



Since 1971



◆ January-March 2022 ◆

VOL. XLVIII, No.1 • 800 ALMA STREET, MENLO PARK, CALIFORNIA 94025-3445 • 650/330-2522

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MPHA 50TH ANNUAL MEETING

7th Meeting
Menlo Park Historical Association
Menlo Park Library
January 21, 1971

Present: Jean Bone
Doris Farman
Larry Johnston
John Kiefer
Frank Merrill
Kelly Ogle
Maggie Scaroni
Dorothy Scott
Grace Warner

Mr. Johnston stated that the Committee, as it now stands, has its limitations. We will continue our work on schools, churches, etc., but we must do much more.

Above are the January 21, 1971, minutes from the first meeting of the Menlo Park Historical Association. Super Bowl V had been played the previous Sunday. Super Bowl LV (51) will be played this February 13, 2022, also the 51st year of MPHA. The Menlo Park Historical Committee was formed in 1970 and met six times that year. The group's name using "Committee" was changed to "Association" for the group's seventh meeting, which was the first of the year 1971.

However, another Johnston is on the MPHA Board: Tim, the current MPHA president, shown right, addressed the 50th MPHA annual meeting held at Vallombrosa Center, Sunday, November 21, arranged through the efforts of new MPHA Board Member Karen Kitterman. Karen followed Tim with a talk on the Hopkins mansion, where our meeting was held. Covid masks were

worn within the display rooms but not always in the auditorium where refreshments were available.

Notice that Larry Johnston, Tim's grandfather, was on the Board for that first meeting, later serving as president. Note also that Larry in discussion about the previous MPH Committee, stated that "we must do much more." Fifty years later, Tim has more in store for MPHA. His president's message is on page 2.

You might also notice the Board member name of Frank Merrill in the minutes above. He was MPHA's first president. His son, Frank Merrill Jr., was also in the 50th annual meeting audience, listening to the message from Frank Merrill Sr.'s latest successor. Tim highlighted MPHA's accomplishments from 2021, adding what was in store for 2022.





President's Message

Tim Johnston

Happy New Year everyone. I trust your holiday season was a joy-filled one.

Within this issue are reminders of our 2021 MPHA year, in which we could finally access our main library office and schedule group events. The last few months of 2021 were a busy time as we continued to work to bring more of MPHA to the community.

Our 'remodeled' website at a new web address: www.mphistory.org, was launched in early December.

Phase One of the downtown "Menlo Memories" pop-up displays project was completed with 20 images of 'old' Menlo in five locations along Santa Cruz Avenue.

In mid-October approximately 50 members and guests celebrated MPHA's 50th Anniversary with a picnic at Burgess Park. A month later, we gathered for our Annual Membership Business Meeting and Dinner at Vallombrosa (see enclosed articles).

A Bylaws amendment, approved from that meeting, increases the Board positions from 12 to as many as 18. Its passage provides the Board with the flexibility to allow volunteers who participate in our Association programs and operations to become, if they so request and are approved, full-fledged Board members, joining alongside current Board members.

Speaking of future Association programs, we already have a long list of 2022 projects, including office assistance. Our to-do-list needs volunteers and/or additional Board members to help us fulfill our mission to preserve, archive, and present to the public our city's rich and diverse history. We'll be posting "Calls for Volunteers" on the website so please keep an eye out.

Finally, "THANK YOU" to every MPHA Board member and volunteer who helped MPHA begin to regroup with great success while still under COVID—and especially to Bo Crane, surrendering his Board position of secretary after six years of service as well as being a voice of practicality and reason.

MPHA BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

The below photo captures two past MPHA presidents: Jym Clendenin, back left with glass, and Jim Lewis, with mask to the right, with his wife Karen farther right. Seated in front of them is Betty Meissner, whose late husband Ernest Meissner, MPHA member, led the drive to make the replica Menlo Gates. To the right of Betty, looking at his program, is Frank Merrill Jr., namesake son of MPHA's first president.



