

Upcoming Events

November 13: Sonoma County Library Event: Discussion and book signing — Arequipa Sanatorium: Life in California's Lung Resort for Women with author Lynn Downey, see page 7

Now through 2020: Sonoma County Women's Suffrage Project: See www.SoCoWomen2020.org for events

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Howarth Park - the Prequel

by Denise Hill

Residents of Santa Rosa are familiar with the Howarth Park by Lake Ralphine on the east side of town. But did you know it was first located on South A Street and the funds for the park were provided to the city by a self-made millionaire?

Born in England in 1865, census records show Leonard Howarth already working as a printer's assistant at the age of 15 while living with his mother and unemployed father. In 1889, at the age of 24 and now a bank clerk, he immigrated to the United States eventually ending up in Tacoma, Washington.

It appears Leonard Howarth had a head for business and an eye for good investments. Within twenty years he had become the principal owner of the Everett Pulp and Paper Mill and president of the Tacoma Lumber Company. By the time he arrived in Santa Rosa, he was a multi-millionaire. What drew Leonard Howarth to our area was the Burke Sanitarium on Mark West Springs Road. Dr. Willard Burke started

the sanitarium after making a large sum of money investing in a gold mine in Oroville. Wealthy clients with health issues were drawn to a sanitarium run by someone with similar wealth.

In Leonard Howarth's case, at some point after arriving in the United States he experienced partial paralysis and was confined

to a wheelchair the rest of his life. Howarth was enthusiastic enough about

State of Washington Historical Society Burke's treatment that he moved to Sonoma County in 1908. He then split his time between Washington State and Santa

Rosa, eventually building a country mansion he called The Maples, which was near Larkfield on current maps. When Howarth died in 1930 he was one of the wealthiest men in northern California with an estate valued at approximately \$7

> million. Not only did he still have investments in mining operations along with lumber and paper mills in Washington State, he also had purchased the Occidental Hotel and the Santa Rosa Hotel, and was one of the largest PG&E stockholders.

Upon his death he left a sum of \$75,000 (the equivalent of \$1 million today) to the City of Santa Rosa. A foundation – the Santa Rosa Foundation – was formed to manage the money with many prominent citizens serving as board members. The public offered numerous ideas on how to use the money ranging from a new trotting horse track to a women's hospital to a new road through downtown. However, in the end it was decided the city needed a proper playground for its youth. Probably as a result of his own physical limitations, Leonard Howarth had

> been increasingly interested in the welfare of children so it was fitting that his bequest be used for a community playground "with the most modern and best equipment in Northern California". But what might surprise you is the location of that playground. It was located on South A Street in

downtown Santa Top: Leonard Howarth, circa 1925, Sonoma Heritage Collection Rosa. An old prune orchard near Burbank School which stretched west from Julliard Park all the way to Davis Street (there was no

...Continued page 7



Bottom: Leonard Howarth standing by logging train,

A Message from the HSSR Board of Directors

Hello valued HSSR members and readers,

Another Santa Rosa Summer is coming to a close — these days much earlier than historically so. The excitement of getting back to schoolmates and the loss of summer-time freedom have arrived. The care-free schedule and long days commence. This change of season floods memories of Santa Rosa's Summers passed.

We hope that you have enjoyed some of Santa Rosa's parks this Summer. We believe you will enjoy the many stories in this issue which explore the

history and namesakes of a handful of them. We have chosen some which have changed names, and others which changed location. Some remain full of activity today. Others are relished to memories and stories.

There are some interesting and exciting local events



Postcard of Howarth Park's Lake Ralphine from the *Road to* 1,000 Wonders postcard collection — a series of postcards created by the Northwest Pacific Railroad to entice people to travel from Oregon to Southern California in the early 1900s

exploring history on the horizon. The Sonoma County 2020 Women's Suffrage Project has many events planned to celebrate the Centennial of the national vote. We encourage you to investigate and take part in this important historical commemoration.

