

**MC HENRY
MUSEUM**
& HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MM&HS Museum Monthly

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Society Spotlight: Volunteer Jennifer Aoyama

Jennifer Anne Aoyama is an artist, traveler, and friend. She was born in Southern California, grew up in Santa Cruz County, and is now raising her children in Modesto. Jennifer earned a BA in printmaking and an MFA in painting. She works for Stanislaus county as a caregiver with IHSS.

She enjoys supporting small businesses and being involved in community events. As a volunteer with the McHenry Museum & Historical Society since October of 2022, she often helps run our in-museum gift shop, Stanislaus Selections, and engages with community members who visit our McMobile Museum at intra-county destinations. When not spending time with her family and friends, she documents her travel adventures via photography and personal drawings. For local fun, she is looking forward to attending more classic and custom car events, and completing her art space in which she aims to host small gatherings with local artists in 2024.



'Stanislaus Selections' Specialty: Clarice the Red Cow

MM&HS sustaining member Maureen Lemos is a local dairy farmer, photographer, and children's book author. Her series of books are dedicated to her beloved red Holstein cow, Clarice. Stanislaus Selections, the MM&HS' in-museum gift shop, carries both "Clarice the Red Cow" and "Clarice the Red Cow has a Surprise". Our collection includes the Clarice and Mitzi plushes, and now the Clarice cow print fleece blanket.



Stanislaus-specific seeds sowed subsequently blossomed into county-wide historic appreciation

by David Seymour and Keith Highiet

The McHenry Museum & Historical Society (MM&HS) fosters and encourages cultural activities in appreciation of the history of Stanislaus County for its residents. The MM&HS' formal inception in 1987 was created by a merger of two cooperative groups whose own predecessor organizations were both born in the mid-1960s. The concept and organizing of a historical society definitive to Stanislaus County, though, has deeper roots which predate the formation of these momentous efforts. Independent authorships have additively advanced collective knowledge about the county as a whole.

1880s – 1910s

Stanislaus County was formed in 1854 as a carve-out of Tuolumne County, and by 1881 the earliest work on its history to date was produced by Leonidas Clay Branch (1853-1932) as the *History of Stanislaus County, California Illustrations*. Including more than 200 “lithographic views”, this work celebrated Stanislaus as “the banner wheat county in the state”, and its county seat of Modesto as “one of the best business and progressive towns on the Pacific coast.” This book was most recently reprinted by the MM&HS in 2012.

In 1914, The Modesto Herald commissioned a condensed history published as *The Story of Stanislaus*, by John T. Bramhall (1849-1931).

1920s

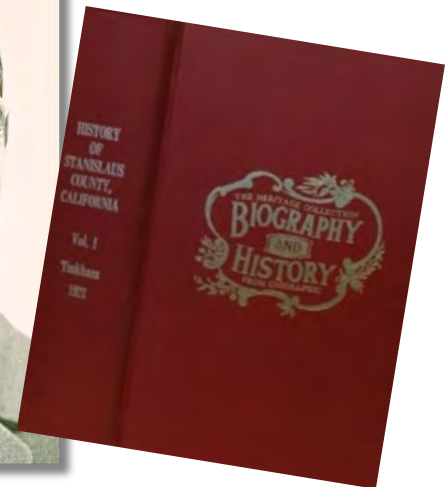
In 1921, a 1,500 page book – with a long title to introduce it – was published by George H. Tinkham (1849-1945), as the *History of Stanislaus County California with Biographical Sketches of the Leading Men and Women of the County Who Have Been Identified with its Growth and Development from the Early Days to the Present*. Tinkham's tome tells the tale of the county's formation, and includes biographies of some settlers.



Leonidas Clay Branch



George H. Tinkham



In the mid 1920s, Florabel Brennan (1888-1970) of Oakdale began organizing what seems to be the earliest local county-wide historical society. A teacher at the former Rosedale School District (it was absorbed by Oakdale Unified in 1969), Brennan's endeavors came to fruition on February 9, 1929, when she gave a speech titled 'History and Composition' before Stanislaus County's now non-existent English Teachers Association, at the Hotel Hughson in Modesto. During her presentation, she announced the formation of the Stanislaus County Historical Association (SCHA).

