

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

in California

that in him lies, the attempt to divide the American people into classes, save and except these two: First, those who love their country and desire it to go ever onward in the path marked out for her; and second, those who do not."

Patriotic rhetoric and camping excursions were, however, not the only things on Pardee's agenda during the summer months. More serious affairs of the state did intervene, particularly issues regarding the state's natural resources. Even his family's camping trip to Big Basin had a policy dimension, according to the *Enquirer*, which commented in an editorial that that area in Santa Cruz County had just been purchased by the state for conversion to a forest reserve or state park, and "it is eminently proper that the head of the State government should inspect and make himself familiar with the public property...The purchase and reservation of the tract was not wholly without opposition, and questions may at any

time arise as to policy or as to the actual management and control of the park where a knowledge of conditions on the part of the chief executive may prove of great value." Noting that the federal government had created substantial forest reserves in the Sierras "but in the Coast Range and amid the giant redwood trees, no limit had been put on the tree slaughter until the State bought Big Basin with its forests of noble trees," the *Enquirer* considered the governor's camping trip as a "practical course in forestry, a course that may be of vast importance to the State, for the conditions of Big Basin and its neighborhood are the same as those prevailing throughout the Coast Range..."

Forestry issues were also at the forefront when Governor Pardee had a conference in Sacramento on August 25th with Gifford Pinchot, head of the Bureau of Forestry in the U.S. Department of Agriculture (soon to become the U.S. Forestry Service under his leadership). Pinchot was later to become a leading voice in the Progressive movement and two-term governor of Pennsylvania, as well as a lifelong colleague and friend of Pardee, whom he once described as "one of the best friends Conservation ever had." Unfortunately, the *Enquirer* did not disclose any details of the Sacramento conference between the two men, but it did note that

see **GOVERNOR**
on page 6

A letter to the editor: more on Oakland's Sara Lemmon

(Editor's note: In an earlier issue of The Cupola we learned that although Governor Pardee signed the proclamation naming the poppy the state flower, it was Sara Plummer Lemmon, a resident of "North Temescal" in Oakland, who had fought for years to have the poppy so honored. Our brief profile of Sara elicited this very informative response.)

To the Editor:

A colleague of mine passed on to me a copy of the March 2003 issue of *The Cupola*, because of the article on Sara Lemmon. I was delighted to see this long-neglected Oaklander receiving more public attention. Remarkably, Sara seems to have arrived at her day in the sun. Some of her magnificent botanical illustrations were included in a recent exhibit at the Oakland Museum of California earlier this year, and the University of California Press will hopefully be publishing a book next year on frontier naturalists of the state, including John and Sara Lemmon, which I have written. There is a rich Lemmon archive at UC Berkeley's Jepson Herbarium. I thought your readers might be interested in hearing a bit more about the Lemmons...

"Professor" John Gill Lemmon had come to California in 1866, emaciated and virtually crippled from his Civil War experiences, some ten years before he met Sara. His mother had brought him out to his brother's farm near Sierraville to either recuperate or die. The magnificent Sierra landscapes did revive Lemmon and set him on a



Courtesy, Jepson Herbarium, University of California

Botanists in love: Sara and John Lemmon, whose honeymoon lasted two years and consisted of a botanical hunt in Arizona.

new career as a field botanist - which had gained him fame by the time he met Sara Plummer in Santa Barbara in 1876, when he was working on a collection of California flora for the Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia. In Santa Barbara, Sara had started a meeting place for "local literati and artists," which evolved into a private circulating library and then the public library of that city. They saw more of each other at meetings of the California Academy

see **LEMMON**
on page 5

Pardee Home Trustee Ned Brandt Has Resigned, and His Board Seat Has Been Taken by Lisa Gerstacker

Ellis N. Brandt, known to all as Ned, resigned earlier this year from the board of the Pardee Home Foundation, after nine-and-a-half years of exceptional service as a trustee. Ned is a longtime resident of Midland, Michigan who was able to travel out to Oakland for board meetings only once or twice a year, but he was anything but a "long-distance" trustee. A native of Detroit and graduate of Michigan State University, Ned was a U.S. Army officer during World War II and a UPI reporter and employee of the U.S. State Department in Paris before joining Dow Chemical in Midland. He worked as a public relations executive for Dow for 33 years until his retirement in 1986, and continued on as company historian and archivist following his retirement. His exemplary study, *Growth Company: Dow Chemical's First Century*, was published by the Michigan State University Press in 1997. The E.N. Brandt Professorship in Public Relations at Michigan State is named in his honor.

