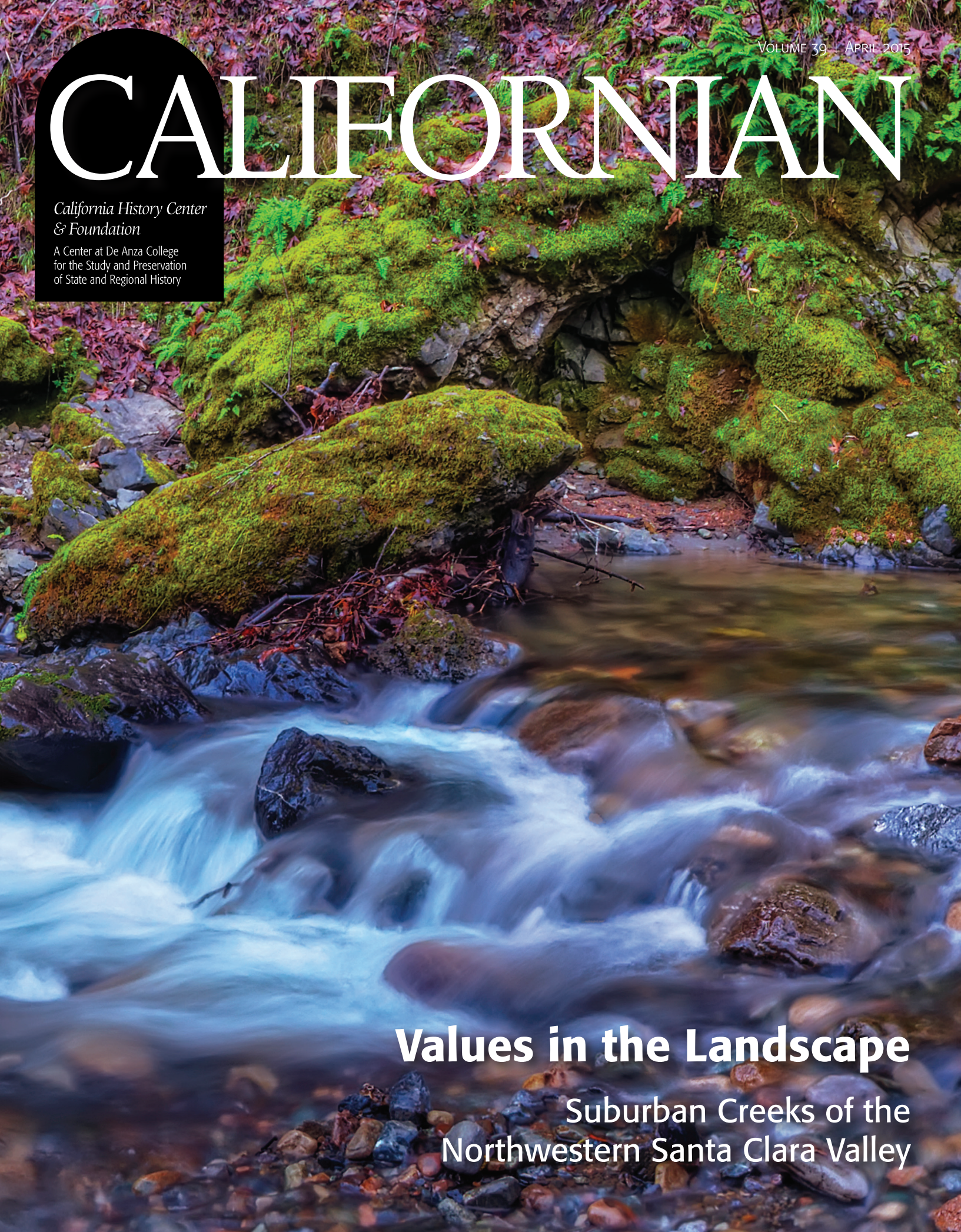
Volume 39 | April 2015

CALIFORNIAN

California History Center & Foundation

A Center at De Anza College for the Study and Preservation of State and Regional History

