

# *Sandstone & Tile*

WINTER/SPRING 2005    STANFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY    VOLUME 29, NO. 1



■ *Trees of Stanford and Environs*

■ *Stanford Street Names*

■ *Historic Houses*

*Why is the Historical Society interested in trees, streets, and houses?*

By documenting the physical campus, three new society publications reveal changes to Stanford that have taken place over the last hundred years, reflecting the often-spontaneous growth of a Western community. This issue features these new books and several others of interest to students of Stanford history.



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**COVER:** *Silhouette of coast redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*) and the related big tree or giant sequoia (*Sequoiadendron giganteum*), was made by Ronald Bracewell for his *Trees of Stanford and Environs*, one of three books recently published by the Historical Society.*

GRIFFING FAMILY COLLECTION

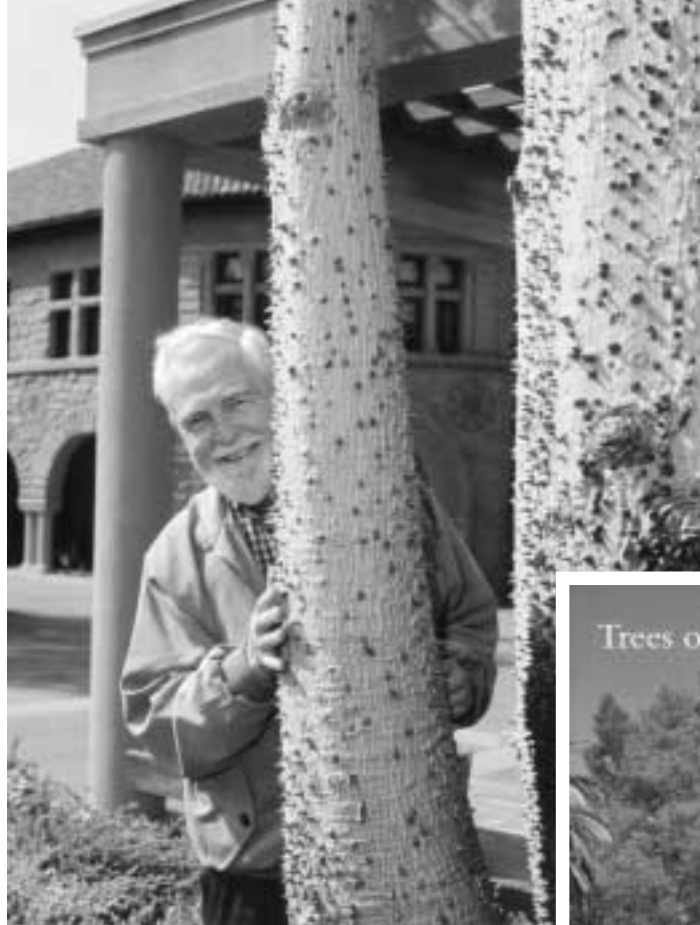


GRIFFING FAMILY COLLECTION

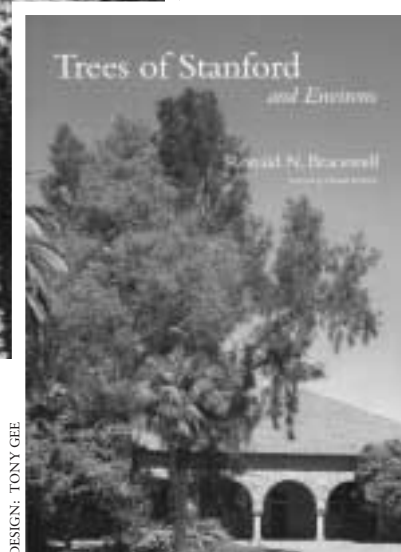


*Griffing family photographs from the late 1920s suggest some of the changes documented in three new publications by the Historical Society. The Griffing house (above, top) at 792 Santa Maria Avenue is not far from other new construction, including, at far right, the Mears house at 593 Gerona Road. From the back of the Griffing house (above), the view extends east to Ryan Lab, on Stanford Avenue.*

*Celebrating March as Arbor Month, the Stanford Historical Society published a detailed study of more than 350 tree species found on campus and in nearby cities. It is the result of nearly 50 years of study and observation by its author, Ronald N. Bracewell.*



ROD SEARCEY



DESIGN: TONY GEE

## Society Publishes Bracewell Tome on *Trees of Stanford and Environs*

**T**he Stanford campus has more than 27,000 trees (outnumbering undergraduates by almost four to one), and they have a lifelong admirer and defender in Ron Bracewell, L. M. Terman Professor of Electrical Engineering, Emeritus. Bracewell joined the Stanford faculty in 1955 after earning degrees in mathematics, physics, and electrical engineering at the University of Sydney, Australia, and a doctorate in physics at Cambridge, England.

At Stanford, his radio astronomy research involved constructing complex radio telescopes on outlying campus land, where he spent many years mapping daily temperatures of the sun and studying extragalactic nebulae—and planting a collection of eucalyptus trees in his spare time. He had cultivated his interest in trees during his Australian boyhood.

Throughout his Stanford career, Bracewell has been an advocate for campus trees: publicly mourning

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*Author Ronald Bracewell peeks out from a multitrunked floss-silk tree (*Chorisia speciosa*) next to the Clock Tower.*

the demise of landmark specimens like the 100-foot tall, century-old *Eucalyptus viminalis* south of Varian Laboratory that succumbed to fungus in 2002, and helping lead a 1979 revolt to save a group of avocado trees behind Building 1 that was threatened by construction. Bracewell has led numerous campus tree walks over the years and in the late 1970s taught a popular undergraduate seminar, “I Dig Trees.”

Bracewell’s book is designed for tree lovers, botanists, horticulturists, and environmentalists, but it will also appeal to students, alumni, and others attracted to the Stanford campus. Gardeners interested in seeing unusual specimens and mature examples of trees also will find the book useful.

The book includes tree entries in alphabetical order by Latin name, as well as the author’s entertaining discourses on science, history, mythology, and language. Each entry cites where examples of the species can be seen.

Approximately a hundred Palo Alto trees and a dozen Menlo Park trees are mentioned in the entries; they are referenced in the index under “Palo Alto

*Class of 1895 Oak  
(Quercus agrifolia)  
grows at the corner of  
Serra and Lasuen in 1955.  
The first oak selected  
by the class  
was removed for  
construction of the  
Outer Quad at the  
beginning of the  
20th century.  
The Graduate School of  
Business now fills  
the space behind  
the tree; Memorial Hall  
is at far right.*



streets” and “Menlo Park streets.”

On the inside back cover is a campus map keyed to 34 of Stanford’s most noteworthy trees, and inside the book are maps of seven areas of campus with rich varieties of flora, including the Inner Quad Courtyard, the Cantor Center for Visual Arts, and the Green/Meyer Library area.

More than 80 full-size leaf silhouettes in the book will help the reader identify trees. Bracewell made them using a photocopier to reproduce actual leaves.

The careful reader will find an entry on a unique hybrid Tree that is popular with campus musicians (*see sidebar, page 8*).

In his foreword to the book, Stanford President Emeritus Donald Kennedy writes: “It is authoritative, thoughtful, and engaging—not only in its scientific quality but in the wonderful way it has captured so much of the associated history. You can find unexpected things here: the insect problems with the eucalyptus trees the Board of Trustees had planted across Galvez Street from the Stadium; the attempts in World War II to harvest cork from campus

cork oaks; the 1891 memo from Senator Stanford to David Starr Jordan insisting on native oak names for the men’s and women’s dormitories. What we have here, in short, is a treasure-trove that invites exploration.”

The book was underwritten by Jean and L. W. (Bill) Lane Jr. and the Robert and Charlotte Beyers Fund of the Historical Society.

The finite nature of trees has posed many challenges in the preparation of Bracewell’s book. Over time, old age, disease, landscape changes, and campus construction will account for the disappearance of some of the trees the book describes. In the final months

of book production, several disappeared, including the century-old English elms (*Ulmus minor*) in front of Columbae House, 549 Lasuen Mall.

*Trees of Stanford and Environs* (Stanford Historical Society, 306 pp., 83 illustrations; ISBN 0-9664249-2-1, \$21.95) is available at the Stanford Bookstore, including the branch at University Avenue and High Street in Palo Alto, and the Book Shop at the Cantor Center for Visual Arts. ☛

## Trees.stanford.edu

A Web edition of *Trees of Stanford and Environs* is available at <http://trees.stanford.edu>. John Rawlings, a Stanford librarian and Jasper Ridge volunteer specializing in plants, has uploaded Bracewell’s tree text and is adding his own entries on shrubs and vines. The Web site also includes an ongoing list of species lost from the campus, as well as other tree-related information Rawlings has gathered. Rawlings contributed the tree maps to Bracewell’s book and helped confirm numerous tree identities.

THE FOLLOWING EXCERPTS FROM *TREES OF STANFORD AND ENVIRONS* DESCRIBE THREE OAKS THAT ARE NATIVE TO CAMPUS, AS WELL AS ONE VERY UNUSUAL REDWOOD.

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## Coast Live Oak, Encina

*California Coast Ranges*

*Quercus agrifolia*

FAGACEAE

(Oak or beech family)

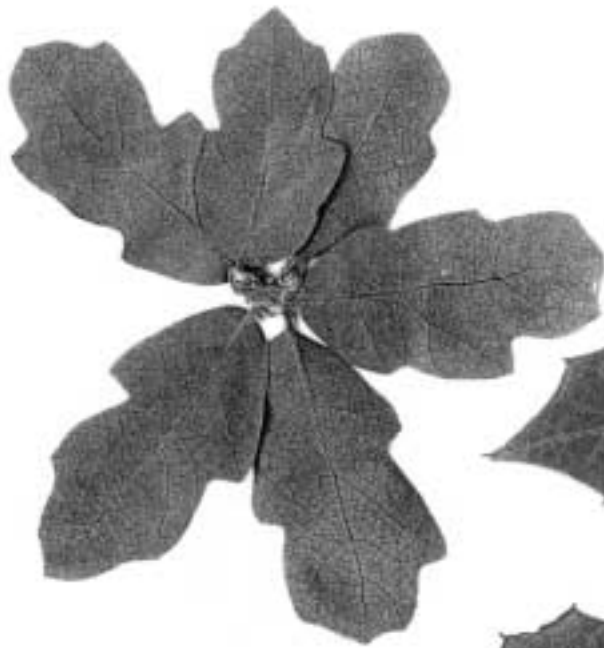
Visitors to the campus from other states often remark on the gnarled old oaks, of which magnificent specimens abound. Two species are common on campus and native to it, the evergreen live oak and the deciduous valley oak *Quercus lobata*.

The word *quercus* means oak in Latin and survives in Italian as *quercia*. The prefix *agri* refers to a field (as in agriculture). Therefore, *agrifolia* means field-like leaf. The leaves more resemble the leaves of a holly (family Aquifoliaceae) than they do a field; so why is our favorite tree not named *Q. aquifolia*? Though the meanings are often of interest, it would be tedious to give the meanings of all the generic and specific names of our trees, which in any case are obtainable from any Stanford botanist or from W. T. Stearn, *Botanical Latin* (4th ed., 1995).

