

Alameda Museum

Quarterly

ALAMEDA'S FIRST INHABITANTS

by Dennis Evansky



When the City of Alameda extended Santa Clara Avenue through the heart of the East End shell mound in 1908, workers found remnants of a past culture. Notice the man on the left contemplating a skull; that's the amateur anthropologist Captain Clark, who led the excavation. A young man displays a pair of "crossbones" nearby. Image: Oakland Tribune.

TODAY'S ISLAND CITY BEGAN LIFE as a peninsula where Native Americans, members of the Ohlone tribe, first lived more than 3,000 years ago. These first settlers took advantage of the climate and the readily available staples — acorns, game, fresh water and oysters. The Ohlone found today's Alameda an attractive place to live. Willow trees grew along Sausal ("Willow") Creek to the north. The Ohlone used the branches from these trees to build their homes.

As Sausal Creek emptied into today's San Leandro Bay, it created a marshland that attracted ducks and other birds. Some of these birds nested further east on "Wind Whistle Island," as the natives called the Uplands on today's Bay Farm Island. These nests provided the Ohlone a ready supply of eggs.

Most importantly, however, the bay offered up oysters in such abundance that over the years the natives created shell mounds all over the peninsula. The Native American presence was especially concentrated in the peninsula's eastern end. Imelda Merlin tells us in *Alameda: A Geographical History* that "Four mounds were found east of Park Street and two others between Park and Chestnut streets."

The largest mound measured 400 feet by 100 feet and was 14 feet high at its apex. This large mound was bounded by today's Central Avenue on the south, Johnson Avenue on the north, Court Street on the east and Gibbons Drive on the west. (It is no accident that Mound Street intersects the area. The street was one of the original streets in William Worthington Chipman and Gideon Auginbaugh's 1852 Town of Alameda.)

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First Inhabitants . . . Continued from page 1

If you walk the mound's circumference you'll notice that Santa Clara Avenue goes right through its heart. This street was cut through the mound to accommodate a streetcar in the late 1890s. The area around the mound was cleared in 1908 to make room for houses. This is when the accompanying photograph with "Captain Clark" was taken. As they cleared away what was left of the mound, Clark and his men found remains of everyday living (including mortars, pestles and a British medallion; some of these are on display at the Alameda Museum. They removed 450 bodies from this mound, all of them had been laid to rest facing east in the fetal position.

There were other smaller shell-mounds in today's Alameda. In 2006 a Public Works crew working on Washington Street discovered a skull. By the time the day was over the Alameda County Coroner's office had unearthed the entire skeleton of a young Native American girl.

Not so long ago the police were called to a home on one of the streets where the Sather Mound was once located because a work crew discovered human remains. These remains were too old to raise any suspicions, the *Alameda Sun* was told off the record that they were likely from the shell mound. The Alameda County Coroner's Office retrieved the remains and turned them over to the Native Americans. The coroner would not disclose what happened to the remains, but suggested that the proper authorities reinterred them in the Ohlone Indian Cemetery in Fremont.

So what happened to the Ohlone? They kept no written records, so we have to rely on the Spanish to find out. Three Spanish expeditions trekked into and through the East Bay. The expeditions' diaries offer the first written descriptions of these Native Americans.



Ohlone Indians in a Tule Boat on the San Francisco Bay by Russian Painter Louis Andrevitch Choris, circa 1822. Image: Wikipedia.

Pedro Fages, a man his soldiers nicknamed "L'Os," (the Bear), set out from Monterey on the first of these treks. Fages' party — including six Catalonian Volunteers, known as Spanish Bluecoats — set off on November 21, 1770, in search of a land route around the "estero" (San Francisco Bay) that Gaspar de Portola had discovered year earlier. Here are some of the first descriptions of the natives through Spanish eyes (note they refer to the Ohlone as "heathen"):

"We came upon a very large pool and at the head of this, a village of heathen in which we saw about 50 souls. Two of these heathen went about with two little rafts hunting ducks on the pool.

"Try as we might, we were not able to quiet them. All they did was shout. Two of them hastened off across the plain.

"(They had gone to inform) two very large villages of our passing. Consequently these villagers turned out see us at long range and were very much surprised to see soldiers kill in passing nine geese with three shots.

"On the way we saw a very large village. When we approached it the inhabitants fled. However coaxing

them freely we succeeded in quieting them to accept some strings of glass beads."

Fages returned to today's East Bay in 1772 and trekked further north until the modern-day Carquinez Strait got in his way. His party turned inland and explored the what we know as the San Ramon Valley before returning to Monterey. In 1776 the Anza Expedition; came through East Bay once again. The party spent the night on today's Mills College and drew the first map ever of Alameda.

The arrival of the Europeans spelled an end to Native American culture. First the Spanish set out to baptize the Ohlone, convert them to Christianity. In order to better control the indigenous peoples, Spanish soldiers and padres herded the native men, women and children away from their settlements and onto mission property. The Spanish "properly clothed" the Ohlone and treated them as little more than slaves. The Indians that the Spanish did not capture or kill either died from the diseases the Spanish brought with them or they fled inland.

Continued on page 3 . . .



First Inhabitants . . . Continued from page 2

The Spanish settled San Francisco in 1776, and founded Mission Santa Clara the following year. The Franciscans began keeping baptismal records of the Indians. These records show that from 1778 to 1786 the missionaries from San Francisco recognized 15 inhabited places along the southeast shore of San Francisco Bay—today's East Bay and South Bay.

In 1795 a party led by Lieutenant Hermenegildo Sal set out from Monterey to find a spot to establish Mission San Jose. Friar Antonio Danti accompanied Sal. Neither man mentioned any encounters with Native Americans in their diaries. Two years later, the Franciscans founded Mission San Jose. They kept a baptismal book, which identified their converts according to general areas, not specific villages.

