



MM&HS Museum Monthly

A publication of the McHenry Museum & Historical Society

February 2024

In this issue . . .

- *Jessica Flores, the Modesto's new cultural services manager (page 1)*
- *The MM&HS has got a brand new bag (page 1)*
- *The living stories of those with namesake county schools (page 2)*
- *MM&HS News (page 12)*
- *Where did that street get its name? (page 12)*



Jessica Flores, Modesto's new cultural services manager



Jessica Flores

On January 2, 2024, Jessica Flores became as the new cultural services program manager for the City of Modesto.

A Downey High School graduate, Flores worked in both the museum and library industries in southern California for nearly a decade. She earned degrees in anthropology and sociology at the University of California, Irvine, and went on to get a master's degree in library and information science. Her career in community-based archive work has documented untold narratives of marginalized community members. She has created programming to help foster transition to a participatory culture within the industry, and has secured and managed major federal, state, and local grants to fund various projects.

She is excited to bring her experience to her hometown of Modesto and is looking forward to continuing the important work of preserving local cultural history at both the McHenry Museum and Mansion and in other capacities of her position.

Featured Product: The MM&HS has got a brand new bag

'Stanislaus Selections', the McHenry Museum & Historical Society's in-museum gift-shop bookstore is adorned in love for Valentine's Day. Drop by for a dose of whimsical delight!

Featured amongst the heart-filled themed-decor and product offerings now is our new 'M'-logo tote bag. The sturdy canvas book bag is both substance and style all-in-one. Share your support of our community's own premiere historical preservation organization when you tote this carry-all about. It's \$20.00, and available now!



The living stories of those with namesake county schools

by David Seymour

Nine living people today are represented in local schools named after them for their contributions to education. As we continue to explore the history of education in Stanislaus County, in coordination of the initial release of our new third-grade history textbook, *StaniStory: Change and Continuity in Stanislaus County*, we share some histories of these nine people whose names grace an institution of learning in Stanislaus County. Please enjoy the stories of Bill and Mike Berryhill, Walter Hanline, Stan Sinclear, and Sam Vaughn of Ceres; Barbara Spratling of Keyes; and Mary Lou Dieterich, Mary Ann Sanders, and Elizabeth Ustach of Modesto.

Berryhill Family

In Ceres, the Berryhill family had a significant roll in education from the very beginning. It began with Claude Berryhill (1892-1963), a grape grower who ran for the school board in 1939 and won. His oldest son, Ronald 'Ron' (1923-2007), was elected to the Ceres Union High School Board in 1954; Ron's wife, Gloria (1924-2018), worked as a secretary in the district for many years. Ron left the board in 1964 when he was joined the Yosemite Community College District Board of Trustees. Ron and Gloria's son, Michael, was elected to the Ceres Unified School District Board (CUSD) in 1973, following in his father's footsteps. Ten years later, Michael was appointed to the board of Turlock Irrigation District. Claude Berryhill's middle son, Clare (1925-1996), was appointed to the Ceres Elementary School Board in 1959. After re-election, he served when the local school board united as CUSD in 1965. Clare remained president of the board until his resignation in 1966. Clare Berryhill went on to serve in the California State Assembly from 1969-1971, and the California State Senate from 1973-1976. The MM&HS spoke with Bill Berryhill, Clare's youngest son, who himself was elected to the CUSD Board of Trustees in 1994. Bill's son started Kindergarten that year and his wife, Triana, were thinking about sending him to private school because Ceres schools did not have a great reputation at the time. He saw there were slots open for the school board and ran like he was running for president! Bill Berryhill spent the next eleven years on the board. Bill also followed his father's footsteps and served in the California State Assembly from 2008-2012).



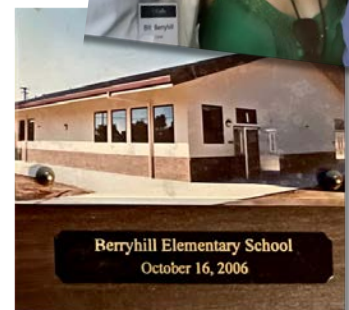
Claude & Elizabeth Berryhill Family

Ron & Gloria Berryhill Family



Clare & Maryellen Berryhill Family

Bill, Triana, and Ron Berryhill

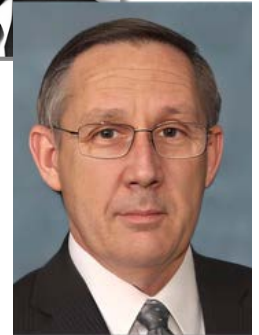


Berryhill Elementary School
October 16, 2006

Photo on right shows 2006 dedication of Berryhill Elementary (now Whitmore Charter School - Berryhill Campus)

