photo album of California gardens, played the part of an Indian chieftain bedecked with feathers and warpaint. Former San Francisco mayor James D. Phelan did his part in the speech-making department by offering greetings to Festival visitors.

As more and more people moved to the Valley of Heart's Delight, horticulture began, literally, to lose ground. As the ability to draw water from the ground increased, many turned to irrigating their orchards to ensure better crops. This in turn probably contributed to the growth of oak root fungus and other mysterious fun-



gal ailments such as "pear decline." It also led to subsidence of the ground across the valley floor. In the 1930s a series of seven dams were created to catch rainwater and recharge the valley water system. The last true Blossom Festival was held in the spring of 1941. Following World War II, local city administrators adopted a policy of diversifying the economy and worked to attract more industry. Along with this growth came increased population and the need for more housing. Property taxes went up and this, in turn, forced out more orchards and other agricultural enterprises from the Valley. One last attempt at a Blossom Festival was made in 1951, but the disappearance of the blossoms made it increasingly difficult to capitalize on the name.

The process of urbanization escalated with advances in computer science. Today the Valley of Heart's Delight has largely been forgotten except by preservationists and historians. The concept of preserving not just scenic values or recreational values but cultural values, such as our horticultural heritage, for the edification of future generations is at odds with the ever popular juggernaut of "progress." Today only scattered remnants of the Valley of Heart's Delight can be found in a few "living history" museums around the county. In Saratoga, even the small plot of land next to the public library—designated as the Heritage Orchard—is threatened by population pressures. The City wants more recreational space for children—soccer fields, for example, or perhaps a bigger library. The Heritage Orchard may not be around too much longer.



#### **Gardener Wanted @ Alcatraz Gardens**

The Alcatraz Historic Garden Project, a preservation project of the Garden Conservancy, seeks a full-time gardener to help preserve and rehabilitate the once extensive gardens on Alcatraz Island, performing a wide variety of horticultural, gardening and grounds maintenance tasks. For additional information please visit the Garden Conservancy home page, [www.gardenconservancy.org](http://www.gardenconservancy.org) or contact [projects@gardenconservancy.org](mailto:projects@gardenconservancy.org).



## A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE MID-PENINSULA REGIONAL OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

Between 1850 and 1900, lumberjacks stripped the Santa Cruz mountains of their first growth redwood trees. The big wildland fire of 1899 also wiped out thousands of trees. Following this event, Josephine Clifford McCrackin, who lived in the west valley foothills, became worried about the future of the forests. Together with San Jose photographer Andrew P. Hill and others, she formed the Sempervirens Club of California in 1900 and set out to create the California Redwood Park at Big Basin, in Santa Cruz County.

In spite of the successes of the club in saving stands of old growth forest, succeeding generations of environmentalists continued to worry about losing all vestiges of open space. In 1960, Stanford University professor and writer Wallace Stegner, a resident of Los Altos Hills, sent a challenging letter to the California Wildland Research Center at UC Berkeley: "If you want open space, you have to own it so you can keep it 'open' forever." In 1970, an editorial in the *Palo Alto Times* criticized environmentalists' "rearguard battles" against foothills developers. It restated Stegner's proposal: To be effective, environmentalists should acquire open space at market value as was done by the park district in the East Bay earlier in the century.

A group of activists led by Palo Alto resident Nonette Hanko accepted the challenge and began planning their strategy. The state law used to create the East Bay Regional Parks District (Public Resources Code 550) was still on the books and would serve their purpose. Separate from existing county parks districts, the new creation would focus solely on open space acquisition and preservation, with separate funding and its own elected officials. The land would not be "improved" with recreational facilities such as picnic grounds and sports fields, but left in its natural condition. The group went through the political process: polling voters to measure public opinion, community outreach to build support, and petitioning to get the measure on the ballot. When the petition was presented to the Boards of Supervisors for Santa Clara and San Mateo counties, the Santa Clara Board accepted the petition while San Mateo rejected it. Measure R went on the 1972 Santa Clara ballot and was passed by a two-thirds vote. Thus was

the formation of the Mid-Peninsula Regional Open Space District carried through, their goal to preserve the foothills, the "backbone" or ridgeline lands of the San Francisco Peninsula. Today some 50,000 acres of open space have been preserved from further development, and voters in Marin and Monterey counties have since approved similar measures.

### Recommended reading:

*Grand and Ancient Forest - The Story of Andrew P. Hill and Big Basin Redwood State Park* (Carolyn de Vries, 1997).

*Peninsula Tales & Trails* (David Weintraub, 2004). Unlike Weintraub's other guidebooks, the *Tales* carry more weight than do the *Trails*. Weintraub provides the history of the formation of the Mid-Peninsula Regional Open Space District, as well as brief histories of each of the preserves acquired by the District to date.



*Dr. Tevis's guest, opera singer Emma Eames, visits the redwood forests.*



## WOODHILLS RANCH: THE ESTATE OF FREMONT & CORA OLDER

In his book, *Peninsula Tales & Trails*, David Weintraub writes that "This is one of the District's urban preserves, more than 700 acres located on the outskirts of Cupertino and Saratoga. The Garrod family bought land here in 1910 and used it for pasture, orchards, and hay growing. The land remained in the Garrod family until purchased by the District in 1980. The Garrods still own a ranch next door with a commercial stable and a vineyard. Also in the early 1900s, Fremont Older and his wife, Cora, bought part of what was to become his namesake preserve, and in 1914 they completed the ranchhouse they called 'Woodhills.' [Deeds show an initial purchase of 160 acres, added to almost immediately by 30 more acres of woods.] Older was a crusading newspaperman, who some say was the most influential editor in the West." He became a printer's apprentice and then moved to California from Wisconsin in his teens.

Working his way up from printer to editor of a Redwood City newspaper, Older was then hired in 1895 to edit the *San Francisco Bulletin*. He was so successful at it that Randolph Hearst lured him away to work for the *Examiner* in 1914. A story is told of Older that he worked very hard through his newspaper to put a corrupt San Francisco politician in jail. After a successful battle, Older reflected on the inequality of jailing the bribed politico while the bribers—of more elevated social position—went free. He turned around and fought just as hard to get the man released from prison—and eventually succeeded.

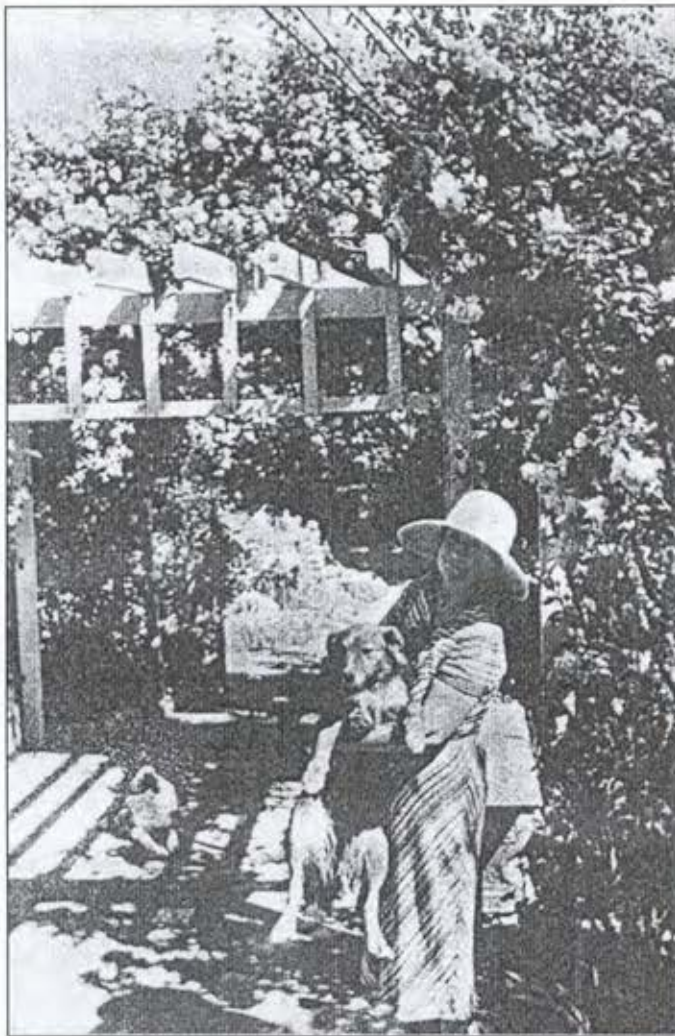
"Cora Older," says Weintraub, "a prolific writer, was responsible for overseeing the building of the house and gardens at

Woodhills Ranch." She lived on the site in a tent while supervising the construction work and remained in residence at Woodhills until her death in 1968. As HABS report writer Artemas Ginzton put it, "After 20 years of living in hotels with geraniums on the windowsills, she at last had a house and garden of her own," and was loathe to leave them for any reason. Whether Cora always kept a personal diary has not been determined, but those which have been preserved at the Bancroft Library date from after construction of the house was completed, starting in 1915. Nearly every day's entry contained some comments about the garden or about wildflowers seen during walks on the property. While Cora's handwriting and spelling are truly execrable, one can only be grateful that, at the end of each long workday, she was willing to make any sort of entry at all.