Brandt is a former president of the Midland County Historical Society, a trustee of the Historical Society of Michigan, and vice-president of the R.M. Gerstacker Foundation; he has also served actively in a number of public relations professional organizations. He states that service on the Pardee Home board "has given me the opportunity to meet some remarkable people - my fellow trustees on the Pardee Home Foundation board - and to get acquainted with a remarkable city - Oakland - that I did not really know before."

As a trustee, Ned was principally concerned with the financial status of our museum and its support by the R.M. Gerstacker Foundation, which, in Ned's words, "has been steadfast and loyal over these years." He was instrumental in the establishment of the Pardee Home Endowment Fund in 1998 (detailed in the Winter 1999 issue of this newsletter), which he describes, modestly, as his most memorable service as a trustee.

At the time of Ned's resignation, the trustees of the Gerstacker Foundation recommended to our board that Lisa Gerstacker be elected to our board as Ned's "successor." Lisa is a native of Midland and a graduate of Northwood University; upon graduation she moved to Boulder, Colorado, became a C.P.A., and worked in the fields of banking, accounting, and property management. She married Sean Walsh in 1986 and has been a full-time mother since the birth of



Courtesy, Ned Brandt

OUTGOING TRUSTEE
Ned Brandt is at top,
and incoming Lisa
Gerstacker is at right.



Courtesy, Lisa Gerstacker

her daughter Katie in 1993. She and her family live in the foothills outside Boulder and thoroughly enjoy the many outdoor activities available in that magnificent terrain. She also volunteers for the YWCA, Girl Scouts, and her daughter's elementary school.

Lisa was named a trustee of the R.M. Gerstacker Foundation when she graduated from high school, and she currently serves as its vice president, secretary, and assistant treasurer. Her father, Carl Gerstacker, who served as treasurer and then chairman of Dow Chemical, was the beloved nephew of James Pardee (first cousin to our Governor Pardee); he was responsible for the renovation of the James Pardee House in Midland, which became the home of the Gerstacker Foundation in 1988.

Lisa says she is "thrilled to be asked to join the Pardee Home Foundation...I love the Bay Area and look forward to attending as many board meetings as I can arrange...and it is a privilege to carry on the good work of my father and Ned Brandt on behalf of Oakland's great historical treasure."

Lemmon *cont'd from page 3*

of Sciences, where Sara was one of the first two women members. When they finally married on Thanksgiving Day, 1880, the Santa Barbara newspaper ran a headline "Marriage of Distinguished Scientists" and noted that both "are scholarly, gifted, and write beautifully." The *Botanical Gazette* noted "one well-known botanist marrying another well-known botanist" and reported that the Lemmons "will reside this winter in Oakland, and, having united fortunes and herbaria, are ready to welcome their friends in their new herbarium rooms."

You mentioned the Lemmons' Arizona honeymoon in the past issue. The honeymoon was Sara's choice, a "grand botanical raid into Arizona" in their words, and would last two years, off and on, and involve, besides exhaustive botanical collecting, narrow escapes from outlaws, yellow fever, and marauding Apaches! The end of the honeymoon was marked by an Oakland reception attended by 700 people (!) and featuring addresses by the Lemmons on the "Perils of Botanizing in Arizona." After they settled down in Oakland, both became lecturers at the Pacific Grove Chautauqua sessions. John was involved in forestry work, and Sara in floral art and forest conservation. For about ten years, from around 1885 to around 1895, the Lemmons resided at 1015 Clay Street (four blocks from the Pardees' home, on the block where Le Cheval and Siam Bay restaurants now stand), in a building sometimes called either California Hall or Lemmon Hall.

