



The Cupola

The Newsletter
Of the
Pardee Home Museum

Fall / Winter 2010

Oakland City Landmark
1975

National Register of Historical Places
1976

Alameda County Historical Society Landmark
1985

California Historic Landmark
1998

A KIDS THANKSGIVING AT THE PARDEE HOME

By Ron Pardee Nielson

For Helen and Madeline Pardee, Thanksgiving was THE BIG HOLIDAY. All of the Pardee cousins remember at least one Thanksgiving spent at the big house in Oakland. My sister and I spent many a Thanksgiving there, and I'm sorry to say, often reluctantly. When you are a teenager, who wants to spend an evening in an old house, with all those old people? Why couldn't we just eat at home? But, when we arrived, we forgot about that and simply enjoyed exploring every nook and cranny of the wonderful old home. While the adults visited, my sister and I, and any other cousin who was there, ran off to the music room and each of us made a wish as we rubbed the belly button of the ceramic Ho tai, or "Laughing Buddha", which sat on the piano.

We would then make a beeline to the kitchen to see what Elizabeth Baker, and later on her daughter, Mary Malone, was cooking for dinner. Of course there would be turkey, but what else? For instance what kind of stuffing was she making? Helen and Madeline loved chestnut stuffing but Elizabeth knew we kids hated it so she would make a separate bowl of stuffing, without chestnuts, just for us.

Having confirmed this, it was off to the scrimshaw cabinet and the Stereopticon which was stored in one of the drawers. This device lets you view pictures in three dimensions. There were at least twenty or thirty pictures of Teddy Roosevelt giving speeches during his Bull Moose campaign for president. The pictures were of such quality you felt like you could reach out and touch him. After

much more exploring, it was back to the kitchen to find out when dinner was to be served. Just outside the dining room door there is a set of chimes which are rung when dinner is ready. We liked to be first on the scene so we could ring the adults in the parlor to come to dinner.

The dining room table was usually set to accommodate ten. In the center of the table was a cornucopia filled with fruit with several ears of dried, multi-colored Indian corn placed around it. The turkey was usually carved by Helen's friend, Elmer Schwarz. Elmer was the husband of Lucy Schwarz, Helen's fellow redhead and best friend since childhood. When the main course ended, there was competition to see which one of the kids got to ring the bell to signal Elizabeth that we were ready for dessert. The dessert was always a surprise and always delicious.

After dessert, the kids were once again free to explore. We liked to go outside to check out the barn. The barn has three horse stalls and a carriage downstairs. Next to the original barn, a garage was added. Sitting on blocks in the garage for many years was the Pardee's old Winton automobile, which was always fun to climb up, on, and over. Its wheels seemed to be as tall as we were. Upstairs in the barn the billiard table was stored. It was covered by a white sheet and California state fair posters dating back to the early 1900's. The Pardee family's croquet set was also in the barn and we often set it up and played croquet in the large back yard. When it was time to go, we reluctantly climbed in the car and started complaining about having to come next Thanksgiving.



HALLOWEEN CELEBRATION

Sunday, October 31st

1:00 – 4:00 PM

The Pardee Home Museum has long been associated with fun and curious events celebrating Halloween. A "better than ever" afternoon Halloween party, including games, crafts, pumpkin decorating, piñata busting and refreshments will be presented in the Pardee gardens on Sunday, October 31st, from one to four o'clock. The popular "Ogretown" rocking tubs, a sensation last year as presented by the inspired, green-haired Annie Lore, will be spread on the Castro side lawn along with ghosts and bats flying over the badminton net. There will be contests for pumpkin decorating, putting a wart on the witch's nose, ingenious costumes and mask making.

A special highlight will be the return of the traditional magic show at 2:30 with renowned magician Mike Della Penna, assisted by Clara the Clairvoyant Duck who has amazing powers even when blindfolded. Mike Della Penna's shows are extraordinary for his mastery of children's fascination with make believe.

Author and spirit expert, Karen Zimmerman, will be present at two o'clock for a book signing of her new publication *Ghost Stories and Legends of Alameda, Berkeley, and Oakland* which delves into the question of whether there are ghosts in the Pardee Home Museum.

General Admission will be five dollars for those twelve and older. Children under twelve are free. Docent led House tours will also be available for an additional five dollars per person.

DEANNA LYON, BOARD CHAIR, STEPPING DOWN



Deanna Lyon – Always helping out –
Painting the fence at the Pardee Home

DEANNA LYON has been a backbone of our board of trustees and strong leader of the PHM for 14 years. She has been the chair of the Board of Trustees for the last three years and before that was secretary of the Board. Her final meeting will be in October. Her steady, strong leadership has carried the Pardee Home Museum through a period of transition: from a period of a professional paid director, David Nicolai, to a period of amazing volunteers carrying out the various responsibilities to keep the PHM running smoothly.

Deanna first became involved with the PHM in her professional capacity as an estate planning and trust attorney. She was called in to request the court to deaccession the fire arms collection of the PHM. After donating her time and expertise to accomplish the sale of the fire arms she became interested in this unique historic home and came on the board in 1995. She served until 2000 and rejoined the board in 2004. For 14 years she has been a loyal volunteer and leader of the PHM. Deanna promises to stay in touch and to volunteer as time permits. (She will be working the craft table at the Halloween party.) She will also be available to give advice when needed.

