

Volume 21 Number 3

March 2000

CALIFORNIA THE ORNIAN

Magazine of the California History Center Foundation/De Anza College
A Foundation Supporting the Study and Preservation of State and Regional History



The Martin Murphy Family Saga

A Diversity of Learning Opportunities

We are more than two months into 2000, halfway through our academic year and we still have a wide variety of events coming up this spring that demonstrate the diversity of opportunities we provide for learning about California—its history as well as current issues facing all of us who live here.

Our 1999-2000 theme, "Music as a Reflection of Culture, Time and Place," culminates with the exhibit *Rock and Roll Revolution: Northern California, 1963-1973*, which opens on March 1 and runs through June 16. The exhibit focuses on the political and social upheaval of the decade and the music that evolved as a reflection of those times. Posters and artifacts will evoke visual memories for many exhibit attendees.

We are in the early planning stages for the exhibit reception to be held on Saturday, April 8, and will be inviting and honoring local musicians and other movers and shakers of the era to join us as we remember this incredible period in time. I hope you will be able to attend—watch for your invitations in the mail.

I can't begin to tell you how much we have enjoyed this year of music, which, in the words of one of our Nov. 5 conference presenters, is truly a universal language. Through looking at such varied musical evolutions as Asian jazz, Chicano groove, blues, country-western and rock and roll, we have been able to experience the rich diversity of cultures and influences that makes California such a wonderful place to live.

Another March event takes us from music to writing about California. On Friday, March 17, we will host two authors at the center. Lawrence Coates will present a workshop called "Regional History, Regional Fiction: How to Use Local History Resources in Writing Fiction," followed by a reading from his novel, *The Blossom Festival*, based upon Saratoga's historic annual event.



After a reception, we will hold a book talk and signing with author Mary Jo Ignoffo to celebrate the release of her latest book, *Gold Rush Politics: California's First Legislature*.

The CHC co-published Mary Jo's book as a sesquicentennial project with the California State Senate, and it is the 1998-99 (we thought it would be out earlier!) book premium for CHC members at the supporter level and above. The afternoon with authors is a membership event and a good opportunity to upgrade your membership to the \$50 or higher level in order to receive the book.

Spring quarter will find our energies focused on a state-wide town hall teleconference we are hosting on Tuesday, May 23. A year ago the center, as part of a consortia with San Francisco State, Sonoma State and the Center for California Studies at CSU Sacramento, received a grant from the California Civil Liberties Public Education Program to develop activities aimed at educating the public about the World War II internment of Japanese Americans.

As part of this grant the CHC is working with the Center for California Studies to produce a one-hour teleconference, town hall meeting that will be broadcast live via satellite to other community colleges, and through the California Channel based in Sacramento.

The town hall is meant to provide people the opportunity to ask questions and enter into dialog with experts not only about the internment, but also about the whole issue of civil liberties and the scapegoating that still exists today. We hope CHC members will be part of that discussion. You will receive invitations to come to De Anza on May 23 to watch the conference live at 10:30 a.m. from the college's campus center. You will have the opportunity to call in or fax questions to the presenters in the studio.

As you can see we have several very important, informative programs planned. I hope you take the opportunity to get involved with this quality, educational programming.

Before closing this director's report, as this is the last magazine of the 1999-2000 academic year, I want to let you know that I will be retiring from the California History Center effective June 30. After 23 years with the center, it is time to reinvent my own life! I will talk more about my retirement and future plans, for myself and for the center, when I write my final director's report in June. Until then we have a very busy spring planned and I hope I get a chance to see you before I leave.

Kathleen Peregrin, Director

COVER: Martin Murphy, Sr., a native of Ireland, and his family are an important part of the history of Sunnyvale, the subject of a new book published by the CHC. Excerpts are printed on pages 6-10.

LEFT: Quicksilver Messenger Service, one of the early rock and roll bands of the 60s, is featured in the CHC's exhibit titled "Rock and Roll Revolution: Northern California, 1963-73."

CALENDAR

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| <p>3/1-6/16 Exhibit: “Rock and Roll Revolution: Northern California, 1963-73,” photographs, record album covers, posters, clothing and other memorabilia of the music of the ’60s and ’70s.</p> <p>3/1-3/10 Women’s History Month Activities (See below)</p> <p>3/17 Book Celebration: “From Blossoms to Bar-room Politics: An Afternoon with Authors.” 1-5 p.m. Presented by fiction writer Lawrence Coates (<i>The Blossom Festival</i>) and local history author Mary Jo Ignoffo (<i>Gold Rush Politics: California’s First Legislature</i>).</p> <p>3/24 Winter Quarter ends</p> <p>4/3 Spring Quarter begins</p> <p>4/3 American Culture and Popular Music class begins</p> <p>4/8 Exhibit Reception: “Rock and Roll Revolution: Northern California, 1963-73” 1-4 p.m.</p> | <p>4/22 San Francisco Earthquake and Fire field trip. See pages 4 and 5.</p> <p>5/6 Bay Area Transportation field trip. See pages 4 and 5.</p> <p>5/20 History of San Diego field trip. See pages 4 and 5.</p> <p>5/20 Threatened California field trip. See pages 4 and 5.</p> <p>5/23 Teleconference: “The Japanese-American Internment, Civil Liberties and Scapegoating.” 10:30-12:30 a.m., TV Studio and Campus Center Conference Rooms A and B.</p> <p>5/29 Memorial Day holiday observed—CHC closed</p> <p>6/10 The San Mateo Coastline field trip. See pages 4 and 5.</p> <p>6/23 Spring Quarter ends</p> <p>6/23 CHC closes for summer break</p> |
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Of Interest to Women

Women’s History Month Looks at ‘The Creative Voice of Feminism’

In keeping with a 15-year tradition of involvement with De Anza College’s annual celebration of Women’s History Month, the California History Center will co-sponsor several events in March to spotlight the creative voice of feminism.