The HSSR truly appreciates our members and donors who make our events and this quarterly newsletter possible. If your membership has expired, please renew via the back page of this publication, or via our website. Not sure when yours expires? We always include that information as part of the mailing area. We'd

love to hear from you and your comments about our events and newsletter. You can always reach the HSSR via info@HistoricalSocietySantaRosa.org.

The HSSR Board of Directors

The HSSR Acknowledges Our Members and Donors

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Newsletter Contributors

Doug Bower
Jeff Elliott
Kelly Carrillo Fernández
Denise Hill
Lisa Kranz
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Want to Contribute Content for the HSSR Newsletter?

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Good Times and Trouble at Kroncke's Park

by Jeff Elliott

Ed. Note: The full-full-length version of the following story was originally published on <u>SantaRosaHistory.com</u> where Jeff Elliott has chronicled more than 700 stories of Santa Rosa history. The original version can be viewed there.

It was a park, a fairgrounds, a place for ballroom dancing to a live orchestra; it was often the pride of Santa Rosa and sometimes its great embarrassment; it was a place of special significance in town history, as it was around there Julio Carrillo and his pals hosted a blowout Fourth of July picnic and ball in 1854 to convince county residents to vote for making Santa Rosa the county seat. Spoiler alert: It worked.

Never underestimate the power of free BBO.

The first official name for the place, where Fourth Street meets McDonald and College avenues. was "City Gardens." (Today it's the Creekside Park apartment complex at 1130 Fourth street.) In the years after the Civil War it had a tiny lake/pond, a zoo of some sort and a velocipede track where bike enthusiasts could race around "at a 2-40 gait" (about 22 MPH). It closed for a year in 1885 and reopened under a new owner: Peter Henry Kroncke (that spelling is correct, though he was variously tagged in the newspapers as "Kronke," "Kroncker," and the grunty, "Kronk").

"Kroncke's Park" was open on weekends, some holidays and available for groups to rent. It was a nice place for anyone who could afford the 25¢ admission, the equivalent of about six bucks today. The grand opening on May Day, 1886 featured a ball with a 17-piece orchestra and with the promise of a musical concert every Sunday. The following week a "mounted sword contest" was advertised, so after a relaxing picnic with your cherished family

you could watch a couple of guys flail at each other in a medieval-ish way. (The Sonoma Democrat reported the other attraction was "Professor S. J. Reeves giving an exhibition of horsemanship on the back of a wild mustang, which seat he kept notwithstanding the saddle occupied the neck of the animal part of the time.")

That second ad also stated this: "Grand excursion from San Francisco."

From Kroncke's agent in the city anyone could buy a round-trip ticket to Santa Rosa at the subsidized price of \$1.00 – not including the park admission price, of course. Enough daytripping San Franciscans to pack fourteen train cars came to watch the sword fight, and those attendance numbers continued all summer, with apparently 1,000-1,500 coming to Santa Rosa each Sunday.

Kroncke's Park was clearly a smashing success for both itself and the town. There was one eensy little drawback: The

big crowds attracted pickpockets. "That exception to the pleasures of the day is one that is attendant on all such occasions," wrote the Sonoma Democrat. Uh, since these "occasions" were scheduled for every weekend, did that mean Santa Rosa should brace for a regular influx of wrong-doers? Why...ves.

Both Santa Rosa newspapers downplayed the problems at first. A month later the Petaluma Courier wrote their town would never welcome Sunday excursion visitors because of the "hoodlums and roughs" who were showing up in Santa Rosa.