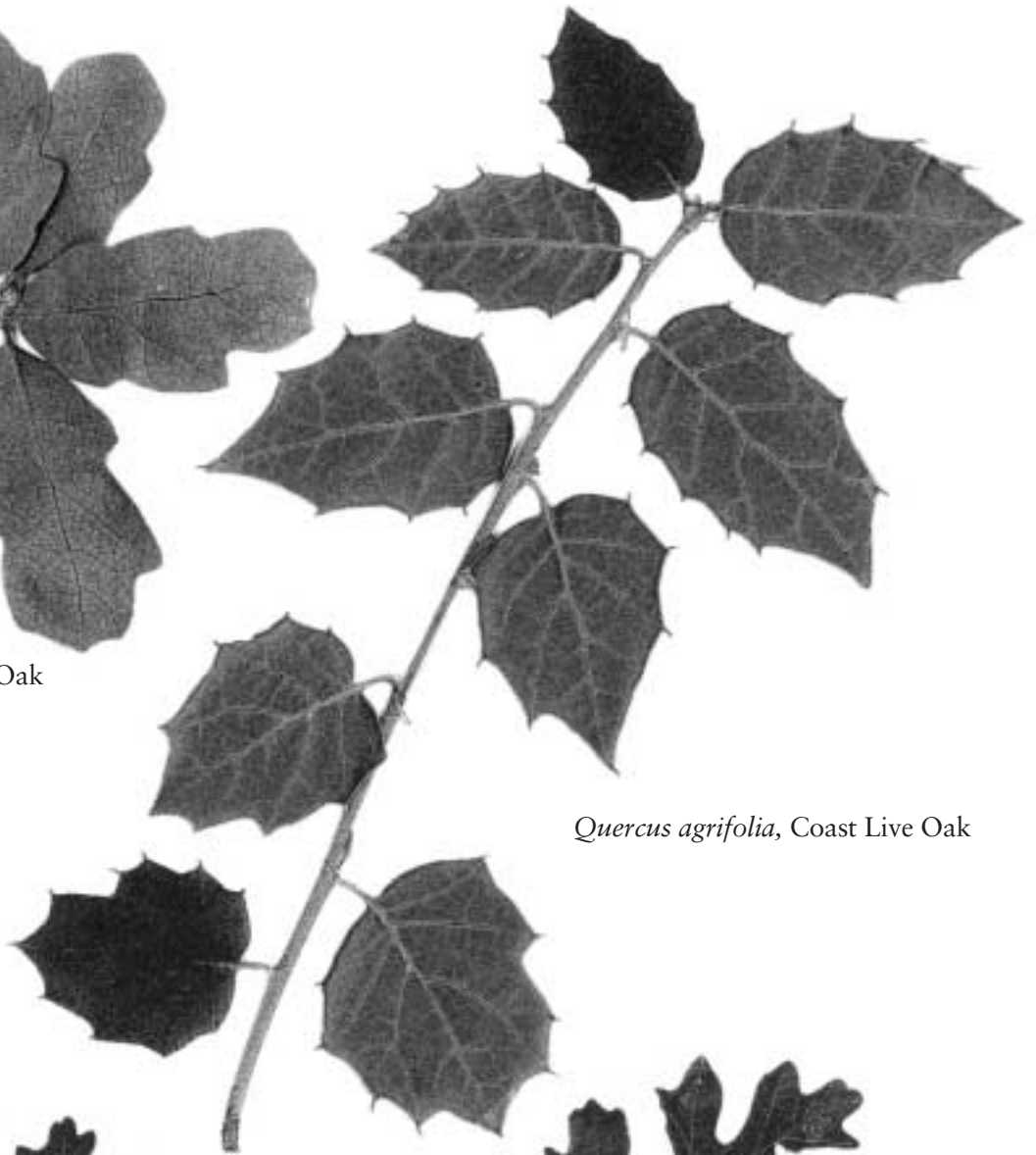
The coast live oak (not to be confused with the live oak *Q. virginiana* of the Southern United States) has tough convex leaves 1 to 2 inches long with a few spiny teeth. In spring the oaks liberate great quantities of pollen from hanging catkins. The separate female flowers later produce acorns about 1½ inches long and ½ inch in diameter. Widely distributed by squirrels, and stored by woodpeckers in custom-drilled holes in tree trunks and wood siding, the acorns germinate freely all over the campus, especially where there is some ground cover.

The coast live oak is in vogue for landscaping, and is the most popular single species of large tree at Stanford. It reaches an age of 200 to 300 years; an idea of the rate of growth may be gained from the row along Lasuen Mall next to the Quad, which is said to have been planted in 1918. An ancient tree on Serra Mall and Lasuen Mall at the southwest corner of the Graduate School of Business, which was adopted by the class of 1895 as the Pioneer Oak, is still standing. Gone is one of the university's most beloved specimens, which stood guard at the Mausoleum until it was removed in 1993, a victim of leaf and twig diseases cryptocline and diplodia. Estimated to be 300 years old, it measured 70 feet tall, with a trunk diameter of 55 inches and a branch spread of 120 feet. Wood from the tree was incorporated into the round table (the unusual spiral pattern) in the rotunda of Green Library's Bing Wing. An example of apparent success moving a mature *Q. agrifolia* can be seen at Homer Park, across from 315 Homer Avenue, Palo Alto. The 35-foot-tall specimen (weighing nearly 35 tons!) was transplanted to the site in August 2003.

Other fine examples of *Q. agrifolia* include two in front of Lagunita Court; the patriarch south of Arrillaga Alumni Center; and one with a plaque at the southwest corner of Campus Drive East and Galvez Street. A decades-ago fallen tree, still growing vigorously, is behind the Mausoleum.



*Quercus douglasii*, Blue Oak



*Quercus agrifolia*, Coast Live Oak



*Quercus lobata*, Valley Oak

Montage based on three oak leaf silhouettes from *Trees of Stanford and Environs*. The book includes 83 illustrations by the author made using a photocopier to reproduce actual leaves.

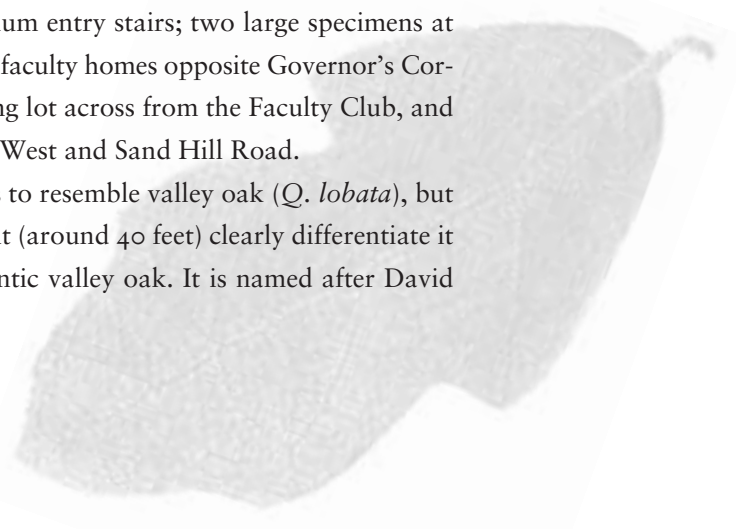
## Blue Oak

California

*Quercus douglasii*

Native in the immediate vicinity of campus, the deciduous blue oak grows along with coast live oak and valley oak. The leaves are noticeably blue-green and are lobed shallowly, if at all. Off Santa Teresa Street, there is a parking lot in front of Roble Hall carved out of an original grove of blue oak. A similar grove is up the hill where Lomita Court leaves Lomita Drive. A majestic blue oak is to the right of the Dinkelspiel Auditorium entry stairs; two large specimens at 247 and 267 Santa Teresa Lane guard the front of two faculty homes opposite Governor's Corner. More blue oaks are in the Tresidder Union parking lot across from the Faculty Club, and they dot the native landscape between Campus Drive West and Sand Hill Road.

Sometimes the leaves of blue oak are lobed so as to resemble valley oak (*Q. lobata*), but in such cases the dome-shaped habit and modest height (around 40 feet) clearly differentiate it from the more irregularly picturesque and often gigantic valley oak. It is named after David Douglas (see *Pseudotsuga*).



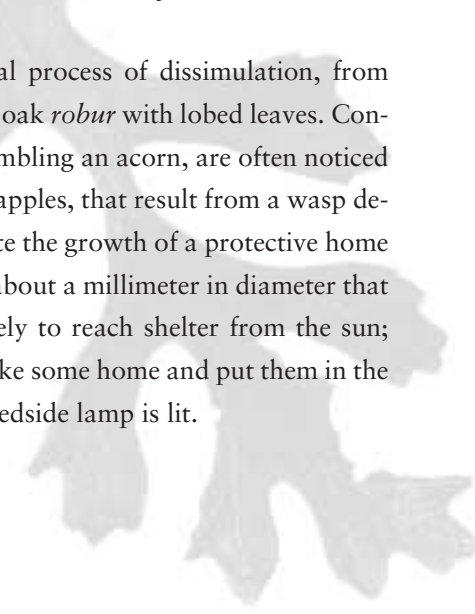
## Valley Oak, Roble

California

*Quercus lobata*

This is the other great oak, besides coast live oak, occurring on campus as part of its natural habitat. It is a large deciduous tree, just as picturesque, with distinctly lobed leaves and long acorns. Valley oak forms the greatest tribe of U.S. oaks, and the chief valley oak lives at Covelo, California, north of Willits. In 1984, its height was measured at 163 feet, with a girth of 29 feet. At Stanford, many old valley oaks have fallen victim to development. A fine specimen is between 708 and 712 Salvatierra Street; a younger tree is north of the Bookstore with a pepper tree and a deodar cedar. Dozens of young trees have been planted in the center divider of Quarry Road near El Camino Real. In Palo Alto, see three beauties at 300 Homer Avenue, 450 Sequoia Avenue, and 3775 La Donna Street.

The Spanish name *roble* is derived, by the normal process of dissimulation, from *robur*, the Latin name of the common Old World deciduous oak *robur* with lobed leaves. Conspicuous brown balls, as big as golf balls but not much resembling an acorn, are often noticed among the foliage. They are galls, popularly known as oak-apples, that result from a wasp depositing an egg, along with some plant hormone, to stimulate the growth of a protective home for the larva. Among the litter, one may find jumping galls about a millimeter in diameter that use the same strategy as the Mexican jumping bean, namely to reach shelter from the sun; when they land in a shady spot they cease jumping. If you take some home and put them in the bedroom they quiet down, but they start jumping when a bedside lamp is lit.



*Sequoia* ×  
*stanfordiana*  
(*S. sempervirens* ×  
*H. sapiens*)  
DEKENACEAE  
(Cradle family)

## The Tree

*Stanford, California*

A special redwood hybridized in 1975 by the Incomparable Leland Stanford Junior University Marching Band. Foliage varies from year to year: usually green, sometimes sparse and other times dense, always juvenile. Height is also known to fluctuate. A rare ambulatory variety, this tree has trouble putting down roots. It is generally found only at Stanford, although intermittent sightings in remote locations have been reported. Seems to thrive in the presence of discordant music. Fruit resembling a hat, tie, and glasses tends to appear during football season. Trunk is limber, swaying in the wind or to the beat, and features two prominent holes thought to be useful in ambulation. Even though there is only one known specimen, to date The Tree has not been placed on the endangered species list. Survived vicious attack by bears in 1996.