Walt Hanline

The *Ventura County Star* in July of 1980 called 29-year-old Walt Hanline “a man with a vision.” He is a man to enter a situation with a plan to guide the intuition of higher learning for which he is employed toward ultimate success. Walter ‘Walt’ Lewis Hanline was born in Santa Ana, California in 1951. His father worked as a salesman and the family moved often (eleven times!). Young Walt struggled with hearing and visual problems and his vocabulary was minimal. While living in Billings, Montana, Walt struggled with learning disabilities and was forced to repeat the first grade. By his sixth-grade year, the family settled in Ventura, California. He began his climb into a career in education at Ventura Community College where he received his associate of arts degree. He transferred to Pepperdine University where he received his bachelor’s degree. His further education includes his teaching credential at Orange County’s Chapman University, his master’s degree at California Lutheran College, and his Doctorate of Education at the University of Southern California. He began his career in education in 1975 as a teacher for the Ventura Unified School District. From 1978-1980 he served as an assistant principal. In 1980, he left the district to serve as Superintendent for the private Ventura Missionary School. In 1984, he was hired as an assistant principal for the Soledad Union School District. From 1985-1998 Walt served as superintendent for the Kings River-Hardwick Union School District in Hanford. In 1998, he moved to the superintendent position of the Del Norte County Unified School District until July 1, 2001, when he moved to Ceres Unified School District. Bill Berryhill was appointed President of the Board that December. Bill was instrumental in Walt’s success locally.



Walt & Edith Hanline

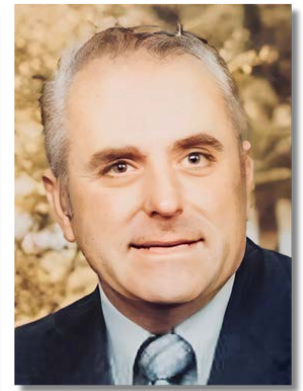
When Walt began, he learned 5,000 students were learning in what he calls “boxes with windows,” meaning portable classrooms. In November 2001, a new bond measure passed. It allocated fifty percent of funding by the state and the other fifty percent funded locally for a new high school. Further state funding was what the district needed for more school buildings, which Walt procured. His tenure was known for growth in the district. He oversaw ten schools constructed. Among them, Central Valley High School was Walt’s crowning achievement. Walt retired in 2010.

He was recognized by the Association of California School Administrators as the California Superintendent/ Principal of the Year and as the California Superintendent of the Year. His highest honor came in 2015, when the Ceres Unified Board of Trustees opened the Walt L. Hanline Elementary School, which he requested be placed near Central Valley High School. He now currently lives in Washington state and is the founder and executive director of the National Center for Executive Leadership and School Board Development.

Sinclear Family

Stan Sinclear followed in the footsteps of his father, Dale (1923-1997), and served on the Ceres Unified School District Board of Trustees. It was for their service to education and the community of Ceres which led to the decision to name a local elementary school 'Sinclear' after father and son. The Sinclear family hails from Kansas. Dale Sinclear was born in Savonburg. He attended a one-room school there. The family was very musical and all of the Sinclear children took piano lessons. In 1938, Dale's father, Jack, traded their farm for eighty acres in California. The family moved and remains on the same property which Jack purchased 85 years ago outside of Ceres; he worked hard to establish their family dairy here. The Sinclear children attended Turlock area grammar schools and Turlock High School. Dale graduated in 1941 and attended Modesto Junior College (MJC) prior to enlisting in the army in 1946. In 1949, he married Ola Faye Chenault (1926-2012). Dale was very community-oriented. He was a volunteer fireman, coached little league, involved with Future Farmers of America at Ceres High School, and very active in the Lions Club. Dale served on the Ceres Planning Commission. He served on the CUSD Board from its founding in 1965 to 1975.

Stanley Sinclear, their first child of three and only son, was born in Modesto City Hospital in 1950. He was educated in the Ceres School systems, at MJC, and at California Polytechnic State University. He followed in his father's footsteps on the school board in 1979. He served for the next twenty-four years. In the mid-1980s, Stan served as director of the Stanislaus County School Boards Association. He remained active in various dairy trade organizations as well. He married his wife Judy in 2001, and was in attendance on August 10, 2005, when Sinclear Elementary was dedicated to him and his late father. Stan maintains the Sinclear legacy as one of dedication to the community. He and his father spent two lifetimes serving the community of Ceres. In 2010, Stan Sinclear received the 'Ceres Citizen of the Year' recognition for his community service. He remains an active member of the Lions Club, like his father before him, and a board member of the CUSD Foundation.



