

THE INSTITUTE FOR HISTORICAL STUDY

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NEWSLETTER

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The NEWSLETTER is sent to all Institute members, as well as college and university libraries and other interested scholars. The Institute appreciates all tax-deductible contributions made by non-members who wish to remain on its mailing list.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As I was saying some years ago, I hope you are having a great 21st Century.

There have been a number of new members in the past seven years, so I would like to emphasize one of the key benefits the Institute offers members, the opportunity to use the Institute as a fiscal sponsor when applying for or receiving a grant. As a fiscal sponsor, the Institute receives the grant money and delivers it to the member. Why should an Institute member prefer this, rather than have one of the major universities in that role?

Well, in most cases the Institute charges a nominal five per cent of the grant amount for handling the funds. The charge has gone above 10 per cent only for major grants involving large sums and substantial paper work and pay-outs. In each case, the Board of Directors determines the charge after considering the size of the grant and the activity required. On the other hand, some large institutions charge anywhere from one-third to one-half of the grant amount for acting as a fiscal sponsor. Quite a difference.

In the past, the grants that the Institute has handled have provided a sizable source of income for this organization, and the extra funds have helped develop the mini-grants that the Institute offers to its members. But recently, either our members are not receiving grants, or using the Institute has been forgotten. It's a win-win situation for both the Institute and you, so the next time you're writing a grant proposal, think of the Institute as the fiscal sponsor. It could mean more money in your bank account.

And if you know someone seeking a grant involving history, you will do that person a great favor by explaining this particular benefit of Institute membership.

Jules Becker

WORK-IN-PROGRESS – Tom Snyder

Navy Medicine in California: A Century and a Half of Caring

On March 11, Institute member **Tom Snyder**, a retired M.D. in the Navy's Medical Corps, shared his research on the history of the Mare Island Naval Hospital with members gathered at the home of **Monica Clyde** in Oakland. As a resident of Vallejo and a frequent traveler to Washington, D.C., Tom has uncovered the primary sources necessary for this project. Using photographic as well as written records, he has compiled a lucid and interesting slide presentation about the results of his research.

Commencing with the reasons for the establishment of the hospital in 1854, Snyder reminded his audience of the growing United States awareness in the 1850s of the need for a naval presence on the Pacific coast and the identification of Mare Island in a sheltered part of San Francisco Bay for an installation. On September 14, 1854, Commander Farragut arrived at Mare Island with detailed plans for a naval shipyard and other facilities. Two Days later the sloop *Warren* arrived, and its sick bay became the first medical facility at Mare Island. John Mills Brown became the first medical officer at Mare Island in 1854. In 1856, the *Razee USS Independence* replaced the *Warren*, but proved unsatisfactory because of the cold, wet and windy conditions aboard ship in the winter. However, its use was not abandoned for some time, in part because of the Navy's focus on Civil War needs (there were only three to five ships in the Pacific squadron). Finally local naval personnel took the initiative to improve the situation. In January 1864 improved facilities were ready and remained the semi-official naval hospital until 1871. An interesting example of the surgery carried out at this facility was an operation on a seaman with a shattered hip who became ambulatory after an operation in which ether was administered as the anesthetic. Eight "medical gentlemen" were present, among them Planton Vallejo (son of Mariano), a graduate of Columbia University who was a respected member of the medical profession in California. Other medical personnel were the male

nurses who received the same low pay as cooks and were held in low esteem.

By 1871, an impressive new naval facility had opened its doors. This hospital with 200 beds was to function until 1898. During its quarter century, many innovations occurred: gas and electricity, telephones, a reliable water supply, a purpose-built operating room (previously a work table on the third floor had been cleared to make way for operations). This hospital cared for civilian workers as well as sailors. On March 31, 1898, an earthquake seriously damaged the handsome hospital and necessitated its evacuation. Its replacement opened in 1900 and still stands. A separate hospital for contagious diseases was opened in 1903. One of Tom's slides showing the junior officers' ten-room "cottages" impressed the housing-conscious Bay Area audience. He also made the general observation that the cost of operating a naval hospital in California was greater than on the East coast because of the higher labor costs. During the United States participation in World War I, the Mare Island Naval Hospital was placed on emergency status, and tents were erected to cope with the influenza epidemic directly after the war. Highlights of the 1919-1957 period were the opening of the first psychiatric facility along with much Works Progress Administration (WPA) construction. A World War II photograph of Eleanor Roosevelt walking past a row of proud, pleased women nurses aroused more interest than one showing Bob Hope on a visit. The hospital became the amputee center for the Pacific Coast with an international reputation for excellence. Scheduled for decommissioning in 1950, it was finally closed in 1957.

