

Volume 10 Number 3

March 1989

# CALIFORNIA THE ORNIAN

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



**Feature: The Legacy of Lace**

## It's an Old, Old Story

You will notice, as you read through this issue of *The Californian*, that it does not have the normal 16 page format. We have had to shorten it as a part of budget trimming this year. We sincerely hope that *The Californian* will rebound to its normal size with the September issue and you can help!

Not long ago you received a letter asking if you would consider giving an extra donation to the California History Center Foundation, one in addition to your normal membership. If you have already done so, thank you very much for your additional measure of support. If you have not, we hope that you will reconsider.

The history center has many members, and your support through annual memberships remains strong. However, our earned income and donations over and above membership dues gradually have dropped off. At the same time, inflation has driven up salaries and the cost of supplies, printing, exhibits, publications, and our special heritage projects. We have been surprised, for example, by unexpected financial shortfalls with the completion of three long-term projects: publication of *Pomo Dawn of Song* and *Scow Schooners of San Francisco Bay* and our recent exhibit on Santa Clara Valley labor history.

Despite our best efforts, we face a deficit which may result in reducing or eliminating some programs and member services. Some of the areas we may have to trim are the professional staffing of our library and archive, *The Californian*, and our heritage tour and event program, speakers bureau, and events calendar. We know that you value these programs. We need **your** help to keep them alive and well.

While we are searching for new funding sources to meet the challenge of surviving in an always more costly world, you can help us in more ways than one.

- When your membership renewal comes up, renew at the supporter level or higher.
- If you are employed, find out if your company has a matching gift program and ask them to match your membership or other donations to the history center.
- Help us to find business and corporate sponsors for the history center's programs and publications. For example, a firm might underwrite printing of our events calendar or *The Californian*.
- Provide an extra donation to the center to help us continue our quality programs.

We look forward to hearing from you soon, and thank you for your continued support of the California History Center Foundation.

**James C. Williams**  
Director

## Your Support Can Guarantee the Following Programs

- A professional librarian for 25 hours per week
- The CHC speakers bureau program
- A growing volunteer program
- Continued library collections maintenance
- *The Californian* magazine
- The quarterly calendar of events
- Quality history exhibits
- Outstanding history publications
- Heritage tours and events

## Restructuring History Center Membership Categories

This January the Board of Trustees discussed raising our membership dues. We decided that we do **not** want to raise dues, but we agreed to restructure the California History Center Foundation's membership categories.

New membership categories will go into effect after June 30th. Our **Regular** (\$25) and **Family** (\$35) memberships will remain the same, and the benefits will include receiving *The Californian* and events calendar, discounts on tours and events, a 20% discount on books, invitations to exhibit previews, and eligibility to participate in our docent and volunteer program.

Members joining as a **Supporter** (\$45) or at a higher level will receive all regular member benefits plus our annual book premium. *Scow Schooners of San Francisco Bay* will be available in September. Members joining as a **Sponsor** (\$100), **Colleague** (\$500), or **Patron** (\$1,000) will receive an additional annual holiday gift.

We sincerely hope that those of you who value the history center's "Local History Studies" annual publication series will renew as a **Supporter** of the history center.

### Front Cover:

Lace Museum Guild and Board Member Aileen Marinus, who actually took lace making lessons in her native England, demonstrates the making of Honiton bobbin lace. Photo courtesy The Lace Museum.

# CALENDAR / EDUCATION

- 4/4** De Anza College classes begin.
- 4/17** "A Stitch in Time: the Legacy of Lace" exhibit opens.
- 4/21-23** Springtime in Yosemite with Lee Van Fossen. \$165 CHC members; \$180 non-members. Payment due 3/17.
- 4/28** Exhibit open house. 4-7:00 p.m. Donations welcome.
- 4/29** "The Buried Ships of San Francisco: Walking the Goldrush Coastline" tour with Nancy Olmsted. 9-5:00. \$30 CHC members; \$40 non-members. Payment due 4/14.
- 4/30** "Restoring the Period Garden" tour with Gura Lashlee. 8-6:30. \$32 CHC members; \$40 non-members. Payment due 4/14.
- 5/6** "Mineros and Quicksilver: New Almaden's Mining History" tour with Bill Palmer. 8:30-2:00. \$19 CHC members; \$25 non-members. Payment due 4/21.
- 5/29** Memorial Day observed. CHC closed. De Anza classes do not meet.
- 6/4** De Anza Day. CHC open 10-4:00. Lace-making demonstrations. All activities free of charge.
- 6/11** "A Victorian Promenade: Fashions From a Gentler Time." Vintage fashion show and afternoon tea. 2-4:30. \$12 CHC members; \$15 non-members. Payment due 6/2.
- 6/17** Exhibit closes.
- 6/23** Spring quarter ends.
- July 1 through August 31: CHC closed for the summer.**

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*For more detailed information about the history center's Spring Quarter classes, please see the De Anza College Schedule of Classes.*

**The Machine in America:** *Jim Williams*

A class designed to study America's romance with technology and the role of the machine and engineering in American life.