*A recent photo of Stanford's unique Tree, an attractive specimen of Sequoia × stanfordiana; the green leaves can be flipped to reveal a red underside.*



BOB HAMRDLA

*Authors Ron Bracewell (left) and Dick Cottle visit with Karen Bartholomew, chair of the society's Publications Committee.*



## Hot Off the Press

*Historical Society members and friends celebrated the launch of two new books, *Trees of Stanford* and *Environs*, as well as *Stanford Street Names: A Pocket Guide*, at a March 23 reception sponsored by members Bill and Jean Lane in the rotunda of Green Library's Bing Wing. Historical Society Membership Committee chair John Bunnell, student board member Dave Daly, and treasurer Don Price help office administrator Carol Miller sell books and solicit new memberships. The crowd of more than 100 purchased 66 tree books and 58 street guides; the authors were kept busy autographing copies.*

# Why Does Stanford Have a Street Named Electioneer?

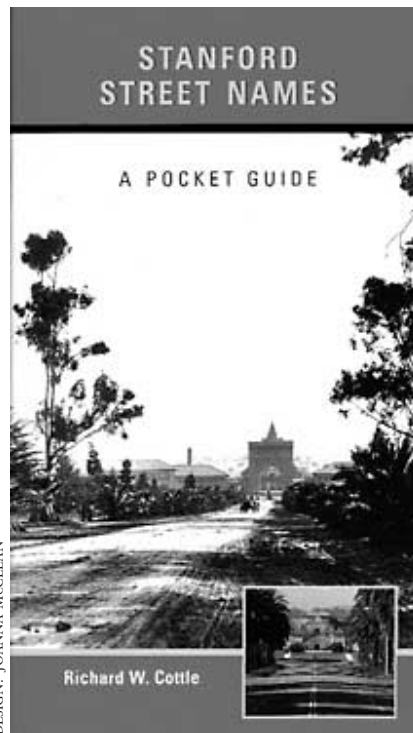
## A New Pocket Guide to Stanford Streets Tells All

*How did Sand Hill Road get its name? Who was Samuel Morris? Peter Coutts? If you have ever wondered about these or other names of streets on the Stanford campus, you have a kindred spirit in Richard W. Cottle. Cottle has explored archival records, local histories and maps to document the who, what, where, why, and when behind more than 130 street names on the Stanford campus.*

A handy field guide published in January by the Historical Society, *Stanford Street Names: A Pocket Guide*, by Professor Richard W. Cottle, illuminates 120 years of Stanford's evolution from a sprawling rural estate and stock farm into a lively university and residential community. In addition to a modern campus map, the book includes two historic maps and more than 50 archival photographs.

Aside from a handful of uninspired names—Lane A and the North Service Road, for example—most Stanford street names evoke important aspects of the university's history: early California and local history, early campus faculty, locally important trees and landscapes.

After an initial bit of street naming by the university's first president, David Starr Jordan—in love with his new California home—the naming process was somewhat casual, yet mindful of selecting names appropriate to the university's history. Whether the result of an early president's romanticism, the faculty's desire to honor respected colleagues, or simply recognition of the university's distinctive flora, the street names gathered in this compendium reflect a community conscious



of its special identity.

Streets named for Peter Coutts, an early landowner whose Ayrshire Farm was purchased by Leland Stanford, and Electioneer, premier trotting horse on Stanford's Palo Alto Stock Farm, commemorate pre-university days. Samuel Morris, dean of the School of Engineering at the end of the Depression, is among many faculty members fondly remembered.

Stanford's base map has changed repeatedly since construction of the Quadrangle (which caused rerouting of a popular thoroughfare across the Stanford property). By including streets now gone, foreshortened, or redirected, the book reveals changes fostered

by population growth, construction, and traffic flow.

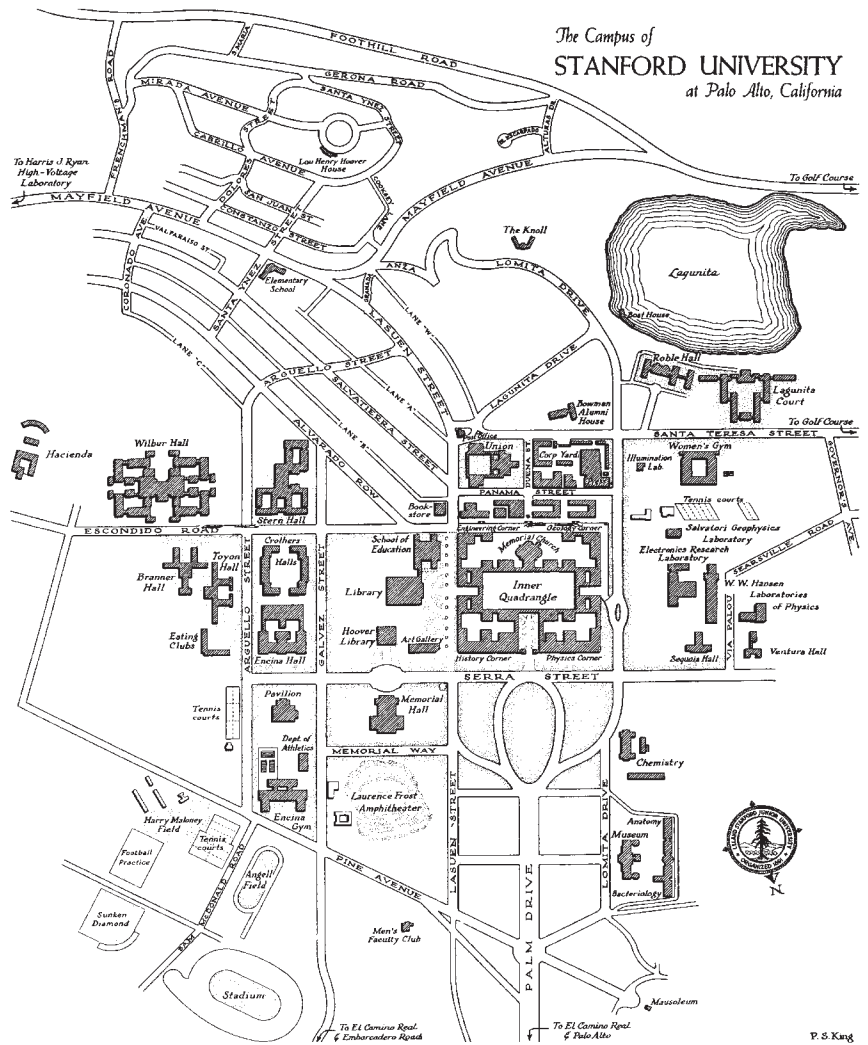
Palm Drive, originally called University Avenue, was off limits to motor vehicles when the 1908 *Map of Lands of the Leland Stanford Junior University* was first printed. The Palo Alto Stock Farm was still much in evidence, not only its former racetracks and paddocks, but also its vineyard and roads, including Governor's Avenue and Pine Avenue (a portion of today's Campus Drive).

Also included is a 1956 campus map (right), which appeared just before the burst of automotive traffic and building activity of the 1960s prompted the creation of a new ring road, Campus Drive.

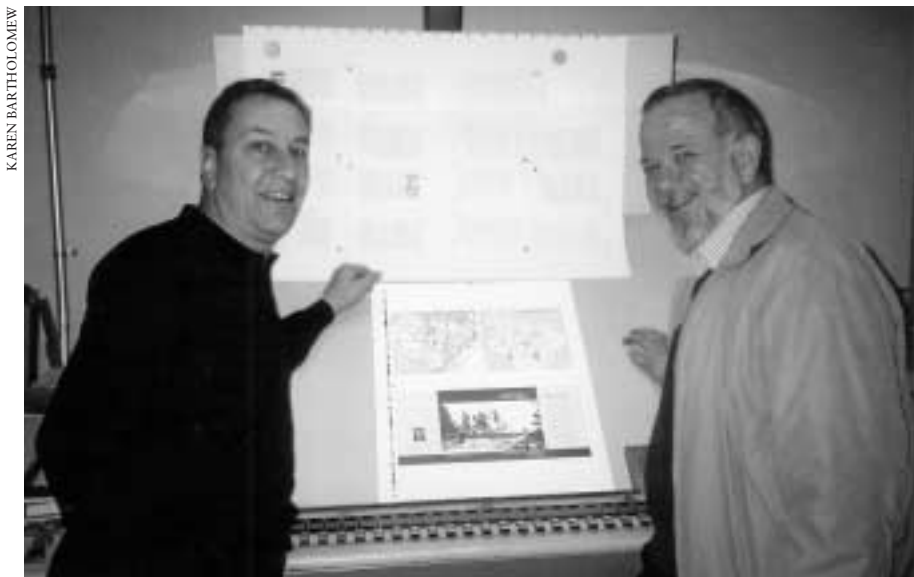
Cottle, emeritus professor of management science and engineering, joined the Stanford faculty in 1966 and has been a campus resident since 1969. He began his research on this project in the early 1990s. He soon found that Stanford had no formal structure or paper trail for the naming of streets, but a rich historical record.

Building on earlier work by Stanford Historical Society members, Cottle pored over early Stanford maps in the University Archives, Branner Earth Sciences Library, and Stanford Maps and Records office, and hunted through biographies and autobiographies, local histories, and archival records of early offices.

*Stanford Street Names: A Pocket Guide* (Stanford Historical Society, 80 pp.; ISBN 0-9664249-3-X, \$5.95) is available at the Stanford Bookstore on campus and the branch on University Avenue in Palo Alto, as well as the Book Shop at the Cantor Center and at Village Stationers on California Avenue in Palo Alto.



The map above appeared in the *Stanford Bulletin* of 1956. The network of campus roadways shown here differs markedly from what exists today, most significantly in the absence of a ring road, Campus Drive. Other notable differences include the names and lengths of some streets; among these are Foothill Road, Mayfield Avenue, Lasuen Street, Arguello Street, Panama Street, and Pine Avenue. This map reflects the long-standing community perspective of moving up Palm Drive to the Quad, rather than the university's more recent policy of orienting maps with north at the top.



Author Dick Cottle (right) takes part in the press check for his book on Stanford street names with Mike Rossi, owner of Shoreline Printing and Graphics in Mountain View. Rossi, who frequently prints Sandstone & Tile, also printed the society's recent book on historic houses.

KAREN BARTHOLOMEW

THE FOUR STREET NAME ENTRIES EXCERPTED HERE REFLECT EARLY CALIFORNIA HISTORY, EARLY CAMPUS FACULTY, LOCAL FLORA, AND LOCAL HISTORY.

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**LASUEN STREET**, named by David Starr Jordan, commemorates Father Fermin Francisco de Lasuén (1736–1803). Leaving Spain in 1759, he served at Franciscan missions in Mexico, including one in Baja California. From there he traveled with Father Palóu by land to San Diego. Lasuén founded numerous missions in Alta California, and succeeded Father Junípero Serra as their head. The street proper begins at the rear of the Littlefield Center, running parallel to Palm Drive and continuing north across Campus Drive East to Arboretum Road. As a pedestrian mall, Lasuen runs from Littlefield Center across Serra Mall and along the east side of the Quad to White Plaza, then past Braun Music Center and several Row houses to Mayfield Avenue. Lasuen originally extended to present-day Campus Drive West; that segment is now part of Mayfield. Pedestrians began replacing cars on Lasuen in the 1960s.