A hike around the site of the Sather Mound (see page 4) would not be complete without a visit to the Alameda Museum, where these relics, which were found in the mound, are exhibited. Image: Dennis Evanosky.

The Spanish noted six such areas:

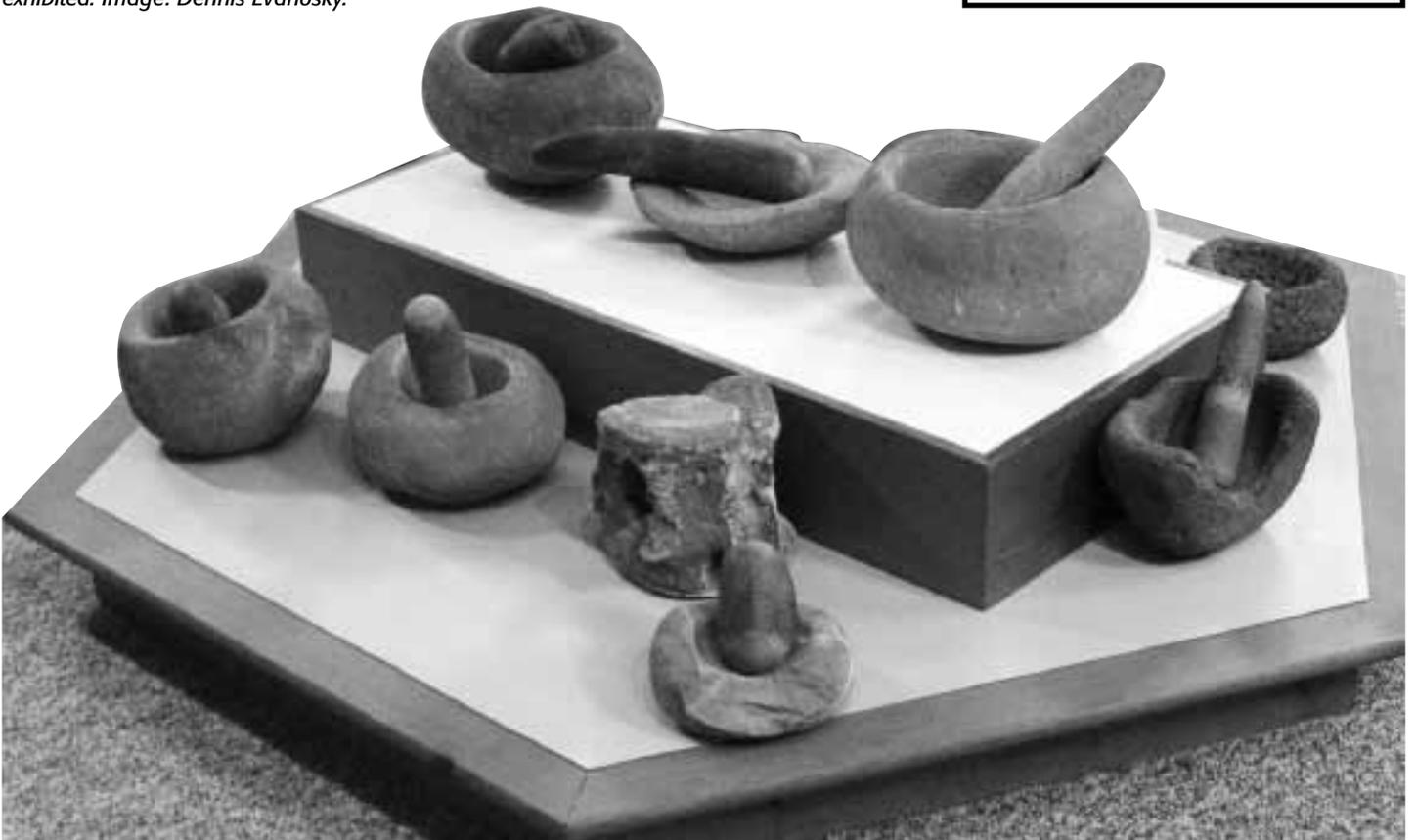
1. Palos colorados, the redwoods in today's Oakland hills
2. de la Alameda, Alameda Creek and adjacent plain (the area around modern-day Alvarado and Union City)
3. del Estero, the Bay shore (the area encompassed by today's Hayward, San Lorenzo, San Leandro, Alameda the Oakland flatlands and Berkeley)
4. del Norte, the Bay shore north of del Estero
5. del Este, the territory east of del Estero
6. del Sur, the territory south of del Estero

According to the baptismal book, the Indians who lived in the first three

areas, which included Alameda, were the first to be converted. This book tells us that by 1801 no "heathens" remained locally. They had been converted; they had run away or they had died of disease.

In 1820 Luis Maria Peralta received the entire East Bay west of the hills as part of his retirement package. His holdings stretched from today's El Cerrito in the north to San Leandro in the south. He chose to put down stakes in today's Fruitvale, not far from Alameda. The following year, the Mexican government gained control of the government of New Spain, which included all of California. Twelve years later, in 1833, the Mexican government secularized the missions. By then the Ohlone had all but disappeared from today's East Bay.

**LEARN MORE ABOUT THE
SATHER MOUND ON
PAGE 4 & 8**





Take a Hike! Stroll Around the Sather Mound

by Dennis Evanosky

In order to best appreciate the Sather Mound, strap on your walking shoes and walk its perimeter. As you start, try to imagine a landscape full of oak trees. Listen for what the Ohlone may have heard: the music of water flowing from a nearby spring, racing down the creek bed just to the north and lapping the shores of the bay to the south and east.

