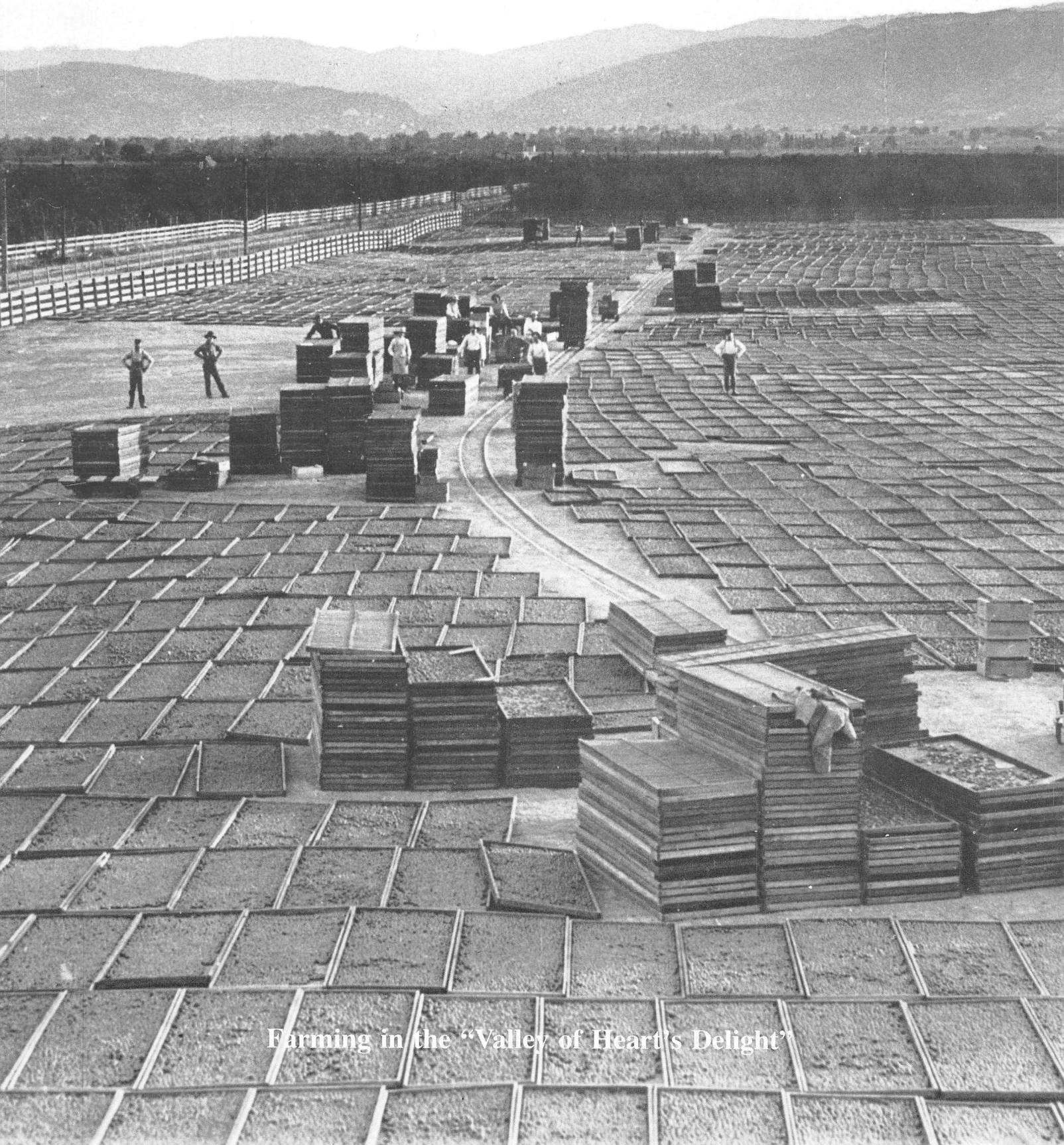


CALIFORNIA THE FORNIAN

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



Farming in the "Valley of Heart's Delight"

EXHIBITS~PUBLICATIONS

Visualizing the California Dream

The California dream is that of all Americans, suggests author Kevin Starr, and the California History Center has sought to document that dream as it has unfolded in the Santa Clara Valley. During the past decade we have gathered and presented through exhibits and publications stories of native Americans, oriental and European immigrants, the wine industry, pioneers in high technology, and the agricultural life which marks our heritage. We have studied and celebrated the “howling wilderness” of our mountains and the conservation of open space in our valley, always seeking to enrich and empower our lives today by better understanding our past.