Dale Sinclear



Stan Sinclear



Dale & Ola Faye Sinclear Family

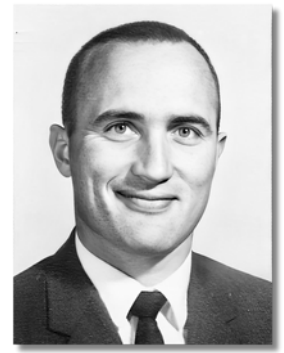


**Sinclear Elementary
School**

Sam Vaughn

We asked Sam why he went into education. He told us it was a family tradition. His grandmother Carrie Schrader (1885-1951), for whom Carrie Schrader Park in Hughson is named, once taught high school. His mother Marjorie Vaughn (1912-1964) taught at Hughson Elementary. His uncle Verne Schrader (1917-2004) taught as well. His sister Joan also taught physical education in Hughson. Sam Vaughn was born in Berkeley in 1935 and moved to Hughson in 1943 where many members of his family lived. He graduated from Hughson High School. He attended MJC and transferred to San Diego State and graduated with a degree in physical education and obtained his teaching credential. He married his wife Cathee Foster in 1959; they went on to have four daughters. He was hired by Ceres schools in 1961 to teach middle-schoolers at the Walter White School for a few years. Sam served as principal of Walter White for a brief time but was known as the district troubleshooter. He became Supervisor of Child Welfare and Attendance. He held this position until his retirement in 1995 from the district. He was known for making sure the children attended classes, making home visits, ensuring sure all their needs were met, and even buying them shoes if they were in need. His favorite on the job memory was recovering contraband candy from the children. Sam reveled in his annual school bus tour of the district for the new staff. He was a natural comedian and musician, so he would lead singing and foster relationships. This also allowed the staff to know that they could contact him when they had concerns about students.

When he was told the new elementary school would be named for him, Sam responded with, "Is there something I don't know? Don't they name schools after dead people?" With a frame of five feet and five inches, it was ironic the school which bore his name chose the mascot of a giant. Once retired, Sam would drop by the school and ask if he could answer the phones. He enjoyed picking up the phone and saying, "Sam Vaughn Elementary, this is Sam Vaughn." When asked how he would like to be remembered, he eagerly replied, "I kept them in school."



**Sam &
Cathee
Vaughn**



Barbara Spratling

Barbara Cooper was born at home in Livingston, California in 1931. Growing up, many of her friends were members of the area's then-large Japanese-American population. She witnessed so many of her friends removed during World War II. Prior to the tragedy of the Japanese-American Internment, Barbara's father, a man with an honest reputation, leased and farmed the land of the affected Japanese-Americans during their detainment, as much as he could possibly manage, so the farms were successful when they returned in 1945. Barbara always felt a calling to teaching, playing school as a child. She knew a woman of her era could only be a nurse, a secretary, a waitress, or a teacher. Following graduation from Livingston High School she took the bus to MJC every day, then a free service. Barbara married James Spratling (1923-1981) in 1950. Their first son was born a year later. After graduating MJC, Barbara transferred to Fresno State for a year and worked her way through school at a doughnut shop. She discovered a person could teach with an associate degree by obtaining an emergency credential under the supervision of a county official who would pay weekly visits to observe and advise. Barbara began her career teaching third grade at Elmer Wood Elementary in Atwater, California for two years. Her mother-in-law lived in Atwater and she took the job there to have a babysitter.

She moved to Keyes when her husband opened a barber shop in town. She was hired at Keyes Elementary in the early 1950s and would go on to teach third and fourth grades and one year of fifth grade for the remainder of her 45-year teaching career. She taught one year, had a second child, a daughter, and took a year off. During her year off she attended the first class at Stanislaus State College. Over the years, Barbara took summer classes at MJC which were offered by San Francisco State for elementary school teachers. She graduated in the first-ever class Stanislaus State one week after delivering her youngest son on Christmas Day in 1960.