As the summer wore on, the town papers could no longer gloss over the mounting problems. In August, excursionists vandalized two commercial orchards, seriously damaging and even destroying trees. Then a few weeks later, a Democrat article began with this: "The excursion to this city and Kroncke's Park Sunday, was made up chiefly of hoodlums...' While still being an apologist and stating "it should not be inferred that all the excursions have been objectionable," the paper reported police had to break up a free-for-all fight at the park and brawls continued throughout the afternoon. An officer clubbed a disorderly man unconscious on Fourth street. Worst of all, "when the train left for

The worst incident came the following year, as an excursion coincided with the last day of the county fair. The "sallow-faced individuals dressed in chinchilla coats" and "their vulgar female companions [were] an outrage on all sense of decency" as they bullied

San Francisco in the evening about

sixty of the hoodlums got left, and

streets." I'm sure that must have

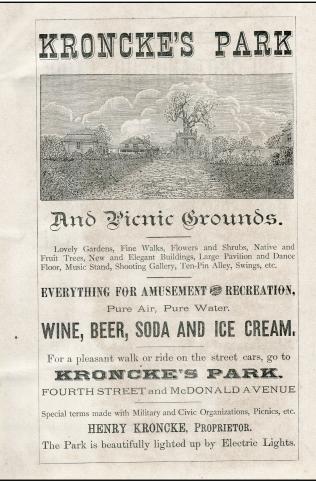
been a peaceful evening in old

put in the night parading the

their way around downtown, pushing people off the sidewalks and stealing booze and cigars from saloons. One of the crowd entered a hotel and grabbed the heavy bell used to announce dinner service and hit the hotel owner in the head with it, knocking him cold. A Deputy Sheriff and two off-duty San Francisco policemen arrested the man on the returning train, but only after a confrontation with the guy's pals who were trying to hide him from the cops.

Santa Rosa.

Yet the newspapers – particularly the Republican – continued holding Kroncke's Park and its excursion train promotion blameless. In a February 1888 puff-piece, the Republican paper gushed, "We have begun to look upon Kroncke's Park as an almost necessity; in fact it would be difficult to tell what we would do without it". Finally, in 1890 and after some 700-800 signed a petition demanding the City Council take action (the town population at the time was around 5,000), Kroncke's liquor license was denied...Continued page 7



Advertisement shown in a Santa Rosa city directory, 1887

Galvin Park

by Doug Bower

A 23.4 acre Community Park located in southeast Santa Rosa, Galvin Park includes two soccer fields, 16 tennis courts, children's play areas, picnic areas, a softball field, a fly casting pond, and many other amenities. The golf course opened in 1969 followed by the other park facilities in the early 1980s. The park is named in honor of Daniel J. Galvin, Jr. who was chairman of the citizens' committee that successfully steered the creation of Bennett Valley Golf Course and then was instrumental in the further development of the full park. Unfortunately, he died suddenly of a heart attack in 1980.

Mr. Galvin, a native of San Francisco and a WW II veteran, accepted a job with radio station KSRO and moved to

Santa Rosa in 1951 with his wife Joanne. His sons, Daniel III and Barry, were born and raised in Santa Rosa. He later became a vice-president of the Exchange Bank. In addition to his leadership role in the golf course's development, Mr. Galvin served for several years on the Recreation and Parks Commission and was active with many civic organizations including Kiwanis, CYO, St. Vincent de Paul Society and the Chamber of Commerce. In 1954, along with other committee members known as the "Redcoats", he co-founded the Sports Celebrity Banquet, a

mainstay annual event that for over twenty years brought major figures from the sports world to Santa Rosa for a very popular charitable fundraiser. Mr. Galvin's voice was also well known to Santa Rosans as he was regularly the master of ceremony at civic and political events. He also served as a color commentator on Oakland Raiders' radio broadcasts for two years in the early 1960's. He also worked with Jim Grady and Merle Ross on KSRO radio broadcasts of local high school and SRJC football and basketball games.

