



SUTRO HEIGHTS AND ITS SOURCES, 1881-1886

Phoebe Cutler

In the late 19th-century Adolph Sutro owned approximately 1/12th of the land mass of San Francisco. None of his property, however, occupied more of his time and considerable energy than the 21-plus acres he had acquired at and around Sutro Heights. In the end Sutro Heights represented a masterly mix of European design and native fashion, circumscribed by local contingencies. To achieve this melange, Sutro, to a degree not fully appreciated, traveled, gathered references, and sought outside planning expertise. Such was his success that by 1886 he had achieved what was undoubtedly the most sophisticated pleasure ground on the Pacific Slope.

The attraction of Sutro Heights was its extraordinary vista. Immediately to the west stood Seal Rocks, the favored ground of "thousands of sea lions howling and tumbling in their sport." To the south stretched the long sandy plain of Ocean Beach, to the west the powerful surf of the Pacific. In the distance loomed the Farallones, Point Reyes, the Point Bonita Lighthouse, the Army's Flagstaff Telegraph Station and Bolinas Point.

Moreover, the area was already an established tourist attraction. Just below, in the first of three incarnations, the Cliff House (built by C. C. Butler as an added incentive for tourists to use his Point Lobos Toll Road) had been drawing a steady clientele to its bar and restaurant since 1863. Holiday-makers could drive out on their own or come by stagecoach, the road extending from the Western Addition roughly along the route now occupied by Geary Boulevard.

When Adolph Sutro first laid his plans for the new property, he was 51, estranged from his wife, and newly returned to San Francisco after reaping the profits

from a 16-year campaign waged to finance and build a 4-mile-long ventilation and drainage tunnel under the Comstock Lode. He was one of eleven children of a prosperous Jewish textile family from Aachen in Prussia. The family emigrated from there when Adolph was 21.

In California, Sutro owned a chain of tobacco shops before becoming a mining specialist. His zest for challenging construction problems and his experience in laying out his own small mining town in Nevada were portents that, when he returned to San Francisco, the Prussian-born immigrant would throw himself into real estate. His actions in Nevada did not presage the civic nature of his involvement in San Francisco. Nonetheless, Sutro, as a well-traveled European, could recognize the paucity of free recreational opportunities in the young port city. Golden Gate Park was only partially developed. Prohibitive private water costs, and strained civic finances were delaying the greening of the few public

open spaces. With both philanthropic and entrepreneurial motives, (Golden Gate's new east-west Main Drive had just opened up and a parallel steam railroad was in the works), Sutro proceeded to transform what was formerly known as "Chambers' Potato Patch" into a home for himself and a park of the first rank for the citizenry. In the '90s Sutro's attention would switch to the great pub-

lic baths he built above the Cliff House, but in the decade of the '80s, this tenacious real estate magnate threw himself into the transformation of the bluff-top at Point Lobos.

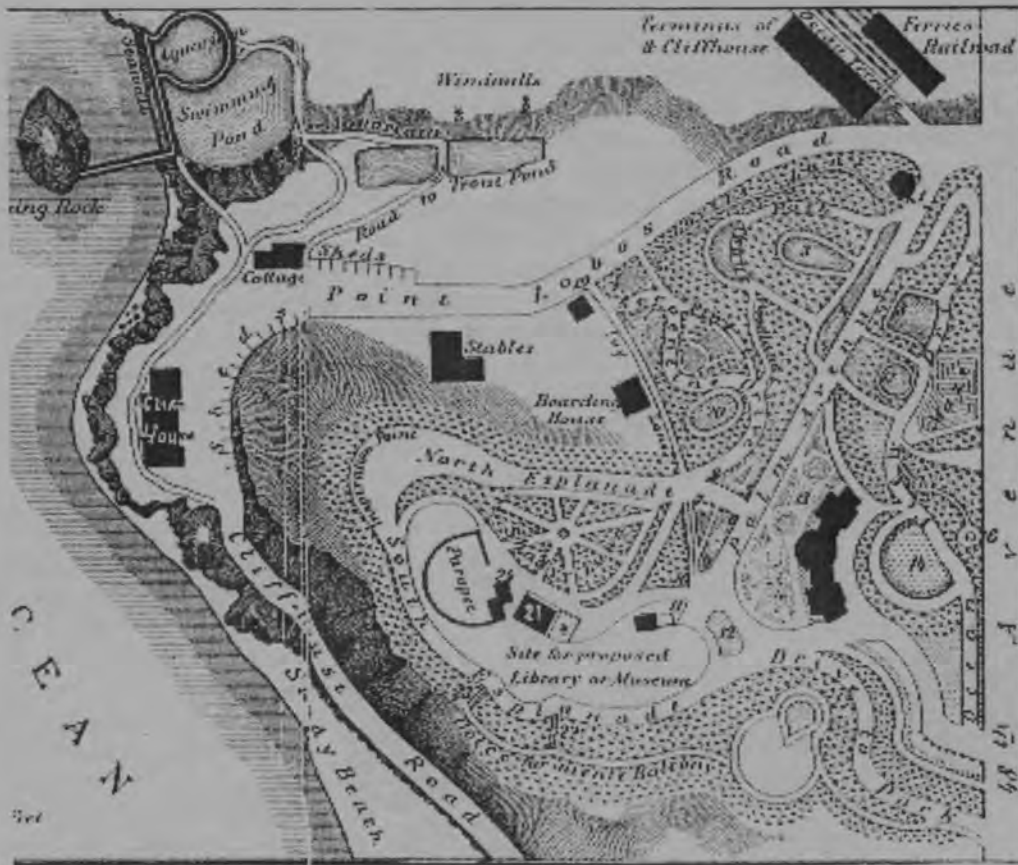
Today Point Lobos still draws a huge crowd. Tourists from around the world spill out from cars and buses, and swarm into and about the Cliff House. Relatively few, however, venture up the road to the drive or footpaths that lead to Sutro Heights, now a peaceful, neighborhood park. Only the anomalous presence of a large statue of Diana the Huntress, another sculpture of a



1 Heining's *Historical Souvenir*, 1889 from R. S. Delehanty, "San Francisco Parks and Playgrounds, 1839-1990: The History of a Public Good in One North American City" (Harvard University, PhD dissertation, 1992) 188.

reclining deer, a Victorian vase, and a scattering of instructional signs suggest that this park has had an unusual history. For the most part, the park has existed for sixty years as a quiet backwater where people from the neighborhood walk their dogs and romance their sweethearts.

