

MOUNTAIN

# REVIEW

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE

MOUNTAIN VIEW HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

Volume XV

Issue 1

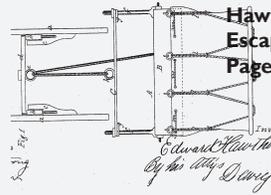
Spring 2025



**Bicycling in Mountain View in the Early Days**  
Page 8



**History Happening Now**  
**Magical Bridge Grand opening**  
Page 8



**Hawthorne's Escape Plan**  
Page 4



**Henry Rengstorff: The Earth Mover**  
Page 7



## Palmita Park & The Minton Legacy



Join us Sunday, May 4 to learn about one of our city's oldest housing subdivisions. Learn how Earl Minton, owner of the Minton Lumber Company, helped create this neighborhood during the post-WWI housing boom by developing the area with distinctive California bungalows—many of which still stand today on Loreto, Anza, Velarde and across Mountain View.

Authors Melanie Kaye and Kyle Hartzell will share highlights from their book *Palmita Park: The First 100 Years*, including fascinating details about early residents,

the unique architectural features of the homes, and how the neighborhood was promoted in the 1920s as “big city stuff” thanks to its modern conveniences like rear utility easements and a landscaped parkway on Velarde.

You'll also hear about the creative marketing efforts of the 1920s, including the neighborhood-naming contest and a parade of cars to ‘inspect the new streets’ for the Grand Opening.

This event is perfect for local history buffs, longtime residents, and anyone curious

about Mountain View's past. Don't miss this opportunity to step back in time and celebrate a century of community spirit and craftsmanship in Palmita Park.

Learn how an idea to share history with their neighbors sent these two on a year-long research project and the value of the Mountain View History Center at the Library became a valuable resource.

Light refreshments will be served, and copies of the new book will be available for purchase.

Sunday, May 4, 2025 ■ 2 to 4 p.m. ■ The Community Room, Mountain View Public Library ■ 585 Franklin Street, Mountain View, CA

REGISTER ONLINE: <http://mvhistory.eventbrite.com>



# News & Notes



This newsletter is published four times a year by the  
**MOUNTAIN VIEW HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION**  
P.O. Box 252, Mountain View, CA 94042  
[www.mountainviewhistorical.org](http://www.mountainviewhistorical.org)

## MVHA Board of Directors

- President:** Pamela Baird
- Vice-President:** Robert Cox
- Secretary:** Jamil Shaikh
- Treasurer:** Melissa Rusch
- Past President:** Nicholas Perry
- Historical Data:** David Salinero
- Membership:** Lisa Garcia
- Newsletter:** Nick Perry & Melanie Kaye
- Director-at-Large:** Carol Donahue
- Director-at-Large:** IdaRose Sylvester
- Member-at-Large:** Melanie Kaye

*Newsletter Design & Layout by  
Nicholas Perry and Melanie Kaye*

MVHA Board of Directors  
Email: [info@mountainviewhistorical.org](mailto:info@mountainviewhistorical.org)



Pamela Baird

## President's Message

By Pamela Baird MVHA President

### *Innovation Abounds*

At our Winter History event held February 2, we presented information about the early innovators and patents holders of Mountain View (see articles on pages 4 and 7).

Naively, I offered to conduct research and present the program. The project turned out to be much larger than I ever anticipated. At first, we thought there would be only a few individuals to discuss, but as we did more searching, we learned that there is a long and rich history of tinkering, adapting and innovation in and around Mountain View.

In doing the research, several things caught my attention. Four of the first five patent holders were immigrants. This is not surprising, as many people arrived in the United States and California from Europe and Cantonese speaking areas of China in the second half of the 1800s, all seeking a better future.

I was surprised by the number of patents granted to men in their 60s. The average age for the 18 patents belonging to nine men was 56 years of age.

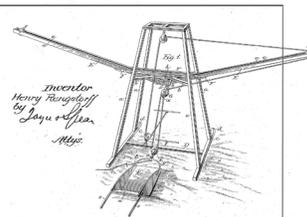
Lastly, I was surprised by how often some of the individuals moved around, from overseas, state to state or city to city. Most had families, which made moving even more complicated. How does one move a family of five 1,000 miles by train? How is this risk taking reflected in the creativity and chances that these men took in their businesses and careers?

