

# CALIFORNIA THE FURNIAN

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



## Spring Exhibit

Exploring the California Dream II: A Children's Exhibit Experience

## Springtime at the CHC

Spring promises to be busy for us this year as we look forward to once again having the work of local fourth grade students on display at the history center. **Exploring the California Dream II: A Children's Exhibit Experience** opens at the Trianon with a special reception on Sunday, April 5.

Ten schools from the Cupertino, Santa Clara, and Sunnyvale school districts are participating and the displays they have planned sound wonderful. We will have a free-standing clay exhibit depicting early Indian art, a wall-hung mural with each child depicting his/her cultural background, a cassette tape of songs with accompanying songbooks illustrating different periods in California history, an 8-foot-tall wall map showing each county, its population and industry, hand-stitched timeline, quilts, mission models, art work and much more.

And, I hope you enjoy the children's art and written work throughout this issue of *The Californian*. Many students submitted work for consideration and the decisions on what was going to be published were difficult to make.

If you didn't take the opportunity to see the children's exhibit in the spring of 1990, don't miss it this time around. Having the work of young people on display is delightful. Not only is it rewarding to us but the sense of pride and accomplishment the students feel in having their work displayed in a public venue is immeasurable.

Members are invited to join the staff and Board of Trustees at a reception honoring these students from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Sunday, April 5. All of the children and their parents have been invited to attend and each school will receive special recognition at the opening. The exhibit opens to the public on Monday, April 6, and will be on display through May 31.

Another project that has kept us busy during winter and spring is a program prioritization process that was prompted by not only the financial crisis experienced by the college district last spring, but by the overall recession and budget problems being faced by the State of California.

Each program in the district was asked to evaluate itself in terms of what classes/services it provides to students and the community and how those services fit into the educational mission of the district. We were asked to prioritize our areas of service as to which were most essential, essential, and least essential to the program. In the event the district has to make cuts in the budget over the next several years, this process has provided the opportunity for individual programs to have input into where those cuts should take place.

This has been a valuable exercise for the California History Center and Foundation. Once again it became very evident how comprehensive a program we offer here: classes, library,

exhibits, publications, tours and events, volunteers, and various special projects. It was also very clear how critical the partnership between the college district and the foundation is for the survival of the California History Center Foundation. For while the foundation funds all programs except the academic classes, the college not only maintains our facility, but funds the staff who coordinate the programs offered by the foundation.

Our hope is that this partnership remains strong in these difficult financial times and that we continue to be able to offer quality programming to our community and the students of De Anza College.

I kept the most difficult part of this message to the last. The history center lost one of its very best friends with the unexpected December 30 death of Mary Jane Givens. Mary Jane was profiled in the last issue of *The Californian* as a newly elected member of the Board of Trustees, but she had been active in many ways with the center since 1974; as a student, docent/volunteer, and coordinator of the volunteer program.

Mary Jane was one-of-a-kind. She was the most positive, enthusiastic, cheerful person I have ever known. She genuinely liked people and that was evident in everything she did. When visitors came to the history center, she always went right up to them to tell them about the building and our programs and to ask if they had any questions. And she loved the kids; giving exhibit tours to groups of school children was her absolute favorite thing to do. As for the staff, you knew when Mary Jane was around because of her wonderful laugh (it was really more of a giggle) and ability to look at things in the best possible light (even though we weren't always in the mood to do that!).

We will miss her terribly, but her legacy will live on in what she taught all of us about friendliness and dedication and commitment and laughter.

### **Kathleen Peregrin**

Acting Director

#### **Cover:**

*Congratulations to Jason Piamonte, a fourth grade student at Columbia Community School in Sunnyvale, whose drawing was selected for the cover of **The Californian**. The drawing focuses on the symbols of the state of California.*

# CALENDAR

**4/6** "Exploring the California Dream: A Children's Exhibit Experience" exhibit opens

**4/6** De Anza College classes begin

**4/11, 12** "The First Californians"

8:30 a.m. Saturday to 5:30 p.m. Sunday. Naturalist Fran McTamany leads this weekend exploration of the cultures of several Native American tribes, with emphasis on the Native Californians. This trip to Indian Grinding Rock State Park also includes a visit to Sutter Fort for their Living History Days celebration. Cost for CHCF members: \$125; nonmembers \$150. Reservation/payment deadline: 3/11.

**5/2** "Celebrating California's Cultures: The Serenity of Chanoyu"

10:00 a.m. to noon. Take advantage of a rare opportunity to observe the ages-old Japanese tea ceremony, Chanoyu. Held especially for our group in the serene setting of the authentic tearoom located at the Japanese Cultural Center at Foothill College, the ceremony is followed by demonstrations of Sumi-e brush painting and Ikebana floral art. Cost to CHCF and DASB members: \$3; nonmembers: \$6.



By Alexis Coates, Columbia Community School.

**5/16** "California Kids"

10:00 - 2:30. History workshop. Children's historian Jim Silverman conducts a unique three-part workshop designed to teach adults and third through ninth graders that children do have a role in history. The workshop will be held at the Trianon Building. Fee: \$2.50. Reservation/payment deadline: 5/1.

**5/24** Last day to view exhibit

**5/25** Memorial Day observed. CHC closed; De Anza classes do not meet.

**5/31** De Anza Day

10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The history center is open during De Anza College's annual community event. Special activities are planned, including a showing of children's vintage and ethnic fashions, and our library's annual book sale. No admission fee.

**6/25** Spring quarter ends

## Of Interest to Members

**Bodie: California's Premier Ghost Town**, a new traveling exhibit supplemented with artifacts, historic maps and photos from Bodie State Historic Park, the California State Library and other institutions. California State Archives Exhibit Hall, 1020 "O" St., Sacramento, (916) 653-0066.

**Woodside Store**, the first general store (built in 1854) between San Francisco and San Jose, offers free tours Sundays at 2 p.m. and by appointment during the week. King's Mountain Road, off Woodside Road (Highway 84), Woodside.

**Wells Fargo History Museum**, artifacts from the Old West: gold mining tools, stagecoaches, photographs and documents depict the bank's history. Open 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday, 420 Montgomery St., San Francisco.

**Western Railway Museum**, more than 100 streetcars, locomotives and other railroad items on display. Many operated for rides. Open 11 a.m.-5 p.m. weekends, on Highway 12 between Fairfield and Rio Vista, (707) 374-2978.