Galvin Park regularly hosts soccer, tennis and softball tournaments, league play, and picnics and gatherings of all sizes



Left: The Early Red Coats, possibly the original group, at a Santa Rosa Sports Banquet, 508 Fourth Street, Santa Rosa, California, circa 1950s The Santa Rosa Sports Banquet was founded by Dan Galvin, a radio sports director and banker, in 1954. Held annually through the 1960s and 1970s at the Santa Rosa Hotel and later at the Flamingo Hotel. Invited major athletes from across the country with their spouses. Shown, front from left: Dan Galvin; Tom Welsh; Ted Hawkins; Hal Ling; Joe Moser; back from left: John Matulich; Jack Kronstedt; Dennis Keegan; Bob Held. Sonoma Heritage Collection

The Juilliard Family, the Park, and Additions

by Lisa Kranz

- Charles Juilliard and Sarah Chilton Juilliard's daughter Florence Isabel Juilliard married into another pioneer Santa Rosa family, the McDonalds. In 1896, Florence Isabel married Mark L. McDonald, Jr., in the society event of the year. The couple had three children: Mark L. III, Juilliard and Marcia Ann.
- Following the family's gift of the Juilliard land and home, local contractor WJ Lindsay was hired to remove the home in November 1931. It was estimated that his crew of eight men would complete the job in three weeks.
- Juilliard Park was designed by landscape architect Howard Gilkey. Gilkey attended Santa Rosa High School, and during that time worked for Luther Burbank. He graduated from UC Berkeley in 1916 and worked in parks and planning for the City of Oakland. Gilkey also designed Fremont and Doyle Parks in Santa Rosa in the 1930s.
- Funding for Juilliard Park came from the City of Santa Rosa Relief Fund and the Civil Works Administration and the Works Progress Administration, depression-era programs that helped fund public projects.

- In June 1932, a 25 year old crepe myrtle tree was transplanted to Juilliard Park from the Hart estate on Mendocino Avenue. The report of the tree's relocation states that the tree was one of the very few of that variety in the county.
- A January 14, 1933 Press Democrat story reported that development of Juilliard Park was progressing well with "crews of jobless men hired to work on the project by the city's social services commission." The report states that 60 men and 6 trucks were employed to speed park development and create as much employment as possible.
- In January 1934, the Women's Auxiliary of the Santa Rosa Fire Department planted a tree and dedicated it to past chiefs and members of the Fire Department.
- Juilliard Park was added to the City's park system in 1939. In that year, the west side was planted in lawn, the rose garden was planted and other trees and greenery were added. An aviary with 70 birds was located at the park's north.
- The Church of One Tree was moved to its site on the north side of Juilliard Park in the late 1950s. It was dedicated for use on May 15, 1960.

The Early Days of Doyle Park

In 1923, Frank Doyle — president of Exchange Bank and "father of the Golden Gate Bridge" — and his wife, Polly O'Meara Doyle, purchased 21 acres of land east of City limits to be used as a park in memory of their only child, Frank. Frank O'Meara Doyle died during a tonsillectomy in 1921, one week before his 14th birthday.

The property that the Doyles purchased had been a popular picnic spot known as Hoen Island, a triangle of land bordered by Hoen Avenue, Matanzas Creek, and Spring Creek. A local poet wrote a poem about the area, "Down on Hoen Island". In 1928, Doyle deeded the property to the City.

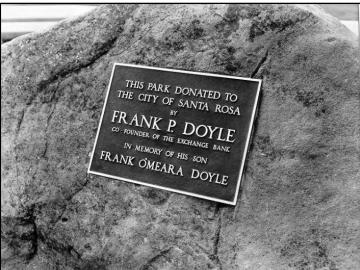
In 1924, Luther Burbank donated \$5,000 to be used to develop the new park. It was one his favorite places; he enjoyed picnicking there. When he died in 1926, his public memorial service was held at the park.

During the Depression, improvements to the park were

made by previouslyunemployed men, through the Works **Progress** Administration (WPA), the State Relief Administration (SRA), and the Santa Rosa Relief Council. The workers graveled paths, cleared creek banks, and removed poison oak. Using local redwood, they built an entrance gate, tables, benches, and a campfire pit surrounded by log seats. They constructed an 89-foot stone bridge that connected the park to Sonoma Avenue. WPA recreational

supervisors

provided



playground supervision.