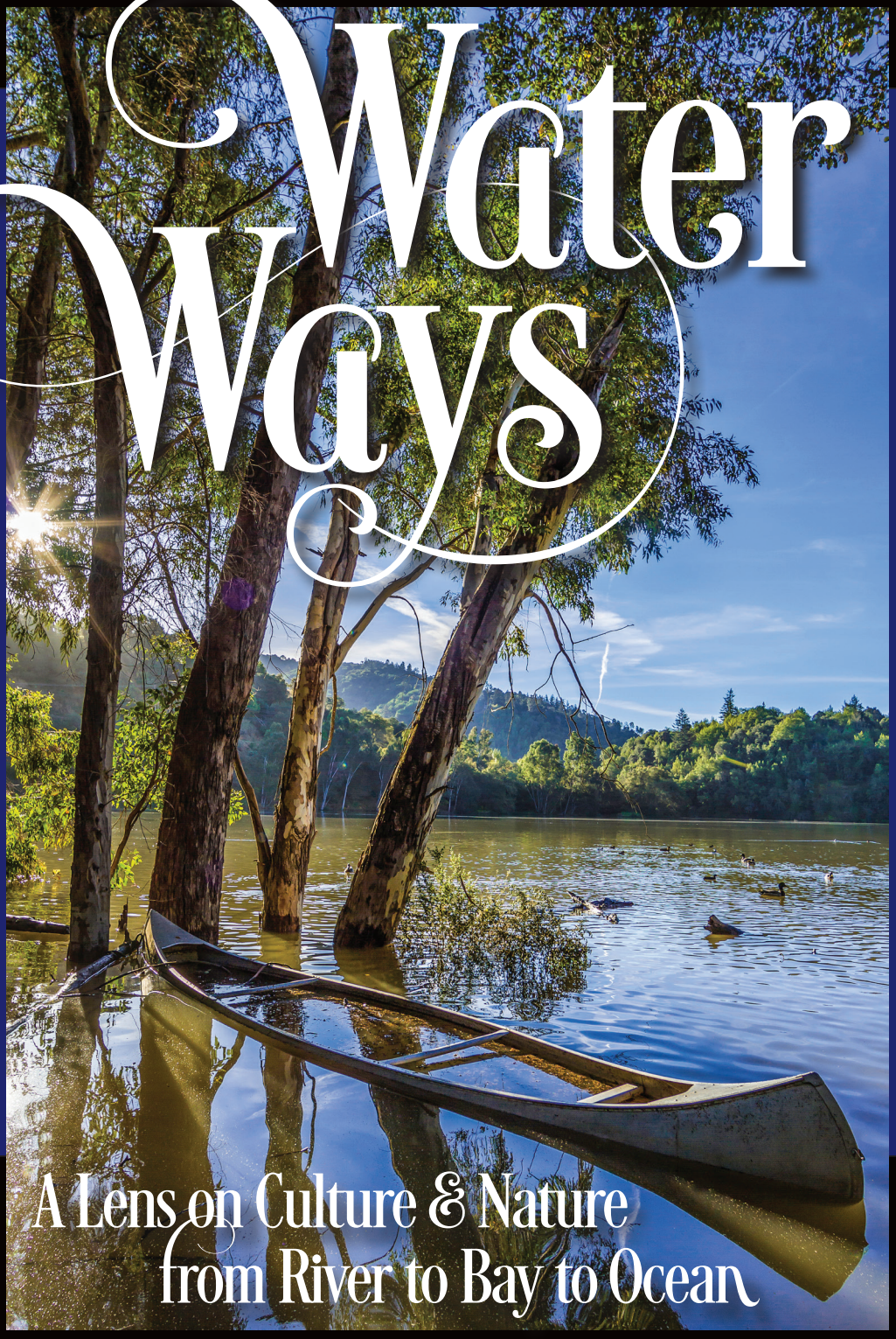


Values in the Landscape

Suburban Creeks of the Northwestern Santa Clara Valley

CALIFORNIA HISTORY CENTER'S SPRING QUARTER EXHIBIT

Water Ways



The Los Gatos-Saratoga Camera Club in collaboration with the California Hostory Center presents a juried selection of photographs on the subject of water from March 23 through June 19, 2015, at the California History Center, De Anza College, 21250 Stevens Creek Blvd., Cupertino. Regular hours are Monday through Thursday, 9:30am to 4:00pm