Karen Kitterman, mask on and off



Sandy Pachaud and David Blackman

New to Menlo Park?

You might not know that:

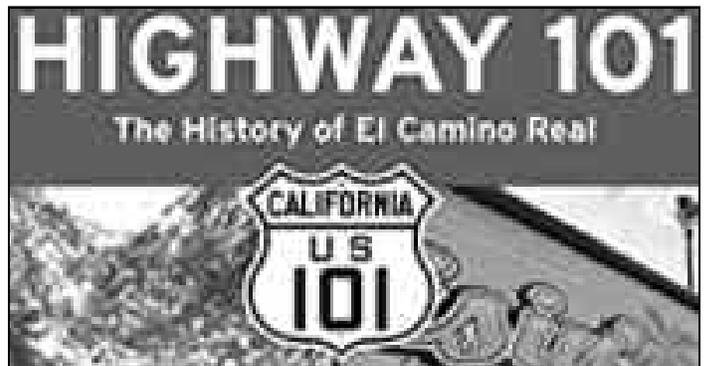
- ❖ Menlo Park was first incorporated in 1874, 10 years before Leland Stanford Jr. died in Florence, setting in motion what would become the university named in his honor.
- ❖ Leland and Jane Stanford considered their summer residence and stock farm to be in Menlo Park, though their property was across San Francisco Creek. When the creek became a county boundary, their property wound up in Santa Clara County. Palo Alto was not mapped until 1888, providing a “dry” town for the adjacent Leland Stanford Junior University being built.
- ❖ The computer mouse was first publicly demonstrated in 1968 by the designing engineer, employed at Stanford Research Institute (SRI), on Ravenswood Avenue and Laurel Street (now SRI International, no longer associated with Stanford University).
- ❖ The first internet transmission was sent from the Alpine Inn on Alpine Road six miles to a receiver at SRI in 1976.
- ❖ The two founders of Google, Sergey Brin and Larry Page, began building their company in 1998 in a house they rented on Santa Margarita Avenue.
- ❖ If you think El Camino Real in downtown Menlo Park is jammed, consider that it was once Highway 101, the main road up and down the Peninsula. It's still officially a highway but as #82. 101 became the new number of the “Bayshore Highway,” an old mud flats road.
- ❖ Thomas Edison’s laboratory, created in 1875 in New Jersey, occupied lands of a failed development that used the name Menlo Park, as it represented an enclave of large estates owned by the wealthy, south of San Francisco.
- ❖ If you’re interested in history and want to be part of our team, please contact the Menlo Park Historical Association (information provided on page 8 of this Gate Post edition).



SRI International



Stanford carriage to and from Depot.



MPHA 2021 YEAR IN REVIEW



MPHA Member and Mayor Drew Combs at the ground breaking for the next Menlo Park Community Campus on November 6.



MPHA President Tim Johnston at Karl E. Clark Park dedication on Market Place on June 19.



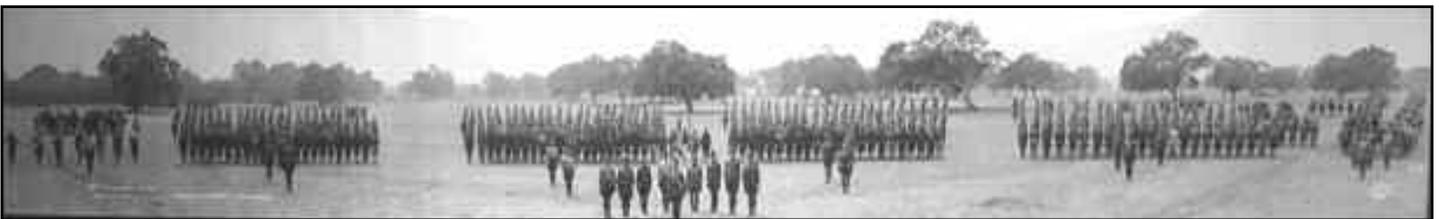
MPHA photos were displayed in several Santa Cruz Ave. business windows and inside a street corner kiosk, through the efforts of Board VP Michael Demeter, Board President Tim Johnston, and Board member Martha Lancestremere.