In 1937, Doyle Park became overgrown with weeds. To solve the problem, the City planted 15 acres of the park with rye grass seed. As the grass grew, it choked out the weeds. The grass was then harvested and used to feed the sheep at the City's sheep farm west of town. The City raised sheep for profit.

The Doyle Park Improvement Association was formed in early 1938. The group aimed to improve the park's baseball facilities, to provide for the development of local players. It was hoped that the improved facilities would attract West Coast League or major league teams to train or play in exhibition games there. The grandstand was enlarged, showers were installed under the grandstand, and the baseball diamond was resurfaced. The work was accomplished by WPA and SRA workers. The renovated baseball field was dedicated in May 1938.

> The Santa Rosa Pirates were one of several local baseball teams that played at Doyle Park. They were a farm team for the major league Pittsburg Pirates. The singer Bing Crosby was vicepresident and partowner of the major league team. On June 2, 1948, Crosby made an appearance at the local team's opening day game at Doyle Park. By the end of the 1940s. Dovle Park formerly Hoen Island — had become a favorite of families and the

community.

Down on Hoen Island

(In Santa Rosa) Down on peaceful Hoen Island where the oak trees stand and dream;

And the blue jays scold and gossip, while the willows dip and lean; Where the grapevine twists and clutches, as it ever upward crawls;

And the little paths go winding round the creek's high, clifflike walls;

There's a swimming hole for children that beats all the tanks and pools;

And more lessons may be learned there than are ever taught in schools.

How the Robin Redbreast lover makes a living for his mate;

Why the squirrel camouflages with a coat as dull as slate;

Where the rainbow lends its color and the fish are known to nibble, While the gray hawk paints a

shadow where the ground mole leaves his scribble.

You may learn why limbs point upward and why leaves are flecked with gold,

nd the reason why a mother bird is always brave and bold. you go to Hoen Island on a dulet

Summer day, There your childhood will return to you and very likely stay. -Ina Draper De Foe.



NO CROONING-Bing Crosby gives out at the microphone at Doyle Park where an overflow crowd turned out to see Bing and the Santa Rosa Pirates last night, Behind Bing is Lewis H. De-Castle who introduced the crooner.

Shown: Top: Dedication plaque, Sonoma Heritage Collection Bottom left: June 2, 1948, Opening Day at Doyle Park baseball field, The Press Democrat, June 3, 1948 Bottom right: Poem about Santa Rosa's Hoen Island printed in The Oakland Tribune, November 16, 1932

What is a Preservation District?

(...and did you know Santa Rosa has eight of them?)

Historic structures and neighborhoods tell stories about our past and provide insight for the future. By incorporating historic buildings and other reminders of the past into contemporary life, elements of the past are brought with us into the future allowing our children and grandchildren an opportunity to learn about their community's past.

Many people are aware that an historic building can achieve landmark status. However, few are aware that entire neighborhoods can also be recognized for their historic character by being designated as Preservation Districts. These designated districts encompass all structures within their boundaries including homes and buildings that may not be the most impressive, but are still considered historic and thus "contributors" to the district. The designation of a local district protects the significant properties and the historic character of the district. It provides our community with the means to make sure that growth, development, and change take place in ways that respect the important architectural and historical characteristics of the district. Zoning ordinances pertaining to these districts are designed to maintain the historic character by controlling alterations to existing properties and the size, quality, and scale of new construction in the district. It also prohibits or severely restricts demolition, thus protecting the character of the

Recognizing the value of Santa Rosa's historic resources, the Santa Rosa City Council adopted a Preservation Ordinance in 1988 and created a Cultural Heritage Board. Inventories of every building built prior to 1930 were prepared by the City. These inventories were done by a certified historian and provide information such as the build date, architectural style, first owners, etc. and reside in a document called a Cultural Survey. These surveys are available at the Sonoma County Library History Annex at 725 Third Street in downtown Santa Rosa in a 1977 publication called Santa Rosa - Historic Resource Survey prepared by architect Dan Peterson (Calif-R-979.418).