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# EDUCATION

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## State and Regional History

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*As a benefit of membership in the California History Center Foundation, the center provides registration assistance to members who are taking only history center classes. All other students wishing to take history center classes — or members taking classes in other departments — must register through the De Anza College Admissions and Records Office. CHCF members who would like registration assistance must come to the center to register. The center will register members 8 a.m.-noon and 1-4 p.m., Monday through Friday beginning Monday, March 16.*

*For complete course details, including times, dates and fees, please see the De Anza College spring schedule of classes.*

### **History of California's Electric Power Generation Since WWII:** *Brian Smith*

Since before recorded history, California has been the most populated area in North America. As such, it has consistently required vast amounts of energy. Through the decade of the 1990s, it has been estimated the state's population will increase by no less than 700,000 per year. With more people comes greater energy needs. Pacific Gas and Electric Company and Southern California Edison, striving to meet these requirements, have used a variety of energy sources. This class will explore sources of energy used today as well as those being developed for the future. Students will have the opportunity to see first hand fossil fuel plants, hydroelectric facilities, geothermal, wind, biomass, nuclear and solar generating areas. Several field trips included.

### **History of California's Channel Islands:** *Brian Smith*

Off the coast of Santa Barbara are eight islands. These most western points of California have consistently contributed to this state's colorful history. From the grave site of "The Father of California," important outposts during the Civil War, a bombing site for Navy war planes, and one of the state's largest cattle ranches to a haven from the stresses of the "mainland," these islands continue to make significant contributions to California's lifestyle. This class will explore not only the social, but the political and economic growth of this area. Weekend field trip included.

### **Five Missions of the Central Coast — San Miguel to Santa Barbara:** *Chatham Forbes*

From their foundation, the missions of early California have been of great significance to the history of the region. They were the principal means chosen by the Spanish to establish their imperial sovereignty, to project state-sponsored evangelism, and to express Spain's culture on her far northern frontier. This course will include on-site study of the restored Franciscan Missions of San Miguel, San Luis Obispo, La Purisima Concepcion, Santa Ines, and Santa Barbara. Weekend field trip included.

### **California and the Drive for Manifest Destiny:** *Chatham Forbes*

In the 1840s the traditional westward expansionism of the U.S. government and people took on the character of an aggressive national mission to occupy all the lands west to the Pacific. Not without controversy, and with considerable bloodshed, the young nation's "Manifest Destiny" was swiftly fulfilled. California, the ripest plum on the tree, was deeply involved. Lectures and field studies will tell the story of this pivotal episode in our national experience. Two field trips to Monterey and Sonoma included.

### **Parks and Trails of the Santa Cruz Mountains:** *Tom Taber*

The Parks and Trails of the Santa Cruz Mountains is an overview of the history, ecology, geography, and recreational opportunities in the coastal mountains of Santa Clara, San Mateo and Santa Cruz counties. Emphasis will be placed on the connections between the region's human and natural histories. Three field trips included.

### **Historic San Francisco — From the Barbary Coast to the Palace Hotel:** *Betty Hirsch*

From the Wild West's most colorful and intriguing history to present day scoundrels, San Francisco's once wicked, mysterious and elegant past comes to life. Through the writings of Mark Twain, Dashiell Hammett, Ambrose Bierce, Gelett Burgess, Ina Coolbrith, Rudyard Kipling and others we will discuss some of San Francisco's most infamous and elegant characters. Course includes walking tour of the Barbary Coast and other nearby areas and the newly refurbished Palace Hotel.

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**Drake in California:** *Hugh Thomas*

This class traces the general background of European exploration and expansion in the 16th century; the development and growth of England during the Tudor period; antagonism between England and Spain; the English privateers and personal career of Drake, who circumnavigated the world, landing in California. One Saturday field trip to Drake's Bay included.

**California's Southern Mines — Columbia to Mariposa:**

*William Palmer*

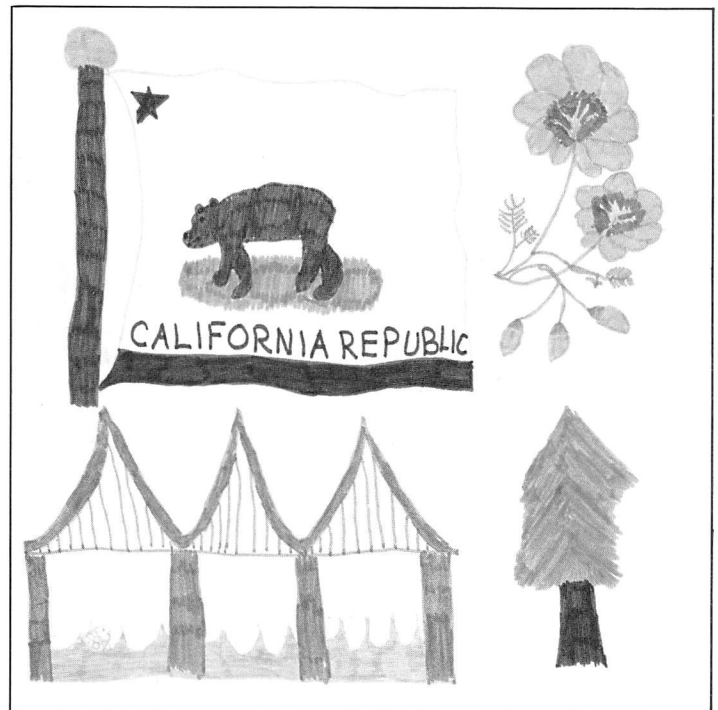
This course presents a detailed study of California's Southern Mines region from Hangtown to Mariposa, but concentrates primarily on Tuolumne and Mariposa counties. These areas have had an exciting past consisting not only of extensive placer and hardrock gold mining, but also lumbering and a vigorous shortline railroad system. Towns like Columbia, Sonora, Jamestown and Chinese Camp are all colorful reminders of this exciting past, as are the world famous Yosemite National Park, the renowned Hetch-Hetchy water system and the recently completed State Mining & Mineralogy museum. Through a field trip, students will have an opportunity to visit some of these selected sites which have contributed so much to California's technological and cultural heritage.

**The California Legislature:** *Julia Silverman*

This course provides a nuts and bolts overview of how the legislative process works. Taught by a former senior Assembly committee staff person, the class will visit Sacramento to observe the legislature in action and meet with some key players. Topics covered in class will include the evolution of the legislative process, major issues shaping policymaking in Sacramento today, how an individual can effectively participate in the process, and what variables influence the passage and outcome of a bill. Instructor Silverman has a degree in politics from UC Santa Cruz and an M.A. in Administration and Policy Analysis from Stanford. Most recently she served on the State Assembly Subcommittee on Higher Education. Field trip included.

**The Diversity of San Mateo County:** *Betty Hirsch*

From its fogbound beaches and lighthouses to its stately mansions, bustling cities, to its jutting hills and valleys, San Mateo County has been backdrop to the dramatic discovery of San Francisco Bay, site of the world's largest concrete dam and home to some of the most powerful figures in Bay Area history including William Ralston, William Sharon, D.O. Mills, and Robert Tripp. This course will cover its history, significant citizens and events. Sites covered will be among the following: the Woodside Store, Lathrop House, Coyote Point Environmental Museum, Ano Nuevo State Preserve, lighthouse, San Mateo Historical Museum and one of the grand mansions. Two field trips included.