Occasionally the site has provoked outside interest. In the late '30s, several years after the city took full control, work relief crews from the WPA tore down the last vestiges of the house, conservatory, entrance gate, "Dolce far niente Balcony," [Italian: (it is) sweet doing nothing] and other outbuildings Sutro erected or remodeled for his purposes. When, in 1976, ownership passed from the city to the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, attention again was focused on the park. A number of studies were done in preparation for landmarking and master planning.²



These studies, accepting the contention of Sutro's biographers that, "He refused to call in any experts to tell him how to landscape the place," express surprise at the self-taught Sutro's apparent ability in managing this large landscape project.³

² James Delgado, *Historic Structure Report*, Historic Data Section, Sutro Heights Park. GGNRA, So. District, S. F., CA (NPS: S. F., Division of Resources Management and Planning, 1983); *Sutro Heights Park: Cultural Landscape Analysis and Management Recommendations* (Golden Gate National Recreation Area: National Park Service, April 1992).

³ R. E. Jr. & M. F. Stewart, *Adolph Sutro, A Biography* (Berkeley: Howell-North, 1962) 180.

Specific library acquisitions coinciding with this period can be seen as aids in Sutro's effort to educate himself for the task. These consisted of back sets of several British horticultural journals, including 32 volumes, starting with #1, of William Robinson's *The Garden* (1840-1872), Thompson's *The Gardener* (from 1868 to, tellingly, 1882), 25 volumes of *The Cottage Gardener* (1848-1861) and 37 volumes of *The Florist and pomologist, and suburban gardener* (1846-1884). For American advice Sutro turned, for one, to Andrew Jackson Downing, although only, it would seem, for help with fruit trees. His library contains the 1870 revised edition ("with notes on California fruits") of Downing's *The fruits and fruit-trees of North America* and a compilation called *Selected fruits from Downing's fruits and fruit-trees* (1871). Other guides remain to be discovered from his vast collection, at one time comprising some 125,000 volumes.⁴

Books aside, the single most important decision Sutro made in his campaign to beautify Chambers' Potato Patch was the hiring of the civil engineer, Colonel Charles S. Bulkley, to devise a water system and to draw up a plan.⁵ Previous to this writing Bulkley's identity and role were unknown, although his accomplishments exceed even those of Sutro's. A military engineer, he was a pioneer in the field of telegraphy who came to California in 1864 to organize and lead the expedition to connect the U. S. with Europe via Canada, Alaska, and Russia. (A valley in British Columbia still bears his name in honor of the work he did there on this project.) When the assignment ended prematurely, superseded by the completion of the Atlantic cable connection, Bulkley switched his attention to laying out Sausalito.⁶

The "CB" who initialed the 1882 master plan can only be Colonel Bulkley, who at the end of July had not finished the meticulous master plan because he was "busy with the pipe line and sinking of the shaft," but, who then, in early August, rolled up the approximately 3' x 5 1/2' plan and sent it, via Wells

⁴ The Sutro Library is owned by the California State Library and housed by San Francisco State University at 480 Winston Street in San Francisco.

⁵ The water system involved building a tunnel and shaft, two large reservoir tanks off-site, two small ones on site, and two windmills.

⁶ Bulkley invented the button repeater in 1847 in Columbus, Georgia. Without this device the telegraph would not have worked over long distances. (Charles S. Bulkley Reports and Letters, Bancroft Library found @ asimov.lib.uaa.alaska.edu)

Fargo Bank, to his employer in Paris.⁷ Nor did any researcher, sensitive to Sutro's indomitable will and neglectful of his agent Adamson's reports, realize that at that date, although Sutro had already been abroad for over a year, he would remain absent for yet another year. Given Bulkley's talent and background, and factoring in Sutro's absence, the civil engineer's contribution was critical, although, admittedly Sutro would have had a decisive in-put.

First of all, the '82 plan remained the principal guide for development. It was the master for the engraved plan, overlaid with reference numbers for an accompanying key, that was printed in Leipzig in 1890 and used in souvenir albums celebrating Sutro Heights. A copy of it was the base map for the plotting of the irrigation system. When the cliffside fortress scheme was boiled down to a castle-like parapet, the terrace's semi-circle was sketched onto the massive proposed structure's footprint. Bulkley's master remained the chief record, even if, in common with the best made plans, many of its ideas were ignored or altered.



The plan divides into three principal parts. The main entrance area is a tapestry of winding paths and small loops that bound around on both sides of the long, straight Palm Avenue. The solid black form near #13 represents the Conservatory, a later addition that overlooks a bank faced with the cut-out forms of the parterre. On the eastern edge, a geometric maze diverges from the winding and looping pattern. The numbers 4-18, which signify strategically-placed statues, would suggest that most of these path configurations, along with the main avenue and the maze, were adopted. The middle area of the document flows towards Sutro's house (#21) and out to the view. The circle with radial paths, which appears

7 W. H. R. Adamson to Adolph Sutro, 22 July 1882, Adolph H. S. Sutro Papers. Bancroft Library; Idem., 10 August 1882.



to have been built as shown, formed the backdoor view. Laid out according to plan, it would have extended 480 feet at its widest point, or more than 1 1/2 times the length of a soccer field. Labeled the "Shady Lawn," it later acquired the name "Old Grove," both titles reflecting its composition of turf set with trees trimmed high and on 10-to-15-foot centers. The large kidney-shaped clearing

that embraces the house and the parapet evolved accidentally from the fortress-like building that was not adopted. The North and South Esplanades enfold both the clearing and grove. Both the northern road and the Serpentine Drive it runs into were under construction before Sutro left.⁸

The third area is a forested embankment with an inlet that drops to a level area where Bulkley poised a large planting bed of one smaller circle set in a larger one. In the 1890 print the lower circle is blank, probably because the maze that was depicted on the original drawing was never installed. From the rotund bed extended the "Dolce far niente Balcony," a plank-covered platform cantilevered out over the lower cliff and extended upward, on one side, in the form of a series of shallow arches. It was built between 1884 and '85, according to the National Park studies. Visitors could sit here and enjoy the view down to the beach and Golden Gate Park.