Tom concluded his presentation with a series of slides showing the naval hospitals built in California during World War II that disappeared after the war, and the convalescent facilities which functioned from 1944 to 1946. Existing resorts and national parks, including the Ahwahnee Hotel in Yosemite Park, were leased during this emergency.

Doris Linder

Hildi Kang -- WORK-IN-PROGRESS

Korean Lineage Records: Tradition and Tradition Breakers

Many people would consider genealogy outside their realm of interest and lacking in excitement unless it applied to themselves or to kings and queens, but the way that **Hildi Kang** accesses the history of Korea back to the 700s through her family ancestry illuminates the joys of historical interpretation.

At **Jeanne McDonnell's** home on May 20, Hildi explained that she and her husband could trace his lineage because Korea has preserved the oldest and most complete such records in the world. One reason was a belief that one's social position derived from the virtue and achievements of one's ancestors. Also, at one time the government civil service exam for high-level positions could be taken only by men who could prove notable ancestry.

Of many fascinating details of Korean history that Hildi's study reveals, one relates to the status of women. When men could have several spouses, each wife could own land and support herself and her family. After the collapse of a dynasty that had held power from the 900s to 1392, women's economic self-sufficiency disappeared; men now had to provide for one family and the successors to that family. Children born outside that lineage would not inherit; girls born to those families would be noted in lineage charts without their names. Also various rulings changed the behavior of women such as boys and girls being forbidden to sit at the same table and girls no longer having the right to ride horses.

Linguistics formed another intriguing aspect of Hildi's study (to be published by the Mellon Press and titled *Family Lineage Records as a Source of Korean History: A Case Study Using the Sinch'on Kang Lineage from 720 – 1955 A.D.*). Although spoken Korean is related to Hungarian, Siberian, Finnish, and Japanese, the Chinese method was used for writing. In 1444, the King ordered the creation of a phonetic alphabet for Korean, but scholars disapproved, claiming that previous knowledge had been preserved with the Chinese

ideographic method and would be lost by such a change.

The Korean idea was that we should learn from the virtue and wisdom of our ancestors and duplicate those characteristics. As quoted by Peter Lee in *A Korean Storyteller's Miscellany*: "The aim of biography in the classical tradition was not to uncover individual character and personality, but to catalogue virtue and turn it into examples." Nonetheless, Hildi did uncover information, not in the lineage records but in the royal archives, about an influential rogue, a direct ancestor to the Kangs, who served under four successive rulers but was ultimately executed. Family graves are found on nearly any rural hillside in Korea, and are places of importance for the tradition of holding ancestor rituals. Photographs of paintings, photographs of individuals, drawings of the family compound as remembered by Mr. Kang, are among the illustrations Hildi will use in her book. Some of the illustrations include clan burial places that are important to descendants. In one, a queen occupies a prominent hilltop.

To conclude her study, Hildi tracked her husband's male ancestors who she calls "tradition-breakers": first Protestant Christian, 1850; first doctor of western medicine 1887; first bank manager under Japanese rule, 1910; first to move to America, 1935.

Much more information illuminated this fascinating story than there is room to relate here. Hildi spoke of the importance of legend, as opposed to myth, and the value to her study of oral histories. As a sidelight, Hildi mentioned that there are excellent web sites on Korean material, but many needed to be accessed rapidly because they would eventually disappear. She also mentioned the problems of understanding a thousand years later what was meant by different words or phrases. We also got some insight into the problems of trying to publish information such as she presents when the publishing industry, either in the United States or Korea, shows no interest.