This winter the Center is pleased to have on display an exhibit of packing and canning labels, shown originally at the San Jose Historical Museum, which presents images of our horticultural past as seen through the eyes of anonymous artists. The fruit industry in Santa Clara Valley not only spawned a national reputation for our community as the “home of the prune,” but it generated truly marvelous works of art in the vast array of labels for boxes and cans. Just as orange growers in Riverside decorated their crates with images of a sunbathed state, Santa Clara Valley packers and canners from Libby’s to Sunsweet celebrated the healthful products of the valley with colors and symbols which typified much of the California dream.

To complement the exhibit, we are particularly delighted to show works by Margaret O’Keefe, one of the premiere artists of Santa Clara Valley. Margaret lives and works in the San Jose home in which she was born and has made the landscapes, orchards, and life of the valley her life-long subject. She has shown her works at the San Jose Art League, the San Jose

Museum of Fine Art, and regularly at the Santa Clara County Fair, and she is the recipient of many awards.

Some of Margaret’s finest work was prompted by her studies at the San Francisco Art Institute in 1929. Her professor, Ray Boynton, had brought the art of fresco with him from Paris, and she eagerly mastered the technique of painting on the fine film of wet plaster. After working during World War Two in the Joshua Hendy Iron Works as a technical illustrator, Margaret began a series of working drawings and paintings for a fresco sponsored by a valley school district. Although the fresco was never completed, her preparatory work provides a truly human dimension to the art of horticulture in Santa Clara Valley.

Please join us in our continuing efforts to document and understand the California dream — a dream seen in the land and environment, a dream possessed in minds and hearts, a dream expressed through the skills of commercial and fine artists.

James Williams
CHC Director

Director James Williams recently received a special commendation from the California Committee for the Promotion of History (CCPH), which he has chaired for the past three years. Williams was commended for this efforts in helping CCPH become known and respected as a strong and effective advocate of the state’s historical heritage during his leadership. Even though he is stepping down as president, Williams will remain on the CCPH Board as coordinating secretary.



COVER:

Seventeen-acre dryyard of Campbell Fruit Growers Union, organized in 1892, and taken over by Sunsweet in 1917; workers are scraping dried fruit from trays into boxes. View south toward Los Gatos gap c. 1900. Courtesy Campbell Historical Museum.

CHCF Trustee Molly Malovos, center, and honorary trustee Dorothy Varian, greet new history center director Jim Williams at a reception held in his honor at the Trianon on September 27. Photo by David Fox.

CALENDAR

1/6 *Winter Quarter Begins*

1/17 *Exhibit Reception*

4-6 p.m., CHC. Join us for refreshments and a preview of the label art exhibit, on display January 20 through March. Cost: \$3.

1/25 *Sacramento Archives*

An exploration of California's history will include visits to the state archives in Sacramento, the restored capitol building, the Sacramento History Center, and Old Town. The bus leaves De Anza at 7:30 a.m. and returns at 10 p.m. Cost to members \$30 and non-members \$35 includes transportation and fees.



2/9 *San Francisco's Architecture*

Gray Brechin, historical architect and writer for "San Francisco Focus" magazine, will conduct a walking tour of San Francisco, including the financial district, Chinatown, Jackson Square, and Pacific Heights. The bus leaves De Anza at 8 a.m. and returns at 5:30. Cost to members \$45 and non-members \$50 includes transportation, lunch of Chinese dim sum, honorarium, and all fees.

2/21, 22, 23 *The Mendocino Coast*



Kelley House

Repeating last year's popular tour, Lee Van Fossen will lead an exploration of the Victorian lumber town of Mendocino. You will tour several restored Victorians and the Lumber Guest

House, Kelley House, and Mendocino Museums, explore the natural history of the coast, learn about the area's early lumber industry, and ride the Skunk train through the redwood forests to Willits. Orientation: 7 p.m. February 7, CHC. The bus leaves Friday at 3 p.m. and returns Sunday at 8:30 p.m. Cost to members \$160 and non-members \$175 includes transportation, double-occupancy lodging for two nights, dinner at the MacCallum House, lunch, honoraria, train fare, and all fees.

3/1 *Old Borges Ranch*



Elliston Winery

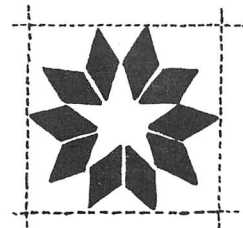
Early California rural life has been re-created on the Old Borges Ranch in Walnut Creek. Resident rangers Marnie and Ron White will conduct a tour of this working ranch and discuss its history. After a no-host picnic lunch, we will visit the Elliston Winery in Sunol for a tour and winetasting. The bus departs from De Anza at 7:30 a.m. and returns at 4:30. Cost to members \$35 and non-members \$40 includes transportation and fees.

