



Since 1971



◆ July-September 2021 ◆

Vol. XLVII, No. 3

800 ALMA STREET, MENLO PARK, CALIFORNIA 94025-3445

650/330-2522

ANN'S COFFEE SHOP CLOSING

Board

Members

President

Tim Johnston

Vice President

Michael Demeter

Secretary

Bo Crane

Treasurer

Lydia Cooper

At Large

Bobbie Carcione

Jym Clendenin

Jim Lewis

Pam Jones

Martha Lancestremere

Greg Mellberg

Sandy Pachaud

Frank Helfrich, *Emeritus*



Ann's was a "coffee shop" in the old sense of the word, a slice of Americana, such as a butcher shop, barber shop, sweet shop, or camera shop, like the one owned by Elmo Hayden. Coffee was always available along with breakfast and lunch. Ann's began in 1946, 25 years before the second-ever Peet's opened in Menlo Park in 1971 (same year that MPHA began). Doss Spadia spent some last moments at Ann's with sisters Shirley Moore and Susie Crane. (Photo by Lydia Cooper). For more details, please visit Lydia's story on page 3.

Committees

Gate Post

Bo Crane

bcrane65@comcast.net

Pam Jones

Lydia Cooper

Cynthia Hanson

Web Master

Jym Clendenin



President's Message

Tim Johnston

I hope this message finds you well and beginning to see the “light at the end of the tunnel” as our region and community begin to re-emerge out from under the restrictions imposed by the pandemic.

Based on the latest information available, we are hopeful of once again gaining regular access to our Association office located in the basement of the Menlo Park library and welcoming you in for a visit.

Your board continues to meet remotely on a regular monthly basis. Given the challenging circumstances, we have still initiated work and made significant progress on several new and noteworthy projects:

- a complete re-design and features enhancement of your Association’s website.
- gathering, transcribing, and making available the oral histories of long-time Menlo residents, recounting their experiences and reflections on the city as it has evolved.
- creating and installing, in downtown storefronts, “Menlo Memories” pop-up displays containing historical photos and artifacts from years past.
- collaborating with the City, Belle Haven Action, and family in creating, fabricating, and installing a storyboard detailing the life of longtime Belle Haven icon and WWII hero, Karl Clark.
- collaborating with the Vallombrosa Center to conduct a pilot, member-involved archeological “dig” in a quest to uncover artifacts of historical interest from, liberally, the Center’s grounds that date back to the time when the mansion, built during the 1880s, served as the Peninsula residence of E.W. Hopkins, a nephew of Mark Hopkins.

I want to reiterate what I shared in my last message to you: your Board’s overarching goal is to develop and implement initiatives that facilitate greater member and community engagement, involvement, and awareness of, and appreciation for, the deep and diverse historical heritage of our beloved city.

Thank you for your continued support, and please continue to take good care and stay safe.

Ann’s Coffee Shop timeline



Times Tribune staff photo by Art R. After 41 years as owner and worker, Ann Gilberg is selling her Menlo Park restaurant to Ernie Vangele. Gilberg opened the coffee shop in 1941 and has been serving home-style cooking ever since. After she helps new owner Vangele get the hang of things, Gilberg plans to retire.

- Anna Marie (Ann Mary) Giorgis was born April 17, 1915, in Siskiyou County.
- Her father and mother were born in Italy.
- Anna’s husband, Robert Frank Gilberg, was born to Swedish parents on December 13, 1909, in McCloud, Siskiyou County.
- The couple married in the mid-1930s.
- In 1941, the family now with son Richard lived at 1243 Laurel St. in Menlo Park.
- In 1941, Ann (as she became known) and Olga Fickes started the Golden Churn coffee shop at 1149 El Camino Real (ECR).
- In 1946, Ann and Olga started the Pantry Food Shop delicatessen at 1043 ECR.
- Robert and Ann lived at 946 Evelyn St.
- Evelyn was also their daughter’s name.
- Also in 1946, Ann’s Coffee Shop opened at 728 Santa Cruz Ave.
- In 1952, Ann’s moved to 772 Santa Cruz Ave.
- In 1982, Ann sold her coffee shop to Ernie Vangele.
- In 1992, Vangele sold Ann’s to Pete Pappas.
- In 1999, Ann died on October 29 in Sunnyvale.
- In 2008, Nicki Poulus bought Ann’s.
- In 2021, April 2, the closing of Ann’s Coffee Shop was announced.

