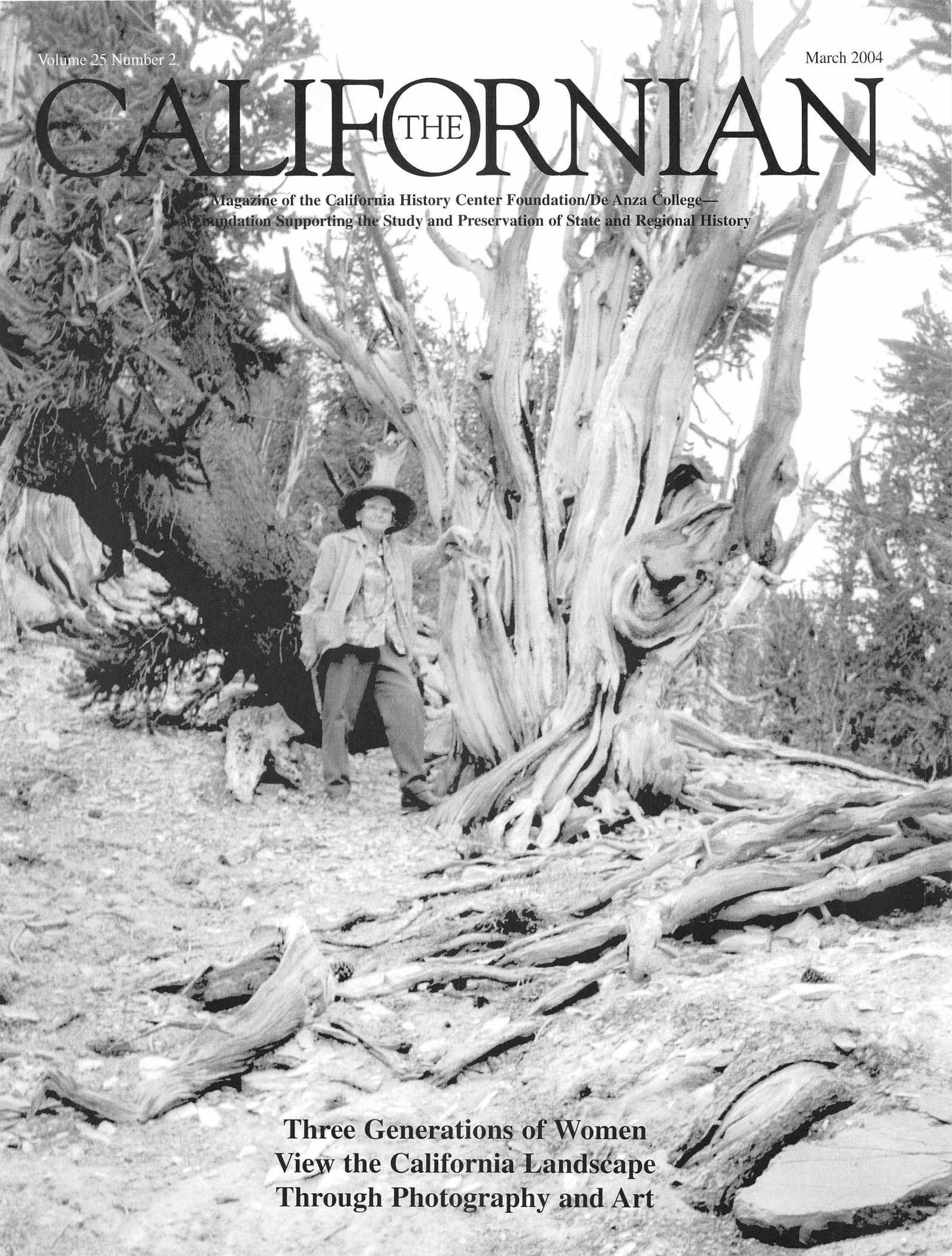


Volume 25 Number 2

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CALIFORNIA THE ORNIAN

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



**Three Generations of Women
View the California Landscape
Through Photography and Art**

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Importance of Local History



Tom Izu

We live in a period when many seem to think that “history has ended” and that the present is, in fact, an immutable region of reality, an exception of history, removed by some modernizing force of technology and social advancement from the flow of time. I have overheard discussions, read interviews and eavesdropped on conversations that express alarm and distress over the many worries we face — the economy, terrorism, war, and disease,

and shock and dismay at how these things have suddenly appeared, and at how and why they are happening to us now. All seem to treat these maladies as something caused by a person, a group, or even a current attitude or lack of one, and some insist that they can and must be immediately blamed on someone or some group if any of us are to feel any personal relief. It’s as if we are all supposed to see ourselves in some sort of movie script, complete with good guys, bad guys and a possible happy ending, but one denied to us.

I have felt this myself, slipping into a perpetual state of worry and resentment, and of longing for simple answers. But when I do this, I realize now that I am leaving the past, present, and future behind and entering into a kind of “historical wormhole.” I let my perception of the civic and social world that relies upon knowledge

of history fall away, leaving me in a passive state, oscillating between anger and depression, or simply numb.

This is why I believe that the promotion of local history is so important. It can be used as an invigorating elixir for such time-displacement distortions that leave us dazed and morose. It can help force us back into the real present — a place connected to the past *and* to the future. It can also provide a common language and starting point to help us discuss, together, how we fit into all of this and what we should do

now. It can do all of this because it combines place, time, and our experiences within those two realms all in one neat package. When approached correctly, it reminds us that we have a connection to a geographic place and we live in a specific time period shaped by past events and on-going institutions.

Local history combined with a true sense of place provides us the opportunity to ponder our present circumstances, whether it concerns debate about local development, or how to get along with each other. But it doesn’t help us if some part of the community tries to claim control of interpretation of the local past and to determine what should or shouldn’t be included. It requires a lot of patience and willingness to hear many stories at once, from those who have been here, in this locale, for many, many years and from those who have only recently arrived, and from those of positions of current or past privilege, and from those who have faced almost unspeakable neglect, abuse, and powerlessness.

Our center, as a collaboration between De Anza College and the community, is in an ideal position to link together the strengths of academic and civic life, to bring together the leadership of the established heritage community with youth, who represent a diverse and vibrant new leadership, and our future.

It has been a rather worrisome period here on the campus, always wondering what may happen with the state budget. I was much relieved to hear that there will be no “mid-year” cuts meaning that we here at the center can assume a fairly steady road at least until the next academic year (2004-05). Our college staff assistant position remains frozen, leaving us without the sufficient support we need to carry on many of the activities we usually do. However, the CHCF Board agreed to hire a part-time, temporary support staff member for the remainder of this year to help catch up. I am pleased to have Kathleen Russ here on staff to help get us back on track.