3/8 *A Patchwork of History: California's Women*

Join us for a special celebration of National Women's Day with author and U.C. Santa Cruz professor Bettina Aptheker.

Ms. Aptheker will present an illustrated history of some of California's women, highlighted by a visit to the American

Museum of Quilts and Related Arts in San Jose. Men and women who participate are invited to show their own quilts and other crafts. Meet at the history center at 10 a.m. Cost to members \$20 and non-members \$25 includes lunch, honorarium, and fees.



3/25 *Winter Quarter Ends*

CULTURAL PRESERVATION

Passing Farms, Enduring Values

An excerpt from the foreword, written by Pulitzer Prize winning author Wallace Stegner, of the California History Center publication, Passing Farms — Enduring Values by Yvonne Olson Jacobson.

Local history is the best history, the history with more of ourselves in it than other kinds. It is immediate, intimate, personally apprehended, and at least in America it is by definition recent. It does not have to be split up into categories and kinds, economic, political, military, social. It is the record of human living in its daily complexity, and the sense of place is strong in it. Its actors are our neighbors, our families, ourselves. It is history of a handmade kind, homely and familiar, human lives on their slow way into memory and tradition.

It is local history that casts shadow longer than itself. The Santa Clara Valley is a microcosm or representative, it can stand for the once-virgin American continent, and what happened to it can stand for our entire history as a people. The recapture (or more properly, the creation) of this history of this place, even as it is being transformed, is perhaps indulgence of nostalgia, but it is also a move toward a broader understanding of forces peculiarly though not exclusively American.

Like Canadians, Australians, and white South Africans - all invading peoples - Americans suffer from a history deficiency. The immigrants from whom we derive came from many places and diverse cultures, and came relatively recently, and came looking forward, not back. A great cultural fault cuts across our lives and memories, with much fracturing at the fault line and many secondary faults consequent on the first big one. Our traditions, our social bonds, our habits, our affiliations, are broken off, and must later be remade.

But in the meantime we have to live with a cut or damaged root system, and what is worse, a root system that is always suffering new transplantings. Also, while races and cultures are naturalizing themselves on new grounds, they are profoundly changing the ground itself, often more than once, and that only accelerates the spiral of social and psychological change.

Even if we don't urbanize an area as the Santa Clara Valley has been urbanized, our human activities often bring about profound changes. In pragmatically creating a favorable habitat for ourselves in unknown country, we characteristically damage the country and destroy the habitats of native species, including native peoples. Changes that nature unaided might produce in hundreds of thousands of years come about under our management in less than a century. Some that Nature would never get around to we bring about in a generation. Life in America is more often a becoming than a being.

And all of this speeding, changing front pulls a spiritual vacuum in its wake. Not only are the places we came from left behind, but the past is left behind with them. History and the sense of history are baggage that the American dream loses in transit, and it takes us a good while to realize the enormity of the loss. Sometimes we don't recognize the loss until it is irreplaceable, sometimes we catch on in time.

The moral is that, given a second chance anywhere else, our migratory people might do a little better, save a little more, develop institutions and tax laws that would permit the saving of productive and edenic valleys like that of Santa Clara from what happened here.

Silicon Valley is probably a good, in many ways. The Valley of Heart's Delight was a glory. We should have found ways of keeping one from destroying the other. We did not, and so the drama of change in this brief Eden could appropriately end with the final stage direction in Chekhov's *The Cherry Orchard*:

A distant sound is heard, coming as if out of the sky, like the sound of a string snapping, slowly and sadly dying away. Silence ensues, broken only by the sound of an ax striking a tree in the orchard far away.

Wallace Stegner



It takes a bulldozer less than a minute to push down a tree, unfortunately a common sight in the Santa Clara Valley since World War II. Photo courtesy Santa Clara County Planning Department.

Gilroy's Ousley Farm: 1854-1977

by Maureen Frantzich

A few family farms in the "Valley of Heart's Delight" have survived the transition to "Silicon Valley". We are pleased to feature the Ousley Farm in Gilroy, which has been in the same family since the 1850s.

The Ousley farm is one of the few farms remaining in the Gilroy area which has been operated by the same family since the 1850s. Located approximately two and one-half miles west of Gilroy on Highway 152, it was part of the Solis Rancho prior to the 1850s and was initially used for grazing land. Through the years, as the Ousley family prospered, the type of farming done there diversified. The size of the farm fluctuated, from 630 acres in 1854 to about 1,200 acres in the late 1800s. Today it spans 532 acres. The farm is a good example of the trends in crop types and farming techniques used in the Santa Clara Valley from the 1850s to the present.

