



MOAH UPDATE

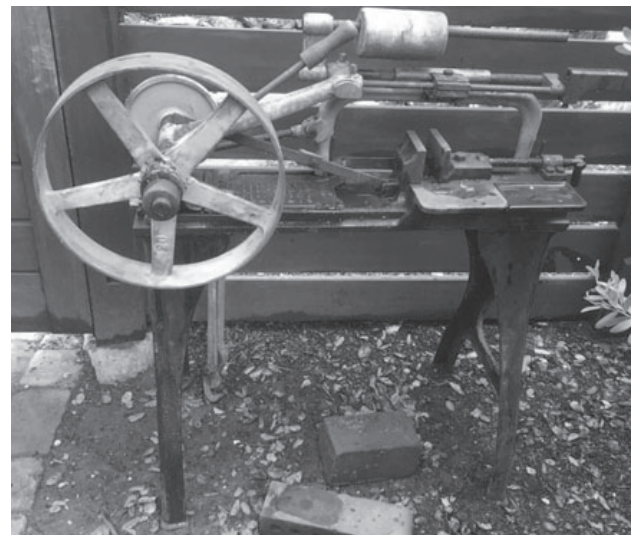
January 2019
Number 85

Invention & Technology
1750 - 1950

Restoring The Past

By Ken Kormanak

Many times our museum accepts an artifact that is not in the best condition or has broken or missing parts. We then have to decide whether to keep the item “as is” or to attempt to do a partial or complete restoration. Such was the case when we received a Millers Falls metal cutting power hacksaw. This tool has some features that were unique when it was patented in 1892. Its main claim to fame was the ability to automatically stop the blade once the saw had completed its cutting operation. Prior to this innovation, the operator had to stand by the machine and turn the machine off by hand after it made the cut. It was now possible to have a single operator cutting several items at the same time without worrying about the saw’s need to be turned off.



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A mechanical engineer, who collected old tools and was moving out of state, donated our saw. The saw had been left out in his back yard for several years, and the rain had rusted and frozen many of the moving parts. Most of the parts were intact, however, with the exception of some connecting rods and a broken wing nut (more on that later).

The restoration process began with disassembly and photographing all the parts as they came off the machine, so they could be reassembled in the same order.

See Restoring The Past, page 8.

From Our President

Jim Wall



MOAH's quest for corporate support

In addition to watching over a museum, one of the Board of Directors' main tasks is to consider the problem of securing funding year after year. Essentially all of the

Museum of American Heritage's financial support comes from you, the readers of this newsletter. All are individuals or family trusts, who believe in the value and benefit of what our museum collects, preserves and displays.

What we sadly lack is any corporate support. From the area that prides itself on being the center of technology and that still houses some of the most important technology companies of the 20th century, there is not a single one that contributes to MOAH. This is something that we would like to see changed.

Many corporations address their philanthropy through a special company division or even a separate foundation set up for that purpose. And most of that corporate giving is done through the grant process. This is where a nonprofit organization may apply for money to fund a project or achieve a defined goal. Specific examples of this might be for a nonprofit education organization to implement a new outreach program into middle schools, or for a food distribution service to purchase three additional delivery vans. In our case, MOAH has applied for (and received) project-specific grants in the past. Currently we have a grant request under review to hire one or more contractors to rephotograph the entire museum collection.

However, what is rare is for a company or foundation to approve a grant to be applied to the operating costs of an established organization. These are often called General Operational Support grants. Historically, these types of grants are more likely to be made by smaller charitable foundations. MOAH will continue to pursue these opportunities. But given our mission and our location, we also see the potential for yearly corporate support.

MOAH is in the process of creating a program for corporations and company foundations to become organizational museum members. Under this program, companies will be asked to make a nominal, yearly, membership donation that goes directly to the operating costs of our museum. Member companies will be honored in the museum as well as in the museum's web site and newsletter. They will also be able to avail themselves of museum perks such as private tours of the exhibits and the warehouse.

See *From Our President*, Page 10.

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MOAH Update is published bi-annually with the intent to inform, amuse and enthuse friends of the museum.