Jeanne McDonnell

GROUP REPORTS

BIOGRAPHY WRITERS

The group met on Sunday, March 18, at the home of **Joanne Lafler**. **Frances Richardson Keller**, a new member of the group, presented the beginning of her memoir, describing her extended family and the village in upstate New York where she spent her childhood. Full of fascinating characters, this material whetted the group's appetites for reading more of Frances' work.

Ann Harlow presented a new passage of her biography of Anne Bremer and Alfred Bender, focused on the period around the earthquake of 1906. One result of that event was the visit of Michael and Sarah Stein from Paris, introducing modern French art to San Francisco and invigorating their friends with news of Paris.

Joanne Lafler presented some pages about the death of Harry Lafler's lover, Nora May French. There are many puzzles about the events leading up to French's suicide, including the cause of her break-up with Lafler in August of 1907, three months before her death. Joanne discusses some possible explanations for the break-up and goes on to the suicide itself—an event that was covered widely (if inaccurately) in San Francisco newspapers.

Ellen Huppert introduced a new character into her work. Elizabeth Gurney, who later married Barton Stout Taylor, began keeping diaries during her adolescence. The highlight of the early years was a visit to Niagara Falls in 1856 when she was sixteen. Lizzie was more interested in her peers than in the sights, and she did not describe the places they visited. The group suggested adding material from secondary sources to round out what Lizzie wrote.

A meeting scheduled for May 12 was cancelled because too many members were unable to come. The next meeting will be on June 30. Members of the Institute who are writing biographies are welcome to join the group.

Ellen Huppert

READERS OF MEDIEVAL HISTORY

On March 10, at the home of **Lyn Reese**, **Lorrie O'Dell** presented an overview of the *The Civic Muse: Music and Musicians in Siena* by Frank D'Accone, a monumental study of the relationship between the musical community and both the church and the civil authorities in Siena from 800 to 1500. Lorrie's presentation was focused specifically on music as it related to the Sienese Cathedral, its chapel choir, the cathedral school and the beginning of professional singers as polyphony became part of the musical performance during the High Mass. The change from chant, sung by the chancel choir and learned by rote, to the more complex harmonies sung by contracted singers able to read simple musical notation dominated the history of sacred music during this period.

On April 15, **Nancy Zinn** hosted the group and described the English abbey of Bury St. Edmunds. Using as her source *The Chronicle of Jocelin of Brakelond, Monk of St. Edmundsbury*, Nancy noted the tensions within the community as described in the Chronicle between the various factions that developed around the abbot and the prior, and the difficulty of electing a new abbot. Ultimately, the decision was made by the King, and Samson was chosen. Jocelin was a supporter of Samson and praised his reforming work. However, Jocelin told little of the structure of the monks' daily life, to Nancy's disappointment.

John Rusk hosted the group on May 26, and related the story of *The Last Duel: A True Story of Crime, Scandal, and Trial by Combat in Medieval France*, by Eric Jager. In 1386, after an inquiry by the Parlement of Paris into a charge of the rape of a knight's wife, a 'duel to the death' was ordered. Two French knights met on a field outside Paris, and the duel, following proscribed ceremonies, was fought before the king and the entire Parlement, ending with the death of one of the combatants, therefore presumed to be guilty as charged. This story may be coming to a theatre near you!

Lorrie O'Dell

GROUP REPORTS

HISTORY-PLAY READERS

In the last issue of the NEWSLETTER, I reported that the History-Play Reading Group had begun reading Gore Vidal's *An Evening with Richard Nixon*. The play was written in 1972, before Watergate, and had an unsuccessful run on Broadway. Susan Sarandon played several parts, which helped spark her career. Vidal had his Nixon character speak only Nixon's actual words which are presented in a different typeface. According to the author, this research required extensive and expensive effort. In the play George Washington, Dwight Eisenhower and John F. Kennedy observe with wonder Nixon's rise to the presidency. Although poorly received at the time and his last Broadway play, it is amazing that in it Gore Vidal essentially anticipates the Watergate scandal and Nixon's demise.