On 1 January 1915, Cora's first entry reads, "A

white rose bloomed by the steps...the first. It seems a symbol of the new year." On 4 January she reported, "Worked on laying out the garden with Purdy. Ordered my roses from Hallawell. Feel that the garden is started." The Hallawell Seed Company of San Francisco (Harry E. Hallawell, proprietor) was established between 1910-11. Their seed store was at 258 (later 256) Market Street and offered not only seed, but also plants and bulbs. They eventually opened a branch store for the nursery at 19th Avenue and Sloat Blvd. Both outlets were still listed in the 1944 *Directory of Nurserymen*.

Purdy was in town for the Panama-Pacific International Exposition (see box). Because of her position both as a writer and wife of an influential newspaper editor,



*Cora Older and her dog by the rose arbor.*



one imagines that Cora Older had ready access to the grounds of the Exposition before, during and after the fair. If she hadn't been previously acquainted with Purdy, she certainly would have met him there. Having a strong appreciation for the beauties of both native and cultivated plants, she availed herself of his services. Not being particularly affluent, Cora did much of the actual installation work herself, assisted by a few men when they could be spared from other ranch work. On 16 February 1915, she noted, "I received my plans for the garden from Purdy and Hallawell." Purdy was never listed as a partner of Hallawell's but may have taken commissions through him for garden designs, perhaps with some proviso that plants be purchased from the nursery. Such an arrangement would not have been unusual. Two days later Cora commented that she had had "a nice talk with Mr. Hallawell, and ordered a lot of seeds."

She also hired an Italian stone worker named Frederico Minterio who had come here to work on the Italian exhibit at the PPIE and decided to stay on afterward. The entry for 3 January says, "Had new fountain put in by Frederico. Just as it was finished the wind came up and blew off the top. At last it was finished and the water spouted." On 14 January she noted that "the fountain was put in wrong, will have to be done over again." A few days later it was repaired and working properly. In March of the same year, Cora wrote a letter to Harry Tevis asking him if he could employ Frederico to do some wall building for him at Alma Dale. "I am hoping that he may establish himself at Los Gatos where there seems to be no one who makes garden furniture or does ornamental concrete work. He can do all kinds of stone and cement work." Receiving no reply to her first letter, she wrote again in May. "He can do delightful fountains, sundials, garden furniture and draw the designs...also plain cement work." It isn't known whether Tevis ever employed Minterio, though he did have several Italian gardeners. There are fourteen letters from Cora in the Tevis papers, several of them about the planting of red roses throughout the county as part her Fiesta de las Rosas program (see *Eden*, Spring 2005). When Tevis was ill, she wrote to recommend the consumption of sauerkraut juice "to relieve a toxic condition or reduce high blood pressure."

As with any gardener, Cora had her share of successes and setbacks. She loved her dogs, but they were often a trial in the garden. "This morning I found that Fried had eaten my 'Cherokee' roses." On another occasion, while Cora was trying to plant roses, the dog

### Carl Purdy (1851-1945)

Purdy is perhaps best remembered today as a nurseryman who lived on a property called 'The Terraces' near Ukiah and specialized in California native bulbs. However, a biography written by his grandson, Carl Mahurin, appearing in the October 1941 *Journal of the California Horticultural Society*, reveals that "During the last forty years he has been active in landscape work. Some of his better gardens were executed for Mrs. Phoebe Hearst, at Pleasanton and elsewhere, Mrs. Dimond at Woodside, Mrs. Achilles at Morgan Hill, the Ehrmann home at Lake Tahoe, Mrs. Knight at Emerald Bay, and the Ahwanee Hotel in Yosemite Valley. The old A. W. Foster place at San Rafael was his first real landscape effort." He adds that, "When the Panama-Pacific International Exposition was being planned, Mr. Purdy was retained to put in an exhibit for the State of Massachusetts. One thing led to another



and before long he was in possession of fifteen separate contracts from different states and countries to install exhibits and plant grounds in addition to having charge of the outdoor exhibits at the Horticulture Building." Thus Purdy was listed in the 1915 San Francisco directory as "supt. of the garden, PPIEx, h[ouse] 1359 Washington." His wife, Vesta, lived with him there for the duration.

would tug at her sleeve for attention, then resort to picking up a rose bush and taking it away. "I made him bring them all back." There is an upper deck with an arbor over it at the back of the house, and Cora apparently put potted plants there. "I found the first pink blossom on the roof. More than half the geraniums I planted are dead. The 'Marechal Niel' rose in the court is blossoming."

In addition to visiting Hallawell's in the city, Cora mentions going to see a nursery at Los Gatos, presumably the same Gem Nursery that Tevis liked to patronize. She also wrote of finding some red geraniums she liked for the hill behind the house at Arthur Cann's nursery in San Jose. Gintzon comments that over the years, Cora added new garden sections, built terraces on the hillsides and stone walls to delineate different areas of the garden.

The Olders had no children, and Woodhills was heavily mortgaged, so the bank sold the property following Cora's death in 1968. Weintraub writes, "The



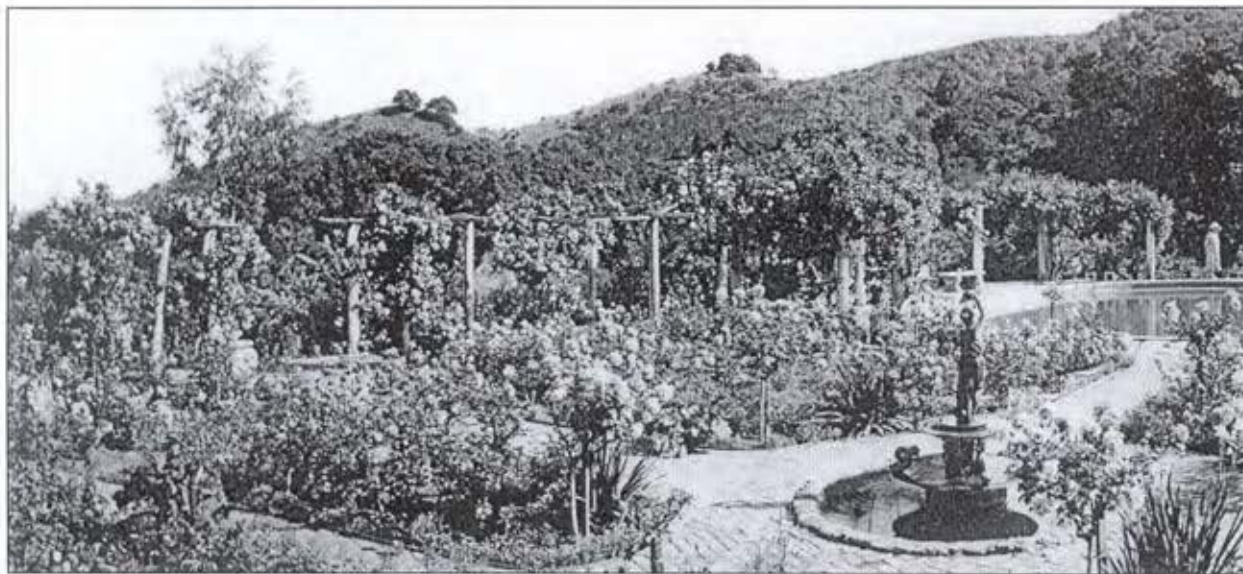
new owner planned to subdivide the land and invited friends to take what they wanted from the house, which was in a state of disrepair." The Mid-Peninsula Regional Open Space District (MPROSD) began acquiring the property in 1975 and at first intended to bulldoze the house. The El Camino Trust for Historic Preservation objected but had no money available for restoration. The Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors funded a Historic American Building Survey (HABS) of all historic buildings in the county in 1977. This included the Older property and that survey report contained historic photographs of the gardens from the collection of neighbors Mr. and Mrs. Earl Harris. They are all dated "circa 1914" though some, such as the pool area, clearly were taken more than ten years later.