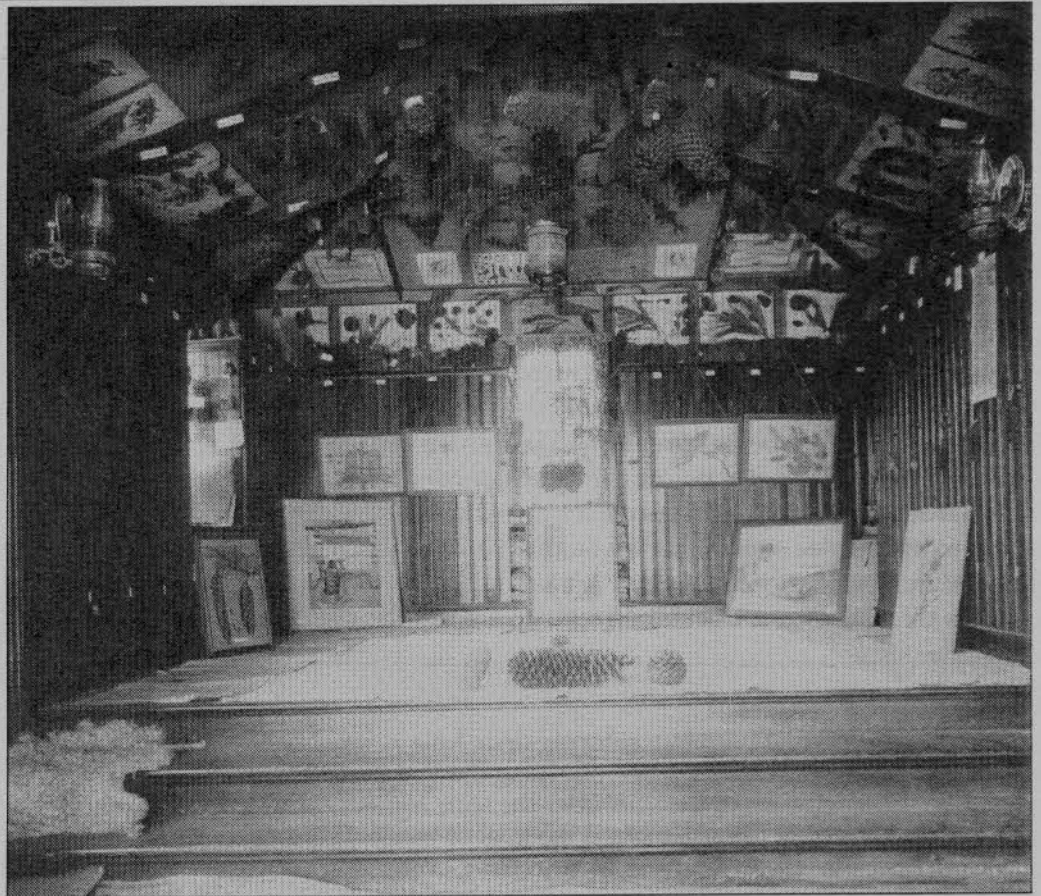
You mentioned the Lemmons' home at 5985 Telegraph Avenue, which they moved into before the turn of the century. It was a large, white, wooden house, with the words "LEMMON HERBARIUM" emblazoned above the front porch. The interior of the house was museum-like, with "floral paintings on the walls, conifer cones on shelf tops, Sara's work table on one side of the study and John's across from it, both cluttered with plant specimens, papers, and hand lenses..." The spacious yard was surrounded by open meadow land at the time.

John Lemmon died in 1908, and Sara died in 1923 in Stockton; they left behind a herbarium of some 10,000 specimens which are now part of the Jepson Herbarium.