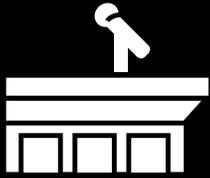
Start at Central Avenue and Court Street and walk north to Johnson Avenue. When you cross Santa Clara Avenue, look up and down the street. Santa Clara was cut through the remnants of the mound in 1908. The especially telling photograph, shown on the cover, taken somewhere along the avenue shows workers posing for the camera. This shows us how little respect early 20th century Alamedans paid to the Native American presence.

Walk west on Johnson Avenue to Gibbons Drive. Here you would be just alongside the mound. Look up and imagine a "hill" 14 feet high and bigger than a football field and you'll appreciate the size of this creation. This was a sacred place, where the Native Americans buried their dead—450 bodies were removed from the mound. Merlin says they were all lying on their sides facing the rising sun with arms and feet drawn up.

Continue your walk up Gibbons to Central Avenue; then walk down Central back to Court Street. If you have time, walk back down Santa Clara Avenue to Lincoln Park and have a look at the replacement plaque inside the park. The Daughters of the American Revolution erected the original plaque in 1914 to commemorate the Sather Mound. And if you visit the Alameda Museum, you'll see some of the artifacts found in the mound.



These maps show the site of Alameda's largest shell mound, called the Sather Mound after the 1860's property owner Peder Sather. Image: Eric J. Kos. This originally appeared in Dennis Evanosky's book "Alameda: An Architectural Treasure Chest".



From the President's Podium *by Dennis Evanosky*

My thanks go out to many with this message. First, I'd like to thank Ashok Katdare and Sherman Lewis for joining the board of directors. I welcome them both. Curator George Gunn and Board vice-president Adam Gillitt played key roles in recruiting Ashok and Sherman. Thank you, George and Adam.

Secondly, thanks to all the members who voted and mailed in their ballots regarding updating the museum's charter. These changes, which will take effect on August 15, will allow the board to meet quarterly rather than monthly and to meet electronically in the times in between meetings.

Being able to meet electronically will give the board the ability to make quicker decisions on matters of importance. We will no longer have to wait "until the next meeting" to make decisions final and official. One of the changes in the charter brings the museum into the 21st century by mentioning email as a means of communication for the first time. The changes that the museum is making include eliminating the choice of telegraphing notices to board members. Pacific Telephone & Telegraph on Santa Clara Avenue and Western Union Telegraph on Park Street closed their doors long ago.

I especially want to thank all the board members and volunteers who helped at the museum's booth at this year's Park Street Art & Wine Faire. Boardmembers Adam Gillitt, Valerie Turpen, Evelyn Kennedy and Ashok Katdare joined Charlie and Gail Howell and Debra Hilding on Saturday, July 28, to help staff the booth. Pamela Ferrero and Katherine Cavanaugh joined me and Adam at the booth on Sunday, July 29. Thanks to all concerned. Thank you especially to Adam and Evelyn for making sure that the booth was property set up and taken down each day.

The history displays that Adam made drew the crowds into our booth. Old-timers stopped by to share memories. And many newcomers and out-of-towners got their history questions answered. In addition, word about the museum will now spread far and wide thanks to Adam's tenacity in making sure that (nearly) every visitor to the faire went home with one of his masterfully made maps about Alameda's history. These maps are still available at the museum.

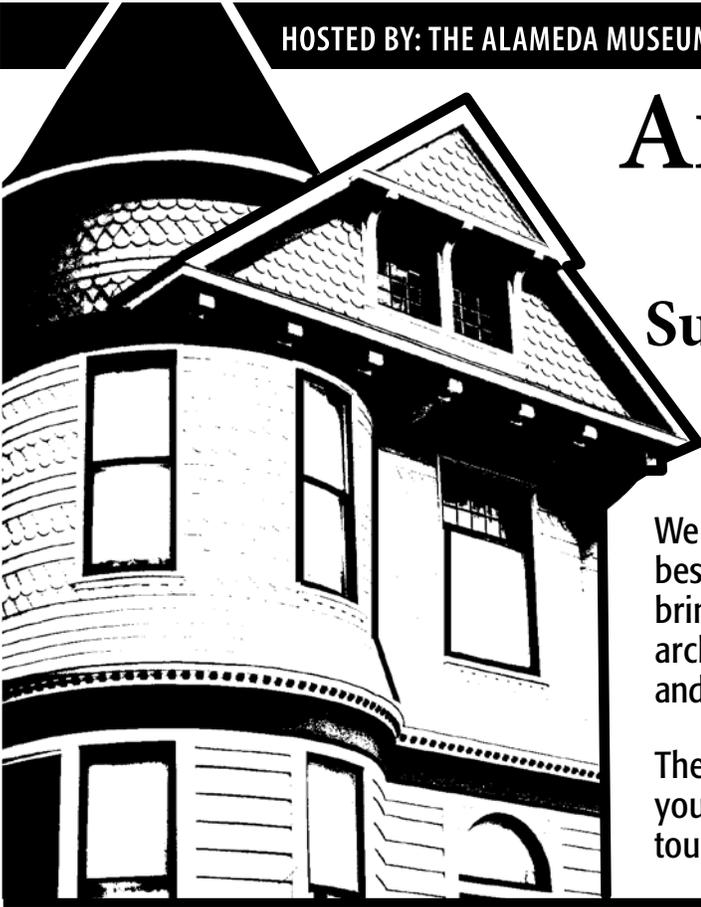
We decided to invest in a booth at the Art & Wine Faire this year to raise people's awareness about the museum. We hope that our efforts will drastically reduce the number of people who ask with surprised looks on their faces, "Alameda has a museum?"