In keeping with the theme of innovation, we will profile the stories of two patent holders in the next four or five newsletters. In addition, we will feature an article in each newsletter about innovations from over one hundred years ago. In our winter issue we covered "When electric streetlights came to MV". For this issue we cover the bicycle, an innovative product that changed society and culture. Today the bicycle is a prevalent part of the lives of many people globally, nationally and locally.

### 1885 Excavator

Henry Rengstorff

My invention is designed and used for hoisting and removing the earth from the bed of dry creeks. It is applicable to the work of forming ditches and drains or excavating of any sort not requiring great depth below the surface."



### 1860

## Timeline

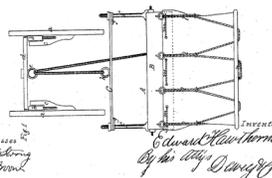
### Patent Pioneers of Mountain View

The Short List

### 1870

#### 1868 "Nonpareil" Fire Escape

Edward Hawthorne  
Fire Escape



"The nature of my invention is to provide an improved means of escape from burning buildings, to be known as Hawthorne's Nonpareil Fire-Escape."

### 1880

### 1890

## Financial Report

Melissa Rusch MVHA Treasurer

Checking Account Balance as of March 21, 2025:

\$15,529.15

Certificates of Deposit: \$62,529.18

## Membership Report

By Lisa Garcia MVHA Membership Chair

We encourage you to keep your membership current. As a courtesy, we may continue to send people the electronic or paper newsletter. However, this does not mean that your membership is current.

MVHA relies on membership dues to cover the cost of insurance, newsletter publication, history event costs and outreach efforts. You can renew through the website or by returning the form shown in this newsletter.

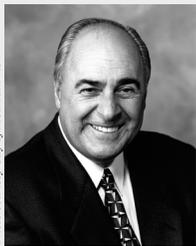
### Membership report

We are pleased to welcome new members:

Savitha Rao, Elena Lopez, Kathy Stark, Kyle Hartzell and Leslie Nicholls. Cynthia and Tim Topole have joined as lifetime members.

You can renew or become a member by returning the form (see page 9) with a check or going to the website: <https://www.mountainviewhistorical.org/memberships/>. Your dues help support our organization, pay for the ongoing expenses of the newsletter production, mailing costs, insurance and meeting costs.

## REMEMBERING



### Ralph Faravelli

The passing of a prominent Mountain View native who served as mayor for two terms was noted on January 27, 2025.

He was 96 years old at the time of his death. Ralph Faravelli is remembered as a big champion for the city. His engagement in city government, first as a planning commissioner and later as a member of the City Council from 1995 to 2003, gave him the opportunity to advocate on behalf of special projects.

He was active in planning for the 100th anniversary of the city, the Escuela Teen Center, the boat shaped play structure at Shoreline Park and increased access to the Stevens Creek Trail. Ralph was active in the Mountain View Historical Association and worked on the effort to preserve the Adobe House.

More information about Ralph can be found at <https://www.mv-voice.com/news/2025/02/05/former-mountain-view-mayor-ralph-faravelli-dies-at-96/>

## Community Outreach

### — with MVHA

On March 4, 5 and 7 three classes of Stevenson Elementary School third graders enjoyed a walking tour of downtown Mountain View conducted by Pamela Baird. Highlights of the tours included stories about the 1906 earthquake (including photos of damaged buildings), what makes a good bank building and the many parades on Castro Street.

During the previous week the same students attended a lecture at the library, where a brief history of the city was presented by Pamela Baird. Information about Adlai Stevenson, the namesake of the school, was also included. When selecting the name for the new facility the school board noted that “he was an intellectual individual, a student all his life, and made significant contributions as a citizen”. Stevenson was the US ambassador to the United Nations from 1961-1065, as well as the governor of Illinois from 1949-1953.

The students also toured the library. For both events, the students walked from the school, accompanied by teachers and parent volunteers.



**Walking Tours of Downtown Mountain View continue to be a popular outreach effort. The tours are conducted on the fourth Sunday of most months.**

**The tours will be listed on our website and on EventBrite. Registration is required.**

**Upcoming Walking tours  
Downtown Mountain View  
April 27 and May 25, 2025.**

## Winter Event Recap Innovators & Patent Holders of Mountain View

The February 2 event was a fun dive into learning about patents and local residents who have been granted patents. Sundai Lott, attorney at law, gave an informative and concise explanation — “Patents grant the inventor the right to exclude others from making, using, or selling their invention.

A patent is NOT a right to make, use, or sell the invention.”