Editor: Judith Lautmann

Printing: Columbia Graphix

From Our Executive Director

Allison Wong



Sharing the past with our children

The Museum of American Heritage has always managed to attract an older audience. Visitors, supporters and volunteers have a deep appreciation for what

we do. Some of our visitors view our artifacts and are reminded of times when they or their grandparents used a particular item.

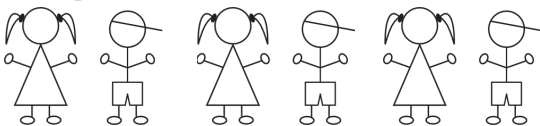
With the Fall opening of our newest exhibit, *Vintage Toys: It's Child's Play!*, I can't help but think about the importance of bringing members of the next generation to our museum. We believe in not just preserving technological innovations but also informing the future.

When we give tours to schoolchildren, they are always amazed with our vintage print shop, and I like to tell them it was a time before computer processing. They can hardly imagine a time without computers. The Intertype typesetting machine, printers and job cases are completely foreign to them.

It's important to show the next generation of innovators how our current technology evolved from the vintage technology we have on display. At the time, these inventions were at the cutting edge.

Along with instilling the importance of preserving history, there are tangible benefits of taking children to museums. Exposing children at a young age to museums encourages lifelong learning outside the classroom and allows them the opportunity to gain knowledge about time periods in the past. They get to see the difference between what type of tools and devices people used in the past compared to today.

I encourage you to bring your grandchildren and children to MOAH so they can discover the past with you. It can be a wonderful way of relating and connecting with them in a positive environment.



Volunteer Opportunities for 2019

MOAH is on the lookout for curious and active adult volunteers. We have a variety of jobs that can provide you with some fun and rewarding volunteer experiences while you meet and work with interesting people. There is also the possibility of task-based volunteering, allowing you to help us on your own schedule. For more information about volunteering at MOAH, please contact us at 650-321-1004 or admin@moah.org.

Gallery Assistants

Are you looking for a weekend volunteer project that requires only an occasional 2.5 to 4 hour commitment? Would you like to be part of MOAH's exciting exhibits and share your knowledge? We are looking for Gallery Assistants to take occasional shifts on Fridays, Saturdays or Sundays either from 11:00AM to 1:30PM or from 1:30PM to 4:00PM. This is one area in which MOAH can really use your help!

Garden Volunteers

How about participating in the restoration and maintenance of a historic garden, while getting some fresh air and exercise and meeting some interesting people? MOAH's Garden Team is looking for additional personnel to help with both heavy and light garden duties. No experience is needed.

Education Instructors and Assistants

Have you ever thought about sharing your knowledge and talents with young people? MOAH offers weekend classes to youth aged 9+ in science and technology. We are always on the lookout for both instructors and assistants.

Exhibits Team Members

Do you love to work with others on creating educational and entertaining displays and exhibits? Do you have a passion for history? How about being a part of MOAH's Exhibits Team? We mount several exhibits each year and are looking for team members to assist with all aspects of research, development, and installation.

Publicity and Public Relations Team Members

Are you interested in communications and public relations? Do you wish more people knew about all of MOAH's great services? How about working with our Publicity Team to get the word out to our community?

Special Events Volunteers

Do you love to get involved with special events, fundraisers, and parties? Do you like the excitement of working with a team to plan and execute themed functions? How about being a Special Events Volunteer for MOAH?

Current Main Gallery Exhibit

Vintage Toys: It's Child's Play!

Now through February 17, 2019

The Museum of American Heritage will display nostalgic toy artifacts in its newest exhibition titled *Vintage Toys: It's Child's Play!* The exhibit runs from September 28, 2018 through February 17, 2019.

Discover a variety of antique toys that captured and sparked the imagination of children in the past. This exhibition will cover the origins of play time, toy factories, toy trains, builder toys and more. This exhibit aims to evoke childhood memories throughout the decades.

The exhibition features an assortment of vintage toys including pedal cars, toy trains, toy sewing machines, building sets, a mechanical pony, windup toys and more. Come explore the colorful and captivating history of toys with us!



Current Special Exhibit

Quack Medicine



In the rooms where Dr. Williams once treated patients and worked with true medicine, now sits a collection of quack medical devices. These are curious objects, ranging from beauty hacks and exercise loopholes to cure-all electronic machines and elixirs.