Story continues on following pages



Courtesy of Barbara Torres and the Oakdale History Museum
Florabel Brennan



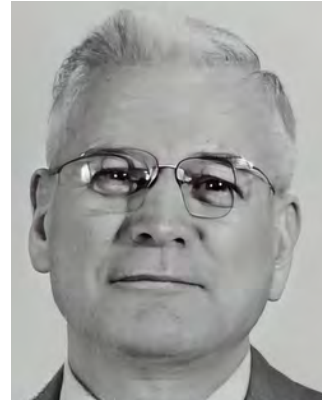
Frederick "Pop" Knorr



Sol Elias



Photo from *The Modesto Bee*
Clarice Hammett



Herbert Florcken

Another member of this early association was Brennan's father-in-law, Thomas Daniel Brennan (1864-1941). His home in the area of Eugene (a small community north of Oakdale) was used as the location for the participants organizing this group to meet as they drew up plans. Frederick "Pop" Knorr (1875-1970), a Modesto Junior College (MJC) professor of agriculture and science, and Modesto mayor Sol Elias (1868-1940) were also founding members. Knorr had previously founded the Modesto Garden Club in 1924, and Elias had published the monumental *Stories of Stanislaus* that same year.

1930s

On September 29, 1930, the SCHA held its first publicly documented meeting in the basement of the McHenry Library. They worked to collect artifacts and document stories from the pioneer families of Stanislaus County. Five years later, in 1935, *The Modesto Bee* reported that Mrs. Brennan and the Stanislaus County Pioneer and Historical Society ('pioneer' had by then been added to the original name) was hosting a reception on July 4th for such foremost families at the Hotel Modesto, following Modesto's annual 4th of July Parade.

1940s

On October 1, 1940, the first Stanislaus County History Museum opened in Room 102 of the Stanislaus County Court House. Just one year later, in October of 1941, the Stanislaus Historical Association (SHA) became formally incorporated under the leadership of Clarice Hammett (1894-1973). The civic-minded Mrs. Hammett would go on establish the long-venerable Modesto apparel shop Hammett's, in 1945. That store remained open for the next six decades, closing in 2008.

The leadership of the SHA included: Clarice Hammett as president; Frederick Knorr as vice president; Modesto Junior College history professor Herbert Florcken (1892-1989) as secretary; and Margie Cleary (1906-1985), wife of Modesto's then-district attorney Leslie Cleary (1895-1951), as treasurer. The museum was open three days a week: Tuesday and Thursday afternoons, and Saturday mornings. In two years' time, a total of 2,500 people had visited this museum.

In 1941, Joseph Burton Vasché (1910-1962) published *Our County – A Story of Stanislaus*, under the of Stanislaus County Board of Educations’ superintendent Margaret L. Annear (1884-1971). Vasché was the part time director of research and curriculum for Stanislaus County Schools at the time. He went on to become the first president of Stanislaus State College, now known as California State University Stanislaus (CSUS). This extensive booklet was produced for third graders to use in their school classes county-wide.



Joseph Burton Vasche

The following year, Vasché wrote a companion version geared toward high school students as *The Story of Our County*, again under the direction of Annear.

1950s

By 1954, members of the Fifty Plus Club (a community group of people who have lived in Stanislaus County for fifty or more years) voted to affiliate with the California Conference of Historical Societies, and sought an outright, stand-alone building for a county historical museum. Florabel Brennan continued her own work of preserving local history. In 1956, she published *Along the Stanislaus: 1806 – 1906*, which detailed accounts of the county’s preeminent pioneers and their progeny.



Heidi Warner

In 1957, the City of Modesto appointed its first female planning commissioner in Heidi Warner (1925-2008). Warner had moved to Modesto seven years prior with her husband, a stockbroker. She would boldly go on to bring forth the history of Stanislaus County into contemporary culture by establishing the McHenry Museum.

1960 - 1964

In late 1961, Honora Mae Damrell (1897-1988) led the Women’s Progressive Club (later renamed as the Federated Women’s Club in 1963) in seeking Modesto city funding for a library-cultural center. A decisive discussion took place at a city planning commission meeting on January 2, 1962, with Warner at the helm. An hour after the meeting, Mrs. Damrell started calling members of the city council to consider a location for such a center. On January 22nd, Damrell appeared before the full council to ask for a specific site: the City of Modesto’s all-day parking lot on 15th Street, between ‘H’ and ‘I’ streets (today, it is the site of the Modesto branch of the Stanislaus County Library).



Honora Mae Damrell

Photos courtesy of Mrs. Damrell’s grandson, Frank Damrell III



*Loren
Daubenberger*



*Natalie
Daubenberger*



At around this same time, Turlock couple Loren (1922-2011) and Natalie (1925-2015) Daubenberger spearhead efforts to create a new county-wide historical society. John Nash attended their initial meeting, which heralded the formation of Stanislaus County Historical Society Committee (SCHSC). Nash recently spoke with the MM&HS from his Oakdale residence. As a professor of history at MJC, he was immediately appointed to be the committee's first chairman.