In addition, the gallery will be open on select Saturdays: April 18, April 25, May 16 and June 13, from 1:00pm to 4:00pm

For more information contact
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An exhibit by the Los Gatos-Saratoga Camera Club in collaboration with the California History Center

MARCH 23, 2015 THROUGH JUNE 19, 2015

PHOTOGRAPH BY MERCURY AMERICA FREEDOM

Spring Calendar

MARCH

23 Water Ways exhibit opens

28 Water Ways exhibit reception

APRIL

6 Quarter begins

14 Mark Z. Jacobson talk "Wind, Water, and Solar For All Purposes," Kirsch Center, room 115, 1:30 – 3:30pm

18 CHC special Saturday opening 1–4pm

23 Rolling Thunder lecture CHC 6:30pm

25 Rolling Thunder field trip

25 CHC special Saturday opening 1–4pm

30 Rolling Thunder lecture CHC 6:30pm

MAY

2 Rolling Thunder field trip

14 Arc of the Meteor lecture, CHC 6:30pm

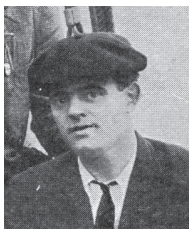
16 Arc of the Meteor field trip

16 CHC special Saturday opening 1pm–4pm

21 Arc of the Meteor lecture CHC 6:30pm

30 Arc of the Meteor field trip

25 Memorial Day holiday



Jack London

JUNE

13 CHC special Saturday opening 1–4pm

19 Water Ways exhibit closes

26 Quarter ends

Corrections:

In the Winter 2015 *Californian* on page 7, column 2, first paragraph, last sentence should have read *"Despite the grim presence of the war, by August 1914, over thirty foreign nations and many states and territories had decided to display their finest cultural heritage."*

Also on the back cover, Crystal Hupp's name was misspelled in the Winter Classes listing. Hupp is correct spelling. With apologies from the editor.

California History Center & Foundation

A Center for the Study of State and Regional History
De Anza College

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Trianon Building Hours:
Tuesday through Thursday 9:30am to noon and 1-4pm
or call for an appointment.

In this Issue

At the Center

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

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

Director's Report

Tom Izu

Home waters

One of the most precious substances known to humankind (and all other –kind) is water. It is not possible to live even a few days without it. And yet, it, like the air, becomes invisible to those of us fortunate and privileged enough to have it so readily available in our lives, including many of us here in Silicon Valley. The geography of our valley requires that waterways cross our towns and cities on their way to the San Francisco Bay, though we have banished them from sight and thought using cyclone fences, overpasses, culverts and concrete walls. While I am sure the current drought – the worst in many, many years – will put water very much on our minds, this historic and geographic vanishing act of creeks has always fascinated me.

I don't remember much about the creeks of the places of my childhood; they were hidden, walled off, or paved over. Real water came from the tap. Creeks or rivers were something you went to see on visits to "nature."

I know my own disconnection with the geographic context of this natural resource began in my formative years spent in the area. My family and I were among the new suburban pioneers of the valley, a group called the "Blue Sky Tribe" in *David Beers's Blue Sky Dream: A Memoir of America's Fall from Grace*. This was a new promised land, carved out of the orchards and farmland of the Santa Clara Valley by a technoelite of engineers, scientists and other workers called upon to fight the great Cold War beginning in the 1950s. This new life promised a pathway to what was to be an ever-increasing upper-middle class built not on the grime of the old industrial cities, but upon missiles, space flight, and "clean" modern technology purported to know no limits.