MPHA Board Secretary Bo Crane conducted a tour of Holy Cross Cemetery (August 31), now available on YouTube. Simply Google: Menlo Park Holy Cross YouTube



A MPHA 50th Anniversary barbeque was held at Burgess Park, arranged by Board member Sandy Pachaud on October 16.

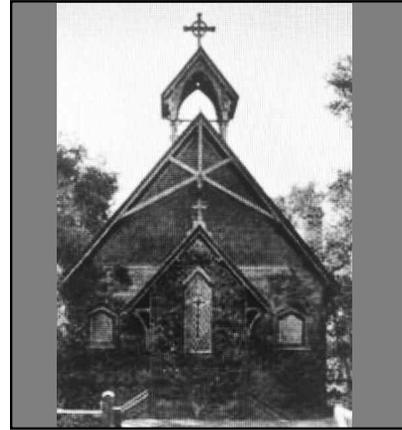


Donations received included this Camp Fremont photo, installed in the MPHA main library office on September 1.

WHAT IS THE OLDEST THING IN MENLO PARK?

1) Based on its initial installation date, not when it was manufactured; 2) Must have been placed in the greater Menlo Park area; 3) Must now be within Menlo Park city limits; 4) Not counting natural features like creeks or trees.

See if you can identify these “things” as well as the oldest. (See page 6 for the answer.)



Most readers know that the depot (upper left) is old. Both churches (upper row) were first built at another location and then moved. The house (middle row left) has since been remodeled and stuccoed but has kept the same basic shape. The house (middle row center) is still standing pretty much as it was. The photo (middle row right) is included for the entire feature, not just the wooden cross. The fountain and the house behind (lower row left) count as the same year. The bell (lower row middle) was first installed at one place of worship and re-installed at its current similar place of worship. If the depot is quite old, aren't the tracks even older? (Shown here lower row right with the water tank seen on the far left now gone.)

MORE 50TH ANNUAL PHOTOS

OLDEST THING IN MENLO PARK



Lydia Cooper Tom Johnston Mike Demeter



Joe Kearney Cynthia Hanson Kristen Johnson



Bo Crane flanked by wife Kristen (left) and guest Kristen Johnson (right).

Lydia, Tim, Mike, and Bo are 2022 Board officers. Joe Kearney is a new life-member. Cynthia Hanson is a member volunteer editor for the *Gate Post*. Kristen Johnson owns Graffik Dezine and is the *Gate Post* graphic artist.

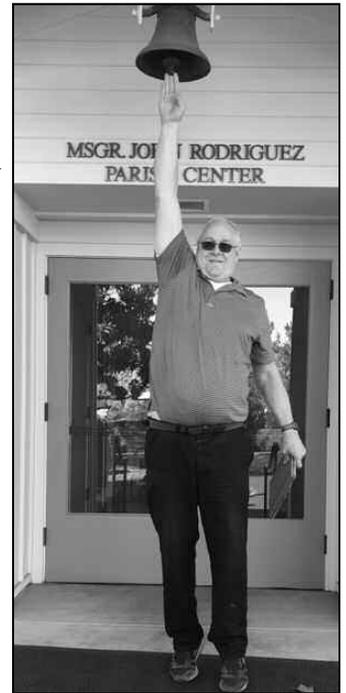


One gravestone at Holy Cross Cemetery has a death date of 1858. But there's something a few years older.