She gave a detailed explanation of the history of patents and how the process has changed over the past 235 years since the issuing of the first patent in 1790. Since 2010 about 350,000 patents have been issued each year in the United States.

Next Pamela Baird presented the stories of nine local individuals who created inventions that were patented from 1868-1952. Some created numerous inventions, like George Formway who was granted at least four patents, three of which were for a walnut huller machine.

Victor Bensen was also a prolific inventor, with five patents granted over thirty years. His creations centered around barbeque equipment. His last patent was granted in 1952 at the age of 76.

In a robust question and answer period Sundai answered many questions from the audience about the patent process, safety of



Sundai Lott, Patent Attorney, explains the patent process, and joins Pamela Baird for a fascinating look at Mountain View patent holders.

patents, legacy of patents (yes- a patent can be inherited) and other questions.

Detailed stories of the patent holders will be featured in the next four newsletters. See the articles about Edward Hawthorne (below) and Henry Rengstorff on page 7.

*Hawthorne Edward 18 20 48 Capitalist Ireland Ireland Ireland*

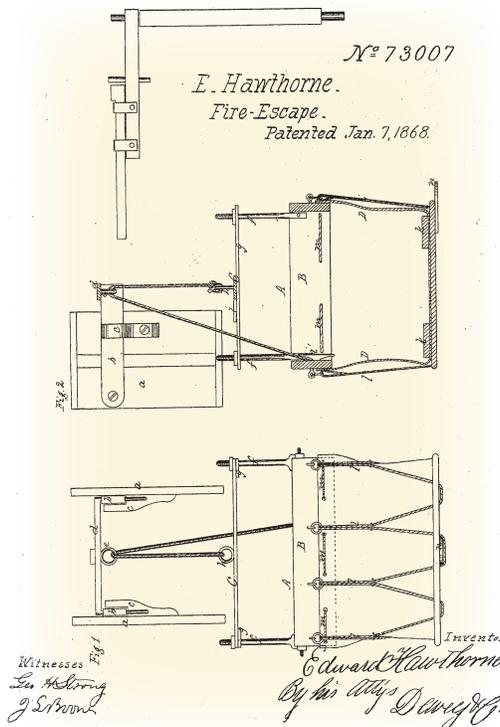
## Edward Hawthorne A Designer of Escape

In 1868 at the age of 44 Edward Hawthorne patented the “Nonpareil” Fire Escape. In the description of the device, he states, “The nature of my invention is to provide an improved means of escape from burning buildings, to be known as the “Nonpareil Fire-Escape.” The patent description continues to state, “The lower portion of the apparatus consists of a flat bottom, and the upper part is attached to a canvas bag, by means of eyelets, rings, and cords, the apparatus being so arranged as to be lowered by the person occupying it.”

The drawing is a bit difficult to understand- a person using the device lowers themselves in a bag to the ground- sort of like repelling down a cliff! The apparatus is mounted over the window on the inside of the house.

Hawthorne emigrated from Dublin, Ireland, landing in SF on May 18, 1850 at the age of 26 – most likely drawn by the Gold Rush. We don’t know what he did or where he lived. In 1874 Hawthorne was evidently living in San Francisco. That year he joined as a charter member of the “Territorial Pioneers of California.”

This organization was a group whose membership was limited to



those who came to California prior to September 9, 1850, the day that California became a state. On the membership roster he listed his occupation as “real estate”. This raises the question- how was he able to invest in real estate? Had he made any income from his invention?

The patent was registered when he lived in Mountain View. In 1868,

Mountain View was located on the San Francisco San Jose Road (or El Camino) near Grant Road. The population was about 300-400 people.

After the railroad was established in 1864, the town slowly became centered around the train stop on Castro Street. A hotel and livery stable were built. In 1870 the Weiheimer brothers built the general store at 124 Castro Street.

The 1880 census showed him living in SF, married with four children. He was 26 years older than his wife, who was born in Holstein, Germany. His occupation was listed as “capitalist”. This nomenclature was defined as people who received income primarily generated by rental property or loans, but also from stocks, bonds, or other investments.

At some point the family returned to Mountain View. The December 31, 1887, death notice of the couple’s one year old baby son, Garrett, appears in the San Jose Mercury News. An 1889 MV business directory lists E. Hawthorne, but no additional information. The family stays for a few more years before moving back to San Francisco.

Hawthorne died there on August 11, 1899, at the age of 75. He left a wife and eight surviving children.