The vision of this new world as I understood it didn't involve living in nature or being part of it, but instead shaping and changing it into something more orderly and functional, or at least that seemed to be the theme in our local neighborhoods. As an example, I don't remember much about the creeks of the places of my childhood; they were hidden, walled off, or paved over. Real water came from the tap. Creeks or rivers were something you went to see on visits to "nature." I remember they even built a replica of a creek in the park down the street from where we lived that was clean-looking and didn't seem to touch any dirt – just nice concrete with rocks and channels built into a pattern perfect for little feet on a hot day. A sprinkler head here and there made for fun and pseudo-random splashes, and added a riparian special effect without any real riparian fauna around to cause unpleasant surprises.

Even though now and then the real-life spirits of the creeks and rivers would rise out of the culverts and around the cement barriers during extreme flood events, or perhaps an errant neighborhood kid might wander away and find an actual creek and sneak under a fence or two to bring home an unlucky tadpole or frog, the removal of nature from sight and mind worked pretty well. I learned that nature was to be studied in labs and in controlled circumstances, not by going outside.

Those days of disconnection are retreating, happily, and more attention is being placed on understanding our connections to nature wherever we live, in sight or in mind, and the resources we need from it for our survival. This includes the waterways that bring water from the mountains to our valley.

Coyote Creek is walking distance from the Hayase-Izu household. Photo by Kiyoshi H.

We explore the geography of regional creeks and our relationship to them in this issue of *Californian* with a lead article from our archives by Buck Melton beginning on page 6. Also, water ways are the topic of our current photographic exhibit entitled *Water Ways: A Lens on Culture and Nature from River to Bay to Ocean,* in collaboration with the Los Gatos-Saratoga Camera Club (see page 2). We will be hosting special Saturday hours this spring and encourage all in the area to drop by for a visit.

Front and back cover: Stevens Creek, January 7, 2011. Photo by Randall Harrison. Randall Harrison is a member of the Los Gatos – Saratoga Camera Club and is one of the featured photographers in our current exhibit, "Water Ways."

Audrey Edna Butcher Civil Liberties Education Initiative

…like the air…

Our winter quarter exhibit, "Wherever There's a Fight: A History of Civil Liberties in California," is based on the book, *Wherever There's a Fight: How Runaway Slaves, Suffragists, Immigrants, Strikers, and Poets Shaped Civil Liberties in California*, by Elaine Elinson and Stan Yogi. In chapter six of their book, entitled "The Right Not to Remain Silent: Dissent," they tell the story of the famous novelist, muckraking journalist, and political activist, Upton Sinclair, when he spoke out in support of Port of Los Angeles striking dock workers in 1923. These workers faced arrest and imprisonment for exercising their rights to protest and organize. Sinclair, who was later to win a Pulitzer Prize, joined the workers at a rally that year and read aloud the First Amendment of the Bill of Rights as the Los Angeles police closed in on the workers. A police captain told Sinclair "We'll have none of that Constitution stuff!" before hauling him off to jail.

Later, as recounted in *Wherever There's a Fight*, Sinclair wrote a public letter and stated, "...I freely admit that when I see a line of a hundred policemen with drawn revolvers flung across a street to keep anyone from coming onto private property to hear my feeble voice, I am somewhat disturbed in my nerves. But I have a conscience and a religious faith, and I know that our liberties were not won without suffering, and may be lost again through our cowardice. I intend to do my duty to my country."

Elinson and Yogi's book uses stories from California history to promote a deeper appreciation of civil liberties and what those before us have done to protect them. The right "not to remain silent," to the authors, means we also need to speak out when necessary or democracy will become untenable. Dissent is one way that civil society protects civil liberties.

While what Upton Sinclair confronted was of a more extreme nature than many of us might face, it does speak to the need to promote "not being silent," and to teach how to voice views and ideas in a public way. Education for this purpose can take on many forms. Here at De Anza College, we are fortunate to have the Euphrat Museum of Art staffed by Diana Argabrite. With her vision and direction, the Euphrat Museum and the CHC, along with support from the college's Office of the President and the Equity Action Council, created "Remembering Civil Liberties: an Interactive Public Art Fence" installation, a very creative and visible way to provide such an opportunity. This art project was a part of the "Ferguson, Racial Profiling, and Civil Liberties series CHC completed this quarter.