Presented in collaboration with the college’s Women’s Studies Program, the celebration will include:

- A poetry reading by Narma Mayfield
- A discussion of women in music by De Anza administrator Judy Minor
- A performance by the De Anza College Women’s Chorus
- A film titled “Images of Women”
- An exhibit of feminist artwork
- A performance by Women of the Blues, a revolving group of professional blues musicians who play with an energetic, innovative style

For dates and times, call the CHC, (408) 864-8712.



EDUCATION

State and Regional History

The following courses will be offered spring quarter through the California History Center. Please see the California History Center class listings section of the De Anza Schedule of Classes for detailed information (i.e., course ID#, call #, and units.) For additional course information, call the center at (408) 864-8712.

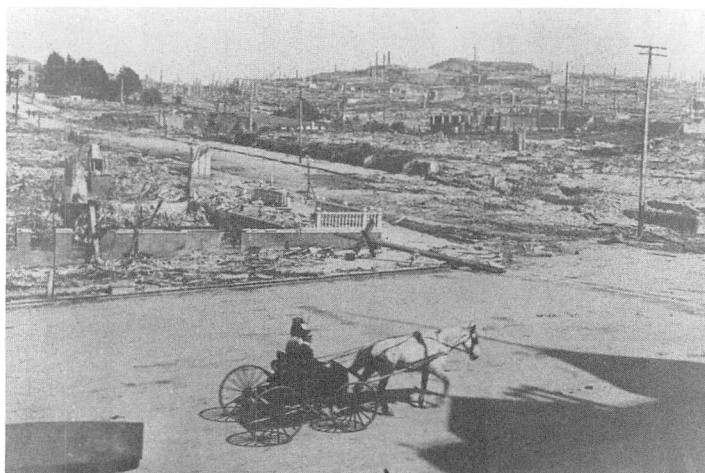
***And don't forget, as a benefit of being a history center member you can register for history center classes (CHC classes only, not other De Anza classes) at the Trianon building.*

San Francisco Earthquake and Fire: *Chatham Forbes*

No greater disaster has ever struck a major American city than the San Francisco earthquake and fire of 1906. The life of the city and surrounding communities was transformed in every aspect, both immediately and over the long term. The responses to emergency and adjustments to irrevocable change, including the social, political, and economic life of the city and region, will be studied in the classroom and the field.

Lectures: Thurs., April 20 and May 4.

Field trips: Sat., April 22 and 29.



Devastation: *This photo, taken after the 1906 earthquake, shows a badly damaged San Francisco. It was shot from the corner of Polk and Green streets looking toward Van Ness Avenue.*

History of San Diego: *Chatham Forbes*

Since its difficult beginnings as Imperial Spain's first foothold in Alta California, San Diego has benefited from a strategic geographic situation, a large sheltered harbor, and a fine pastoral hinterland to achieve major metropolitan status. The city's social, political and economic development will be studied in the classroom and on a two-day weekend field study trip.

Lectures: Thurs., May 18 and 25.

Field trip: Sat/Sun., May 20/21.

Bay Area Transportation: *Betty Hirsch*

This course will cover the various forms of transportation used in the Bay Area, showing how new vistas and living areas opened up as the transportation modes expanded. Students will also look at today's problems of congestion as well as new options opening up in the future. Two field trips will give a behind-the-scenes look at yesterday's and today's modes of transportation. Some of the following will be covered: San Jose Light Rail, Hiller Museum of Aviation in San Carlos, Air Museum at the Oakland Airport, Aircraft Carrier Hornet in Alameda, President Roosevelt's Yacht at Jack London Square in Oakland, San Francisco Car Barn, Blackhawk Museum of Automobiles in Danville.

Lectures: Thurs., April 27 and May 11. Field trips:

Sat., May 6 and 13.

The San Mateo Coastside: *Betty Hirsch*

James Johnston fell in love with the Coastside, particularly the open country around Half Moon Bay, and was determined to live there—even though to get into that secluded region, one had to either walk or ride a horse. Up to his time (1853) no wheeled vehicles had ever been maneuvered over the steep hills. Explore life on the Coastside past and present with its sea, hills, farmlands and beautiful vistas. The class will visit Half Moon Bay, Point Montara and Pigeon Point Lighthouses and the restored home of James Johnston.

Lecture: Thurs., June 1.

Field trip: Sat., June 10

Threatened California: *Kristin Jensen-Sullivan*

“Threatened California” explores the wonders of the beautiful state of California through the study of and visit to a variety of California’s ecosystems including the coastal redwood forest, marshlands, Pacific tide pools and the rugged and spectacular mountain regions of the Diablo range. Students will discuss the many environmental factors that threaten California’s flora and fauna, including global warming, overpopulation, pollution, ozone depletion, deforestation and the biodiversity crisis. A major focus of the class will be sustainable use of California’s varied resources.

Lecture/Orientation: Tues., May 16.

Field trips: Sat. and Sun., May 20 and 21.

American Culture and Popular Music: *Greg Knittel*

A continuation of the center’s 1999-2000 theme Music as a Reflection of Culture, Time and Place, this course traces the evolution and development of rock and roll music from colonial plantation blues to the acid rock psychedelic sound. Special emphasis will be given to the 1960s and California, as well as the importance of the British invasion led by the Beatles. Central to this study will be the political and social relevance of rock music as a reflection of culture. Artists such as the Grateful Dead, Janis Joplin, Neil Young, and the Jefferson Airplane will be examined for their contributions to rock and roll.

Monday evenings, beginning April 3.

Field trips to performances TBA.



Coastal redwood forests are one of California’s ecosystems discussed in the CHC’s Threatened California class.