At the eleventh hour, Mort and Elaine Levine stepped forward. Mr. Levine was then president of the El Camino Trust and a newspaper publisher himself. He submitted a proposal to restore the building in return for a long-term lease and was accepted. Restoration took two years. In 1980 the house was listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It is considered a significant property not only because of the architecture (believed to be the work of San Jose architect Frederick D. Wolfe or Charles W. McCall, both of whom are frequently mentioned in Cora Older's diaries), but also for the cultural and political influence of the Olders in their day.

After nearly 30 years and \$350,000 spent on restoration, the Levines still live on the property and do not regret a bit of the time and effort they've expended. Not only did they restore the house, but they attempted to furnish it in a style appropriate to the time period and,

wherever possible, with items having Older connections (such as bound copies of the *Bulletin*, and a portrait of Cora). They have set aside one room devoted entirely to Older memorabilia, including books written by Cora and historic photographs of the property.

No attempt was made to do a completely accurate restoration of the garden, though defined areas nearest to the building have not been changed much; the pool area, built in 1924 as a gift from Cora to her husband, has been largely eradicated—Older's studio is now rented out to another tenant, the pool itself filled in with dirt and the rose garden only a memory. Though Mrs. Levine has planted historically appropriate roses throughout the landscape, they are not necessarily the ones Cora Older originally put in. Grass was first planted in the back court area just as Older had it, but this has now been replaced with more sustainable gravel and drought-tolerant plants. [The Levines are still dependent on groundwater from a well for irrigation needs.] Wisteria vines fronted by large shrubs of *Cotinus coggygria* 'Purpureus' now decorate the front of the house where Cora once planted pink 'Dorothy Perkins' roses. As the years pass, the Levines are finding it increasingly difficult to care for the grounds as they would wish. The area between the front drive and the studio has been allowed to revert to a wild, bird-sown thicket of blackberry, ivy and the like. The long arbor has to be brushed out periodically to prevent the same thing happening there. We can only hope that, when the Levines are finally ready to give it up, the MPROSD will be able to find new tenants willing to give the property the same degree of loving care.



Left half of panoramic photo of the Older rose garden, >1924. Nothing remains of it today.



## SOME ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON EMERSON KNIGHT

Since our last issue, some additional information has come to light about the career of landscape architect Emerson Knight. A search on Proquest turned up Los Angeles *Times* newspaper articles on Knight's trip to Europe, a possible link to Mark Daniels, family information, and Knight's work with the Olmsted Brothers.

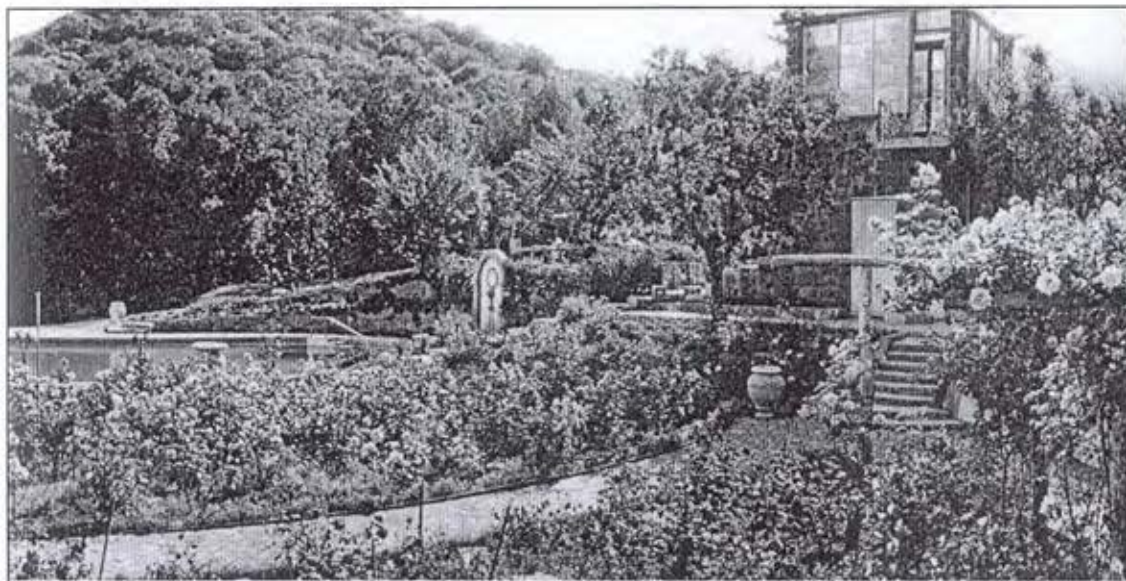
Some discrepancies were noted between statements found in Luckhart's article on Knight and what was reported in the local newspaper at the time. On 14 November 1913 the *Times* reported on Knight's trip to Europe. "On February 2, 1912 [not 1913], Emerson Knight of Los Angeles boarded a train for New York, whence he sailed on the great liner Kaiserin Auguste Victoria direct for Hamburg, arriving at that dominant seaport of Northern Germany on the first of March." The rest of the article meticulously records Knight's itinerary, finishing up in Liverpool, England, where he made his return trip, landing in Canada. After some time spent at Quebec, Montreal and Toronto, Knight dipped down into the eastern states for a bit more visiting before he arrived back in San Francisco via the Western Pacific. He finally came to rest again in Los Angeles on 10 November 1913, having traveled an estimated 16,000 miles over nearly two years. How did the newspaper come by this information? An earlier item in the *Times* mentions Knight's "last letter" describing the sights seen on his travels through Germany. Whether these were family letters somehow passed along to the *Times* or whether Knight made some arrangement to act as a special correspondent for the newspaper is still undetermined. Luckhart

seems to have overlooked (as did we) the discrepancy between his statement that Knight undertook a six-month walking tour starting in 1913 with another that he did not return to Los Angeles until 1916.

The initial link between Knight and landscape architect Mark Daniels remains something of a puzzle, but a possible explanation came to light in the *Times* of 1 August 1915. Daniels had only recently been appointed General Superintendent and Landscape Engineer of National Parks, and the newspaper announced that an article of his on "The National Parks of California" appeared in the first issue of the new quarterly *California Magazine*, edited by E.J. Wickson, professor of horticulture at the University of California. It seems quite possible that Knight would have read this new publication and may have been impressed with Daniels' writing to the extent of actively seeking him out on arrival in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Articles about the injury accident and subsequent death of Knight's father appeared on the 12th and 15th of May, 1925. These included some of the family history, such as the fact that one of Knight's sisters was married to film star Tyrone Power. His brother, Alfred Knight, was then vice president of Fleischman Yeast Company in New York City.

On 15 December 1928, the *Times* mentions the formation of a State Park Commission to oversee "a State-wide survey conducted under the supervision of Frederick Law Olmsted, nationally recognized authority on parks and landscapes and who bears the official title



Right half of panoramic photo. The building at right was Fremont Older's studio.



of director of parks survey for the State movement...Besides Frederick Law Olmsted, other persons participating in the conference were Col. Charles B. Wing, chief of the division of parks; F.G. Stevenot, director of the State department of national resources; Emerson Knight, landscape artist; Prof. H. W. Shepherd of the University of California and Newton Drury, secretary of the "Save the Redwoods League." An additional report was published on 3 January 1929. More than 300 sites had been evaluated for scenic beauty and recreational use, and final recommendations were made to acquire 125 of them for parks. "The survey was accomplished through the State Park Commission, whose activities were authorized by an act of the Legislature in 1927, the same act which created the division of parks in the State Department of Natural Resources. Olmsted, director of the survey...was assisted in his survey work by Daniel R. Hull of Los Angeles, former landscape architect for the National Park Service; H. W. Shepherd of Berkeley, professor of landscape architecture at the University of California; and Emerson Knight, San Francisco landscape architect." The list of beach sites, big tree tracts and desert projects nominated for preservation concluded the article.