The play-readers then moved back five centuries to an earlier politically charged era and began reading *Henry IV, Part I*, the second of Shakespeare's four play series that deals with the successive reigns of Richard II, Henry IV, and Henry V. Henry IV ruled England from 1399-1413. The play recounts the saga of the conflict between the Earl of Northumberland, his son Henry (Hotspur), and the Plantagenet monarchy that begins with Henry IV's seizure of power in *Richard II*.

Henry IV, Part I covers the period beginning with the battle at Homildon late in 1402 and ends with the defeat of the rebels at Shrewsbury in mid-1403. Early in the play we are introduced to Henry's son and successor, Henry V, here called Hal, in the company of the fictional Falstaff, in the earthy world of the tavern. The play was written in 1595 and it is believed that it was first performed in 1597. The group will continue reading Part I at its next meeting on June 15, and then move on to Part II. All interested persons are welcome to join us.

Edith Piness

CALIFORNIA ROUND TABLE

At the quarterly meeting of the California Round Table, hosted by **Joanne Lafler** on April 14, **Maria Sakovich** presented a draft of a biographical essay, "Katherine Maurer: Missionary Among Immigrants." Maurer, a Methodist deaconess, worked with and on behalf of immigrants to California from 1912 to 1941. She had an office on Angel Island and provided a variety of services to people from many nations while they were detained at the immigration station. She worked to make their lives during detention "as comfortable as possible, physically, psychologically, and even spiritually." Her kindness was so appreciated that she became something of a local legend. Maria's research attempts to unearth more information about the woman behind the legend, what exactly she did, and how it fits into immigration history and Protestant church history.

Although immigrants from Europe and other parts of the world passed through Angel Island, most of the people Maurer worked with were Chinese. She lived in Chinatown and studied Chinese culture and language while teaching the immigrants about Christianity, English, and practical skills for living here. Born in rural Canada to German immigrants, Maurer did not become an American citizen until shortly after the United States entered the First World War, when people of German ancestry were viewed with suspicion. The position of deaconess was created in the 1880s as part of the Social Gospel movement of seeking to aid urban poor. Single women, not tied down by family, could become deaconesses after a two-year training program and a three-month internship. They were among the first social workers. As a deaconess, Maurer held a respected position that enabled her to call on the help of other organizations and agencies well beyond the Methodist Woman's Home Missionary Society. Some facts have eluded Maria, including the ten-year period in Maurer's life before she trained as a deaconess. But her version of the story of this remarkable woman is no doubt the most complete to date.

Ann Harlow

REPORTS ON INSTITUTE MINI-GRANTS

Rose Wilder Lane (1886-1968) may not be a familiar name to many of you. In her time, she was a noted journalist and novelist. Today she is best known as the daughter of Laura Ingalls Wilder. Lane has been important to me because I knew that she had been a tenant of Harry Lafler on Telegraph Hill for several years and that she had talked about her "little house on Telegraph Hill" in some of her correspondence. I wanted desperately to look at those letters. Unfortunately, I couldn't afford to fly to the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library in West Branch, Iowa, where Lane's papers are held. So I did the next best thing: I hired a young researcher to look through some of the correspondence for any references to Lafler and his property on Telegraph Hill.

The researcher found one great gem—a letter in which Lane described the so-called "Lafler Compound" on Montgomery Street as it looked when she revisited it in 1925 and as she remembered it from the period of her residence in 1916-18. I had pictures of the exteriors of the five cottages that Lafler had built on this property, but I had *never* read a detailed description of the interiors. Lane's letter provided that information and much more. I learned that in the early years of the Compound conditions were pretty primitive; there was no electricity and little landscaping. Lane did not approve of the stockade-like fence around the property, which is visible in pictures from the 1920s. I now know that it was built sometime after 1918.

I am so grateful to the Institute for giving me a mini-grant of \$200 to cover the cost of retrieving this vital information. From it I learned that the Compound was a work-in-progress and I can document its evolution—especially over the period of 1916-25, when Lafler lived there with his third wife and reigned as King of Telegraph Hill.