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

A first hand look at the area's natural history from climate, plant and animal life to spring wildflowers.

**Natural History of the Central Mother Lode:** *Lee Van Fossen*

This class explores the historical and natural history along the Mother Lode Highway from Coloma to Sonora.

**Capital Cities:** *Betty Hirsch*

A course focused on the effects of the years 1849-1854 when our state capital moved seven times between the cities of San Jose, Vallejo, Benicia and Sacramento.

**Santa Clara Valley Towns:** *Chatham Forbes*

Walking tours highlight this class which introduces students to the valley towns of Los Gatos, Saratoga, San Jose and Palo Alto/Stanford.

**Sir Francis Drake in California:** *Hugh Thomas*

This class traces the background of European exploration and expansion focusing on Drake, who circumnavigated the world, landing in California.

**California Hot Springs:** *Brian Smith*

Provided by nature a millenium ago, this course explores the history of hot and mineral springs in the state from their formation to the present day.

**Bodie — The Legend and Reality:** *Bill Palmer*

An introduction to the people, places and events which shaped the history of the Bodie area beginning with the movement eastward over the Sierra in the search for gold.

**Victorian Homes of Santa Clara County:** *Mardi Bennett*

A "building watcher's" survey course of the existing Victorian-style homes built in Santa Clara County from 1850-1905.

**James Lick and His Observatory:** *Jerry Ifft*

This course studies this eccentric millionaire and philanthropist who built an observatory on Mt. Hamilton 100 years ago.

**Mansions on the Peninsula:** *Betty Hirsch*

Students will be introduced to the outstanding mansions on the upper and mid-Peninsula, their owners and builders.

## The Legacy of Lace

Anyone who has studied the French Revolution, which occurred at the end of the 18th century, is familiar with pictures of people wearing lace. The French Revolution also represents the end of the glorious lace era.

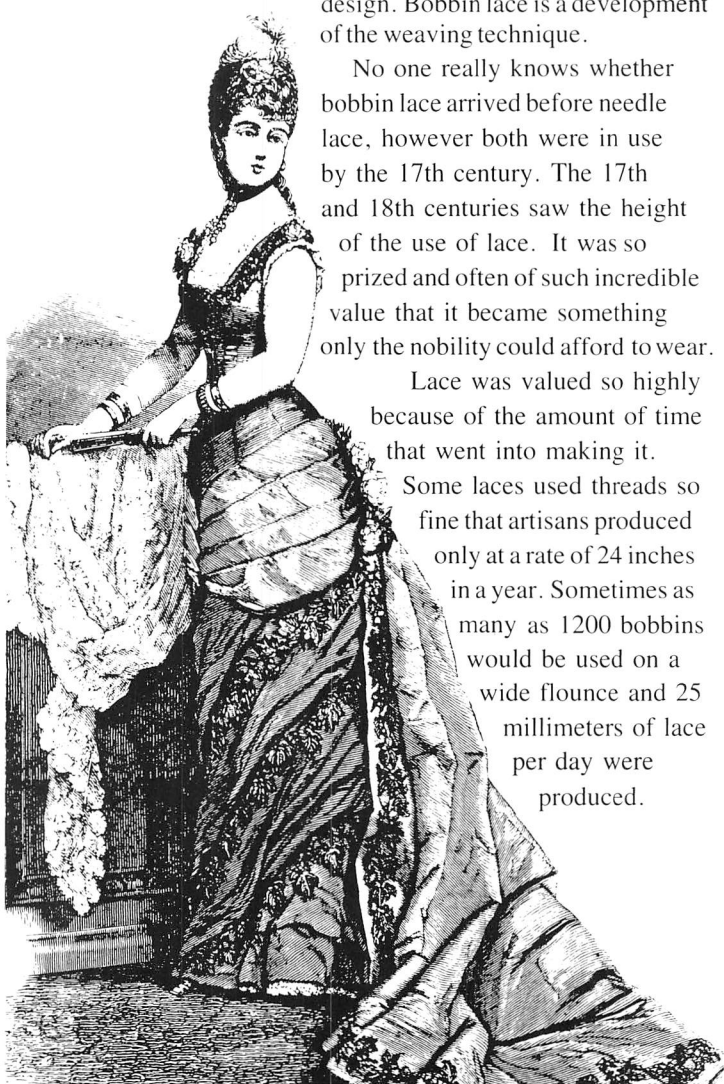
The lace that is familiar to us found its beginnings in the 16th century; forms of embroidery that were done in Venice, France and Spain. This embroidery eventually evolved into Point de Venice, needle point, reticella and others. All of the needle laces are the original form of needle point, which now denotes a type of canvas embroidery. Eventually needle lace makers dispensed with fabric and laid threads onto a pattern and basted them down instead of pulling threads out of the fabric and then weaving a