Bulkley's plan for Sutro Heights largely conformed with the dominant 19th-century landscape style, essentially formal flower bedding overlaid on the 18th-century English landscape park. For sinuous paths and elaborate floral planting, Bulkley and Sutro would have needed to look no further than the Conservatory Valley in Golden Gate Park, but examples abounded from St. Louis to Paris and beyond. The local interpretation of this style was represented by the palm-lined (in this case *Dracaena draco*) entry, and the two mazes, of which only one was built. Both Sutroesque and San Franciscan were the 20,000 trees, mostly pines, that crowded the slopes and spread out between the paths, although not quite as

8 Ibid., 20 July 1882; Delgado, "Structure Report," 27.



extensively as shown on the original plan.⁹ The forest cover arose from Sutro's passion for trees, but also from a provision of the state tax code which rescinded property taxes on land that was forested.¹⁰

Maria Gate, Sutter Heights, San Francisco, Cal.



The numerous refinements and changes that occurred between 1882 and 1890, as shown on the many extant photos and on the two plans, reflect, in large part, the influence of Sutro's trips abroad. The San Franciscan's leisurely mornings at the Luxembourg Gardens or the Tuilleries "with its great orange trees in tubs and its vast population of statues" were behind the arrival of Homer, Hebe, Adonis, a Venus by Canova, and more than one hundred other pieces of cast-concrete, reproduction statues.¹¹ Set in the circles, along the roads, at the edge of the Old Grove, and on top of the crenellated wall of the parapet, the sculpture added Old World ambiance to the Pacific Ocean setting. In order that the populace might reflect on these works of art, Sutro also borrowed from Paris the idea of hundreds of simple slat chairs dotted everywhere.

With the 1883 (according to Delehanty) addition of the Conservatory, Sutro was introducing something that was everywhere: Paris and London, and even San Francisco. Indeed, a hothouse was key to the successful prac-

⁹ Stanford's Palm Drive was planned in 1887. In her talk on Rudolph Ulrich, given at the Annual CGLHS Conference at Monterey Oct. 6, 2000, Julie Cain dated the maze at the Del Monte Hotel to 1885 or before. Adamson, 7 August, 1884.

¹⁰ Delehanty, "San Francisco Parks and Playgrounds," 188.

¹¹ Hare, Augustus, J. C., *Walks in Paris* (London: G. Allen, 1888).



tise of carpet-bedding which Bulkley anticipated with his multiple leaf-shapes and ovals. Along with mythological and heroic sculpture, French landscapes gloried in the display of low, colorful ornamental plants in artful patterns.¹²

As evidenced by the content of his library and the numbers of his trips, Sutro knew and admired Britain even above France.¹³ He was in London five known times; and would surely not have missed a sixth time, while he was still in Paris, when his favorite daughter married there. Bulkley may have been playing to this partiality when he designed the *Dolce far niente* platform on the south side. Its tall, shallow arches resemble those along the east side of the court of one of the great pilgrimage sites of the 19th-century—Abbotsford, the Scottish castle where Sir Walter Scott lived and worked.¹⁴

Abbotsford House, South Front.



In 1885, with admonitory signs at the entrance—"Lunches and Packages not allowed; Walk your horses; Keep to the right"—Sutro welcomed the world into what must have seemed a paradise to both the lowly and mighty of San Francisco. Certainly it was celebrated enough in local song and verse. A still-anonymous head gardener kept the *Eucalyptus* trimmed high and the *Salvia* and *Echeveria* in the carpet beds in perfect alignment.

Later, Sutro was to attempt an even more grandiose feat of building when, in 1890, he launched the gargantuan Sutro Baths across the road from the Heights. With that final project he was fulfilling, in a different form and location, but on a like scale, the 80' x 600' castle that Bulkley originally planned for the edge of the bluff. Himself an emigrant from the city that had been Charlemagne's capital, Sutro imported, with his garden, his library, and his baths, Old World culture to the New World. He could only have been grateful that it had allowed him to become one of the emperors of San Francisco.

¹² Marie Luise Gothein, *A History of Garden Art 2* (London: J. M. Dent, 1928) 335.

¹³ The Sutro Library, willed to the city of San Francisco, includes the papers of Sir Joseph Banks, holdings in British literature, science, and engineering, and the letters of Darwin, Faraday, Gladstone, and others.

¹⁴ Sutro's library contained at least a dozen works by or about Scott, including five different editions of his collected poetry.



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2. Col. Charles S. Bulkley's plan of Sutro Heights, 1882, with additions. Artist, Carl Garte. Printed in Leipzig, Germany, 1890 (California State Library).
3. "Beach From Sutro Heights, San Francisco," #42, *A Souvenir of Los Angeles, California and Vicinity*, C. P. Heining, 1890 (M. Graham).
4. Carpet-bedding in front of the Conservatory at Sutro Heights (Blaisdell Collection).
5. "Laying the Pacific Cable near the Cliff House, December 13, 1902. San Francisco, Cal." No. V. 101. (Los Angeles/Germany: Newman Post Card Co., 1909) (M. Graham).
6. "Main Gate, Sutro Heights, San Francisco, Cal.," (San Francisco: Souvenir Publishing Co., 1913) (M. Graham).
7. #70 Sutro Heights, San Francisco, California, 1886, Conservatory, Taber Photo, San Francisco. (Bancroft Library, Taber Collection, Bancroft Library, UC Berkeley).
8. "Abbotsford House, South Front," No. 106 (Galashiels: J. Clapperton). (P. Cutler).
9. #240 "Parapet at Sutro Heights, San Francisco, California," (San Francisco: Edward H. Mitchell) (M. Graham).

SUSTAINING MEMBERS

Our heartfelt thanks to those members who have helped to put us on solid financial ground by changing to Sustaining Members. We wish to take this opportunity to again ask this quarter's renewing members to consider becoming Sustaining Members by paying \$50 or more when you send in your dues.

John Blocker & Thea Gurns
Susan Chamberlin
Carol Coate
Kathleen Craig
Besty G. Fryberger
Virginia Gardner
Marlea Graham
Bill Grant
Laurie Hannah
Judy Horton
Gail Jansen

Glenda Jones
Marge Howard-Jones
Annie White Jones
Carol McElwee
Margaret Mori
Michael Rendeau
Roy & Janet Taylor
Lucy Tolmach
Noel Vernon
Jacquoline Williams

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members:

Board members are hard at work for you and our organization. They have just finished their spring board meeting, a 2-day event held at my house in Santa Barbara. Vice President Bill Grant is working with members in Sonoma County to create a local arrangements committee, chaired by Jenny Randall (Jack London Cottage), to plan this year's Annual Meeting and Conference. [See Coming Events for the exact date and details.] Treasurer Kathleen Craig and Finance Committee Chair Lucy Warren created a draft budget for 2001 which the board approved. Membership Secretary Glenda Jones is working hard to produce a new directory to appear in April. Publicity Chair Susan Chamberlin will soon begin the barrage of press releases about our annual conference. She would very much appreciate some help with this job, so please contact her if you are interested. Susan is also spearheading the logo design committee and will continue to work with that group to finalize a design we can use for all advertisements, brochures, stationary, and other printed and online items. Newsletter Editor Marlea Graham continues her sleuthing on Rudolph Ulrich and the collating of numerous, fascinating articles for *Eden*. Web-site Committee Chair Roberta Burke has done extensive research on the details of putting together a site and will be working with Bill Grant, who has generously offered his own site for the creation of a more elaborate trial version of a CGLHS web-site. It is expected we will have something beyond the current format by this summer. Last, but not least, Corresponding Secretary Thea Gurns continues to record our meetings in great detail and with infinite patience as we learn to navigate meeting etiquette, and John Blocker keeps us all on an even keel.