Our center will contribute to the observation of Women’s History Month this year by sponsoring a new exhibit, “Second Fiddle: Women’s Clubs Orchestrate New Roles 1900 – 1920,” and by hosting lectures and discussions through our participation in the De Anza College Women’s History Month Committee. Please come and see our new exhibit and join us at some of our upcoming events. This issue of *The Californian* features an essay by our new staff member, Kathleen Russ, in which she explores women in her family who illustrated their love of California through art and photography.

—Tom Izu, Director

COVER: Elsie Mead and a Bristlecone pine tree in the White Mountains east of Bishop, California. See Feature on page 5.

CALENDAR

March	Women's History Month events (call CHC for information)	May 29	"East Bay Regional Park District: A Shared Vision" – Field Trip
March–June 10	CHC Exhibit: <i>Second Fiddle: Women's Club Orchestrate New Roles 1900-1920</i> (See story below)	May 31	Memorial Day (campus closed)
March 26	Last day of Winter Quarter	June 5	"East Bay Regional Park District: A Shared Vision" – Field Trip
April 5	First day of Spring Quarter	June 6	Wine, Cheese, and Sourdough Bread Event for members
April 17	"The United States and the Conquest of California" – Field Trip	June 12 and 13	"Splendid Isolation: History and Preservation of Big Sur" — Field Trip
April 24	"The United States and the Conquest of California" – Field Trip	June 25	Last day of Spring Quarter. Center closes for summer break
May 8	"Marin: A State of Mind" – Field Trip		
May 15	"Marin: A State of Mind" – Field Trip		

A New CHC Exhibit for Women's History Month

“**S**econd Fiddle: Women's Clubs Orchestrate New Roles 1900–1920” is the title of the center's new exhibit, which opened in early March for Women's History Month, and will be open for viewing until June 10

At the turn of the 20th century, women played a secondary role in almost every arena of public and private life. Women's clubs provided a forum for members to play a primary role in leadership, education, and social policy.

In 1900, more than two million women in the United States participated in women's clubs. The clubs formed for a variety of causes and reasons, including women's suffrage, temperance, civic improvement, improved race relations, study and education, and philanthropy. They were a powerful by-product of the Progressive Movement, initiating significant social change in the United States.

“Second Fiddle” showcases some of those clubs and associated activities. Plan a visit to the exhibition for a glimpse of this important piece of

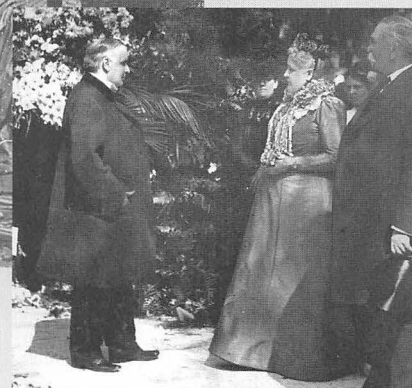


Women's suffrage meeting in Palo Alto at a garden tea party. Garden tea parties evolved into more structured meetings on women's suffrage.

Courtesy of the Palo Alto Historical Association.

social and political history of our county.

Regular center hours are, Tuesday through Thursday, 9:30 a.m. to 12 Noon and 1 to 4 p.m., or by appointment. Call (408) 864-8986 for more information.



U.S. President William McKinley greets Mrs. E.O. (Catherine) Smith in Saint James Park, San José, California, 1901. Catherine Smith was active in several local women's groups, including the San José Woman's Club.

EDUCATION

State and Regional History

The following courses will be offered Spring Quarter 2004 through the California History Center. Please see the History Department class listings section of the Spring Schedule of Classes for detailed information (i.e., course ID #, call #, and units.) **For additional course information, call the center at (408) 864-8712.**

MARIN: A STATE OF MIND

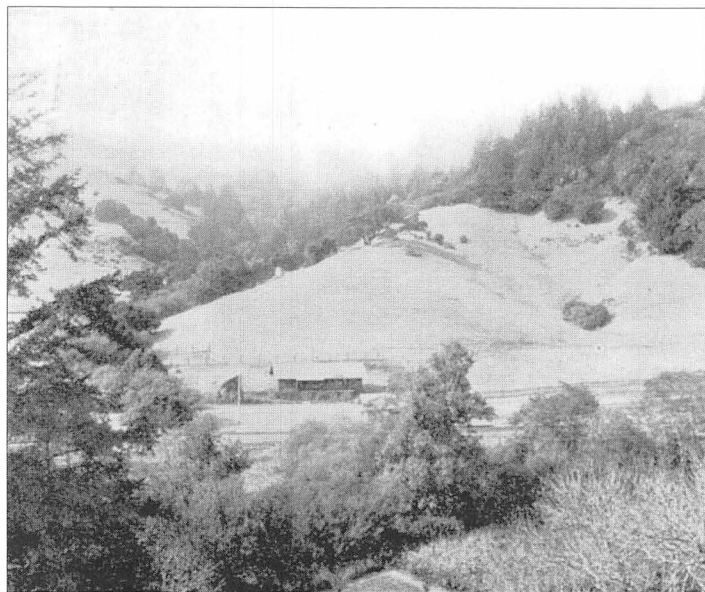
Betty Hirsch (instructor)

HIST-053X-95 · 2 Units

The impassioned preservationists of the past would smile if they could see present day Marin and view all the areas saved through the towering efforts of the environmental activists over the years. Landmarks such as Points Reyes, Muir Woods, the Marin Headlands, Muir Beach, Stinson Beach, and Olema Valley are now part of the National Park System. This course will examine the history of Marin with an emphasis on the great natural sites that are now forever protected from development. Marin is not merely a geographical region, but a state of mind. The class will visit several sites in Marin.

Lectures: Thursday, April 29, and Thursday, May 13
6:20 p.m. to 10 p.m., CHC Classroom

Field Trips: Saturday, May 8 and Saturday, May 15



An early photo of Lugunitas in Marin County

EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT: A SHARED VISION

Betty Hirsch (instructor)

HIST-053X-96 · 2 Units

Early visionaries dreamed of preserving beautiful scenery in the East Bay hills and shoreline. Creative vision and unprecedented cooperation among governmental agencies, the University of California and community groups brought the vision and dream to fruition. This class will convey the excitement and drama of

the superhuman efforts to get this project under way during the Depression and examine the inspiring feats of early leaders. The diversity of parks in this district is staggering, from Tilden, the flagship park containing a professional golf course, botanical garden, the East Bay's first carousel, and the Brazil Building from the Treasure Island World's Fair, to Coyote Hills, a former Ohlone Indian site, to Black Diamond, a former coal mine, to Sibley, a former volcano, to Crown Beach, formerly the Coney Island of the West. The class will visit several parks of breathtaking beauty and diversity.