While Damrell was working with Modesto officials to secure a site for a historical and cultural center, she was simultaneously seeking support from Stanislaus County leaders. She outlined more of her plans at a Soroptimist Club of Patterson luncheon in June of 1963, with The Modesto Bee reporting that "(t)he aim is to have the center developed as a county-wide project with the aid of the board of supervisors". Damrell had drawn inspiration for a center from her travels to other cities in the state which had such venues. She noted that Modesto and Stanislaus County were frequently overlooked by traveling art shows because no location existed here to host an exhibition.



John Nash

General public concern to actively do something for ensuring local historic preservation became heightened when the Modesto City Council adopted its Unsafe Structures Code in August of 1964. The passage of this ordinance would soon put many historic buildings city-wide at risk of being demolished, contents included.

Damrell's and the Daubenbergers' efforts were sincerely supported by Stanislaus County supervisor Joe Domecq (1907-1978) of Denair. He publicly called for volunteers to collect historical materials for preservation, as published by The Modesto Bee in September of 1964. The "three D's" of Damrell, Daubenberger, and Domecq were three-dimensionally transformative as a triumvirate.



Supervisor Joe Domecq

1965

On February 3, 1965, Heidi Warner announced her intention to become the first woman to ever run for a Modesto City Council seat. Several women's groups had approached her with monetary backing, surmising that she could be vying for a vacancy in the coming April 20th election, but The Modesto Bee cautioned that voters may harbor "some resentment over a woman's seeking a seat on the city council".

The office she sought was held by held by William Hughes (1926-2008), who had not declared a decision in desiring to retain his seat. Hughes had not previously run for office. He had been appointed this position to complete the final two years of a four year term, when it was vacated by Peter Johansen (1920-2016) who had become mayor in 1963. Warner filed her paperwork. Hughes subsequently entered the race.

Warner ran her campaign by promising to create a place where history and art could be celebrated through a "cultural center" for the people of Stanislaus County. Later that same month, on February 17th, Supervisor Domecq called a meeting at the county courthouse to discuss the creation of an officially County-sponsored historical society. The seeds of a Modesto city-owned building which would host a Stanislaus County societal effort were planted.

When the election race was underway, Warner received a resounding endorsement from The Modesto Bee. This carried significant weight, but the Hughes campaign outspent her – by a margin of four to one. The final results tallied Hughes with 54% of the vote to Warner's 46%.

Even as a defeated candidate, though, Heidi Warner kept her campaign promise. The election loss actually led to her life's lasting legacy. That very same spring, she immediately founded Modesto's Citizens Cultural Center Committee (CCCC). Local poet and writer Jeanette Gould Maino (1912-1995) agreed to catalog donated items, and Armour Smith (1931-2004) offered temporary storage for them at his May Transfer and Storage Company.

The CCCC determined the best site for a museum to develop something from the ground up would be at the city-owned lot at 'I' and 15th streets, the very location for which Damrell had already advocated. At the end of May, Warner won support from the Modesto City Council to proceed in pursuing the creation of a cultural center, and she publicly praised Damrell's demonstrative determination to date.



Mrs. Heidi Warner

Photo from The Modesto Bee

Woman Breaks Precedent,
Will Run For City Council



Mayor
Peter
Johansen



Jeanette Maino





Supervisor Robert Fahey



Supervisor Frank Ruggieri

Over at the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors offices, a meeting was held with their parks and community development committee on June 2nd, where a recommendation was made to start a committee on historical matters. Herbert Florcken, who had been a founding member of the 1940 SHA, spoke before the committee on behalf of the recently formed SCHSC. Carlo DeFerrari (1923-2017) from the Tuolumne County Historical Society aided with additional advice. Assisted by Supervisor Joe Domecq of Denair, support was secured from supervisors Robert Fahey (1914-1994) of Oakdale and Frank Ruggieri (1926-2001) of Modesto. The idea of revitalizing the museum at the county courthouse was discussed, but panned. Charles Zimmerman (1897-1975), chairman of the city's planning commission, then notified this county committee that the city-affiliated CCCC was already trying to raise \$120,000 to build a cultural center, specifying their site in mind. Ruggieri closed the meeting by indicating that the supervisors would help with future funding for the SCHSC's operations.

A week later, on June 9th, Warner appeared before the Stanislaus Board of Supervisors to ask for funding for the CCCC's cultural center. The board declined, declaring they had already thrown support toward the formation their own "museum seeking group" (the SCHSC). The seedlings for a city-owned building to house a county-wide societal effort were now starting to sprout.

The CCCC steered toward fundraising from private citizens. Warner had signage installed at 15th and 'I' streets which read, "Future Home of Modesto Cultural Center", the following week. She gathered a group of numerous notable names at Jack's Restaurant, owned by Jack (1913-1979) and Alberta (1920-2011) Watson, at 1325 McHenry Avenue.