Samuel and Electa Ousley and their family of nine children came to California because they, like so many others, hoped to make better lives for themselves in the prospering new state. They settled in Gilroy in March, 1854, drawn to the Santa Clara Valley because the land was fertile and, in general, a good investment. A popular belief of the time was that land was cheap so all should have a share in it and in the prosperity the future would bring. Following this philosophy and aided by the fact that the titles to the Solis Rancho were not clear, Samuel Ousley located his home on rancho land and turned his cattle loose. His understanding seemed to be that he would pay for the land when the titles were finally clear.

Marino Castro was issued a grant of land by California's Mexican Governor Figueroa sometime between January, 1833 and August, 1855. The grant, two leagues (8,875.46 acres) in size, was located between Gilroy and Mt. Madonna, bordered by Rancho Las Uvas and Rancho San Francisco de Las Llagas to the north and by Rancho Las Animas to the south. Although no original grant could be produced after the United States won California, the Solis grant was confirmed in 1859 in the court case *The United States v. Rufino Castro, et al.*, because the said owners had resided there for more than twenty years.

While the grant, then, was confirmed in court according to the Land Act of 1851, Samuel Ousley did not live to see his title cleared. He died in October, 1855, leaving his wife, Electa, to run their farm and raise the children.



Electa Ousley, a woman ahead of her time.

During the 1850s, friction between the owners of the ranchos and newer settlers in the Santa Clara Valley was common. Expectedly, the Ousleys had some trouble with the Californios, who at times rode down from the hills to harass them. Consequently, the Ousley children were not allowed to stray far from their home, the site of which is located about fifty feet from the existing house. The existing house, built in 1872, is the oldest surviving structure on the farm. Probably like the first house, it is built of Mt. Madonna redwood, but it is larger, having a floor space of 4,400 square feet. Its initial cost was approximately \$3,500.

After Samuel passed away, Electa was aided in running the farm by her two sons, John and Porter. Since the land was gifted with three springs and several hundred acres of grazing land, the Ousleys continued the tradition of raising beef cattle. They employed up to 25 hired hands, some of whom lived in the barracks across from the main house, including a Chinese cook. Also employed six months of the year were woodcutters, and they resided in a house built behind the out-buildings. They cut enough native oak to fill the farm's wood shed, which measured approximately 25' × 40'. As the farm grew in size, its products and crops became more numerous, but ownership problems continued even into the 1870s.

On January 3, 1879, cattle baron Henry Miller brought suit against many local land owners, claiming ownership of their lands. Electa was included in this suit, *Henry Miller, et al. v. Massey Thomas, et al.*, which cost Miller \$57,439 and the various land owners \$44,080. Those failing to produce legal documents proving ownership of their land ultimately had to buy it back from

Miller or forfeit all rights to it. Since Miller won the case against Electa, she was forced to buy back about half of her land. Nevertheless, the farm prospered and by December, 1880, Electa had acquired an additional 714 acres extending north and south of Bodfish Mill Road (now Highway 152) and bordered by Uvas Creek on the west. At the same time she diversified the farm's products.

In the Santa Clara Valley in 1876, there were 2,034 acres of vineyards. That year a total of 182,932 gallons of wine were produced. The wine industry was becoming profitable, and in the early 1880s the Ousleys planted 175 acres of grapes in the hills on the north side of Bodfish Mill Road. A horse-drawn plough with a moveable molding board was used to cultivate the grapes, and tenants on the farm worked the vineyard for a small percentage of the crop.

The vineyard was worked in this way for 40 years, but with the advent of prohibition the Ousleys felt the price of grapes would go down. Consequently, they allowed the tenants 75% of the crop so as to keep them working, but contrary to their prediction the price of grapes continued to rise during this era. In 1920 the vines reached their peak production, yielding some 850 tons of grapes and bringing \$150 to \$160 per ton. The vineyard was worked as long as they were productive, except for some of the acreage which was too steep to be worked by tractors which replaced the horse-drawn ploughs. After 1941 these portions of the vineyard were abandoned to grazing land, and traces of the vines are barely discernible.

A small creamery was also operated on the farm during the late-1800s, located on the south side of Bodfish Mill Road near the workers barracks. Orchards were also planted on the farm in the 1880s. During this period of time the Santa Clara County fruit crop was valued at over \$300,000 per year, and the Ousleys total of 60 acres of prune trees was a good venture. While the blossoming orchard industry and the vineyards proved profitable for the Ousleys, however, all their efforts at diversified agriculture were not as successful.



Ousley Vineyards - turn of the century.



Ousley family member drives past the farm, located on Hecker Pass Road, circa 1890s.