Lectures: Thursday, May 20 and Thursday, June 3
6:20 p.m. to 10 p.m., CHC Classroom

Field Trips: Saturday, May 29 and Saturday, June 5

THE UNITED STATES AND THE CONQUEST OF CALIFORNIA

Chatham Forbes (instructor)

HIST-051W-95 · 1 Unit

The conquest of Mexican California took place against a background of international rivalries and national politics. Strong and controversial leaders made questionable judgments at critical times. Emotions ran high, and military actions were widespread across the state. The class will study this pivotal event in the classroom and on field study trips to key historic sites.

Lectures: Thursday, April 15 and Thursday, April 22
6:20 p.m. to 10 p.m., CHC Classroom

Field Trips: Saturday, April 17 and Saturday, April 24

SPLENDID ISOLATION: HISTORY AND PRESERVATION OF BIG SUR

Chatham Forbes (instructor)

HIST-053W-95 · 1 Unit

Long protected by its mountain barrier, inhospitable shore, and the preservationist zeal of its admirers, Big Sur remains a wild and isolated coast, little changed by the hand of man. Early ranchers were followed by artists, writers, cloistered religious, and various other refugees from urban society. The history of the region reflects a local and statewide consensus against change. The story of Big Sur will be presented in the classroom and on a two-day field study.

Lectures: Thursday, June 10, and Thursday, June 17
6:20 p.m. to 10 p.m., CHC Classroom

Field Trips: Saturday, June 12 and Sunday, June 13

FEATURE

Three Generations of Women View the California Landscape Through Photography and Art

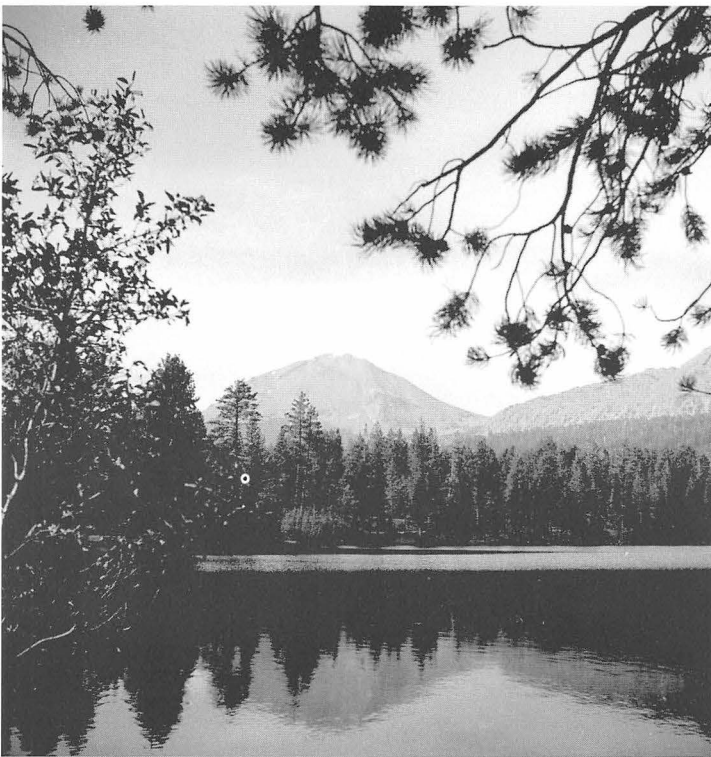
by Kathleen Russ



Left to right, Kathleen Russ, Elsie D. Mead and Virginia Keith, 1965.

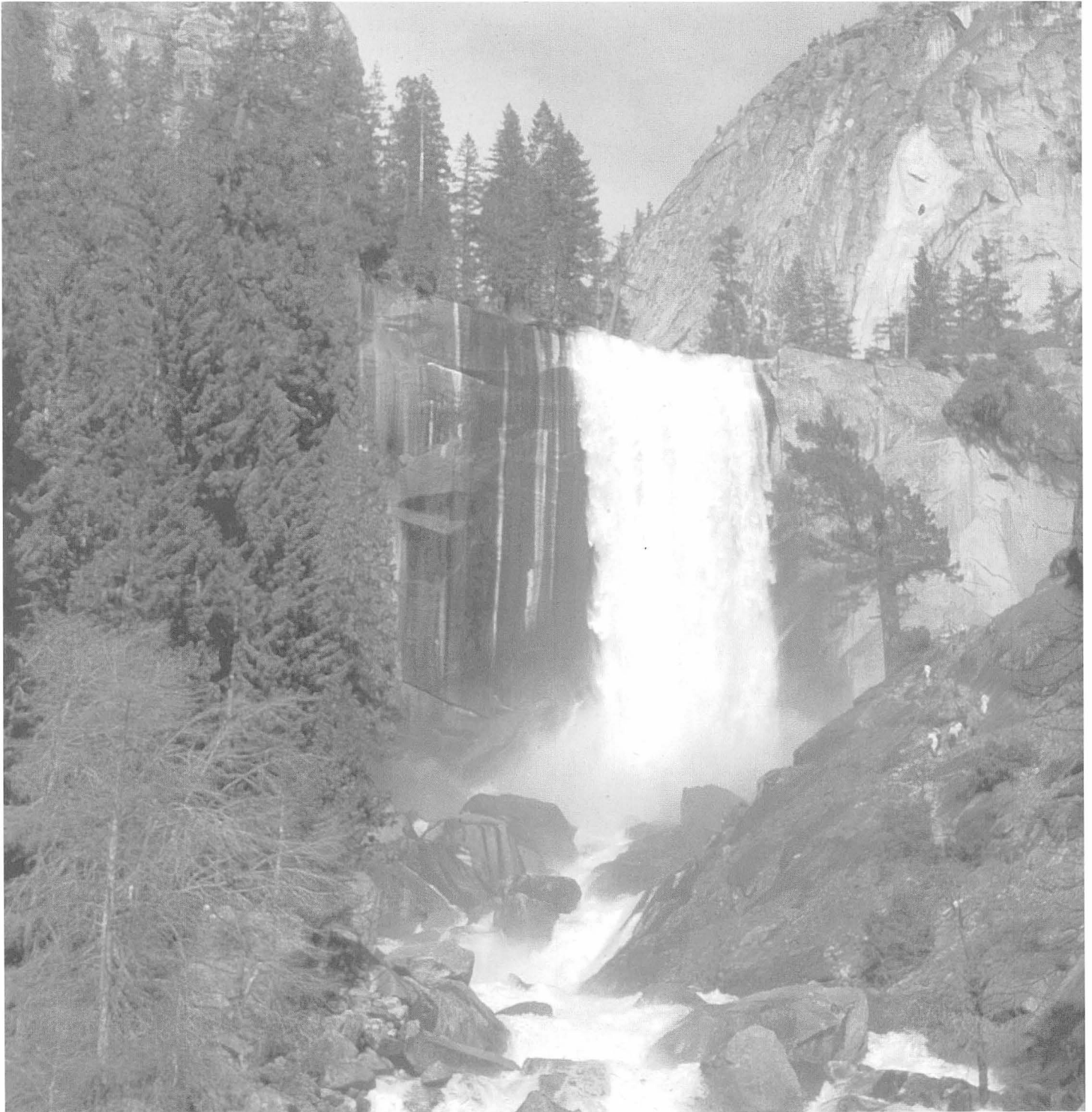
In the following article, Kathleen Russ — CHC staff member — discusses how women in her family have recorded their impressions of the Golden State. For more information about Kathleen's background, see the article on page 14.