Lloyd Ploutz was student body president of MJC at the time, and a student of John Nash. He recently shared with the MM&HS his description of Heidi Warner: "A human dynamo". Ploutz played witness to the creation of the CCCC's first board of directors, which was firmly in place by July.

They were:

Herbert Baum (1904-1988); Jack Brotherton (1905-1987); Jack Broughton (1932-2018), president of Modesto Junior Chamber of Commerce; Louise Clark (1929-2003), an art league official; Honora Mae Damrell; Jean Dunlap (1921-2009); George Gagos (1931-2001), Modesto's planning commissioner; Peter Johansen, Modesto Mayor; Jean McClatchy (1930-2003); Peggy Mensinger (1923-2002); Jean Purvis (1920-2005); Theresia von Rotz (1892-1971), president



of the Junior Women's Club of Modesto; Armour Smith, Heidi Warner; Elmer Winger (1915-2003); Vernon L. Withuhn (1912-2000); Anne Woolley (1924-2009); and Hy Youngheim (1929-2005), president of Modesto Downtown Association

One of CCCC board members, Jack Brotherton (his full name was Irwin Newton 'Jack' Brotherton) helped concurrently with SCHSC efforts as well. Retiring as a civil engineer, he fervently dedicated his passion toward documenting Stanislaus County history. He was an active member of E Clampus Vitus (the "Clampers"), as a 'Noble Grand Humbug' (a title reserved for the group's leaders). The Clampers are a fun-loving fraternal organization who preserve and mark local heritage sites, and their local Estanislao Chapter 58, covers both Stanislaus and Merced counties. Brotherton went on to publish the *Annals of Stanislaus County: River Towns and Ferries* in 1982. The comprehensive cause of engaging the public with their local cultural history was led forward cooperatively now by Warner at the CCCC, John Nash at SCHSC, and Brotherton helping with both groups.

On October 15th, the SCHSC elected its first slate of official officers: John Nash of Modesto, chairman; Natalie Daubenberger of Turlock, vice chairman; Barbara Hooker (1936-2021) of Waterford, secretary; Otto MacDonald (1902-1971) of Riverbank, treasurer; and Florence Bessac (1901-1978) of Riverbank, publicity chair.

The SCHSC met again on November 5th, and a total of twenty-one people had now been appointed to it. This committee put out a call out for artifacts which would be used to help Heidi Warner of the CCCC with her center. On November 26th, the CCCC itself became certified by the state of California as a registered non-profit organization.

On December 9th, Jack Brotherton spoke to the CCCC as their vice-chairman on behalf of the SCHSC to clarify there would be no conflict between the two groups. He stated that the historical society's (the SCHSC) purpose was to locate and catalog historical items in the county, and that they recognized it was under the CCCC's purview to establish the venue to store and display such collected items. That very night, the CCCC saw the



Irwin Newton "Jack" Brotherton



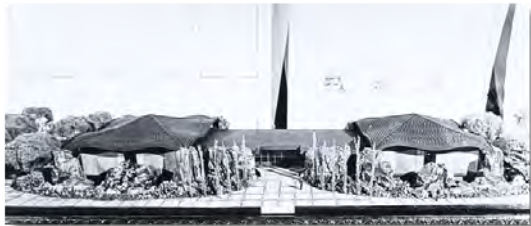
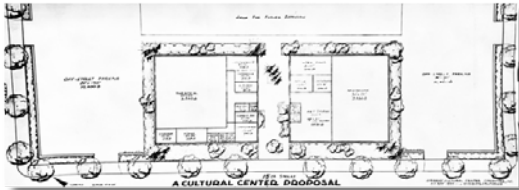
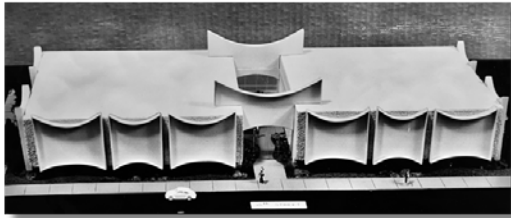
John Nash



The Modesto Bee



Eula Sprinkle, Jadene Meek, Jack Brotherton (1966)



Above:
Proposed
cultural center
museum
designs

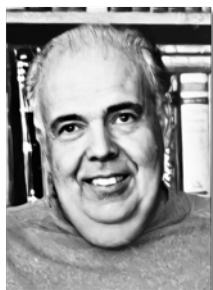
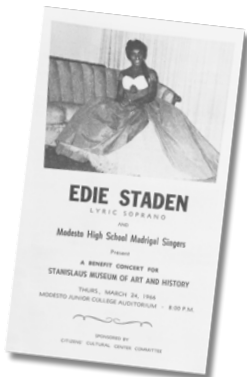


Heidi Warner
showing James
West (1935 - 2016)
the third design for
a Cultural Center
(March, 1966)

Photo from The Modesto Bee



Edie Staden (1966)
Photo from The Modesto Bee



Lu Gandolfo

first proposed model for a cultural center. It was designed by local artist/interior designer, and employee of the county assessor's office, Norman Maclusi (1935-1996). Maclusci would submit another more modern design the following month, and a third in March of 1966.