*By Stephanie Camat, Columbia Community School.*

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## California, Here We Come

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*This spring the history center will display the artwork of local fourth graders from 10 schools in an exhibit entitled "Exploring the California Dream II: A Children's Exhibit Experience."*

*In the short essays that follow, some of those students reflect on how their families came to California and what they consider "the California Dream" to be. Their drawings also appear on these pages.*

*The five schools represented below are: Columbia Community School (Sunnyvale School District); de Vargas School, Meyerholz School, Stevens Creek School (Cupertino Union School District); and Ponderosa School (Santa Clara Unified School District).*

My dad was born in China, and my mom was born in Taiwan. My dad moved to Taiwan when he was seven years old. My mom and dad met at a University. Then my dad went to Massachusetts to study.

My mom and dad got married in New York, because my grandmother lived there. My dad found a job in Indiana, so my mom and dad moved there, and that's where my sister and I were born. When I was just two years old, we had to move to California because my dad found a better job. My mom also found a job, and that's how my parents came to California.

—Katie Yang  
de Vargas School

My grandma and grandpa, on my mom's side, were born in Seattle. My grandpa's original last name was Onikoshima, which means "Devil's Island." Four generations ago, his family changed it to Kikoshima, which means "Flower Island." My grandparents met in Seattle in 1946, and soon got married in 1948. They had seven girls and one boy. My mom was born in New York.

My grandma and grandpa, on my dad's side, were born in two different places. My grandma was born in Brooklyn, New York, and her maiden name was McGowan. My grandpa, however, was born in Park Ridge, New Jersey. They had four boys, and two girls. My dad was born in Lynhurst.

In 1978, my parents got married. In 1982, I was born. I have one stepsister, and one stepbrother. On my dad's side, I have 17 cousins. I have no cousins on my mom's side. Most of my cousins live in New Jersey. I see them once a year.

—Janelle Bauer  
Stevens Creek School

My mom was on her way to America when she was pregnant. On her way she had labor so we stopped at Indonesia and I was born. Then we came to Ohio on a ship. Several times the waves almost tipped the boat over. Then we were at my aunt's house in Ohio. Then we came to California with my other uncle on a plane. Now I'm here in San Jose.

—Thu Pham  
de Vargas School

My dad said he came to California because in Taiwan, it's very polluted, noisy, and there are many other terrible things you could think of. He also said that in Taiwan, when you hike in the mountains, all you do is hike on garbage dumps. And also in the mountains, the air isn't much better.

He said he came to California from Taiwan, because down here, the air is much cleaner and when you hike in the mountains (down here), the air is very good and there's no pollution or littering in the mountains. That's why my dad came to California.

My mom came to California from Taiwan because she said she was immigrating. I asked her for more information, but that's all she told me.

I can't tell you about my grandparents because they live in Taiwan.

—Cindy Hsu  
Meyerholz School



By Jim Chou,  
Ponderosa School.



By Lupe Garcia, Columbia Community School.

California has many sights. It has nature, human resources, natural resources and more. California has forests, mountains, desert, and ocean. In the summertime, California gets very hot. In the wintertime it gets very cold.

I think California is the right place to be. My dad and I go up to camp at Big Basin and stay for a few days. It's fun to drive in the mountains and sometimes I see deer, racoons, Bluejays, and other animals.

My mom's side of the family is going to take me to Yellowstone Park this summer and I think I am going to enjoy it. I like to live in California!

—Melissa Kress  
Columbia Community School

My great grandpa Walter came from Poland by boat to America when he was 16. He drove a covered wagon to Illinois. He settled there and was a farmer. When he was older he found a wife Victoria and had six sons. One was my grandpa. My grandpa only spoke Polish until he was in first grade. After he finished high school he joined the army and then got married and had my dad. My dad got married when he was older and had me!

—Brade Czajkowski  
Ponderosa School

My family came to California because they thought my brothers and I would get a better chance of a better life. For instance the jobs in Mexico are crummy. In America you get better jobs and more freedom. The streets in Mexico are all dirty. We also came to California because my mom was getting sick and we needed a good hospital.

—Vanessa Molina  
de Vargas School

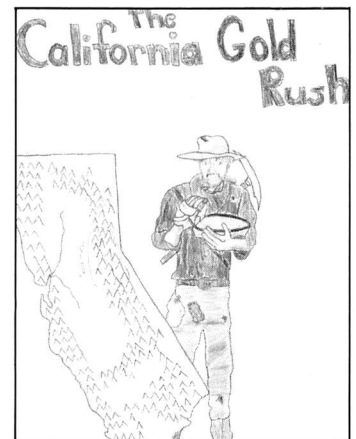
My mother's grandmother came from Vermont to California as a small girl at the turn of the century. Her parents were French-Canadian. Her husband (my mom's grandfather) came to California at the same time from Missouri. My great-grandfather's parents came from Ireland.

My father moved here from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, in 1970 to go to graduate school.

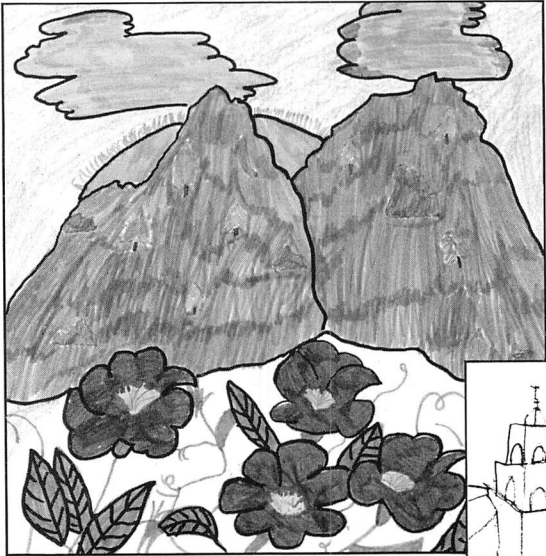
—Peter Rovegno  
Stevens Creek School



By Max Dumlao,  
Columbia Community School.



By Rick Halverson,  
Columbia Community School.



Left –  
By Amy Poblete,  
Columbia  
Community  
School.

Right – By Jason D'Audney,  
Columbia Community School.

My grandfather's father came to America because there wasn't enough freedom in Czechoslovakia. He sailed to America. He got here and went on a train to the new job and house. On the train he ordered a banana. He bit right into it because that's how he thought you ate a banana. A nice lady stood up and showed him how to eat (peel) a banana. Then he knew how to eat a banana.

A year passed and he asked for his wife and children to come. My grandfather and his family came to America by boat. They came down with a train to their father.