Women's History Month prompts me to reflect upon the significant women in my life. I am thankful for the values and creative energy threaded on to me from my grandmother and my mother. Spanning over a century in California, we represent three generations of women who have chosen to illustrate our love for the state through different media; grandmother photographed and wrote travel logs, mother painted the California landscape, and I paint and incorporate ephemera into historical collages. It occurs to me that although we have utilized different tools to express our creativity, we have shared a distinctly feminine view of the landscape of California. Our story is not so remarkable...it is the story of women from Eureka to San Diego and the fibers that weave them together over time. I am speaking of the ties that bind us together as women.



Clockwise, from above: Reflection Lake, Mount Lassen, by Elsie Mead; California Barn Scene by Virginia Keith; and California Landscape by Kathleen Russ.





Elsie Mead's photograph of Vernal Falls, 1962.



"The Chateau" — the Meads' trusty travel trailer.

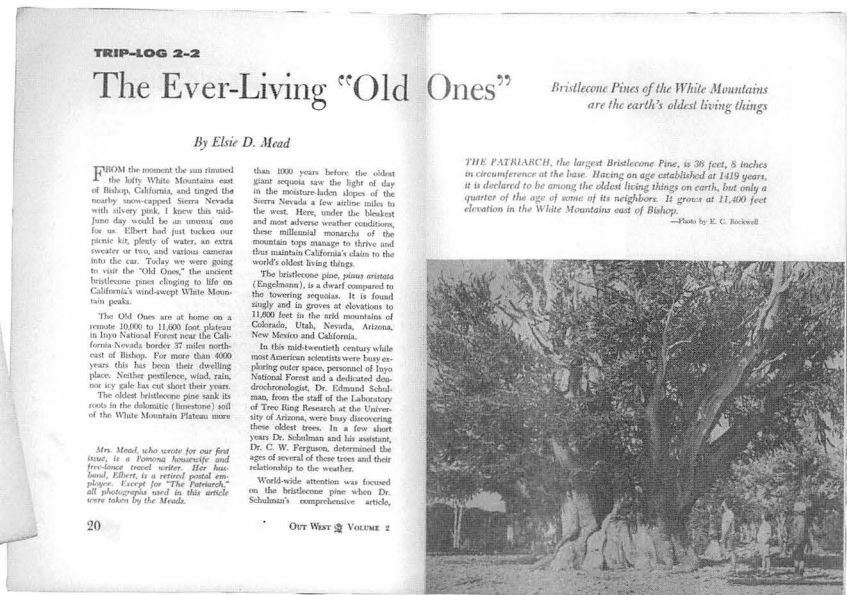
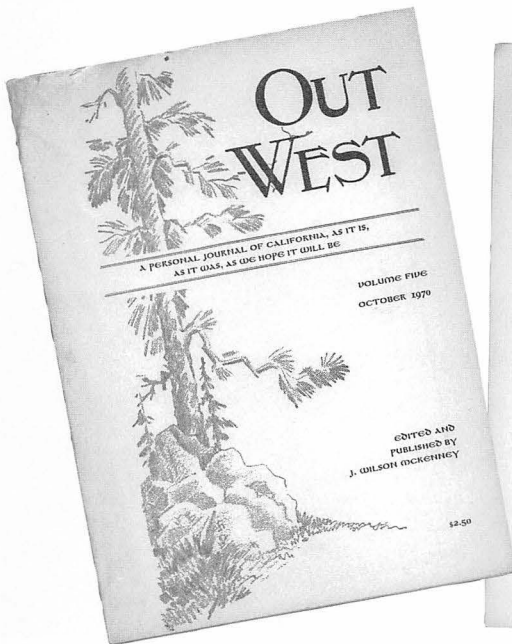
Through her words and actions, my maternal grandmother, Elsie D. Mead, passed on to me a love and genuine respect for Mother Nature and the simpler things in life. A highly organized naturalist, she had a keen interest in the environment. With little formal education, she managed to cultivate and leave us a rich inheritance of photographs and writings on the wonders of the West. After my grandfather Elbert retired from the postal service in the 1950s, they journeyed across the country in their trusty travel trailer, "the Chateau."

In many ways, the decades of the 1950s and 1960s were unprecedented times of fear, change, and turmoil in American his-

tory. My grandmother's generation had survived the Great Depression and World War II, which served to temper their approach to life with humble gratitude and a sense of renewed independence. Many — like my grandmother's father, David Marshall Cox, who came to the Imperial Valley of California from Louisiana to pick cotton — were subjected to the hardships and adversities that can build strong character. The Depression lived on by inhabiting and haunting their minds, and ultimately affecting the way they lived out their lives. Above all, they learned to live within their means, a lesson my generation struggles with. At any rate, in their renewed post-WWII security, there was a call to the great outdoors and one trend was to go by travel trailer. Gas was considerably cheaper, and this was an affordable and comfortable way to travel out on the open road.

Many of my grandmother's travel logs appeared in a publication entitled *Out West*. In homage to her I will name just a few of the stories she had published: "High Desert Sanctuary," "San Bernardino Mountain Tour," "Our Oldest Ones — Bristlecone Pines of the White Mountains," and "Master Artists at Work / Death Valley."