As part of Santa Rosa's Preservation Ordinance, a Cultural Heritage Board was created by the City comprised of citizen volunteers with special expertise or interest in historic preservation. Each member of the seven-member board is

appointed by a City Council Member. Principal duties of the Board include:

- Reviewing proposed alterations and demolition to historic buildings.
- Recommending designation of Landmarks and Preservation Districts.
- Within these designated districts there are examples of newer buildings with poor construction and design that detract

from the district built prior to the historic district designation. With the designation in place, the Cultural manner sensitive to the district.

Over the years, the City has protected our historic neighborhoods by designating these eight Preservation Districts with the St. Rose District being the first district designated in 1990 and the Ridgway District designated most recently in 2007. The eight Preservation Districts are:

- Burbank Gardens
- Cherry Street
- McDonald
- Olive Park
- Railroad Square
- Ridgway
- St. Rose
- West End

Historic District Property Owners:

Historic designation means that your property or neighborhood is recognized by the City as a key component of the community's architectural heritage. For that reason, Preservation Districts ensure that both routine maintenance and more extensive restoration or rehabilitation must be done carefully to ensure that the architectural character and therefore the value of the building is not diminished. Property owners can alter the interior of their home as they please. There is also no review of the color(s) a home is painted (although guidelines can be found online of appropriate colors for the era and style of the home). However, any alteration to a building that can be viewed from the street (including fences) must go through a review by the Cultural Heritage Board. This is to ensure that structural changes don't so significantly alter the home that it is no longer a "contributor" to the district.

Adaptive Reuse, New Construction, and Infill:

Adaptive reuse of historic structures is the concept of finding appropriate contemporary uses for old buildings. The City's General Plan includes policies which allow for the adaptive reuse of Preservation District structures for institutional, office, or limited commercial uses in locations which will not unduly impact existing neighborhoods.

New Construction and Infill (new structures built between existing historic structures) should follow these guidelines:

> The footprint and foundation of the new structure should be similar to the ones surrounding the new

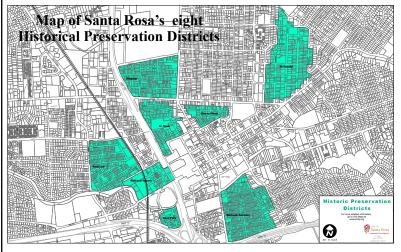
structure.

- •The new roof should match existing roofs in pitch, complexity, and orientation.
- The new structure should match the existing ones in projections, height, and scale.
- •New structures should be clad in visually and physically similar materials used on historic structures in the area.
- Doors and windows should maintain the rhythm of door and window openings of nearby buildings.

The goal is to make sure the new construction respects the important architectural and

historical characteristics of the district.

"In the end our society will be defined not by what we Heritage Board can ensure new construction is done in a create, but by what we refuse to destroy." – John Sawhill



Howarth... continued from page 1 freeway in the 1930s) was selected for the site of the proposed playground.

In 1936 the Leonard Howarth Memorial Park officially opened to much fanfare. Said to be large enough to hold all the city's school children at one time, it offered a baseball diamond complete with bleachers and lighting for night games, tennis courts, handball courts, and playground equipment.