The first word my grandfather knew was apple. He grew up and married my grandmother. They had kids and my mom was the last born. She was in high school and met my dad. They went into college and my mom became a nurse.

While my dad finished college, my mom went to Stanford Hospital in California to work there. My dad came out and got a job and married my mom. They had me, Stephanie Bell, a sister, Jessica, and my brother, Matthew. That's how I live in California.

—Stephanie Bell  
Meyerholz School

I'd like to tell you about my heritage. First, on my mom's side my grandma and grandpa were both born in China. They ran away from Russia because of a war. (No one in my family is Chinese.) They came to the United States by ship in 1950. After a couple of years they got married. Then they had a baby. The baby was my mom.

My dad's family is from Norway. My grandma and grandpa were born in Stavanger, Norway. My grandpa grew up in a town called "Melhus." (Melhus means "mill house." Mill house is a place where people grind grain.) My grandpa came to the U.S. to make money and got drafted into the United States Army. Meanwhile, Nazi soldiers took over my grandma's house in Norway. After the war ended my Grandma and Grandpa got married, moved to New York, and had my dad. My dad grew up in Brooklyn, New York. After college my dad got a job with PG&E in California. Then my mom and my dad got married and had me.

—Chris Melhus  
Stevens Creek School

I've chosen to write about my dad's side of family.

My dad was born in Algeria which is in Africa. He came to California to study the culture of our language in 1968. He only could speak one language which was arabic.

So he went to Boston College to learn to speak the English language. He went looking for a job. Then he found one at a chemical plant. That's how he made his living.

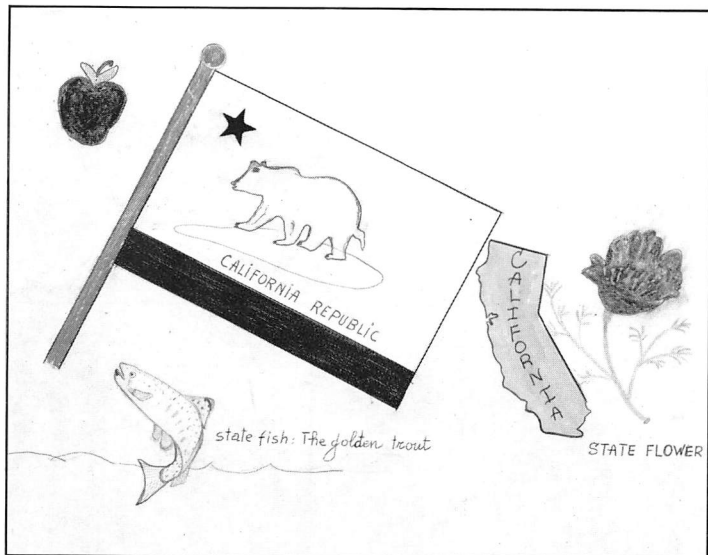
—Sam Hamidat  
Columbia Community School

My mom's side of the family got here because my Babusia (grandma) came on a boat with her sister to San Francisco when they were teenagers. She and her sister came over here from a Russian colony in China because the Communists were taking over. They lived with her aunt and got jobs in San Francisco. Later on, their mother came over and joined them.

My dad's side of the family got here when his grandparents came over because the Communists were taking over Russia. That's how my family got here.

—Jennifer Shapiro  
de Vargas School





By Linda Tran, Columbia Community School.

My family came here from Italy in 1890. My great-great-grandfather went to New York on the Italian Freighter. Her name was Quinto Barsotti. Then he took a train to California. At age nineteen he started his own butcher shop in Daly City. He worked for fifty years and then retired. He worked there until he was seventy-five years old.

—Lisa Massara  
de Vargas School

My mom, dad, and my brothers came to California from Massachusetts. My dad went to school at M.I.T. My mom was a housewife. They met in the Philippines. My dad was a Peace Corps volunteer and my mom was studying to be a teacher. My mom was born in the Philippines and my dad was born in Pennsylvania.

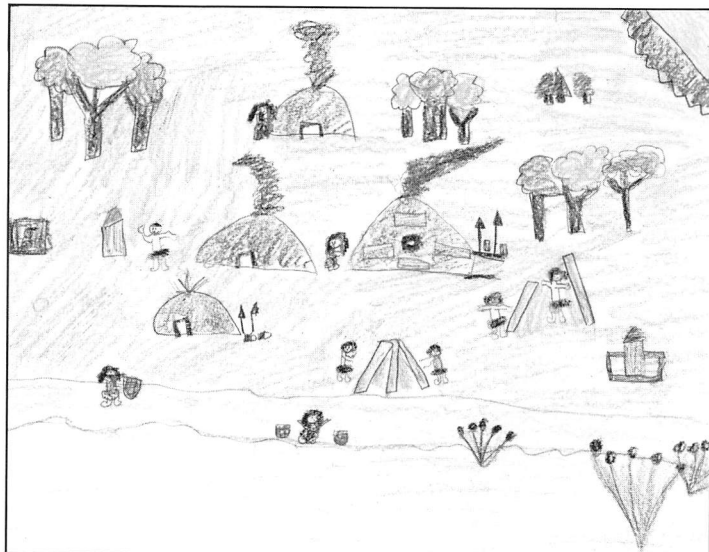
After my dad's work being a Peace Corps volunteer was finished, they went to Massachusetts. My dad went to graduate school at M.I.T. My brothers, Michael and Neil, were both born in Boston.

After my dad finished graduate school he was hired by Intel from California in 1974, a month after Neil was born.

—Kate Renninger  
Stevens Creek School

I was born in Russia. When I was a little girl, we didn't travel much. But my parents thought I should see the outside world. So my dad started working very hard and finally we managed. So leaving our grandparents in Russia, my family, along with my 12 year old cousin and his family we set out. We've been to Austria, Italy, and finally came to California, promising our grandparents to come back to Russia pretty soon. But, here we liked it better, so we stayed. And soon our grandparents came too.

—Olga Kuskova  
de Vargas School



By Hiyasmin Felix, Columbia Community School.

I like living in California because it has good schools. I also like living here because there is a lot of fun things to do. Like San Francisco has fun museums to go to look and do stuff. The missions are fun to make out of sugar cubes. I love you California and thanks for making my life great.

—Joey Payer  
Columbia Community School

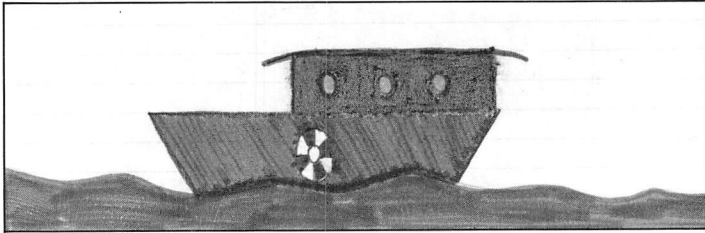
My father came to California from Korea in 1968. But my mother's family first came to this country in 1620, on the Mayflower. My family three goes back to my great-great-great-great-great-great-great-great grandfather (Nicholas Snow) who was a pilgrim. He was married to Constanta Hopkins. They had twelve children. I am descended from their son Deacon John Snow.