Dennis Evanosky
Dennis Evanosky
 President, Alameda Museum



Visitors to our booth learned more about the Alameda Museum and our city's rich history. Right: Museum members Ashok Katdare, Evelyn Kennedy, and Mayor Trish Spencer on Saturday. Image: Adam Gillitt.

HOSTED BY: THE ALAMEDA MUSEUM & THE ALAMEDA ARCHITECTURAL PRESERVATION SOCIETY



ALAMEDA LEGACY HOME TOUR

Sunday, September 23, 2018
11:00 am to 5:00 pm

We are looking for volunteers to help us make it the best it can be! We need someone like you, interested in bringing awareness and sharing Alameda's history and architecture with the community. It's a fantastic event and even more so when you are part of making it happen!

These are some of the jobs you can help us with, and you can be a manager or volunteer just the day of the tour to help in one of these committees.

Ticket sales manager: You will work with our online and onsite ticket vendor platform Eventbrite to put in place the systems and procedures for sales online, at the door, and at our 3 retail locations. You'll attend 4 group meetings – one a month - and supervise and help ticket sales volunteers on tour day.

Floral/ house decorations manager: You will coordinate with local floral designers and homeowners to design and deliver floral arrangements in each home prior to the tour day, making sure to address their suggestions. You'll make calls and visits on your own schedule and will attend 2 group meetings to update the group on your progress. On tour day you'll confirm arrangements are in place and homeowners are happy.

Set up/ Clean up manager and volunteers: You will help us recruit and manage a group of volunteers set up and put away tables, linens, decorations and other items necessary for the home tour refreshments location and docent party. You'll attend 2 group meetings and will work a few hours the Saturday prior to the tour, as well as on tour day.

Refreshment manager and volunteers: You will coordinate the refreshments and snacks and organize their delivery to the refreshment location. You will contact and organize volunteers to staff the refreshment stands, keep it replenished and organized. You'll attend 2 group meetings and work on tour day.

Docent party manager and volunteers: You will coordinate all the elements needed for the party, from the caterer, to the Master of Ceremonies. You'll ensure everything and everyone will be there on time. You've organized your kid's birthday parties or a barbecue for family and friends, right? That's all the skills you need! You'll attend 2 group meetings, visit the party location on Saturday and be on hand on tour day to make sure everything is going according to plan.

Advertising/ sponsorship manager: You will research and contact potential sources for sponsorship, advertising and promotion. Assist in coordinating with vendors in Alameda or online to offer goods and services the home tour visitors may be interested in.

Volunteer manager: You'll help recruit and train volunteers for duties such as ticket sales agents, refreshments helpers, docent party assistants, and setup and cleanup helpers. You'll also coordinate student helpers in getting nonprofit service hours.

Bicycle manager: You'll coordinate with the bicycle provider making arrangements for the different locations where they will be offered on tour day. You'll attend one meeting and will coordinate during tour day.

Contact us today at 510-205-6762 or at volunteers@alameda-legacy-home-tour



THANK YOU

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Alameda Museum Lecture Series 2018

❖ **AUGUST 23**

**FERNSIDE: THE STORY OF A NEIGHBORHOOD
WOODY MINOR**

A sequel to last year's and a tie-in to this year's Woody Walk, the August lecture will cover the history and architecture of Alameda's foremost residential tract of the early 20th century. Beginning with an overview of Fernside's origin as the private estate of railroad magnate A. A. Cohen, we will see how his heirs worked with an Oakland bank to develop the estate as the city's largest single subdivision. The tract's rich architectural legacy, from Tudor to Spanish to Ranch, will be amply illustrated with a focus on notable architects and builders, highlighting residential design in the aftermath of the bungalow.

Sponsor: Peter Fletcher, Broker, Windermere Real Estate.

❖ **SEPTEMBER 27**

**IN MEMORY OF ALAMEDA: ARCHIVES, PUBLIC SPACE,
AND THE NARRATIVES OF ALAMEDA, CALIFORNIA
RASHEED SHABAZZ**

Alameda resident and writer Rasheed Shabazz will discuss how Alameda is remembered in a discussion of the city's archives, monuments, and written histories.

Sponsor: Evelyn Kennedy, Alain Pinel Realtors, and Alameda Museum Board Member.

*NOTE: Lectures take place at the Alameda Elk's Lodge:
2255 Santa Clara Avenue, downstairs. Parking is available
behind the lodge building.*

*Admission is free for museum members and \$10 for others.
No reserved seats. We open at 6:30 pm on lecture nights.
For information check alamedamuseum.org for updates
or call 510-748-0796.*



Alameda in the News

What was happening in the Island City September 11, 1892

Excerpts from the *San Francisco Call* by reporter J.H. Griffes

ANTIQUARIAN TREASURES

More bones and things—skulls, vertebrae, battle-axes and arrowheads were found yesterday in the Indian mound on the Sather estate in Alameda. The publication in yesterday's *Call* of the discoveries made, served to greatly increase the interest already manifested in *The Call's* archeological work. And the result of this interest was that Thomas and Michael Arada had quite an extensive crowd of spectators at their digging seance yesterday.

Thomas Arada speaks English as well as you or I, but his father, Michael, none at all. So it is that when the old man and I carry on a conversation Thomas, who works near the top of the trench, is the interpreter.

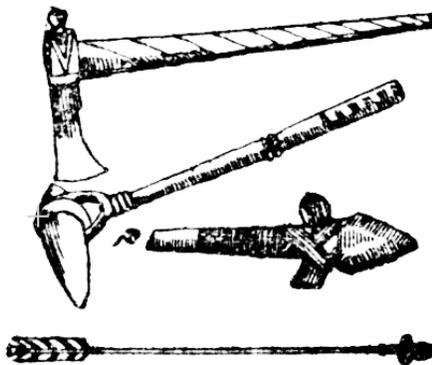
Click! Bang! The shovel struck something hard. We all peered down into the black trench. It was a human skull. The Aradas are skilled archeologists by this time, and they dig around the cranium, then along the shoulderblade and arm, down the ribs to the hipbone, and then horizontally along the leg. Thus a profile view of a skeleton in a sitting posture was disclosed, perfect, it seemed, in every particular. Its face was toward the sun, then just breaking through the clouds in the eastern sky.