**SAND HILL ROAD** runs from El Camino Real to Searsville Lake in the foothills. The portion that borders the campus, at one time called Willow Road, is an extension of the original Sand Hill Road. The remainder follows the old Mayfield-Searsville Road, one of the earliest thoroughfares in the area. On early maps, it is variously labeled Searsville Road and Mayfield Road. From the 1850s, a stage followed this route up to the old town of Searsville. The name Sand Hill reflects the old road's condition, which went from knee-deep dust in summer to nearly impassible adobe mud after winter rains.





**PALM DRIVE**, the university's grand entry street, leads 3,750 feet from El Camino Real to the Oval, which lies below the Quadrangle. Originally named as a continuation of Palo Alto's University Avenue, this impressive street was lined with palm trees in 1893 at President Jordan's suggestion. Campus designer Frederick Law Olmsted positioned the road in the university plans in 1888 as "an avenue to a proposed railway station" (built soon after in the village of University Park, today's Palo Alto). In 1901, Jane Stanford forbade automobiles on campus, reserving Palm Drive for carriages, bicycles, and pedestrians. In 1908, all streets except Palm Drive were opened to automobiles. By 1914, when virtually no traffic was using Palm Drive, trustees lifted the car ban. In 1994, the road was completely rebuilt and resurfaced, and the granite curbs, called for in Olmsted's original plan, were finally added.

**MEARS COURT**, off Stanford Avenue in the Frenchman's Hill residential subdivision, is named for Eliot Grinnell Mears (1889–1946), who joined the Economics Department in 1921, and later shifted to the Graduate School of Business as professor of geography and international trade. His maternal grandfather, Josiah Bushnell Grinnell (to whom Horace Greeley gave the famous advice, "Go West, young man"), founded Grinnell, Iowa. As a Harvard undergraduate, Eliot Mears was editor of the *Harvard Lampoon*. He earned a B.A. in 1910 and an M.B.A. there in 1912. In 1919, Mears served as economic member of the American Military Mission to Armenia and Transylvania.



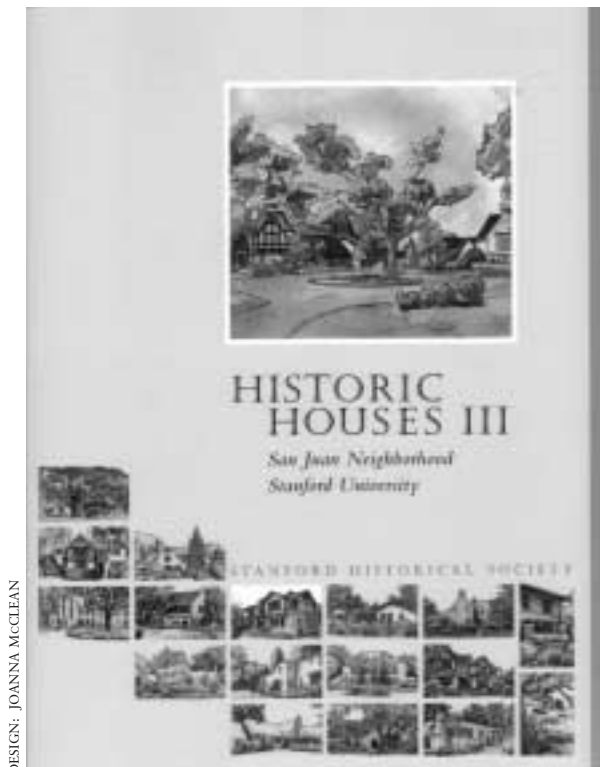
# Historic Houses Project Produces Latest in Architectural Series

*Old houses tell wonderful stories, and the histories of the early faculty homes at Stanford tell of the beginnings of a great university through the professors and families of those early years.*

The society's Historic Houses Project has just published the third in its series of architectural studies of campus houses built before 1930. *Historic Houses III: San Juan Neighborhood*, produced in conjunction with a May 2005 walking tour of the area, includes reports on 17 houses in what is generally known as the San Juan district or neighborhood.

Today's San Juan neighborhood includes the residential area bounded by Alvarado Row on the northeast, Campus Drive to the northwest, Junipero Serra Boulevard to the southwest, and Frenchman's Road and Coronado Avenue on the east. The area also includes student residences, thus keeping alive the Stanfords' wish for a residential campus with faculty and students as neighbors.

The stories behind the houses were researched over the past several years by numerous Historical Society volunteers, many of them residents of the San Juan neighborhood. In addition to historic photographs, the book includes recent photographs of many of the houses by Leni Hazlett. Each house is also illustrated with a sketch of its front façade; all but one are by student Byron A. Feig, who also painted the watercolor of El Escarpado featured on the cover. The book was designed by Joanna McClean, who also designed *Stanford Street Names*.



The first house constructed on San Juan Hill was built in 1900 by George B. and Linda Cooksey, friends of the Stanfords, as a winter home. It looked down at the main residential streets of Alvarado and Salvatierra. The neighborhood started growing in earnest in 1905, when Harris J. Ryan built his house at 9 (now 607) Cabrillo Street and William F. Durand built at 11 (now 623) Cabrillo.

In the early days, street names and numbers changed several times, but by 1930 most of them

were set. The oldest houses in this book, built on a stretch of road on the north side of the reservoir at the apex of San Juan Hill, had three different addresses. From 1907 to 1910, the road was called Aibonito, but President David Starr Jordan considered the name unappealing and after 1910 renamed it Cabrillo. Between 1924 and 1928, it took on the name Santa Ynez Street, as an extension of the road that ran up from Alvarado Row (maps and telephone directories give conflicting names for those four years).

In the 1920s, the university, needing more faculty housing, pushed into a new area, known as San Juan Subdivision No. 3. It included lots along Gerona Road, Santa Maria Avenue, and El Escarpado, where many of the houses described in the book are located.

The designs of all the houses featured in the book



Architect Birge Clark was still working in his Palo Alto office in 1982. Photo on wall is of the Lou Henry Hoover House on campus.

can be described as eclectic period style, which dominated residential architecture nationally from the 1880s to about 1940. This movement borrowed from many architectural traditions. The five earliest houses, each built before World War I, range from Craftsman and Italian Renaissance to California cottage, with one Tudor in the mix. More than half of the houses described here are in predominantly Tudor style and were built in the late 1920s. Spanish eclectic, English cottage, adobe, and French country also appear. The dominance of the Tudor style shows off spectacularly in the four houses on El Escarpado Way, off Gerona Road near Campus Drive. Three are by Charles Sumner, the fourth by Binder and Curtis.

The houses featured in the book illuminate the careers of several prominent Bay Area architects and builders of the early 20th century, in particular John Kennedy Branner, son of geology professor and Stanford's second president, John Casper Branner; Birge Clark, a Stanford graduate and son of art professor and architect Arthur Bridgman Clark; and Charles Kaiser Sumner, who designed more than 30 campus houses, including seven (perhaps eight) of the houses in this book. Branner and Clark each designed two houses, and John Bakewell Jr. of Bakewell and Brown of San Francisco, Binder and Curtis of San Jose, A. W. Smith of Oakland, and Walter H. Ratcliff Jr. of Berkeley each designed one. Designer-contractor George Wilbert Mosher also designed and built one house.

Biographies of Branner, Clark, and Sumner are included in the book.

The Historic Houses Committee continues to document additional campus houses for future volumes.



Architect John K. Branner, photo circa 1920



Architect Charles Sumner

Copies of *Historic Houses III: San Juan Neighborhood, Stanford University* (Stanford Historical Society, 128 pp.; ISBN 0-9664249-4-8, \$19.95) are available at the Stanford Bookstore on campus and the branch on University Avenue in Palo Alto, as well as at the Book Shop at Cantor Center. The first book in the series (1995), is out of print; book 2 (1998), covering portions of Alvarado Row and Salvatierra, is available from the Historical Society office and on the society's Web site, <http://histsoc.stanford.edu>.

—Marian Leib Adams

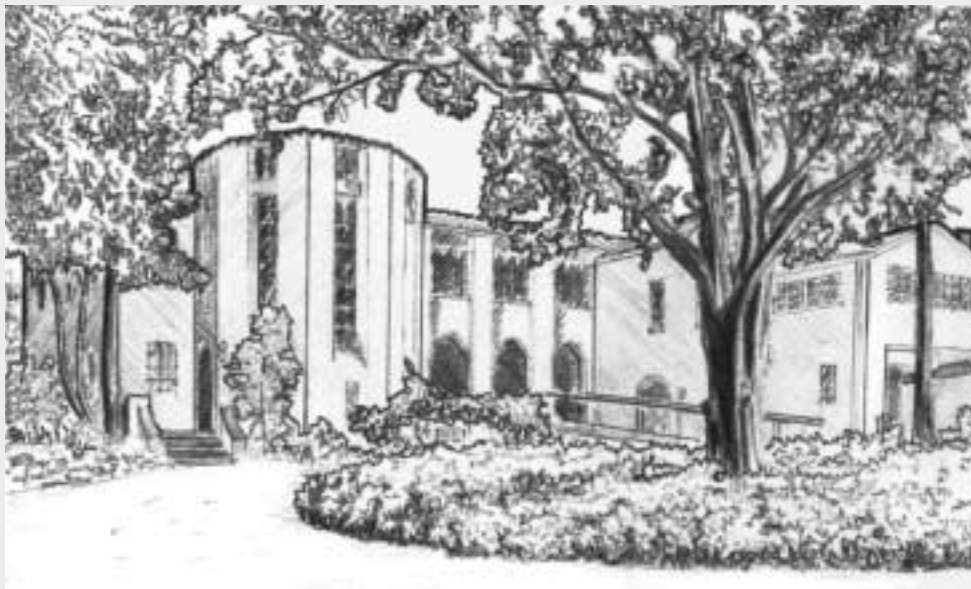
## Donors Help Underwrite House Book and Tour

Several organizations and individuals have provided grants and sponsorships to aid in the publication of *Historic Houses III: San Juan Neighborhood* and in staging of the Historic Houses Tour on May 1, 2005.

- Palo Alto Stanford Heritage (PAST) donated \$5,000 to support *Historic Houses III*.
- Sponsors for the Historic Houses Tour were Elizabeth Everitt, Princeton Capital; Carole Feldstein, Coldwell Banker; Shari Ornstein, Alain Pinel Realtors; and the *Palo Alto Weekly*.
- Additional donations were made by Joel Spolin, Absolute Mortgage, and Dick Bennett and Ann Kay.

THE EXCERPTS ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES ARE ADAPTED FROM LONGER DESCRIPTIONS OF THESE HOUSES AND THEIR OWNERS IN **HISTORIC HOUSES III: SAN JUAN NEIGHBORHOOD, STANFORD UNIVERSITY.**

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## 440 Gerona Road

(446 Foothill, 440 Foothill)

1928 Spanish eclectic period style

*Architect:* Charles K. Sumner

*Owners:* Lee—Bunker—Glaser—Dement

BY NATALIE AND DAVID WEBER

Architect Charles K. Sumner made a major impact upon faculty residences on the Stanford campus, and this one, designed and built in 1928 for Dr. Russel V. and Dorothy Lee, is one of his most distinctive, in scale and plan. The imposing entry and the many generous rooms show that Sumner was a skilled architect who knew the needs of his remarkable clients and their family.