The Martin Murphy Family Saga

by Marjorie Pierce

The following is excerpted from The Martin Murphy Family Saga, a forthcoming book on the family associated with the founding of Sunnyvale, Calif. The book will be published by the California History Center this spring. Please note the author, former San Jose Mercury News columnist Marjorie Pierce, has taken certain liberties with direct quotations in order to enhance the narrative in more human terms.

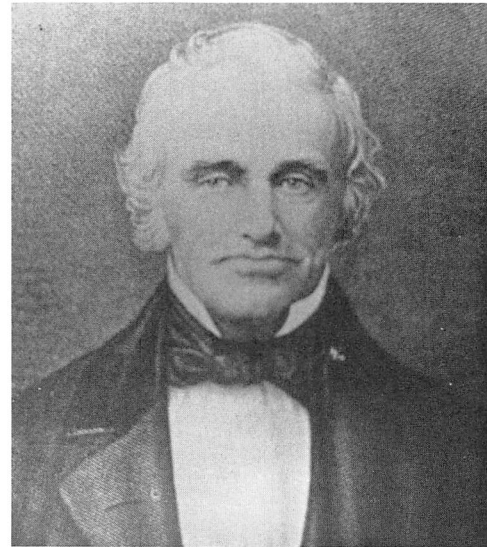
CHAPTER I—WEXFORD: 1820

When Martin Murphy, a warm, generous man of 35 years, and his wife, quiet, dark-haired, blue-eyed Mary Foley, invited neighbors to their farm at Ferns in County Wexford, it was intended to be more than a social evening. They had arrived at a decision—one they had long pondered over, and one they now wanted to share with their friends.

Martin, sensing their puzzlement, finally asked for everyone's attention. With Mary standing beside him, his usual affable manner turned serious as he announced to those gathered around that he had something to tell them. Their puzzled expressions turned to amazement when, without further ado, he said, "We are leaving our beloved Ireland and moving our family to America." He seemed not to notice their sighs of disappointment as he hurried on. "As you know, Mary's brother, Matthew, and his wife, Elizabeth, went to the American colonies last year, and they are happy with the freedom they have found there.

"A new farming community is being developed in Canada, and Mary and I feel it offers us and our children a chance to be free from the domination of the British. Ever since I took part in the Rebellion of 1798, even though I was but a lad, I have felt a shadow over my head.

"True," he said, "the plight of the Catholics in Ireland has improved and many fine Protestants such as Parnell have espoused our cause, but still we do not have the right to vote or to hold public office." His choler rose as he said that, while the Protestants



Martin Murphy, Sr.

are absentee landlords and the ruling class, one-third of our people are starving. "As we all know, the Protestant plan is to destroy Catholicism in Ireland and reduce we Catholics to total ignorance. Still

we have to pay tithe to support the state church."

As he finished his spirited discourse, everyone started talking at once. No one disagreed with what Martin had been saying, but, as one farmer said, "Martin, my dear fellow, you didn't go far enough. You failed to mention the economy—that ever since Napoleon's downfall, the grain market has dropped almost out of sight. The landlords are putting the land into grazing and are evicting we tenants. We don't know who will be next."

Martin agreed. He was one of the larger, more successful farmers, and so far he had been able to hold on. Continuing with their plans, he said they would leave 13-year-old Martin Jr. a responsible lad, who had worked with him on the farm, to take over until he reaches 21. "He and his sister, Margaret," he said, "will stay with my mother. Since my father and brother were lost at sea she has lived alone."

Mary, whose face showed her anxiety over leaving her children, interrupted her husband to say, "Martin and I have troubled over this decision for some time, but we have to be concerned about the future of our other four children. They must live in a free country where they can grow up, get an education and have the right to vote."

Listening to the discussion, Patrick Bolger, whose farm adjoined the Murphy's became increasingly thoughtful. Finally he said, "I, also, took part in the Rebellion and I have seen what the British have done to those who did. I agree with Martin that we are still suspect." It didn't take Pat long to decide he, too, would move to Canada with his family.

About the Author

A native Californian, Marjorie Pierce has lived in San Jose since 1948, and for 30 years was a columnist for the *San Jose Mercury News*. Her new book, *The Murphy Martin Family Saga*, excerpted above, will be published this spring by the CHC. Her two earlier books took an historical look at St. Joseph's Cathedral in San Jose and the ranches and towns in the Mission San Juan Bautista area.

Oblivious to all this conversation, his lively twelve-year-old daughter, Mary, was joyfully dancing a jig with the serious, younger Martin. They would not see each other again until their meeting eight years later in Quebec.

With all their worldly belongings packed in boxes and barrels and loaded on their wagon, Mary and Martin bade their eldest children, young Martin and Margaret, a tearful farewell. Joined by their four younger children, James, Mary, Bernard and Johanna, they set forth from Ferns. Looking back at the stone ruins of Ferns Castle, Martin reminded them not to forget their historic past—that Ferns was the Royal Seat of the Kings of Leinster, among the greatest historical centers in Ireland. As they passed the graveyard, Martin grew silent as he recalled silently the execution of Father Murphy and the burning of his headless body in a barrel of pitch—and of the two brave women, one a sister of Father Murphy, who collected the remains and placed the bones in the tomb of the parish priest, Father Andrew Cassin.

When they reached the quaint little town of Enniscorthy on the banks of the River Slaney, the father pointed up to Vinegar Hill, site of the first attack of the 1798 Rebellion, and where they met their final defeat. He told them about Father Murphy, leader of the rebellion, and said that after hearing his impassioned speech, he signed up. One day, he predicted (and as it turned out correctly), “a statue of brave Father Murphy, with pike in hand, will stand in the town square.” Although Martin could not have known it then, one of his fellow soldiers in that rebellion was the great-grandfather of a man who would one day become president of the United States. That was John F. Kennedy.

On their arrival at Wexford harbor, Martin again tried to impress upon his children a little more of their heritage because he was sure they would never again see their native land. “Wexford,” he said, “was a port for invaders for over six hundred years. In this harbor the Norsemen invaded Ireland in the eleventh century. In the 1200s the Normans came.”