We have come a long way in six years and this is largely due to the hard work of a small group of people. Next time you talk to our board members, please tell them what a good job they are doing. They are all volunteers and do it as a labor of love.

—Laurie Hannah, President

GARDEN RESTORATION PROJECTS – WHAT NEEDS SAVING NOW?

Santa Barbara: Val Verde

The dream to convert the Val Verde estate in Montecito into a limited-access public garden is still alive. On January 19, Santa Barbara Superior Court judge J. William McLafferty ruled that the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors majority acted unfairly when they denied a conditional use permit (CUP) to Dr. Warren Austin's Val Verde Foundation because they used their own personal beliefs for their decision instead of using the facts presented by experts in numerous hearings and in the Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

In his 17-page decision, Judge McLafferty also noted that Dr. Austin did not receive a chance to respond to the Supervisors' objections. The Board of Supervisors must now decide whether they will appeal the decision or hold another hearing on the Val Verde proposal.

Val Verde (a 17.4-acre Montecito estate listed on the National Register of Historic Places) is considered by many to be landscape architect Lockwood de Forest's masterpiece. He worked on it from ca. 1926 to 1949. The house is as famous as the garden (a landmark in regionally-appropriate architecture designed by Bertram G. Goodhue in 1915) and the interior decor is equally historic—including rooms by opera set designers Oliver Messel and Eugene Berman. Florence ("Bunny") Heath Horton acquired Val Verde in 1955 just before her marriage to Dr. Warren Austin, Montecito's first resident doctor. The Austins continued the tradition—established by its previous owners, the Ludington family—of making the estate available for charity-fundraisers, students, scholars, and garden-lovers.

After Bunny's death, Dr. Austin began the process of saving Val Verde for the public. Austin died in December 1999 at the age of 89, not long after the Board of Supervisors denied the CUP. The CUP had been approved by the County Planning Commission, but a group of neighbors appealed to the Supervisors, and they overruled the Commission. Austin initiated the lawsuit before his death, and his estate went forward with it. David K. Hughes, the attorney who represented Austin's estate, summarized the Judge's decision in the *Santa Barbara News-Press*: "In this case the court found that the Board of Supervisors' majority ignored the evidence in front of them in order to make a purely personal and political decision."

Members who wish to express their support for the preservation of Val Verde may write to the *News-Press*, Bill Macfadyen, News Editor, P.O. Box 1359, Santa Barbara, CA 93102. Or you may email them at editorial@newspress.com. We will keep you posted on further developments.

—Susan Chamberlin

Stanford University: Arizona Garden

The Arizona Garden was designed for Jane and Leland Stanford by Rudolph Ulrich between 1881 and 1883. The cactus garden was laid out adjacent to the site of the then-proposed new Stanford residence at the Palo Alto Stock Farm. It was part of a much larger garden design that was to have included an artificial lake and a great parkland of trees.

The garden is now being preserved and restored, almost entirely through volunteer effort, with the support of the San Francisco Succulent & Cactus Society. If you are interested in making a tax-deductible donation of funds or plants to this project, or would like to volunteer your labor, contact Christina Smith, Arizona Garden Coordinator. Email: scsearch@sulmail.stanford.edu. Phone: 650.965.3989.

The group is particularly looking for the following plants: *Aloe rubriviolacea*; *A. marlothii*; *A. suprafoliata*; *A. tomentosa*; *A. broomii*; *A. dhuferensis*; *Brachychiton rupestris*; *B. acerifolia*; *Bulbine*; *Euphorbia royleana*; *E. coerulescens*.

In addition, to restore the central bed they need at least 10 *Echinocactus grusonii* (minimum 12" diameter). They are also interested in any succulents native to the Eastern Hemisphere, native California succulents (e.g. *Dudleya*—especially since *Dudleya* was named in honor of a Stanford professor—*Lewisia*, etc.), and ground covers (except *Sedum rubrotinctum*). All plants need to tolerate growing outdoors in Sunset zone 15 with minimal winterization.

Pasadena: Busch Gardens

While visiting in Pasadena this January, Laurie Hannah took a stroll along Arroyo Seco and down into the old Busch Gardens property. There she came upon Ray Dashner, who is spearheading the project to clear debris out of that area and unearth the remnants of the original stonework and paths from the gardens. He has put together a web-site composed of photographs and postcards, showing before and after shots of many remnants that are now incorporated into private gardens lining the area. Take a look at www.home.earthlink.net/~draydar/. And would someone like to write an article for *Eden* on this subject? It was touched on at the Huntington conference several years ago, but we'd like to learn more about it and have been stockpiling lots of good illustrations towards that goal. Now we need a writer with some knowledge (or willing to learn) about the subject.

Palo Alto: Juana Briones' Adobe

Pria Graves brought our attention to this project. The Briones family was influential on both sides of San Francisco Bay, owning property in Contra Costa County and on the Peninsula. The home of Juana Briones in Palo Alto is now suffering from decay and threatened with demolition. The Juana Briones Heritage Foundation has been formed with the goal of acquiring, preserving and restoring this historic adobe structure, and turning it into a living history site for educating the public. The Foundation needs your letters of support, addressed directly to the Palo Alto City Council (care of the City Clerk, 250 Hamilton Avenue, Palo Alto 94301; Email: city_council@city.palo-alto.ca.us) or to the Foundation (1685 Mariposa Avenue, Palo Alto 94306). It also needs financial support in the form of donations for education and pledges of support for purchase of the property. See their web-site for full details: www.brioneshouse.org.