Yours,

Dr. Richard Beidleman

Professor Emeritus of Biology, Colorado College
Research Associate, University of California Herbaria



Courtesy, Jepson Herbarium, University of California

A fascinating multitude of botanical specimens adorn the interior of the Lemmons' Telegraph Avenue home, top. An exterior shot, showing the words "Lemmon Herbarium" on the porch overhang, is above.

Thanks to Gaye Lenahan and Barbara Smith, both members of the Pardee Home Museum and Mountain View Cemetery docents, who, after receiving the March issue of The Cupola, discovered the Lemmons' graves in Mountain View! As Gaye wrote to us, "We will encourage the cemetery to arrange for a gravemarker (and perhaps poppies) and look forward to including Sara on our regular docent tours." Information on Sara's poppy campaign can be found in the archives of the California Federation of Women's Clubs, available to researchers at the University of California - Santa Cruz library.

Death of Long-time PHF Treasurer Marion Reich

The Pardee Home Foundation lost one of its greatest supporters on August 22nd, when Marion Reich, its treasurer for nineteen years, passed away peacefully at his Piedmont home at the age of ninety-one.

Marion, who was fully profiled in the January 2001 issue of *The Cupola* at the time of his retirement from the foundation board, was a San Francisco native and graduate of Lowell High and Stanford University. He enjoyed a long and brilliant career as a CPA in Oakland. Marion first began preparing the Pardees' tax returns in 1947, shortly before the death of Mrs. Helen Pardee, and later also became an investment adviser to the Pardee sisters. He was named a life trustee of the foundation in Helen Pardee's will, and served as treasurer from December, 1981 to December,

2000. He worked many hours a week managing the foundation's financial assets, and, although his work was strictly "behind the scenes," we can only repeat the words in the previous *Cupola* article, that "no other trustee of the foundation has worked so diligently or so skillfully to promote the mission of the Pardee Home."

We also wish to note, with sadness, the death of Esther Gerstacker, the widow of Carl Gerstacker and step-mother of PHF trustee Lisa Gerstacker, in Midland, Michigan, on August 2nd. The Gerstacker Foundation of Midland has been a great benefactor of the Pardee Home for over a decade, and our trustees are planning an appropriate memorial gift to honor Esther.

Governor *cont'd from page 3*

Pinchot and his staff had been in California since June and would stay until mid-September, studying the unique forestry conditions of the state after the state legislature had appropriated \$15,000 toward the goal of working with federal officials on a proper state forestry policy.

Pinchot delivered a series of lectures on forestry at the University of California two weeks later, calling for the establishment of the first school of forestry on the West Coast and acknowledging public fears and divided opinion on the newly emerging field. He stated that "on the question of forest reserves, California, I find, is like a great family divided against itself. Southern California is unanimously and always for the reserves, and Northern California is opposed to them, with Central California favoring them but not strongly." In his Berkeley lectures, summarized in the *Enquirer*, Pinchot demonstrated that "Modern forestry is a purely utilitarian affair. Its object is to increase the yield of timber; to improve and make permanent the water supplies; to preserve the grazing lands. It comes with good will to all and malice to none. It has no intention or desire to reserve large tracts of land and keep them in idleness. Everything is to be made useful. If they can be made ornamental, so much the better, but useful they must be."

Pardee and Pinchot agreed that forestry management was inextricably linked with water management, and both men were in attendance at the eleventh National Irrigation Congress in Ogden, Utah, from September 15th through the 18th. "Save the forests and store the floods" was the motto of the congress, whose main goal was to enlist support for President Roosevelt's poli-

cy of federal control of reclaiming the arid West through irrigation- an issue he addressed repeatedly during his recently concluded Western tour. As the *Enquirer* noted, "This policy of national control will be fought by the private companies, which have in many places obtained possession of the water supply, and who are building up fortunes by selling irrigation water to the small ranchers...[however], the new idea has gained favor that the whole policy of irrigation should be a national one, and that it was the duty of the government to see that the arid tracts were reclaimed."

see **GOVERNOR**
on page 7

Membership Application

Yes, I want to become a member of the Pardee Home Museum and receive future issues of *The Cupola*.

