



The Cupola

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Pardee Home Museum

JULY 2003

Oakland City
Landmark 1975
National Register of
Historic Places 1976
California Historic
Landmark 1998

Gertrude Stein Event and Music Recital Bring Front Parlor to Life in Recent Months



Two outstanding cultural events held in the front parlor of the Pardee Home this past February and April should set the standard for future such offerings at the museum. On Friday evening, February 14th, the parlor was packed for a wonderful celebration of Valentine's Day, *Gertrude Stein: A Very Valentine*. David Nicolai, the museum director, pointed out to the audience that Gertrude Stein had probably passed by the Pardee Home more than once while a student at the nearby Oakland High School (c. 1890). He then introduced Lissa Tyler Renaud, who read various selections -- romantic and not romantic -- from Stein, which she had compiled with her collaborator, Hans Gallas.

Renaud is an acclaimed actress and director, a master teacher of acting and voice, and a published writer and scholar. She holds a B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. in dramatic arts from UC-Berkeley and has been the founder and director of InterArts Training since 1985.

Gallas has been collecting first-edition books, photographs, letters, and hand-written recipes by Gertrude Stein and Alice B. Toklas for the past fifteen years. Last year, he organized a series of events and curated an exhibit of items from his collections which was shown in both San Francisco and Paris. Renaud and Gallas are currently collaborating on a full-length play, *Cooking with Alice B.*, and Gallas is working on an anthology featuring works by and about Toklas.

The evening at the Pardee Home was also a collaborative venture, because Renaud's readings were coupled with an intermission of refreshments and highlights from Gallas's collections, which he shared with the guests in the dining room. Stein and Toklas are two legendary figures in twentieth-century letters, whom, perhaps, most of us do not find the time to seriously read or study, but Renaud's brilliant readings and Gallas's rare books and photos truly brought these two women to life for the Pardee Home audience.

"Spring Is In the Air" was the title of the piano and song recital we hosted on Sunday evening, April 27th, and, regrettably, it was a very rainy evening typical of the very rainy spring we had this year. However, the audience was treated to a wonderful evening of two gifted musicians performing in



Pardee Home Museum

Lissa Taylor Renaud, at top, prepares for her performance at the Valentine event, while Joyce Whitelaw and Jorge Orlando Gomez relax after their spring recital.

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One hundred years ago

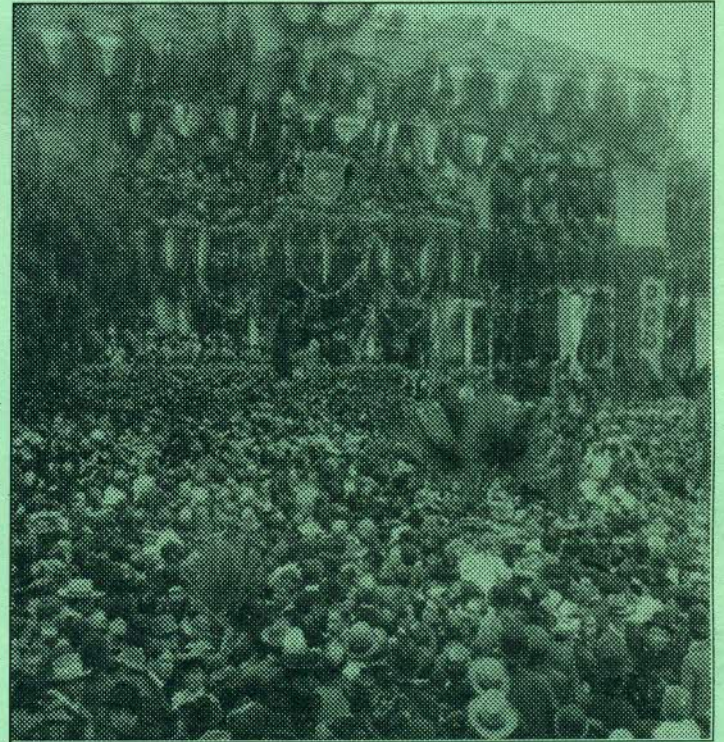
April - June, 1903

Governor Pardee hosts President Roosevelt

What began as a "100 Years Ago in Sacramento" column last issue has now evolved into a "100 Years Ago in California" column for this edition of The Cupola. Nobody had warned the author in advance that the state legislature adjourned on March 14th in 1903, and that Sacramento quickly reverted to its sleepy Central Valley ways! We also now realize that the most important event during the second quarter of Pardee's first year as governor was, by far, the visit of President Theodore Roosevelt to California. Roosevelt's two weeks in California during mid-May were but part of his legendary Western tour of that year, which lasted 66 days and covered 14,000 miles through 25 states and territories - undoubtedly the most ambitious tour ever undertaken by a U.S. president.

Governor Pardee met Roosevelt's train as it arrived May 7th from the Arizona territory at the idyllic southern California town of Redlands. After parading through palm trees, orange groves, and rose bushes, Pardee greeted Roosevelt on the veranda of the Casa Loma Hotel and introduced him to the crowd of 10,000 people below. From Redlands, the president and governor and their parties proceeded to Los Angeles and then to Riverside. In a trip filled with crowds, parades, and flowery rhetoric, it was also true that some of the more important issues of the day occasionally surfaced in Roosevelt's comments, including his statement in Riverside that "Here I am in the beautiful community of irrigated fruit growing in California. In many other parts of the country I have had to preach irrigation, here you practice it." He also planted a seedless orange tree on the grounds of the Glenwood Hotel (soon to become the Mission Inn).

Roosevelt addressed the students of Pomona College in Claremont, and visited two missions - San Buena Ventura and Santa Barbara - before departing the Southland. The Del Monte Hotel in Monterey was the first stop in northern California, and from here Roosevelt, President Benjamin Ide Wheeler of the University of California, and a few others rode the famous seventeen-mile drive on horseback, while Pardee and others followed in carriages. This Sunday in Monterey was meant to be more relaxed than the other days of the tour, and one newspaper noted that "Pardee lounged in the hotel lobby all day and had a kind word for every one who happened near." On the following evening, as they were awaiting the arrival of the



From the collections of the Pardee Home Museum

Pasadena greets the president: Roosevelt declared, "Redlands was grand, Riverside superb, but Pasadena the acme of flower

president in the governor's native city, he and Mrs. Pardee were guests of honor at a banquet at San Francisco's California Hotel, hosted by the "lady" members of the governor's class of 1879 at the University of California.

As Roosevelt approached the Bay Area, he visited Santa Cruz and San Jose, with shorter stops at the Big Tree Grove near Felton and in the Santa Clara Valley, where the fruit growers of Campbell, Los Gatos, and Saratoga gathered to greet the president. He addressed the students of Stanford University and lunched at the Burlingame Country Club before arriving in San Francisco, by far the largest city in California at the time and the most important stop on the tour.

Roosevelt's only full day in San Francisco - Wednesday, May 13 - began at the Native Sons' Hall, with an address to the Native Sons and Native Daughters of California, the California Pioneers, and the veterans of the Mexican War. In this address the president praised the assembled groups for their work in preservation of the built and natural environment: "You have done what I preach," he said to the Pioneers, and, speaking to the Native Sons and Daughters,