Even though her body of work represents a layperson's point of view, it is profound in its own right because it is a glimpse into the heart and mind of an average Californian. This was indeed her gift to the world, her legacy to her family, and I applaud her efforts. Nothing would have pleased her more than to see her photographs again brought to life and gracing this particular issue of *The Californian*.



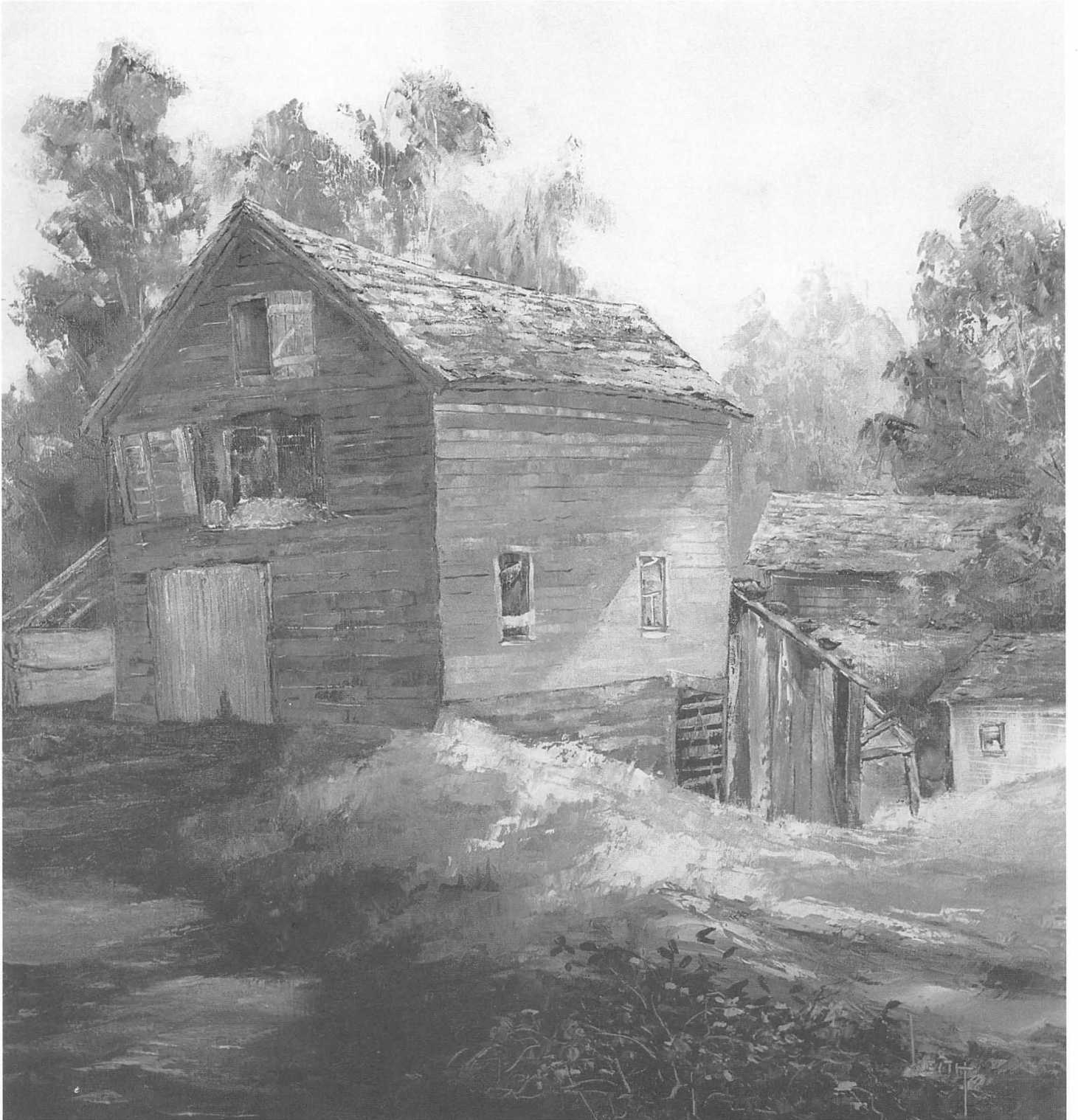


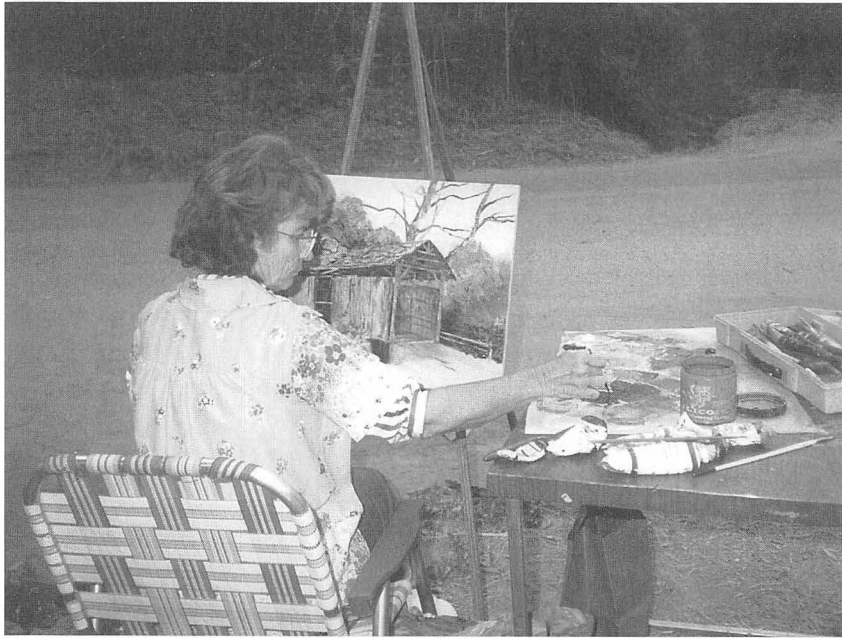
Virginia Keith with one of her early barn paintings, 1967.

As my grandmother documented her appreciation and enthusiasm for the California landscape through a camera lens, my mother chose to do so with a palette knife and oil paint. They each captured, in their own way, the color and value of California. In his book entitled *Santa Clara Valley, California: An Artist's View – Today and Yesterday*, Anthony Quartuccio illustrates his lifetime of painting and sketching the beauty and bounty of the valley. In the introduction, Wes Peyton states, "If you want to know a place, that is if you want to fix the feel and the smell and the look of it deep down in your bones, find yourself an artist. Little of importance escapes the artist's eye (or heart), which is why art often is better history than history." Well, I don't know if art is better history, but it certainly contributes significantly to history because it generally mirrors the times. Just like Quartuccio, my mother, Virginia Keith, painted the changing landscape and vanishing lifestyle of the farms throughout California. She photographed and painted nearly every barn in Santa Clara Valley during the 1970s—at least what was left of them. Even back then most of the grand old barns were starting to fall down and crumble. Barns, along with the horses and hay that once inhabited them, have become the ghosts of bygone days.