1966

On February 10, 1966, John Nash led the SCHSC in discussing the formation a permanent Stanislaus County Historical Society, rather than just an ad hoc committee, akin to how the CCCC had recently incorporated. By March, the CCCC had a newly opened office at 1317 'J' Street, near the State Theatre. Brotherton was now chairing the fund drives for the CCCC, organizing with Jadene Meek (1935-2017) and Eula Sprinkle (1919-2003). Their goal had risen to \$250,000 now.

On March 24th, the CCCC held a major fundraiser featuring singing sensation Edna May Goodlette Staden-Ridgeway (1933-2009) known professionally as 'Edie Staden' and Modesto High School's Madrigal Singers. Staden was a rising star at the time and had recently moved to Modesto. She had already appeared on the Ed Sullivan Show, performed at the 1964 Democratic National Convention, and had recently recorded an album with Mercury Records. Born to vaudeville-performing parents, her repertoire range reached from classical compositions to black spirituals to Jewish folk songs.

Over the summer, John Nash was permitted access to the very historic Modesto buildings which were due for demolition. He scouted out savable artifacts from them for future museum-use. The Modesto Bee featured him scouring the State Hotel (the former Tynan Hotel) on 10th and 'H' Streets. In the basement of the Owl Restaurant on 9th Street he found vintage Chinese documents.

On August 30th, the CCCC appointed Lu Gandolfo (1921-2003), a history and sports reporter with The Modesto Bee, as the coordinator of collections. In October, the CCCC's first exhibition was held in the basement of Smith Furniture at 915 11th Street, Modesto. It was titled "Across the Seas with Child Art", and was arranged with the local chapter of the League of Women Voters.

On November 4th, sixty of the SCHCS' now 131 members met to approve incorporating the organization, and on November 30th, the Stanislaus County Historical Society (SCHS) was registered as a non-profit with the state. Jack Brotherton was elected president, Natalie Daubenberger remained vice president, and the board of directors included: Loren Daubenberger of Turlock; Dedrick Denison (1929-2020) of Modesto; Jadene Meek of Modesto (she also remained involved

with CCCC fundraising; Edna Stewart (1907-2005) of Patterson; and Mortimer Walker (1897-1969) of Knights Ferry. The SCHS established their focus on publishing new historical accounts, and in helping the CCCC find a temporary museum location.

Brotherton, Nash, and Warner met in early December and identified the old police station on 10th Street, between 'F' and 'G' streets, as a suitable site selection for temporary museum. Built in 1920, the building had been vacated two years earlier when the police had moved to new headquarters at 11th and 'F' streets.

1967 - 1969

By January of 1967, the City had slated the old police building for demolition, deeming it structurally unsafe through implementation of their 1964 building code update. On February 14th though, the City gave Warner a Valentine's gift by granting her two smaller buildings behind the old police station for use as a temporary museum. On July 4th, the Stanislaus County Museum of History and Art opened at this location.

By 1969, the CCCC had raised \$116,000, which was now nearly enough to convert the existing library building into a museum. They later received \$15,400 from the Pauley Foundation, arranged by Barbara Jean McHenry Pauley (1914-2002). It was by the will of her grandfather, Oramil McHenry (1861-1906), whose estate had originally provided the money and property upon his death for the city to erect a public library. The library was named the McHenry Library in his memory when it opened in 1912, and the building would now retain his name designation as the McHenry Museum when it opened.

1970s

The SCHS continued its endeavors of publishing fresh historical accounts. They assisted in bringing about Modesto's *One Hundred Years...* a 1970 yearbook with the Modesto Centennial Committee, edited by Jeanette Maino. After Brotherton concluded his time as president of the SCHS, Herbert Florcken filled the role, followed by Peggy Mensinger (1923-2002). Next, as president as the



Photo from *The Modesto Bee*
Jack Brotherton, John Nash, & Heidi Warner
Scouting former Police Station for possible Museum (1966)

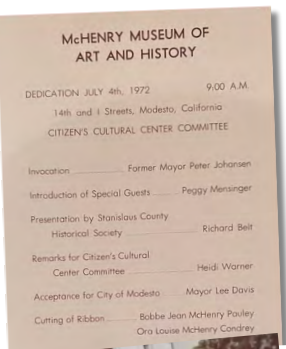


First Museum Site (1967)

Photo from *The Modesto Bee*



Barbara McHenry Pauley



McHenry Museum came into being, Richard “Dick” Belt (1920-2006) served as president. Mensinger went on to become both the first woman to be a Modesto City councilperson and mayor. Belt owned Belt Printing and gratuitously paid for the printing of the SCHS’s publications for many years to come.