The bulk of her teaching career was spent teaching the fourth grade, but for the last fifteen years she returned to teaching third grade, the testing grade, because her students always tested well. Barbara enjoyed teaching California history along with taking students on field trips to California missions and to Sutter's Fort in Sacramento. She taught many underprivileged children, and she remembers being present for so many students' first experience seeing the ocean. With such a long career, one of her pleasures was teaching her grandson reading, surprising other students as he insisted on calling her 'Mrs. Spratling' in place of 'Grandma.' Barbara retired in the early 2000s, before computers became a major presence in the classroom.



Spratling Middle School

Mary Lou Dieterich

Mary Lou Mangall was born in Mildred, Montana in 1936. At four and half, her parents moved to her mother's home state of nearby North Dakota. She started first grade in a country school with fourteen kids. She remembers having both good and not-so-good teachers. At that time (in the 1940s) teachers only had six weeks of training. She feels she missed a lot in her education. She lived with her brother in the town of Oakes where her school was located as there no buses to her parent's home which was further away. With help from a cousin, Mary Lou achieved honor roll status. She was in the drum core in high school, playing bugle.



After high school, she attended Valley City State Teachers College, currently called State University of North Dakota-Valley City, a well-regarded Midwest school. In fact, future Modesto educator and superintendent Fred C. Beyer (1904-1968) attended the same school years earlier. Beyer had also taught school in the town of Oakes, North Dakota, where Mary Lou grew up. Mary Lou graduated with a standard certificate and taught a combination first, second, and third grade class in Kathryn, North Dakota. She married fellow Valley City graduate and future teacher Robert 'Bob' Dieterich (1931-2009) in 1956. They both started applying for teaching positions. Bob and Mary Lou taught one year in Minnesota before they decided to move to California to help Bob with his allergies. Bob was hired by Modesto City Schools and moved to Modesto in 1959. Mary Lou was pregnant at the time, and worked as a substitute teacher since women could not teach if they were pregnant beyond a certain point. Bob taught at James Marshall Elementary for seventeen years, followed by Catherine Everett Elementary, and eventually Sonoma Elementary.



Local educator Alberta Martone (1920-2018), affectionately known as "Big Al," gave Mary Lou her first teaching assignment at Lincoln School. She met with superintendent George Eisenhut (1910-2002) who signed Mary Lou to a job teaching at Chrysler. She taught there for the next twenty-two years. She taught reading for several years, became a vice principal for three years, and then a principal for three more. For three summers in the 1970s, she taught workshops for teachers at California State University, Stanislaus. She was pulled out to work at Eisenhut Elementary and the district office from 1987-1988. Her next assignment was as a project manager of Agnes Baptist Elementary. She helped to design the interior details of the school and became the it's founding principal in 1989.



She served as principal of Agnes Baptist Elementary for seven years before retiring. She was always known as the 'discipline lady,' but the children loved her because she was fair. In 2004, Mary Lou Dieterich Elementary School was dedicated in her honor.

Mary Ann Sanders

Mary Ann Williams was born in Iowa but moved with her family to southern California at age one. She attended Shenandoah Street Elementary School in Los Angeles. In fourth grade, her family moved to Woodland Hills and she attended Woodland Hills Elementary School. Her fifth-grade teacher, Theron Arnett (1920-1997), told Mary Ann's mother at a parent-teacher conference, that Mary Ann could find the best in everyone. He also told her mother that she had some talents and skills which were not obvious to everyone. Mr. Arnett encouraged her to find a play to direct for the school. He felt at her young age, she already possessed leadership skills. She went on to attend Sutter Middle School in Winnetka with former Modesto City Councilwoman, Kenni Friedman. In high school, she was crowned prom queen! She went on to attend Pierce College, the local community college. Mary Ann's father died at age 56 and her mother and aunt encouraged her to move away to continue her college career. She moved to Stockton to attend College of the Pacific, which became University of the Pacific in 1961, the year she started. Mary Ann later transferred to Fresno State, and graduated in January of 1964.

There were not a lot of openings for teachers after she graduated. She came to Modesto to interview for a substitute teacher position at Modesto City Schools (MCS). She was offered the job and started teaching at Bret Harte Elementary. She married her husband John in 1966 and was soon after invited to be a math and language arts Title I teacher at Franklin Elementary. She worked half-days. Her next move came when Bert C. Corona (1921-2008), superintendent of MCS, invited her to be the coordinator of Early Childhood Development (ECD). It required her to go to every school and talk to parents about the program. She would do this half the year and work at Franklin the other half. Though the subject was not her strong suit, she became president of the math council for a few years.

She organized summer demonstration classes for elementary teachers at California State University, Stanislaus in 1975.