Edward Lynch's gravestone (1858) was recovered in 1953 from Dennis Martin's cemetery when the remains were transported to Holy Cross, just

inside the entrance. The back of his gravestone faces Santa Cruz Avenue and has an inscription describing how the original graves from Dennis Martin's cemetery were exhumed and transferred to Holy Cross. Lynch's gravestone was the only one recovered, dated from 1858.

Dennis Martin created his cemetery in 1856 (not 1853) after his brother Patrick was fatally kicked by a horse while living and working on his brother's ranch. Earlier in 1853, Dennis had built a church and acquired this bell. When the church was demolished in 1899, the bell was saved and installed at St. Denis Catholic Church, built in 1965, now within the Menlo Park city limits. Shown ringing the bell in 2018 is Dennis Martin's great-great-grandson, Paul



Wyatt, a very tall fellow. As such, the 1853 date of the original bell installation makes it the oldest "thing."

Dates for the nine photos on page 5: Depot 1867, Nativity 1872 (relocated 1878), Trinity Church 1886 (now the Russian Orthodox Church on Crane St), foundation of the original Hopkins mansion 1860s, Coleman mansion 1882 (now Peninsula School), Holy Cross Cemetery 1866, Gatehouse 1864, St. Denis bell 1853, RR single line tracks originally 1863 (but since replaced with two tracks).

VALLOMBROSA

For the first time, MPHA held a combined annual meeting and dinner at a historical location in Menlo Park.



mansion on California Street's Nob Hill. Edward married Georgina Smith in San Francisco in 1876. After

Through the efforts of Board member Karen Kitterman, and with the cooperation of the Vallombrosa administration and staff, the in-person event was held Sunday, November 21, 2021.

In 1883, Edward Whiting Hopkins purchased an estate on Oak Grove Avenue in Menlo Park that had been owned by Michael Castle, born in England in 1822. Like many gold rushers, Castle arrived in San Francisco in 1850. He was called a "pioneer merchant" of the City in his obituary. On his Menlo Park countryside property, he had a house built. At age 61, Castle sold his summer estate to E.W. Hopkins, 35, newly appointed treasurer of the Southern Pacific Railroad.

Mark Jr. died in 1878, Edward was given his late uncle's position with the railroad. When Edward purchased the Castle estate in 1883, he and his wife had three young daughters. Within five years, they had another daughter and a son, named Sam for Edward's father. Edward set about redoing the Castle house, naming it Vallombrosa, meaning "shady glen," referring to a forested area southeast of Florence, Italy. Along with a 1900 census listing in Menlo Park, E.W. (as he became known) and his family are listed in the 1900 census in San Francisco, with a California Street house, west of Van Ness Avenue.



Edward was born the youngest of seven children in St. Clair, Michigan, 1848, to Samuel and Mary Hopkins. Samuel was the older brother, by 10 years, of Mark Hopkins Jr. The two brothers were the sons of Mark Hopkins Sr. and Anna Whiting. Samuel died in St. Clair whereas his younger brother went to Sacramento with the gold rush.

Edward moved to Sacramento in 1871, where his uncle Mark Jr. was treasurer and Leland Stanford president of the railroad company. The two soon moved to San Francisco where they each built a



In 1902, E.W. bought an additional 33 acres on Oak Grove Avenue from John T. Doyle, land on which the Church of the Nativity is located. E.W., a wealthy businessman, died in 1926, 10 years before Timothy Hopkins died. Timothy, owner of the large estate where the Civic Center is located. Mark Jr. and his wife had intended to adopt Timothy but the adoption didn't occur after Mark's death. In 1947, the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of San Francisco purchased Vallombrosa to serve as a retreat for women. Over the years the purpose and facilities have expanded to accommodate group retreats and conferences.



Since 1971

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Former Onetta Harris Community Center, 100 Terminal Avenue, replaced by Menlo Park Community Campus

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Thank You for Your Donation!

Joanna Martin

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. Enclose check payable to MPHA.

Annual Membership:

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TO ALL MEMBERS:

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