Santa Barbara: Franceschi House

The City Council has given unanimous approval to proceed with the Pearl Chase Society's rehabilitation plan for the Franceschi House. Jeff Cope, of the city Parks &

Recreation Dept. heads the Park Master Plan Advisory Committee. The Fire Dept. and Parks & Recreation Dept. plan a "Clean Up" day to reduce the fire hazard on the heavily planted grounds. PCS would like volunteer participation to help get this project moving, but no date was set at publication and insurance liability may be a problem. Try Barbara Lowenthal for details. Phone: 805.965.1664. Email: barbchlo@earthlink.net.

Costa Mesa: Isamu Noguchi's Landscape Plaza

On March 19, the Costa Mesa City Council considered a proposal that would explicitly grant a commercial developer, Commonwealth Partners LCC, the possibility of altering "California Scenario" after a period of 25 years for purposes such as increasing the profitability of adjacent properties. This 1.6-acre plaza is the most noteworthy work of public sculpture in Orange County. It is one of the finest landscape works realized anywhere by the renowned Japanese American sculptor and designer Isamu Noguchi (1904-1988). On March 19th, the five-member Costa Mesa City Council decided to delay action on this measure to allow time for continued negotiation between city staff and the Commonwealth Partners LCC. It is scheduled for further discussion at the City Council meeting on April 16th. At this critical juncture in negotiations, the City Council must be informed that many individuals are deeply concerned about the fate of "California Scenario."

Please reply to Bert Winther-Tamaki (dewinthe@uci.edu) with your name, title, and institutional affiliation (if applicable) to communicate your agreement with the following statement to the Costa Mesa City Council:

"The City Council of Costa Mesa should reject any plan that leaves "California Scenario" vulnerable to destruction at any time in the future. The City Council should also actively take responsibility to protect and preserve this site in perpetuity."

Costa Mesa City Council members can also be reached directly at CMCouncil@ci.costa-mesa.ca.us.

[This message forwarded to us from Ann Bermingham at UC Santa Barbara.]

BOOKS REVIEWS & NEWS

Pioneers of American Landscape Design. Charles A. Birnbaum, FASLA and Robin Karson, editors (New York: McGraw Hill, 2000), 486 pp., \$59.95.

For historians of the American landscape, *Pioneers of American Landscape Design* is one of the most useful reference volumes to have appeared in many years. It contains 160 biographical essays on a wide range of landscape professionals who have contributed to the designed landscape. Short bibliographies accompany each entry, and an appendix lists up to five landscapes by each designer that remain intact and are open to the public. The only criteria for inclusion were that the individual is dead and influenced the course of American landscape design.

The book was a joint project of the Catalog of Landscape Records in the United States at Wave Hill and the Historic Landscape Initiative of the National Park Service, and follows their two volumes of bibliographies published in 1993 and 1995. The database from which the work was drawn now contains 641 names. The 101 authors of the biographies are all experts on their subjects. Some authors knew them professionally, and many have completed monographs or other studies on the same individuals.

California is well represented, thanks to CGLHS member Carol Greentree and others. Local pioneers include Stephen Child, Thomas Church, James Frederick Dawson, Lockwood de Forest III, Beatrix Jones Farrand, George Hall, Edward Huntsman-Trout, J. B. Jackson, Emerson Knight, Cliff May, Richard Requa, Charles Mulford Robinson, Lester Rowntree, Kate Sessions, Francis Underhill, Thomas Vint, Hazel Wood Waterman, Harriett Barnhart Wimmer, and Florence Yoch and Lucilla Council. The most obvious omissions are park superintendents, such as John McLaren of Golden Gate Park in San Francisco, who designed many private gardens as well; architects, such as Charles Sumner Greene, who designed notable gardens to accompany many of his homes; and painters and horticulturists with only a few landscapes to their credit. Presumably, these lapses are covered in the database, or will be when people get around to submitting the information for inclusion.

Pioneers of American Landscape Design is fascinating to read and is unusually well illustrated with both historical and contemporary photographs and plans. Even the most knowledgeable historians will discover new people and places.

—Margaretta J. Darnall

The Garden Lover's Guide to the West. Kathleen McCormick, (New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 2000), 175 pp., \$21.95.

Though we didn't find any new-to-us gardens in the California section, there are a couple that one doesn't find in most garden guides. How often have you found Green Gulch Gardens of the San Francisco Zen Center listed? The author somewhat misleadingly puts it in Sausalito, (apparently that is their post office) but the directions are precise. The thing that makes this book truly interesting is that, "This guide is written for travelers who wish to visit the most historic and beautiful gardens in the Western United States..." Thus, each garden description contains some of its history. "The farm was founded in 1972 after George Wheelwright sold part of his cattle ranch to the San Francisco Zen Center with the provision that the center always promote sensitive agricultural practices and remain open to the public. The original gardens were started in the early 1970s by Alan Chadwick, the renowned advocate of organic, biointensive farming..."

The photography is very good, and each garden has hours, contact phone numbers and web-sites, and a symbol guide as to what one can expect to find: historic garden, formal garden, landscape garden, borders, re-

freshments (but, surprisingly, none for restroom facilities, nor is wheelchair access indicated). Nearby sights of interest are listed where applicable. "The West" includes: Colorado, Montana, Wyoming, Utah, Idaho, Arizona, New Mexico, California, Nevada, Oregon, Washington, Alaska and Hawaii. There are many other books in this series, covering the rest of the United States and most of the European countries. If they're all as good as this one, we highly recommend them to all garden-lovers who also love to travel.

—Marlea Graham, Editor

From Laurie Hannah, we learned of a project to reissue copies of David F. Myrick's two volumes on *Montecito and Santa Barbara: From Farms to Estates*. Originally published in 1987 by Trans Anglo Books (Glendale), these are said to have some of the best photography of Riviera villas and gardens. At publication, Sullivan Goss had an original copy of Volume I priced at \$400. It isn't yet known exactly when the volumes will be available, nor if they'll be offered individually or as a set, but the price is expected to be in the \$70-a-piece range. If you want to reserve in advance, contact Tecolote Bookstore, 1470 E. Valley Road, Santa Barbara 93108. Phone: 805.969.4977. They will definitely be stocking it.

Available now, the *Garden Conservancy's Open Days Directory for 2001* contains some new listings for California. We learned about two (semi-)public gardens we'd not known of before.