Knight wrote an obituary for Berkeley real estate developer Duncan McDuffie, published in the October 1951 *Landscape Architecture*. He described McDuffie as a "distinguished conservationist and patron of Landscape Architecture," and cited McDuffie's use of the Olmsted Brothers firm to prepare plans for his subdivision at St. Francis Wood, San Francisco. He went on to reveal the part McDuffie played in establishing a parks system in California, thus indirectly shedding a little more light on his own role in that work.

"Through Mr. McDuffie's efforts Frederick Law Olmsted was retained to investigate, plan, and render a thorough report on the state park system for California in 1928. This resulted in the employment of Daniel R. Hull, Harry W. Shepherd, and Emerson Knight as assistants in this survey. As Chairman of the California State Parks Council, the organization which successfully spon-

sored a \$6,000,000 State Park Bond program, Duncan McDuffie helped to bring about the establishment of an excellent system of state parks in California, which led to planning services for these areas, furnished by the National Park Service, when many landscape architects prepared plans followed by inspection, interpretation, and careful supervision of work executed by the Civilian Conservation Corp." It becomes clear that Knight's employment in the state parks survey led to his later job supervising CCC workers.

Once again, it was the *Times* that informed us of Mr. Knight's employment by the city of Monterey in April of 1940 to draw up plans for the preservation of their historic waterfront. A small paragraph appeared on the 28th of that month, and we no doubt will find more details of the story in the Monterey press of preceding days.

Omitted from the bibliography last time was one additional article by Emerson Knight, found through a Proquest item in the *New York Times*. The article was titled "Forest Theatres" and was published in *American Forests* 39, no. 6, (June 1933): 242-246, 285. In this article, Knight delineates four basic types of topography as suitable for outdoor theatre sites: "First is the elevated amphitheatre, natural in its contour form, of which the Mountain Theatre...on Mt. Tamalpais furnishes a striking example...Second is the comparatively level mid-forest type wherein the trees encompass both the stage and the audience. The Forest Theatre hidden among the Monterey pines at Carmel, and the Family Club Theatre in a redwood grove near Woodside...are excellent illustrations. A less formal variation of this type is the camp fire center, usually accompanied by a small stage, the seats often hewn from huge logs and arranged about the fire pit in the form of a half circle or horse shoe. Examples of this are to be seen at Big Basin in California Redwood Park, at the Bohemian Grove and at the Family Club Farm, the latter two being entirely independent of their theatres proper...Third, is the theatre with a level or very gently sloping seating area facing a single stage or a series of stages built upon rising forest slopes. The most widely known and unique one is the Bohemian

### CALL FOR PAPERS

*Eden* solicits your submissions of scholarly papers, shorter articles, book reviews, information about coming events, news about members' activities and honors, interesting archives or websites you have discovered. In short, send us anything pertaining to California's landscape history that may be of interest to our members.

Please contact the editor, Marlea Graham, at 100 Bear Oaks Lane, Briones, CA 94553-9754.

Telephone: 925.335.9182. Email: [maggie94553@earthlink.net](mailto:maggie94553@earthlink.net).

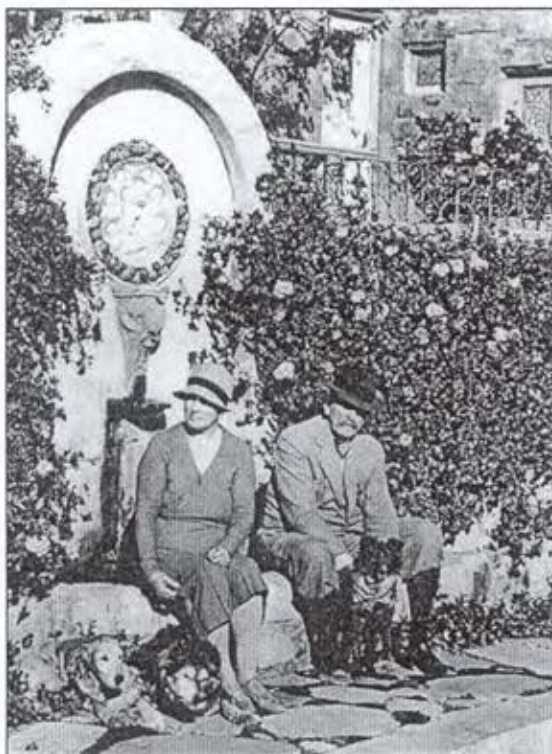
Deadlines for submissions are the first day of March, June, September and December.



Grove Theatre, near Monte Rio...where superb productions have been given annually since 1902...A distant variation of this form is the Water Theatre, wherein a strip of land with trees as a background forms the stage proper, while a broad sheet of water in the form of a lake, lagoon, or quiet stream intervenes between the audience and ground stage. Then the water itself virtually becomes the principal stage providing an ideal setting for all manner of aquatic scenes and effects...There are few worthy theatres belonging strictly to this fourth group in the West, yet the Greek Theatre at Point Loma, San Diego, planted artificially, and the Woodland Theatre of Hillsborough, with its stage built across a creek dry in summer, suggest the interesting possibilities. In addition to these principal types there should be included private garden theatres which may be situated in private forests and conceived under any or all of the topographical conditions outlined, and developed in an intimate and charming manner." Knight ranks the Bohemian Grove Theatre and the Pageant Theatre of Peterborough, New Hampshire as two of the finest examples of outdoor theatres in the country. Knight concludes with a list of other California sites he thinks suitable for outdoor theatres, and a statement of his belief in the inherent aesthetic value of the audience's experience of nature in these settings.

Another article which should be read by anyone interested in Knight's work is the piece published in *Studies in the History of Gardens & Designed Landscapes* 24, no. 3, (July-Sept. 2004):187-214, "Keeping The Boys Busy: Outdoor Theatres of the Great Depression: On-Site Incremental Design Gives Form to the Complex Relationship of Site and Structure," by Linda Jewell and Steve Rasmussen Cancian. (Jewell also submitted an essay on Knight for the first volume of *Pioneers of American Landscape Design* [2000]). This provides additional details of the work on Mt. Tamalpais that were not found in Luckhart's essay, including a more complete timeline of con-

struction and many historic photographs (from the Marin Historical Society, Mill Valley Public Library, UC Berkeley College of Environmental Design Archives, and the National Archives) not seen in other publications. The authors state that "In 1929, under Knight's guidance, the Mountain Play Association began construction of Knight's 1924 plan with volunteer labor." (The Arthur Blake Papers at the Marin County Library are the source of this information.) "In 1934, under the direction of Knight, now a CCC inspector, CCC Company no. 1920 continued construction of the theatre. Knight apparently did not make any additional drawings. Measurements of the existing theatre verify, however, that Knight continued to make field changes to his original scheme...Landscape Foreman Paul Holloway oversaw the lower 20 rows of seating between 1934 and 1938 and, between 1938 and 1940, Landscape Foreman Howard Cox provided the day-to-day supervision of the upper 20 rows...Through 1937, construction progressed slowly due to Knight and Holloway's commitments to other projects and a decline in enrollees assigned to the theatre." Jewel and Cancian emphasize the part that on-site observations by Knight and his foremen played in later changes made to the construction plan.



Cora and Fremont Older with dogs >1924 sitting in the rose garden. The adobe building in the rear was moved to the property by Cora to be used as Fremont's studio.

We'd still like to find the definitive proof of why Mark Daniels upped stakes and left his San Francisco office to Knight. Some strong clues have recently come to light. Phoebe Cutler found an article in the February 1925 *Architect and Engineer* that puts him in Pebble Beach, living in a Spanish-style house of his own design, and Proquest citations link him with other development in the area. The *Times* of 29 July 1925 states that Daniels had just been retained by the Marblehead Land Company to transform the Malibu rancho "into the Riviera of the Pacific Coast." They describe Daniels as "...the architect who is famous for his work at Pebble Beach and Del Monte on the Monterey Peninsula and other residential parks in Northern California..."