Sumner completed the design of the 4,000-plus-square-foot house in January 1928, with major guidance from Dorothy Lee. It was constructed during the next several months at an estimated cost of \$25,000.

The Lees, with their five children, moved from Palo Alto to the campus sometime in 1928, and that year's *Stanford Register* listed them as living at the house's first address, 446 Foothill Road, which swept to the north of the house. A drawing for "change of alignment" in late 1931 shows existing and proposed

routes around the house. The new road was built by chain gang prisoners in striped clothing, who were given drinks by the Lee boys.

The lot sloped upward from the east corner and north-end driveway entrance to the south end. (The property today is about 2 acres, but it originally included land on the southeast side that was leased to Dr. D. Vernon Thomas for a new house, as well as land taken for the realignment of the road and for another house to the north.) One of the original two venerable valley oaks (*Quercus lobata*) still exists today, in breathtaking magnificence, on the living-dining-kitchen side of the house. A circular gravel driveway past the front door has a large evergreen magnolia tree in the center.

The house's architecture is regarded as Spanish eclectic, a style popular in California between about 1915 and 1940. The many arches suggest a simplified Moorish design, though they seem more Gothic in out-

line. The house's exterior is dusty buff stucco. The roof is of clay tile; it was said that all of the tiles were hand-made by workmen who molded the clay over their thighs. (Some other tile-roofed houses in the vicinity offer up the same story.)

Brick steps lead to the small porch and front entrance. Heavy steel I-beams invisibly support the first and second floors. First-floor spaces include the entrance hall, living room, study, dining room, pantry, and kitchen, as well as a maid's room with bath, and a porch off a paved service yard. The living room wing and the maid's room-garage wing are aligned, more or less north-south. However, the central segment with the dining room and kitchen is not at a right angle to the wings, which creates interesting visual relationships.

The hexagonal entrance hall is one of the house's most striking features. From a small foyer inside the front door, two steps lead up to the hall. It is 26 feet tall and nearly 17 feet across, with a sweeping curved stair extending to the second floor. The stairway has oak railings and balusters; graceful iron grilles fill the spaces between. Halfway up the stairs, four tall arched windows bring light into the entry; their lower segments open outward.

On the hall's left side, an 11- by 12-foot hall extension opens to the living room through wood-paneled

French doors and to the garden terrace through glass ones. Arches are found in many first-floor doors and windows, as well as in the living room's simple fireplace design. When the Lees lived in the house, a painting of a kneeling American Indian by Victor Arnautoff hung above the fireplace.

In the center of the house, the dining room opens to a tiled loggia on the driveway side, and to a brick terrace toward the pool and garden. The study also has a fireplace. Except for oak floors in the entrance hall, living room, dining room, and study, downstairs floors were pine and were originally covered with linoleum.

Downstairs ceilings are 8½ feet high, except for the living room (down two steps); its ceiling is just over 11 feet, with two lateral and many longitudinal plastered beams. The room measures 20 by 35 feet, with French doors leading to the backyard to the southwest and to the garden to the southeast. In total, 13 doors on this floor lead outdoors.

On the second floor are five bedrooms, a children's study, a sewing room, and what the plans called a "deck (canvas)" over the garage. In one of the middle bedrooms, Dr. Lee painted maps of the world on two walls to help educate the children. There are three full baths. Floors are oak, and ceilings are 8 feet high. The house's many steel casement windows were equipped with roller

HEWLETT LEE COLLECTION



*Under an ancient oak in 1934, Dorothy Lee sits with her children (from left) Phil, Dick, Margo, Peter, and Hewey.*

HEWLETT LEE COLLECTION



*Musical octet in 1945 includes Russel Lee and sons Richard, Phil, and Hewey in the back row; Peter, Dorothy Lee, and Margo in front. Dark-haired singer in the center is Leslie Langnecker, who lived with the Lees after the death of her father, Dr. Harry Langnecker.*

screens in vertical guides, quite typical of the era.

A large concrete-floored basement extends under the much of the house. This area included a large central playroom with an 8-foot ceiling, a fireplace, and three large windows.

On the playroom walls, “Wolo” Trutzschler (1902–89) painted murals. (Baron Wolff Erhardt Anton Georg Trutzschler von Falkenstein acquired the nickname Wolo because his sister had trouble pronouncing his name.) For many years, he worked as a caricaturist-columnist for the *San Francisco Chronicle*. He also wrote and illustrated five children’s books, was a puppeteer, and painted murals in many Bay Area buildings, including the children’s playrooms of the Stanford Convalescent Home (the old Stanford mansion) and at the old Palo Alto Medical Clinic.

The playroom mural depicted a long snake, mermaids carrying highball glasses filled with Champagne, a kangaroo with a zippered pouch containing billiard balls, three burping dilgahls (whatever they are), two hippos, and many other imaginative creatures, as well as the Lees’ Welsh terrier, Ferdie. A portion of the mural was on wood, which the Lees took with them when they left the house, in 1955.

The house’s landscaping also was notable, since Mrs. Lee was an avid gardener. With help two or three days a week from a fine Japanese gardener, George Kataguchi, she planted a large number and variety of flowers and shrubs, some of which remain, including a climbing rose that wanders through surrounding trees. The rock-lined driveway is surrounded by flower beds. Until Foothill Boulevard was constructed in the early 1930s, a double row of roses extended from the garden back to the foothills. The Lees planted a redwood tree for each of their children, and these trees are now a mature clump by the driveway entrance. However, the tree planted in the name of Margo died, almost an omen, since she did die early, in 1973.

One summer, while their parents were in Europe, the Lee sons—and a contractor who had never built a swimming pool—built a pool between two terrace walls in line with the living room. At times the boys would fill the pool by hose to bring warm water out from the house.

In 1938, based on two drawings by Birge Clark,

the existing garage was turned into a library and an attached five-car garage was added.

Elsewhere on the property were three notable structures: a bowling alley, a foundry, and a playhouse. One summer, Dr. Lee, with some adult assistance and a little help from the boys, created the bowling alley in the service yard area below the kitchen—bordered by two lines of hollow concrete columns (of which five remain), each about 9 feet tall and perhaps 18 inches in diameter. The columns held plants and vines, to help improve the appearance of this playground in Dorothy Lee’s eyes. Over the seasons, rain and shifting ground would cause the wooden alley to become rippled, so the boys had it resanded each year to reduce the slopes and slants. These idiosyncrasies gave the Lee family an advantage over visiting players who did not know the quirks. The boys and their friends rebuilt the bowling alley in the summer of 1939.

The second structure, in the extreme southern corner of the property, was a foundry shed about 20 by 36 feet for metal and other hobby work. Encouraged and led by their uncle Donald Lee, the boys made aluminum objects such as license frames. The structure’s walls were made of concrete poured into corrugated-iron forms. This design was a Russel Lee original. The roof was corrugated metal, and a big door at one end could be lifted upward. At times the boys used the foundry to repair cars. In the mid-1990s, the building fell down and was removed.

The third structure was a playhouse, a wooden building with double doors and a shed roof that the boys made for their sister. Still standing, it can be used for “roughing it” while camping out in the backyard or for adventures by visiting grandchildren.

In addition to the family occupants, many students and other guests have lived in basement rooms or above the garage after the deck was converted to sleeping quarters in the late 1930s. One occasional visitor was author Thomas Wolfe, who had met Dr. Lee on a ship returning to the U.S. from Germany in 1935. Another famous guest was Diego Rivera, in the mid-1930s. John F. Kennedy visited one evening while he was briefly a Stanford student. An early student who worked for the Lees was said to have been a rumrunner during Prohibition.

# 635 Gerona Road

1926 French country

*Architect:* John K. Branner

*Owners:* Guérard—Guerard—Goldstein

BY THERESE L. BAKER-DEGLER

**“Being in this house...is a constant joy.” —Albert J. Guerard**

During more than 75 years, this early faculty house was inhabited by three generations of one family. The country-style *maison*, built in 1926–27, is unusual in that it strongly represents the architectural, cultural, and aesthetic tastes of Albert Léon Guérard, who was born in Paris in 1880 and came to the United States in 1906, and of his wife, Wilhelmina McCartney, whom he married in 1907.

For 35 years, Guérard (A. L. or Papa to his children and grandchildren) and his wife (Mina as A. L. called her, Mamina to everyone else) lived in the house, for some of the time with their daughter, Catherine (Therina), and son, Albert (A. J.). From 1961 until their deaths, in 2000 and 2002, respectively, Albert J. and his wife, Maclin Bockock, lived there. Their daughters, Collot, Nini, and Lundie, grew up in the house, and in turn their children—A. L. and Mamina’s great-grandchildren—spent many summers and vacations at the house.

The older Guérards first came to Stanford in 1907, and A. L. served as an assistant and then associate professor of French. In 1913, they left for 11 years at Rice Institute in Houston and a year at UCLA. When the family returned permanently to Stanford in 1925, the children were aged 15 and nearly 11.

Documentation in the family’s possession and in the Stanford Archives includes the plans, design, and descriptions of the building process and furnishing of the house in 1926 and 1927. Among these sources are A. L.’s diary for the years when the house was being built and first occupied; Mamina’s essay (“A Defence

GUERARD FAMILY



*Parisian furnishings in the salon included card table topped with blue damask, and four matching chairs. Curtains are rose taffeta.*

GUERARD FAMILY



*Recently finished country-style French maison, built in 1926, stands alone on its Gerona Road lot.*

for a French Salon”) on how she furnished the salon in 1928–29, written three years after its completion; and Albert J.’s reminiscence in the 1990s of how the house was created. These sources clearly indicate the central roles of A. L. and Mamina in the development of their Stanford home.

Interest in design of the built landscape was not just a pastime for A. L. His son recalled: “I often found my father at his labor of love...pouring [sic] over maps of Paris and pondering changes that should be made in the city’s streets and facilities.” These interests led to French publications on urban design (such as *L’Avenir de Paris*, 1929). On the Guérards’ return to Stanford in 1925, they chose to locate their house on Gerona Road, at the southern edge of the main campus, with a fine view of the hills.

From the beginning, A. L. and his wife held foremost in their minds an ideal image of an unpretentious, though bourgeois, house characteristic of those in the French countryside. The Guérards first engaged the architect Charles K. Sumner in early 1926 to develop the architectural plan, but his design of a “small castle with turrets” with an “elaborate gate” did not realize their ideal. By April, they had engaged John Kennedy Branner to design the understated and graceful house that we see today; plans were completed in May.

The house, built on about an acre of land, had 3,770 square feet of living space on two floors and cost \$26,000. From the outside, its French character is unmistakable: French doors with full-length shutters on



*Mamina Guérard and the family dog, Coco, on the day bed, which was among the furnishings she had bought in Paris.*

the first floor, decorative iron French balconies on the second-floor windows, the hip roof with three dormers in the front and one in the back. Also suggestive are the quoins on the outside corners of the house (most often made of stone but here duplicated in stucco), the balustrade on the top of the garage, the raised terrace in front of the house with its typically French metal table and chairs, and the gardens.