At this point Mary joined in to say, “The Normans were different. They never captured Ireland. They stayed, built castles, learned to speak Gaelic and married the Irish girls.”

Martin added another bit of Wexford pride, as he predicted correctly, “One day there will be a statue in the town square of a heroic young man from Wexford named John Barry. He was an admiral in the American War of Independence against the British. They called him the ‘Father of the American Navy.’”

The children by this time had enough history. Brimming over with excitement led by their older brother, Jimmy, they set out to



Mary Bolger Murphy



Martin Murphy, Jr.

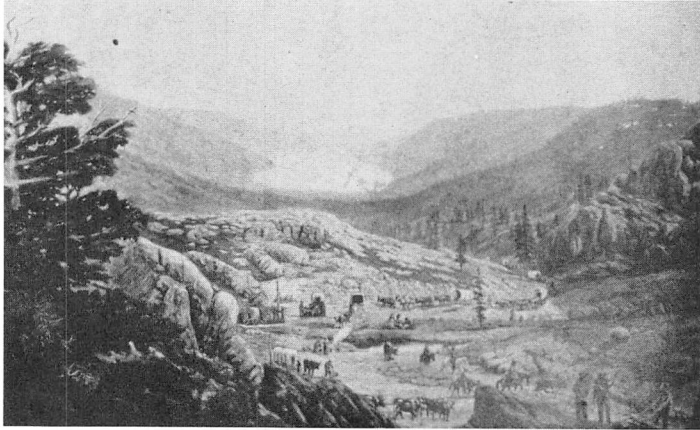
find the sailing ship that would take them on their great adventure across the Atlantic. Little was their concern that the trip could be dangerous and lacking in creature comforts. Once located, they set about busily exploring every nook and cranny of what would be their home for the next month.

As their ship sailed out of the harbor, Martin with his arm around Mary led her to the stern. He gazed sadly at Wexford Bridge, silently remembering the scaffold where, after the Rebellion, so many of his fellow men lost their lives. Filled with emotion they lingered, arms entwined, until their beloved Ireland faded from sight.

CHAPTER II—FRAMPTON: 1820

On their arrival in Quebec, Martin arranged for a wagon to take them to the new development called Frampton, about thirty miles from Quebec, to select the property for his farm. With the bogs of Ireland on his mind, he chose the high land, as did most of the other Irish emigrants arriving about the same time. Unfortunately the soil turned out to be hard and stony. At that time crop rotation and contour plowing were unknown. The rich soil of twenty years earlier had eroded and washed away, leaving a rocky, unproductive soil. The French settlers wisely took the low land, which was rich and loamy. Martin nevertheless planted crops of wheat and corn and, along with taking odd jobs in Quebec in the winter, was able to provide for his growing family. By this time they had been blessed by the births of John, Ellen (always called Helen,) and Daniel.

Several families from Ireland joined the Murphys, including Patrick Martin with his sons, Patrick and Dennis, (the latter became well known in California), and his daughter, Ann, who



The Murphy family, depicted in an Andrew P. Hill Painting, crossed Donner Summit in the Sierra Nevada in 1844 on its journey to California. The family preceded the ill-fated Donner expedition, and their courageous adventure indicates the depth of their desire to go West.

became the wife of James Murphy. A native of Frampton, William Miller, married the elder Martin's daughter, Mary. About this same time, three members of the Sullivan family, John, Michael and Mary arrived.

The elder Martin was mild of manner, yet with a presence that commanded respect. It was to him they turned for guidance. In essence he was their Irish chieftain, and the Murphy home was their gathering place. A frequent topic for discussion was their desire for a parish church. In 1825 he, along with the other Irish settlers, signed a petition to the bishop for a church, and in 1831 donated to a fund to bring a priest to Frampton. The building of St. Edoarde de Frampton Catholic Church rewarded their prayers and efforts.

Back in Ireland in 1828 the younger Martin turned twenty-one, enabling him to legally dispose of the farm. He and Margaret set sail from Wexford harbor for Quebec on board the *Thomas Farrell*, a packet ship. At sea only three days, they encountered rough seas that caused damage to the ship, forcing it to make port at Waterford for repairs. Two weeks later the *Farrell* was again ready to sail, but missing were many of the wary passengers, who in the meantime, had a change of heart. Not so with the spirited young Murphys, who eagerly boarded ship and enjoyed smooth sailing, across the Atlantic in twenty-eight days.

On their arrival in Quebec, they located Patrick Bolger, who, meanwhile, had decided against farming in Frampton and settled with his family in Quebec. That same year Margaret married a young Englishman named Thomas Kell. The younger Martin, motivated, no doubt, by having renewed ties with the Bolger family,

and seeming to especially enjoy the company of their daughter, Mary, decided to remain in Quebec. The attraction between the two young people grew, and they were married in one of the first non-French weddings in the French Cathedral of Quebec in 1831.

Tragedy struck their happy marriage twice in Quebec when the couple lost two infant daughters, both under the age of two years, during a cholera epidemic. They were devastated, but it was Mary Bolger, always cool in a time of crisis, who came through. Having sensed for some time her husband's yearning for the soil she approached the subject. "Martin, dear," she said, "don't you think we should make a change? How would you like to get back to farming?" He needed only a moment to ponder her suggestion.

"Wouldn't you miss your family?" he asked tentatively. She assured him his happiness was her first concern. They purchased two hundred acres near Frampton not far from his family's farm. Both were young, strong and energetic, and with Mary's help, he leveled the trees, hewed the timbers to build a house and prepared the land for planting.