As you enter Doctor Williams' lab and examination room, you may recognize a few artifacts, while others look like they belong under the hood of a car.

If you are unfamiliar with quackery, then there is a chance it may have gotten the better of you. A quack is considered to be a fraudulent person who peddles false medical information and lacks the professional knowledge and qualification to be taken seriously in the medical

field. Quack medical devices are the tools developed by such people. They are sold to the unsuspecting public for profit and often do nothing medically significant at all. These devices and machines come in many forms and claim to cure almost any ailment humankind has faced.

On display we have a massage-a-belt, believed to shake the weight right off you, a series of ultraviolet ray wands, which used Tesla coils to convince the public electricity could cure their ailments, and a series of batteries and shock apparatuses, that you would likely steer clear of today.

In this exhibit you will find information about poisonous elixirs, the history of snake oil, patent medicines and some advertisements for these bizarre devices.

It is interesting to imagine that consumers of the past believed these items would provide desired results. Then again, quack medicine and medical devices are still being sold today. Perhaps years from now they will end up in a museum for us to reflect on.

Volunteer Spotlight: Neel Kasmalkar



Neel Kasmalkar is one of our many wonderful garden volunteers. He is in the garden almost every Tuesday morning from 10:00 AM to noon, helping to keep the Ruth Bell Lane Memorial Gardens looking their best.

Neel began volunteering with MOAH in August of 2017 and has been enjoying his time ever since. A graduate student at Stanford University, Neel is working on obtaining his Ph.D. in Geophysics. He is currently studying the Antarctic ice sheet to document and further understand the impacts of climate change. With the responsibility of being a hard working graduate student, Neel was in need of a relaxing activity, and, with the help of volunteermatch.com, he found it here at MOAH.

At first Neel did not have much gardening experience. He remembers playing in the garden as a child and accidentally over-watering his cacti at some point, but he says he is learning so much working with Betsy Fryberger and the other MOAH garden volunteers.

Neel likes many different parts of the garden, but the arboretum is one of his favorite features, especially while the wisteria are in bloom. His favorite activity in the garden has become pruning, because he finds it to be peaceful and artistic. He enjoys altering the plants and watching their growth and progress from the work he has done.

One of Neel's first projects in the garden was to replant some of the iris lining the stone path that leads to where the Williams family's duck pond used to be. At first he was unsure his plants would make it, but now, as you can see in the accompanying picture, they are now thriving.

Warehouse Open House

For the second time since acquiring its San Carlos warehouse, MOAH held a well-attended Warehouse Open House for its members on the afternoon of Saturday, July 21. It was especially gratifying this year to see children and teenagers learning about items in the museum's collection of over 6,000 artifacts.

We are grateful to the staff members and volunteers who made this event a success: Logan Patterson, Ken Kormanak, Jim & Eileen Wall, Charlie Gillis, Jim & Bev Nelson, Nick Kiya, and George Patterson. And a special thank you to Jim & Bev Nelson for once again providing wine for the occasion.

And we're grateful as well to the volunteers who work, on a regular basis, at the warehouse, keeping it organized, ensuring that artifacts stored there are properly documented, and making sure it's ready for guests. Current warehouse volunteers are: Ken Kormanak, Charlie Gillis, Eileen Wall, Jim Wall, Nick Kiya, Stu Hansen, John Eckland, Dan Todd, Ron Murphy, Iris Lee, and George Patterson.



At the Lectern

After receiving a degree in mechanical engineering from Cal Poly and completing a 35-year career with the City of Palo Alto in the area of energy, **Tom Kabat** now applies his expertise in that field to consulting for the federal government and to helping not-for-profit organizations. He also volunteers at *Repair Café* events at MOAH and makes and repairs wooden bicycles.

On May 10, Tom educated a MOAH audience on *The Dynamic History of Palo Alto's Evolving Gas Utility*. His story began with the days of petroleum fuel, then moved on to the era of natural gas, followed by today's focus on carbon-neutral gas, with the possibility of a thermal service utility in the future.