The Ronnie Allumbaugh Gardens at Getty House, the Official Residence of the Mayor of Los Angeles, 605 South Irving Blvd. This was originally designed by A. E. Hanson in the Tudor Revival style in 1928. In 1995 it was "sensitively restored" and "interpreted creatively." Hmm. Can any SoCal member write something more about this garden for *Eden*? Is there anything left worth mentioning after having been "adapted" to provide an entertainment area for the mayor? Open Day is May 5 from 10 AM to 4 PM, plus four house tours at fixed hours for limited numbers, first come first served, additional fee charged (no coupons). Otherwise open by appointment only. Phone: 323.930.6430.

The Marin-Bolinas Botanical Garden, 250 Mesa Drive, Bolinas. Not historical, but there's a 12-acre pond, and a meadow of "plants impossible to kill," needing water only supplied by winter rains. Just what the doctor ordered. Open year round, weekends, 10 AM to 3 PM.

To order your copy of the *Directory*, send a check for \$15.95 to The Garden Conservancy's Open Days Program, Box 219, Cold Spring, NY 10516. Or call toll-free: 1.888.842.2442, VISA/MC accepted. You can order admission tickets too (\$25 for 6) or pay at the door (\$5 per person per garden). Join the Conservancy (\$35 for individuals) and you pay less for the book and coupons. And don't forget to check out the web-site, now up and running (the illustrations are a little fuzzy): www.gardenconservancy.org.

Bill Grant found a wonderful tour book at the Norton Simon Museum in Pasadena. It is *Parks and Gardens of the Greater Los Angeles Region* by Achva Benzinberg Stein, ASLA (\$9.95). Though not complete, it provides a guideline for our Historical Garden Survey project. To order, call 626.449.6840 x221 or x236, 12pm to 5:45 pm, except Tuesdays. Also at Gamble House, 449.4178.

Barbara Barton is once again revising her invaluable aid to gardeners: *Gardening By Mail: A Source Book*. We believe this will be the sixth edition. Those with internet access may visit her web-site at www.virtualgarden.com. Tusker Press, Box 1338, Sebastopol, CA 95473.

For rose specialists, *The Combined Rose List* is a must. The new edition arrives in March each year, listing all roses available in commerce in alphabetical order, followed by mail order sources for each, U. S. and Canadian sources first, then all foreign sources. The book is always slightly out of date, due to the fact this information is gleaned from last year's catalogs, but it gives you a good idea where to start looking. To purchase a copy, send a check or money order for \$20 to Peter Schneider, Box 677, Mantua OH 44255. If you're not enough of a fanatic to need your own copy, you can contact the Editor for just a few listings: maggie94553@earthlink.net

For those interested in the California bungalow and its gardens, we have two items:

Vintage Bungalow Postcards [21 cards, mostly of California bungalows], a little booklet published by Gibbs-Smith for \$8.95. Bill Grant found these at the Huntington Botanic Garden's bookstore on a recent visit. They can be torn out of the book if you want to use them postally, or you can add them to your garden history library.

The California Bungalow by Robert Winter, forward by David Gebhard. (Santa Monica: Hennessey & Ingalls, 1980.) We were able to acquire a new copy of this paperback book from Fatbrain (www.fatbrain.com) for \$20.80 postpaid. Mr. Winter has assembled a collection of photographs and other information from many contemporary sources, such as Murmann's *California Gardens* (1914), Clyde J. Cheney's *Artistic Bungalows* (1912), Alfred E. Gwynn's *A Book of California Bungalows* (1912), and many more.

Some other gems you might find of interest:

Gabriel Moulin's San Francisco Peninsula: Town & Country Homes 1910-1930, is a book of estate photographs taken from the archives of Gabriel Moulin (1872-1945), compiled by Donald DeNevi and Thomas Moulin (Sausalito: Windgate Press, 1985, 1990). We came across this book at the library and a quick search on the web revealed it was still available (in hardcover) from Barnes & Noble at \$50, but Powell's Books in Portland had it for \$28.45 postpaid, sold as a used book, but pristine except for a slight creasing of the dustjacket, perhaps a remaindered copy?

Once Upon A Windowsill: A History of Indoor Plants by Tovah Martin, (Portland: Timber Press, 1988) 303 pages, hardcover, ISBN 0-88192-120-3. If you've wanted to learn more about the art of growing plants in the Victorian parlor, this is the book for you. Illustrated with contemporary engravings. Now out of print, but we obtained a used copy in good condition for \$9 plus shipping.

Garden Mania: The Ardent Gardener's Compendium of Design and Decoration by Phillip de Bay & James Bolton, (New York: Clarkson Potter, 2000) \$35.00. We mentioned this in passing in our last issue. It has since arrived and we can now confirm it is a simply splendid collection of old (mostly European) engravings of gardens and garden furniture, many in color, and mostly ones we've not seen elsewhere. The only snag is the fact the book is 400 pages (1 1/2" thick) bound in paperback form, that is, the pages are glued to the spine. You can't get a decent look at the pictures without cracking the spine, and if used frequently, it won't hold together very long. We'd rather have paid a little more for a book with greater longevity.

Santa Barbara: American Riviera by Marlin L. Heckman, (Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2000), softcover, 128 pages, \$18.99 at Borders in Santa Barbara. This is a collection of historic Santa Barbara photographs and illustrations used on postcards, all from the author's private collection. It is pre-titled "The Postcard History Series," but we found no listing of any other book in the series, so perhaps this is the first to come out. There is very little text, but each postcard has a caption that sometimes reveals a bit more about the picture than you can glean from the front of the card alone. The illustrations are grouped into seven chapters, including: The Mission; Resorts and Hotels; Earthquake; Public Buildings & Spaces; Residences (including some in Montecito); Beaches; County Places.

Used Bookstore Finds

The Editor and her significant other drove down to Santa Barbara with the intention of sampling the used bookstores there and all along the route home. There are no major collections of garden books outside of Virginia Gardner's, but we did come across some definite finds. We succumbed to some and passed up others:

The Book Den, 11 East Anapamu Street, Santa Barbara, had the three-volume set of books on the historic Huntington Camellia Collection by Hertrich for \$100. They

also have many copies of *Lotusland: A Photographic Odyssey* by Theodore R. Gardner. We finally broke down and bought one at the "new" price of \$65.00.

Sullivan Goss, right next door at 7 East Anapamu, carries mainly art books, but has a small but decent section on landscape gardening, and another on architecture. There we saw copies of *Landscaping the American Dream*, by James Yoch, and the paperback edition of Griswold & Weller's *The Golden Age of American Gardens*. According to the directory listing, Sullivan Goss also has a branch in Monterey.