From February 17 through March 12, the installation surrounded the flag pole in the campus's main quad with a chain link fence. The De Anza community was invited to add hand-drawn tags to the fence to share their own stories, feelings, and ideas for change. Printed tags with text and images referred to the Japanese American internment camps, Jim Crow laws, and the prison industrial complex. Collaborative artwork from a Euphrat Museum Art & Social Justice Leadership Institute added to the effect and created a unique opportunity not to remain silent, exploring the connections between civil liberty, segregation, and mass incarceration, past and present.

Service learning students help transcribe messages written on the tags for the Fence Project for the CHC archives, winter 2015. Photo by Diana Argabrite.

Some 800 visitors to the fence wrote their responses to the theme on the tags and tied them up on display. They ranged far and wide, from observations and slogans to personal statements of commitment to social change, including: "Terrorism has no religion;" "When I'm a witness of racism, I feel helpless and targeted, all because I want peace, so in order to stop racism, I will help a person in need;" "Stand up, get up, and never give up;" "To be 'colorblind' is to be struggle blind. Change comes from those who seek it. Wake up;" "Respect and compassion will help us stand up for ourselves and others. Make the constitution real by objecting when basic rights are denied;"

"Interactive public art is important because it gives us a shared public space for communicating our stories, feelings, and ideas for change. The beauty of Remembering Civil Liberties was in what people wrote and drew. Collectively the tags reminded us of our shared connections, needs, and values around civil liberties and a longing for social justice." Diana Argabrite

"Because equal rights, fair play, justice, are all like the air: we all have it, or none of us has it. That is the truth of it."
–Maya Angelou

Each issue of Californian will devote a page to the promotion of civil liberties stewardship. Tom Izu has contributed this month's essay.

Values in the Landscape

Suburban Creeks of the Northwestern Santa Clara Valley

By Buck Melton

EDITOR'S NOTE: Buck Melton's 1993 consideration of the impact of our cultural values on the creeks of Northwest Santa Clara County suggests a number of important questions regarding all natural resources available to human beings– their access, use, perils, and integrity. What Melton describes as a "vanishing act," of creeks is evidence of human ambivalence toward the most necessary of necessary things, water. To whom does the creek and its flow belong? Who decides what happens to it? What happens when we don't let nature take its course? What happens when we do? How do we share this most critical element with each other and with the rest of nature?