Sitting thus the skeleton measured, from the top of the crown to the bottom of the hip bone, 34 inches, and from the hip bone horizontally to the end of what appeared to be the big toe, having but two phalanges, 38 inches. So this gallant

redskin, 200 or more years ago, must have stood six feet heavenward, and was probably a splendid specimen of his race.

All the carefulness of the Aradas failed to extract this particular skeleton in anything like a natural state. The bones were more brittle and less apt to crumble than any of those hitherto found in this mound, but they could not be preserved intact. To the left of the sitting skeleton three very fine arrowheads were found and an ax head or tomahawk. The latter is of flint, shaped something like an egg at one end and running to a very fine point at the other.

The new trench was not three feet deep before the Aradas made the most interesting discovery that has yet come to light. It was small, and being earth-covered, resembled nothing so much as a lump of the rich pleistocene deposit which composes the soil at this point. Only the careful, piercing eyes of Michael Arada has saved rare and precious relics from everlasting oblivion. "See," he said— or its equivalent in his own soft tongue and held up the black lump. When cleaned it proved to be the metal head of a tomahawk.



Another skeleton was unearthed next. It was found fully eight feet below the tomahawk, and in almost a directline downward. Like the one found in the morning, he had been buried in a sitting position. On his kneecaps were found huge lumps of red and yellow adobe, weighing perhaps twenty pounds each. The skull of this fellow was exhumed intact and so were most of the larger bones of the limbs and all the ribs. Three arrowheads were found near one hand and in the other a single flint arrowhead attached to a three-inch piece of petrified wood.

Again the spectators crowded about the narrow trench and inspected the relics. The women said, "Ugh!" but they kept on looking as though fascinated as Thomas and Michael Arada plied their spades and fingers so carefully about the crumbling bones.

Soon they were all taken out and laid tenderly and gingerly on the canvas bag by the side of the trench. And still the digging went on. Just before the day's work was finished two very curious discoveries were made. One of these was the complete skeleton of a small animal like nothing that walks or crawls today. It may have been left in the soil by the tide along with the prehistoric shells and sea animals, or it may have been buried by the aborigines. At all events it was a strange, creepy-looking thing. A long body with many legs and a head as much out of all proportion to its body as an egg would be to a knitting-needle.

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In the News . . .Continued from page 8

Over the cavities where the eyes once shone and sparkled, and perhaps charmed and fascinated its victim— If it ever had eyes at all—were thick bones running to a point, like elephant tusks. What outlandish specimen of an unknown past is this?

Not the wisdom even of Michael Arada can solve the riddle. Very near this find was a huge jaw bone of some carnivorous mammoth. The teeth were hideous. They looked like big spikes and measured nearly three inches, root and all. There were eight of these with molars on the jaw and cavities where four more

should have been. "Ask your father what this is," I said to Thomas Arada. But the old man shook his head. "So then are some things even he does not know?" I said to Thomas Arada. "My father says there are many things that no man knows," came the answer. Then the sun went down and the digging ceased.

According to the San Francisco Call they were given exclusive access to the excavations and published frequent announcements about the work. Artifacts recovered from the mound were removed to the Academy of Sciences in San Francisco and to UC Berkeley.

FROM THE COLLECTION

The Wonder Horse a Child's Favorite Ride



THE HORSE HAS BEEN A FAVORITE with children since the Middle Ages. Their fathers and elder brothers during this period were permanently on horseback. Knights and jousting competitions abounded. The Hobby Horse which dates back to at least the 15th century was not used as a child's toy but as a costume to be worn at celebrations, primarily rites of Spring. The shape of the horse was worn around the waist with the legs of the wearer serving as the horse's legs.

The Stick Horse was a popular children's toy with a fake horse's head attached to a long stick. Children would place

the stick between their legs and "ride" the horse around. These toys can still be found today.

The rocking horse in its current form is widely believed to have first appeared in the early 17th century. It was around this time that bow rockers were invented. Being made from solid wood, they were heavy and they could easily topple over. In the Victorian era the "safety stand" was introduced and the idea of making the horses hollow was conceived. This made the horses lighter and more stable.

The dappled grey rocking horse was a favorite of Queen Victoria. Her love of rocking horse was instrumental in increasing the popularity of the toys and the prospering 19th century family strove to have one.

The Alameda Museum recently acquired a Hobby Horse from a local estate. This wood model is a spring version which bounces up and down inside a wood frame. The wood silhouette is painted red with black stenciled details. It boasts a label on the front from Stone Bike Shop previously located at 2320 Santa Clara Avenue where they sold "toys and wheeled goods." Research has revealed that this version known as the "Wonder Horse" was the creation of William (Bill) Baltz of Pochontas, Arkansas. Baltz had a workshop where he frequently created toys for his children.



As a gift for his son Billy at Christmas, 1939, he constructed a toy horse and attached it to a wooden frame with heavy springs. The children enjoyed the toy so much that Baltz obtained a patent for the toy horse. The company Wonder Products started mass-producing Wonder Horses

in 1949. The museum horse is from this era. And how did the horse gain its name? It was created in Arkansas whose state nickname was the "Wonder State".



