



The Cupola

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Pardee Home Museum

OCTOBER 2001

Oakland City Landmark, 1975

National Register of
Historic Places, 1976

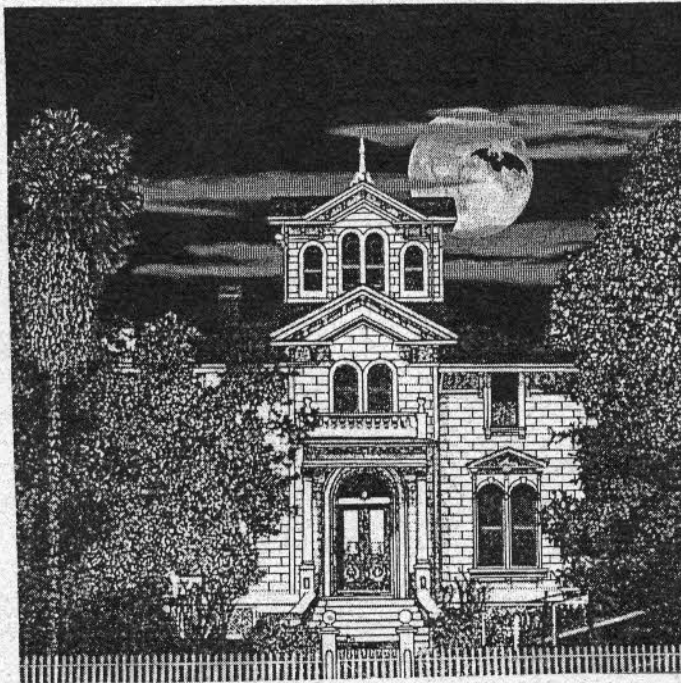
California Historical Landmark,
1998

The Ghosts will be Out for the Second Annual *Halloween at the Mansion* on October 27th!

Following the resounding success of last year's event, the Pardee Home Museum and the Oakland Heritage Alliance are co-hosting the second annual *Halloween at the Mansion* on Saturday evening, October 27th. By popular demand, Tim Dennehy, well-known Oakland "ghost seeker," will be back, this time with an assistant, to offer all our guests an introduction to the serious business of locating and documenting the spirits which have given the Pardee Home the reputation for being one of the most haunted houses in the Bay Area.

We will also be repeating the self-guided "flashlight tours" of the main house, decked out in seasonal finery and eerie touches everywhere. A special exhibit, "Mrs. Pardee's Believe It . . . Or Not!" will highlight some of the most ghoulish objects she ever collected.

This year we will also be offering more activities for children, many of them outdoors in the shadows of our yard or in the creepy recesses of our coach house. For the first time ever, we will be opening the interior of our water tower and the cellar of the main house to visitors.



Amusing or spooky photographs of our costumed guests will be for sale at the water tower, and a temporarily deranged Dr. Pardee will be presiding over an autopsy room in the cellar (truly only for the stout-hearted!). Awards will be presented

to the winners of the best costume competition and the blood-curdling scream contest. Guests can explore the occult and the mysterious through crystal ball and tarot card readings. Coloring and mask-making stations will keep your children busy. Bountiful seasonal refreshments will be available all evening in the dining room, beneath the piercing gaze of the massive elk head which dominates that space.

Halloween at the Mansion will be held on Saturday evening, October 27th, from 5:30 to 9:00. Please enter the event through the Twelfth Street doorway to the carriage house. Period and/or Halloween costumes are encouraged for guests of all ages. Members of OHA or the Pardee Home pay \$10 adults, \$5 children (12 or younger); non-members pay \$13 adults, \$7 children. All proceeds benefit both the Pardee Home and OHA.

Mark your calendars for holiday events at the Pardee Home —

Saturday, December 8th, 1:00-4:00 p.m. — Holiday Reception

Tuesday, December 18th, 6:30-8:00 p.m. — Candlelit House Tour

This year we will be featuring a
"Gold Rush Christmas"

in honor of the upcoming sesquicentennial of Enoch Pardee's arrival in California
for the Gold Rush in early 1852.

Garden Party, Fourth of July Picnic, and Volunteer Appreciation Dinner Highlighted the Summer Season at the Pardee Home

During the past few months the Pardee Home has hosted two major public events and one special "invitation only" dinner. The first event was an outdoor garden party held on Sunday afternoon, May 6th, to celebrate Oakland's 149th birthday and to break ground on Phase I of our gardens restoration project. We decided to celebrate Oakland's birthday for the first time ever in an effort to "gear up" for the city's sesquicentennial next year and assure that the Pardee Home assumes its rightful role during those upcoming celebrations. To do so we hosted a book-signing event for the recently-published anthology, *The Spirit of Oakland*, and we sold over thirty of these beautiful volumes, thereby setting an all-time record for one day's merchandise sales at the museum!

For the groundbreaking ceremony, landscape architect Cathy Garrett; landscape contractor Steve Rudy; and Dave Langridge, water conservation representative from EBMUD, which is contributing the new irrigation system for the restored gardens, were present, as was Oakland City Councilmember Nancy Nadel, who commended the project for combining proper rehabilitation of historic gardens with water-efficient irrigation. Our most loyal garden volunteers, Nick and Lois Sarley, presented a golden shovel to our Board Chair, Stan Stidham, for the actual first turn of the dirt, conducted in the deep shade of a towering redwood due to temperatures well into the nineties! Another highlight of the event was the live music, appropriate serenades played *pro bono* by the woodwind quintet, Windfall Five.

Our third annual Fourth of July picnic, like the May garden party, attracted around 100 guests, and it was also a huge success. As before, mounds of fried chicken, slaw, potato salad, and "Pardee" cornbread were served out of the carriage house, but an over-the-top "red, white, and blue" carrot cake, large enough to serve 100, created by Chef David (*who?*), was perhaps the culinary highlight of the afternoon. Patriotic rhetoric was offered on the main portico of the house by Karen McKinney, and Silvia Lange, a museum member and docent at Mountain View Cemetery and Angel Island, offered a stirring rendition of the true tale of one Juliet Nichols, keeper of the Angel Island lighthouse, who, in 1906, heroically kept the lighthouse functioning by manually striking the bell with a hammer following a mechanical breakdown.

The "invitation only" event was a volunteer appreciation dinner held on Sunday evening, August 19th. We consider this



Above: Silvia Lange portrays heroic Angel Island lighthouse keeper Juliet Nichols on the Fourth. At right: A guest in a perfect May garden party outfit seeks respite from the ninety-degree heat in the shade of the Pardee yard.



an important event for the museum, because it has only been in the last two to three years that we have built up a large enough group of regular volunteers to make such an event worthwhile. Twenty volunteers and their guests gathered around the tables in the main dining room and in the caretaker's kitchen on a lovely, sunny evening and enjoyed a German repast of sausages, potato pancakes, and red cabbage. Volunteers were presented with Pardee Home t-shirts (a new product for the museum, now available in our gift shop) by registrar Vicki Wiese, who deserves special thanks for leading the growth in our volunteer program and for organizing this event.



Board Chair Stan Stidham chatting with garden volunteers Lois and Nick Sarley at the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner.