—Melinda Han  
Ponderosa School

My family came from Poland. Seven years ago we left our country and went to Belgium. We lived there for ten months waiting for a immigration visa to the United States.

Then we took a plane to Boise, Idaho, where we lived for four months. People in Boise were very kind and generous. They lended us a car for half a year. My dad decided to find a job in California. After he found a job he came back to Boise and took us to California. We lived in a apartment. When my parents got enough money we bought a house, now we live in Cupertino. We came to America to be free and the warm climate. I love California and I wouldn't want to live anywhere else.

—Jacob Borysewicz  
Stevens Creek School



*Thuc Le of de Vargas School depicts the boat that carried his parents to the United States.*

In 1965 through 1975 it was a war in Vietnam. It was a long war. Four years later my mom and dad got married in 1979. There was no freedom in Vietnam. My mom and dad decided to go to U.S.A. by a boat. There were seventy-three people in the small boat. My mom and dad arrived in July 20, 1980 in San Jose downtown.

—*Thuc Le*  
*de Vargas School*

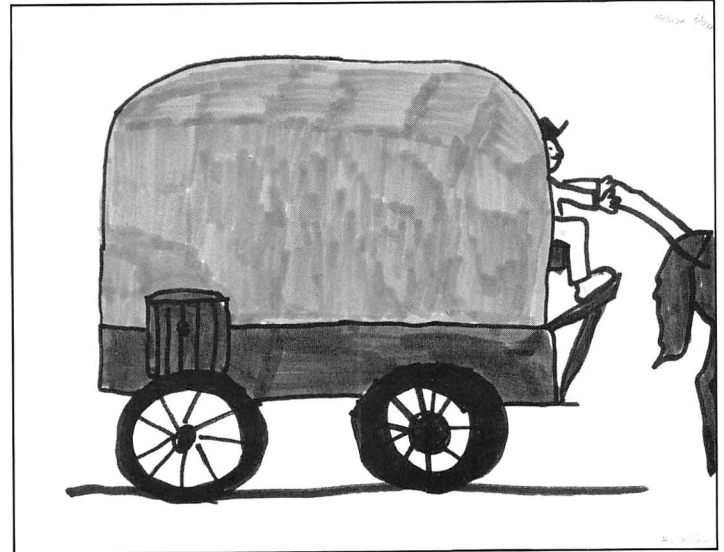
During the 1970s almost everything in California was just fine. Today we see it as a dump. Everyday almost everybody litters. Our forests has been dumped by campers. Several people start a fire in some forests. Now that this is happening I like people to start cleaning California. California looks very beautiful in some ways. It has such nice oceans. Once I heard about an oil spill. It was very hard to take all that mess away. Some animals in the ocean have died because of that spill. I wish that didn't happened.

California has four different regions. Those regions are very important. So we have to start taking care of those regions. In some places like San Francisco has a bridge. It is the Golden Gate Bridge. Near Oakland there is a bridge. It's nice to see the Golden Gate Gridge at night. My father, mother, sister, and I been there. Let's start helping and keep California the best!

—*Amy Poblete*  
*Columbia Community School*

I am from California. I normally wear shorts and a shirt and if it's cold I wear pants and a turtleneck with a jacket. My mom is from Michigan and my dad is from Utah. My parents came because my mom had to go to college and my dad had to work. My mom's dad (my grandpa) came because he wanted to.

—*Sara Neilson*  
*Stevens Creek School*



*By Melissa Peterson, de Vargas School.*

This story is about my mom and dad and how she came to California. In Iran my mom went to college in 1975. She was studying English in college. My mom's brother was in California for four years. My mom's brother wrote a letter to her to come to California to continue her education, at that time she was single and she didn't want to come along.

After a year and a half her brother went to visit my mom. After the visit was over he went back to California to get an application to send to my mom for San Jose City College. My mom got a student visa in 1977 and came to California and studied in San Jose City College. After that she went to San Jose State and got her B.S. and became an immigrant and got married.

—*Parisa Motalebi*  
*de Vargas School*

My grandfather and grandmother on my dad's side came to California by car in 1949. My grandmother was born in Oklahoma, and one of her ancestors was a full-blooded Black-foot Indian. My grandfather was born in Oregon, and one of his ancestors was a horse thief that came to Georgia in the 1800s from England.

My grandfather and grandmother on my mother's side were born in Shanghai Province in China. They moved to Hong Kong when the Communists took over China. My mother was born in Hong Kong. They all came to California by boat in 1958.

—*Jason Helvey*  
*Stevens Creek School*

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There are many sights in California. That's why California is such a great state. Some of the sights are located in Los Angeles, such as Disneyland, Magic Mountain, Universal Studios, and Knotts Berry Farm. Those are great places to visit if you like to visit and enjoy amusement parks.

Some tourists go to San Francisco to see the wonderful Golden Gate Bridge. It is one of the best places to visit.

Another magnificent sight is Sea World. Sea World is located in San Diego. It has dolphins, whales, and much, much more. Marine World is another sight people would go to see. That too has dolphins, whales, and more. California almost has every kind of entertainment for different kinds of people. Many people love visiting those places I just mentioned because they're fun and entertaining. So visit some of these places, and remember these are only some of the wonderful sights of our golden state, California.

—Leigh Antonio  
Columbia Community School

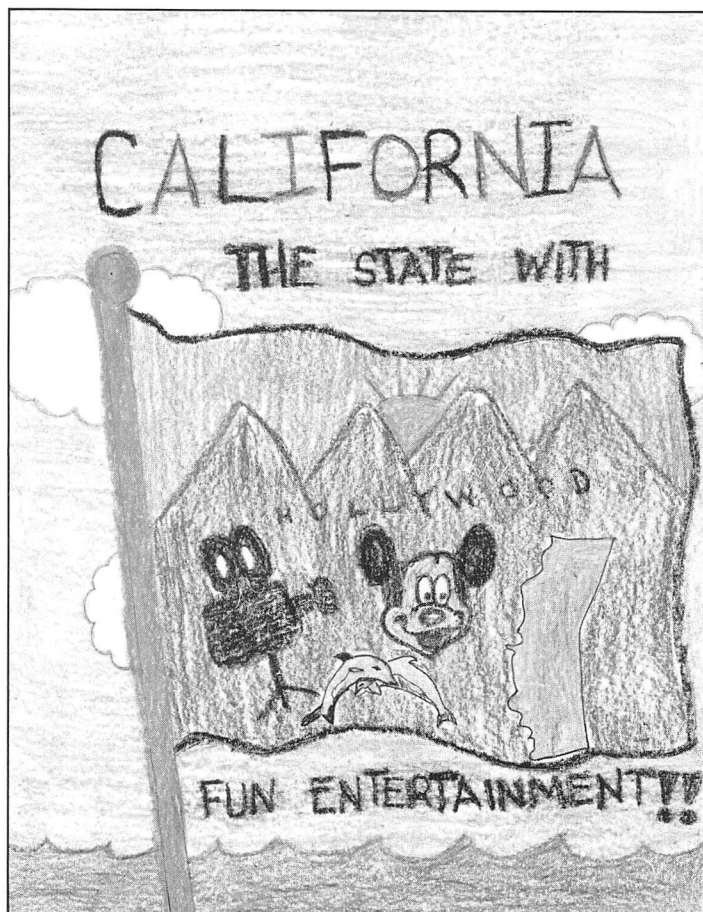
My mom, and Dad came to California because my dad's uncle offered a job to my dad, and my mom came out here because she was married to my dad. They got here by my mom taking a plane, and my dad got here by driving, and that's how my mom and dad, and I got to California.

