

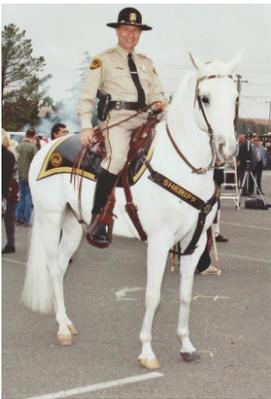


BULLETIN

Fall 2015

Deputies on Horseback

Marjorie Newton



When Reserve Deputy Nino Epifani retired on February, 28, 2010, the 75 year history of the Sheriff's Posse ended.

Horses had been the deputies' main method of transport at the beginning of Sheriff Veale's election to office in 1895. During

Sheriff Veale's 40 year tenure, automobiles and motorcycles had replaced deputies on horseback. At the end of Sheriff Veale's term of office, the county consisted of 780 miles of paved roads.

Johnny Miller defeated Veale for office in 1935. Sheriff Miller wanted to preserve the tradition of the mounted deputy and one of his first acts was to establish the Sheriff's Posse. Made up of volunteers, they provided their own horses and gear. The Posse's purpose was to scout cattle rustlers and other criminals in the more remote areas of the county. As a secondary function,



they appeared in parades and participated in other ceremonial events. In the spring of 1936, four

members of the posse participated in a parade in Bakersfield. They captured first prize.

In 1939, Sheriff Miller led the Posse in an appearance at the World's Fair on Treasure Island. In 1941, the Posse captured First Place at the Reno Rodeo.

After leaving office in 1943, Miller continued to lead the Posse in participation in events around the world. They rode in the Alaska and Hawaii Statehood dedications, the Mardi Gras in New Orleans, Rose Bowl parades, and the Eisenhower and Nixon Presidential Inauguration Parades.

The Contra Costa County Historical Society recently received an inquiry from Sao Paulo, Brazil requesting information on a Contra Costa County Sheriff's Badge that was to be put on display in their museum. We were able to identify it as one given to Rio de Janeiro Mayor Alim Pedro by Sheriff's Posse leader Johnny Miller when the contingent participated in the Rio Mardi Gras celebration in the 1950s.

1985 marked the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the Sheriff's Posse. The Posse then numbered 300, but all were not riders. Under Sheriff Richard Rainey, the mounted contingent was about 22 active members. They participated in the Rose Parade, took second at the Grand National held at the Cow Palace, took first at the State Championship at Rohnert Park. Along with the ceremonial, the mounted posse assisted with crowd control at the County Fair and with search and rescue. The Posse provided assistance at Byron Boys Ranch. They also supported the Patient Pony program for special needs children.

In 1987, the Posse rode in the “We the People Parade” in Philadelphia, celebrating the 200th anniversary of the signing of the Constitution. Of the 27 mounted riders of the Sheriff’s Posse, 12 took part in the parade.

At that time, posse members continued to provide their own horses, equipment and uniforms. They also paid for their own and their horses’ transportation. The county did not provide any funds. Some members decided to take the training to meet the requirements to become sworn officers.

Seven members rode in the 1990 Sunkist Fiesta Bowl Parade in Phoenix, Arizona, including Sheriff Richard Rainey and Assistant Sheriff Warren Rupf. The other members of the contingent were volunteer equestrians.

When Warren Rupf was appointed Sheriff in 1992, he asked Nino Epifani to revitalize the Mounted Unit. It was made up of sworn officers. Preceding the retirement of Deputy Epifani, were the retirements of Deputy Ed Symmons in 2006 and Deputy Ron Catania in 2004.

Today, the Sheriff’s Posse is an organization of more than 400 members. They are no longer required to be equestrians nor participate in parades. The Posse is a charitable organization whose purpose is to raise funds for worthwhile charities in the county. Along with their companion organization, Sheriffs Charities, they seek to give assistance to the less fortunate among us.

Former Reserve Deputy Epifani continues to be active in his car restoration business in Berkeley. Samokar, his mount, is just enjoying retirement.



New Anza Trail Banners and Interpretive Exhibit Dedicated in El Cerrito

On Tuesday, August 25, a brief ceremony was held in front of the El Cerrito City Hall, to draw attention to the installation of new banners and an interpretive exhibit, along San Pablo Avenue, honoring the Anza



Expedition of 1776. The ceremony was opened with introductory comments by Tom Panas, of the El Cerrito Historical Society. Tom was followed by our own board member, Beverly Lane, who is also a member of the Anza Trail Foundation. Beverly quoted from the diary of Father Pedro Font, who described the wonder, fear, and hospitality of the natives who were encountered.