Joanne Lafler

I was so happy to receive a mini grant for the translation of documents from Russian to English in connection with my research about my Russian Orthodox priest grandfather whose last post was San Francisco. Not only does it provide funds for the translation but it has helped me move my book project from back burner to front.

Since the early 1990s I have been interviewing elders and gathering other material for a book about the post-Russian-Revolution refugees who settled in the San Francisco Bay Area. The portrait of the community—leaving home in the midst of civil war, arrival, work, social and cultural life, and adaptation—will be organized around Fr. Vladimir Sakovich, a beloved figure among the refugees.

Already I have been able to pay for the translation of the last six months of Fr. Vladimir's pastoral journal, which further revealed, among other things, examples of his links to Americans in San Francisco. The grant will also help pay for translating other documents that help to tell the story of this central individual and illuminate the years before World War II of this little known immigrant community.

Maria Sakovich

The Institute's Board of Directors recently announced the Mini-Grant Program for 2007. Designed to make a difference by helping member-scholars successfully complete worthy, sound and original projects. Grants may be used to pay for duplicating, photocopying, translating services, travel expenses and conference registration, but the funds are not limited to these uses. (Grants are not made to supplement living expenses.)

Please write to the IHS Mini-Grant Committee at the Institute's mailing address for an application and a set of guidelines. The application deadline is September 15.

Missouri Steamboat Museums in the American Midwest

During our recent driving trip from California to St. Louis and back, my husband Peter and I visited two museums displaying the remains of steamboats which sank in the Missouri River some 150 years ago. They are only two of 400 steamers which sank in the river between 1842 and 1865. The *Arabia* Steamboat Museum in Kansas City, Missouri, is a large commercial enterprise. The boat sank north of the city in 1856 after leaving St. Louis for Sioux City, Iowa, with passengers and 222 tons of goods. The *Bertrand* sank in 1865 about 25 miles north of Omaha. It, too, began the trip in St. Louis but was on its way to Fort Benton, Montana, with passengers and goods largely intended for the gold fields of western Montana. Its cargo is displayed at the Visitors' Center in the DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge outside Missouri Valley, Iowa.

The museums have several stories to tell. One is the story of the steamboat era on the Missouri River. Playing a major role in the development of the western United States, hundreds of those boats carried passengers and goods to the West. The river itself is another story. Subject to floods—including one in May of 2007—and changing course across its flood plain, the boats were discovered far from the course of the river under 35-45 feet of mud. The recovery of the boats is yet another story, involving modern techniques such as magnetometers, powerful pumps and earth-moving equipment.

Despite rumors of valuables such as gold, whiskey, and mercury, the cargoes consisted of tons of ordinary goods: clothing, tools, building materials including two complete houses, household goods, food and liquor. The cargoes were well preserved under the mud, but cleaning and preservation was a major effort. Unfortunately, the *Bertrand* museum lacks the means to continue the preservation of the collection. The *Arabia* in Kansas City is supported by hefty entrance fees and income from the large gift shop, and the museum's preservation efforts are ongoing.

Ellen Huppert

NEW MEMBER

The Institute is pleased to welcome into membership **Susan Cohn**, an attorney with an interest in American history, particularly American military history. She is a member of the Peninsula Civil War Roundtable and recently helped found Friends of Civil War Alcatraz which works with the National Park Service to inform the public of the military history of the island. She is working on a monograph related to the history of Alcatraz.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Anne Homan's publisher gave a reception on May 6 at the First Presbyterian Church hall in Livermore in honor of her new book, *Historic Livermore, California: A-Z*. Over 100 people came and besides the pleasure of the music and the food, she sold 92 books!

This spring, **Amy Essington** presented her research on the integration of the Pacific Coast League, the minor baseball league in the West, at the following venues: the Association for African-American Historical Research and Preservation's Fourth Annual Black History Conference (February 2007); a Research Seminar of the History Department at California State University, Long Beach (March 2007); the Pacific Northwest History Conference (April 2007); and the North American Society for Sport History Annual Conference (May 2007). She also participated in a roundtable on *Graduate School Policies and Family Life* at the Western Association of Women Historians Annual Conference (May 2007). Her entry on the "Pacific Coast League" will appear in the forthcoming *Encyclopedia of North American Sport* as well as "Negro League Baseball" and "Brooklyn Dodgers" in the *Encyclopedia of Jim Crow (1880-1965)*.