Inside the house, the French style continued in the ceiling moldings, the herringbone marquetry floors on the first floor, the living and dining room French doors, and the mirror and cast-concrete mantel above the fireplace. One unusual feature was a telephone room off the foyer that was built under the winding staircase. The staircase with its decorative iron banister led to four bedrooms on the second floor. The master suite comprised a bedroom, two decks, two dressing rooms, a bath, and a study with a Murphy bed. The third-floor attic with its cathedral ceiling and dormer windows was ideal for play as well as for storage.



GUERARD FAMILY

*Albert J. and Maclin Guerard, shown in 1939, when they were first engaged. A. J., who joined the Stanford faculty in 1961, was the second generation Guerard to own the house.*

# 755 Santa Ynez Street


(6 Cabrillo, 755 Cabrillo)

1915 Tudor period style, Craftsman details

*Architect:* John K. Branner

*Owners:* Fairclough—Williams—Cohen

BY JOHN HARBAUGH AND MARIAN LEIB ADAMS

till imposing on its two-thirds-acre lot, this house was monarch of all it surveyed when it was built, in 1915. Views extended to all four points of the compass, and though mature trees block out the distance today, the house itself is little changed.

The house's size is impressive: about 3,700 square feet on two main floors. It was designed by John K. Branner, a son of Stanford's second president, John Casper Branner. The builder and building costs are unknown.

Branner, a masterful designer, utilized features of the Craftsman and Tudor styles to great advantage. The half-timber and stucco exterior walls above the first floor reflect Tudor influences, but a sharp eye will see Craftsman elements, too. The wide eaves with exposed rafters and projecting beams are prominent Craftsman details, as are the shingles for the exterior of the first floor and slight upward curve in the rooflines. The many gables are common to both Craftsman and Tudor styles. The exposed timbers project only slightly from the stucco. Interestingly, they run only vertically or horizontally, without any diagonal timbers commonly associated with Tudor houses.



*The richness of Craftsman-style details, including vertical timbers, small-paned windows, bay windows, and porch pillars, is revealed in artist Byron Feig's interpretation (above) and Elena Angoloti's architectural elevation of the house façade (right).*

The front of the house is strongly asymmetrical. Sheltering the west-facing front porch is an overhanging roof supported by 10-inch-square pillars, which flare outward at the top. The relatively gentle slope of the roofs—about 25°—is typical of the Craftsman style. (By contrast, Tudor-style roofs are typically steeper.)

Supporting the front roof are sturdy horizontal beams, which in turn support the rafters. Above and to the left of the entry porch, a prominent bay window with angled sides cantilevers out from the house, supported by curving brackets. On the house's right side, another gabled projection has large triangular brackets for support. Centered below the projection is a prominent floor-to-ceiling bay with two large windows on the front, and slightly narrower windows on the two angled sides.

The back of the house features a flat-roofed sunroom with double doors to the back garden. In the original plans, the porch's roof had a railing or balustrade, though, paradoxically, no access door to the roof.

Most notable on the rear side is a 14-foot-wide two-story wing projecting 20 feet beyond the main part of the house. The wing's second floor, originally a screened porch, was glassed in by the present owners. The lower floor, including a single-story wing that projects 12 feet farther, contains part of the kitchen and breakfast room, a bedroom, and a bath. (The original configuration for the back of the house included a service porch with laundry tub and washer, a maid's room, and bathroom.)



# Turner's Lecture on Hoover House Expanded into Stanford Press Book

The Lou Henry Hoover House, official residence of all seven university presidents since 1945, is a three-storied structure of stacked cubes and flat roofs that defies easy architectural categorization.

In a 1999 lecture sponsored by the Historical Society, Professor of Art History Paul V. Turner explored the inspiration for the design of the house. Delving further into the archives of the university and the Hoover Institution, Turner recently expanded his study into *Mrs. Hoover's Pueblo Walls: The Primitive and the Modern in the Lou Henry Hoover House* (Stanford University Press, 2004; ISBN 0-8047-3941-2, \$39.95). President John Hennessy and his wife, Andrea, the house's current residents, wrote the foreword for the 116-page book.

The 18,500-square-foot house was built in 1919–20 on the slope of San Juan Hill by two of Stanford's most famous alumni, Lou Henry, '98, and Herbert Hoover, '95, and served for more than two decades as their family home. In 1945, Herbert Hoover gave it to the university in memory of his wife, who had died the previous year.

A deceptively simple exterior hides an elegant interior, and its large size encompasses intimate, cozy spaces as well as dramatic public rooms. Its view of the campus and San Francisco Bay is spectacular, and hardly accidental. Designed to be a home as well as a place to entertain friends and dignitaries, often in large numbers, the house is, according to the Hennessys, pleasantly livable, although not without challenges, as one would expect of an older house of this size.

In many ways, the house embodies the personality, ideals, taste, and experiences of Lou Henry and Herbert Hoover. When they returned to the United States from overseas in 1908, the Hoovers were determined to spend at least some of their time at Stanford. As benefactors and influential alumni, the Hoovers had be-

come increasingly involved in campus affairs. Their decision to choose Stanford as their permanent residence assured Herbert Hoover's nomination to Stanford's Board of Trustees in 1912, which required residency within a convenient distance of the campus.

Before building the house, the Hoovers lived in a succession of rented and purchased houses in Palo Alto and on campus, among them the large Mediterranean-style house at 746 Santa Ynez, which they sold in 1920. (They also owned 739 Santa Ynez but never lived there.)

Herbert Hoover had three requirements: a good view, useful roofs, and fireproof construction. Lou Henry Hoover, however, played a greater role in the house's design than is normally expected of a client. She began sketching her ideas in 1912 for a house on the hill only recently developed for faculty housing.

San Juan Hill was also a sentimental choice for the Hoovers. Its grassy slopes were a favorite hiking spot when they were students during Stanford's pioneering 1890s. A reservoir had been built at the top of the hill in 1907, and the 1½-half acre lot they selected near the crest of the hill took Reservoir Drive as its address (the ring road was later added to Mirada). The lot would later be enlarged with the addition of an adjacent property.

Mrs. Hoover initially hired San Francisco architect Louis Christian Mullgardt, who in 1917 had

HOOVER INSTITUTION ARCHIVES



*Exterior of the Lou Henry Hoover House from the north, 1920s.*

designed the first presidential residence, The Knoll, for the Hoovers' good friend Ray Lyman Wilbur. But Mullgardt boasted of his commission in the press, leading to news stories about an opulent \$50,000 house planned for Hoover, the wartime food relief administrator. Offended by the elaborate design and publicity, and worried about her husband's image, Mrs. Hoover fired Mullgardt. (Estimates of the actual final cost vary from \$135,000 to \$170,000, but ultimately greatly exceeded Mullgardt's estimate.)

She turned to Arthur Bridgman Clark, a family friend, neighbor, and Stanford professor of art. Clark, who had designed a number of faculty houses in the area, also knew local building conditions. He was discreet as well as receptive to the Hoovers' ideas and was already familiar with Mrs. Hoover's designs. She would be the architect-in-chief, he declared, while he served as a "sort of architectural 'secretary.'" The sketches she sent to Clark, Turner writes, "reveal careful thought and an ability to conceptualize rather complex forms and spaces."

Birge Clark, '14, helped his father with the assignment on his return to Stanford in 1919 from graduate work in architecture at Columbia University and war service overseas. He supervised construction and became the conduit between Mrs. Hoover and the Clarks and draftsman Charles T. Davis. Davis, who had worked with several San Francisco architects on lavish house projects (including Filoli, for Stanford trustee William Bourne), interpreted Mrs. Hoover's drawings into architectural plans.

Birge Clark, an early director of the Historical Society, put together his recollections of the project for the University Archives in the 1970s: "The prevailing spirit of the house is one of extreme livableness and utter lack of formality and ostentation, the individuality of the owner being evidenced everywhere by the lack of conventionality and disregard of tradition or the accepted ways of doing things." Clark maintained a successful architectural practice until well into his 80s.

The Hoovers wanted a house unrelated to any particular historical style, Clark recalled. Tudor revival, French provincial, California mission revival, and other historical styles were then the vogue among newly constructed faculty houses. The house, Herbert Hoover suggested, should look "as if a child had piled up blocks."

The Hoovers also wanted to maximize the views and make good use of the roofs. Mrs. Hoover's passion for outdoor living led to spacious terraces and outside stairways. Although they loved to entertain, they preferred a casual, rather than ostentatious, environment. They had originally wanted a smaller house, and were somewhat embarrassed by its subsequent large size.

Completed in 1920, the house was home not only to the Hoovers and their two sons but to several live-in employees. It offered ample room for house guests and daytime staff.

While Herbert Hoover spent much of his time in Washington, D.C. (he served as secretary of commerce, 1921-28, and as president, 1929-33), his wife traveled between there and Stanford. A Stanford graduate student and other students helped care for the house and children while Herbert Jr. and Alan attended Palo Alto schools (they both later attended Stanford). Although the house was not their year-round residence, both Herbert and Lou Henry Hoover considered the "pueblo walls" at Stanford their real home.

Turner, the Paul L. and Phyllis Wattis Professor of Art, is an authority on the history and aesthetics of campus architecture and a former director of the Historical Society. In 1976, he was principal author of *The Founders and the Architects: The Design of Stanford University* (Stanford Department of Art), the first comprehensive study of the contentious collaboration between Leland Stanford and Frederick Law Olmsted. It was followed in 1984 by a broader study of American university planning and design, *Campus: An American Planning Tradition* (MIT Press). In 1996, he published the definitive study of Joseph Ramée (1764-1842), a largely forgotten architect: *Joseph Ramée: International Architect of the Revolutionary Era* (Cambridge University Press).

Turner also is coauthor with Richard Joncas and David J. Neumann of an architecture tour of Stanford, *The Campus Guide: Stanford University* (Princeton Architectural Press, 1999). ❧

## Jane Lilly Wins Essay Contest

Jane Lilly, a senior in urban studies (architecture and urban design), is the winner of the society's 2005 student essay contest for her paper "If These Walls Could Talk: A History of Roble Hall(s)."

Lilly received a \$500 prize, supported by the Robert and Charlotte Beyers Fund, at the May 11, 2005, annual meeting. In the fall, Lilly will pursue a master's degree in social policy and social work at Oxford University.

Instituted in 2002, the student essay contest recognizes the best essay submitted during spring quarter on a topic related to Stanford history.

This year's judges were David Abernethy, Bob Hamrdla, Margaret McKinnon, Roxanne Nilan, Peter Stansky, Paul Turner, and Laurie Vaughan. University Archivist Maggie Kimball organized the contest and presented the award. ❧

## Stanford Through the Century

1905

2005

100 YEARS AGO  
(1905)

**Jane Lathrop Stanford** died mysteriously in Honolulu on February 28 at age 76. Six weeks before, at her San Francisco home, she drank from a glass of water that was found to contain suspicious amounts of strychnine (small amounts were routinely used in some medicines at the time). In Honolulu, doctors and police believed strychnine poisoning to be the cause of death, and a coroner's jury ruled she was poisoned with "felonious intent." No suspects were arrested or charged. A later autopsy of her heart performed by doctors in California declared probable cause to have been a rupture of a coronary artery. That report cannot be found, and the controversy continues.