In 1971, Peggy Mensinger and Heidi Warner represented the SCHS in producing *A Study of Stanislaus County* with Gertrude Vasché (1908-1997) of the Stanislaus County Office of Education (SCOE). This work consolidated the 1941 curriculum produced by Vasché’s late husband, Joseph Vasché. Like its predecessor publication, it was targeted for third grade elementary student use. It was later reproduced as *The History of Stanislaus County* by SCOE in 1981.

The City of Modesto hired Heidi Warner to be the director of the McHenry Museum. On July 4, 1972, it was dedicated with a grand opening reception. The date coincided with the fifth anniversary of the opening of the first (temporary) museum. As the library building was becoming as a museum, descendants of the original board who oversaw the creation of the McHenry Library in 1912 were invited guests of honor: Evelyn “Pat” McMahan Hall (1907-1986) of Pacific Grove, daughter of former Stanislaus County Supervisor John Joseph McMahan (1872-1927); Edwin Dennett (1910-1974) of Wheatland, son of former Modesto mayor Lewis Lincoln Dennett (1867-1942); and Carroll Fulkerth (1889-1972), son of the late Honorable Judge Loren W. Fulkerth (1860-1934).



Invitation to McHenry Museum dedication; Dick Belt and Heidi Warner; Ora Louise McHenry Condry; Barbara Jean McHenry Pauley and Peggy Mensinger

On March 20, 1974, the CCCC officially changed its name to the McHenry Museum Society (MMS), ‘society’ distinguishing the group from the museum proper. Lois Nish joined the Museum as a docent, but was quickly appointed its temporary director by Heidi Warner, who had returned to college to take some classes specific to museum work. Nish spoke with the MM&HS recently. She said one day, Warner returned from a Soroptimist meeting where she learned the McHenry Mansion was soon to be purchased by some lawyers. Warner asked Nish to contact her husband, Ray (1922-2010), the then-managing editor of *The Modesto Bee*, to publish a story in hopes a new course could be charted for the building. Ray brought in photographers, and the story led to the Julio R. Gallo Foundation’s purchase and restoration of the mansion.



Photo from *The Modesto Bee* Lois Nish organizing a display on the McHenry Family, She hosted a reunion of the family in the Museum (1976).

In 1976, the SCHS launched *Stanislaus Stepping Stones*, a quarterly historical journal. The founding editors were SCHS president Dena Boer (1929-2006), Jeanette Maino, and historian and writer for *The Modesto Bee* Thorne Gray (1937-1993). All three worked on *Stepping Stones* throughout their lifetimes. In 1979, Boer and Maino published *Scenes of Stanislaus: Postcard Memories*.



Dena Boer Thorne Gray

1980s

In 1982, Stanislaus County’s Board of Supervisors designated the McHenry Museum as a county-wide museum, and created a three-person Stanislaus County Historical Records Commission. Lloyd Ploutz was appointed to serve on the commission along with MJC history professor Larry Thorson (1931-2007) and California State University Stanislaus history professor John Caswell (1914-2001). This commission was charged with collecting the county’s historical



records to be placed in care with the McHenry Museum's archives. Former MMS board member and past Modesto city councilperson, Kenni Friedman, recently shared with MM&HS that the City's Modesto Culture Commission, lead by Colleen Stanley Bare (1925-2018) during this time, also furthered community involvement with the museum now, and brought in local live poetry corner readings.

The mid-1980s brought a burst of books on the topic of Stanislaus County. In 1984, the MMS Press published *Modesto: Images of Yesterday, Images of Today*, by Robert Gauvreau (1948-2019). Founding MMS board member, W. Franklin Beard (1910-1989) completed oral histories with a tape recorder and notebook of hundreds of local people, gathering photographs from their family albums. His work was compiled into a Stanislaus County trilogy: 1984's *The way we were 50 years ago: East of Modesto to Empire and Beyond*; 1987's *Grain Fields to Green Fields*, and 1988's *Gold Fields to Grazing Fields*. Beard's works were published by former SCHS president Dick Belt's Southern Mines Press. In 1986, the SCHS published the full ten years of its Stanislaus Stepping Stones to date in an opus as *Stanislaus County History – An Anthology*, compiled and edited by Robert "Bob" LeRoy Santos (1944-2017) and Lisa Bruk. In 1988, the SCHS then published *Stanislaus County: An Illustrated History*, by Kathleen Gooch.