What's in a Name: Tregloan Court

A Pair of Urban Legends Haunt Street *by Dennis Evanosky*

DURING THE GREAT DEPRESSION a developer decided to scale back on the size of some homes he was building on Tregloan Court. This was not unusual. Smaller homes built in the 1930s dot cities and towns across the country. They accommodated the failing economy. The presence of these tiny homes on Tregloan Court gave rise to a pair of urban legends that survive to this day. As with all fables, these tales have no basis in fact.

According to the first, the developer built these homes with smaller people in mind. His prospects worked in the shipbuilding industry and their smaller size allowed them to fit into the nooks and crannies found on ships under construction.

A second legend spins the tale even further. This one informs the gullible that the developer had the 127 Munchkins from 1939 film *Wizard of Oz* in mind when he built the homes. However, these homes were built between 1933 and 1937, before Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer filmed the L. Frank Baum classic.

Tregloan Court takes its name from a family whose last member passed away in Arizona in 1935. Research reveals no connection between the Tregloans and the compact homes built on its eponymous court. The family laid out the court about 1887, the year they built a pair of Queen Anne raised-basement cottages that flank the street at 2615 and 2617 Buena Vista Avenue.

The family lived two blocks away at 2415 Buena Vista Avenue. That home no longer stands; a parking lot not far



A number of smaller homes like these appeared on Tregloan Court during the Great Depression. Their size was related to the state of economy in the 1930s and had nothing to do with midgets or Munchkins. Images: Dennis Evanosky.

from Park Street has taken its place. Four years after they built the homes on Buena Vista, the Tregloans put up two more houses in the same style on the west side of Tregloan Court at 1721 and 1723.

The family's American patriarch, John E. Tregloan, was born on December 29, 1816, in Bodmin, Cornwall, England, to Hannah Ford and James Denethorn Tregloan. John's father served in the Royal Cornwall Regiment of Militia for 25 years. John began working at the Wheal Vor mine, some thirty-two miles south of his birthplace in 1830, when he was fourteen.

He married Mary Rogers on June 11, 1837. Some five years after they wed, John and Mary decided to cast their lot in America. They departed the Cornish port of Penzance on March 22, 1842, aboard the British brig *Triton*. John's older brother James traveled with the family.

They arrived in New York City on May 2, 1842, after a 41-day voyage. The ship's manifest prepared on May 11, 1842, lists: "John Tregloan, 25, miner; Mary Tregloan, 27, wife; John Tregloan, 3, son; Honor Tregloan, 1 1/2, daughter; James Tregloan, 28, miner." According to the manifest, the brothers were two of twenty-eight tin miners—the manifest called them "tanners"—aboard the *Triton*.

The miners and their families set off for Mineral Point in the Wisconsin Territory. They traveled first to Havre de Grace, Maryland, then by water on the Susquehanna and Tidewater Canal to Wrightsville, Pennsylvania. They then followed today's Route 30 across the Alleghany Mountains



In 1887, John Tregloan Sr. decided to improve the family's property on Buena Vista Avenue. He cut Tregloan Court through and flanked the street with a pair of Queen Anne-style raised-basement cottages.

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Urban Legend . . . Continued from page 10

to Pittsburgh. From there the "tinnners" and their families journeyed on the Ohio River to Cairo, Illinois and up the Mississippi to St. Louis, Missouri. At St. Louis, John and Mary's three-year-old son John had an unfortunate accident. He fell from a steamboat into the Mississippi River. His family rescued the little boy, but he never fully recovered. He died eighteen months later in January 1844.

The miners and their families arrived at Galena, Illinois, on June 12, 1842, where, for undisclosed reasons, an unruly mob confronted them. The party traveled to its final destination, Mineral Point in the Wisconsin Territory, where they set to work mining for lead ores. The Tregloans settled in Hazel Green, thirty-one miles south of Mineral Point.

John and Mary had a second son, born September 28, 1846, in Hazel Green. His parents gave him the necronym "John" to carry on the name of their dead son. "A necronym preserves a name in the family extinguished by death," a nineteenth century source explains. Famous bearers of necronyms include Ludwig van Beethoven, Vincent Van Gogh and Salvador Dali.

Family records tell us that in 1851, John Sr. left Wisconsin with his brother-in-law Edward Rogers "bound for the California gold fields." Four years later, he sent for his family. They settled in Alameda on December 15, 1855. Nine-year-old John Rogers Tregloan was one of the first students to attend Schermerhorn School, which the school board of trustees (then known as commissioners) had named for the family on whose property the school was built.

Schermerhorn stood on the west side of Court Street between Van Buren and Jackson streets. The board renamed the school "Alameda School" in 1864; Wilson School in 1892, and then Lincoln School in 1911.

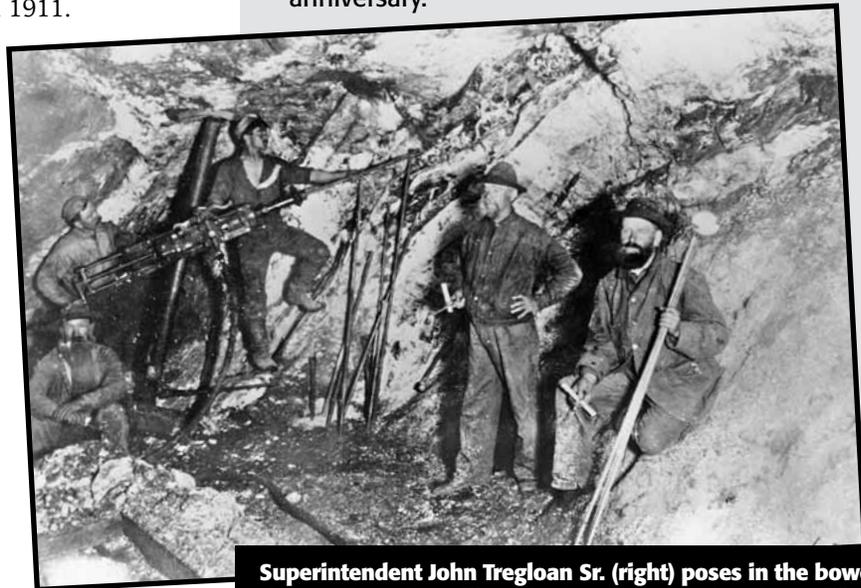
Mary Rogers Tregloan passed away in 1887. She was laid to rest in the family plot Mountain View Cemetery in Oakland. The family patriarch, John E. Tregloan, died on November 24, 1897, at the family home at 2415 Buena Vista Avenue. His funeral took place three days later at the Park Street Methodist Church. He was interred at Mountain View next to his wife of 50 years.