Politically, in 1840, the Canadians were seeking self-government, but the wealthy pro-British group in upper Canada gained control over the French Catholic group in lower Canada with whom the Murphys were compatible. Inevitably the English settlers received favored treatment. Besides, the patriarch had long been discouraged with conditions in Canada. They lacked roads, making the transporting of his grain difficult, and the St. Lawrence River was frozen five months of the year. With the combination of a decline in wheat prices and the long cold winters, he decided it was time for a change.

About this time he learned that the United States government had bought from the Native Americans a large parcel of land along the Missouri River in Holt County called the Platte Purchase. It bordered the Indian Territory on the far western frontier of the country. An agricultural paradise, it was located a few miles north of St. Joseph, which was a growing community. Not only was the land cheap, but more important to this Irishman, it was a democratic country.

Most of the traveling through the wilderness at this time took place on the waterways rather than by horseback or wagon. Once again the Murphys would be uprooted. Mary Foley immediately started planning and packing for a long journey by water over rivers, lakes and canals. Once under way, however, it proved to be more like a vacation. For the Murphy children, not only was it a lesson in geography, but an exciting experience.

After boarding at Quebec they steamed up the St. Lawrence

The Murphy home, built in 1851 in what is now Sunnyvale, was the first frame house in the Santa Clara Valley and one of the first in California. (Courtesy of Sunnyvale Historical Society)



River to Montreal, crossed Lake St. Louis and back again on the St. Lawrence to Kingston. They then crossed Lake Ontario and entered the Welland Canal that connected with Lake Erie at a higher level. Moving up the locks was a source of fascination for the young Murphys. After crossing Lake Erie to Cleveland, Ohio, they traveled over another canal (the Fulton, which is no longer in existence) to Portsmouth, Ohio. They were now ready to start their long voyage

down the winding, twisting Ohio River. At Cincinnati, a growing city, they took on passengers and freight and after another stop at Louisville, Kentucky; they reached Cairo, at the confluence with the Mississippi River.

From here they followed the Father of Waters, as the Mississippi was known, to St. Louis, a bustling community whose levee was lined with steamers. The younger Murphys were itching to see this thriving city that sat on high ground above the river, but there was no time—they had to immediately transfer their belongings to a wood-burning side-wheeler, one of many such steamers that ran between St. Louis and Kanesville (Council Bluffs).

Exhilarated to be heading west on the Big Muddy, as the turbulent Missouri was familiarly known, they were on the last leg of their journey—a five hundred-mile stretch to St. Joseph. Still, travel was slow going against a strong current—the shallow-draft boats loaded so deep with their cargoes of wagons, mules, horses, saddles, and cord wood for the engines, that the water came over the gunwales.

In contrast to the sameness of the Mississippi, the scenery was varied. Around a bend they might see a creek inhabited by a covey of ducks or, around another, a little cove with wildlife such as turkeys or geese. But mostly the shore was heavily wooded, with an occasional open meadow or tiny village. The only man-made monument in view was the impressive white limestone state capitol standing majestically on a hill at Jefferson City. On its walls hung a portrait of Missouri's expansionist Senator Thomas Hart Benton whose son-in-law, John Charles Fremont, they would come to know in California. The young lieutenant followed the Murphys on the

Missouri a year or so later on a thinly veiled exploratory expedition with overtones of the part he was to play in the Mexican War.

Eventually the sameness of mile upon mile of forested shore became tiresome, but not so the capricious, ever-changing course of the river with its shifting sandbars, its banks wearing away on one side and building up on the other, broken tree branches that conspired to form barriers portending possible disaster at every bend. One of the biggest problems was the muddy water that had to be drawn from the river to make steam. It was so full of silt that it clogged the boilers.

More than once a heavy wind blew their boat ashore into a sand bank, and each time the energy-charged Murphy boys, happy to have the freedom of touching land, pitched in with the crew to help dislodge it. There was nothing elegant about the Missouri steamboats—they were smaller, tougher, plainer—so flat-bottomed that those on the upper river drew only 30 inches of water.

On board making up a heterogeneous passenger list were French fur traders, card sharks who profited from such gullible subjects as the soldiers headed for Fort Leavenworth, and mountain men in their buckskins. In contrast were the settlers from Kentucky, the Carolinas, Tennessee and Virginia, farmers all, who, like the Murphys, had been captivated by stories of the Missouri agricultural paradise with its fertile soil and cheap land.

They had chosen Missouri over the Northwest because it was a slave state and they could bring their slaves. The young Murphys, who had never seen a black person before, enjoyed listening to their singing of spirituals. At the same time they could not fathom the thought that human beings could be bought and sold. Most of

the Southerners disembarked at Wayne City, a muddy little river settlement. From this point it was a short trip to St. Joseph where the Murphys believed their future lay.

After the slow, tedious trip of the past week, their excitement grew as they neared their destination. They arrived to find a few scattered farms and only a crude mill for grinding corn, left by previous settlers who had named the place English Grove for the only cluster of trees that could be seen. As fellow countrymen joined the Murphys, they changed its name to Irish Grove.

Two years later the younger Martin and Mary Bolger followed with their sons, James, Martin, Patrick and little Barney, and were followed a short time later by the patriarch's second son, James, and his wife, Ann, with their infant daughter, Mary Frances. Then came the patriarch's daughter, Mary, with her husband, William Miller, and their three children, and John Sullivan with his younger brothers Robert and Michael, and his sister, Mary.

The younger Martin purchased three hundred ten acres next to his father, and planted corn and wheat. James, on the other hand, eschewed the soil to work in the lumber business in St. Joseph. While the Murphys found the freedom that was so important to them, there was still a lack of schools and churches. True, the watercourses of the river area created a rich soil that produced bounteous crops, but, most alarming, they learned that the area was subject to malaria germs.

The patriarch's beloved Mary Foley first succumbed to the disease. As one of the bereaved Murphys said, "None knew her but to love her; none named her but to praise." On top of losing his mother, the following year the younger Martin and Mary Bolger suffered the heartbreak of losing their nine-month old daughter, Ann Elizabeth.