*Hawthorne Edward 18 20 48 Capitalist Ireland Ireland Ireland*

# Local Genealogy Classes

by Robert Cox,  
MVHA Vice President



I'm a person who has always found it easiest to learn new things by talking to an experienced person. I first learned the nuts and bolts of family history research by attending a genealogy class sponsored by my local community college in Dallas, Texas.

If you are just starting your genealogy journey, a great way to do that is by attending one of the classes offered by the Los Altos Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) through the Los Altos Recreation Department. They are held at the Los Altos Community Center at 97 Hillview Avenue near downtown Los Altos.

These Introductory classes are offered 2-3 times a year at no cost. They are open to all members of the public. The DAR also hosts a Genealogy Lab that meets biweekly during most months. At the labs, attendees work in partnership with other family history researchers and make progress on their individual projects. There is no instruction, but attendees offer each other peer support.

I attended the introductory class that was held on Saturday, January 11, 10AM-12PM. Donna Santistevan, Martha Wallace, and Liane Jensen, all DAR members, were facilitators for the event. Members of the DAR have an ancestor who provided patriotic service to the American Revolution.

The class started with each of the attendees talking briefly about what they had done so far on their family history research and from which countries their ancestors had come. After that, class facilitators presented slides on genealogical basics, including birth records, census records, materials available online for free and through subscriptions, and genealogical societies. They also gave helpful hints on noting the spelling variances in ancestor's names and how to deal with potentially inaccurate and conflicting information in records. After the lecture, they answered questions from those attending and then paired off with the attendees to help them get started on their family searches.

Although this was billed as an introductory class, there were still some new things I learned from the facilitators. Ms. Wallace informed us about "Chronicling America," a Library of Congress website with searchable newspaper articles. I tried some searches on this site when I got home and found several articles which included info about my ancestors' friends and relatives that I had not found before. Ms. Wallace also introduced us to "Cyndi's List," a website with links to over 300,000 genealogical sites.

If you hope to travel to another city to conduct research, she advised us to contact a local genealogical society. Getting to know its members online is a great way to prepare for a visit to that society's locale. It's best to know some knowledgeable people in an area before you make a trip.

The next beginner's class at the Los Altos Community Center will be held Saturday, May 17, from 10AM-12PM. You can register for it by contacting the Los Altos Recreation Department at 650-947-2740. You can also use this number to register for a Genealogy Lab.

Many thanks to these DAR members for helping make our family history accessible!

## Mountain View Family History Spotlight

By Robert Cox

Former mayor Leslie Nichols has the distinction of also having served as a Judge of the Superior Court of California for over 25 years. Born in 1941, Leslie is the son of Robert Rollan Nichols and Leone (Burns) Nichols.

Like many Americans of Scottish descent, Leslie's Burns lineage passes through Ireland on its way to America. Patrick Burns, Leslie's immigrant ancestor, was born in County Cavan, Ireland around 1830, after the death of his father. He was named after a neighbor who was particularly helpful to his widowed mother.



Patrick Burns

Around 1850, Patrick left Ireland for America, settling first in Dutchess County, New York, where he met his future wife, Mary Kavanaugh. From there, they moved to Oconto County, Wisconsin, to be near relatives, while Patrick worked as a cook in a lumber camp. When the Civil War broke out, Patrick enlisted in the Union Army, sending the bulk of his soldier's stipend back to Mary.

After the war, they used this money to purchase a farm in Richland Center, Wisconsin. At the time, land was going for 50 cents an acre. They had five children, one of whom, Frank Leslie Burns, married Martha Jane Berryman and became a Protestant minister. Leslie Nichols is named after this great-grandfather.

As a clergyman, Frank Leslie Burns moved to various congregations in the Midwest, as was the custom. He eventually ended up in Portland, Oregon, with his large extended family, which included his son Richard Robert Burns (Leslie's grandfather) and Richard's daughter Leone (Leslie's mother). Leslie's parents met and married in Portland. They came to the San Francisco area when Leslie's father, who worked for United Airlines, was transferred there. Leslie was born and grew up in Burlingame.

Leslie served on the Mountain View city council from 1977 to 1984, and as mayor in 1979. He recalls the revitalization of the city's downtown, the dedication of Shoreline Park, and the forty-day strike by the firefighters as notable events during his tenure.