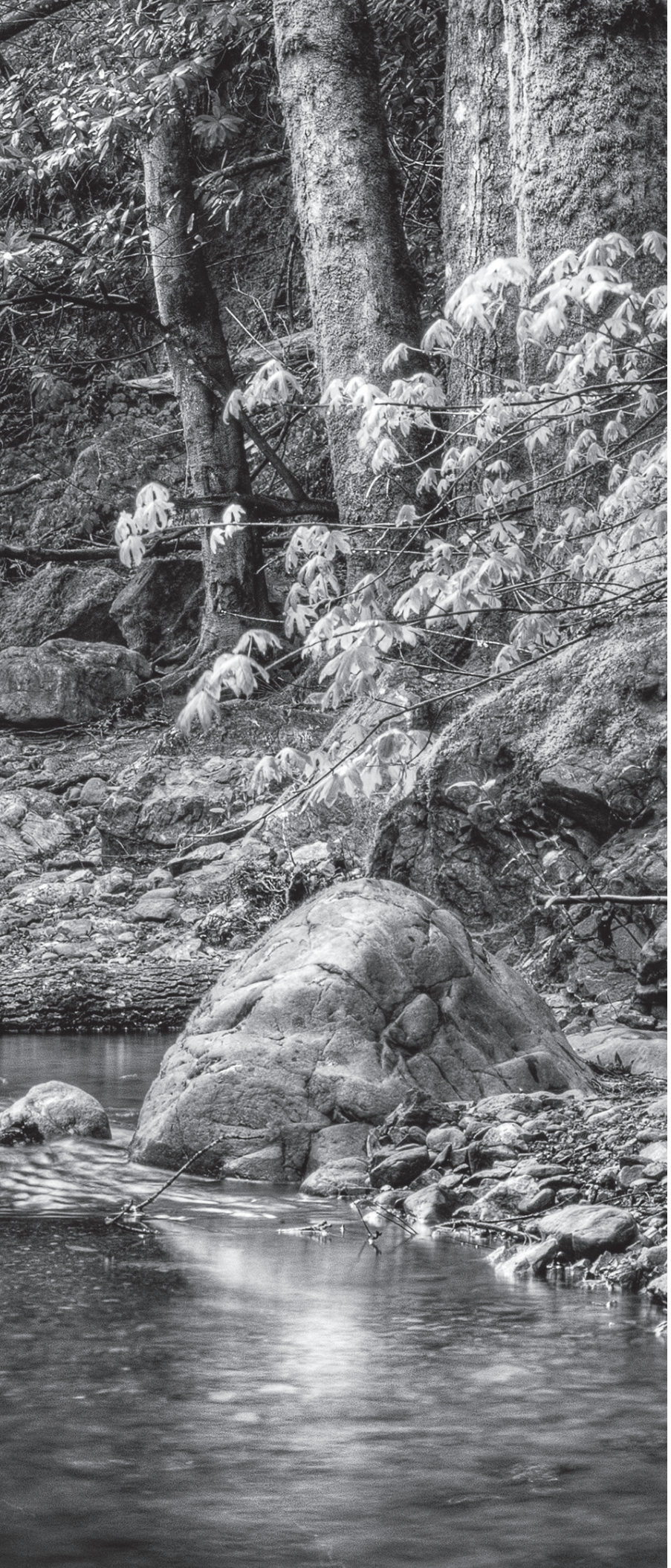
What I first noticed about the creeks of northwestern Santa Clara Valley is how easily they escape notice. From the seat of my bicycle or car the creeks of this area are usually hidden from view behind rows of homes, roadside fences, or even occasionally by thick vegetation. I might catch a brief glimpse of a creek where the road crosses over it, but the road level is usually not interrupted and signs indicating the crossing are usually small, so I have to pay attention to notice these crossings.

Even while walking it's hard to experience these creeks. For the most part they are inaccessible behind private property. Creekside trails are rare and the ones that exist are inter-

"The burn is buried and water now is the gutter trickle and spit."

–Ian McHarg, *Design With Nature*

Stevens Creek, March 23, 2015. Photo by Randall Harrison.



rupted, unmaintained, and hard to find. At road crossings tall cyclone fences and "No Trespassing" signs turn the feet and the eye away from the creek.