A FOND FAREWELL

By Lydia Dioli Cooper

The closure of Ann's Coffee Shop in Menlo Park caused quite a bit of news. It was first mentioned in the *Daily Post* on April 2, 2021, followed by the blog *InMenlo.com*, the *San Jose Mercury*, and the *Daily Journal*. Yes, it was a shock to members of the community from old-timers, to families, to all those who looked at this quaint spot for a morning breakfast of pancakes, French toast, bacon and eggs.

Our roaming photographer stopped by on April 19th and talked to some of the guests who shared their feelings and reminisced about their favorite small-town diner. Waiting outside the door at 8:00 a.m. was Nicolas Jimenez. He drove from Brentwood to say goodbye to Nicki Poulus. "It was worth the two hours to get here. My girls were little (now in their early 20s) when coming here." He was also here to meet with Ben Jackson. Ben remembers his junior golf days at Stanford, coming to Ann's with his golf buddies for French toast. "The best."



Ben Jackson and Nicolas Jimenez.

"Ann's closure is an end of an era.... where do we go for pancakes?" From there the ladies reminisced about the 49er days of Coach Buck Shaw and Kezar Stadium.

Ann's Coffee Shop will be remembered as a casual, easy-going diner where we sat, talked, laughed, and enjoyed its unique character. It will be missed for truthfully, there is no other spot in Menlo like Ann's. Thank you, Nicki, for maintaining and carrying on the tradition for the past 13+ years.



Walking around, I stopped to talk with Randy and Joan Toss with their dog Ellie. "We've been coming here for 20 years for a weekly breakfast of French toast." People feel "anguish and sadness to see Ann's closing," said Joan.

I overheard an interesting conversation between Doss Spadia and sisters Susie Crane and Shirley Moore. For you 49er fans who remember the Niners back in the '40s and '50s, Doss is the daughter of Lou Spadia (49er general manager), and Susie and Shirley are the daughters of 49er linebacker Norm Standlee.



ANN'S COFFEE SHOP

The cheerful atmosphere of ANN'S COFFEE SHOP and the prospect of good food reflect on the faces of Carolyn Cox and Wendy Vocke. The combination of excellent food and pleasant surroundings make ANN'S COFFEE SHOP a favorite eating spot in Menlo Park.

Menlo-Atherton Yearbook

MENLO FRENCH LAUNDRY

By Martha Lancestremere



1903 Marie Larrecou on left, her daughter Josephine is in the white dress in the middle of the girls.

The word “French” in French Laundry means “Hand washed with care and attention to detail.”

And that is exactly what the Menlo French Laundry did. The Menlo French Laundry was established in 1893 by Jean Pierre and Marie (Cediey) Larrecou. When the Larrecou couple first arrived in Menlo Park from San Francisco (originally from the Pyrenees area of France), they established the first French laundry next to the Central School (1328 El Camino Real).

According to family history, in 1899, the Weeden Brothers built a store and apartment on El Camino between Oak Grove and Santa Cruz Avenue, today’s Feldman’s Building (1170 El Camino Real). The Larrecou family lived upstairs, and the Laundry was operated downstairs.

When Mr. Larrecou died in 1902, Mrs. Larrecou carried on with the business and raised her family of four. After the 1906 earthquake, she sold the business to a Mr. and Mrs. Campagne who then moved it to 1047 El Camino Real. They operated the laundry until they returned to France.

The Campagnes sold the Laundry to Jean and Julia Candevan who then sold the business to Maurice Dioze and Pierre Darraq in the 1920s. These



*French Laundry, El Camino.
Menlo Ranch Gate on left.*

gentlemen built and relocated the business at 558 Santa Cruz Ave. The upstairs rooms were rented out to the employees, and meals were prepared for the employees in the upstairs communal kitchen.

In 1945, Laurent and Eloise Lancestremere bought the Laundry. The Lancestremeres moved the Laundry in 1962 to 558 Oak Grove Avenue. They sold the Laundry to Peninou French Laundry (Brent Edwards) in 1990. Until that time the Laundry was always owned by French people.

After returning in 1901 from a trip to Europe, Mrs. Jane Stanford was to entertain members of the faculty and administration of Stanford University for dinner. She wanted her fine linen tablecloth cleaned, thinking that it would be sent to New York. But a servant brought the cloth to the Menlo French Laundry instead. The tablecloth was cleaned and finished so well that Mrs. Stanford continued to have her fine linens cleaned and finished by the Menlo French Laundry.