During the 1870s many farmers in the Gilroy area followed the hopeful experiments of J. D. Culp in raising tobacco as a cash crop. In 1876 some 493 acres of tobacco were being cultivated in southern Santa Clara County, and with the establishment of Culp's San Felipe Cigar Factory in Gilroy, it was possible to market the crop locally. The Ousleys tried growing and curing the new crop, although it is not certain how many acres they devoted to it. But local tobacco could not compete with imports well, and the crop was eventually given up. The Ousley tobacco drying shed no longer exists.

Horses powered the machinery and provided transportation for the Ousleys until the late 1920s. Fifty acres were set aside as horse pasture, and two barns were built to house the animals. The 60 foot long, 24-stall barn for the work horses still stands, located on the south side of Highway 152. The second barn, built after 1900 for the light horses, held 12 horses and is used today for feed storage. The Ousleys also built a small granary to store grain before use, and since hay was grown to supplement the horses' feed, a large barn was built to store it. It, too, is still in use today.

The lives of Electa and her daughters were as full as those of her sons who worked the farm. Farm work was hard, outside or in, but growing availability of commercial products eased some chores. After 1865 Electa used a washing compound which was advertised as being highly efficient in the wash. Containing sal soda, borax, lime and ammonia, among other things, a box made a total eleven gallons of washing compound. Of course they made their own buttermilk by use of a butter churn, but one innovation which really helped was a breadmaker. It consisted of a bucket in which dough could be made and a beater which was cranked in order to knead the dough. The original instructions read:

Put in all liquids first, then flour. Turn three minutes. Raise in pail. Cover with this (the lid) when raising. After raising, turn until dough forms a ball. Lift out dough and take crosspiece out with kneader.



The farm in the early years.

The Ousley family relationship with the community was a strong one since the beginning. In the 1870s the City of Gilroy purchased several acres that had formerly been a part of the Ousley farm from Emma Ousley and her husband Francis Hoey. On it the City constructed a municipal reservoir to store water piped from Uvas Dam. In 1888 Gilroy granted Electa Ousley and her heirs water rights for the sum of one dollar. Granted on June 16, the rights include the use of a one inch water gauge to take water from the city pipe to be used

...for the following purposes and none other: for household and culinary purposes, watering shrubbery in her (Mrs. Ousley's) yard, watering stock that may be on her premises, irrigating a garden sufficient for a small family and to extinguish any fires, should any occur. The said water to be used on the south and north side of the road or both at her option.

The reservoir was used until 1970, when the City of Gilroy installed several large water storage tanks located on Santa Teresa Expressway west of Morey Avenue. The reservoir was filled in, but Mrs. Ousley's water rights are still honored.

In 1925 Mary and Clara Ousley, daughters of Electa (by this time deceased), agreed to lease a portion of the farm to the City of Gilroy for use as a golf course. The agreement called for the course to border the Milne Ranch, Burchell Road, and the Ousley property, "the whole of the tract of land (to lie) within the Solis Rancho and (to contain) thirty-six and sixty one-hundredths



Ousley Farm 1920s.

acres." The agreement went into effect on February 2, 1925, was renewed on March 31, 1927, and continued under lease until July, 1936 at a rate of ten dollars per acre per month. On the death of Mary Ousley, in 1936, the golf course was gifted to the City by her heirs under the condition that the land remain in use as a golf course.

Until 1928 the Ousley farm remained relatively isolated. On Sunday, May 27th of that year, however, Highway 152 or Hecker Pass Highway was dedicated in the name of Henry Hecker the road's supervising engineer. The construction of this road made it possible to travel from Gilroy to Watsonville, cutting travel distance to only sixteen miles, and the day Hecker Pass opened some 10,000 cars travelled over the pass. The impact of the highway on the Ousley farm was great, for although the farm had been previously divided by Bodfish Mill Road, it had not withstood the traffic of a full fledged highway in its midst.

After Mary Ousley's death in July, 1936, Edward B. Hoey and his twin brother, William, two of her eleven heirs, bought the farm from the others. In 1940 William installed five more acres of vineyard at the base of the hills along the highway, and in the following year fifteen acres were planted on the southernmost boundary of the property. In 1955, because of several years of poor prices and poor production, the fifteen acres were taken out and put into hay, but the smaller vineyard along the highway remains as a sign of the area's now vibrant wine industry.

After World War Two, Edward Hoey returned from the service. Since 1948 he has operated the farm, gradually making crop changes and improvements, adding to the then 25 acres of prunes, five acres of walnuts, six acres of pears, 20 acres of vineyard, 65 acres of hay, and several hundred acres of grazing land.

In 1957 and 1958 he cleared 25 acres of creek land for the completion of the new Uvas Dam in 1956, eliminated the usual flood area. He leased this acreage for planting in cucumbers and strawberries. By this time Edward had also replaced eight acres of prunes with his favorite crop, pears. Unfortunately, blight struck these trees just as they were ready to bear fruit, and after 1968 these orchards were removed and alfalfa put in their place. Over the years, as some acreage was sold off, the farm was reduced to its present size of 532 acres, but still cattle are raised and alfalfa, berries, and hay are produced.