Deanna moves on to give more time to her own extended family trust and estate issues and more time for her love of quilting and gardening. She continues as a full time trust and estate planning attorney in Oakland.

Deanna will be deeply missed and we thank her for her years of service.

A PHM VOLUNTEER COUPLE ANN and STEVE BROWN

ANN BROWN defines “Jack of All Trades”. She is the office manager who schedules all tours and teas. As a docent Ann shows her love for the PHM as she introduces visitors to each room of the tour. Being secretary to the board of trustees and co-editor of the Cupola makes Ann absolutely indispensable. Add to the above Ann’s passion for baking and trying new recipes. Her delicious cookies appear on all the tea tables at the PHM.

Ann was born in South Bend, Indiana, moved to nearby Elkhart at age eight and graduated from Elkhart High School. Many activities were a part of her high school life including Editor of the year book and writing for the school paper. Ann graduated from Purdue University with a BS degree in math education and a Masters degree in Guidance and Counseling. At Purdue she met Steve Brown. They married and moved to California. Instead of teaching, Ann first worked in human resources for an electronics firm and later in the purchasing department during the building of the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center (SLAC). Later she taught math in a San Mateo Middle School. Other positions she held were director of SIP (School Improvement Program), a catering business featuring ethnic foods, registrar of the high school guidance department and raising three children.

In 1993 Ann went back to school at Merritt Community College in Oakland to study landscape horticulture. Among other horticulture jobs, Ann worked on the Kaiser Building roof top garden.

Ann’s hobbies include gardening, baking, P.E.O. (an organization that supports education for women), her five grandchildren and her devotion to the PHM.

PHM is lucky to have Ann on board.

A Touch of History

George Pardee re: his father, Enoch:
"Practically always, during his years of practice as an oculist, there was at least one of his patients whose board and lodging my father paid for, besides treating him or her gratuitously. And, when he turned his practice over to me, in 1892, I found, in his books many, many thousands of dollars worth of entries with this note: 'Too poor to pay.' He had been poor himself."

STEVE BROWN has recently become involved as our volunteer computer expert and website designer. He has updated the existing website and will continue to monitor and keep information current. Check it out at pardeehome.org. “With Steve’s entry into our volunteer world we are a completely volunteer organization and proud of this accomplishment”, states Kay Cheatham of the Board of Trustees.

Steve was born in San Francisco; at age one, the family moved to Washington DC where he attended public schools. Back in California, he attended junior and senior high schools in Palo Alto. In high school he managed the school store and was on the track and field team. Steve then went to the local university – Stanford, to study quantitative science and engineering. He earned a masters degree in physics at Stanford and a PhD in physics from Purdue. While at Purdue, a friend introduced him to Ann on a blind date. They have two daughters and one son. Back in California at the Stanford Research Institute (now SRI) Steve was a consultant for civil defense specializing in radioactive fallout. His career took him back to Washington DC where he managed the radiation committee under the National Research Council. More recently Steve consulted on environmental matters with Environ and then did additional consulting before retirement.

Steve has worked with computers since 1956 at a summer job at SRI, a time when most of us did not know a computer existed. In 1962 he used a computer to analyze data for his PhD dissertation. Later in the 1960’s, he was on the cutting edge of computer usage in the workplace and in 1982 purchased his first personal computer. Today the computer is a hobby for Steve. He also enjoys golf and digital landscape photography. He is enthusiastic about using his computer skills to serve as a volunteer for the PHM. Steve’s abilities and willingness to help are very much appreciated.

Please check out our newly updated website - <http://www.pardeehome.org/>

All of the new “bells and whistles” are thanks to Steve!

Welcome Steve and thank you!



TOURS AND TEAS

Reserve Now for the Holiday Season

Fall, with its many upcoming holidays, is a wonderful time to get together to celebrate the season. Plan now to reserve a time for your special group.

A year has passed since a Volunteer Tea Committee, headed by Dawn Muller and Molly Kenny, took over the responsibilities of organizing and serving tea in the Pardee dining room. Each tea is unique to the group, be it a birthday celebration, a family event, a club organizing an outing, or friends who just want to treat themselves. According to the "Tea Ladies" who plan and serve at the teas, it has been a real treat to share in the pleasure of the time honored tradition of taking tea. A significant monetary contribution to the museum has been the direct result of the efforts of our baking and serving committee. A special Thanks to our Tea Ladies for all of their good work - Ann Brown, Mary Dial, Patti Garrett, Diane Levy, Bunnie Quint, and Helen Steers.

Tours are scheduled every Wednesday morning at 10:30 a.m., the second Saturday of the month at 10:30 a.m. and the second Sunday of the month at 2:00 p.m. Private tours for four or more people may be arranged by calling (510) 444-2187 or by emailing office@pardeehome.org

PRIVATE TOURS AND TEAS

Private Tour	\$ 5.00 per person (min. 4 guests)
Dessert Tea and Tour	\$ 15.00 per person (4 to 12 guests)
High Tea and Tour	\$ 25.00 per person (4 to 12 guests)

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The Pardee Home Foundation is a private non-profit foundation established in 1981 to preserve, interpret, and keep open to the public the historic home and gardens of the Pardee family.

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