Preferring not only to see her subject matter but also to smell the barns and blossoms on the wind, oil painting on location was her favored technique. Also known as "plein aire" painting, this







Virginia Keith painting on location — Felton, California.

technique was made popular by both European and American Impressionists. Some Easterners, such as Childe Hassam and William Merritt Chase came to California to witness and paint its grandeur. From the 1900s to the 1920s, many California painters joined this movement of painting out-of-doors. The goal in this technique was to capture the natural light as it changes throughout the day. Mother's painting style was rustic and bold, with thick passes of earthy colors. I marveled at how she could complete an entire painting using only a palette knife as a tool. She was a skillful painter and taught me through example to cherish nature's bounty.

As a single mother, my mother was, and remains, a working artist and an excellent role model for me. She surrounded me with other independent and spirited women, like-minded artists who collectively presented a world of possibility and inspired me to follow my heart. Times had changed considerably during my mother's generation; women were struggling for a voice, for their place in the scheme of things. I watched and admired my mother's quiet determination to pursue her art and earn a living. In actuality, she was a brave woman, a risk-taker, and fiercely independent.

It is not a passing fancy, this love of earth and its inhabitants; in my case, it is deeply rooted and learned from family. It is part of life, part of me, the part that values the importance of remembering and honoring the past. Fortunate are those blessed with a pleasant childhood, for in life's cycle childhood is a critical por-

tion because it provides a foundation for remembering, a book of knowledge to read from. I never thought that I would echo the sentiments of my mother and grandmother as they spoke warmly of the good old days when we all had more time. As a blossoming child myself, I witnessed the grandeur and glory of this valley. It saddens me that the most fertile soil in the world has been covered by concrete and silicon dreams. I realize that change is inevitable, mostly good, and essential to progress; however, I also think that the human race should be mindful of what is done with the fruit of its labors. Figuratively speaking, in this modern, hectic world, people tend to lose sight of the soil beneath them, as a matter of fact, it has been covered up completely. I recognize that my point of view is nostalgic; nonetheless, I like to keep this in mind because I have fond memories of a world "less-wired," where people followed the natural rhythms of nature and circled through life at a seemingly slower pace.

"We live in time and through it, we build our huts in its ruins, or used to, and we cannot afford all these abandonings," Wallace Stegner wrote in his Pulitzer Prize-winning book *Angle of Repose*. We cannot afford to be so reckless, nor can we afford to toss aside the values bestowed upon us by our ancestors. A solid conservationist, Stegner acted as a special assistant to U.S. Secretary of the Interior Stewart Udall. In



Kathleen Russ drew this portrait of her grandmother Elsie on the day she died in 1992.



Russ' strong interest in local history has become a focal point of her artwork, as shown in this collage celebrating Los Gatos.

1960, he wrote “The Wilderness Letter,” in which he stated, “We need wilderness preserved—as much of it as is still left, and as many kinds—because it was the challenge against which our character as a people was formed. The reminder and reassurance that it is still there is good for our spiritual health even if we never once in ten years set foot in it.” The National Wilderness Preservation System in 1964 was established as a result of “The Wilderness Letter” (Hepworth). Echoing Stegner’s sentiments, my grandmother wrote the following conclusion in her 1967 article, entitled “Our Oldest Ones,” about the Bristlecone Pines of the White Mountains:

Let the ancient pines speak for themselves. Walk among them. But leave them as you find them - erect or prone as the case may be - tempered “driftwood,” if you will, on the shores of time. Thus will the everlasting Old Ones continue to amaze scientists with their ability to preserve the most coveted prize since time began, life itself.

Retaining a sense of the past — of history — in turn brings us closer to who we are. The women in my life ignited this fire for the past and now I carry the same torch. In the last years of her life, I remember grandmother sitting at my mother’s house with boxes of her slides and photographs in front of her. Although she could barely see, she painstakingly and thoroughly went

through all of them, organizing and writing dates and descriptions on the backs. She wanted desperately to leave her mark and she has. So nowadays a black and white photograph of my grandmother lives on my desk to keep her spirit near. In the photograph she is sitting on a granite rock somewhere in the Sierras. The sky is clear and bright and reflects the warm hint of a smile on her face. Clearly she is at peace; in fact, she looks as though she is part of the landscape itself. That sums up my grandmother. In my mind it is no accident that her eyes were the soft green and gray color of serpentine, the state rock of California. Through them she saw the land she loved to its very core and reflected that wisdom back to my mother and me.

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The photograph of Elsie Mead that resides on Kathleen Russ’ desk to keep her grandmother’s spirit near.



Two February Events Looked at Important Issues

'Day of Remembrance'

Throughout the state and nation, Japanese American communities commemorate the date of February 19, 1942 as the beginning of the mass incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II. On that date more than 60 years ago, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed

This year's event focused not only on the history of the World War II incarceration, but also on its significance today as we face similar constitutional and civil liberties' issues during the "war against terrorism."

Executive Order 9066, which authorized military officials to remove from the West Coast any and all groups deemed a security threat to the nation. This set into motion the removal and incarceration of 120,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry in what is now considered to be one of the most significant violations of

constitutional and civil liberties caused by a single act in our country's history.

Last year, CHC hosted the first 'Day of Remembrance' with over 200 students, staff and community members participating. Many came to hear Fred Korematsu, petitioner in the famous Supreme Court case, *Korematsu v. U.S.*, and to share their feelings and deep concerns about protecting our civil liberties, especially in times of crisis.

Longtime CHCF member and area resident Audrey Butcher shared a moving story of how she remembered Japanese American school children having to say goodbye to their teachers and classmates when they were forced to leave their homes to face internment for the duration of the war.

For this year's event we focused not only on the history of the World War II incarceration, but also on its significance today as we face similar constitutional and civil liberties' issues during the "war against terrorism."

Special guest speaker and attorney Banafsheh Akhlaghi recounted the cases she defended after September 11th involving many Arab Americans held without charges and for indefinite periods by the U.S. Government because of their country of origin. Akhlaghi has since received special awards and honors for her determination and courage to take these cases while facing much criticism and even death threats.