The Ousley farm, now owned by the Hoeys, indeed reflects the trends that have influenced farming in the Santa Clara Valley over the past century. It is a truly unique farm in that it is still operated by members of the same family that first settled on it in 1854. However, with the direction that agriculture is taking in the south county, it is probably inevitable that the farm will change functions in the years ahead.

Author Frantzich, a graduate of the University of California, Davis, presently lives in the Gilroy area. She wrote the paper on the Ousley Farm while taking a History of California class at Gavilan Community College in Gilroy.



Modern Ousley Farmhouse.

EDUCATION

State and Regional History

Members: Special evening registration for members taking history center classes only, 5-7 p.m., Monday, December 2. For more detailed information see the De Anza College Schedule of Classes.

Historic Preservation Survey of the Bay Area: *Stephen Payne*

An introduction to the methods used in uncovering the past of the built environment through active involvement. Santa Clara County is fortunate to have a rich and varied environment. Indian, Hispanic, Anglo-American, Oriental and other cultural groups have all left material evidence of their contributions to the local history. With the background provided by the course, students will undertake historical projects on several structures within their community. Three Saturday field trips included.

Nature and History in Monterey, Carmel and Point Lobos: *Lee Van Fossen*

A study of the historical and ecological development of the Monterey Peninsula. Coastal wildlife, marine resources and historical roots will be examined during one trip afield. Forests, crops, mining, oil production and assorted biotic communities will be studied on the second field trip.

Literary San Francisco: *Betty Hirsch*

This course will examine the city's literary heritage from the jumping journalists of the Gold Rush Days to the writers of the mid-20th century. Three particular periods will be focused upon: the 1850s, turn of the century, and mid 20th century. Students will study the trends, the temper of the times and the outstanding writers of these eras. Two field trips included.

Folklore in Northern California: *Brian Smith*

Students will have the opportunity to assess the effect folklore has had on California's law, land development, education, literature, land values, economy and lifestyle. Field trips are planned to 50 Pickford Ave., San Jose; Toys R Us, Sunnyvale; Vineyard House of Coloma and Winchester Mystery House, San Jose.

Sir Francis Drake in California: *Hugh Thomas*

This course traces the general background of European exploration and expansion in the 16th century; the development and growth of England during the Tudor period; antagonism between England and Spain; the English privateers and the personal career of Drake, who circumnavigated the globe, landing in California. One Saturday field trip included.

San Francisco Cable Cars: *Frank Clauss*

This course covers the history and technology of cable cars. Areas to be addressed include the role of cable cars in municipal street transportation, the various cable car companies and lines that operated in San Francisco, their role in the city's development, their destruction in the great earthquake and fire of 1906 and their recent restoration in 1982-84. One Saturday field trip will include rides on remaining cable car lines and a visit to the cable car barn and museum.

John Muir, The Man and His Legend: *Betty Hirsch*

Students will trace the life of this well-known naturalist, explorer and foremost nature writer of his time (1838-1914). His works celebrated the beauty of the Sierra Nevada and with his magazine articles, helped begin conservation of the state's natural resources. A prime mover in starting our National Park System, he was also founder of the Sierra Club. One field trip to Muir's home in Martinez and Muir Woods included.

Japanese Gardens in the Bay Area: *Marion Card*

A look at how, in recent years, the Western World has become fascinated with traditional Japanese gardens. Throughout history these gardens have been part of Japanese national life and reveal their taste and characteristics. The class, to be held at Hakone Gardens in Saratoga, will study how the elements of Japanese gardens have evolved from other cultures such as the Hindu, Chinese Taoists and Zen Buddhists, the proper relationships of water, plants, and rocks in the Oriental garden, and the role of bridges, lanterns, pagodas, bronze statues, water basins and gates. Three indepth visits to the Japanese Tea Garden in Golden Gate Park, Friendship Garden in San Jose and Kotoni-en and Hakone Gardens in Saratoga.