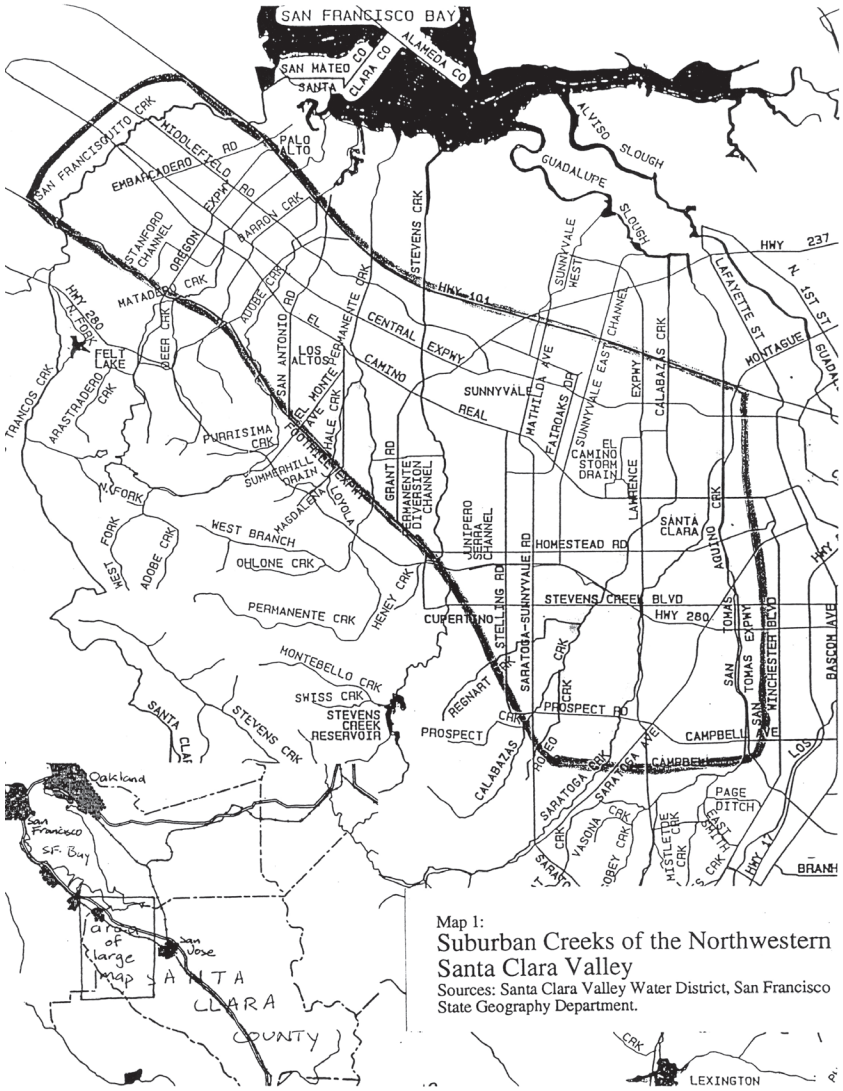
After years of living in the area I finally began to discover these hidden creeks and noticed that some had been left in a relatively natural state, but that most had varying amounts of alterations performed on them. Creek channels had been enlarged. Different types of structures had been built to contain the creek flow. Many of the creeks had been completely contained in concrete-lined, arrow-straight ditches.

I looked for explanations for the alterations and structures of these creeks and for the reasons why some creeks had escaped the alterations that had ravaged others. As I began to find answers in the landscapes and in the history of the area, I started to see the creek landscapes as expressions of the values held by society. People change creek landscapes because those changes will achieve some goal that they value. When these changes accrue over time, the most persistent and pervasive changes to creek landscapes reflect values held by society in general. The proper interpretation of these landscapes can then reveal what society values. Elements lacking in the landscapes can reveal what society does not value.

These values have not all been imposed on the landscapes with equal insistence. An order exists to them. It seems some values have been very important and have been imposed on the landscape to the exclusion of others. These I call "primary values." Other values appear under contention. Sometimes creek landscapes would show the importance of these values, sometimes their relative unimportance. These values I call "contested values." A few values were clear losers. They were missing in the creek landscapes or had been pushed aside in the pursuit of other values. These I call "lost values."

The Study Area

The creeks whose values I investigated run through flatland suburbia of the northwestern Santa Clara Valley, from Palo Alto southward to the City of Santa Clara. This area roughly forms an elongated rectangle running from San Francisquito Creek in the northwest to San Tomas Aquino Creek in the southeast, bordered on the southwest by the foothills of the Santa Cruz Mountains and on the northeast by the marshes of the San Francisco Bay into which the creeks flow (see map). This area has historically been shaped by similar geologic, social, and economic forces and so presents a cohesive background against which interesting comparative and contrastive landscape observations make sense.



Map 1:
Suburban Creeks of the Northwestern Santa Clara Valley
Sources: Santa Clara Valley Water District, San Francisco State Geography Department.

Primary Values

Flood and Erosion Control

The most dominant value reflected in creek landscapes of the study area is flood and erosion control. At every point I visited along the creeks one or more flood and erosion control devices were visible. The various structures and alterations to the creek in the pursuit of flood and erosion control are often termed "improvements", especially by the agencies promoting and building them. The assumption that these alterations "improve" the creeks indicates the primacy given to flood and erosion control over other values that are compromised by the alterations.