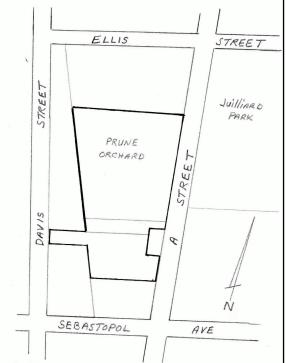
Just fifteen years later, in 1951 the park boundaries had been drastically reduced in order to provide land for the new freeway (now Highway 101). In 1952, there was talk of creating another park on the 360-acre McRae Ranch property near Lake Ralphine with monies from the Santa Rosa Foundation fund. Council members at the time enthusiastically endorsed the idea with one calling the proposal a

chance to have a "Golden Gate Park" of the north. In 1955, the

Santa Rosa Foundation was requested the Howarth Memorial

Park on South A Street be sold to the school district and the funds from the sale be added to the amount needed to move forward with a park by Lake Ralphine. This request was approved and the Howarth Memorial Park on South A Street became an extension of the Burbank School grounds and was renamed Burbank Park. In 1958, the current

Left: The map "...shows the location of property secured by the Santa Rosa Foundation for establishment of a memorial playground with the \$75,000 bequest left to Santa Rosa by the late Leonard Howarth. The heavy lines show the boundaries of the triangular tract that will be used for the modern playground, extending south on A street from Burbank school across Laurel street and beyond the service station. The tract includes a strip connecting with Davis street so that an entrance to the playground can be provided from that street. Work is expected to start soon on transforming the property into one of the most modern playgrounds in northern California, equipped for every type of sport." Press Democrat - June 16, 1934



Howarth Park

Kroncke's ... continued from page 3

The end of the booze apparently meant the end of the excursions, and likewise the end of the troublemakers. Even sans alcohol it was a special place. There was an enclosed bowling alley, a large pavilion with a dance floor and "swimming baths" back by the creek. An ancient oak was surrounded by a stairway and electric lights were strung overhead.

The park was sold again in 1897 to the Grace Brothers of local brewery fame. Now it became a beer garden with a concession stand that sold ice cream and a roller-skating

rink was added. As "Grace Park" it came closest to being Santa Rosa's public park; Rose Carnival parades usually ended there, Burbank Day celebrations were held, and there were always big doings on Labor Day. There were concerts and children's carnivals and in 1905 there was a contest where men tried to catch a greased pig.

Any illusions that it was a de facto public park ended in 1921 when Frank Grace sold the property, but the place had been on the decline for years; the only original structures left were the pavilion and tree staircase. Even as far back as 1908 the fire map had noted the buildings were "old and dilapidated."

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The Sonoma County Library is Hosting an Event

Wednesday, November 13, 2019 7:00pm - 8:30pm Central Santa Rosa Library

The Sonoma County History & Genealogy Library is hosting an event. Local author, archivist, and historian Lynn Downey will discuss her new book *Arequipa Sanatorium: Life in California's Lung Resort for Women*. Her book is based on sanatorium records which she helped preserve and interviews she conducted with former patients and others associated with the Fairfax, California sanatorium. Downey's book tells a vivid story of the sanatorium and its cures that physicians Philip King Brown and Cabot Brown and their talented team of Progressive women made available to hundreds of working-class patients beginning in 1911. Lynn Downey's grandmother was a patient at the sanatorium in the 1920s. The author will be available to sign books.



If you haven't already, check out the website for the Sonoma County 2020 Women's Suffrage Project:
https://SoCoWomen2020.org/



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Membership Expirations: We know members never want to miss an HSSR newsletter or event announcement due to an expired membership. The expiration date of your membership is shown above along with your mailing address. Memberships can be renewed by mail or via our website. Dues are paid annually and valid for one year. The income generated by memberships make our events possible.

Historical Society of Santa Rosa

Membership Application

The Historical Society of Santa Rosa intends to build a strong and diverse organization of individuals, families and groups to investigate, record and relate the history of the City of Santa Rosa. Membership includes subscription to the newsletter and priority invitations to HSSR sponsored events.

Memberships make wonderful gifts! Share the benefits of membership with your family and friends. Dues are paid annually, and membership is valid for one year.

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\$25 Individual membership	\$40 Household membership
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