**Mary Lou Dieterich &
Mary Ann Sanders (2004)**



**MARY ANN WILLIAMS
A-12 Class Treas.
Student Body Cabinet
House of Rep.**



Fresno State, 1964

Mary Ann also worked at Empire Elementary as curriculum coordinator for Title I in 1978-79. She was invited in 1980 to serve as assistant superintendent/principal for Waterford Unified. In 1981, Mary Ann joined Sylvan Union and was appointed principal of Coleman Brown Elementary School. She later moved to Standiford Elementary. At Standiford, she was named Association of California School Administrators (ACSA) National California Elementary Principal of the Year in 1992.



Mary Ann & Family at Mary Ann Sanders Elementary School Dedication (2007)

In the early 1990s, she was asked to be the first principal at the new Orchard Elementary. Mary Ann was able to help in its creation. It opened in 1992. She officially retired in 2002. Mary Ann completed her master's degree at St. Mary's College and taught there as an adjunct professor. She has taught at Teachers College of San Joaquin, Brandman and Chapman University. Mary Ann has served as Executive Director/Consultant for Region 7 for ACSA and has served on the Board of Trustees for the Stanislaus County Office of Education since 2003.



In 2007, Sylvan Union School District dedicated Mary Ann Sanders Elementary in honor of her dedication to the district. The adjacent park also bears her name. Her success can be attributed to her ability to find the best in everyone, as espoused by her fifth grade teacher years ago.

Elizabeth 'Betty' Ustach

Elizabeth 'Betty' Janik was born in Springfield, Massachusetts in 1938. Her grandparents immigrated from Poland, and she grew up bilingual. She was raised in what she refers to as a "strong wonderful public school system." As a young child, Betty fell in love with attending school and learning. She graduated from the High School of Commerce with the goal of being an elementary school teacher in 1955. She went to the University of Massachusetts. Betty was the first member of her family to attend college. Following graduation, she briefly taught fifth grade near her hometown. She met her future husband, fellow Springfield native, Dr. Thomas Ustach (1935-2004) at a cotillion dance. They married during his freshman year at Tulane University in 1961.



Betty then began an adventure with her husband. They first lived in New Orleans, Louisiana, where she taught at the highly regard private institution, Isadore Newman School.

She stopped working after the birth of her first child. The Ustach family moved to New York and then Baltimore. Betty had a baby in every city before they moved to California, first settling in San Diego. While in San Diego, it was time for Thomas to find a place to practice. When Thomas was offered a position at the Gould Medical Group in Modesto, they moved north in 1971. She gave birth to her fourth child nine months after arriving in Modesto. Thomas was busy with his new practice, and Betty kept busy by beoaming president of the Parent Teachers Association (PTA) at Sherwood Elementary School. She worked with the 4-H Club and started an after-school program.

Betty was a vocal advocate for education. At this time, the PTA parents had to fund and organize the library at the school. Betty was determined for her children have the same fun and wonderful experience she had as a student years before, so she decided to run for the school board. The Sylvan School Board, like many others, was comprised up of businessmen and farmers. She became the first woman elected to the board in 1975, and would twice serve as president of the it over her sixteen year tenure.

Initially, providing adequate classroom space for a growing student enrollment was the board’s focus. Later, it expanded to focus on curriculum offerings and improve student achievement. While on the board, Betty was a delegate to the California School Boards Association, and served on the legislative team which lobbied for educational needs. She ran for four terms and retired in 1991. In the spring of 1993, the Elizabeth Ustach Middle School opened. Betty did not end her service to the public with her retirement from the school board. She went on to serve on the Modesto Planning Commission and joined the Modesto Symphony staff, serving as president of their guild. She was the development director of the Symphony Association and served as Modesto’s representative on the Association of California Symphony Orchestras. She served two terms on the Stanislaus County Grand Jury and was the first woman foreperson. Betty was appointed manager of the 1990 Federal Census for the counties of Stanislaus, Merced, and Madera. It was the first census to count the unhoused population. Betty served as president of the Catholic Social Service Guild and on the board of the Salvation Army. When she retired from the planning commission in 2000, she ended a quarter century career dedicated to the betterment of Modesto. Her husband retired at the same time, and they enjoyed a life of travel and leisure until his death in 2004. Betty Ustach leaves a legacy of wanting the best learning experiences and opportunities for achievement for the children of Modesto, regardless of circumstance.