Expedition of 1776. The ceremony was opened with introductory comments by Tom Panas, of the El Cerrito



Naomi Torres, Superintendant of Juan Bautista de Anza NHT provided insights into the long-lasting legacy of the expedition, as did El Cerrito Mayor Mark Friedman. Following the talks, the group

crossed the street to witness the unveiling of the interpretive exhibit, which is entitled “Corridors of Change”.



To learn more about the fascinating story of the Anza Expedition, and the Anza National Historic Trail, visit: www.nps.gov/juba.

The following is a chapter from Beverly Lane's new book, *San Ramon Chronicles, Stories of Bygone Days*. Beverly will be the principal speaker at our December Membership Meeting. Be sure to attend.

Bishop Ranch in the Heart of San Ramon

Beverly Lane

The Bishop name has been a significant one in San Ramon since Thomas Benton Bishop acquired the property in 1895 from the Norris family. Leo and Mary Jane Norris had purchased their 4,550-acre ranch from Jose Maria Amador forty-five years earlier.

Thomas Bishop bought the property after a scandalous divorce case between William and Margaret Norris in which Margaret was represented by an attorney from the San Francisco firm of Garber, Boalt and Bishop. Evidently Norris land was accepted in payment for services rendered and Bishop, a partner in the firm, purchased the land from her attorney.

Bishop already owned land throughout the west and Mexico. The Norris settlement property was 1 1/2 square miles (960 acres) and extended from Norris Canyon on the west to the Southern Pacific Railroad track on the east.

In 1904 he hired the experienced Frank Rutherford to manage the Ranch. Rutherford and James H. Bishop, who became president of the company after his father died in 1906, worked together for 40 years. His four sons, James, Francis, Edward and Thomas inherited the estate. The ranch was sometimes called the Bishop Brothers Ranch or the San Ramon Rancho.

Rutherford brought expertise in the grafting and propagation of different varieties of fruit and nut trees. Orchards of native black walnut trees were planted on the Bishop Ranch beginning in 1909. These young trees were grafted with English varieties 3 or 4 years later. As these early plantings succeeded on 500 acres, many more orchards were planted in the San Ramon and adjacent valleys.

Gradually the Ranch became a huge, successful enterprise, in part because it had the only irrigation in the valley. It had a bunkhouse for about sixty men, barns, machine shops, dehydrator buildings, warehouses and a mess hall. Bartlett pears were planted in 1911 as were peaches, prunes, grapes and tomatoes. From 1900 to 1920 the Ranch was well known for its prize winning pure-bred Shropshire sheep, a project of Edward F. Bishop. At the 1915 Pan-Pacific International Exposition, the sheep took double "the number of firsts and as many seconds as all the other exhibitors combined. They also took the honor of Champion Ram, Premier Champion for Exhibitor, and Premier Championship for Breeder."

Here Bishop Brothers Ranch is touted in the *Gazette Contra Costa Development* newspaper of 1916:

San Ramon Ranch is at once a demonstration of the perfection of natural conditions which exist not only conducive to the live stock industry, but appertaining to horticulture and farming pursuits in general. It is a portrayal of the scenic beauties of this section of the State that is at once a surprise and a delight, for its vast expanse entails the rolling landscape of the foothills and the wealth of Contra Costa valley lands. They are both combined here in perfection.

Evidently coyotes at the ranch often killed the lambs and sheep. Rutherford had six greyhounds who were used to chase them off. If a coyote was spotted, the driver of one of their steam-driven tractors would blow a whistle. A worker closest to the kennel would let the hounds out to kill the coyotes.

It was a diversified and self-sufficient ranch with various fruit crops, walnuts, blooded sheep, hogs, chickens, a large vegetable garden, numerous workers and a variety of ranch buildings. Early experimental mechanical walnut harvesters were tested in the Bishop orchard.

According to Barbara Andreasen Lynch, "there were two migrant worker 'labor camps' on the ranch; one was known as the Chinese camp. Each had a communal kitchen and the seasonal canning was done at the labor camp rather than the main crew kitchen."

In the late 1940s the Bishop Ranch (described as 1300 acres in size) was recognized in the *Guinness Book of World Records* as having the largest single Bartlett pear orchard



in the world; it yielded 2,200 tons one year out of 300 acres. By then it had three irrigation wells which supported the

pears and walnuts. Pears were sent to East Coast markets and to the Del Monte Cannery in Hayward, with small ones sent to the Davis cannery in Walnut Creek to be made into baby food.