Marilyn Boxer's article "Rethinking the Socialist Construction and International Career of the Concept 'Bourgeois Feminism'" was published in the *American Historical Review* (February 2007).

MEMBERSHIP

Margaretta Mitchell announces the following upcoming workshops: Hawaii Photo Retreat: "Nude and Nature," June 3-9. Volcano Village, Hawaii; Coupeville Arts Center, "Seeing and Awareness: The Legacy of Ruth Bernhard," June 26-29, Whidbey Island, Washington. For more information see her website: www.margarettamitchell.com

Leslie Friedman reports that The Lively Foundation presents *The Gold Rush*, a program of narratives taken from letters written in the mining fields, music popular in that era, dances, period costumes, and projections of archival photos and prints, to Bay Area elementary schools. This spring they are performing for 6 schools in San Jose, Tiburon, Palo Alto, Menlo Park, and Sunnyvale. "Almost every time we do it, a teacher or principal tells us what a great program it is and that it is the only history or social studies the students are having that term. It is an absolutely wonderful 45 minutes."

Autumn Stanley says that her *Dahlia's* manuscript (the biography of the 19th century reformer and magazine editor Charlotte Smith, 1840-1917) is now with Lehigh University Press, which has sent it out for review. A report is due in mid-June.

At the Western Association of Women Historians Annual Conference held in San Diego in early May, **Francesca Miller** was honored with a special Presidential Panel chaired by Nupur Chaudhuri. The panel was titled *Latin American Feminism and Francesca Miller's Scholarship* and presentations were made by Shirlene Soto, Lynn Stoner, Marguerite Renner, and Gwen Kirkpatrick, all Latin American Scholars.

History Today just published **Peter Mellini's** review of Archie Hunters's fine biography, *Power & Passion in Egypt: A Life of Sir Eldon Gorst, 1861-1911*. Peter also gave eight lectures on Germany since 1945 or "Springtime for Germany" in the Lifelong Learning Program at Sonoma State University.

Bill McPeak reports that he is still waiting for the article for which he received an Institute grant to be

published in the *Journal of the History of Earth Sciences*. The Journal now has a new editor and is being published out of Trinity College, Dublin, so Bill is hopeful that something will happen soon. However, he did have an article published in the June issue of *Military Heritage* on the 16th century man-at-arms Blaise de Monluc. Bill says that historical figures or weapons of the Renaissance is his "secret scholarly pursuit."

Jeanne McDonnell has been busy trying to save from destruction the house in Palo Alto that Juana Briones had constructed in 1844 as the family home. Funds were raised to hire a preservation attorney and the town preservation organization, PAST, pitched in \$4000 and will take on the project. The case will be heard in the County Superior Court on June 7. Meanwhile, Jeanne has been invited to speak at two dedication events. In June, *E Clampus Vitus* acquired and will dedicate a tombstone for Juana's previously unmarked grave in Holy Cross Cemetery in Menlo Park. In the fall, the Juana Briones Heritage Foundation will host a celebration of the state historic plaque they obtained to honor Juana. The monument has been installed in a park on the 4,000-acre ranch Juana purchased in 1844, down the hill from but in sight of the house. Also, the seventh generation of a family closely related to Juana donated the first genuine picture known to exist of her to the archives of the National Park Service at Point Reyes. In the midst of all this, the University of Arizona Press, which Jeanne thought would release her biography of Juana this fall, now speaks of a later publication date.

This edition of the NEWSLETTER has gone to print without the help of **Joanne Lafler's** wonderful editorial eye. Joanne is on vacation and will return for our next issue.

