

THE RECORD

The San Mateo Stock Farm

See
Page 3 for
quarterly meeting
Sunday, August 6
Our Popular Walking
Tours!
1 p.m. and 3 p.m.



Corbitt's Stud Barn *photo courtesy of San Mateo County Historical Association*

What occupied modern-day Burlingame in the period of time between 1866 (when Anson Burlingame purchased over a 1,000 acres of the former Howard estate) and 1893 (when a community began coalescing around the newly-formed Burlingame Country Club)? A large part of the answer is the San Mateo Stock Farm. In late 1875, wealthy businessman William Corbitt began purchasing property to be used as a horse breeding farm. His San Mateo Stock Farm, eventually occupied 400 acres north of Burlingame Avenue and south of Sanchez Creek. It extended east from El Camino Real to the bay shore. The farm included a three-quarter mile track, the length of which ran north of Burlingame Avenue east of the train tracks. The

redwood stables (see above photo) contained 100 roomy box-stalls. The farm was particularly known for its most famous resident, the stallion *Guy Wilkes*. Foaled in Ohio in 1879, he had a brilliant turf and stud career. In 1884, he won all his races. Over his lifetime, he would sire 66 foals. His stud fee was as high as \$10,000. In February 1888, Corbitt held an auction putting over 100 of his horses on sale. Subsequent auctions were also held in 1889, 1891 and 1897. Printed catalogs advertised the sales. Trains filled with prospective purchasers stopped at Oak Grove. Lunch was served at the auctions. Corbitt allegedly earned as much as \$450,000 from his horse sales. *(Continued on page 3)*

NEW ACQUISITIONS! With thanks to...

Sister Marilyn Gouailhardou for three photographs of Sisters of Mercy playing after a 1963 snowfall in Burlingame (insert) ; **Ray Tyler and Cathy Foxhoven** for a DVD recording of and interview with Sister Marilyn on April 7, 2017 and **Bobbi Benson** for a written transcript prepared thereof; **Jeannie Howard Siegmann** for a 52 page document chronicling the geneology of the Howard Family by George Henry Howard, covering the period 1640-1909; **Joanne Garrison** for a Lions Celebration dinner program in honor of **Lion Don Stanaway's** past service, including 30 years as Executive Director of the Lions Eye Foundation; **Carol Rossi** for a *Carolands* book, by the SM County Historical Assoc. c. 2006; **Marcia Leonhardt** for a collection of newsletters from the Burlingame Hillsborough Newcomer's Club, June 2010 – April 2017, club founded 1950 by Martha Chick ; to **David Burruto** for a carton of information and environmental studies related to the BART-SFO extension in 1995; **Linda Field** for



paraphernalia related to the *First Friday Art Series* that meets at the Burlingame Main Library; **Leona Moriarty** for a George W. Bowers arts and crafts supply (315 Lorton Avenue) promotional measuring tape, metal; to **Jim Kelly** for a *Save Our Burlingame* button, and a *Gulliver's Prime Rib* (1699 Old Bayshore) box of matches; to **Jim Shypertt** for photos documenting Richard Terrones' presentation about Art Deco, May 25, 2017, and misc. other paraphernalia related to Burlingame and Burlingame Rotarians; to **Ray Tyler**, for a video production and DVD copies thereof, and to **Bobbi Benson** for transcription of the same; **John Basye and Barbara Duncan Hewitt** for a copy of Grey Whipple's memorial program and eulogy; **Ryan Guibara (Dewey Land Co.)** for several drone images of demo and construction of projects at 240 Lorton Avenue, and 225 California Drive; and to **Peter Garrison** for pencil sketches of 4' x 5' acrylic painting he made of Jennifer Pfaff, 2016 Citizen of Year.

IN MEMORIAM-

Grey Whipple
Rudy Horak

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

Lynn Treadway - Individual
Meredith Dunn - Individual
Ryan Guibara - Lifetime

We are very grateful to **Sally Meakin**, for her continued generous support of our association. Thank you to **Carrie Francis** for her very generous donation; and to **John Basye and Barbara Duncan Hewitt** for the

generous donation made in memory of their friend, and classmate **Grey Whipple** (1937-2017). (See also page 4, *President's Message*). Thanks also to the **Lions Club** for sponsoring the 2016-2017 third grade Passport tours.