Tom began with a brief overview of local political dynamics in the second half of the nineteenth century, including construction of Otterson Roadhouse in 1853, the founding of Mayfield, completion of the railroad connection from San Francisco to Mayfield in 1863, Stanford's development of plans for a university in the 1880s, and the Stanford Trustees' purchase in 1886 of 740 acres for the new town of College Park.

At the turn of the twentieth century, the local population was using a variety of fuels, including firewood, coal, tallow, whale oil, and kerosene, sourced from multiple private enterprises. In 1900, electrical service appeared and began to displace oil and kerosene. Around this time, the town and its engineer were interested in building a generator plant and establishing a consolidated energy company. This led to a period of meetings and machinations that Tom described as "franchise frolics."

Finally, in 1904, a franchise agreement was reached and the private Palo Alto Gas Company was established. This led to a period of franchise operation and regulation, which lasted until 1917 when the city took over the company. In 1929, after many years of conflict between the city and PG&E, Palo Alto agreed to get natural gas from PG&E. In the 1930s, with the expansion of its territory, the city focused on reducing leakage, handling demand by storing butane in tanks, and offering rebates to customers who modernized their fuel use.

As time moved on, so did Palo Alto's energy focus, from managing through the energy crisis of the 70s, to encouraging solar power and insulation in the 80s, to splitting with PG&E in the 90s, to innovative pricing and managing carbon issues in the twenty-first century.



To kick off MOAH's latest exhibit, *Vintage Toys: It's Child's Play!*, the museum hosted a toy panel on October 11, featuring two specialized vintage toy collectors.

First up was **Trevor Heathorn**, who, as a child growing up in England in the 1960s, enjoyed playing with the 20 or so Matchbox toys he and his brother had. In the 1980s, Trevor accompanied a friend to a toy show, which he now admits was a "very expensive mistake," as it led to his large collection, amassed over the next 20 years, of collectible, pre-1970 Matchbox models.

Lesney Products & Co. Ltd., founded shortly after WWII, launched the Matchbox series in 1953. By 1969, Matchbox toys were being produced at the rate of 5.5 million per week. However, Mattel's introduction of Hot Wheels in 1968 caused Matchbox sales in the U.S. to plummet from \$28 million to \$6 million the following year. Eventually, ownership of the Matchbox brand was acquired by Tyco Toys and subsequently by Mattel.

Continued on the following page.

At the Lectern, continued from the previous page.

Trevor's talk focused on the many model variations (color, wheel size, special decals, etc.) that can result in a specific Matchbox toy's cost being anywhere from 10 to 100 times normal price. And he cautioned audience members with an interest in collecting these rare models to beware of fakes.

When **Charlie Pack** was a youngster, his father gave him several Erector sets, but he always wanted more. Now Charlie, a retired software engineer, professional accountant, and amateur mechanical engineer, has an extensive collection of sets and parts from old Erector, Meccano and other metal construction systems. Using them, he builds standard and unique models, sometimes making custom parts to fit his creations.

Some of Charlie's favorite models are based on vehicles produced by White Motor Company, an American automobile, truck, bus and agricultural tractor manufacturer from 1900 until 1980. The company began when Rollin H. White, who patented a new form of steam engine, convinced his father, founder of the White Sewing Machine Company, to allow him to use part of one of his buildings to build an automobile.

Charlie reviewed a number of White Motor Company vehicles, including tractors, trucks and buses, including buses used in various national parks.

Both Trevor and Charlie displayed models from their own collections, which they invited the audience to examine following the toy panel.



MOAH Outreach



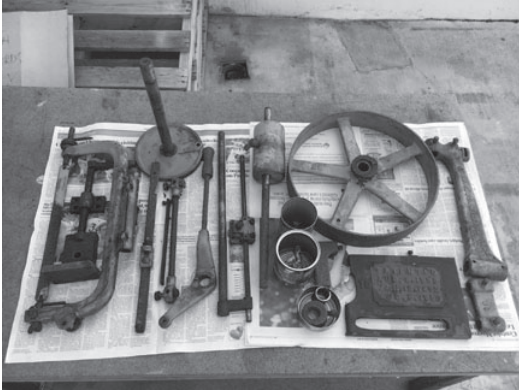
Participating in outreach efforts is an important part of promoting the museum and exposing new people to what we are all about. In September, we had the opportunity to do that in San Carlos.

