

The Cupola

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Pardee Home Museum

JULY 2002

Oakland City
Landmark 1975

National Register of
Historic Places 1976

California Historic
Landmark 1998

May Fourth Sesquicentennial Celebration and July Fourth Picnic Highlight the Season

How would one describe the day of May 4, 2002, the 150th birthday celebration for the city of Oakland, at the Pardee Home?? Fantastic? Yes. Extraordinary? Yes. Superb? Yes. All the above and more. It was, simply, "the single most successful day in the over ten year history of the museum," according to Director David Nicolai.

The museum staff had worked closely with representatives of the city of Oakland and the Oakland Heritage Alliance since January to see that the Pardee Home would assume a prominent role in the sesquicentennial celebration. According to Nicolai, "As the home to not just one, but two, Oakland mayors, our house is a unique repository of the city's history. I know of no other house museum in the U.S. which had been the home of two mayors, and, besides, Enoch and George Pardee were not just any mayors — they were both influential and progressive mayors of our city."

The Pardee Home was part of the "Historic Block Party" hosted by the Oakland Heritage Alliance within the Preservation Park Historic District, with festivities on May 4th including the First Unitarian Church, AAMLO (the African-American Museum and Library of Oakland), and Preservation Park, besides our museum. With Twelfth Street blocked off from traffic, and square dancing and barbecuing



Oakland Mayor Jerry Brown admires the Pardee Home's landmark plaque, which he had just unveiled.

occurring right next to our coach house, a remarkable stream of partygoers passed between Preservation Park and the coach house during the four-hour event.

Most were eager to participate in the open house which we hosted in the main house, and during the day 945 (!) visitors toured the house.

Remarkably, the coach house was just as busy as the main house. The most ambitious exhibit ever shown at our museum, *Populists, Visionaries, and Self-Promoters: Forty-six Oakland Mayors*, debuted on May 4th in the coach house.

The large crowds of visitors who appeared quite absorbed with the exhibit were a gratifying sight to Director David Nicolai, who had curated it.

He was also particularly delighted to have an opportunity to discuss

the exhibit with two distinguished visitors — the current mayor, Jerry Brown, and his predecessor, Elihu Harris. Mayor Brown was on hand to help with the 2 p.m. ceremony unveiling the very first landmark plaque in Oakland, at the Twelfth Street entrance to the coach house.

Along with the Mayor, Councilmember Nancy Nadel; Una Gilmartin, Chair of the Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board; Mary MacDonald, President of the Oakland

Heritage Alliance; and Stan Stidham, Chair of the Pardee Home Foundation, were also on hand to applaud the inauguration of a plaquing program for the city's many landmarked buildings and districts as a fine way to honor Oakland's sesquicentennial. They also praised the Pardee Home for its initiative in being the first site in the city to boast one of the new plaques, beautifully designed by graphic designer and preservationist Naomi Schiff.

The crowd was smaller for our fourth annual Fourth of July picnic, but there was still plenty to enjoy with the traditional pastimes of croquet, badminton, homemade food galore, guided house tours, and, for the first time, the live sounds of the Fourth Street Five Dixieland jazz band from Santa Rosa. The Dixieland music was GREAT!

Liza Heider

Foundation Board Welcomes Four New Trustees



MARIANNE ROBISON

Marianne Robison is an Oakland native who attended Crocker Highlands Elementary and Piedmont High Schools before graduating from Stanford University in 1953. With her late husband William Robison, who was to become a Colonel in the U.S. Air Force, Marianne journeyed from California to Ohio, Texas, Alabama, back to Ohio, and northern Virginia before returning home to Piedmont. Early on she earned an M.A. in American history and a teaching credential from Ohio State University. She taught history in Virginia for five years and in Piedmont for nineteen years, before retiring from teaching and going to work for her family business, Buttner Properties, in 1992. The mother of two and grandmother of three, Marianne is also active with the Ladies Home Society, where she serves as Chair of the House Committee at the Matilda Brown Home, and with

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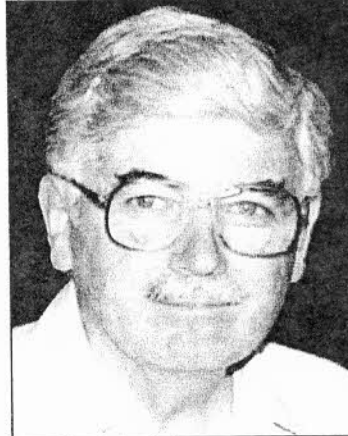
DENNIS EVANOSKY

Dennis Evanosky, a native of Pennsylvania who grew up in the Washington, D.C. area, received a B.A. and M.A. in German from the University of Maryland, and he taught in that uni-

Veteran trustees of the Pardee Home Foundation wish to welcome aboard Marianne Robison, who actually joined the board last year, and three other trustees who have joined us during 2002—Tom Doctor, Dennis Evanosky, and William Patterson.

versity's European Division from 1977 to 1983. In Europe he operated his own business offering historic tours of Germany, Switzerland, and France. Dennis moved to the Bay Area in 1986 and has worked since 1993 as Special Sections Editor for Hills Newspaper. Dennis and his wife Pauline and their nine cats live in the Laurel

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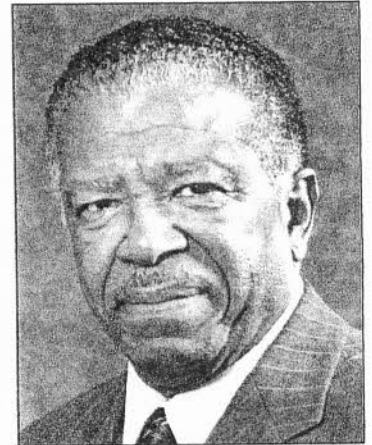


TOM DOCTOR

Tom Doctor is an Oakland native and alumnus of Castlemont High who received a B.A. from UC-Berkeley in 1956 and a certificate in city planning, also from Cal, in 1964. He worked in urban planning

for over forty years, including thirty-three with the city of Oakland, before retiring from the city and becoming a part-time planning consultant. A resident of Annerly Road in Oakland for the past thirty-three years, Tom and his wife have two daughters and four grandchildren. He serves on the boards of the Lake Merritt Breakfast Club, where he has chaired the Children's

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BILL PATTERSON

Bill Patterson is a native of Little Rock, Arkansas, where he graduated from Paul Lawrence Dunbar High School. He has both a bachelor's and master's degree from San Francisco State University in Parks and Recreation, and he worked for Oakland's Parks and Recreation Department for thirty-six years. He has been active in numerous civic projects in Oakland and the East Bay, including the restoration of Lake Merritt and the Kaiser Convention Center, rehabilitation of the Oakland Zoo, East Bay Regional Park expansion and improvement, and open space preservation. Bill was campaign chairperson for the passage of Measure K in 1990, and was named Oakland Citizen of the Year in 1995 by the *Tribune*/New Oakland Committee. He is currently vice-president of the Joe Morgan Youth Foundation and represents Ward 6 on the board of EBMUD. Bill is past president of the Oakland

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