Tom & Betty at the groundbreaking for her school



Betty Ustach & Family



Members of the exclusive school-namesake club



Mary Lou Dietrich, Mary Ann Sanders, & Betty Ustach
January 17, 2024



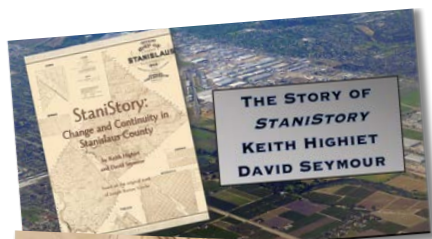
Stan Sinclear
January 20, 2024



Barbara Spratling
January 18, 2024

*All information for this article comes from interviews with participants, Bill Berryhill, Walt Hanline, Stan Sinclear, Sam and Cathee Vaughn and Janice Vaughn Herring, Barbara, Michael, and Richard Spratling, Mary Lou Dieterich, Mary Ann Sanders, and Elizabeth Ustach (January 2024). Photos are provided by the subjects, school websites, and various Modesto Bee articles.

MM&HS News • February 2024



David Seymour, Keith Highiet,
and MJC president Brian
Sanders



Bob Barzan of the Modesto
History Center



Maud
Kump
Dragoo



- Interested in getting a copy of our latest publication, *StaniStory: Change and Continuity in Stanislaus County*? We are seeking donations to offset printing costs. If you would like to donate, please visit McHenryMuseum.org and click the 'donate' button.
- We thank those who have already contributed toward the publication of *StaniStory*: Debbie Adair Soro and Steve Mitchell.
- We welcome our newest benefactor donor member, Herb Heig.
- We thank Mitchell and Leesa Gagos for their recent generous contribution to the MM&HS.
- On January 11, 2024, *StaniStory* authors Keith Highiet and David Seymour presented about their new third grade local history textbook to the North Modesto Kiwanis Club.
- From February 2nd to April 7th, the Modesto History Project, which is connected with the Modesto Art Museum, will showcase 'forgotten, unusual, inspiring, and beautiful aspects of Modesto's History.' Located in the McHenry Museum's temporary exhibition room, this new exhibit is organized by Bob Barzan. It showcases posters designed by William Coons and photographs taken by Oscar Mayo. **Join us for a 'Second Saturday' presentation about the exhibit on Saturday February 10, 2024 at 2:00 p.m. at the museum.**
- The 'Stanislaus Selections' in-museum gift shop bookstore is festively decorated for Valentine's Day. Stop by for the perfect gift! The store and museum are open Friday's - Sunday's, 12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
- On March 11, 2024, at 6:00 p.m., the MM&HS will host a mixer for local college educators to discuss programs to encourage participation by younger volunteers and discuss projects with the local institutions of learning.
- The board of directors of the MM&HS met on January 23rd.

Where did that street get its name?

Have you ever passed a local street and wondered how it got its name? Traveling on Claremont Avenue in Modesto approaching Sherwood School, one passes a street with four homes named 'Maud Kump Terrace.' How did this street get its unusual name? Maud Kump (1897-1955) was the wife of Dr. Samuel Dragoo (1893-1978). Dr. Dragoo owned the twenty acres which became the neighborhood around Dragoo Park Drive, the street which bears his name. His wife, Maud, was a nurse who was an honors graduate from Drury University in Springfield, Missouri. After retiring, the couple lived in Santa Rosa, California. Tragically, Maud Dragoo was killed in an auto collision while returning home from the local Pi Beta Phi Sorority meeting in Santa Rosa in 1955.



Get Involved Today!

The McHenry Museum & Historical Society (MM&HS) is the support organization of the McHenry Museum, your community museum. We bring Stanislaus County history to life!

- **Volunteer!**

Our docents volunteer in four-hour increments to greet and guide guests and visitors during the museum's open hours. Our acquisitions committee explores and evaluates items for the museum to obtain and retain. Volunteer staff runs our in-museum gift shop book store, *Stanislaus Selections*, and help at the intra-County destinations where our *McMobile Museum* visits. There are more behind-the-scenes opportunities to help as well! Email info@mchenrymuseum.org or send a message at McHenryMuseum.org/contact

- **Become a Sustaining Member!**

MM&HS members are invited to our annual Summer Social annual meeting, and our December Soup & Sandwich supper. Donors who give \$150 or more are recognized on our website for their contributions. Join now: McHenryMuseum.org/support

- **Get the Newsletter!**

Discover more ways to connect to local history regularly with our free, monthly newsletter, featuring fresh articles on local history: the *MM&HS Museum Monthly*. It's the one email you'll look forward to opening each month! And its free! McHenryMuseum.org/contact

**Your participation helps bring local history to life.
Get involved. Today!**