Travis and Ruth Boone owned a large spread adjacent to Bishop Ranch, planted primarily to walnuts and tomatoes. Boone did extensive custom grain harvesting in the Diablo and Tri-Valley. In a later interview Ruth Boone recalled that, after bachelor ranch hands from the ranches were paid, they would often enjoy themselves gambling at a place called Connie's San Ramon. She remembered Connie Young telling her "I made a fortune from the men at the Boone and Bishop Ranches." And she said he probably was right.

Following Rutherford's retirement in 1944, his son-in-law Vern Andresen became manager and, in 1955, Robert Livermore succeeded him. He was a University of California Davis graduate with some new ideas for the ranch. Livermore was confronted with a disease called pear decline and black-line disease which threatened the walnuts. Crop dusting had ended and pests re-infested many of the crops. In the 1950s Henry Crown and Co. purchased the property.

The Bay Area's growth after World War II transformed all of California. In the San Ramon Valley, owners of several historic ranches were confronted with changes in their tax assessments which meant they could not afford to continue ranching. The Baldwin and Meese ranches which

were first settled in 1852 were sold to home developers. Bishop Ranch taxes in 1955 were about \$20,000 but ten years later the assessor valued the land for homes and the tax bill skyrocketed.

Aerial pictures showed the central position of Bishop Ranch in the sixties. Its sweeping fruit and walnut orchards sat between new developments in South San Ramon and Dublin and a growing Danville to the north. The entire San Ramon Valley expanded from 4,630 people in 1950 to 57,307 in 1980.

New residents soon began to want more control of these burgeoning developments and incorporation efforts began in the 1960s with three unsuccessful San Ramon Valley-wide city votes in 1967, 1973 and 1976. Whether or not to include the Bishop Ranch property within the proposed city's boundaries was debated in each of these elections.

The life of Bishop Ranch as the agricultural center of San Ramon ended when Western Electric purchased the 1733-acre property from Crown enterprises in 1969 and proceeded to plan for a "new town" development.

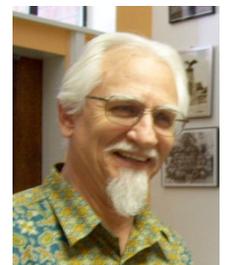
PPIE Exhibit Opens

On Friday, July 17, Supervisor Candace Andersen



visited the History Center to view the Pan Pacific

International Exposition Exhibit. She is shown here, center, with Executive Director Priscilla Couden and Treasurer Steven James. Also in attendance was San Pablo Vice Mayor Rich Kenney. There is still time to see the exhibit for yourself.



Editor's note: The following is the latest in our coverage of the historical societies of Contra Costa County. CCCHS volunteers and board members visited the museum on June 24th of this year. Photos by editor.

The Concord Historical Society:



The Galindo Home and Garden Museum by Jan Trolan

Volunteer Chuck Gabrysiak explaining the home's history.

The Galindo Home was built in 1856 for Don Francisco Galindo and his wife Maria Pacheco Galindo. It was a modest farmhouse consisting of 2 rooms downstairs and 3 bedrooms upstairs. It was the first wood house in the area. When their oldest son, Juan and his wife Marina Amador Galindo took up residence, they extended the home by adding 2 parlors downstairs, a second stairway and 2 bedrooms upstairs. The addition was much more ornate than the original and included 3 marble fireplaces and sinks in each of the new bedrooms.

In all, 4 generations of Galindo's lived in the home from the time it was built in 1856 until the death of



Ruth Galindo, the last survivor, in 1999.

Volunteer Eleanor Zuzan leading our tour of the Galindo Home.

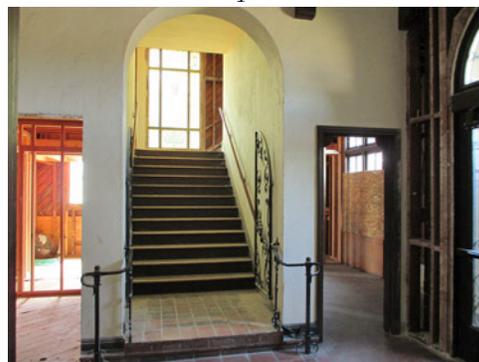
When Ruth died, she left the house to the City of Concord and the contents to the Concord Historical Society. The Society negotiated with the City and took

ownership of the property in 2010. Extensive renovations took place over the next two years and the home was opened to the public in early 2013. We are fortunate that all of the furnishings and most of the items on display belonged to the family.

The Galindo home is located at 1721 Amador Ave., Concord, CA. It is open to the public every Sunday from 1:00PM to 4:00PM. We offer a school program for students in the 3rd and 4th grades. We also welcome group tours by appointment. Call 925.827.3380 to make arrangements.