Writing a Local History Newspaper Column

Never use a semi-colon in the first paragraph. Do not put a comma before the last item in a series. Keep your paragraphs short. When writing dates, abbreviate the month. Don't footnote sources. In measurements, write all numbers as numerals. Do not type two spaces between sentences. These are just a few of the rules that I have had to learn in order to write my local history column for a small weekly paper that covers Livermore, Pleasanton and Sunol. I have been writing for the *Independent* since May 25, 2006. Fortunately, I have extensive material to use from my upcoming book, *Historic Livermore, California: A-Z*, and I look on the column as one method to publicize the book. Readers will become familiar with my writing and curious about in local history.

Transferring the book material to a column, however, is not as simple as it sounds. Often, I have to come up with an intriguing title or first paragraph that leads the reader into the rest of the essay. I have a limited number of words, 800 to 850, per column. For some topics, the section in my book is too short, and I must do more research; for some topics the book material is too long, and I must shorten it. Sometimes the topic will simply not fit in that space, and I plead with the editor, who has been very kind about including longer pieces. I must also be aware of my audience. The book is written as a history of Livermore and its surrounds, but the newspaper subscribers live not only in Livermore but also in Pleasanton, Sunol and Dublin. Once in a while I must do completely new research in those areas. I have written such columns about the Dublin crossroads, the Pleasanton canals, autograph books, old flourmills, and the life of Antonio Maria Sunol.

I must also be sensitive to community concerns. I did not rant and rave at the realtor who wants to replace the googie-style Donut Wheel with a characterless three-story office building. When a reader told me of the problem, I wrote about the history of the old building. A fancy new cinema opened in Livermore recently, and many people are worried about the competition for the older Vine

Theater. Several local papers had articles about that, so I wrote instead about the development of motion pictures here in town before there was a Vine.

I also try at times to be aware of the calendar. The Holy Ghost celebrations in Livermore were held in early June, and I wrote a column on them. The rodeo is a major event in Livermore, and I covered that with a column on its history. Before the Sacramento memorial parade for women's suffrage in August, I wrote about the speeches and open-air meetings in Livermore and the response of local women to the first voter registration in 1912. My column in early November was on Livermore's role in World War I. I have also varied the subjects of the columns; within five weeks I wrote about a stagecoach inn, a woman who ran a mortuary, the Coast Manufacturing and Supply Company, and the influenza epidemic. The most recent columns have been on Pleasanton's early development, the red-light district in Livermore, Dorothy Hock (city clerk for 30 years), land acquisition and Doctor Taylor (doctor here from 1874 to 1931).

I have had considerable positive feedback from friends, acquaintances and former students, and even strangers who have contacted me through my e-mail address given at the end of the column. Sometimes they ask for more details or they give me more information about the topic. Often, they suggest topics for me or suggest people that I should interview. Thinking that I am THE source for local history, people write with questions about local issues. I had an e-mail last week asking if the Summit Garage, an old landmark, was going to be torn down. I made several contacts and am waiting to hear the results.

Louis Gardella was sent a copy of my column on his family, and we have been in correspondence since then. I send e-mails to him, and he writes back long hand-written letters. He is 84 years old but clearly remembers early days in Livermore when his father was the mayor and his mother headed the bottling line at the Cresta Blanca Winery. My husband teases me that all this information will be for a second edition—or even another book.

CALENDAR

June 17 Work-in-Progress -- Doris Linder
June 24 Introductory meeting of Renaissance and Baroque Art Course
July 15 Work-in-Progress -- Amy Essington
July 21 California History Round Table
September 9 Membership Pot Luck Dinner

Members are encouraged to let us know all their news – a paper being given at a conference; a new job or position; the awarding of a grant or fellowship. Please send all material for the NEWSLETTER either by e-mail to lorrie@galleyslaves.com or to the Institute's postal address given below. Also, we welcome the opportunity to review members' newly published books. Contact **Autumn Stanley** at autumn_stanley@sbcglobal.net. The deadline for the next NEWSLETTER is **August 31, 2007**.

The NEWSLETTER is the official publication of the Institute for Historical Study, a scholarly organization designed to promote the research, writing, and public discussion of history. Membership in the Institute is open to independent and academically affiliated scholars who are in agreement with its aims and who have a commitment to historical study. Membership inquiries should be sent to the Institute address.

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