## CALIFORNIA LANDSCAPE AS HISTORIC GARDEN

On September 19th, former state historian Kevin Starr gave a lecture on the above topic as a part of the on-going Barn Studio Lecture Series, "Seeing Our World through Gardens," sponsored by Nancy Goslee Power & Associates. CGLHS President Thea Gurns attended the talk and has provided us with the following report.

California, Kevin Starr informed his listeners, is not included in the *Encyclopedia of the West*. The former California State Librarian, USC professor, and author of numerous award-winning books, agrees with the omission. "There was never," he points out, "a Shootout at the Redondo Beach Corral."

To Starr, California is a place unto itself. His talk presented an historic overview of responses to looking at the land and explained how those observations play a role in our state's history. Those who are familiar with Starr's books about California (*Americans and the California Dream, 1850-1915*, et al.) will not be surprised to hear that he considers viewing our landscape as less a matter of design and more about how observers filter their outward view of the state through their own imposed interpretations.

Illustrating his premise with abundant slides of landscape paintings, photographs and quotations taken from primary sources, Starr began his 90-minute lecture with the arrival of the Spaniards and worked his way forward to the present day. Carleton Watkins' photographs, for example, documented the contrasts in early Anglo-American interpretations, ranging from landscape as a sentimental symbol of spiritual grandeur (Yosemite) to a decidedly unsentimental symbol of man's brutal destruction through greed for gold.

Another vision saw the land as restoring health, the provider of good medicine via clean, dry air and warm sunshine. Those coming for cure encountered mountains and desert as barriers to the promised land. Once over

and across, they found seashore resorts devoted to restoration.

Charles Dudley Warner visited the state and introduced his interpretations of California as Mediterranean with his book, *Our Italy*. Henry James stayed at the Hotel Coronado and declared he had found "Italy awaiting its history." Helen Hunt Jackson's *Ramona* focussed the nation's attention on the revival of an ideal rancho California. Her novel set up an imagined Spanish past, the romantic image of the mission interplayed with architecture and history. Paintings of white-washed adobe buildings predominated in this period. The Italian and Spanish villa styles of architecture were adopted from San Diego to San Francisco.

Religious colonies organized orderly communities rooted in agriculture. The Mormon settlement at Riverside harvested citrus, and California's image was exported via crate labels, their charm once again offsetting reality. Thus was Southern California invented.

To this audience member, Starr's talk was instructive. Our organization's mission is rooted in the preservation of history, on knowing what existed, what came before and what may still be with us. Blueprints, photographs, and oral histories may slide into diversion and legend, but we try for the authentic and go for truth. For us, interplay between reality and romance—the gap between—gives perspective and propels insight. We work hard for our visions. Along the way, it is our good fortune to "enjoy one another's company" and "celebrate the beauty, wealth and diversity of California gardens and landscapes."



Bridal Veil Falls - Yosemite (CHS).



Malakoff Diggings hydraulic mining (CHS).



## BOOK REVIEWS &amp; NEWS

*Note: Wherever we have employed a "press release" description of a book, this is in lieu of a "real" review, which we've either not had the time (or in some cases, the inclination) to provide as yet. As a general rule we will indicate whether we expect to have a review for you in the near future. We usually do not provide reviews of books that are not specifically about California, though we sometimes list them where we think they might be of interest to our readers. If any members are interested in reviewing a particular book for Eden please contact the editor at 925.335.9182 or maggie94553@earthlink.net. Be advised that we do not generally ask for review copies of books and you may therefore be expected to buy your own. If you know of books that may interest CGLHS members, we would be pleased to hear of them.*

**The Carolands** by Michael M. Dwyer, with photographs by Mick Hales and essay by Mario Buatta (Redwood City: San Mateo County Historical Association, 2006). Hardcover, 224 pages (10 x 13), 250+ color photographs, 100 duotones, ISBN: 0-9785259-9-6, \$75.



In our last issue, we announced the impending release of a new book and film/CD on the Carolands estate in Hillsborough. The original property, purchased by Harriet Pullman Carolans, consisted of 550 acres, with the house situated on a hill overlooking the surrounding land. The house and a few surrounding acres survive today.

We have now received notice that the film, titled "Three Women and a Chateau," and produced by Berkeley-based Luna Productions in conjunction with Inyo Productions and the San Mateo County Historical Association, has won the prize for Best Documentary at the 2006 Rhode Island International Film Festival. It is to have a showing in the Bay Area at the Mill Valley Film Festival at 2:30 P.M. on **October 7th** and at 6:30 P.M. on **October 15th**. To obtain tickets see their website, [www.mvff.com](http://www.mvff.com) or call the main office at 415.383.5256. The film chronicles the history of the women who made the property what it is today, as narrated by local historians, architects and Hillsborough residents.

The book, **Carolands**, is still expected to be out by October or November. You may order directly from the distributors, Acanthus Press, at [orders@acanthuspress.com](mailto:orders@acanthuspress.com) or by calling 800.827.7614 starting Sept. 1st. You can also place your contact information on an interest list with the San Mateo County Historical Association, 777 Hamilton Street, Redwood City, CA 94063. Tel: 650.299.0104. Or see the website: [www.carolands.com](http://www.carolands.com). We'll have further details for you as they become available.

**New Guardians for the Golden Gate - How America Got A Great National Park** by Amy Meyer with Randolph Delehanty, foreword by Michael Heyman (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2006). Hardcover, 390 pages, (9.2 x 8.3), color and b&w photographs,

maps, endnotes, index. ISBN: 0-520-23534-7, \$29.95.

Amy Meyer is co-chair of the People for a Golden Gate National Recreation Area, which members like to boast is the longest-lived ad hoc committee on record. Randolph Delehanty is an historian and

author who helped Meyer put together this story of the thirty-year bipartisan political campaign to create a great new national park. The GGNRA is composed of such diverse elements as Alcatraz Island, Sutro Heights, Crissy Field, Muir Woods, the Presidio, Fort Mason and much more. To pull this all together into one unified body was not the work of a moment, and the work is ongoing. Even now, real estate developers are hovering over the Presidio, for example, waiting for preservation plans to fail so they can swoop in and sell it all for pricey condos. People for a GGNRA is still active in resolving conflicts and helping with new projects, a group of environmentally concerned and politically aware citizens working together with the National Park Service to continue the preservation of this significant cultural landscape.

**Past Tents - The Way We Camped** by Susan Snyder, (Berkeley: Heyday Books, 2006). Softcover, 128 pages, (9 x 8), 108 b&w images, ISBN: 1-59714-039-2, \$17.95.

Snyder is the head of Access Services in the Bancroft Library, and the author of *Bear in Mind: The California Grizzly*. Heyday Books are often sold through local bookstores, but you may also order from their website, [orders@heydaybooks.com](mailto:orders@heydaybooks.com) if you have (or are willing to open) a PayPal account. You may also order by telephone at 510.549.3564 x304. We hope to provide a review of this book in our next issue.

*Press release:* "Mining once again the vast archives at the Bancroft Library, Snyder has mapped out this cheeky yet accurate history of camping in the West. Full of photographs and descriptions of family outings in the first years of the automobile, of campgrounds and campfires against the familiar backdrop of the Sierra Nevada, of the remarkable gear and "helpful" hints that



## BOOK REVIEWS &amp; NEWS

accompanied outings to our newly minted state and national parks and forests, *Past Tents* is a humorous romp through one of our favorite pastimes. Easy to pick up, hard to put down, it's the perfect gift for anyone who's ever been in the thrall of redwoods, s'mores, and Smokey the Bear."



***Unfolding Beauty: Celebrating California's Landscapes*** by Terry Beers. (Berkeley: Heyday Books, 2000). Softcover, 416 pages, (6 x 9), ISBN: 1-890771-34-1, \$17.95.

In our spring issue, Margaretta Darnall provided a review of Melanie Simo's new book, *Literature of Place: Dwelling on the Land before Earth Day 1970*, in which she pointed out the omission of some of California's best literary writers. *Unfolding Beauty* may well prove to be the California companion piece to Simo's work. "The astounding beauty of California is reflected not only in the works of authors like John Muir, John Steinbeck, Wallace Stegner, Robinson Jeffers, Gretel Ehrlich, and Gary Snyder, but also in surprising and provocative selections from writers such as Jack Kerouac, Norman Mailer, Joan Didion, Aldous Huxley, and Charles Bukowski. This diverse collection of prose and poetry brings alive the varied landscapes of the Golden State."