Ted's Used Books & Collectibles, 2008 De la Vina Street, Santa Barbara, is the kind of bookstore that will require you wash your hands immediately on leaving, but just because the owner is somewhat lax about dusting doesn't mean there aren't good things to be found here: *The Golden Days of San Simeon* by Ken Murray for \$10, *Manzanar* by John Armor and Peter Wright, with commentary by John Hersey and photographs by Ansel Adams. Yes, they had pleasure gardens there—we first heard about them at the Los Alamitos conference, and have been wanting to learn more ever since. Best of all are the little booklets: the *Neighborhood Series*, presented by the Santa Barbara Board of Realtors (we picked up #6 on Montecito); and the *Noticias*, the quarterly magazine of the Santa Barbara Historical Society, (one on "Casa del Herrero," another with an article on the "Private Outdoor Theatres In Montecito," and a third on "Development of the Riviera," quite a decent haul and well worth the dirty hands. It would be A GOOD THING if somebody gleaned all the garden history-related items out of these. Is there an index?



Sutro's Unknown Head Gardener? [Taber]

The Book Loft, 1680 Mission Street, in Solvang, had *The Architecture & Landscape Gardening of the Exposition* (San Francisco, 1915) by Mullgardt, and Winifred Dobyns' *California Gardens*. We were pleased to pick up a copy of *Color For The Landscape: Flowering Plants for Subtropical Climates* written by Mildred E. Mathias, with photographs by Ralph D. Cornell, FASLA (Arcadia, CA: Brooke House Publishers, Inc., 1976-2nd printing) for \$20.

COMING EVENTS

Now thru June 8: If you're visiting the East Coast, go see the "Art of Botanical Illustration" exhibit at the University of Delaware in Newark. They have the Van Ravenswaay collection (Charles Van Ravenswaay wrote *A 19th-century Garden*, 1977) and many old nursery cata-

logs. The Claude E. Phillips Herbarium has both botanical and horticultural books and journals dating back to 1780. Or see the exhibit on the web-site: www.lib.udel.edu/ud/spec. To access the collection catalog, try www.lib.udel.edu/databases/delcat.html.

April 25: Historic Hudson Valley lecture: "Great Garden Visions—The Making of America's Historic & Legendary Estates," at Kykuit, the Rockefeller Estate, Tarrytown, NY. Speakers include Valencia Libby, Joanna Lombard, Eleanor McPeck, and James Yoch. For ticket information, call 914.631.8200 x618.

April 25-29: The 23rd Annual Meeting of The Alliance for Historic Landscape Preservation, "Connecting People To Place," will be held at The Clearing (the school created by Jens Jensen for the study of landscape architecture) on the Door Peninsula of northeastern Wisconsin. Topics will cover "Landscapes As Cultural Expressions," "Agricultural and Industrial Landscapes," "Spiritual and Ethnographic Landscapes," and discussion of the Historic American Landscape Survey (HALS). There will also be small discussion groups for dealing with battlefields and historic cemeteries as landscapes. Fees vary with housing options. Contact The Clearing, Box 65, Ellison Bay, WI 54210. Phone: 877.854.3225.

Garden Conservancy Open Garden Days: **May 5** Los Angeles; **May 12** Marin & San Mateo Counties; **May 19** Marin County; **May 20** Contra Costa/Bayside; **June 2** San Francisco; **June 3** Alameda County. Watch your local paper for specifics or buy a Directory.

May 1: Heather Farms group tour of three beautiful old gardens in Woodside/Atherton. Fee of \$125 includes travel by bus and al fresco luncheon. To register, contact the Gardens at Heather Farms, 1540 Marchbanks Drive, Walnut Creek, CA 94598. Phone: 925.947.1678.

May 4-5: 16th Annual Festival of Flowers Spring Garden Tour, self-guided tours of five private Palo Alto gardens plus a plant sale and other events at Gamble Garden, 1431 Waverley Street, Palo Alto 94301-3840. Phone: 650.329-1356. Web-site: www.gamblegarden.org.

May 10: Garden Lecture Series at Rancho Los Cerritos, Long Beach. Slide lecture, "Asian Influences on CA Gardens," by Bud Sutton. Call 562.570.1755 for details.

May 9-12: "Places of Cultural Memory: African Reflections on the American Landscape," in Atlanta, GA. For details, contact Brian Joyner, NPS, 1849 C Street NW, 350 NC, Washington DC 20240. Phone: 202.343.1000. Email: Brian_Joyner@nps.gov.

May 20: Celebration of Old Roses, El Cerrito Community Center, Moeser @ Ashbury, El Cerrito. Free admission from 11:00 AM to 4:30 PM. Largest cut rose specimen display in the country. Sale of plants and rose-related items. Combine with a visit to the Harland Hand Open Garden, 825 Shevlin Drive, El Cerrito. Not walking distance, (it's a long, steep hill) but only five minutes away from the Center. 10 AM to 4PM.

May 20: Historic Homes tour sponsored by the Pearl Chase Society in Santa Barbara. Includes four private homes and three "Bed & Breakfast" Inns. Quality of gardens unknown. For details contact Sue Adams. Phone: 805.682.4415. Email: footloosesue@aol.com.

June 15-July 2: Garden Tour of Ireland, escorted by Bill Grant. Visit 28 beautiful gardens on the Emerald Isle, including Butterstream, Powerscourt, and Helen Dillon's private garden in Dublin. \$4200 incl. airfare. Contact Port of Travel, 9515 Soquel Dr., Ste 204, Aptos 95003. Phone: 831.688.6004. Fax: 831.688.6094.

September 9-16: Sandra Price, landscape designer, garden consultant and CGLHS member, is also an experienced tour leader to both France and Italy. The most comfortable way to tour: small groups (10 is the maximum); staying in one place with day trips out; free time for exploring on one's own; and the summer crowds will have diminished. The Tuscan Garden Tour includes the option for a three-day extension to Florence. Sandra is developing a restoration plan for the park and gardens of the Castello di Spannocchia, field headquarters of the Etruscan Foundation. The fee is \$2700, excluding airfare. For details, contact Galavant Price, 1275 Hudson Avenue, St. Helena, CA 94574. Phone: 707.963.9504. Email: pricea@interx.net.