Leslie and his wife Anita just celebrated their sixtieth wedding anniversary in June of 2024. Their son, Richard, is a high school teacher and jazz musician living in Brazil. Their

— Continued on page 6

Rev. Frank Leslie Burns and his wife, Mary Jane Berryman Burns



## Two receive DAR awards

Mary Kay "Marina" Marinovich was recently awarded the "2025 Historic Preservation Medal" by the local DAR (Daughters of the American Revolution) chapter. This award recognizes a person who has done extraordinary historic preservation volunteer work over a long period of time.

The Immigrant House, now located in Heritage Park on Rengstorff Avenue in Mountain View, has been the focus of her preservation efforts. For over a decade she worked with historians, architects, Mountain View city officials and the community to ensure that the house would not be destroyed and to find a permanent location.

Originally built in 1888, the tiny house served as a home for early immigrants and their families. Learn more about the effort to save and relocate the house at <https://immigranthousemv.com/>. Marina hopes to have additional information about the house, including a recorded tour, available in the future.

Marina previously served on the MVHA board as publicity coordinator. She is active in Kiwanis and enjoys playing in a band called Hit Collective. She helps the city coordinate the annual Fall Harvest Festival which is held at Heritage Park. The next event will be



Marina Marinovich and Pamela Baird with their Awards

Saturday, September 13, 9 am – noon.

We applaud Marina for her important work to save, restore and celebrate the immigrant House. Congratulations!

At the same function on March 21 Pamela Baird, president of the board, received recognition for her work with the MVHA. The "Excellence in Community Service" identified the work that Pamela has done to increase the awareness of MV history and the MV Historical Association.

Pamela conducts walking tours downtown, gives history presentations to third graders, and presents lectures at the library. She has researched and presented many of the quarterly History Event programs and enjoys writing articles for the quarterly newsletter.

— Continued from page 5



Leslie Nichols and his future wife Anita Nooger in their twenties

a high school teacher and jazz musician living in Brazil. Their daughter, Karen, married her high school sweetheart Troy Winslow, who is now executive pastor of the Creekside Christian Church in Elk Grove, CA. Karen is a high school teacher there. Troy and Karen have two children, Victoria and Timothy. Victoria is married to Guerin Dayer. Their son Jack is Leslie and Anita's great-grandson.

**"Always marry someone smarter than yourself!"**

—Leslie's advice to young people



Leslie and Anita Nichols at Niagara Falls in 2024

## Let the Past Live On by Mary Kay "Marina" Marinovich

Inspired by the Immigrant House and the spirit of preservation, as recited by Marina at the Awards ceremony

*I walk where echoes softly speak,  
through time-worn beams and floors that creak.*

*Each redwood board, a tale to tell,  
of hands that built, of hearts that dwelled.*

*The Immigrant House, once cast aside,  
now stands with strength, restored with pride.*

*A place where weary souls once stayed,  
a home where history won't fade.*

*I hear the whispers in the trees,  
of workers' toil in summer heat.*

*Their dreams still echo through the fields,  
where calloused palms forged fruitful yields.*

*But stories fade if left untold,  
if hearts grow distant, hands grow cold.*

*So I will act, and I will stand,  
to guard the past with gentle hands.*

*With every child who takes a tour,  
who learns what was in days of yore,*

*A thread is woven, strong and true,  
a legacy to carry through.*

*So I forge on, and so I teach,  
to keep the past within our reach.*

*For history lives when hearts ignite,  
when voices rise to keep it bright.*

*Let fields still bloom, let stories thrive,  
let those before us stay alive.*

*Not lost to dust, nor left behind,*



# Henry Rengstorff *An Earth Mover*

Rengstorff, one of the best known early residents of Mountain View, received his patent in 1885 at the age of 56. The excavator is described in the following manner  
*"My invention is designed and used for hoisting and removing the earth from the bed of dry creeks. It is applicable to the work of forming ditches and drains or excavating of any sort not requiring great depth below the surface."* The device was a simple and inexpensive solution that could be assembled by low skilled labor.

Like our previous inventor, Rengstorff arrived in California in 1850 when he was 21 — drawn by the Gold Rush. He was born in Bremen Germany. Arriving with just \$4 in his pocket, he worked on the Jack Robinson, a bay steamer sailing between San Francisco and Alviso and then as a farm laborer in Santa Clara Valley.

By 1853 he had saved enough to purchase 290 acres in the Evergreen Valley area of San Jose. Over the next twenty years Rengstorff purchased more than 2,000 acres located on six farms that produced grain, hay, lumber, cattle and fruit.