Every year, the neighborhood organization that supports the area where the museum warehouse is located organizes the Industrial Arts Horsepower Car Show. And they encourage local shops and businesses to have booths that day to give visitors an idea of what they do inside all of the industrial buildings. Being members of the Industrial Arts Business Association of San Carlos, we were invited to participate on that day. We decided this would be a good way to promote the museum to a new audience. And maybe, if we were lucky, we'd even find a warehouse volunteer or two.

MOAH set up a tent with a table full of unusual artifacts. Visitors were encouraged to try and figure out what they were used for. The artifacts covered a range of ages and technologies from a 1880 Wagon Wheel Odometer to a 1950s massive nut cracker. The car show was a big success, with over 130 cars and thousands in attendance. The museum booth always had a group in front of it, with people engaging with both the artifacts and the museum volunteers.

Quite a few visitors took museum brochures and information, and learned about our wonderful museum and collection. And we even got our wish of getting a new warehouse volunteer: thanks for joining us Dan!

Restoring The Past, continued from front cover.



See first picture on the left.

Next came cleaning, which could take many directions. Some parts, like the brass guides for the saw's moving arm, could be buffed out and polished by hand. Moving parts, such as the lead screw for the saw's vise, would go into our electrostatic de-rusting tank.

Finally, the painted parts, which were badly rusted, would go into the museum's sand blasting cabinet for a complete removal of all paint and rust.

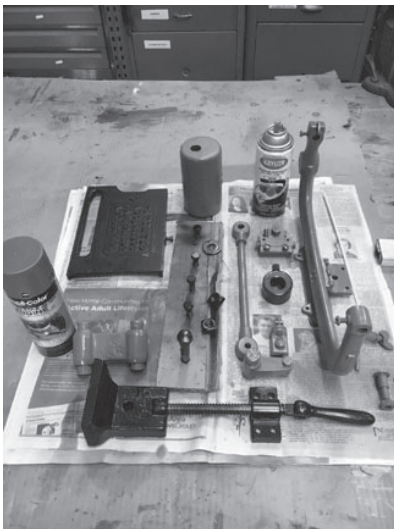
See second picture on the left.



Once all the parts were cleaned, they needed paint that matched their original colors. Black was the easiest paint to match. However, finding the particular shade of green for some of the moving parts was more of a challenge. None of the local hardware stores had a spray paint that came close to our color, which was green with a touch of aqua.

We were finally able to find a company via the Internet that made power-sanding equipment. Their paint color came closest to what we were looking for. We ordered the paint and proceeded to finish the job, plugging each threaded hole with a cork so as to not allow any paint spray to clog the threads and make reassembly more difficult.

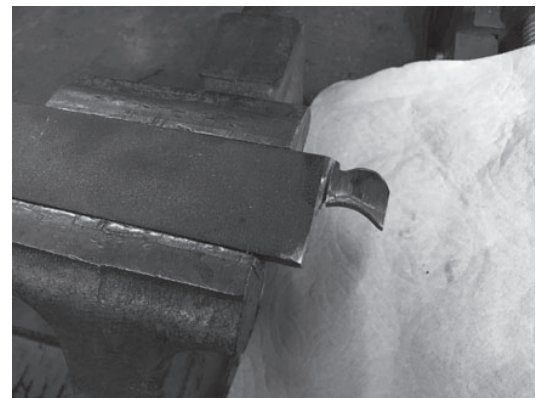
See third picture on the left.



Finally, we could move on to the job of reassembly. Using the photos we had taken at the beginning, we began to put the saw back together. This task provided some new challenges. There was a custom wing nut that held a weight in place that slid on a rod to increase or decrease the pressure on the saw blade as it cut through its material. This was not a part that could be sourced at a hardware store, and so it was decided to repair it as well as possible.

Making this repair required sourcing a piece of steel that was machined to the same thickness as the other wing, then shaping it by hand with a file to the same profile, and finally welding it in place before painting. This small but visible detail was necessary for a proper restoration.

See picture on the right.