—Ryan Stead  
de Vargas School

Hello, for my "How did your family come to California" paper. I decided to write mostly about my mom's side of the family, because it is more exciting. My mom was born in Longview, Washington. She stayed there for one year and then she moved to Germany because my Grandfather had to go there for his job. When they came back to Washington my mom could not speak English. She could only speak German. A couple of months after they moved back to Washington my aunt Tanamy was born.

Three years after my aunt was born my grandfather started working for G.E. The job moved to California, so did my mom and her family. My dad also moved to California about that time because his dad worked at G.E. too. I don't think either my mom or dad were happy to move to California at first. When they met each other they were much happier.

—Jenni Parker  
de Vargas School



By Leigh Antonio, Columbia Community School.

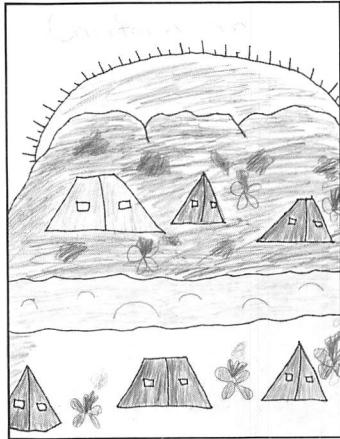
The person I am going to write about is my great grandmother. I do not know if she was the first relative to come to the U.S. but she is the one I know about.

She was born and raised in Yugoslavia. As a young girl she herded sheep. One day, a man who was living in the U.S. and was also from Yugoslavia, sent her a boat ticket to come to the U.S. and be his wife.

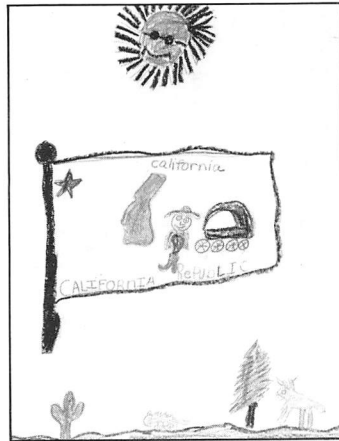
She traveled by boat to New York and then she traveled by train to the west coast. She married him and had two sons.

She died in 1986 at the age of 89. It was fun to know her.

—Tommy Hoss  
Meyerholz School



By Patricia Rea,  
Columbia Community School.



By Sam Hamidat,  
Columbia Community School.

My maternal grandparents came to California in 1954. My maternal grandfather is from Rockford, Illinois and is of German, Dutch, English/Irish & Scottish descent. Mostly German and English. My maternal grandmother was from Nevada. She was of Irish/Scottish & American Indian descent.

My mother was born in California in Palo Alto and grew up in Sunnyvale. She moved to the house we now live in when she was 7 years old.

My paternal grandparents are from New Jersey. They now live in a castle (yes really!!) in Oklahoma that was built over 100 years ago. My grandmother is Dutch & French. My grandfather is not sure. He says he is Heinz 57, whatever that means. They have never lived in California.

My Dad was born in New Jersey. He came to California via the Navy when he was stationed at Moffett Field. He liked California and decided to stay and I'm glad because if he had gone back to New Jersey he never would have met my Mom.

—Brieany Bender  
Stevens Creek School

First of all my grammy's father came from Poland to America. He lived with his mom, three brothers and one sister. They lived in Poland, outside Warsaw, which at that time was under Russian rule. A czar ruled them.

My great grandpa's name was Marion Sopinsky. At the age of only thirteen all young men had (they had no choice) to serve two years in the army. After that (they had again no choice) they had to serve another six months every year. Well, after a while, his

mom got tired of worrying that her son might get killed.

So Marion was smuggled across Europe, all the way to Germany. From there he went by ship to America. In America Marion never saw his mom, from the day he was sixteen until the day she died. In America Marion worked in New York loading sugar onto trucks.

Some years later he became a coal miner. During this time he met my great-grandmother. They got married, moved to Ohio and had four kids. This is where my grammy comes in.

When my grammy grew up and got married she moved to Oklahoma and adopted two children, one of which was my mom. By the time my mom was seven her dad died.

At this time my mom moved to California. Also because my grammy's sister lived here and because of our great weather. They lived in an apartment for one year, a house for eleven years and then she got her own home.

At the age of twenty-four she had me and now she's having a new baby. As the years went by, mom met my dad who was born here in California.

—Amando Conkling  
Meyerholz School

California means freedom to me. To look at California now is way different from seeing California when forty-niners were around. Rules have changed but then life has also. We have factories that puff smoke. People in the 1800s never had that. Changes in California have made us different — machines, cars, houses, toys, bathroom utensils, and most of all people have changed. You had to pan for gold. Now you can go to a jewelry store.

—Matt Tolhurst  
Columbia Community School



By Michael Subida,  
Ponderosa School.

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# FOUNDATION NOTES

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## In Memory of Mary Jane

Listed below are the names of individuals who have made contributions to the CHC in the memory of Mary Jane Givens, the center's dynamic volunteer coordinator who passed away Dec. 30 (see page 2): Irv and Jewel Altman, Audrey Butcher, Paul and Irma Contreras, Jane Garrod, Catherine Gasich, Williams and Esther Givens, Janet Hoffman, Kirsten Hutchinson, the Hutton Family, Lida Kluzek, Bill Lester, Dr. and Mrs. Philipp Lippe, Walter and Elsie Matt, Willys Peck, Helen Riisberg, Eileen Snider, the Stowell Family, Margaret Wozniak.

## Historic House at Risk

A feasibility study is being launched this winter to determine how to prevent further decay of the historic, turn-of-the-century Willard M. Griffin House on the Foothill College campus in Los Altos Hills. The study is financed by a \$1,500 grant from the National Trust for Historic Preservation, with matching funds from local sources.

