

# The Tall Tree Newsletter

of the PALO ALTO HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

March 2015 Volume 38, No 6

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC \* REFRESHMENTS SERVED

## GENERAL MEETING

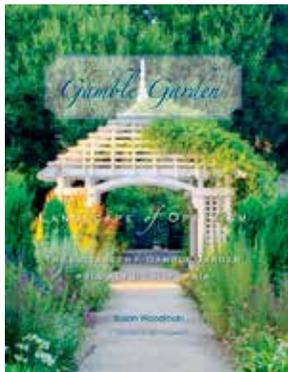
Sunday, April 12, 2:00–4:00 PM  
 Lucie Stern Community Center  
 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto

*Speakers: Susan Woodman & Jane Stocklin, Gamble Garden*

## *Gamble Garden:* LANDSCAPE of OPTIMISM



IT WAS WITH AN OPTIMISTIC SPIRIT THAT EDWIN GAMBLE, A SON OF THE co-founder of Proctor and Gamble, led his family from their Kentucky farm to California. In 1902, they established a new home in Palo Alto near Stanford University. Elizabeth, one of the four children, after living in the family home her entire life, left the house and garden to the City of Palo Alto. In 1985, a group of energized citizens convinced the City to allow them to spearhead the revitalization of the property as a public garden with a horticultural and educational mission. Their optimism and hard work paid off; and now, thirty years later, the book, *Gamble Garden: Landscape of Optimism*, celebrates the value of this community centerpiece, a model for others.



Book cover: *Gamble Garden: Landscape of Optimism* by Susan Woodman

Our guest speakers are Susan Woodman and Jane Stocklin. Susan Woodman has volunteered at Gamble Garden for more than a decade. She is the author of the book *Gamble Garden: Landscape of Optimism* and has devoted the last five years to its creation. Jane Stocklin is a long-time Gamble Garden volunteer serving in numerous Board positions during the last 25 years. Currently she co-chairs the Endowment Committee. Both Susan and Jane live in Palo Alto, love gardens, travel, reading and have learned a great deal about the publishing business in the last few years. Join us to discover how Gamble Garden continues to make Palo Alto a great community.

## PAHA's Public Meetings

### GENERAL PROGRAM MEETINGS

are held monthly

2:00–4:00 PM

October – May

at the

Lucie Stern Community Center  
 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto

### PAHA'S PUBLIC MEETINGS 2015

Sunday, April 12

"Gamble Garden: Landscape of Optimism" Speakers:

*Susan Woodman and Jane Stocklin*

### PAHA'S MEETING DATES 2015

May 10: Shared program with PAST

June 10: SAVE THE DATE

PAHA's Annual Dinner

El Palo Alto Room

Mitchell Park Library

Dinner by Chef Chu's

Price & program TBA

Photos on this page are courtesy of Susan Woodman, Gamble Garden. Top: garden study; side: book cover.

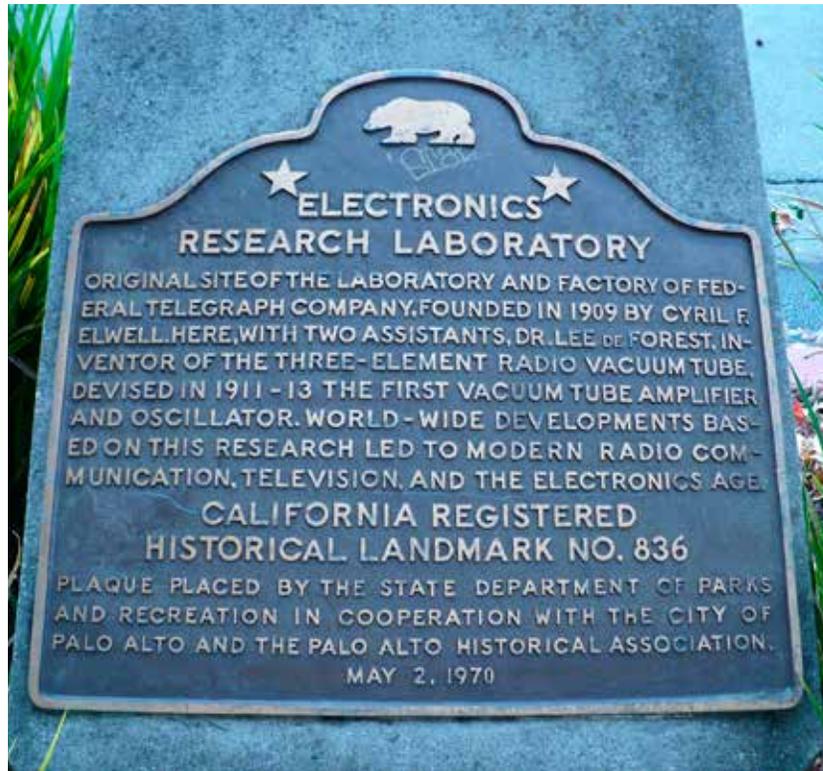
# Before “Silicon Valley”