See Restoring The Past on the next page

Restoring The Past, continued from the previous page



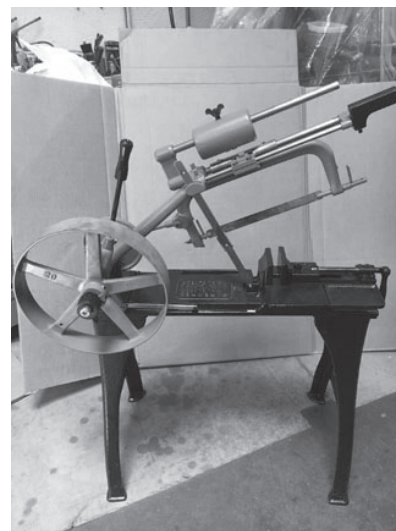
Remember those connecting rods? Well, one of them held the weight that held the wing nut we just repaired. The other two were used as guides for the arm of the hacksaw blade to run on and thus allow it to be slid back-and-forth as it cut the material. These rods had been put in the de-rusting tank earlier but were so badly pitted from being out in the weather for so many years that they could not be used. So, we had to purchase replacement steel rods of the proper diameters and cut and drill them to accept the steel pins that held them in place.

See picture on the left.

reassembled in MOAH's San Carlos restoration shop. The process took about nine weeks, but it was worth it to achieve the final result.

See picture on the right.

We won't be using our saw for any real work, as it has some fragile parts that could break again, but it was on display at our recent members' Warehouse Open House; perhaps you saw it in its finished form. Or, you may see it in our Palo Alto museum as part of a future exhibit on old mechanical tools. Either way, it is now a restored part of our collection and it should be available for you to see at some future date.



MOAH Welcomes Its New, Returning And Upgrading Members!

New Members

Individual

Justin Cassidy
Jane Huang
Yuri Liberzon
Tom McPharlin
Morgan Myers
Phyllis Wedvick

Family

Dr. John Adam
Tom & Donna Baker
Julia Baskett
Linda Craig & Evan Hughes
Rita French & Family
Rich Green
Lynne & Stephen Kinsey
Maloney Family

New Members, cont'd.

Family, cont'd.

Margaret McKinnon
Eduardo Pelegri-Llopart
& Vicki O'Day
Charles Kruger & James
Lorenzato
Beth Lyon
Nancy Revering

Supporting

John & Marlene Arnold

Sustaining

John Lyndon
Kirsten & Oliver
Gildersleeve Jr.

Returning Members

Individual

Mary Connors
Judy Nusbaum
Robert & Donna
Taggart

Family

Ruth & Ben
Hammett
Harriet & David
Schnur
Peter Stangl

Sustaining

Meg Smith
Mrs. Anne Wilbur,
Wilbur Properties

Upgrading Members

Family

Char Bucholtz
Mark Stevenson

Sustaining

Judy & Paul Caletti
Sarah & Tom Clark
Mike Forster
Marc Iglar
Barbara & Jim Newton
Christoffer Hansen

Supporting

Daniel Lazare
Preeva Tramiel
Curt Weil

Sponsoring

Marlys & Leo Keoshian
Nancy Mathews

MOAH thanks ...

the following for their contributions over the past six months (as of October 9, 2018):

Amazon Smile * Atherton Garden Guild * Wes Anderson * Bay Area Typographical Retiree's Club * Benevity * IBM Matching Gifts Program * Moore Family Foundation * Philanthropic Ventures Foundation * Bill Reller

the following for their contributions to MOAH's exhibit *Vintage Toys: It's Child's Play!*:

Leena Ambady * Art Adams * Dick Clark * Charlie Gillis * The Cody Family * Mike Forster * Hassett Hardware * Trevor Heathorn * Bob Katzive * Veronica Kim * Nick Kiya * Ken Kormanak * Logan Patterson * Jim & Eileen Wall * Allison Wong * The MOAH Collection

the Garden Club of Palo Alto and our MOAH garden volunteers who take wonderful care of MOAH's grounds and gardens:

Robin Allen * Laurie Baldwin * Connie Cavanaugh * Elaine El-Bizri * Betsy Fryberger * Kirsten Gildersleeve * Sarah Hurlbut * Indraneel Gireendra Kasmalkar * Qing Keller * Mary Jo Levy * Nan Knoblauch * Sue Krumbein * Delia Laitin * Kathy Luchini * Carol Malcolm * Edith Miller * Herb Perry * Kevin Quinn * Winnie Siegel * Indy Ting * Cathy Wachtel

the remarkably talented and gracious musical artists who participated in our 2018 concert series:

The Peralta Consort * Left Bank Trio / Rive Gauche * Yuri Liberzon

MOAH Sponsors

The Moore Family Foundation * Hassett Hardware * Frank Livermore Trust

The MOAH Legacy Society

John Davis * Trevor & Lori Heathorn * Jim & Bev Nelson * George Patterson *

Jim & Eileen Wall

From Our President, continued from Page 2.