EXHIBIT PROGRAM:

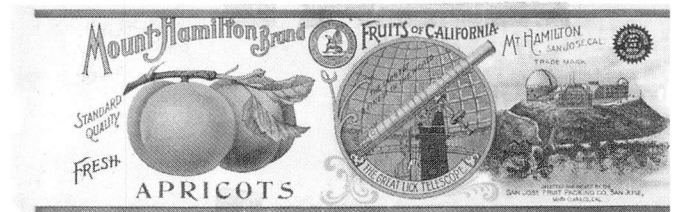
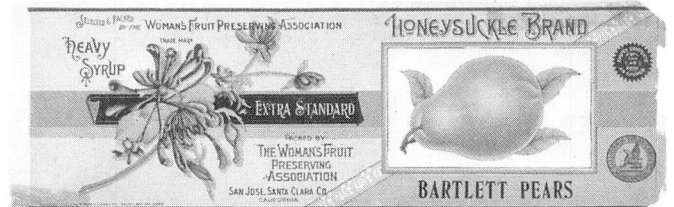
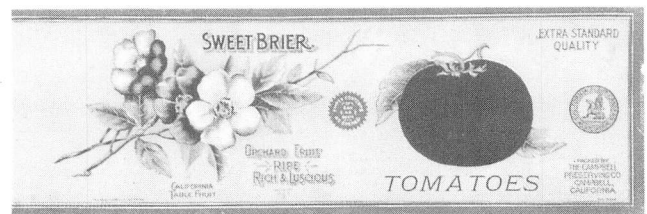
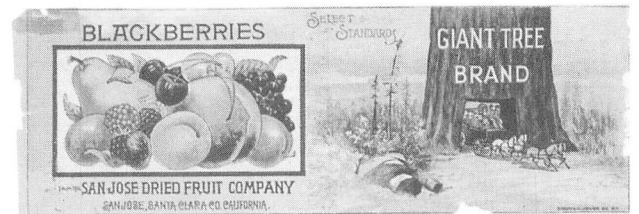
Opening to the public on Monday, January 20, 1986 in the Trianon, will be a colorful exhibit on label art, a display that traces the changes in packing and canning labels during the Valley's agricultural heyday. First shown at San Jose Historical Museum, the exhibit presents labels from local canneries and personalized family labels, as well as highlighting the artists who specialized in this wonderful craft. To complement the exhibit, a display of citrus label art will be brought in from the California State Archives. The following two classes are offered to enhance the winter quarter exhibit.

The Fruit Industry in Santa Clara Valley: Chatham Forbes

A study of the rich agricultural industry that brought the Santa Clara Valley to world prominence long before the advent of transistors and space vehicles. The evolution of fruit growing, processing and marketing, which formed the community's economic base from the 19th century to World War II, will be examined. Three Saturday field trips included.

Family Farms in the Santa Clara Valley: Yvonne Jacobson

Students will focus on the heritage of farming in this "Valley of Heart's Delight." Taught by author of the highly acclaimed book "Passing Farms: Enduring Values" and daughter of pioneer Sunnyvale cherry orchardist Charles Olson, Jacobson will give a personal look at the story of the family farm and the people whose lives were dedicated to its success. A one-day field trip to Seven Springs Ranch in Cupertino, which has been a farm since the middle of the 19th century and in present owner Dorothy Lyddon's family since 1936, will include a tour of the old winery and stock buildings and apricot cutting shed - a rare opportunity to visit this 100-acre farm before it is bulldozed later in the year.



Labels shown are from the Ralph Rambo Collection.

FOUNDATION NOTES

Board of Trustees Welcomes New Member



Clarence A. (Sy) Syvertson was recently elected to serve on the California History Center Foundation Board of Trustees. Born in Minnesota, he did his undergraduate and graduate work in Aeronautical Engineering at the University of Minnesota and Stanford University. He arrived in the Santa Clara Valley in the late 1940s, witnessing what he fondly recalls as the era of trees in blossom and little congestion of freeways or airplane traffic.

From 1948-1959, Sy worked as an aeronautical research scientist for Ames Aeronautical Laboratory. In 1959 he became chief scientist for the 3.5 foot hypersonic wind tunnel branch of Ames. He became Director of Astronautics in 1966, later becoming deputy director and then director of the entire Ames Research Center, a job he held from 1978 until he retired in January of 1984.

The range of contributions Sy made during this era of vital aviation and space developments led to his receipt of the Exceptional Service Medal of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration in 1971, election, in 1976, as a fellow to the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, and in 1978 to the American Astronautical Society.

Due to Sy's involvement with the history center's efforts in documenting the history of Ames Research Center, we were able to produce the exhibit, "NASA-Ames: A History of Looking Forward," shown in the Trianon March through December 1985.

Ideas and Inspirations

The history center is considering mounting an exhibit on local historic restaurants in the next year or so. A suggested fundraising offshoot of the exhibit would be a cookbook of recipes collected from the restaurants exhibited. If any member has any ideas regarding the exhibit or would be interested in working on it, please give director Jim Williams a call at the center.

Spring Quarter, 1986, the center will be featuring an exhibit on California consumer products of the 19th century. If any of our members have pre-1940 consumer items they would be willing to loan, please give us a call. We are looking for such things as toys, tools, kitchen items and household appliances.