Although those living at Irish Grove had heard glowing stories of the Rockies and the Pacific Coast from an old trapper named Robidoux, who had a trading post at nearby St. Joseph. It was a visiting Jesuit priest, Father Christian Hoecken, who was working with the Kickapoo Indians in Kansas, who turned the tide. When he learned about the many people in Holt County who were ill with malaria, he came to nurse them and to console the bereft.

He told the elder Martin about California, an arcadia where there was perpetual sunshine, fertile valleys unfurrowed by the

plow, where grain grew wild, and that it was a Catholic country where the Franciscan padres built missions on "all the hills and in all the vales." That was enough to light a fire in the fifty-nine-year-old Martin Murphy, who was despondent over the death of his wife and granddaughter.

He gathered his family around him and told them Father Hoecken's story. When he asked what they thought of their going to California, they were unanimously in accord. For his three unmarried sons, Bernard, John and Daniel, and his unmarried daughter, Helen, it offered a new adventure.

This was just the challenge and changes the younger Martin and Mary Bolger needed. Suffering over the loss of his mother and their infant daughter, they were concerned about their other four children. Also electing to go on board were James and Ann Murphy and her Martin relatives: Mary Murphy and her husband, William Miller, with their three children, and John Sullivan, with his brothers and sister.

Losing no time, they started to liquidate their assets—sold their property and invested in wagons, oxen, horses, farming implements, tin ware, cast-iron skillets, staples, water kegs and what little furniture they could squeeze in for a trip of eight or nine months, not knowing what they find in far off California. They had many meetings and decisions to make, such as their departure point—whether it should be Independence or nearby St. Joseph or Kanesville. A vote was taken and Kanesville it was. The elder Martin, with a passport secured from Missouri Governor Thomas Reynolds, headed the group of 27 Murphys, including in-laws, children, and the Sullivans, as they started on their journey to California.

With Special Thanks

The California History Center gratefully acknowledges the following individuals and organization for their support of the publication of *The Martin Murphy Family Saga*: John and Helen K. Cahill, Susan and George Fesus, Moira K. Holden, Emily and Ernest Renzel, Jr., and the Hugh Stuart Center Charitable Trust.

FOUNDATION NOTES

New Exhibit

'Rock and Roll in Northern California' On View From March 1-June 16

Rock and roll music—born in a time of racism, injustice and inequality—is the focus of the CHC's new, original exhibit opening Wednesday, March 1, and running through Friday, June 16.

The exhibit specifically looks at rock and roll in Northern California from 1963-73, according to Anna Koster, exhibit designer and curator. The show contains photographs, posters, record album covers, clothing and other rock memorabilia from the '60s and '70s.

Included is the blouse worn by Janis Joplin on the cover of her "Pearl" album and a mural-size collage of 150 psychedelic posters that advertised concerts at the Avalon Ballroom—a popular San Francisco rock venue.

In discussing the planning of the exhibit, Koster noted: "Rock and roll in the '60s and '70s is an interesting topic because many of

us recall at least bits and pieces of the times and the events. We each have our own partial view and remembrances of the civil rights movement, the protests against the Vietnam War and the free-speech movement. For me it was fascinating to look back at what was happening then and gain a new, broad perspective unburdened by adolescence and the issues of growing up. I believe

the exhibit will give visitors a good overview on how rock and roll was influenced by the times."

A CHC-member reception for the exhibit, "Rock and Roll Revolution: Northern California, 1963-73," will be held from 1-4 p.m. Saturday, April 8. Members will receive invitations with more specifics.

The rock and roll exhibit manifests the CHC's theme of academic year 1999-2000, "Music as a Reflection of Culture, Time and Place," which began with a conference last November.

For exhibit hours, call the CHC at (408) 864-8712.



Some of the rock bands featured in the CHC's new exhibit are, from left, Country Joe and the Fish, Santana, and Sly & the Family Stone. (All photos courtesy of The Selvin Collection.)

Upcoming Events

Two Authors to Present Workshop, Discuss Their Recent Publications

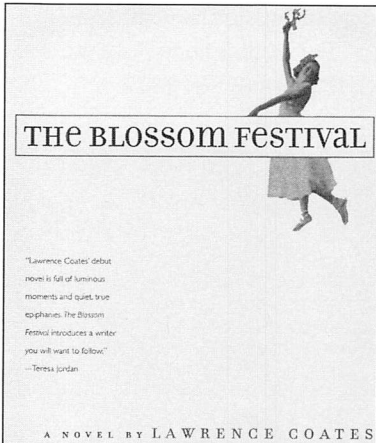
Fiction writer Lawrence Coates and local history author Mary Jo Ignoffo will discuss their recent works at the CHC on Friday, March 17, from 1 to 5 p.m.

The event, "From Blossoms to Barroom Politics: An Afternoon with Authors," is free to CHC members.

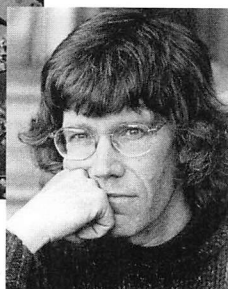
Coates will open the day at 1 p.m. with a workshop on "How to Use Local History Resources in Writing Fiction." The author of the recently released *The Blossom Festival*, Coates will discuss the many resources he uncovered during the writing process—family stories, interviews, oral histories, newspapers, and archives—and how he used them.

He also will give a reading from *The Blossom Festival*, a panoramic chronicle of rural life in the Santa Clara Valley prior to World War II and set against the backdrop of the historic annual event in Saratoga.

Coates has taught creative writing for many years, and has also edited the respected literary journal *Quarterly West*. His first novel, *The Blossom Festival*, was published by the University of Nevada Press. It was chosen for Barnes & Noble's "Discover Great New Writers" series and was named an "Outstanding Work of Fiction" by the Utah Arts Council in 1999. The novel is currently in its third printing.