This book is the first in a series titled the California Legacy project, a collaboration between Santa Clara University and Heyday Books, dedicated to the rich and diverse cultural and literary heritage of California and drawing on the considerable resources of the university's archives.

***Treasures of the Conservatory of Flowers*** by Nina Sazevich, photography by Kevin J. Frest (Berkeley: Heyday Books, 2006). Softcover, 72 pages, (7.5 x 5.5), full color photographs throughout, ISBN: 1-59714-031-7, \$8.95.

**Press release:** "Author Nina Sazevich tells of the historic building and its leafy inhabitants with studied but lively prose, sharing old stories and anecdotes—like the death of the Conservatory's resident parrot in the 1883 fire that also took the Conservatory's original dome—as well as modern developments—like the recently implemented Integrated Pest Management system, which employs natural predators in place of pesticides...the book takes readers on a descriptive tour of the Conservatory's four

main sections, with details on the flora that inhabit each of them. A sumptuous botanical treat."

***Gardening with Heirloom Seeds, Tried and True Flowers, Fruits, and Vegetables for a New Generation*** by Lynn Coulter (University of North Carolina

Press, 2006). Available both in hard and softcover format, 328 pages, (8 x 9), 135 color and 10 b&w illustrations, 1 map, seed sources, bibliography, index. Cloth bound, ISBN: 0-8078-3011-9, \$34.95. Softcover, ISBN: 9-8078-5680-0, \$22.50.

**Press release:** "Coulter describes fifty treasured heirloom species, from 'Frenchman's Darling', a flowering herb whose seeds were pocketed by Napoleon Bonaparte when he invaded Egypt in 1798, to 'Snow White' beets, an old Dutch favorite that will not stain the cook's fingers red. Most of the plants included here will grow all across the United States; a few are best suited for warmer climates. The text lists sources for finding the seeds of many old varieties."

***Settings and Stray Paths - Writings on Landscape Architecture*** by Marc Treib (Philadelphia: Taylor & Francis, 2005). Hardcover, 237 pages, (9.5 x 6.4), author's photographs, ISBN: 0415700469, \$130.

**Press release:** "In this book Marc Treib focuses on the subject of the designed landscape, which he takes to include gardens, cemeteries, plazas, as well as a number of other landscape forms. His writings begin with an investigation of order and its perception: How have humans organized landscapes so that the experience of them could be directed, or even "read," decoded, and understood? His writings include analyses of both historical and contemporary works, with a geographic distribution that treats Asia as well as Europe and North America. Certain essays address the question of content in landscape design, others its meaning; still others examine the lives and contributions of major figures in the field, for example, cultural landscape historian John Brinckerhoff Jackson and landscape architect Garret Eckbo; subjects such as influence also receive the author's attention. As a whole, the essays cover a remarkable range, examining issues that few other writers have attempted to explain in detail. Treib brings a designer's eye to his work, pairing observation and formal analysis with a more theoretical formulation of the ideas from which or by which



## BOOK REVIEWS &amp; NEWS

landscape architecture is produced. The author's photographs complement his writings, adding a visual dimension to the provocative ideas outlined in the essays. While all of these essays have appeared in print over a period of some twenty-five years, many have been published in specialist journals or in a foreign language. *Settings and Stray Paths* assembles a vital collection of Marc Treib's writings on landscape architecture for the first time in a single source book."

*American Gardens, 1890-1930: Northeast, Mid-Atlantic, and Midwest Regions* editing and introduction by Sam Watters (New York: Acanthus Press, 2006). Clothbound, 296 pages, landscape format (12 x 9), 250 duotone photographs and plans, ISBN: 0-926494-43-0, \$75. Mentioned in our last issue, this book now ap-



pears to be available for purchase through Amazon.com, though they indicate a 4-6 week delay in shipping. You may prefer to order directly from Acanthus Press ([www.acanthuspress.com](http://www.acanthuspress.com) or 800.827.7614).

*Press release:* "Presenting period photographs of gardens and garden buildings of prominent estates, *American Gardens* evokes the pastoral lives of America's rich, including Gertrude Vanderbilt Whitney, John D. Rockefeller, Isabella Stewart Gardener, and R. J. Reynolds. Just as the architecture of estate houses was eclectic, drawing on styles ranging from French Beaux Arts to English Arts and Crafts to American colonial, so too did landscape architecture become a rich mixture of gardening traditions—the American melting pot manifesting itself through design."

## COMING EVENTS

**Submissions are sought** for a scholarly conference on the life and legacy of New York urban planner **Robert Moses** (1888-1981) that will take place at Columbia University March 2-3, 2007. They are seeking either entire sessions or individual papers on any aspect of Moses' long career. The conference is sponsored by the Herbert H. Lehman Center for American History at Columbia University, in cooperation with the Depts. of Art History and History, and will be held in conjunction with a three-part exhibition, "Robert Moses and the Modern City" (Jan.-Apr. 2007) at the Museum of the City of New York, Queens Museum of Art, and Columbia's Wallach Art Gallery. **Deadline for submissions is 30 November 2006.** Send copies to both Professors Hilary Ballon ([hmb3@columbia.edu](mailto:hmb3@columbia.edu)) and Kenneth T. Jackson ([ktj1@columbia.edu](mailto:ktj1@columbia.edu)).



**October 11:** Mills College Cultural Landscape Heritage Plan Lecture Series, reception 5 P.M., lecture 5:30 P.M., Bender Room, Carnegie Hall, Mills College, 5000 MacArthur Boulevard, Oakland. Please RSVP to Carrie Milligan at 510.430.2125 or [cmilliga@mills.edu](mailto:cmilliga@mills.edu). This lecture series is free and open to the public.

The Mills College Landscape Heritage Plan is being funded by the Getty Foundation Campus Heritage

Grant Program. This funding assists colleges and universities in the United States to manage and preserve the integrity of their significant historic buildings, sites, and landscapes. Following in the footsteps of UC Berkeley, Mills College is developing a plan that will document the campus from its 19th century origins to the present, including Mills' cultural landscape, nationally prominent architecture, and continuing commitment to innovative women's education.

The first lecture in the series will be presented on October 11th by professor and renowned author Helen Lefkowitz Horowitz of Smith College. She will consider Mills within the evolving plan of women's colleges in the United States and its bearing on the campus today. The second and third lectures scheduled will be presented next year. See February and March 2007 for details.

**October 11, 14, 21 & 28:** Garden Docent Training at Rancho Los Cerritos in Long Beach. The Rancho is seeking garden enthusiasts to share the "Roots of Long Beach" with museum visitors. During the four-week training, you will have the opportunity to explore the 162-year-old history of the gardens and grounds here. Discover the garden "rooms" and how successive families used them, and learn the stories about the site's historic plants, then share the tales with the public. To enroll, contact the



## COMING EVENTS

Volunteer Coordinator at 562.570.1755. Training is free with a membership to Friends of Rancho Los Cerritos. Rancho Los Cerritos Historic Site, 4600 Virginia Road, Long Beach, CA 90807. Website: [www.rancholoscerritos.org](http://www.rancholoscerritos.org).

**October 13-Nov. 5:** National Trust for Historic Preservation Conference at Pittsburgh, PA.

**October 14:** The NorCal chapter of the Society of Architectural Historians is giving a tour of three Point Reyes National Seashore Dairy Ranches, the Murphy Ranch, the McClure Ranch, and the Pier Ranch. These properties all date from the 1850s-60s. Tours will follow a morning lecture by Dewey Livingston, author of *Point Reyes Peninsula* at the Bear Valley Visitors Center. Buses will take participants to the ranches. To register, mail a \$35 check, payable to NCC-SAH, to NCC-SAH Tour, 614 - 43rd Street, Richmond, CA 94805. For full information contact Lissa McKee, [lissamck@hotmail.com](mailto:lissamck@hotmail.com). Registration at the visitor center at 9:30 A.M., box lunch provided, tour ends 4:00 P.M., optional dinner (price not included in this fee) at Inverness.