September 22-23: Mark these dates on your calendar. **CGLHS Annual Meeting and Conference:** "Garden History of Sonoma County." Jenny Randall heads the conference committee. Karen Adams will give a talk on "Cultural Landscape Preservation Training," particularly useful for the California Historic Garden Registry project. Our Annual Meeting and Conference will be on the 22nd, garden tours on the 23rd. Trinity Episcopal Church, 275 East Spain Street, Sonoma, CA 95476. This site is one block away from Sonoma Plaza, has a room capacity of about 90 people, off-street parking, and an outdoor seating area. Full details in the Summer issue.

September 21: Annual Meeting and Exposition of the ASLA, this year in conjunction with the Canadian SLA, to be held in Montreal. Apologies to our ASLA members who will be unable to attend at Sonoma due to the conflict of dates, but it's inevitable that we'll always clash with some other event.

HOW TO JOIN CGLHS

To become a member of
California Garden & Landscape History
Society,
send a check or money order to the
Membership Secretary, Box 1075, Palo
Alto, CA 94302-1075.

Membership rates:
Individual \$20; Household \$30;
Institution \$40; Sustaining \$50 and up.



October 1-10: Sandra Price's second tour this year is to the Gardens and Galleries of the French Riviera: Antibes, Menton, Monaco, Nice and more. The fee is \$3100, excluding airfare. See September 9-16 for contact information.

October 14-18: 9th International Heritage Rose Conference at Charleston, South Carolina, followed by an optional two days (19th and 20th) of plantation garden tours. Speakers from around the world will focus on the history of the Noisette rose class, originating in Charleston, as well as other roses that thrive in Southern climates. For details, write to Charleston Area Convention & Visitors Bureau, Box 975, Charleston, SC 29402. Phone: 803.853.8000.

October 25-28: The 21st Annual Conference of the California Council for the Promotion of History, "2001: A Historical Odyssey," will be held at Long Beach. For details, contact Ellen Calomiris at Rancho Los Cerritos Historic Site, 4600 Virginia Road, Long Beach 90807. Phone: 562.570.1755. Email: Elcalom@ci.longbeach.ca.us.

October 27-29: The 13th Biennial Conference on Restoring Southern Gardens and Landscapes, held at Old Salem, Winston-Salem, North Carolina. For full details, write to Southern Garden History Society, Old Salem, Inc., Drawer F, Salem Station, Winston-Salem, North Carolina 27108. Phone: 336.721.7328. Web-site: www.southerngardenhistory.org.

October 26-29: The Australian Garden History Society's 2001 conference theme is "A Federation Odyssey: Australian Gardens and Landscapes 1890-1914." They are extending an invitation to other garden history societies around to world. In conjunction with the conference, the society is offering a 27-day tour of historic, native and contemporary gardens (October 11 through November 6). They're also offering shorter tours for those who can't take the whole month off. For full details, write to them care of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Birdwood Avenue, South Yarra, Victoria 3141, Australia. Brochure available in May. Web-site: www.vicnet.net.au/~aghs. Email: georginawhitehead@bigpond.com. Bill Grant loaned us a copy of their journal and we thought it well worth the price of \$47 (Australian) for six issues.



Sutro (standing left in top hat) and Employees [Taber]

ODDS & ENDS

The 2001 catalogs from Monticello and Perennial Pleasures Nursery have arrived. Both contain much valuable information about historic plants. Thomas Jefferson Center for Historic Plants, Box 316, Charlottesville, VA 22902 (\$2). Web-site: www.monticello.org/shop. Perennial Pleasures Nursery, Box 147, East Hardwick, VT 05836 (\$3). Web-site: www.antiqueplants.com.

The death of California's preeminent Modernist landscape architect, Garrett Eckbo (1910-2000), was noted throughout the design community. One of the most interesting articles on Eckbo's life and career was written by Marc Treib and appears in the December 2000 issue of *Landscape Architecture* magazine, pp. 60-67, 88-90.

DIRECTORY ADDITIONS

Please welcome these new members:

Richard Catron, 765 SE Mt Hood Wy #373, Gresham OR 97080
Virginia Kean, 803 Hudson Street, Redwood City 94061
Don Marquandt, ASLA, Box 34815, Los Angeles 90034-0815

WEB-SITES TO VISIT

Los Angeles Public Library Digitized Photo Collection
<<http://catalog.lapl.org/>>
Go to this address and then click on the "search photo collection" icon.

Eden

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Deadline for copy for the next *Eden* is: June 01, 2001

California Garden and Landscape History Society
Aims and Purposes

To celebrate the beauty, wealth, and diversity of California gardens and landscapes.

*

To aid and promote interest in, study of, and education about California garden and landscape history.

*

To collect and/or coordinate resources and expertise about the history of California's gardens and landscapes.

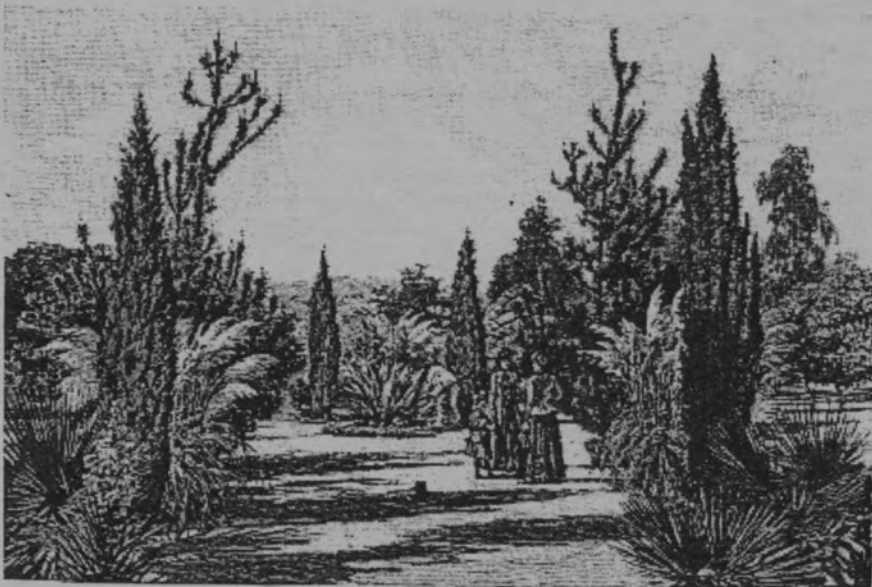
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To visit on various occasions historical gardens, landscapes, archives and libraries in different parts of the State.

*

To enjoy one another's company at meetings, garden visits, and other get-togethers.

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Membership Secretary
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Pasadena: The Glenrosa Estate Who can tell us more about this garden?
Our Italy, Charles Dudley Warner (New York: Harper Bros., 1891)