**OUR INVENTORS.**  
**Patents to Residents of this County.**  
 Residents of this county were on Tuesday granted patents as follows: James Behm, San Jose, ore separator and concentrator; E. J. Delaney, San Jose, mixing and agitating apparatus for plant washes; Lewis Parsons, Los Gatos, fruit dryer; Henry Rengstorff, Mountain View, excavator.

Rengstorff married Christine Hassler, also a native of Germany, in 1857. The couple had seven children, the youngest died at the age of five, the others reached adulthood.

In 1859 he established a ship landing on a slough close to the bay—he called it Rengstorff Landing. Heavily laden scows carrying hay and other crops would sail from the landing to San Francisco.

Their beautiful house was located on Stierlin Road. Built in the Italianate style, it was completed

in 1867. The house was eventually moved to Shoreline Park in 1995 and restored to its present condition.

Rengstorff believed in public education and deeded land to establish a grammar school for a payment of \$1. The school was located near his house and was named after John Whisman, an early settler of MV.

He was also an innovator. The family was among the first in the area to have indoor plumbing and electricity. His patent for an excavator was no doubt inspired by the need to move water around to irrigate crops on his properties.

The family was active in the community. Henry belonged to an amateur dramatic club. He and his wife were members of the Presbyterian Church, the Republican Party and among the founders of the Whisman School District.

Rengstorff died in 1906 at the age of 77. He was one of the wealthiest and most respected citizens in the community. His funeral was well attended. Prominent local men served as pall bearers. Rengstorff Park and Rengstorff Avenue are named after him.

Which makes one wonder— did Rengstorff and Edward Hawthorn know each other? Did they become acquainted when they both arrived in San Francisco in 1850? Why did Edward settle twice in Mountain View? Did Rengstorff help finance Edward's patent? We'll never know the answers to these and other questions regarding the two men.

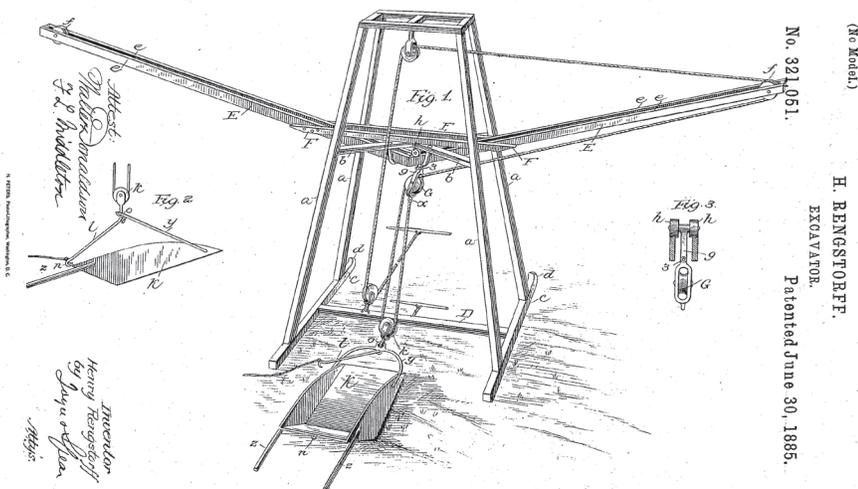
## The Mountain View History Center, located on the second floor of the Library,

houses information about Mountain View's past. The collection contains books, maps, photographs, directories, newspapers, school yearbooks, and other materials pertaining to the heritage of Mountain View.

<https://library.mountainview.gov/learn/mountain-view-history/history-center-collection>.

Selected artifacts that reflect both the changing and enduring nature of the area are on display. About 60-75% of the items in the History Center collection are the property of the Mountain View Historical Association. A visit to the History Center is a great way to learn more about our community.

**The History Center  
 open Tuesday afternoons  
 1:00 – 5:00 pm  
 or by appointment.**

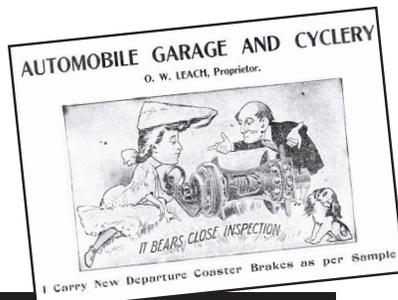


The bicycle has been such an integral part of American life for over one hundred years that it's hard to image what a technological advancement the two wheeled device offered. Not only did the bicycle give people increased mobility, but it also provided opportunities for people to explore places nearby, enjoy exercise and even change women's fashions.