Editor's Note: In addition to the tremendous job that the CHS has done in acquiring and restoring the Galindo Home, this ambitious organization has added to their burden with the acquisition of the Concord Masonic Temple, which was moved

to a site next to the Galindo Home in 2013. The group plans to rehabilitate the structure and transform this landmark into the future Concord Museum and Event Center.



For more information about the CHS, visit their website at: www.concordhistorical.org

Abridged List of Recent Acquisitions:

Autobiography of Justice A.F. Bray, Sr.

Donor: Lorraine Bray

Book: *Port Costa, 1941-1979* by Dick Murdock.

Donor: Jan Berckefeldt.

Pestle found in Lafayette-possibly Bay Miwok

Donor: Beverly Lane

Book: *Scow Schooners of San Francisco Bay* by Roger Olmsted; Book: *The Native American Experience* by Jay Wertz; WWII meal ration coupon. **Donor:** Jim Vail

Maritime photos of San Francisco Bay.

Donor: Melissa Jacobson.

Newspapers; Port Chicago papers; 20 folders re Bay Miwok Symposium. **Donor:** Dean McLeod

Thanks to all of our donors (too many to list) for adding to our growing archive of historic county documents.

Mid-Year Appeal/Our Best Ever!

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Jim and Beverly Lane; Betsy Glen; Toris A. Jaeger

If you donated, and your name does not appear in this issue, we sincerely apologize—we will get you next time!

A very hearty thank you for your generous support. It is heartening and very much appreciated!

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Please consider CCCHS in your estate planning. It is simple, and any gift is tax deductible. We have a Schwab account that makes it easier for members and others to donate shares of stock to the Society, a good way to make a year-end or other contribution.

From The Director:



Greetings! It's been a wonderful Spring and Summer; the Fall promises to be even better. Many of you have come to the History Center and experienced the changes we have made and the Panama Pacific International Exposition exhibit we recently opened.

We plan another Open House in October, which will also feature National Archives Month

Next, we have had a very good response to our Summer Appeal. Thanks to all who donated. The donations are helping us work through our wish list. They do not, however, cover everything, so please help us to make our next appeal the best ever.

Meanwhile, space may still be available for our very interesting event on September 26 at the **Rodgers Ranch Heritage Center in Pleasant Hill**, so RSVP today! We also anticipate a blockbuster Annual Meeting on December 5. Board member and author Beverly Lane will speak about her new book *San Ramon Chronicles: Stories of Bygone Days*, and other surprises are in the offing. Please save the date.

Finally, the Society has been invited by the Dean & Margaret Leshner Foundation to co-host one of their Speaker Series at the Leshner Center in Walnut Creek! On November 2, 2015, historian and author **David McCullough** will be speaking, and the Historical Society will be featured. Further information on this event will be forthcoming. If you have a particular interest in hearing David McCullough, please let us know, and we will try to make it happen (though there will be a cost for the ticket, as we are using the tickets the Leshner Foundation gave us to raise funds).

We continue to remain open on 3rd Saturdays from 10-2 as well as our usual schedule of Tuesday through Thursday, 9-4. Contact me if you can volunteer and join us in increasing the reach of the Society.

Looking forward to seeing or hearing from you soon,

Priscilla



From The President:

Our exhibit room is currently decked out with all kinds of souvenirs, photos and other artifacts from the Pan Pacific

International Exposition, which was held in San Francisco 100 years ago. It turns out that the county had more than a passing influence on the original Exposition itself, from an active county Woman's Board consisting of members of some of the county's pioneering families, to the special fares on trains starting in Danville to take our residents to the show itself. If you'd like some further details on the county's influence, former Board Member and DVC Professor of History Melissa Jacobson has written an excellent article on the subject. It is accessible to all from the main page of our website.

While you are at our website, you may also want to check out the 10 minute video about who we are and what we do. A link to the video can also be found on the front page, just below the PPIE exhibit information.

Election time is almost upon us. I'm referring to the Society's annual Board of Directors election. We have five seats up for election at the end of 2015. A love of history is important, and we do ask that you spend a few hours every second Wednesday with your fellow Board Members to discuss various concerns about the care and feeding of our Society. If you are interested in joining our board, please feel free to send me a note at president@cocohistory.com.

Our autumn membership meeting is scheduled for September 26th at the Rodgers Ranch in Pleasant Hill. You should have all received either an email or a letter from us with details on the meeting. The cost of the meeting is \$15 per person, which will help defray the costs of our food, and seating is very limited. If you haven't signed up yet, please do so as soon as possible. Our annual meeting, will be on Saturday, December 5th. Details to come, but you may wish to mark your calendars now.

Scott