**October 15:** Showing of film "Three Women & A Chateau" at the Mill Valley Film Festival, 6:30 P.M. To order tickets, see the website [www.mvff.com](http://www.mvff.com) or call the main office at 415.383.5256. For full details see *The Carolands* in "Book Reviews & News," this issue.

**October 15:** Grand opening of the Peralta Hacienda Historical Park at the corner of Coolidge Avenue and Hyde Street in Oakland, from 12-5 P.M. History exhibits, food, craft vendors, music, gallery shows and much more. For more information contact the Friends of Peralta Hacienda Park. Website: [www.peraltahacienda.org](http://www.peraltahacienda.org). Tel: 510.532.9142.

**October 16:** Post-Katrina Gardens Reborn, a benefit for New Orleans Botanical Garden and Longue Vue House & Gardens, hosted by the Garden Conservancy and the New York Botanical Garden, at the Colony Club in NYC, 6-8 P.M. Tickets are \$350 per person, \$500 per couple. Gifts of any amount are appreciated. To attend or make a contribution, contact Diane Botnick 845.265.2029 or [dbotnick@gardenconservancy.org](mailto:dbotnick@gardenconservancy.org).

Funds raised will enable the Conservancy to continue assistance with planning and restoration efforts at historic Longue Vue House & Gardens and the New Orleans Botanical Garden, where they have been engaged since this past January. They hope to capture the attention of gardeners everywhere, and welcome and appreciate the financial support of members and the general public for this important effort. Garden Conservancy, PO Box



219, Cold Spring, NY 10516. Website: [www.gardenconservancy.org](http://www.gardenconservancy.org).

**October 17:** The San Diego Floral Association, the oldest gardening organization in Southern California, is approaching its 100th anniversary. In preparation for the 1915 Panama-California Exposition in Balboa Park, Kate O. Sessions, Alfred D. Robinson, and Frank Gifford founded the Association in 1907. Incorporation followed in 1910. Sponsored by the San Diego Parks and Recreation Department, they remain in Balboa Park today, with an office and one of the most complete horticulture libraries in the United States.

A list of proposed plans for a year-long Centennial Celebration begins with a multimedia presentation by CGLHS member Lucy Warren titled "In the Beginning...100 Years of Agriculture, Horticulture and Floriculture in San Diego" at the general meeting, Casa del Prado, Room 101, Balboa Park, 7 P.M.

Other events proposed for 2007 include the renewal of the Zoro garden in Balboa Park, an oral history project recording the accomplishments and memories of long-time members, and a tour of historic gardens, including Alfred D. Robinson's 'Rosecroft' estate in Point Loma. Website: [www.sdfloal.com](http://www.sdfloal.com).

**October 20-22: SOLD OUT!** CGLHS 2006 Conference at Saratoga. You may put your name on a standby list by calling [maggie94553@earthlink.net](mailto:maggie94553@earthlink.net) or 925.335.9182. Conference schedule, maps and other details are all available on our website, [www.cglhs.org](http://www.cglhs.org).

**October 20-21:** "The Influence of Mexico on California Gardens." This is the second of a two-part seminar for professionals and home gardeners addressing plants and sustainable garden design. Offered by the Garden Conservancy in partnership with the Ruth Bancroft Garden, with assistance and expertise from the East Bay Municipal Utility District. Lectures and garden tours. To register

California  
Garden  
& Landscape  
History Society  
presents

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## COMING EVENTS

or get more information, call the Garden Conservancy's San Francisco office at 415.561.7895 or see their website, [www.gardenconservancy.org](http://www.gardenconservancy.org).

**October 21:** Franceschi Park Workday. The Santa Barbara Parks & Recreation Department, Franceschi Park Advisory Committee and the Riviera Homeowners Association are hosting a Franceschi Park Workday from 9-12 P.M. The cleanup will focus on an area of the park where a new planting demonstration bed is to be installed later this year. Plans for the bed, which will be planted with species introduced by Dr. Franceschi nearly a century ago, will be unveiled at the workday. Landscape architecture services are being donated for this effort by Campbell & Campbell, a local design firm. You are invited to help trim plants, clear paths, and perform general cleanup chores. Bring your own work gloves and small tools such as rakes, hedge trimmers/clippers. Long sleeves (to protect from brush) and sun-hats are advisable. Plan to walk or carpool to the park, as parking on site is limited. A van shuttle to and from the park will be available between 8:45 -12:30 P.M. Call Terri Yamada at 564.5484 for information.

**October 22:** Royal Oak Seeds for Thought lecture at Los Angeles. Fergus Garrett, head gardener at Christopher Lloyd's English estate, Great Dixter, will trace the creative evolution of Great Dixter from its roots in the Edwardian era of Lloyd's parents and their association with Edwin Lutyens and William Robinson to its present-day status as a mecca for adventurous gardeners. Other lecture dates: Oct. 25 in Chicago; Oct 30 in New York. A charitable trust is now raising the necessary £2 million to guarantee the future of Great Dixter. For details on this lecture, call toll-free 800.913.6565 x201 or email [lectures@royal-oak.org](mailto:lectures@royal-oak.org). For a virtual tour of Great Dixter go to [www.greatdixter.co.uk](http://www.greatdixter.co.uk).

**October 26-28:** California Council for the Promotion of History 2006 Conference, San Jose, "From Adobe Bricks to Adobe ® Bytes: Historical Transformations in California." California's new State Archivist, Nancy Zimmelman, is the plenary speaker and will discuss archives in the digital age. Breakout sessions cover a wide range from historic road building projects to funding public history projects, the evolution of agricultural landscape. To register, go to: [www.csus.edu/org/ccph/Conference/2006RegPacket.pdf](http://www.csus.edu/org/ccph/Conference/2006RegPacket.pdf).

**October 29:** "The Arlington Garden: A Pasadena Garden of Pedigree" is the final lecture in the 2006 series sponsored by the Pasadena Museum of History. Garden designer Mayita Dinos will profile the design elements that give the garden its rich cultural, historic and horticultural



pedigree. Reception and tour of the Arlington Garden to follow. PMH, 470 West Walnut Street. Reservations, 626.577.1660 x10. Tickets \$25-\$35.

**November 9-11:** "Patronage & Landscape" is the theme of a symposium sponsored by The Cultural Landscape Foundation (TCLF), to be held at the Cranbrook Academy of Art, Bloomfield Hills, MI. It will explore the role of landscape patronage historically and today. For details of this conference visit the website: [www.tclf.org/events.htm](http://www.tclf.org/events.htm).

**November 11-12:** "Gardens to Match Your Architecture III: Fresh Design West Coast 2006" in Southern California, a lecture and garden tour cosponsored by the Garden Conservancy, the Los Angeles County Arboretum & Botanic Garden in Arcadia, *Pacific Horticulture*, and Nancy Goslee Power & Associates. The focus is on recent gardens and their accompanying architecture created by Southern California designers. Lectures at the Arboretum will be followed by garden visits. Website: [www.gardenconservancy.org](http://www.gardenconservancy.org). Tel: 415-561-7895.

**2007**

**February 26:** "Sculpture in Arcadia: Gardens, Parks and Woodlands as Settings for Sculptural Encounters from the 18th-21st Century." A one-day symposium to be held at the University of Reading, Great Britain.

**February 28:** Mills College Cultural Landscape Heritage Plan Lecture Series. The second talk in this series will be given by **CGLHS member Phoebe Cutler**, on the work of landscape architect Howard Gilkey, the first such to work at Mills College, and Dr. Howard McMinn, the noted botanist. See this issue, Oct. 11, 2006, for details.

**March 28:** Mills College Cultural Landscape Heritage Plan Lecture Series. The third talk in the series will be given by **Vonn Marie May**, Cultural Landscape Specialist and prime consultant for cultural landscape and buildings on the Mills College Landscape Heritage Plan. She will bring the campus up to date on the team's findings of the campus's development as influenced by numerous landscape architects and architects who have worked at Mills. See this issue, Oct. 11, 2006, for details.

**March 31-April 10:** Tour the gardens of Morocco with Richard Turner, CGLH member and editor of *Pacific Horticulture*. For a detailed itinerary, contact Landmark Travel, 335 Village Square, Orinda, CA 94563. Tel: 925.253.2600. Website: [www.landmarktravel.com](http://www.landmarktravel.com).

