

# THE RECORD

## Museum Reopens . . .

*Burlingame-Hillsborough Museum now open 1st Sunday of each month*



On December 6, 2009, the Burlingame-Hillsborough History Museum re-opened, after being closed for several months for station repairs and painting.

Several new exhibits welcome visitors to the museum. In the photo above, docents Linda Field and Mary Miller explain an exhibit on Burlingame firefighting to a young mother and her children. On the left, the old hand-pulled chemical wagon, on loan from the Burlingame Fire Department, can be glimpsed.

A window into past entertainment venues can be seen in the photos of the old Garden Theatre, the rows of theatre

seating from the old Peninsula/Fox Theatre and the sign from the Primrose Lanes bowling alley.

In another corner, one of Ricci's trick bikes, used by the firefighters in charity softball games, is on display. (This bike had to be pedaled backwards!)

For those interested in the natural world, a huge cross-section of Tom the Tree basks in the sun that shines through one of the south windows of the station.

One of the most popular displays is the "Then and Now" photographic exhibition, which visually documents the change in our community. Who knew that

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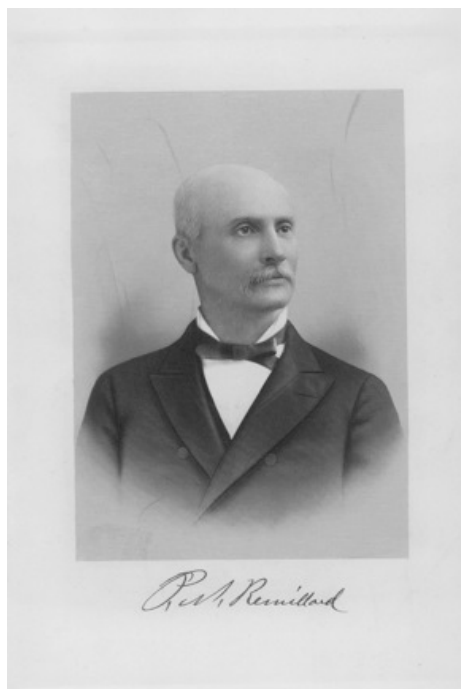
Did you know?

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the Il Fornaio restaurant corner at Donnelly and Primrose used to be occupied by another Italian food vendor -- the L. Picasso Co., which sold locally grown vegetables and fruits. (It sounds organic and sustainable!)

The museum is open 1-4 p.m. on the 1st Sunday of each month and by appointment for groups of 5 or more (call 340-9960). Admission is FREE, but donations are gladly accepted!

## NEW ACQUISITIONS.....AS OF JANUARY 1, 2010



*Brickmaker Peter Nicolas Remillard, father of Countess Lillian Dandini (grande dame of The Carolands, also known as Chateau Remillard, from 1950 to her death in 1973).*

**Thanks to: Michelle and Keith Tandowsky** for a vinyl record album from the BHS 43rd Annual Spring Concert in 1967, directed by Lawrence Short and John Rando; to the **City of Burlingame, Planning Department**, for a DVD of a Historic Resource Project Evaluation for St. Catherine's Church; to **Russ Cohen** for a vintage print of Peter Nicolas Remillard (father of Countess Dandini), a news article about Countess Dandini, five posters for Citizens for a Better Burlingame and Downtown Burlingame, a vintage Smith and Heller Shoe Box (1300 Burlingame), a mug from Nate's Deli, (327 Lorton c 1980s), a Tee Shirt (XL) with Russ Cohen Design for SOBA (South of Burlingame Avenue) charette event, Mills Peninsula brochures, a menu from opening of Peninsula Hospital c. 1954, a booklet "Portrait of S.M. County" c. 1954 by the League of Women Voters, campaign flyers 2009, many miscellaneous local business cards and receipts, Burlingame business licenses book c. 1950s, a Burlingame Dog Licenses book, c. 1950s, and Burlingame *Boutique and*

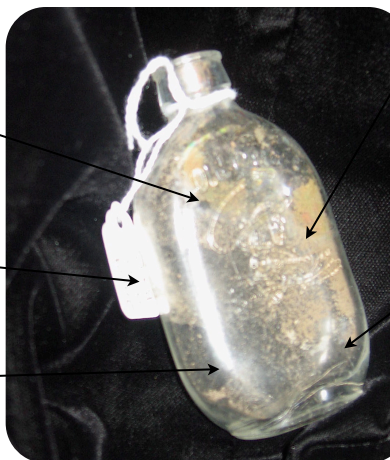
*Villager* "81st Anniversary City of Burlingame"; to **Edward Stetson** for a copy of a menu from Baywind's Restaurant on SS *General Frank M. Coxe*, 5 photos re: Stetson Family and the *Coxe*, and 2 Stetson Family charts; to **Linda Humber** for Burlingame Library Anniversary card, 1909-2009; to **Isabella Lanza** for three Patty Dwyer Group bags, numerous real estate brochures and flyers; to **Eugene McMullin** for two issues of the "Burlingame B" - 1941-1942, three issues of "McKinley Propeller" - 1939, and student writings, "Classroom Echoes" June 1939; to **Brian Johnson** for original building plans for BFD Station No. 1; to **Linda Easton** for a Hillsborough Beautification newsletter and Hillsborough Schools calendar; to **Linda Field, Mary Packard and Mary Faber** for archive materials and supplies; and to **Sandra Barocio, City of Burlingame** for two copies of the Ordinance Code of the City of Burlingame Ordinance dated February 17, 1941 and a copy of an original Burlingame Building Ordinance, 1919.