The urban legends about Tregloan Court lives on. Earlier this year a reporter from a San Francisco radio station telephoned the museum wanting to do a story about the homes in Alameda built for midgets.

TRACING THE TREGLOANS

The Tregloan family trace their ancestry to a family of tin miners in Cornwall, England. They came to the United States in 1842 and settled first in the Wisconsin Territory. They came to California in 1851 and put down roots in Alameda in 1855.

- Patriarch John R. Tregloan was born on December 29, 1816, in Cornwall. He married Mary Rogers. They had nine children. He died on November 24, 1897 in Alameda. His funeral took place at the Park Street Methodist Church on Saturday, November 27.
- Son John Rogers Tregloan was born on September 28, 1846, in Wisconsin. John married Anna Beecher Hartwick. The family spent most of their days in Amador, where John ran a gold mine. In 1920 he was living at 1556 Santa Clara Avenue with his daughter Grace and son-in-law Bernard H. Wedemeyer. He died on March 21, 1922.
- Grandson John Beecher Tregloan was born on January 21, 1870, in California to John Rogers and Anna. In 1880 he was living with his parents and sister Grace in the "Village of Amador City." He married Ada Larkey in 1896. In 1920 he was living in Apartment 108 at 1225 Taylor Avenue in San Francisco.
He moved to Arizona where he worked as an engineer for the Miami Copper Company. He died in Graham, Arizona, on September 19, 1935. He rests at Pinal Cemetery in Central Heights, Arizona.
- Daughter Hanna Tregloan married Dr. Ezekiel Sylvester Gabbs. They lived at 1540 Santa Clara Avenue. They were featured in the *San Francisco Call* in 1911 when they celebrated their fifty-second wedding anniversary.



Superintendent John Tregloan Sr. (right) poses in the bowels of the South Spring Hill gold mine near Amador City, California.

George Stewart photograph courtesy California State Library.



My First Allowance *by Ron Ucovich*

WHEN I WAS A CHILD, I had a friend named Bobby. I envied Bobby because he used to get an allowance every week. I had never heard of an allowance before, but I thought it was so cool to get money without working for it. I suggested this idea to my dad, but he thought I would appreciate the money more if I worked for it. He suggested searching the neighborhood for discarded soda pop bottles, and returning them to the store for the deposit. He told me that an 8-ounce bottle was worth 2¢, and a 32-ounce bottle was worth a nickel.

In those days, not many people threw away bottles that had redemption value, but Washington Park had a beautiful sandy beach where lots of people used to have picnics. I figured I could check out the trash cans for soda pop bottles. Wow... I was right! I found three Coke bottles worth 2¢ apiece. I cashed them in at the grocery store, then headed off to the candy store with my 6¢ firmly in hand.

The corner candy store was a kid's Paradise. As soon as I entered the building, I knew by the sweet smell that I was in a magic place. The first thing that caught my eye was a long, polished, hardwood counter. Colorfully arranged on top of it were enormous glass jars with shiny chrome lids. Some of the jars contained candies for 1¢ apiece, and others were 2 for 1¢. There were Tootsie Rolls, Pixy Stix, Circus Peanuts, Taffy Chews, Candy Kisses, Peppermint Sticks, Sweeties, Caramel Squares, Licorice Twists, Red Vines, Fireballs, Walnettos, Jaw Breakers, Orange Slices, and Wax Bottles.

Behind the counter, on the left side, there were candy bars that cost 5¢ apiece. If I wasn't familiar with the candy, or if it had a funny name, I wasn't about to waste my nickel on something I might not like. Slowly and carefully, I examined each bar: Rocky Road, Milky Way, U-No Bar, Look Bar, Big Hunk, Sugar Daddy, Mountain

Bar, Snickers, Baby Ruth, Butter Finger, Hershey Milk Chocolate, Hershey With Almonds, Nestle Crunch, Almond Joy, 3 Musketeers.

Then, my eye turned to another rack that had 10¢ candy bars. Most of them were the same as the 5¢, except they were bigger. They were called "King Size." I wished that someday I could be a king so I could eat all the candy I wanted.

Behind the counter on the right side, there were bite-size candies in bags or boxes. These seemed like a very wise option, because, if you worked it right, one box could last you all afternoon. They had Necco Wafers, Sugar Babies, Gum Drops, M & Ms, Hot Tamales, Jujubes, Jucyfruits, Root Beer Barrels, Malt Balls, Jelly Beans, Junior Mints, Candy Cigarettes, Chocolate Raisins, and Chocolate Peanuts.

After about an hour of assiduous contemplation, I made my final selection. For my 5¢ bar, I chose a Mountain Bar. I liked the name. Besides, the candy bar was not flat, like the others. It was a big lump, and it just seemed as though I was getting a bigger hunk of candy. With my remaining penny, I chose a Circus Peanut. This candy was an enigma to me. It was shaped like a large peanut, but it had no peanut butter flavor. It was not peanut colored, either. It was orange colored, but not orange flavored. It tasted like a banana. What a surprise! The taste was so unexpected. I loved them.