The Blossom Festival
by Lawrence Coates



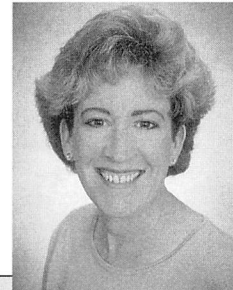
At 4 p.m.—after a refreshment break—Ignoffo will discuss and sign copies of her latest book, *Gold Rush Politics: California's First Legislature*.

Co-published as a sesquicentennial project by the California History Center and the California State Senate, the book describes the first American governing body in California and is based on legislative journals, personal memoirs and contemporary newspaper reports. The backdrop to the story is the mid-19th Century *Californio* culture, the Mexican War, national sectional politics and the gold rush of 1849.

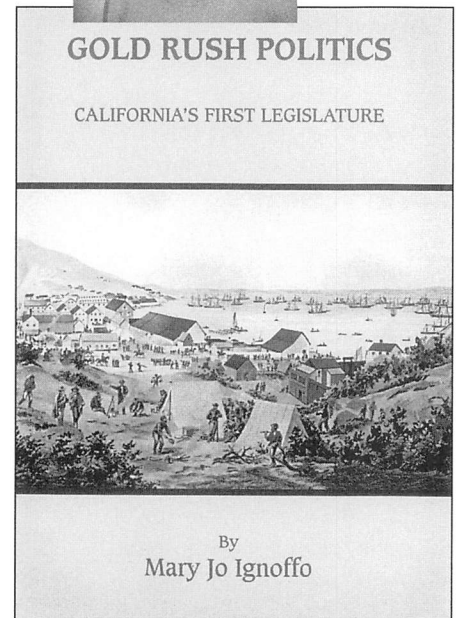
El Pueblo de San Jose was the setting as California's first Legislature. Attending to tasks common to any new state, the new body set up a treasury, a judicial system and a militia, and it delineated state and county boundaries. Author Ignoffo notes that issues facing the first Legislature continue to confront Californians: immigration, race, wealth, technology, and the environment.

Ignoffo, a CHCF trustee, has written several books about local history, including the city of Sunnyvale.

The CHC hopes the authors' event will attract new members and increase the giving level of current members. Members who upgrade their memberships to the supporter (\$50) level will receive both *The Blossom Festival* and *Gold Rush Politics*. Members who give gift memberships also will receive the two books.



Gold Rush
Politics by
Mary Jo
Ignoffo



CHC Teleconference to Spotlight Internment Camps, Scapegoating

The evacuation of 110,000 persons of Japanese ancestry—two-thirds of them American citizens—from the West Coast during World War II by the U.S. Army was the result of war hysteria prompted by racial prejudice.

That incarceration of Japanese Americans will be the discussion point of a May 23 teleconference which will explore issues of scapegoating and the protection of civil liberties.

The teleconference will be held from 10:30-12:30 p.m. on the De Anza College campus. CHC members are invited to attend. There is no admission charge.

The CHC, as part of a consortia (which also includes Sonoma State University, San Francisco State University, and the Center for California Studies at California State University, Sacramento) received a grant from the California Civil Liberties Public

Education to develop educational activities aimed at educating the public about the World War II internment of Japanese Americans.

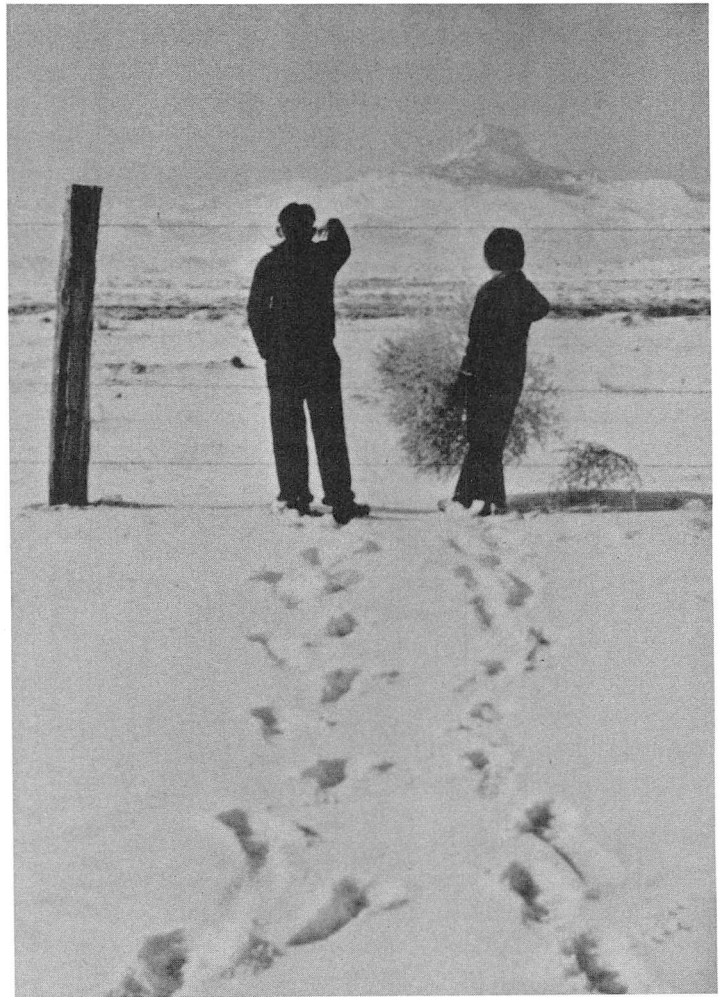
As part of the grant, the CHC and the Center for Califor-



Ready to Roll—Teleconference producer Marty Kahn, center, stands with two of program's participants—San Joseans Sue Tokushige and Mits Koshiyama. Because of their Japanese ancestry, they were incarcerated at the Poston camp in Arizona and Heart Mountain in Wyoming, respectively.

nia Studies designed the teleconference to encourage the development of critical thinking among those participating. "We want students and others viewing the teleconference to be able to recognize political and social scapegoating, and to see the need for protecting individual civil liberties," said Tom Izu, CHC administrative associate and project adviser for the teleconference.