A crowd of 6,000 overflowed



*In Honolulu, funeral procession begins the journey to California of Jane Lathrop Stanford's remains.*

Memorial Church into the Inner Quad courtyard at **Jane Stanford's funeral** on March 24. Following the service, mourners walked down Palm Drive to the mausoleum, where Mrs. Stanford's coffin was laid in a marble sarcophagus between those of her husband and son. Varsity football players served as pallbearers, and students laid floral wreaths at the mausoleum.

At Palm Drive and El Camino Real, new **sandstone entry gates** in the style of the Quad portals replaced modest pillars and fences.

75 YEARS AGO  
(1930)

The **Stanford Golf Course**, designed by famous golf links architects William Bell and George C. Thomas Jr., opened on January 1. Tracks and stables near the old stock farm's Red Barn had been removed to make way for the course. Nearby Felt Lake was enlarged to handle irrigation. The San Francisco architectural firm of Bakewell and Brown designed the clubhouse.

On March 13, the 46th anniversary of **Leland Stanford Jr.'s death**, members of the class of 1907 installed a memorial plaque on the Grand Hotel in Florence, Italy, where he died.

More antics at men's dorm **Encina Hall**: Two residents returned from a Mills College dance to discover that "friends" had plugged their washbasin and cracks under the door and turned on the water. A few nights later, residents hurled eggs through a window at a meeting of Encina sponsors; those who were caught worked off their penalties at the Convalescent Home.

*continued on page 24*

STANFORD UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES



*In 1905, the university replaced the original entry gates (above). The new ones (below), survived only one year, courtesy of the 1906 earthquake.*

# Stanford Through the Century

## 50 YEARS AGO (1955)

The Stanford Associates honored two pioneers of the university's fundraising program, Louis H. Roseberry of Los Angeles and Morgan A. Gunst of San Francisco, with the **Degree of Uncommon Man**, the highest award bestowed by Stanford. Roseberry was a retired vice president of Security-First National Bank and Gunst was a retired vice president of Bank of America.

Trustees announced that the new dormitory under construction across from Branner Hall would be named for the late president **Ray Lyman Wilbur**. It was slated to hold 704 freshman men, as a replacement of Encina Hall, which was shifted to administrative use.

**Florence Moore** of Atherton donated \$1 million toward construction of a

new 350-bed women's dormitory on the slope between The Knoll and the Union. Her gift was the second largest to date from a living individual, and would help alleviate the women's housing shortage. During World War II, Branner Hall had been converted to women's quarters, but the new residence would be the first built for women since Lagunita Court, in 1934.

## 25 YEARS AGO (1980)

**President Richard W. Lyman** announced in January that he would leave August 1 to become president of the Rockefeller Foundation in New York. He had been appointed Stanford's seventh president in June 1970, in the midst of anti-Vietnam War demonstrations and other campus unrest.

In January, the Faculty Senate ap-

proved the **biggest curriculum change** in a decade, to take effect for September's freshman class. The change included a new Western culture requirement based on readings from the Great Works, as well as seven additional distribution requirements: literature and the fine arts; philosophical, social, and religious thought; human development, behavior, and language; social processes and institutions; mathematical sciences; natural sciences; and technology and applied sciences. In the decade since elimination of the Western Civilization requirement, enrollment in humanities courses had dropped dramatically.

**History Corner**, built in 1903, was renovated in its original style at a cost of \$8 million. Seminars on "New Directions in History at Stanford" followed the rededication ceremony on February 8.

Two tree-loving professors, Ronald Bracewell and Eric Hutchinson, humorously protested the planned removal of **seven old avocado trees** tucked between Quad Buildings 1 and 120, joking they would chain themselves to one of the giants. Construction managers said they needed the space to stage the reconstruction of Building 120. After widespread publicity, six of the trees were saved.

The Stanford Historical Society and the Stanford Alumni Association co-published **Stanford: From the Foothills to the Bay**, by university editor Peter C. Allen. Proceeds from sales later would provide the financial underpinning of the Historical Society.

— Karen Bartholomew

## Firehouse Photo was Pre-War

I enjoyed seeing your picture of my old dorm, the Firehouse (*Sandstone & Tile*, Fall 2004, page 17). For the record, the picture must have been taken sometime before WW II instead of "around WW II" since only three doors for trucks are shown. When I became a Firehouse boy as a junior in 1941, there was a second addition to the building for a fourth truck to the left in your picture, next to what then was Walt Heineke's Shell service station.

Behind that door was a 1927 Buick roadster converted to a small tank truck. It was replaced in 1941 by a GMC squad/tank truck. Behind door 1 was a 1935 Ford ladder truck, door 2 a 1921 Seagrave pumper, and, in the addition on the right, a 1939 Ford cab-over-engine tank truck. The Seagrave pumper was replaced in 1947 by a new model.

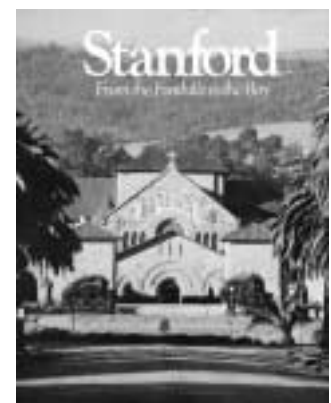
The crew had grown from the five you stated it started with in 1904, and the steam whistle had been replaced by an electric horn. Upstairs we had two rows of bunks and a set of lockers in the middle. "Turnouts" with their



suspenders over a pair of boots were ready by each bunk; turnout coats hung on your assigned truck. Standing ready was the brass pole to "hit" and slide down to the truck floor.

I'm sorry that the Fire Department was later "outsourced." Along with our "room" we got \$20—a month. I think we all "hashed" for our meals—a bunch of us at the Union Cellar and others at Roble or Lag. It sure helped some of us scholarship types get by.

Frank Lynch, '43  
Firehouse undergrad 1941–42  
and grad student 1946–48



# Norman Tutorow Speaks on Leland Stanford, the Man and the Book

Historian Norman Tutorow entertained society members on October 13, 2004, with his views on Leland Stanford, the man, and on the process of writing his recently published biography, *The Governor: The Life and Legacy of Leland Stanford—A California Colossus* (Arthur Clark, 2004; ISBN 0-87062-326-5, \$125). “I can talk about Stanford for the next four years,” Tutorow said with enthusiasm. Stanford is “one of the most intriguing men I’ve ever read or done research about because he seems to grow and grow.” Earning the confidence of political friends and enemies alike, Tutorow noted, Stanford “was a man who believed in California. And he believed in himself.”

Tutorow believes Stanford to be not so much a forgotten figure as one curiously neglected and misunderstood. In his new book, the author explores many aspects of Stanford’s life.

“Like Holmes and Watson,” Norman Tutorow and his wife, Evelyn, have doggedly tracked down details and tested every story to its conclusion. In addition to their archival detective work, they have dodged rattlesnakes in mining country and interviewed Swiss hotelkeepers to dispel myths and correct inaccurate stories perpetuated by writers for nearly a century. The Tutorows’ travels have also included New York, Nevada, New Mexico, Arizona, Italy, and London. “I have researched every loose end in his life that I could identify by talking with those interested in Stanford’s career and in checking the gaps in works published about him, including my own.” (He published *Leland Stanford: Man of Many Careers* in 1971, and has published numerous articles on facets of Stanford’s life.)

The California Railroad Museum’s Web site calls the encyclopedic result of the Tutorows’ work “a scholar’s dream, a genealogist’s windfall and a publisher’s nightmare.” Spanning some 1,100 pages, the two-volume biography includes more than 5,300 footnotes and

175 illustrations, as well as a 90-page bibliography and 20-page chronology. Nearly 230 “sidebars” and boxes provide additional detailed treatment of notable people and events.

Many stories about Stanford taken as fact today are based on apocryphal or inaccurate information passed from author to author without being checked against original sources, he warned.

Bertha Berner’s published recollections, *Mrs. Leland Stanford: An Intimate Account* (1934), is a good example of commonly accepted but inaccurate information, he said. Many details about Leland and Jane Stanford’s travels, for example, are simply misremembered or misconstrued. To verify her popular story regarding the Swiss hotel used as a model for Encina Hall’s de-

lived in the area.

Popular history has also passed on many common inaccuracies, he said. There never was a “Big Four,” for example. Eight associates, not four, joined together when Central Pacific Railroad started; the number later dropped to five, and then two. Nor was Stanford ever president of the Southern Pacific Railroad, but rather president of the Central Pacific and, later, of the Southern Pacific Company (the 1884 holding company that included more than a dozen railroads among its various companies).

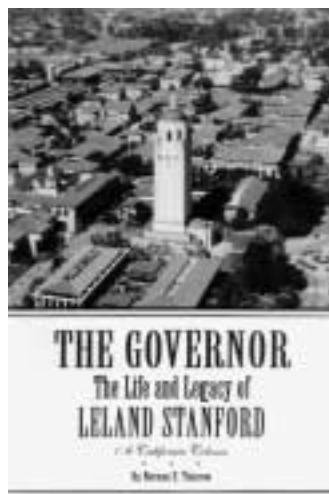
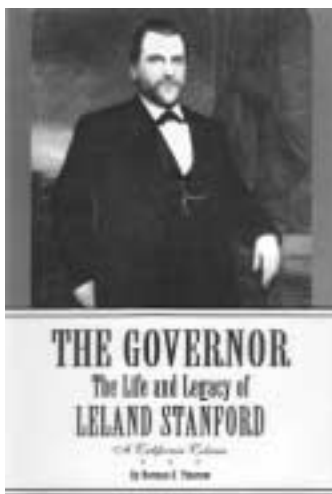
Contradicting the image of Stanford left by Collis P. Huntington’s biographer David Lavender, Oscar Lewis’s *The Big Four*, and more recent popular histories of the transcontinental

railroad, Tutorow said that Stanford was by no means an uninformed figurehead and politician. He had a firm grasp of the details of railroad construction and management. True, Stanford liked to talk, but he had good information at hand and he liked to use it, whether the subject was railroads, politics, horses, or wineries.

One of the more foolish myths about the Stanfords has reappeared, this time on the internet. According to the story, Leland and Jane Stanford, a

“shabby little couple” (Jane apparently dressed in faded gingham), were turned away from the office of Harvard’s president, Charles Eliot. In a fit of pique, they decided not to give their millions to the illustrious campus at Cambridge and threw together a campus of their own out West. There is ample evidence that the former governor and rail baron and his elegantly bejeweled wife were well received by presidents of several Ivy League colleges as they formulated plans for Leland Stanford Junior University, but Tutorow continued his search to find the source of the original rumor. He tracked it to facetious dinner party conversation of Eliot’s son, Samuel, at the home of University of Chicago President Henry Pratt Judson many years after the

*continued on page 26*



sign, Tutorow corresponded with every hotel in the Silva Plana area, and the Tutorows later visited the site to confirm their suspicions: Berner had gotten wrong not only the specific hotel Stanford admired, but also the date, lake, climate, and ambience.