The spacious California single house, the only structure in Los Altos Hills which is listed in the National Register of Historic Places, awaits renovation, remodeling or demolition. For more information, contact the Committee to Save Griffin House, Nancy Mason, chairperson, (415) 948-0685.

## Tomes Find Home at CHC

From the 1850s to the 1930s, California's commercial and cultural growth was recorded and promoted in numerous county histories. Some of these histories were written by journalists, some by historians. "Write-ups" of the communities' prominent people were often included. Many featured maps, portraits and other illustrations in lithograph or photograph.

The CHC has received a collection of 43 of these works to augment already large holdings. With this addition, the history center library will have broad coverage, both chronologically and geographically, of topics and personalities in California history.

Funds for purchase were donated by the Lester family. Purchase was arranged by George Kane, rare book dealer in Santa Cruz, California.

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## New Program Under Study

The CHC is studying the possibility of expanding its educational focus by establishing a new program for liberal studies.

The history center proposes to transform its existing interdisciplinary program in California history into a California Studies Program, introducing modifications to some of its existing courses and inviting the addition of courses already taught in other divisions at De Anza College to the program.

The new program would provide a certificate of achievement to students working toward the Associate Arts Degree in General Studies and Liberal Arts as well as prepare students for further work in California Studies and other liberal arts disciplines in the California State University and University of California systems.

The California History Center Foundation would continue to directly support the new program and students through its research library and archive, exhibitions, book and magazine publications, and special projects, events, and tours.

Implementation of the program will require no new college resources; rather it will make the existing California History Program more comprehensive, bringing it up-to-date with developments at the state university level and creating more opportunity for De Anza students in both the transfer and associate degree areas.

During the past five years, California Studies programs have been growing on California college campuses. These programs are interdisciplinary in focus, integrating disparate individual courses in different departments and building on the reality that California is a significantly important and distinctive region of the United States and world.

It is noted that from an economic perspective, California is the sixth largest nation in the world. In addition, California has an annual state budget greater than the combined gross product of all the countries in Central America, a manufacturing base that is the most extensive and diverse of all the states in the United States, and a large ethnically diverse population.

The target date for proceeding with the development of the California Studies Program at the CHC is the 1992-93 academic year.

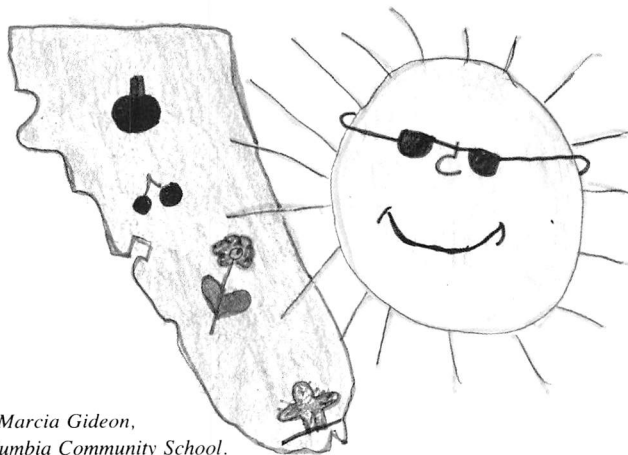
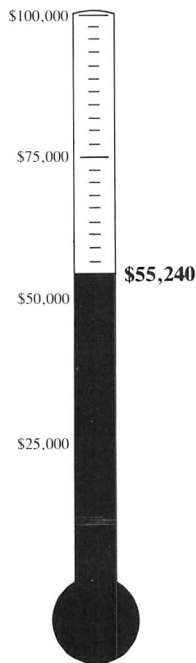
## Center to Receive TV Exposure

The center will be in the spotlight in March when CHC board, volunteers and staff members appear on KTEH (Channel 54) during the station's pledge month. Tune in between 10:15 a.m. and 3 p.m. Sunday, March 8, during the showing of a new production of "Anne of Green Gables."

## Endowment Fund Continues to Grow

The CHCF Endowment Program, an excellent vehicle to provide support for the future growth of the history center, recently hit \$55,240. Money contributed to the endowment is never spent; only the income it generates is utilized.

It's always a good time to donate to the endowment. Contributions are an excellent way to remember a family member or to have the satisfaction of knowing you are supporting history center activities over and over again.



By Marcia Gideon,  
Columbia Community School.

## De Anza Day Book Sale Set

Books by the thousand, journals and lots more will be offered for sale at the De Anza Day Book Sale to be held Sunday, May 31, at the California History Center. Proceeds from the 4th annual sale will benefit the center's Stocklmeir Library.

Cash and checks will be accepted as well as VISA and Mastercard for purchases over \$25. For additional information, call the CHC, (408) 864-8712.

## New Head of Volunteers



Meet Deanna (Dee) Liotta, the history center's new coordinator of volunteers. She replaces Mary Jane Givens, who passed away in December.

A resident of Sunnyvale, Dee started taking classes at De Anza College about four years ago. In one of those classes she was introduced to the California History Center. It didn't take her long to get involved in the center's work. She started by volunteering in the CHC library. She soon got more involved by giving tours of the center to visitors.

She is now one of the center's most devoted volunteers/docents. Last year she logged hundreds of hours of service to the CHC.

As the new coordinator of volunteers, Dee heads the volunteer steering committee. Dee and her committee will give direction to the 50-plus volunteers/docents who give so generously of their time to the history center.

One of the committee's first tasks will be to appoint individuals to oversee different volunteer activities, including the setting up and taking down of exhibits, the membership drive, tours and the like.

In the past, the coordinator of volunteers was responsible for organizing volunteers in *all* of the CHC's activities. The new set-up, according to Dee, will give more individuals more responsibility, but it also will make the volunteer program more effective.

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## New Members

### Family

Nancy Lee, Jackie and Fritz Sperling.

### Individual

S.B. Bogart, Lawrence Coates, Helen Guida, Janet T. Hoffman, Matthew Kanzler, Phyllis Karsten, John P. McLaughlin, Joanne Schott.

## Donors of Special/In-kind Gifts

Community Foundation of Santa Clara County

Stella B. Gross Charitable Trust

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William W. Lester III

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Sourisseau Academy

Austen D. Warburton

## Renewing Members

### Colleague

Gladys Stockmeir, Austen D. Warburton.

### Sponsor

Joseph and Doris Adamo, Joyce Bartlett, Patrick Bresnan, Maurice Dunbar, Marshall R. Hall, Deanna and Joe Liotta, Robert and Rochelle Lowenthal, Fay O'Brien, Mr. and Mrs. Willys Peck, Linda Quintero, Roy and Catherine Roberts, Walt and Barbara Travis, Ward and Holly Winslow, Margaret E. Wozniak.