Washington Beach was a bonanza for me during the summers of '54 and '55. The following year, Washington Beach was closed for good due to the South Shore landfill project. My days of harvesting pop bottles were over.

Continued on page 13...





First Allowance . . .Continued from page 12



Fortunately, my mom came up with a new way I could earn an allowance. Once a month, my mother would buy a pie for Sunday dinner at the Boniere Bakery on Park Street. Each time she bought a pie, she would pay a 25¢ deposit on the pie tin. She used to trade in the old tin when she bought a new pie, but she decided that she would let me have the money, and she would pay another deposit when she bought a new pie. Wow! I could make a quarter per month without scavenging garbage cans!

The year of 1956 was very profitable for me. I was making 25¢ a month... money which I learned to budget very judiciously. By sheer coincidence, this was the same year that a Connecticut college student, Walter Morrison, also found a way to prosper financially from used pie tins. During this era of our history, Hollywood was obsessed with the idea of flying saucers, Martians, and the possibility of visiting space aliens. He thought he could improvise a film of a flying saucer by tossing a spinning pie tin across the sky. It didn't make a very convincing film, but the spinning pie tin appealed to a lot of Walter's schoolmates, and before long, the students started to form pie-tin-throwing competitions between Yale and Harvard Universities.

Walter introduced his invention to Richard Knerr, president of the Wham-O Toy Company in Southern California. Mr. Knerr fabricated an aerodynamic prototype of the pie tin out of plastic, and he took it to Connecticut to see if this toy was marketable. It was an instant success. The name of the bakery embossed on the bottom of the original pie tins was Frisbie Pie Company, Bridgeport, Connecticut. And ever since that day, the toys have been called Frisbies, and the sport is called Frisbie golf.

If only I had thought of this first, college students across the Nation might be tossing Bonieres, and would be playing a sport called Boniere golf.

Woody Walk

FERNSIDE

Sunday, August 26, 2018 at 1:00 pm

Meet at Edison School: Corner of Lincoln and Versailles
Free for AAPS members; \$10 for non-members



A stroll in Fernside, the city's iconic development of the era. Laid out in 1925 on the site of Alameda's premier 19th century estate, the neighborhood is a showcase of fine homes in revivalist and modern styles.





FABULOUS PLACE, FABLED HISTORY

 For more information about AAPS events visit alameda-preservation.org or call 510-479-6489.

Reading the Street

is a five session class with one slide show and four walks.
Free for a limited number of Mastick members.
Call 510-747-7506

11:00 am – Noon
Wednesdays, September 12 – October 10

If you love to walk and are interested in learning more about Alameda's architecture, don't miss Judith Lynch's next course "Reading the Street". In five 60 minute sessions, beginning and ending at the Mastick Center. You'll learn to recognize fancywork building details, compare house styles, learn about vintage street lamps and sidewalk stamps while being regaled with local lore along the way.

Docent Dossiers

Who's aboard, what are they doing, and why?

Adam Gillitt grew up spending his summers on another island, Nantucket, off the coast of Cape Cod in Massachusetts. A graduate of Brown University, he originally planned to be a high school English teacher, but chose instead to become a graphic designer.

He moved to San Francisco in the middle of the 1990s and started in print advertising for traditional agencies. But, with the rise of the original dotcom boom, he soon began designing for the web. Today he runs a firm with a longtime friend and business associate, providing marketing resources for medium sized tech companies around the country.

When he was living in San Francisco shortly after the turn of the century, he discovered Alameda while purchasing a used car. Within six months, he had left the City for a new life in Alameda and never looked back. He first lived off Broadway for four years, and then moved to the other side of the island when he purchased a house built in 1905.



▲ *Adam Gillitt lends his many talents to the Alameda Museum.*

Adam became a docent when he joined the Board at Robbie Dileo's suggestion in 2013, and since then he has been the docent and volunteer coordinator, membership director, webmaster and social media director, and

since 2016, the Vice President of the Board. The Museum appealed to him because, as he says, "Alameda has a history unlike any other part of the Bay Area. It was what made me fall in love with this City and want to get involved with preserving our history."

He can be found behind the docent's desk in the morning of the second Saturday of each month. "It is such a pleasure spending time at the Museum; I love when people come to spend hours poring over the exhibits, asking questions, and sharing their stories and experiences with Alameda," he says.

His favorite exhibit is the Neptune Beach display, especially the photos of the now-forbidden monkey go-kart track. He also serves on the City's Public Arts Commission, and is an avid photographer.

WANTED in DVD format



Andy Pagano's Legacy Films

Alameda, A Look Back 1920 – 1960

Alameda, A Commuter's Community

If you have a copy please call the Museum at 510-521-1233 and leave a message or email Membership@alamedamuseum.org



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Volunteer docents are the folks who keep our doors open. An enthusiastic group, they help run the gift shop, and on occasion, do tasks like help with mailings. Training is available. Do you have three hours to make new friends? Come and spend that time with us!

Docent Coordinator for Alameda Museum
Evelyn Kennedy
volunteer@alamedamuseum.org
510-504-5612

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alamedamuseum.org



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September 23rd, 2018
11:00 am to 5:00 pm

**A Self-Guided Tour of
Six Historic Homes in
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**\$35 Advance Tickets
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Our tour will take you two to three hours to complete depending on your pace. You'll be provided a Legacy Guidebook with a map and detailed architectural and historic descriptions of each one of the homes on the tour, and there are docents at every home that will guide and answer any additional questions you may have.



Tickets & Information Online:

Alameda-Legacy-Home-Tour.org

Alameda Museum Quarterly is published four times a year and is available in electronic form on the museum website.

Alameda Museum
2324 Alameda Avenue, Alameda, CA 94501
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