For decades people had been trying to figure out how to create a machine that could be powered by a single human being. Early prototypes were like today's balance bikes for children. These had no pedals, but did aid the rider in traveling faster than just walking. The "penny farthing" or high wheel bicycle was a difficult and dangerous machine that didn't achieve popularity.

Things changed with a design improvement that incorporated two wheels of the same size. Other improvements included a chain drive, which provided power to the rear wheel and the pneumatic bicycle tire which allowed for a smoother ride. The upgrades were called the "safety bike."

Considered the golden age of cycling, the 1890s and early 1900s saw an explosive growth in manufacturing. The introduction of



the coaster brake further increased the popularity of cycling.

Advertisement from the 1908 MVHS yearbook.

## Bicycles in Early Mountain View

In 1899 more than 1.1 million bicycles were made in the United States. Large numbers of women started cycling, and the market

greatly expanded; cycling came to symbolize the women's movement. Suffragette Susan B. Anthony considered the invention of the bicycle to be the single most important factor in women's fight for equal rights.

Men's bicycle racing clubs were formed all over the country. Our city had a club-the "Mountain View Cyclers." Not only did they participate in races against other local clubs, the group was also a social club that hosted dances and parties. Elegantly printed invitations were distributed prior to the events, along with notices in the newspaper. Prominent men were members: John H. Mockbee, Raymond Bubb, Samuel Weilheimer, Victor Distel, Adolph Ehrhorn, Frank Grant and Tom Rogers are some of the names that we can recognize today.

Despite mostly unpaved roads, cycling was popular in Mountain View. Several early photos of Castro Street show a bicycle leaning up against a building while the rider was evidently inside the store shopping. In the photo of the William Booher family, minister for the Methodist Episcopal Church, the bicycle is prominently featured. We imagine that Reverend Booher used his bicycle to visit parishioners.

Other photos show riders viewing damage after the 1906 earthquake or riding on a muddy Castro Street. The only photo of a woman rider that we could find in the collection is that of Georgia Rogers Swall, who evidently was a regular rider, based on the shorter skirt shown in the photograph. An article in the local newspaper described her as a talented rider.

Several companies sold bicycles in Mountain View. A store located on Castro Street sold bicycles and cycling gear and served as the headquarters for the "Cyclers" club. Ads were featured in the local newspaper and high school yearbooks.

Although the introduction of the automobile lessened the demand for bicycles as a means of transportation, cycling remains an important method of local travel. Today the city has many miles of protected bike lanes and plans for more.

— Pamela Baird, MVHA President

MVHA thanks James Thajudeen, History Center Librarian for his research contributions

## History Happening Now Magical Bridge Playgrounds

On January 25 the long-awaited opening of the Mountain View Magical Bridge playgrounds occurred. A large crowd of families, city officials, sponsors and those who donated funds to the playground gathered for the ribbon cutting ceremony.



Left to right: Mayor Ellen Kamai, Founder Olenka Villareal, County Supervisor Margaret Abe-Koga, City Council Member Lucas Ramirez, Vice Mayor Emily Ramos and Council Members Chris Clark and Alison Hicks. Also included are former Supervisor Joe Simitian and Assembly Member Marc Berman. Together, they celebrated the opening of the Magical Bridge Playgrounds.

City Manager Kimbra McCarthy and Parks & Recreation manager John Marchant discussed the process and contributions that the city made toward the project.

Magical Bridge Foundation founder and CEO Olenka Villarreal spoke about the mission of the organization –

*“to create innovative and internationally recognized playgrounds, parks, and programs for more inclusive communities.”*

Mayor Ellen Kamai enthusiastically stated *“this playground is a testament to our city's dedication to equity and inclusion.”*

The playground includes a Custom Playhouse and Stage, a Tot Zone Art and Kindness Cove, and a swing, spin and slide zone with an area for relaxation.

The Magical Bridge Playground is located at Rengstorff Park near the tennis courts.

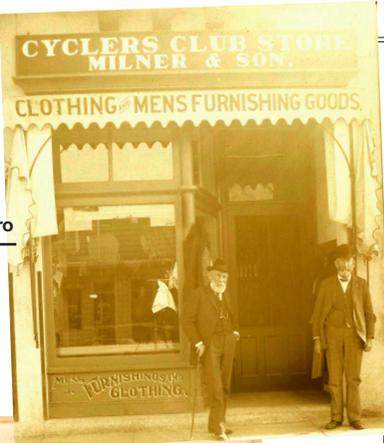


# Bicycles

in Early Mountain View



Minister William Booher, and his family proudly display their bicycle



The Cyclers Club on Castro



Georgia Rogers Swall and friends



The Mountain View Cycling Club had prominent citizens as members



## MEMBERSHIP FORM

The MVHA welcomes new members! You can also join/renew online at [www.mountainviewhistorical.org](http://www.mountainviewhistorical.org). Membership is tax deductible to the extent permitted by law. The MVHA is a tax-exempt organization under Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3), Tax ID 94-6115407.