Mits Koshiyama, who was interned in the Heart Mountain Internment Camp, was asked to share his experiences when he became one of the "Heart Mountain Resisters" after refusing to be drafted into the U.S. Army unless his and his family's constitutional rights were reinstated.

Susan Hayase, activist and a former presidential appointee under the Clinton Administration to the Civil Liberties Public Education Fund, also spoke on the need to educate the public about the internment. Understanding the past, she feels, would help Americans be more vigilant in ensuring that the constitution and civil liberties are upheld in times of war and crisis.

Black History Month

To commemorate Black History Month (February), the CHC held two events.

Early in the month, Steven Millner, professor of African-American Studies at San José State University and senior editor of a new book — *California's Changing Majority: Historic and Contemporary Dynamics* — talked about his publication.

The discussion's focus included a review of the many times that the "majority" has changed in California's past and the social dynamics that are unfolding as it does so again.

The importance of "power shifts" as opposed to mere ethnic number changes was part of the discussion as well as the identification of key social institutions where these shifts are most noticeable.

"Our book's focus," said Millner,

"reflects both uplifting themes as does it reveal some of the more challenging aspects of past patterns of racism, sexism, and homophobia. The book's contents give excellent information about long neglected contributors to the Golden State's evolution. It is quite balanced though not all inclusive. We authors are all parents and teachers in California and are non-natives as well...we deliberately chose this state and as such are both passionate and 'objective' in our assessments about this locale."

Later in the month, CHCF Trustee and De Anza history instructor David Howard-Pitney and De Anza instructor Anne Hickling discussed Martin Luther King Jr., Malcolm X, and Paul Robeson and their civil rights leadership in Cold War America.

In his talk titled "A Meeting of the Minds?," Howard-Pitney compared and contrasted the ideas of King and Malcolm, revealing the range of each man's ideology, demonstrating

their differences, similarities, and evolution over time. He has just published a new book, *Martin Luther King Jr., Malcolm X, and the Civil Rights*

In his talk, Howard-Pitney compared and contrasted the ideas of Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X.

Struggle of the 1950s and 1960: A Brief History with Documents.

In her talk titled "Paul Robeson at Peekskill," Hickling provided background on Robeson as well as the specific events surrounding his two concerts and the ensuing riots at Peekskill, N.Y., in 1949. Featured was part of her oral history CD "Peekskill 50 Years Later," which was produced for radio to reintroduce the famous African-American singer and civil rights advocate into the American mainstream consciousness after the suppression of his singing and activism during the Cold War era. At the Peekskill concerts, white mobs rioted while state police stood by.

FOUNDATION NOTES

New Support Staff Member Joins CHC

The CHCF has hired Kathleen Russ as a part-time, temporary support staff member for the center. She will provide assistance sorely missed after the center lost former staff assistant Joni Motoshige last year.

Russ is a third generation Californian who currently resides in the Santa Cruz Mountains. Originally from Southern California, she moved to the Santa Cruz Mountains when she was a child and attended Loma Prieta School.



Kathleen Russ

Russ brings to the center a rich, varied background and exceptional skills. She had her own art business for a number of years featuring a full line of items including her drawings and paintings, which were transferred onto pillows and prints or incorporated into costume jewelry. Her work has been sold nationally in stores such as Neiman Marcus and Nordstrom.

After a bout with cancer, Russ reevaluated her life and decided to take a different course, choosing a career working with the elderly. She was the marketing director for an assisted living agency and became a volunteer for the Alzheimer's Association, dedicating herself to an art program that helps those with Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia. She is currently pursuing degrees in psychology and gerontology with the ultimate goal of obtaining a graduate degree in art therapy.

Russ has a strong interest in local history, especially as captured in art and in storytelling. She is the daughter of an artist and the granddaughter of a photographer (see the feature story she wrote on page 5). Her experience with the elderly has helped her develop a keen appreciation for stories and recollections. "I enjoy working here because history to me is a combination of people and the stories they tell."

CHCF Welcomes New Board Member

De Anza history instructor Carlos Mujal has joined the CHCF Board of Trustees.

"We are pleased to have Carlos as a member of our board," said CHC Executive Director Tom Izu. "He brings a perspective and insight that will greatly aid the development of our programs and educational activities."

Since 2001, Mujal has been a full-time instructor in the history department at De Anza College. He is currently teaching history for the Social Sciences/ Humanities Division and the Intercultural Studies Division. His doctoral work at UC Berkeley involved research on Alta California during the Spanish/Mexican era.

In the past, Mujal has worked for the California History Social Science Project at UC Berkeley and has provided historical presentations to groups such as the Oakland Unified School District staff as well as serving as an educational consultant to school districts.

Mujal is currently a member of the De Anza Senate, and he is working with a local community action group to improve educational opportunities for minorities and women.

Board Gives Support To Videotape Project

The CHCF Board of Trustees has voted to support the "Hidden Histories of California" videotape project, and authorized Executive Director Tom Izu to seek grants needed to fund it.

The project is directed by Trustee Jean Libby, who says the goal of the program is to interview people in our communities who have knowledge and experience in so-called "Hidden Histories of California."

The videotapes are academically researched and produced by De Anza faculty and students. Students receive academic credit, and copies of the videotapes are placed in the center's Stockmeir Library.

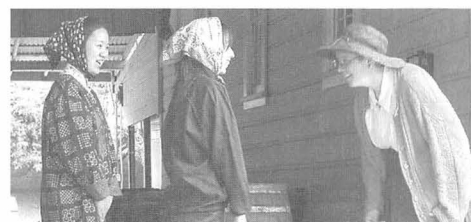


Photo by Jean Libby

Lori Deal, right, portrays Sara Brown in an upcoming CHC-sponsored video. Here she greets history students Kristin Womack and Sixia Lu with "Ohayō," Japanese for "hello." They are filming the story of "Lucy Higgins and Sara Brown" at the Cooper-Garrod Winery in Saratoga.



Photo by Thomas Gibson

Class Studies Abolitionist Women

This group of students visited the Heritage Orchard in Saratoga as part of the recent CHC class "Abolitionist Women of the Santa Clara Valley" led by instructor and CHCF Trustee Jean Libby, left. The class studied Sara Brown and Ellen Brown Fablinger, daughters of John Brown, who died in his fight to abolish slavery. His daughters were pioneers in the valley, as teachers, orchardists and cannery.

FOUNDATION NOTES

New Membership System to Begin

The CHCF is changing its membership renewal program this year. From now on, we will be converting all memberships to one common renewal month. We are adjusting our membership year to run from July 1 to June 30 to correspond with our fiscal year. Given our limited level of staff support, this will make it more efficient for our membership processing.