design. Bobbin lace is a development of the weaving technique.

No one really knows whether bobbin lace arrived before needle lace, however both were in use by the 17th century. The 17th and 18th centuries saw the height of the use of lace. It was so prized and often of such incredible value that it became something only the nobility could afford to wear.

Lace was valued so highly because of the amount of time that went into making it.

Some laces used threads so fine that artisans produced only at a rate of 24 inches in a year. Sometimes as many as 1200 bobbins would be used on a wide flounce and 25 millimeters of lace per day were produced.



*Aileen Marinus, board member of The Lace Museum, demonstrates the bobbin lace technique at a recent exhibit. Photo courtesy The Lace Museum.*

By the middle of the 17th century fortunes were spent on lace, and while the lace merchants made a lot of money, the lace maker barely survived. England began to import lace in the first quarter of the century, however by mid-century the importing of foreign laces, except silver and gold, was prohibited in England. This in turn brought about a thriving smuggling trade, which lasted into the late 18th century.

Smugglers were ingenious in their methods. Loaves of bread were hollowed out and turbans rewound; lace was put into umbrellas or wrapped onto dogs that had been taken across a border, starved to skin and bones, wrapped in lace and another pelt, then let loose to find their way home.

Thousands of yards of lace were smuggled in coffins. In the 18th century hardly a corpse arrived at its destination intact. An unfortunate result of the smuggling was that the confiscated lace was destroyed by customs agents, leading to less and less fine lace available.

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Revivals of hand-made lace production were attempted during the 19th century and some magnificent pieces were produced, such as Queen Victoria's wedding dress. However, with the advent of the Industrial Revolution, the art of lace making truly started its final decline as it could not be produced economically. However, while the machine took over for the artisan, it could never duplicate the quality of their work.

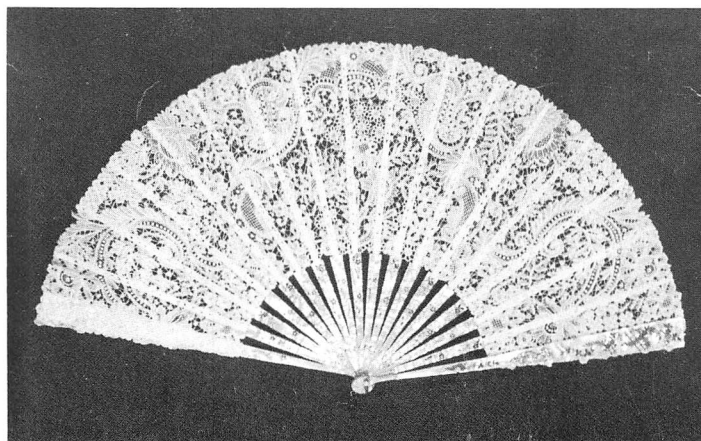
Today, although handmade lace is valued more highly than it was a few years ago, it still does not have a value commensurate with the time involved in its production.

### **Lace Exhibit Opens**

In celebration of the art of lace making, the history center is pleased to present as its spring exhibit, "A Stitch in Time: The Legacy of Lace." Curated and on loan from The Lace Museum, the exhibit will display every kind of lace that is made, with styles originating from Europe to Indo-China.

There will be mannequins clothed in lace dresses, ladies' fans, lace collars and pillows, and a panel of lace butterflies. Many of the items on display represent the handiwork of the late 19th century, while some of the work is that of members of the Lace Museum, which is currently without a permanent home. Tools of the trade will also be exhibited.

The exhibit is set to open on Monday, April 17, with a special open house scheduled from 4:00-7:00 p.m., Friday, April 28. Members from the Lace Museum Guild will demonstrate lace making during the reception, and will also be giving demonstrations throughout the day on De Anza Day, Sunday, June 4.