FROM THE  
PRESIDENT  
Ralph Britton

LONG BEFORE APRIL 1971 WHEN DON HOEFLER USED THE TERM “SILICON VALLEY” in his column in the *Electronic News*, there had been electronics in the Santa Clara Valley. The key element for radio and electronics was the vacuum tube, developed from a 1906 invention by Lee deForest, who lived and worked in Palo Alto in 1912 as an employee of the Federal Telegraph Company, founded by Stanford Graduate Cyril Elwell. The company had a research laboratory at the corner of Channing and Emerson streets, now memorialized there by a bronze plaque. Stanford’s Frederick E. Terman published a detailed book *Radio Engineering* in 1932 which was then a fairly complete description of the art at the time. The term “electronics” derives from the vacuum tube, also known as “electron tube.”

WWII and its aftermath sparked the valley becoming a major electronics research and manufacturing center. Hewlett-Packard Co. was already established in 1939 and was shortly enlisted to manufacture critical electronics equipment for the war effort. Eitel-McCullough (Eimac), incorporated in 1934, refined the use of high temperature materials and ceramics in the manufacture of high-power vacuum tubes and made enormous quantities in support of

the war effort. Stanford physicist W.W. Hansen and graduate students Russell and Sigurd Varian developed the klystron tube during the war years which was manufactured by Sperry on Long Island. These tubes were used for radar, urgently needed for locating enemy aircraft and warships. Hansen, the Varian Brothers and other Stanford people founded Varian Associates in 1948 to further develop and manufacture klystron tubes.



California Registered Historical Landmark No. 836, near the corner of Emerson near and Channing, Palo Alto. [Photo: Ralph Britton]

With the Korean Conflict and the Cold War, electronics for military applications remained urgently needed after WWII. The industry continued to develop in the area with major firms like Watkins-Johnson, Applied Technology, Lockheed, Stanford Research Institute, and many smaller firms. Stanford’s 1951 development of the Stanford Industrial Park brought together a large collection of electronics firms with military and non-military products.

Semiconductor devices were developed, silicon replaced germanium as the material of choice for transistors and in 1958, Jean Hoerni at Fairchild developed the planar process to form highly reliable silicon transistors. Vacuum tube designs quickly migrated to transistors, due to their smaller size, lower power consumption and long operating life. Now the electronics and computer industry depend on integrated circuits, many of which have their origins in “Silicon Valley.” Specialized vacuum tubes continue to serve for high power microwave and x-ray applications.

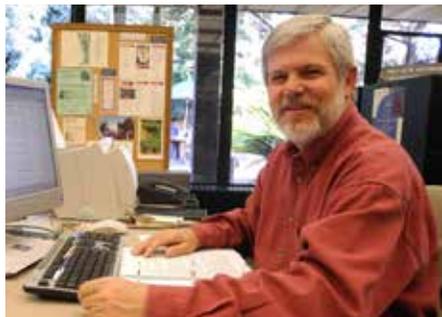
## PALO ALTO HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

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# The Archives Need Your Help

ON AN IRREGULAR BASIS I LIKE TO REMIND YOU THAT THE ARCHIVES needs your help if we want to continue to build and maintain the collection of Palo



**FROM THE DESK OF  
THE HISTORIAN  
Steve Staiger**

Alto history material found there. For some of you, my constant reminders may seem repetitious but if my message reaches only a few of you at the right time, we may all benefit.

If you are cleaning out files, closets, basements or garages and find documents, photographs, maps or other printed material (and you or your family no longer wants it), please consider donating the stuff to the Archives. Remember, if we don't need it, we will recycle the stuff.

We have a special need for school yearbooks and telephone books. Since the Archives is no longer in the old Main Library, their collection of yearbooks and old telephone books is no longer directly accessible to our researchers. Yearbooks from any of the local high schools, including the private schools, and junior high school (middle school) yearbooks are needed. If you or your children no longer seem interested in these books, please consider donating them. If you happen to have an old telephone book (even if it is "only" five or ten years old), we need them too.

I am always seeking photographs of Palo Alto scenes to add to the collection. It may surprise you to learn that we need photos of the last 25 years, perhaps even more so than earlier images. If your images are digital rather than prints, we still are interested. Please consider a download of your images.

A final request – the old standard from most non-profits—money. Last summer, we received a grant from the *Palo Alto Weekly* to assist in developing third grade curriculum for their study of Palo Alto history, as developed by high school students. Rachael Kellerman and I would like to expand upon last year's effort by engaging several more high school students this summer. By appealing to you for a modest donation (tax deductible of course) we can avoid the grant writing process. We would love to accept several donations of \$100, \$200 or even \$500.

I have been reminded that some of you may not be aware that the Archives is now located in the Cubberley Community Center, room K-7. Please feel free to drop in for a visit during our hours and see what treasures we have. We are open Tuesdays 4–8 PM and Thursdays 1–5 PM.