To help make this transition easier, we have a special offer for current and renewing members. If you have recently renewed your membership, you will enjoy the rest of this year's membership, plus next year for the price of a one-year membership. If you haven't renewed yet and need to, do so now until March 15, 2004, and take advantage of our offer of 18 months of membership for the price of a one-year membership. Please call Executive Director Tom Izu at (408) 864-8986 for more information.

CHC Receives Another Leonard Estate Gift

The estate of the late Burrel Leonard made a gift of \$86,421 to CHCF in support of its regional history work. The gift will be placed in the Center's Burrel Leonard Memorial Endowment Fund.

"We deeply appreciate the support of Mr. Leonard's Estate," said CHC Executive Director Tom Izu. "This gift is such a treasure because it will help CHCF continue its work well into the future."

Leonard was a descendant of a pioneering family that first settled in Santa Clara County in the mid-1800s. He was a successful fruit grower whose orchard became Cupertino's Vallco Park development. He played key roles in the incorporation of the city of Cupertino and its post-agricultural growth. Mr. Leonard also was a benefactor of many local charitable causes and a strong supporter of local history organizations and programs. He died on December 22, 2000 at the age of 89.

'Night of Magic' To Benefit Center

For 10 years the Foothill-De Anza Community College District has held a fundraising extravaganza called "Night of Magic." This very successful event with dinner and silent auction raises funds for different divisions of De Anza College.

This year, the Social Sciences and Humanities Division has been selected to be the beneficiary of the 11th annual "Night of Magic, and the CHCF, as a part of the division, will receive a share of the funds raised.

Community supporters are currently planning the event tentatively set for Nov 6, 2004, and CHCF Board members are excited and looking forward to participating and receiving this needed support.

Spring Membership Event Planned

To kick off our new membership drive in June, CHCF will host a Spring Wine, Cheese, and Sourdough Bread reception for current and new members. Tentatively scheduled for the afternoon on Sunday, June 6, the event will feature California wine, bread and cheese sponsored by a local winery, bakery, and dairy, respectively.

Guest speakers will discuss the special qualities of these three staples that California provides the nation and world. Please keep a look out for more information by mail.

Renewing Members

Patron \$500 William Lester III

Colleague \$250 Martha Kanter

Sponsor \$100

Jean Libby, Audrey Butcher, Charles Newman, Dr. and Mrs. Robert B. Fenwick

Supporter \$50 Sam Winklebleck

Individual \$30

Dale Mouritsen, Susan Bull, Betty Normandin, Marilyn Bauriedel, Paul C. Trimble

A special thank you to the De Anza College staff and faculty who renew their memberships monthly through a payroll deduction plan: Susan E. Bruch, Judy C. Coleman, David Howard-Pitney, Kathleen Kyne, Narma Mayfield, Judy Miner, Pauline E. Waathiq

Special Gifts

Foundation Gifts

The Estate of Burrel Leonard, Seven Springs Foundation, Stella B. Gross Charitable Trust

Individual General Donations

Leo Hoefler

Historic District Restoration

Robert and Marion Grimm, Linda and John Swan

Photo by Jean Libby



Holiday Open House—A large group of warm and friendly faces stopped by the center to view the Telescope Through Time exhibit during our annual Holiday Open House. It was a reunion of long-time friends of the center, such as former CHC Executive Director Kathi Peregrin (who shared photos of her new grandson), and Foothill-De Anza Community College District founder Dr. Robert Smithwick.

NEW CHC EXHIBIT CELEBRATES WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

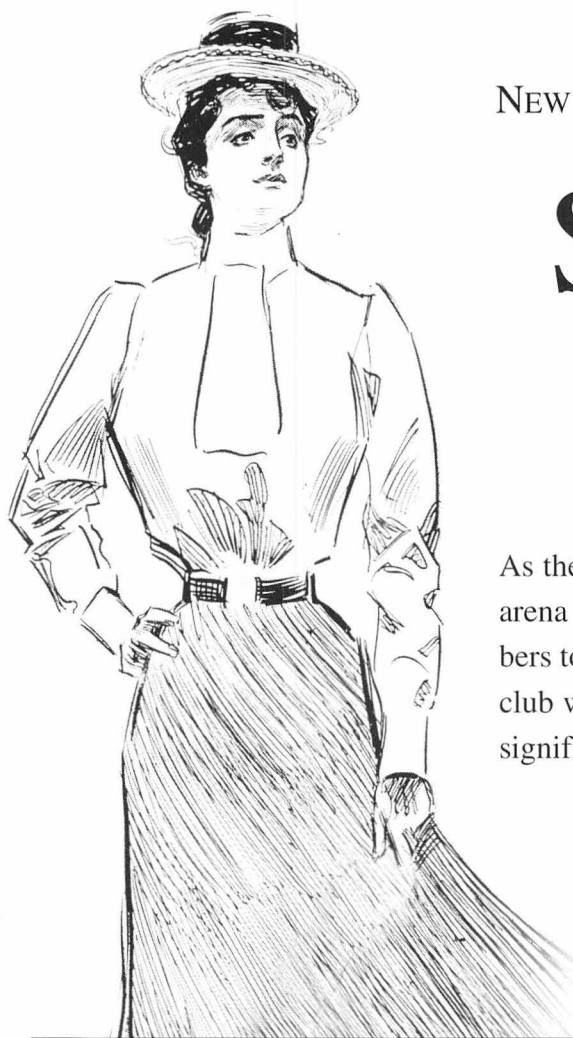
Second fiddle

Women's Clubs Orchestrate New Roles 1900-1920

As the 20th century began, women played a secondary role in almost every arena of public and private life. Women's clubs provided a forum for members to play a primary role in leadership, education, and social policy. These club were a powerful by-product of the Progressive Movement, initiating a significant social change in the U.S.

Visit the exhibit now through June 10 at the
California History Center. Free and open to the public.

Hours: Tuesday through Thursday, 9:30 a.m. to noon and
1-4 p.m., or call (408) 864-8986 for an appointment.



California History Center & Foundation

A Center for the Study of State and Regional History
De Anza College

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Fax: (408) 864-5486 Web: www.calhistory.org

Trianon Building and Exhibit Hours

Tuesday through Thursday 9:30 a.m to noon and 1-4 p.m.,
or call for an appointment.

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Your contribution is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. The value of goods received as a benefit of membership must be deducted from the amount of all contributions claimed as a deduction. CHCF members receive tri-annual issues of "The Californian" magazine and members who contribute at the \$50 level and above also receive a yearly Local History Studies publication.

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