DID YOU KNOW? When the Burlingame Country Club decided around the turn of the 20th century that it no longer wanted the responsibility of caring for its own "fleet" of horses, its stable master, Fred Bakewell, opened his own livery (i.e. a stable that rents horses) at the northeast corner of Carolan and Oak Grove. The livery was conveniently located adjacent to Francis Carolan's newly-purchased Crossways farm (formerly Corbitt's San Mateo Stock Farm). Bakewell's Livery operated from the early 1900s until Bakewell's death in 1914. When he died the manager of the Burlingame Country Club summed up Bakewell's contributions: "Burlingame equals horses and horses equal Fred Bakewell." (Incidentally, one of Bakewell's hired hands was Harry Singleton, who lived in an abandoned cable car on Hatch Lane and who supplemented his income by carrying people over the muddy, unpaved roads until they reached a dry destination). After Bakewell died, Lloyd Tevis took over the livery business. The daughter of one of Tevis's employees remembers that men were always bringing polo ponies to Burlingame from all over the world, and the ponies were frequently accompanied by different animals that served as pacifiers to the excitable ponies. (continued on p. 3)

Our Popular (FREE!!) Walking Tours

Join us on Sunday, August 6

for two walking tours done in conjunction with San Mateo County Historical Association's Victorian Days.

At 1 p.m. meet us at the Burlingame Train Station for a tour of downtown. In three blocks we will explore three decades of growth that changed the town from an equestrian playground of the wealthy to a modern-day suburb.

At 3 p.m. meet us at the Easton Branch Library to explore the Easton family, the town of Easton and how the north side developed



separately from downtown.

Both tours will last approx. 45 minutes

Our museum will be open from 1-4 p.m.

Mark your calendars now - This is a quarterly meeting you won't want to miss!

*(continued from p. 2 - **Did You Know?**)* The strangest animal that the little four-year-old daughter of Tom Mulhall remembers was the anteater that accompanied a horse from South America. After begging her mother for permission, the little girl was allowed to walk the anteater over to Linden Avenue on a make-shift string leash. After the polo match the anteater went home, but he was never forgotten by the little girl. One man from Chile brought his monkeys each year, to the little girl's delight. Other polo ponies were accompanied by goats. However, the one animal that the girl always steered clear of was an ostrich - especially after it kicked a stablehand and sent him to the hospital.

*(cont. from page 1, **San Mateo Stock Farm**)*

During this same period, (1889) William Howard was conducting auctions of his short-horn cattle near the San Mateo train station. Both Corbitt and Howard used Killip and Company as their auctioneers. John Donnelly was one of Corbitt's carpenters. In exchange for services, Corbitt gave him property on Burlingame Avenue at Primrose. Donnelly's home and two additional homes belonging to his children occupied the space north of Burlingame Avenue between today's Primrose Road and Park Road. Donnelly's home, set back on the lots near today's Donnelly Avenue, lasted into the 1960s when it was removed for a parking lot. One of his children's homes remained standing into the 1990s until it, too, was razed for a parking lot. Two of Corbitt's daughters (Mrs. Moody and Mrs. MacMonagle) also built homes on Burlingame Avenue; their property was in the location of today's Rec Center. In 1901, Frances Carolan purchased Corbitt's San Mateo Stock Farm. By that time, the Burlingame Country Club had been formed and the Burlingame Train Station had been built. Carolan used Corbitt's barns for breeding and raising polo ponies and Corbitt's former race track was put into use as a polo field for the Burlingame Country Club. *(see also **Did you Know** on pages 2-3)*



The trotter Guy Wilkes

photo courtesy of The Harness horse magazine

Calendar

Quarterly Meeting:

Walking Tours:

Sunday, August 6

1 p.m. Downtown Burlingame (meet at train station)

3 p.m. Easton Family, Town and North side (meet at Easton Library)

Burlingame Hillsborough History Museum

Museum Open:

1st Sun. of each month, 1-4 PM.

August 6, Sept. 3, October 1

Museum Docents Needed!

No experience required.

Please call 340-9960 to volunteer.

*Please remember us in
your trust or will!*

THE BURLINGAME HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SUMMER 2017, ISSUE 151



Few people could convey the essence of "Old Burlingame" as beautifully as Grey Whipple (1937-2017). Reflecting on Burlingame's southern border, the neighborhood in which he grew up, he wrote: In the 10 years ending in 1955 the stretch of Peninsula Avenue from Dwight to Humboldt had some interesting things going on. This is the area that is now occupied by the Woodlake

Apartments. This large parcel of property had the College of San Mateo science department at the west end, and its aeronautical department at the east end. We used to play on an old aircraft parked there. The large space between the two buildings for a while was used to grow hay, and later half of it was seeded for the world's largest lawn, dutifully kept watered, but never used. The science building had a big brick incinerator behind it and as kids we would scrounge for used (but relatively clean) chemistry lab test tubes.

For Grey's many "Memories" that have contributed to our wealth of knowledge, we are eternally grateful.

- Jennifer Pfaff

Current Officers 2017:

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Co-President - Programs

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