## PICNICKING WITH AN OLD QUAKER .....

**Old Quaker** was a brand of whiskey sold from mid-1870s until Prohibition put the company out of business. Note the faint image of the Quaker with hat.

**Age** This flask was probably made between the mid-1890s and 1907.

**Size** This bottle used to contain approximately 1/10 of a pint of whiskey - perfect for hiding in a pocket. These small miniatures came to be known as Picnic Flasks.



**Found** Bob Brown, a former building inspector, found the flask many years ago during the construction of the Citibank building at the northeast corner of Howard and Primrose. Thanks, Bob, for this recent donation to our archives!

**Who consumed the contents?** One of the first acts of the newly-incorporated city in 1908 was to ban bars from Burlingame... did the new law force the owner of this bottle to hide his whiskey in his pocket? Or was this flask consumed at a picnic in the hills and the discarded bottle washed down the Burlingame Creek? Was the owner a construction worker for one of the big estates? Or was the owner one of the big estate owners trying to sneak a sip on the sly?

**BOARD NEWS, ANNUAL MEETING, ELECTION OF OFFICERS, NEW BY-LAWS**

The Nominating Committee met in November to select a **slate of officers for 2010-2011**. This slate was approved by the Board at the December Board meeting. The officers listed below have been nominated for election at the **Annual Meeting on Sunday, February 21st at Mercy Center at 2pm**. The **amended bylaws will also be voted on** for approval by the general membership.

President - Jennifer Pfaff  
 Co-VP Technology and Membership - Diane Condon-Wirgler  
 Co-VP Museum - Russ Cohen  
 Treasurer - Cathy Baylock  
 Secretary - Rosalie McCloud

Nominations will also be taken from the floor.

The Board also welcomes longtime volunteer **Mary Packard** as a new Board Member who will be our Corresponding Secretary, as well as continuing as a researcher.

The current Executive Board wishes to **thank out-going Volunteer Coordinator Bobbi Benson** for her incredible organizational skills last year. She will continue on the Board with her work for our society on various special projects, such as transcriptions of Living History documents and care for our planters at the station.

We also wish to **thank Russ Cohen** who will be stepping down as President (see back page).



Nominee for President Jen Pfaff

**IN MEMORIAM**

They made history. . . In Memoriam:

**Paul Davis**  
**A.C. "Bud" Harrison**

**WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS**

**Edwin Fichtner** who upgraded his membership to Benefactor Life Member and to new member **Brian Tobin**. (Benefactor Life Memberships are \$500).

**DID YOU KNOW?**

Did you know that our website allows you to instantly record your memories of Burlingame for posterity?

Cows from numerous dairies used to dot the Burlingame and Hillsborough hills as late as the 1950s. Both Spreckels and Borden's had soda fountains near Howard Avenue and El Camino Real.

Here are some memories of Spreckels (formerly located at Howard and Highland Avenues):

*My brother and I would pick up old milk tops (not always sweet smelling!) and take them to school (Howard Avenue) to play "Slappsies" with the*



*other kids. If someone could slam their top on top of ours - they got to keep it! . . . You can tell how narrow the milk trucks were in those days just by looking, today, at the metal roll up door on the Highland Ave side of the current Japanese restaurant on the site. (L. Wade)*

*They had the best soda fountain in town. We used to ride our bikes*

*up there and get cherry vanilla phosphates. . . You could also get a real vanilla coke, or a cherry coke mixed right in front of you. I also remember all of the wonderful ice cream molds, especially around Christmas. (Michael Bennett)*

Special thanks to **Alex Veech** for all his work and technical expertise in managing our website ([www.burlingamehistorical.org](http://www.burlingamehistorical.org))

The website also contains on-line exhibits and historical society news. Check it out!

We receive over 2,000 visits to our website each year.



Burlingame Historical Society

P.O. Box 144

Burlingame, Ca 94011

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**Current Officers 2009:**

President - Russ Cohen

Co-VP - Diane Condon-Wirgler  
(Membership)

Co-VP - Jennifer Pfaff  
(Archives)

Treasurer - Cathy Baylock

Secretary - Rosalie McCloud

Living Histories -

Cathy Foxhoven

Volunteer Coordinator -

Bobbi Benson

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THE BURLINGAME HISTORICAL SOCIETY

WINTER 2010, ISSUE # 121

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# Thank you, Russ!

## You may say he is a dreamer . . .

(to paraphrase John Lennon) and, if you do, you certainly aren't the only one. Big thinking always precedes big achievement.



Imagine a Burlingame Historical Society with a membership about half of what it is today (we are over 400 strong) . . . a historical society with no website. . . or a website with no memories section (ours allows us to instantly archive *your* precious town memories). Or, imagine a Burlingame-Hillsborough community with a once proud,

architecturally-significant, bustling train station that now had just a tired-looking building in need of repairs and paint . . . a once internationally-known community with no history museum to preserve its glorious past . . . a community that might not have cared enough to publish a book chronicling the past century in order to honor its centennial . . . If you can imagine all these things, you can imagine a decade without Russ's leadership. Great leaders always think of possibilities before they become obvious. Thanks for your passion, Russ, and thanks for dreaming big for all of us. We're mighty proud of all we've accomplished under your leadership.

## Calendar

**Sunday, February 21, 2010**

**2-4 P.M.**



**Quarterly Meeting:** Tour of Mercy Center led by Mercy's archivist. Meet in the lobby of 2300 Adeline Drive. Parking is limited. Carpools are encouraged. Please park in the Forest Lot (near Hoover Avenue).

**AND**

**Annual Meeting** for election of officers and new by-laws immediately following our talk.

**Museum Open:** February 7, March 7, April 4, May 2, June 6