*This fan, which will be on display in the exhibit, is Brussels lace mixed with bobbin lace and some needle lace. The lace was then sewn onto carved mother of pearl ribs and dates from the late 19th century. Photo by Kathryn Rasmussen, courtesy Olive Hyde Art Gallery, City of Fremont.*

### **The Lace Museum**

The history center would like to thank The Lace Museum for the loan of this exhibit. The museum is a non-profit all-volunteer teaching museum. A variety of lace making techniques, such as tating, needle lace, Armenian knotting, bobbin lace and netted filet, are taught through informal sessions conducted during its Guild meetings.

Guild meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month in the Mercury Savings Community Room, 350 Showers Drive, Mountain View. The early session, with lessons, begins at 4:30 p.m. The business meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. and is followed by a lecture.

Additional information may be obtained by writing The Lace Museum, P.O. Box 4420, Mtn. View, CA, 94040 or by calling (415) 327-4013. Membership information will be available during the run of the exhibit.

# FOUNDATION NOTES

## CHC Marks Its 20th Year

Many of you are familiar with the history classes, marvelous trips and special exhibits at the California History Center; but do you know the history of Le Petit Trianon, which houses the history center and is on the National Register of Historic Places?

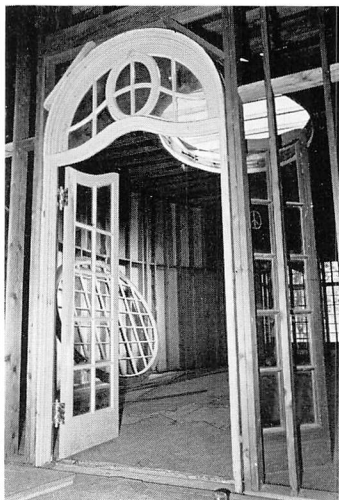
Deeds recorded in Santa Clara County reveal that Charles A. Baldwin, a San Francisco financier, purchased two lots (30 and 70 acres) from George Stevens, for whom Stevens Creek Blvd. is named.

The building was designed by San Francisco architect Willis Polk reminiscent of the Grand Trianon in Versailles, and was built circa 1895 where the Flint Center is now located. Baldwin built the home for family use and entertaining, and to develop a vineyard and winery (the original winery now houses De Anza's bookstore).

Servants were housed and cooking was done in a farm house behind the building. Ranch hands and guests were lodged in the adobe cottages north of the Trianon.

Successive owners included Francis J. Carolan and his wife Harriet Pullman Carolan (the railroad sleeping car heiress). After Carolan's death, Harriet married a Mr. Schemerhorn and sold the building in 1938 to Martha Christensen of Los Altos and Los Angeles. In 1940 E. F. Euphrat, president of Pacific Canning Company took title to the property which he sold to the Foothill College District in 1959.

Dr. Walter Warren, Mary Levine and Louis Stocklmeir, Sr. formed the Trianon Foundation, later to become the California History Center Foundation, which formulated the plans for restoration, raising funds, and organization of volunteers to save the building.



The home was moved and propped up on railroad ties to make way for Flint Center. Although saved from demolition, restoration was a monumental task which began in the 1970s and culminated with the dedication of the Stocklmeir Library in 1982.

**By Helen Riisberg**

*A view looking into the Stocklmeir Library prior to the big restoration push. Photo circa 1977.*

## Center Mourns Will Lester



*Will and Hazel were honored by the CHC with a dinner attended by well over 100 people in May 1987.*

As we celebrate our 20th year we also mourn the passing of Will Lester, longtime history center supporter, member, and trustee of the CHC Foundation Board. Will passed away on Friday, January 27 after a year-long illness.

In a 1983 profile of Will in *The Californian*, we described him as "A Man of the Future Committed to Preserving the Past"; and indeed he was. Will was a general partner/co-founder of Vallco Park Ltd., a member of the Board of Directors of Orchard Supply Hardware and valley landowner. He was a man of the land with roots that ran deep.

Born and raised in the valley, Will returned after his college and World War II years to become an orchardist, raising prunes, apricots and walnuts. And throughout his and wife Hazel's years in the valley, Will was involved with the community. He served on county commissions, citizen advisory committees, and district boards as well as maintaining involvement with his school alumni associations, YMCA and church.

Of course we at the history center are especially grateful for Will's commitment and involvement with the CHC. He gave of himself as a member of our Board of Trustees for over nine years, stepping down in July, 1986. And Will was not just a board member, he and Hazel took our classes, attended our events, and toured the state with us. And as people who knew Will were wont to do, we came to love him.

This quiet, unassuming man was a unique and exceptional individual. We will miss him greatly.

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## New Members

### Supporter

Joyce Bartlett, Earl and Donna Harris, Donald and Vivien Torrey.