The story repeats itself. A Stanford archivist was preparing for an exhibit on President Hoover’s wife. The archivist discovered that the antique tablecloth was stained. She brought the tablecloth to the Menlo French Laundry, and it came back stain-free. It’s now on exhibit in the Lou Henry Hoover Room.

The Laundry building on Santa Cruz Avenue was demolished in October 2018. I walked downtown that morning wanting to watch the demolition of the

Laundry

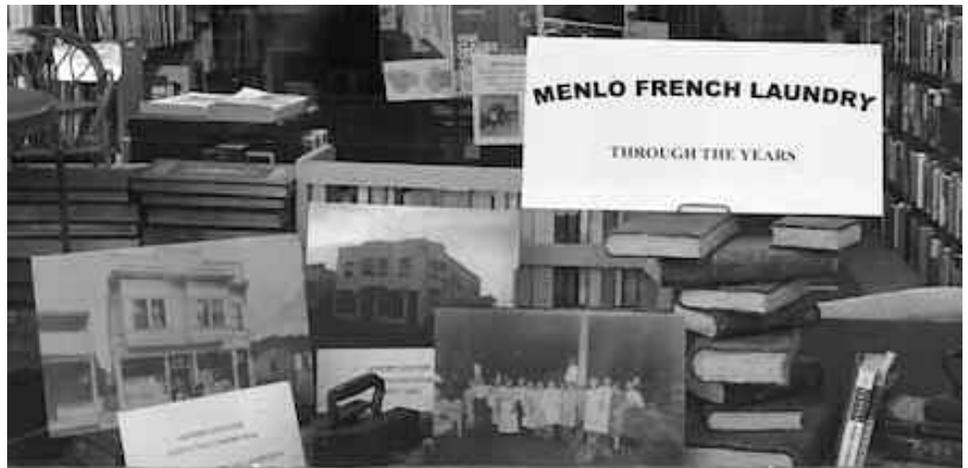
building. Sitting on the bus stop bench across the street, I had tears running down my face. My brother Peter and I grew up in the Laundry. I can remember the wood floors, counter on the right, ironing boards on the left. The washroom in the back.

When the building was being demolished, a sandpit was found in the back of the property, the area for the laundry washroom. A wine cellar was dug out under the washroom floor where men made and stored wine. The washing machines were so very heavy that over time the floor began to sink. It was then that the cellar was filled with sand to support the machinery.

In 1996, brothers Jack and Steve Feldman established Feldman's, a bookstore that sold used books. Unfortunately, the building is scheduled to be demolished in late 2021.



1935: 4th from left with apron is Laurent Lancestremere Next to him on his left (5th) is Louis Capdeville, laundryman. Leaning on the pole to her left is Eloise Rahtje (Lancestremere) (10th).



MPHA display Feldman's Bookstore

Thank you

**to the following who have renewed
their 2021 membership**

Diane Bader, Lynne Bramlett, George Carter, Alfredo Cuellar, Scott Denny, Michael Doherty (Life Membership), Diane Ellsworth, Mary Ergas, Barbara Hardie, Philip Helfrich, Therese Hjelm, Heather Hopkins (Life Membership), Resa King, Jim Lewis (Life Membership), Ray McCarthy, Lorraine Macchello, Barbara Mason, Carol Massard, Michael & Susan Matthews (Life Membership), Elena Reese, Alice Renfro, Mike & Sue Sartor, Kathy Switky, Melinda Tevis (Life Membership), and Tomei Family (renewals as of May 26)



HIDDEN TREASURES

By Sandy Pachaud

Imagine strolling the lovely grounds of Vallombrosa Center, enjoying a peaceful moment of reflection while doing some volunteer gardening, when suddenly you notice a small shard of glassware. You pick it up thinking you don't want anyone to hurt themselves. Upon further inspection, you notice it is iridescent, which means it is very old, and there are many more pieces you uncover nearby. This is how Karen Kitterman discovered the hidden treasures of the E.W. (Edward Whiting) Hopkins family.

Vallombrosa, meaning Shady Valley, was the summer home of the family of E.W. Hopkins (1848–1926), who was the nephew of Mark Hopkins, the famous transcontinental railroad builder. E.W. succeeded Mark as the railroad treasurer after Mark passed in 1878. Thankfully, Karen contacted MPHA president, Tim Johnston, to see if the MPHA might be interested in Vallombrosa's history. A few days later, Tim and Karen embarked on an exploratory dig.