In 1987, the McHenry Museum Society and the SCHS merged. The resulting group was born as the McHenry Museum & Historical Society, officially recorded on February 3, 1988 by the State of California. What had been planted as a city-owned building to host a county-wide effort had now fully bloomed.

1990s - Present

Heidi Warner retired in 1996. Operations of the McHenry Museum building were accordingly assumed by Wayne Mathes. He was initially hired by the City of Modesto in 1977 to restore the nearby McHenry Mansion. Mathes retired in 2019. Laura Mesa has since maintained the museum for the city, with Mathes being brought back in 2023 in a supportive and temporary part time role. Janet Lancaster has long volunteered as the museum's archivist, and does so to this day.

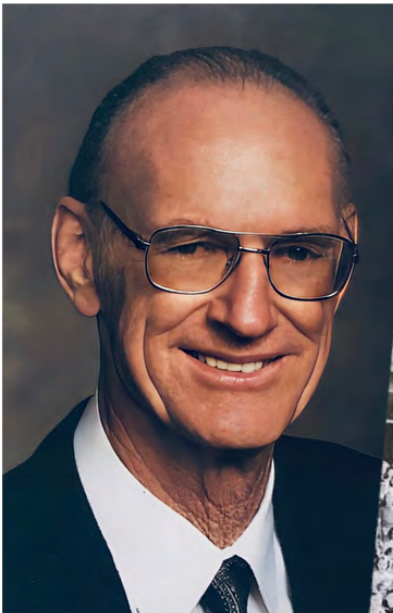
Robert Santos, who had written prolifically for the MM&HS for many years, began independently publishing the *Stanislaus Historical Quarterly* in the spring of 2008. Santos was a librarian, and at this time was the archivist emeritus



A 1982 Museum Newsletter



Photo from The Modesto Bee
Jack Brotherton & Herbert Florcken work on the 1981 SCHS Calendar



Franklin Beard and his trio of books



Photo from The Modesto Bee

Heidi Lillian Warner

Feb 24, 1925 - Feb 27, 2008

at California State University Stanislaus (CSUS), where he worked for thirty-seven years. This periodical was produced through 2016.

While the MM&HS continues to represent the history of Stanislaus County as a whole, other historical societies have been organized as stewards of specific municipalities within in the county: Patterson in 1972; Oakdale in 1979; Knights Ferry in 1985; Turlock in 1994 (incorporating in 1996); Ceres, Newman, and Riverbank in 1995; Hughson and LaGrange in 2000; and Waterford in 2001. The Modesto History Project, affiliated with the Modesto Art Museum, was initiated in 2020.

As of the summer of 2023, the MM&HS is working to produce an updated version of *The History of Stanislaus County*, the 1981-revised version of 1971's teaching booklet which was born out of Joseph Vasché's original 1942 student guide. The latest work is again being done in consultation with the Stanislaus County Office of Education.

The MM&HS previously published supplementary extensive documentation on related topics. For further reading, please see these *Stanislaus Stepping Stones* articles:

January/February 2007's *McHenry Museum & Historical Society: a Chronological History* by Gwenlyn "Gwen" Larsen (1929-2021).

July/August 2007's two-article landmark *Heidi Warner: Founder of the McHenry Museum* by Robert LeRoy Santos.

Several of the books about Stanislaus County mentioned throughout this article are currently available purchase at the MM&HS' bookshop gift store, 'Stanislaus Selections', which is located within the McHenry Museum. Some of the rarer books mentioned are available for in-person reading in the Special Collections room at the Modesto branch of the Stanislaus County Library. Other published works included can be accessed through CSUS library's Special Collections and University Archives repository, both online and on-campus in Turlock.

Edited by Lois Belt

Thank you to the founder of the Stanislaus County Historical Society

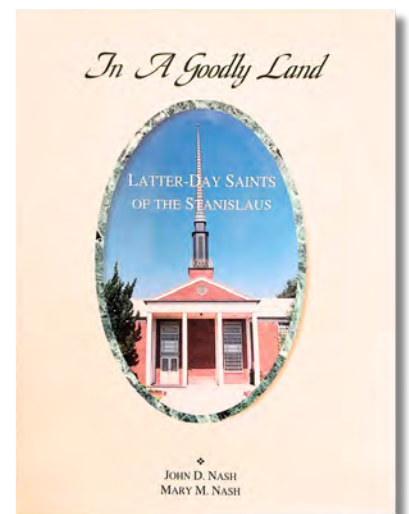
It was a thrill to speak to John Nash, longtime history professor at Modesto Junior College. He was the first Bishop of the Latter Day Saints (LDS) church in Oakdale, and he and his wife Mary Moore Nash (1934-2018) wrote a complete history of the LDS Church in Stanislaus County in 1997, *In A Goodly Land: Latter-Day Saints of the Stanislaus*.
- David Seymour