_____ Student \$15 _____ Patron \$100 and up
 _____ Individual \$25 _____ Family \$40
 _____ Benefactor \$75 _____ New Member _____ Renewing Member

Payment methods

_____ My check is enclosed (Payable to the Pardee Home Foundation)
 _____ Please charge my _____ Visa _____ Master Card

Account Number _____ Expiration Date _____

Signature _____

Name _____

Address _____ City, State Zip _____

E-mail _____ Phone _____

“Pardees” to be Featured at Celebration of Sacramento Governor’s Mansion’s 100th Anniversary

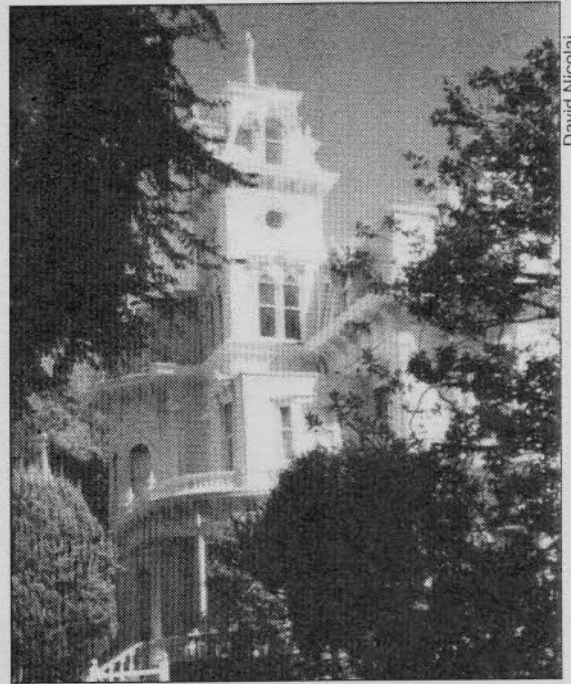
On Saturday, November 8th, from 11 a.m to 4 p.m, the Governor’s Mansion in Sacramento will be celebrating its 100th anniversary with a special day of living history. The 1877 home, designed by Nathaniel Goodell for the hardware merchant Albert Gallatin, was purchased by the state government in August 1903, and the Pardees became the first of thirteen “First Families” of California to live in the Executive Mansion, as it was commonly called, in November 1903 (more about this in the next issue of *The Cupola*). The Reagans were the last. The Pardees are, to this day, spoken of with special fondness by the docents and staff at their Sacramento home.

David Nicolai and Karen McKinney from the Pardee Home will be recre-

ating their roles as Governor and Mrs. Pardee (first played at our Candlelight Soiree on January 4th) for the event, and Governor’s Mansion docents will be playing the other members of the family and their staff, all of whom will be busily moving into their new residence.

The Governor’s Mansion State Historic Park is located at 16th and H Streets in downtown Sacramento. The admission fees for the events are \$4 for adults (17 and older), \$1 for youths (6 to 16 years) and free for children 5 or younger. Call (916) 323-3040.

The Governor’s Mansion, right, celebrates its centennial.



David Nicolai

Reserve space now for a Holiday Tea at the Pardee Home; reservations required

This year, the Pardee Home will be celebrating the 100th anniversary of the poppy being named the state flower during the holiday season. Our tree and mantels will be beautifully adorned with paper poppies.

We will be hosting holiday teas by reservation, between December 1 and December 22. The cost is \$15 per person for the tea and a guided tour of the house. We can accommodate groups of up to 15 for each tour.

Scones, cookies, holiday breads,

cheese balls, and freshly-roasted turkey will be among the delicacies served during each tea. And, of course, we’ll serve imported teas. The event takes place in our lovely dining room.

Although we can’t eat poppies themselves, we’ll be indulging in poppy seed cake!

Call the museum office at 510-444-2187 or email info@pardeehome.org to reserve space now. Reservations are required for this event.