New Membership

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Renewal

City \_\_\_\_\_

Household Annual Membership  
\$30/year

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Individual Lifetime Membership  
\$300

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

I'm interested in volunteer opportunities

Email \_\_\_\_\_

I'd like a print-edition subscription of the newsletter. (To save paper and costs, the default subscription is a digital emailed newsletter.)

Please make checks payable to:  
Mountain View Historical Association

Mail this form to:  
Mountain View Historical Association  
c/o Lisa Garcia  
P.O. Box 252  
Mountain View, CA 94042

*Thank you!*

**Calendar**

**April 27**

Walking tour 2 pm at Centennial Plaza  
 Register at <http://mvhistory.eventbrite.com/>

**May 4**

MVHA History Event 2 pm  
**Palmita Park & the Minton Legacy**  
 Community Room- MV Library  
 Register at <http://mvhistory.eventbrite.com/>

**June 22**

Walking tour 2 pm at Centennial Plaza  
 Register at <http://mvhistory.eventbrite.com/>

**June 24**

Lecture at the Library- 6:30 pm  
**History of Women's Suffrage in MV**  
 See the Library calendar to register

**July 23**

Lecture at the Library- 6:30 pm  
 Doing Family History Research  
 with Historical Records  
 See the Library calendar to register

**August 3**

MVHA History Event 2 pm  
 Earthquakes, Airplane Crashes  
 & Fires-Disasters in MV  
 Adobe House

**LOOKING BACK: IMAGES FROM THE ARCHIVES**

**MINTON'S — GOING, GOING, GONE**  
 Auction marks closure of city's oldest business

Daniel DeBolt  
 Mountain View Voice  
 Nov. 19, 2010

CLIPPED FROM ORIGINAL ARTICLE



Until 2009, the Pink Room was the best place to find specialized hardware along with sage advice from Minton employees who knew how to fix almost anything.

Machines and supplies were sold for pennies on the dollar as the city's oldest business was liquidated at an auction.

To make way for a housing development, Minton's Lumber and Supply is on its way out after 99 years in Mountain View.

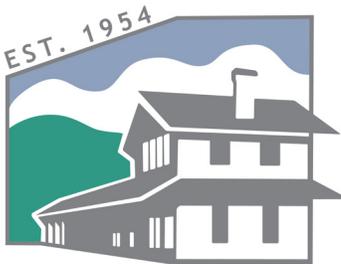
"I feel very sad," said downtown resident Melanie Kaye, who happened to drop by during the auction. "Everybody in my neighborhood, including me, shopped here."

Kaye's home on Loreto Street is one of several built by Earl Minton in the 1920s. Her doors and cabinets had the Minton's name on them, and she found during one

project that the special woodcutting blades used to make the woodwork on her home still existed at Minton's Lumber and Supply.

President Debby Schulz and her family are not selling the property. They will be paid rent by developer Prometheus Real Estate Group in a 75-year lease agreement.

Early next year construction will begin on 203 apartments with underground parking on the site. Young professionals are expected to take up residence here, replacing the woodworkers, homeowners and contractors that frequented Minton's.



MOUNTAIN  
**REVIEW**  
 MOUNTAIN VIEW  
 HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION  
 P.O. Box 252  
 Mountain View, CA 94042

WEB: [www.mountainviewhistorical.org](http://www.mountainviewhistorical.org)  
 EMAIL: [info@mountainviewhistorical.org](mailto:info@mountainviewhistorical.org)

**FIRST-CLASS MAIL**



Join the conversation on Facebook!  
 "Like" us at [www.facebook.com/MVHistory](http://www.facebook.com/MVHistory)  
 for updates on MVHA Events and historic trivia,  
 and to interact with other members online.

Save a tree and see the newsletter in:

**Full-Color**

Email [newsletter@mountainviewhistorical.org](mailto:newsletter@mountainviewhistorical.org)  
 to receive the digital edition of our newsletter.