I hope you are all thinking that this is a great idea and wondering how you can help. We are looking for those of you who have direct contacts into local companies that would be candidates for this program. Having a direct contact into a company will always result in a higher probability of success than if we send a generic request letter to a company's Public Relations or Corporate Giving department. If you have any ideas, please contact me or Allison Wong at mail@moah.org.

In Memoriam

Jack Parkhouse

1942 - 2018

Born and raised in Los Angeles County, Jack Parkhouse received a degree in engineering from Cal State Long Beach and worked in southern California for several years. He then moved to the Bay Area, where he pursued a deep interest in the history of both San Mateo and Santa Clara counties. An active volunteer with the historical associations of both Menlo Park and Palo Alto, Jack was also a longtime MOAH member and volunteer.

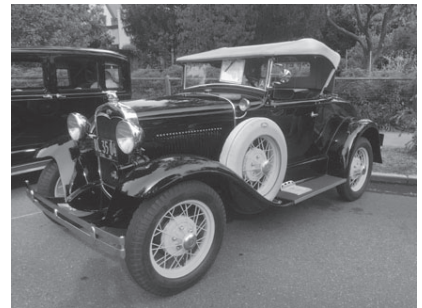
Jack contributed to MOAH's public relations efforts by dropping by the museum via bike on Fridays, picking up rack cards and museum brochures and distributing them via bike throughout the community.

Jack passed away at his home in April 2018, and is survived by his sister, Janet Carr of Mission Viejo.

VVFF 2018



On May 5, 2018, the 14th annual Vintage Vehicles & Family Festival was held along Homer Avenue. In collaboration with the City of Palo Alto's 95th May Fete Parade and Fair, the MOAH grounds and garden were buzzing with activity! Over 30 beautiful vintage cars lined Homer Avenue. The museum was open and showcased its *In the Groove: A History of Record Players* exhibition. Many



took a ride on one of Tom Kabat's handmade bikes, and hands-on science demonstrations were held in the Frank Livermore Learning Center.



How to Join and Get MOAH for your Money!

Museum members receive this newsletter; attend lectures free of charge; receive a discount on workshops and special events; and are invited to special members-only receptions for each exhibit.

- Livermore Collector \$ 2,500
- Patron \$ 1,000
- Sponsoring \$ 500
- Supporting \$ 250
- Sustaining \$ 100
- Family \$ 50
- Individual Adult \$ 35

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Remit to: **Museum of American Heritage, P. O. Box 1731, Palo Alto, CA 94302-1731**



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Located at 351 Homer Avenue, Palo Alto,
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Admission: Free
Donations welcomed
Group tours available by appointment

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MOAH EXHIBITS, EVENTS, CLASSES

Exhibits: Friday - Sunday, 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM (Group tours available at minimal fee)

Vintage Toys: It's Child's Play!

In the Main Gallery, now through February 17, 2019

Annual BayLUG Holiday Show Featuring LEGO®

In the Livermore Learning Center, now through January 13, 2019

A Century of Mechanical Toys

In the Ehrlich Gallery

Quack Medicine

In Dr. Williams' Medical Lab and Surgery Room

Permanent Exhibits: Kitchen; General Store; Dr. Williams' Office; Gardens; Print Shop;
Marshall Mathews Garage; Ely Family Children's Room

Events:

Repair Café

Sunday, January 27, 2019, 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM
MOAH Grounds

2019 Vintage Vehicles & Family Festival (VFFF)

Saturday, May 4, 2019, 10:00 AM
MOAH Grounds and Homer Avenue

For additional events and our latest class schedule, please go to www.moah.org/calendar.