### Supporter

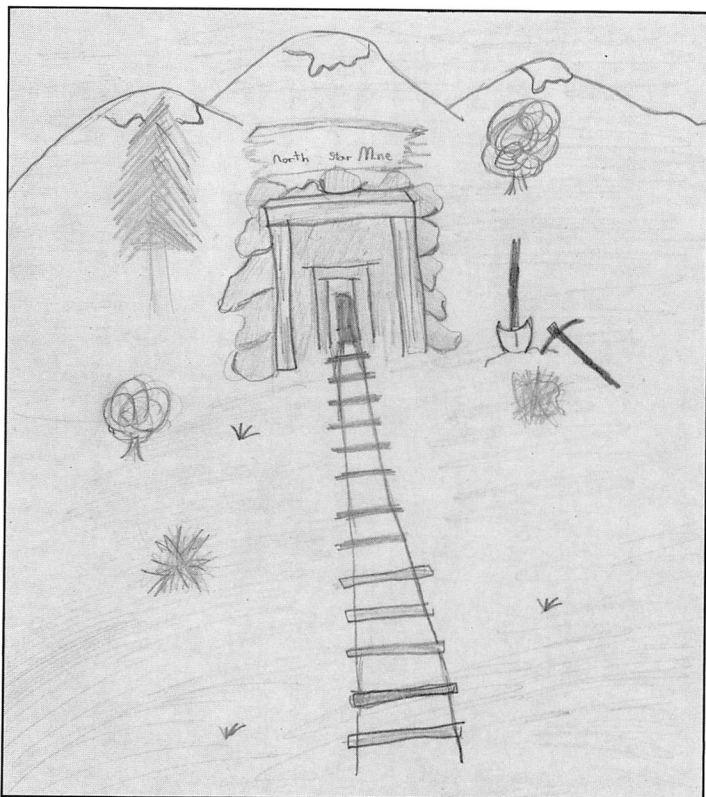
Don Buck, Alfred P. Chasuk, Frances Dressler, Stephen and Judy Ehrat, Gertrude Frank, Jim Hamrock, Howard and Janet Hill, Elliott and Tillie Hinely, James and Colleen Hunts, Mary Jo Ignoffo, Carl E. Jones, Burrel Leonard, Hazel B. Lester, Edward and Joanne Preston, Paula Quintero, Robert C. Reese, Brian Smith, John T. Smithson, Dolly D. Stowell, Kurt and Barbara Voester.

### Family

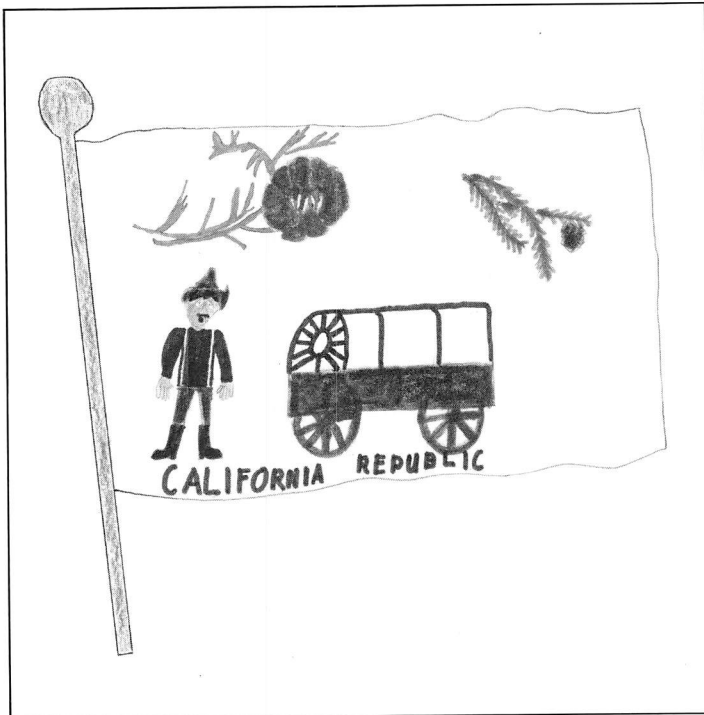
Bruce and Lynn Bowen, Gary and Jean Bronstein, Philip and Phyllis Bunnelle, Mr. and Mrs. Eugene C. Butcher, Betty and Walter Collins, Kenneth and Evelyn Comstock, Elizabeth and Philip Diether, Katherine and William Duffy, Eleanor and Clive Field, Don and Rosalyn Frolich, Shirley and Ed LaBlanc, Kenneth and Madeleine Malovos, Charles and Deborah Newman, Gabriel and Jean Peterson, Michael and Felicia Pollock, Stephen and Elizabeth Salveter, Charles G. Schulz, K. Schwertley & G. Renda, Martin and Rita Seldon, Frank and Lorene Speth, Lorin Trubschenck, Betty VanDyke.

### Individual

Fritz Bauman, C.J. Bocchieri, Jim Cochrane, Rachel Currivan, Anita Danielson, David Downey, Judith Espinola, Helen Ewbank, Jean Farran, Frances Fox, Virginia Frazier, Carmelita E. Geraci, Philip Grasser, Bill Helfman, Merlyn S. Howell, Wilda McIlvain Layton, Michael Mahoney, Nancy Mason, Leslie Masunaga, Robert C. Moore, Jeannette Peterson, Letizia Picchetti, Lee Scoville, Ms. Frankie Sexton, Margaret Launer Smith, Miriam Stelling, Dorothy Supan, Zee Tieger, Sharon A. Vick, Anne Welco, Lillian Wurzel.



By Misty Albrecht, Sutter School.



By Andre Ames, Columbia Community School.



By Knud Pedersen, Columbia Community School.



## California History Center & Foundation

A Center for the Study of State and Regional History

De Anza College

21250 Stevens Creek Blvd., Cupertino, Calif. 95014 (408) 864-8712

### Trianon Bldg. Hours:

Monday–Friday:  
8:00 am–noon, 1:00–4:30 pm  
Closed July and August

### Exhibit Hours:

Monday–Friday:  
9:00 am–noon, 1:00–4:00 pm  
Docent Tours may be scheduled  
by calling 864-8712.  
Call for Saturday hours.

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*Acting Director* — Kathleen Peregrin

*Administrative Associate* — Janet Brynjolfsson

*Instructional/Media Associate* — Kathleen Peregrin

*Community Service* — Helen Kikoshima

*Docent/Volunteer Coordinator* — Deanna (Dec) Liotta

*Librarian* — Lisa Christiansen

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**David Lippenberger**

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**Community School,**

**de Vargas School, Meyerholz**

**School, Ponderosa School,**

**Stevens Creek School**

# CALIFORNIAN

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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 \$45 level and above also receive a yearly Local History Studies publication.

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