## The Archives Today

The Guy Miller Archives of Palo Alto history are owned by the City of Palo Alto and managed by the Palo Alto Historical Association (PAHA).

Over the past century, the archives have always had a home. In 1913, when PAHA formed, they were situated in the old Carnegie Library—where City Hall now stands. Eventually, they were moved to the Main Library on Newell Road and remained there until the library renovation project began in 2013.

The Archives are currently housed at the Cubberley Community Center, Room K-7.

Visitors are welcome. Hours:

Tuesday evenings, 4–8 pm

Thursday afternoons, 1–5 pm

Steve Staiger, our city historian, is there to assist members of the public.

As PAHA looks ahead, the most pressing need is to find a permanent home for the archives. Toward this goal, PAHA supports the establishment of a Palo Alto History Museum in the historic Roth Building at the corner of Bryant and Homer. We hope you will join in this effort. —*from the Centennial Tall Tree*

*Photos below: (left) Guy Miller, the first City Historian of Palo Alto, at work in the archives at the Carnegie Library.*

*(right) The original Carnegie Library in Palo Alto. Today's City Hall now stands in the same location.*

# History Jaunts

**San Mateo County History Museum's** new exhibit, "Let's Play Ball," on view until September 2016, depicts aspects of semi-professional and professional baseball, 1900s to the present. About 92 teams existed at various times in the county. Also featured are professional players who grew up in the county or lived there after retirement. Presentations include films, photographs, historic equipment, uniforms, baseball cards, advertisements, and rare souvenirs. Open daily 10-4, closed Monday. [www.historysmc.org](http://www.historysmc.org) or 650.299.0104.

**Canopy and the City of Palo Alto** will plant up to 50 trees in South Palo Alto's Ventura neighborhood. To volunteer, email [maika@canopy.org](mailto:maika@canopy.org). Canopy's goal is to bring life-giving benefits of trees to Mid-Peninsula schools, neighborhoods, and public spaces. This spring, the organization is a Community Partner with Palo Alto Adult School. Canopy is at 3921 East Bayshore Rd. More at [info@canopy.org](mailto:info@canopy.org).

**Museum of American Heritage** sponsors "Repair Café Palo Alto" to encourage the reuse of goods rather than relegating them to landfill. The next event is scheduled for May 31 at the Museum at 351 Homer Ave. Call or check MOAH online for more details. Free admission, open Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays 11 to 4:00 pm., 650.321.1004.

**Palo Alto Art Center** has a new catalogue of schedules and a quick guide for adults and children. Also, Foundation members only have a unique opportunity to take a private tour on May 9 of the Oliver Ranch in Sonoma County, home to 18 remarkable, site-specific installations by artists such as Ann Hamilton, Richard Serra, and Andy Goldsworthy. This former sheep pasture has become a renowned sculpture ranch, not open to the general public.

**TheatreWorks** is showing *The Lake Effect* by Rajiv Joseph until March 29. The online description mentions "a shuttered Indian restaurant... a spicy menu of family secrets... and mature language." Lucie Stern Theatre is at 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto: box office 650.463.1960, check online for more information.

## Heritage Program on Channel 30

The Heritage Program for March 2015 will be "The Panama Pacific International Exposition." It will be broadcast on local cable Channel 30:

Wednesdays: 8 PM

Thursdays: 10:30 AM

Saturdays: 1 PM

DVDs of previous programs can be borrowed at the Archives which are temporarily located at Cubberley, Room K-7. Hours:

Tuesdays, 4-8 PM

Thursdays, 1-5 PM

*Unless otherwise noted, images reproduced in the Tall Tree are from the PALO ALTO HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION archives.*

## Become a Member of PAHA

We invite you to become a member of the Association and join those who care about Palo Alto and enjoy learning about its history. Your dues make our work possible: we maintain the archives, assist researchers, and disseminate historical information through our publications and public programs. Your generosity will be appreciated for generations to come. Join today!

Individual \$25

Family \$40

Sustaining \$60

Business/Sponsor \$100

Life \$350

Make check payable to PAHA and mail to: PAHA Box 193, Palo Alto, CA 94302. Or join online at [pahistory.org](http://pahistory.org). Let us know if you wish to volunteer for a PAHA committee. (Note: current members will receive renewal notices in November.)



The Tall Tree is published eight times a year by the PALO ALTO HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

*Our mission is to collect, preserve and make available to the public information about the history of Palo Alto.*

Jeanne McDonnell, Peggy McKee,  
Mary Beth Cebedo Lefebvre, Editors  
Harriette Shakes, Design  
Omega Printing, Printing



PAHA Archives are located at Cubberley, Room K-7. Hours: Tuesdays, 4-8 PM; Thursdays, 1-5 PM. Contact Steve Staiger at 650-329-2353 or email [steve.staiger@cityofpaloalto.org](mailto:steve.staiger@cityofpaloalto.org).