Dorothy Varian, left, was honored on September 27 for her many years of service and dedication to the California History Center Foundation. Former CHC Director Seonaid McArthur presented the foundation's gift to Dorothy which represented having a redwood tree planted in her honor by Sempervirens Fund at Castle Rock State Park. Dorothy served as a member, as well as president, of the Board of Trustees and is now an honorary member of the board. Photo by David Fox.

Japanese Book Released

After nearly three years of concerted effort, the history center's publication "Japanese Legacy: Farming and Community Life in California's Santa Clara Valley" was released in November. Written by University of Santa Clara professors Timothy Lukes and Gary Okihiro, the book is fully illustrated with sixty historical photographs collected by Duane Kubo.

The book records the history of the Japanese farming community from 1895, when the first Japanese agricultural laborers arrived, to 1945, when the first groups of Japanese Americans returned to the valley from the wartime detention camps.

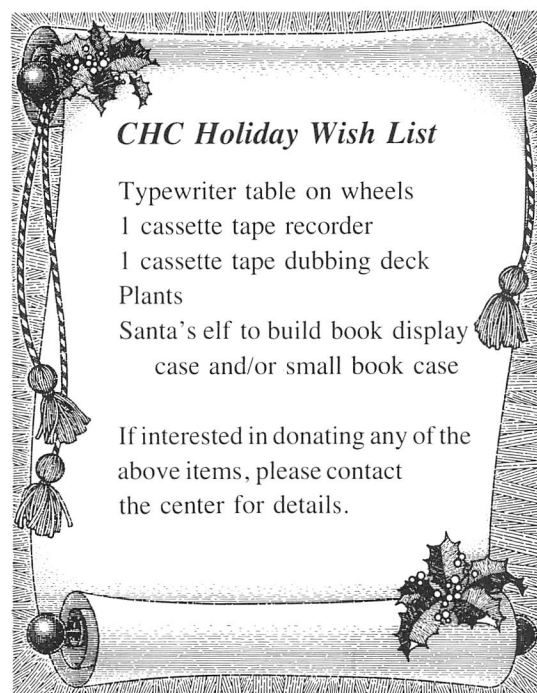
Writing in the foreword of the book, Congressman Norman Mineta states: "I am grateful for this book because when one hears Americans tell of the immigrants who built this nation, one is often led to believe that all our forebears came from Europe. When one hears stories about the pioneers going West to shape the land, the Asian immigrant is rarely mentioned. In this book, our story is told. It tells that Americans of Asian ancestry also toiled with the earth and shaped the land."

The book was made possible with grants from the American Association for State and Local History, the California Council for the Humanities and the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Sourisseau Academy at San Jose State University, College of Arts & Sciences and the Ethnic Studies Program at the University of Santa Clara, and the following individuals/organizations; Kikuchi Landscaping, Tom Ezaki, Oyama Brothers, Mayfair Nurseries, Jimi Yamaichi, Masuru Yamaichi, Cupertino Florist, Y. Uchida & Company, Inc., Hitachi America, Ltd., Mitsubishi Bank of California, San Jose Buddhist Church, Tom K. Kawahara, Noboru Ando, Shig Masunaga, Mtn. View Greenhouse, Inc., Eiichi E. Sakauye, Japanese American Citizen's League, Austen Warburton, Nikkei Matsuri, and Henry and Kikuye Yamate.

The books are available in both hard and soft bound editions, and may be purchased through the history center. Call the center for price information.

Coming in April . . . Saratoga Heritage Home Tour

The California History Center and the City of Saratoga's Heritage Preservation Commission will once again co-sponsor a visit to several beautifully restored historic homes in Saratoga. Last year's tour of four homes provided a rare glimpse into Saratoga's rich architectural history, and this April you will have the opportunity to tour different homes and gardens. More information is forthcoming in the spring calendar of events.



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A trip to the San Francisco Zoological Garden and its recently completed Primate Center, was just one of the popular foundation heritage tours offered during the fall quarter.

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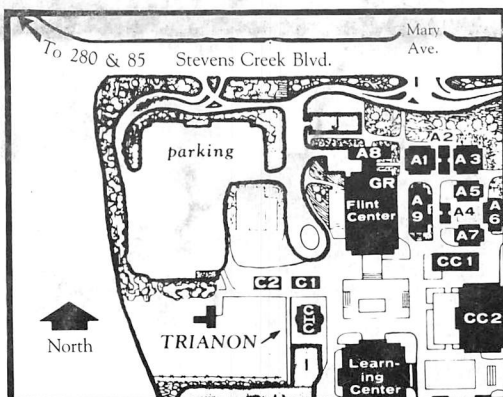
8:00 am–noon, 1:00–5:00 pm

Exhibit Hours:

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