Raymond Bucko

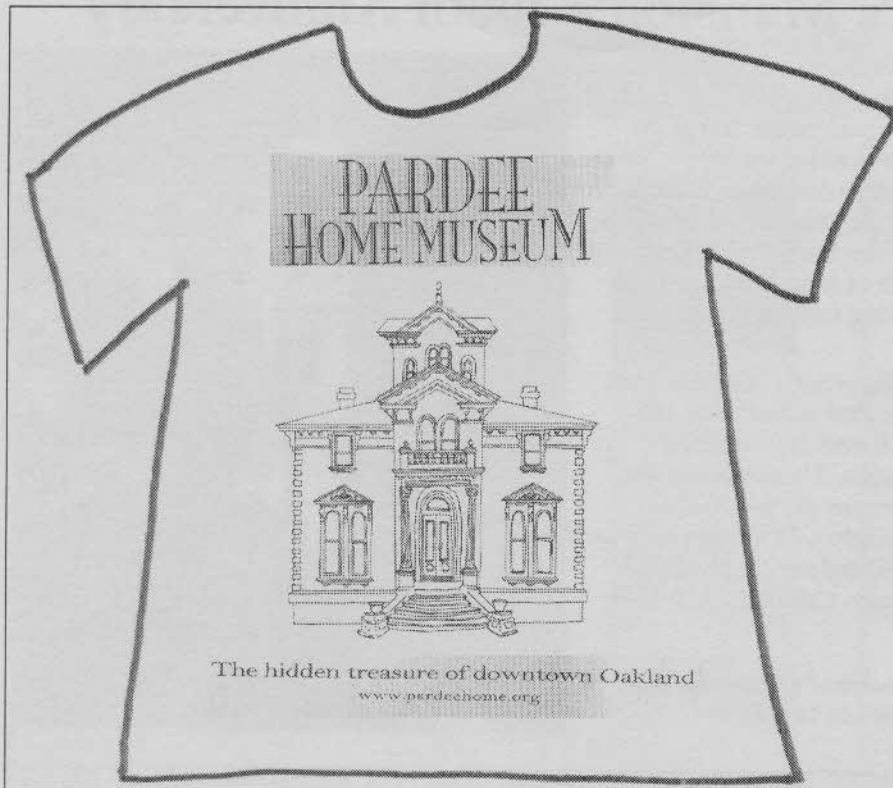
Eschscholzia californica (better known as the poppy) is celebrating its 100th anniversary as the state flower.

Governor *cont'd from page 6*

When Governor Pardee departed Sacramento by train it was 90°, but when he arrived in Ogden it was 36°. The *Enquirer*, noting that “his teeth chattered like castanets,” reported that Pardee announced, “The next time I leave California in the summer I will take a stove along.”

The following day, Pardee addressed the Congress, and acknowledging that he was “indebted for the better part of this address to my friend, William Thomas of San Francisco,” he delivered a speech that was not so concerned with specific irrigation policy issues, but was

rather an opportunity to praise the potential of irrigation. Pardee specifically mentioned the Fresno and Riverside areas of California as places which were prospering due to irrigation, but he singled out for praise the “great commonwealth of Southern California...[where] the entire superstructure stands upon the advanced art of irrigation. Take from the advanced civilization of Southern California all that portion due to irrigation, and its splendid cities would relapse into the romance of adobe hamlets, and the tropical luxuriance of its orchards and its avenues would revert to their original condition of arid solitude.”



BE THE FIRST ON YOUR BLOCK
TO WEAR THIS CHIC SHIRT



WE'RE ROLLING OUT our new T-shirt, featuring a drawing of the house by Katie Joy, designed by Oakland artist Gary Turchin. The shirt's inaugural sale will be at our Halloween at the Mansion event. Shirts are either white ink on burgundy, or burgundy ink on natural. These high-quality shirts are 100% cotton.

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Oakland, CA 94607-3651

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OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

The Cupola

is published four times a year
by the Pardee Home Museum
672-11th Street
Oakland, CA 94607-3651
Phone: (510) 444-2187
Fax: (510) 444-7120

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

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