The event will be broadcast via satellite to other community colleges and via the state-operated cable channel based in Sacramento.



Behind Barbed Wire—A young couple, incarcerated at the Heart Mountain internment camp in Wyoming, looks at the peak from which their camp got its name. (Photo by Hansel Mieth and Otto Hagel. From the collection of Mamoru Inouye. Courtesy of the de Saisset Museum, Santa Clara University.)

The teleconference will consist of a TV studio-based group of participants who will discuss the internment and related issues. Students and community members from other campuses that have satellite-televideo capabilities will be able to view the forum and interact with the participants by phone or fax. At De Anza, students and local community members will view and participate in the forum from the Campus Center Conference Rooms A and B.

A Message From The Development Director

To Our Members

As we enter the new millennium, we want to extend our thanks to all the special people who support the California History Center and Foundation with their membership and generous donations. Your support has allowed us to accomplish many of our past achievements and will assist us in our future successes.

Whether your membership renewal is due now, or you would like to renew early or increase your level of support, or would like to invite a friend to become a member—we welcome your membership gift. Your contribution at this time will help us greet the New Year and the exciting months ahead with added assurance that we have your support.

Of Interest to Members

On March 17th, 2000 we will present “From Blossoms to Barroom Politics: An Afternoon with Authors” to honor our present and lapsed members and expand our membership. We are pleased to bring you: a writers workshop and reading by Lawrence Coates, author of *The Blossom Festival*; and a book signing by Mary Jo Ignoffo, author of the new book *Gold Rush Politics: California's First Legislature*, a project that celebrates California's sesquicentennial. The California State Senate and the CHC published *Gold Rush Politics*. Please see article to the right.

Corporate Support

How are librarians preparing their organizations to survive and take advantage of changes in information technology?

The CHCF has received a grant from the Community Foundation Silicon Valley to attend the 21st Century Librarianship Summer 2000 Conference at Stanford in the fall of 2000. The Institute will offer an intensive, interactive symposium.

This will provide Lisa Christiansen, our Librarian/Archivist, to gather sufficient information about the digitization of archival paper holdings, and begin the learning process of how to convert a paper-based collection into an electronic “virtual archives” accessible via the Internet.

Wells Fargo Bank has made a generous contribution to the CHCF to support the March 2000 opening of our multi-media exhibit, “Rock and Roll Revolution: Northern California, 1963-1973.” We are delighted to have new corporate sponsorships to support our year-long schedule of events focusing on “Music in California as a Reflection of Culture, Time and Place.”

—Evelyn J. Miller

CHC Continues Needs Assessment: The Goal—An Updated Strategic Plan

Interviews. Focus groups. Surveys. That's what the CHC's current needs assessment is all about.

Countless individuals and organizations are being asked what they think about the CHC. The goal is to come up with an updated strategic plan for the years ahead.

Some of the target audiences for the needs assessment include CHCF board of trustees, staff, members, volunteers; important non-member donors; former trustees and staff; student and other library users; exhibit preparers; Foothill-De Anza district and De Anza administrators; De Anza faculty; California Studies representatives from other campuses; local history societies; K-12 teachers; ethnic community leaders, historical group leaders, and foundation representatives.

CHC Book Released at Historic Session of State Legislature

The CHC was in the spotlight at the historic meeting of the California State Legislature in Benicia on Feb. 16.

The Assembly and Senate met there to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Legislature's first session. (They met in the building used as the state capitol in 1853 and 1854.)

Part of the day-long celebration included recognition of *Gold Rush Politics: California's First Legislature*, a book published by the CHC and the Senate. The book's author and CHCF trustee



A crowd gathers outside of the Benicia building that served as California's capitol in the early 1850s.

New Members



Author Mary Jo Ignoffo signed copies of her book, *Gold Rush Politics: California's First Legislature*, at the Benicia event.

Mary Jo Ignoffo was honored by a Legislature Resolution. She also was asked to speak at the luncheon which featured keynote speaker Kevin Starr, California State Librarian. Starr wrote the foreword to Ignoffo's book.

Attending the luncheon and legislature session with Ignoffo were her husband Pat, parents Sanford and Helen Hull, as well as CHC Director Kathleen Peregrin.

Benicia was California's third state capital, following San Jose and Vallejo. In 1853, when the town of Vallejo could not satisfy the needs of the Legislature, the City of Benicia offered the use of its new City Hall. The building housed the Legislature until the capital was moved permanently to Sacramento.

In her 145-page book, Ignoffo looks at early California leaders who played colorful roles against a vivid historical backdrop. She notes in her Epilogue: "California's First Legislature and the men who made up its ranks provide a good vantage point from which to peer through the intervening years to get a fresh look at the state's history. These lawmakers were challenged to confront the impact of the Gold Rush, the impending Civil War, the vast geography of their new state, and the complex relationships of all the people living in California. Whether Argonaut, Yankee, *Californio*, or Indian, each had to be woven in the fabric that was becoming California."

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Patrick J. Duggan

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is published tri-annually by the California History Center & Foundation. The Magazine is mailed to members as a benefit of annual membership in the CHC Foundation. Membership categories: \$30 Individual; \$40 Family; \$50 Supporter; \$100 Sponsor; \$500 Patron; \$1,000 Colleague.

Your contribution is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. The value of goods received as a benefit of membership must be deducted from the amount of all contributions claimed as a deduction. CHCF members receive tri-annual issues of "The Californian" magazine and members who contribute at the \$50 level and above also receive a yearly Local History Studies publication.

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ISSN: 0742-5465