John Nash
2023



John & Mary
Nash



MM&HS News • August 2023

- On July 4th, MM&HS Executive Director announced the "Fourth of July Parade with Lucas Gee of KWIN in front of the McHenry Museum. The MM&HS McMobile Museum also displayed a photo montage of parades of yesteryear. Thank you to Christopher Nunes, Jennifer Aoyama, and Nancy Norton for their help.
- On Friday, July 7th, the MM&HS McMobile Museum popped up at the Downtown Modesto 'DoMo' First Friday' street faire on 10th Street in front of Brenden Theaters. Thank you to Mike & Kim Cobleigh for allowing us to re-share local items as well as Randy Siefkin and the State Theatre for donating vintage from photographs of former Modesto theatres. Thank you to Jennifer Aoyama and Naramsen Goriel for volunteering at the McMobile, and to Doug Nutson for assisting in set-up and break-down.
- On Friday, July 14th, a mini version of the MM&HS McMobile Museum appeared at "Music in the Plaza: Frida Friday" in 10th Street Place. We thank Rebecca Harrington for inviting us.
- We welcome new Lifetime sustaining members Tim and Holley Coppetti, Duane Nelson, Patricia Storer, and Lucille Thompson.
- We welcome new Patron sustaining members Jerilyn Self and Randy & Susan Siefkin.
- Our summer 2023 donor campaign continues! We emailed and USPS-mailed out our annual appeal letter at the end of June. Join or renew as a donor member today at McHenryMuseum.org/support.
- MM&HS' Board of Directors met on July 25, 2023.
- The November 4th historical awards gala dinner announced in last month's issue is being postponed until January. Please stay tuned for updates.
- Beginning August 4th, the McHenry Museum is displaying vintage hats in the temporary exhibition room. This display is being composed by Wayne Mathes of the City of Modesto.



July 4th



July 7th



BIG STRUCTURE FOR WEST SIDE

Architects Drawing Up Plans for Three Story Building to Cost \$125,000

Architects are drawing up plans for a three story brick and steel building which is to be erected at an approximate cost of \$100,000 or \$125,000 on the property recently purchased at the southeast corner of Seventh and I streets by H. E. Craig, Los Angeles capitalist. The property, which sold for \$60,000, has a frontage of 104 feet on I street and 100 feet on Seventh street. Before work on the contemplated building is begun the Mar Jack Chinese Herb company now located on the site will be removed, but the second garage in the rear of the house will be left standing. The property was formerly owned by H. L. Bonham, rancher, and was secured by Craig in an exchange for what land in the Tulare lake district. Bonham's ranch near Modesto being included in the deal. Bonham has taken possession of his new property. E. L. Ustick was instrumental in furthering the deal.

1923

TULLOCH HOPEFUL STRIKING OIL AT NEWMAN WELL
 (Special to The News)
 OAKDALE, Aug. 31.—In a rec interview with Harry Crowe, president of the Oakdale Irrigation board Charles T. Tulloch, former resident of this city, who is now engaged boring an oil well near Newman stated that he is very hopeful striking a large flow of oil within near future. The top of the well has been gone over carefully by experts who inform him that the next step should bring results. They commented off their casing and

It Happened When...

- **100 years ago:** On August 23, 1923, The Modesto Bee reported of plans being drawn for a new three-story brick and steel structure at the corner of Seventh and 'I' streets at a cost of \$125,000.00. However, before work could be constructed, the Mar Jack Chinese Herbalist, which was located at the site, had to be removed.
- **100 years ago:** On August 31, 1923, that Charles T. Tulloch (1856 - 1924), who lived in Oakdale, was now engaged in boring an oil well near Newman, with hopes of striking a flow within a few weeks' time.
- **40 years ago:** On August 26, 1983, the growth of the student population at the Ceres Unified School District required the addition of eleven teachers for the 1983-84 school year. The district was up to 4,510 students. In fact, the city-wide population had more than doubled over the past ten years, and was now up at 13,000 residents. It was evident, "Ceres grows rapidly."

1983

Ceres growth forces school district to add teachers
 Ceres Unified School District is adding eleven teachers for the 1983-84 school year. The district was up to 4,510 students. In fact, the city-wide population had more than doubled over the past ten years, and was now up at 13,000 residents. It was evident, "Ceres grows rapidly."



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 opening each month! And its free! McHenryMuseum.org/contact

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