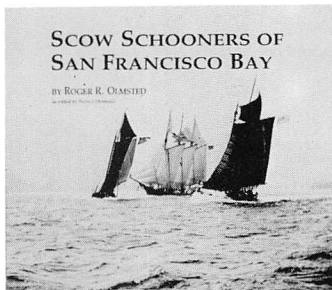
### Family

Betty and Jean Chase, Al and Mary Jeanne Fenn, Debra Friedenberg, Gale and Daysie High, Judith Johnson, Leo Lawrence, Andrea Thomas.

### Individuals

Catherine D'Ardenne, Philip Grasser, Lola Hellman, Janice Kraatz, Kathy Lindsay, D. C. McDonald, Barbara Mills, Mary Jo Mimnaugh, Stephen Payne, Paul Quinterno, Janet Rindfleisch, Margaret Thompson, Leslie Train, C. W. Vandenberg, Beverly Weintraub, Pat Wolff.

## Scow Book Finally Completed



**Scow Schooners of San Francisco Bay** is finally available for purchase after being in production for two years. This book, written by the late Roger Olmsted and edited by his wife Nancy, is a thorough history of these two-masted, flat-bottomed,

centerboard schooners with a transom bow and stem. Scow schooners operated all over the San Francisco Bay and its tributaries, carrying hay, grain, brick, coal, lumber, salt, sand and nearly every other conceivable type of bulk cargo.

Illustrated with over 60 wonderful photographs, the book is available at the center for \$13.45, member and \$14.95 non-member prices. The Scow book will be sent out in Fall, 1989 as a premium for CHC members at the \$45 level and above.

## Renewing Members

### Patron

Austen Warburton.

### Sponsor

Joseph and Doris Adamo, Robert and Audrey Butcher, William and Yvonne Jacobson, Lorraine Katusha, Michael Mahoney, Roy and Catherine Roberts, Hart and Emily Tantau, Lorin Trubschenck, Ward and Holly Winslow.

### Contributor

Charles Duckwald, Robert and Rochelle Lowenthal.

### Supporter

Bruce and Lynn Bowen, Elizabeth and Philip Diether, Melvin and Sarah Hawley, Anita Messina, Robert Reese, E. N. Richmond II, Daniel Stone, Dolly Stowell, Louise Thursby.

### Family

Gary and Jean Bronstein, Alfred Chasuk, A. P. Christiansen, Kenneth and Evelyn Comstock, William and Thais Craine, David Downey, Marlene Duffin, William and Katherine Duffy, Stephen and Judy Ehart, Raymond and Thelma Epstein, Douglas and Elizabeth Forster, Donald and Joan Grant, Howard and Janet Hill, Elliott and Tillie Hinely, James and Colleen Hunts, Janet Ilacqua, Carl Jones, Shirley and Ed LaBlanc, Deanna Liotta, Robert and Claris MacConnell, Kenneth and Madeleine Malovos, William and Margaret Nagel, Frank Nelson, Bill and Lorrene Palmer, Louis and Violet Pavisio, Gabriel and Jean Peterson, Michael and Felicia Pollock, Edward and Joanne Preston, George and Lynne Rice, Stephen and Elizabeth Salveter, Barbara Schmidt, George and Marjorie Sewell, Frank and Lorene Speth, James Valstad, Robert and Rosalie Voras, Edward and Billy Waller, Craig and Marilyn Williams.

### Individual

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### Donations Received in Memory of David Bennion

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Chown, Consilia D'Andrea, Mr. & Mrs. Richard Duda, Clive & Eleanor Field, Stanley & Barbara Golden, John & Peone Hasson, Leonard Leving, Joan Norton, Roger & Margaret Smith.

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TIME VALUE



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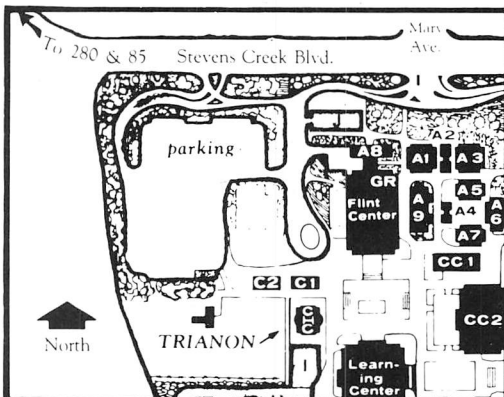
21250 Stevens Creek Blvd., Cupertino, Calif. 95014 (408) 996-4712

**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 996-4712.  
Call for Saturday hours.



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