Local historians keep alive other mistakes. A house in El Dorado County is shown off for tourists as the home Leland Stanford built for his young bride in 1853, even though Jane did not come to California until 1855 and thereafter never lived in the Gold Country. On a visit to the house, Tutorow also pointed out to his tour guide that construction of the house—evidenced by nails that could have been made no earlier than the 1870s—was at least two decades after Leland Stanford had

# Seven Elected to Society's Board

The Historical Society elected seven new board members at its annual meeting on May 11, 2005. They are:

■ **Therese Baker-Degler**, a 1961 graduate of Cornell, earned her Ph.D. in sociology at the University of Chicago in 1971. She was on the faculty of DePaul University for 18 years, followed by 12 years with the California State University system. Her research topics include higher education, gender, inequality, divorce and remarriage, and social stratification. She has served for four years on the Historic Houses Committee.

■ **Kellie Elliott**, '85, is associate director of athletics at San Jose State University. She worked in a variety of positions at the Stanford Alumni Association and Athletics Department from 1987 to 1995, and with the President's Office and Athletics Department from 2003 to 2005. In between, she held managerial positions with the San Francisco 49ers, the 2002 Winter Olympic Committee, and the National Basketball Association.

■ **Bernard Fraga** is a freshman student who intends to pursue a dual major in political science and linguistics. Fraga is cofounder of the history project of Stanford Chicano and Latinos in Education, and is the son of Stanford political science professor Luis Fraga.

■ **Robert McIntyre**, '59, earned an MBA from Harvard Business School in 1964. He was senior vice president and

chief financial officer of The Trust for Public Land from 1973 to 2003. He serves on the boards of Environmental Volunteers and the Sempervirens Fund.

■ **David Mitchell**, '57, earned his law degree from Harvard in 1966 and is a partner in the law firm Hoge, Fenton, Jones & Appel. He holds a Lifetime Achievement Award for volunteer fundraising from the Stanford Associates. Mitchell is on the board of the Peninsula Open Space Trust and the Palo Alto Community Foundation. He serves as general counsel to the Community Foundation of Silicon Valley.

■ **Tony Siegman**, a 1952 graduate of Harvard, earned his Ph.D. in electrical engineering at Stanford in 1957; he joined the faculty in 1956. An expert on microwaves and lasers, he was director of the Edward L. Ginzton Laboratory during 1978-83 and in 1998-99. He is the Burton J. and Ann M. McMurtry Professor of Engineering, Emeritus.

■ **David Voss**, '80, is associate dean for external relations in the School of Earth Sciences. A former house manager at the Lou Henry Hoover House, Voss has held various positions in the Alumni Association and the Office of Development since 1985.

**David Kennedy** was reelected to the board for a one-year term; **Laurence Hoagland Jr.** and **Boyce Nute** were reelected for three years each. Retiring from the board this year are **David**

**Abernethy**, **Bob Augsburg**, **Karen Bartholomew**, **John Bunnell**, **Dave Daly**, and **Jim Gibbons**. **Grace Hinton** stepped down several months ago.

**Don Price** is retiring after eight years as treasurer. He will be replaced at the June board meeting by **Margaret Ann Fidler**, associate vice provost for student affairs, emerita. Fidler retired in 2001 after 30 years' service at Stanford. **Miriam Palm** will stay as secretary.

**Susan Schofield** has agreed to continue as president; **Bill Stone** will continue as vice president. ♣

## Thanks for the Memories! Editors Say Goodbye

With this issue, we of *Sandstone & Tile's* editorial board say farewell.

It has been a joy to work with the many authors and other contributors who have helped us make *S&T* both readable and thought provoking. We thank them for their patience, professionalism, and, often, good humor, as we put them through a rigorous editing process.

Our thanks, too, to our readers, society members and nonmembers alike, who have shared with us their thoughts and Stanford experiences, and corrected our oversights and misspellings. We are proud to have provided you with a means of looking a little more deeply into Stanford's history, a little less complacently at its self-image, and a little more broadly at Stanford's place within a larger historical context.

New and old writing and editing projects beckon each of us, but we'll remain active in the society and its publishing program.

Roxanne Nilan, *Editor*  
Karen Bartholomew, Jean Deken,  
Margaret McKinnon,  
*Associate Editors*

## Tutorow

*continued from page 25*

Stanfords visited Harvard. "The general rule I follow," warned Tutorow, "is that if it is on the internet, there's no truth to it." (Harvard Web sites now include Stanford Archivist Maggie Kimball's 1998 refutation as well as several long versions of the story, which they now agree can only be considered "fiction" and "bunk.")

Norman Tutorow earned his bachelor's degree from San Diego State and his Ph.D. in history from Stanford University. He holds additional degrees in

Spanish, philosophy, and German. He is the author of many articles on Leland Stanford, notably "Leland Stanford and Competition: Rhetoric versus Reality" (*Southern California Quarterly*, 1970); "Leland Stanford: Midwife of the Movies" (*Pacific Historian*, 1970); and "Leland Stanford: Civil War Governor of California" (in *California and the Civil War, 1861-1865*, edited by Robert Chandler, Book Club of California, 1992). He also is the author of many articles and books on topics in American 19th-century history, including a history of California and books on the Mexican-American War. ♣

## From the President

Following are excerpts from the annual report of Historical Society President Susan Schofield. In her absence, society Vice President Bill Stone delivered her report at the society's 29th annual meeting, held on May 11, 2005, at the Graduate School of Business.

Our mission, as noted at the top of the printed agenda, is to foster and support the documentation, study, publication, and preservation of the history of The Leland Stanford Junior University. Here are a few highlights:

■ In September the board approved the society's first strategic plan, articulating our goals and aspirations for the next several years. This plan is now guiding us in setting priorities and in our outreach and fund development efforts.

■ Our informative journal, *Sandstone & Tile*, continues to reach members three times a year, and we receive accolades each time it appears. Kudos are due to Roxanne Nilan, *S&T* editor, for her noteworthy dedication and her exceptional knowledge of Stanford history. Rocky is taking a break from *S&T* next year, and we aren't sure how we'll manage without her.

■ The Publications Committee, chaired with supreme devotion by Karen Bartholomew, has outdone itself (or done itself in, one might say!) by producing, in addition to *S&T*, not one,

not two, but three SHS publications this year. We are very proud of these interesting and informative books—we encourage you to purchase them in great quantities and perhaps to read them as well.

■ With grant support from the Stanford Associates, we launched "Stanford 101" last September, introducing freshmen to Stanford history, folklore, and traditions as a part of new student orientation. More than 350 students participated enthusiastically, each receiving a copy of the *Stanford Chronology* (also an SHS publication, I note for the record). As a part of this program, three students also won cash awards for their winning entries in a mini-essay contest. Special thanks go to board members Julie Lythcott-Haims and Dave Daly (a Stanford senior) for spearheading this effort.

■ Our Web site continues to expand and add content, thanks to our wonderful volunteer webmaster, Jean Deken.

■ The Program Committee planned and coordinated seven excellent programs on campus this year. I have no doubt that today's conversation between Don Kennedy and Bob Rosenzweig will be an appropriate high note on which to conclude the program year.

■ The energetic volunteers on our Historic Houses Committee co-sponsored a December holiday house tour with PAST (Palo Alto Stanford Heritage); and less than two weeks ago they orchestrated a highly successful spring

house and garden tour attended by roughly 500 people. Special thanks go to Marian Adams, Anne Dauer, and Susan Sweeney.

I hope you can tell that the society is alive with activity and good ideas. Our expanding ambitions are, however, putting quite a strain on our resources, the majority of which have come from annual membership dues. We therefore encourage you, our friends and supporters, to renew faithfully when you receive our reminder letter. And I ask that you also consider reaching to the next higher membership level or making an additional contribution earmarked as you see fit. It would also be splendid if everyone here could recruit one new member over the course of the coming year.

Susan asked me to express heartfelt thanks to the full board of directors and especially to those who chair our eight committees, as well as to our stalwart secretary, treasurer, and office manager. Special thanks beyond measure are owed to our board colleagues whose terms conclude at this meeting (*see story on board election, page 26*).

Beyond the board, the society owes its vitality and accomplishments to an astonishing army of volunteers, numbering over 130 this past year. YOU are the heart and soul of SHS. We hope this annual meeting and the reception that follows will serve in a small way to acknowledge each of your valued contributions to the work of the society. ♡

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## New Service Award Honors Bartholomew

In a surprise presentation at the annual meeting, Karen Bartholomew was named inaugural recipient of the newly established Karen Bartholomew Award for exceptional service to the Stanford Historical Society.

The award was created by the society's Board of Directors to recognize volunteer service. Bartholomew was presented with a large framed photograph of Memorial Church, circa 1905, and a citation, drafted by society Vice President Bill Stone, that reads:

"For her uncommon devotion to Stanford history, signaled by four decades of activist involvement in the Society as member, board member, committee chair, and omnipresent contributor;

"for her remarkable and extensive catalog of periodical and book writing, editing, and

stewardship, reflected by a shelf-long series of SHS titles and multiple volumes of *Sandstone and Tile*;

"for her passionate regard for Stanford's traditions and values and her limitless affection for the people who best represent its accomplishments and evolution;

"and for her heroic standards as a perfectionist wordsmith and editor (who will undoubtedly revise and improve this citation!) and consummate contributions as the Society's preeminent volunteer...."

In a letter to board members, Bartholomew wrote:

"Thanks to all of you for the great honor in naming the Historical Society's service award for me, and designating me as the first recipient. I'm deeply touched by the thoughts ex-

pressed in the citation, although I did quibble with Bill afterward about 'four decades' of involvement, given that the society is only 29 years old!

"The citation's design and typography are classically beautiful, and it looks terrific on the library table in our living room. The Memorial Church photograph, already hanging in a place of honor, is a particularly appropriate gift: I've enjoyed my work documenting the church's history. Also, Claude [Brinegar] and I were married there on Founders' Day, 10 years ago.

"My association with the Historical Society grew out of my youthful admiration for many of its founders, including Pete Allen, Fred Glover, Ros Bacon, Dorothy Regnery, and Don Carlson. As one of the youngest of the charter members, I've worked to carry on their visions for the Historical Society. With a toast to each of them, and to my late mentor, Bob Beyers, I thank you all for this inspiring recognition." ♡

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*Sandstone & Tile* STAFF

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Roxanne Nilan  
*Editor*

Karen Bartholomew  
Jean Deken  
Margaret McKinnon  
*Associate Editors*

Joanna McClean  
*Designer*

■  
**STANFORD  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

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MEMBERSHIP

Membership is open to all who are interested in Stanford history.  
Annual dues are:

- Students (*currently registered*), \$10
- Full, \$40
- Heritage, \$100
- Distinguished heritage, \$500
- Patron, \$1,000
- Life, \$5,000

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Development Office Web site. For further information, contact the society office  
(see lower left on this page).

### Upcoming Society Activities

*Confirmation of date and notification of time and location will be sent to members shortly  
before each event.*

**May 1, 2005** Historic Campus Houses Tour.

**May 11** Annual Meeting. Conversation  
between Donald Kennedy and Robert Rosen-  
zweig.

**September** Tour of BioX/Clinical Sciences  
Building.

**November** Richard Scott on the Center for  
Organizations Research.

**January 2006** Henry Lowood on the history  
of Silicon Valley.

**April 9** Founders' Day. Commemoration of  
1906 earthquake centennial.

**May** Annual Meeting. David Kennedy on the  
Bill Lane Center for the Study of the North  
American West.



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