**Late September:** CGLHS Annual Conference, to be held in Los Angeles and to coincide with the Japanese American National Museum's (JANM) exhibit.



## HISTORIC AMERICAN LANDSCAPE SURVEY REPORT

The Norcal Chapter of HALS held their quarterly meeting on August 8th in Oakland. A report was heard from a committee concerned with saving the Schilling Garden, created by August Schilling, co-founder of the spice, tea and coffee firm in 1882. Remnants of the original garden include a faux bois structure that was originally draped with wisteria and other vines. There are also several mature tree specimens. The present plans for a 42-story residential tower would not only destroy the garden but would adversely affect the Lake Merritt area, which is a designated National Landmark and a local historic district. Neighborhood residents and the Oakland Heritage Alliance are leading a campaign to save the garden.

Another report of a threatened site was made by Kathryn Mathewson regarding the Bay Area Research and Extension Center (BAREC) in Santa Clara County. This is a 17-acre property zoned for agricultural use on Winchester Blvd in Santa Clara. It has been used as a UC agricultural research station since the 1920s. Bob Raabe, Doug Hamilton, Harry Butterfield, Rob Thayer, Ali Harivandi and other leaders in the field conducted significant research projects at the site. The state is asking to have the land rezoned so that it can be sold to developers for housing. To learn more about the community's efforts to save BAREC see the website: [www.savebarec.org](http://www.savebarec.org).

Progress reports for on-going projects were made by Frederica Drotos (Friends of Piedmont Way), Chris Patillo and Marlea Graham (Kaiser Roof Garden), and Steve Rasmussen Cancian (UC website development).

The "current condition" plans for Piedmont Way have been completed. Photographs have been taken matching historic views with present-day views. A grant has been obtained from the UCB Chancellor's Fund to finance the planting plan. The existence of a significant historic oak grove containing 300-

year-old trees has been documented. The University has plans to install an underground student athletic facility in this area that would destroy the bulk of the grove. The Friends of Piedmont Way are working to convince the school that the facility should be located elsewhere on the campus. For more information about assisting the Piedmont Way project, please contact [fredrica.drotos@sbcglobal.net](mailto:fredrica.drotos@sbcglobal.net).

Work on the Kaiser Roof Garden Project continues. The photographic documentation of existing conditions has been completed by Tom Fox of SWA Group. PGAdesign is still working on the base drawing that will be used for the historic period plans. Marlea has assembled a timeline for the creation of the garden using documentation found in the Kaiser papers at the Bancroft Library and other materials at the Oakland Public Library's History Room. Chris and Marlea conducted an oral interview with David Arbogast, then associate member of the landscape architecture firm, Osmundson & Staley. Anyone who may be interested in participating in this project, please contact Marlea at 925.335.9182 or [maggie94553@earthlink.net](mailto:maggie94553@earthlink.net).

During the course of the Arbogast interview, it was learned that neither David nor his wife, Mai Arbogast, Landscape Architect, had donated their papers to the UCCED archives on retirement. Chris put Waverly Lowell in touch with David, and Margaret Mori suggested that an article should be prepared for publication in the ASLA journal to remind members to donate papers to the archive for future generations, rather than destroying them as is commonly done today.

Steve informed us that his website project committee has obtained a \$5,000 grant from LEAP @ UC to pay for a student/webmaster to create the HALS website. The job announcement has been posted on campus. For more information on the website committee, contact [canciansteve@hotmail.com](mailto:canciansteve@hotmail.com).

## History Detectives Request Story Ideas

Lion Television, an independent production company in New York, is currently researching stories for the Fifth Season of PBS's History Detectives, the prime-time series about the discovery, documentation and preservation of historic American buildings and artifacts. The program revolves around the investigation of questions posed by individuals interested in learning the history behind artifacts or locations and their possible historical implications.

They are currently seeking story submissions from all over the country regarding historically or culturally significant American buildings or relics. If you, or someone you know, have an object or building that may have played a key part in American history, tell them about your mystery. The most promising

ideas are historically significant *and* are still unsolved. If you have an ongoing investigation at this time, they would like to be a part of it. Please submit questions or story ideas to [kyles@liontv.us](mailto:kyles@liontv.us). Or write to Kyle Silvesi, History Detectives, Lion Television, 304 Hudson Street, Suite 505, New York, NY 10013. Tel: 212.206.8633 x3878. Website: [www.pbs.org/opb/historydetectives/](http://www.pbs.org/opb/historydetectives/).

Though they lay emphasis on buildings and artifacts, if you had, say, an artifact associated with a garden, or a building associated with a garden, you might still qualify. Discovering who really *did* design Harry Tevis's house at Alma Dale might reveal the landscape architect too.

## Fellowship @ Winterthur

Winterthur Museum and Country Estate announces a Research Fellowship Program for 2007-2008. Winterthur offers an extensive program of short and long-term fellowships open to academic, independent, and museum scholars, including advanced graduate students, to support research in material culture, architecture, decorative arts, design, consumer culture, garden &

landscape studies, Shaker studies, travel and tourism, the Atlantic World, childhood, sentimental literary culture, and many other areas of social and cultural history.

Fellowships include 4-12 month NEH Fellowships, 1-2 semester McNeil Dissertation Fellowships, and 1-2 month short-term fellowships. Fellows have full access to the library collec





< Aerial view of the axial layout, Alma Dale grounds circa 1960. The Tevis house and library (possibly designed by Julia Morgan) are at the top right of this photo; the library, here almost completely obscured by foliage, forms a right angle with the house on its left side. All the other buildings in this photo were added by Alma College.

Who were the architects and landscape architects for Alma Dale? The problem with Morgan as house designer is that she was known to insist on closely supervising all her construction jobs, and there is no sign of her in the Tevis diaries, though she did other work in the region. On 5 October 1908 the diary mentions a Mr. Remington and Mr. Leonard coming to visit, and the latter remaining "to oversee building of the new house." As evidenced by surviving correspondence in the Tevis papers, the Doctor was acquainted with Gardner Dailey, Bruce Porter, and Carl Purdy, but none are mentioned as being employed by Tevis.

tions of more than 87,000 volumes and one-half million manuscripts and images. Resources for the 17th to early 20th centuries include period trade catalogs, auction and exhibition catalogs, an extensive reference photograph collection of decorative arts, printed books, and ephemera, searchable online at [www.winterthur.org/research/library\\_resources.asp](http://www.winterthur.org/research/library_resources.asp). Fellows may also conduct object based research in the museum collections, which include 85,000 artifacts and works of art made or used in America to 1860, with a strong emphasis on domestic life. Fellowship applications are due January 15, 2007. For more details and to apply visit [www.winterthur.org/research/fellowship.asp](http://www.winterthur.org/research/fellowship.asp) or email program director Katherine C. Grier at [kgrier@winterthur.org](mailto:kgrier@winterthur.org). Winterthur was the Delaware estate of H.F. DuPont (1880-1969).

### "Becoming Julia Morgan"

To mark the 50th anniversary of architect Julia Morgan's (1872-1957) passing, the Julia Morgan Center for the Arts commissioned former Berkeley journalist Belinda Taylor to write a play (her first such) about Morgan earlier this year, titled "Becoming Julia Morgan." It was produced at Sacramento's Golden Stage, and won the Sacramento Area Regional Theatre Alliance 'Elly Award' for best original new work. The Julia Morgan Center for the Arts is located in a building that was originally built by Morgan as a church, at 2640 College Avenue, Berkeley. Website: [www.juliamorgan.org](http://www.juliamorgan.org).

#### EDEN

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Deadline for copy for the next Eden is: December 01, 2006



# *California Garden and Landscape History Society*

## *Aims and Purposes*

To celebrate the beauty, wealth, and diversity of California gardens and landscapes.

To aid and promote interest in, study of, and education about California garden and landscape history.

To collect and/or coordinate resources and expertise about the history of California's gardens and landscapes.

To visit on occasion historical gardens, landscapes, archives and libraries in different parts of the state.

To enjoy one another's company at meetings, garden visits, and other get-togethers.



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[www.cglhs.org](http://www.cglhs.org)

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*Kaiser Roof Garden Model, July 1957 (David Arbogast for Osmundson & Staley).  
["Landscape Architecture," S.F. Museum of Art catalogue, 1957].*

**Address Correction and Forward Requested**