



The Cupola

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Pardee Home Museum

OCTOBER 2003

Oakland City
Landmark 1975

National Register of
Historic Places 1976

California Historic
Landmark 1998

Fourth Annual Halloween at the Mansion Will Spook Out Oakland on October 31st

For the first time in its four-year run, Halloween at the Mansion will actually be held on Halloween night, Friday, October 31st, from 5:30 to 9:00. According to Director David Nicolai, "We decided to take advantage of the fact that Halloween falls on a weekend night for the first time since the Oakland Heritage Alliance and the Pardee Home Museum first began co-hosting this signature event. We specifically wish to offer a safe, but spooky, environment for children and adults from west Oakland and downtown, as well as other parts of the city and other communities. All our young guests will be guaranteed of going home with a 'goody bag,' and 'trick or treating' will also be incorporated into the flashlight tours of the house for the first time."

In addition to the past favorites which will be offered again this year, such as tarot reading, ouji boards and crystal balls, the ghastly autopsy room in the cellar, a séance room, and others, Nicolai also announced that the ghosts of the Pardee family will probably be present. "Of course, I cannot promise this, but ever since we shrouded the house with scaffolding and netting for the repainting job current-

ly underway, we seem to have shaken the family ghosts from their slumbers. If you think the house looks spooky outside these days, it is even worse inside! I hope the spir-

its of Governor Pardee and his family will still be wreaking havoc the night of Halloween for those brave enough to show up for Halloween at the Mansion."

Halloween at the Mansion runs from 5:30 to 9:00 p.m., on Friday, October 31st. Entry is through the Twelfth Street entrance to the carriage house of the Pardee Home, one-half block from I-980, between Castro and MLK. Admission is \$13 for adults, \$7 for those 12 years old or younger (\$10 and \$5 for members of the Pardee Home Museum or OHA). Children 12 or younger must be accompanied by adults. All proceeds benefit the Pardee Home and the Oakland Heritage Alliance.

We are still recruiting volunteers for our Halloween event. Volunteers can work one shift for one-half the event and then have the other half free to enjoy as they please. All volunteers are expected to dress in either period clothes or Halloween costumes. Please call the museum office at 444-2187, or e-mail info@pardee-home.org, if you are interested.



Gustavo Caldarelli

Shrouded in mystery, the Pardee Home is especially ghastly this year. Peek under its cloak on Oct. 31.



One hundred years ago

July - September, 1903

Pardee at play and at work, from Big Basin to Ogden

Regular readers of *The Cupola* might remember that the first three months of George Pardee's tenure as governor were dominated by inaugural festivities and the search for suitable living quarters in Sacramento, and the second three months were highlighted by the two weeks Pardee spent hosting President Roosevelt in California during his legendary Western tour of 1903. Which brings us up to the months of July, August, and September, which were apparently dominated by summer torpor. A daily reader of the *Oakland Enquirer*, the Governor's favorite newspaper, might have responded, if asked what the governor was up to during the summer of 1903, "Not much!" For example, it was reported that on July 23rd Governor Pardee and his family arrived at Big Basin for two weeks of camping, accompanied by H.F. Kron and family.

Apparently the Pardees stayed for longer than two weeks, because on August 13th Madeline, the Governor's 13-year-old daughter, fell from a horse and dislocated her shoulder there.

On August 18th the *Enquirer* reported that Madeline "is getting along nicely...the setting of her shoulder was a success in every way." The same article noted that the Pardees would be occupying their Oakland home "during the next two to three weeks, while the Governor's residence in Sacramento is overhauled and newly furnished." This statement should come as a revelation to our museum docents, who have always been trained to state that "The Pardee Home was rented to another family during the entire four years the family was in Sacramento." (We hope to have more information about renting the Pardees' Oakland home in our next issue, when we discuss the move into the Governor's Mansion in November in some detail.)

Among other less onerous duties assumed by Governor Pardee during the summer months were these two: ordering five kegs of the best ripe olives available from the Santa Barbara market to be shipped east to President Roosevelt, President Butler of Columbia University and other members of the presidential party who had just toured the state, all of whom, according to the *Enquirer*, had tasted California olives for the first time and declared them to be exquisite, and, secondly, examining three sketches of Mission-style buildings for the

California Pavilion at the upcoming World's Fair in St. Louis for his approval... "The Governor thinks it better to take some particular mission for a model and to this end has addressed a letter to Archbishop Riordan asking if the Catholic church would object to such a course being pursued. Governor Pardee favors a reproduction of the Santa Barbara mission, as representing a type of early California architecture," reported the *Enquirer*.

On July 4th of 1903, Pardee was chosen to deliver the main patriotic oration at the Macdonough Theater, located on the southeast corner of 14th and Broadway in Oakland. Pardee presented a lengthy discourse on the virtues of the Revolutionary War patriots, most likely all penned by the governor himself from his personal knowledge of that era. The hyperbolic rhetoric would embarrass most listeners today, but the impressive depth of his historical knowledge should also shame most of us. Amidst his encomiums to the patriots of 1776, Pardee returned to a topic never far from his thoughts - class struggle, or "class hatred," as he preferred - an evil which had vexed Pardee as mayor of Oakland and during the gubernatorial election of 1902:

"Class-hatred! God spare us from that! God grant that, under the American flag, its blue typical of the heavens high above us, its stars snatched from the spangled vault that arches o'er us and glorifies the night, its white typifying the purity of intention of those who founded and those who love our country, its red stained with the immortal blood of those who died in its defense - under the American flag there never has been and, God grant it, there never shall be classes. Under its protecting folds, which now greet the rising sun the world around, all men are equal, free, and independent. And he is not a good American, is false to the ideals of Washington and Jefferson and Lincoln and McKinley and all the patriots who, like them, have given all their energies to our upbuilding, who would make classes here. He who would make classes where none exist, who would array one American against another, who would embitter him who labors with his hands and brain against him who labors only with his brain - he who would do this is doing all he can, whether he does it wittingly or unwittingly, to sow the seed that caused Persia to topple to her fall, brought Greece to an untimely end, and made Rome the plaything of purer and more powerful rivals. Let every American here today, celebrating this day of American independence, with the flag of his country high above him, resolve to oppose, with all the power