On Saturday April 24th, Karen and I hosted a second dig for MPHA board members. Present at the dig were Jym Clendenin (photo, kneeling), Lydia Cooper (photo, waving), Dave Blackman, Karen Kitterman, and me (photo, holding item).

The day began with three tables displaying artifacts uncovered on the property, including pieces of fine china, glassware, ceramics, spoons, and metal objects, including a sterling silver luggage tag engraved with the name Edna Hopkins, who was the second child of E.W. and his wife Georgina's five children. Some of the items that have been identified are pieces of Royal Copenhagen china, apothecary and cologne bottle stoppers, buttons, a metal hot water bottle plug, and many blue and white china shards known collectively as blue flow. Also uncovered were pieces of Japanese pottery known as Imari, along with brown ceramic pieces known as slipware. It is thought that the thicker glass bottles held liquids under pressure, such as sarsaparilla or beer.

Also on display was an October 1900 *San Francisco Examiner* newspaper article about three of the Hopkins daughters, Helen, Edna, and Georgina. It included photos of the Hopkins in feathered hats and reported the wedding of Helen at Vallombrosa, the



Jym Clendenin

engagement of Edna, and the upcoming debut of Georgina. Helen and Edna married brothers Augustus and William Taylor.

The area where we dug was along a fence adjacent to the lovely flower and vegetable garden. Previously, there was a 4-foot hedge along the fence which was recently cut back and afforded MPHA with a prime digging area. As you can see by the photos, it was easy to social distance, wear masks, and adhere to Covid recommendations.

Unearthed were more pieces of glass, pottery, large metal objects, and James Keiller & Son Dundee marmalade crock shards. There were many marmalade crock pieces, leading us to presume that the Hopkins family had a sweet tooth.

The story of James Keiller & Son Dundee marmalade dates back to the 18th century, when a Spanish ship took refuge from a storm, in the harbor at Dundee, Scotland. On board was a consignment of Seville oranges, which a local grocer, James Keiller, decided to purchase. On taking them home, he discovered the oranges were too bitter to eat, and his mother, Janet, created from them in 1797 the first marmalade with thin strips of orange rind included. James Keiller & Son Dundee marmalade still exists today, and each participant was able to take a jar of that marmalade (available on Amazon) home with them.

Recently uncovered were a metal fence finial, large pieces of a white porcelain planter, new china patterns, an intact cold cream jar, an intact glass

Treasures

medicine bottle which at one time contained Citrate of Magnesia, and lovely little glass bottle stoppers embossed with Lea & Perrins, the Worcestershire sauce that's been available since 1835.

We are grateful to Vallombrosa Center's director of operations, David Fencl, for allowing MPHA this opportunity. Also, a special thank you to Marco, another Vallombrosa volunteer, who was indispensable for supplying us with equipment and water. It is the hope of MPHA to be able to have future digs and other historical events for MPHA members on the beautiful grounds of Vallombrosa.



Lydia Cooper



Sandy Pachaud





Since 1971

800 Alma Street, Lower Level
Menlo Park, CA 94025-3445
(650) 330-2522

E-mail: mphistorical@yahoo.com

Website: <http://sites.google.com/site/mphistorical>

www.facebook.com/menloparkhistorical

Non-profit Org
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit 870
Menlo Park, CA



Menlo French Laundry iron (see page 4)

Become a Member of MPHA

Join by sending in your name plus mailing and email address to MPHA, 800 Alma St, Menlo Park, CA, 94025-3445.

Annual Membership:

- Residential \$ 20.00
- Business 100.00
- Lifetime 200.00

Make check payable to MPHA at the above address.

In Memoriam:

Eleanor McLoughlin (1921-2021)

Memorial Donations

*John Arnold in memory of Kathy Restaino.
Alice Renfroe in memory of her father, Joseph
(Jack) Yount, Menlo Park Police Chief,
and mother, Isabelle Yount.*

TIME DATED MATERIAL OR CURRENT RESIDENT

Thank You Business Members!

- Lasky Trade Printing*
- Menlo Atherton Auto Repair*
- Shypulski & Associates*
- Sinnott & Co. Architecture & Construction*
- West Bay Sanitary District*

Thank You to Our New Member!

- Katherine Hadrovic*
- Susan Sbardellatti*

~ Thank you! ~