Some of the oldest flood control measures in the study area involve the creation of new creek channels. Originally many of the creeks had no clear channels in their downstream section. If creek water had not percolated into the ground by the point the channel gave out it would travel overland as a shallow sheet flow (Whitman et al., 1985). Once farms and permanent settlements were founded, channels had to be created to make sure that floodwaters made it to the bay in a contained fashion. By the early 1900s all creeks in the study area had defined channels to the bay (Whitman et al., 1985). Channel creation has occurred recently also, as in the creation of a new channel for Barron Creek which reroutes it into Adobe Creek shortly before reaching the bay. The old Barron Creek channel was inadequate to contain its floodwaters while the Adobe Creek channel is able to handle the floodwaters of both creeks (Whitman et al., 1985).

Channelizing, another form of flood control, is the straightening or enlarging of a creek channel to enable greater volumes of water to flow through it (Keller and Hoffman, 1976). The creek may be left with a natural channel or the channel may be lined with structures designed to prevent erosion or hurry water flow. The concept of straightening channels to aid in flood control goes back at least to 1931, when it was proposed that the Mississippi be straightened (Brown, 1931). All of the creeks in the study area except San Francisquito have had much of their downstream portions channelized and straightened to hasten their floodwaters to the bay.

Constructed walls, embankments, and linings of various types are also prevalent on these creeks. Concrete box culverts, which completely enclose a creek, are mercifully few in the area but are found along several stretches of San Tomas Aquino Creek. (Mapmakers have acknowledged this altered creek landscape by having the creek disappear and reappear on the map where it enters and exits the culvert (California State Automobile Association, 1989). Concrete channel linings, which protect banks from erosion and whose smooth sides hasten floodwaters to the bay (Brookes, 1985) are very common in the study area, lining most of Matadero, Barron, Adobe, Permanente, Calabazas and San Tomas Aquino creeks. Sack riprap, gabions, loose riprap, levees, and floodwalls (all structures built along the banks to prevent erosion and to contain floodwaters) have been installed along stretches of most of these creeks, notably Matadero and San Tomas Aquino creeks near Highway 101, San Francisquito Creek, and Saratoga Creek.

Prior to the 1950s there were very few control structures and alterations along these creeks (Hart, 1981). Most creeks in the study area had little development along them that

Headlines from the ***Daily Palo Alto Times*** describe rains and flooding of late December 1931


FLOOD DAMAGE INFLICTED ON N. CALIFORNIA

More Rain Predicted For The Ensuing 26 Hours

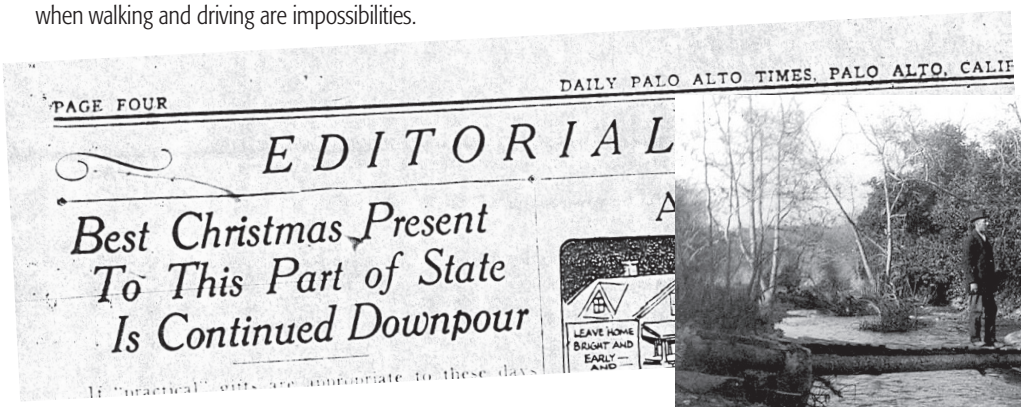
21-Year Records Are Broken By December Rainfall Here; Lakes, Creeks At High Marks

MANY HIGHWAY SECTIONS ARE UNDER WATER

Basements Of Homes In Peninsula Are Flooded

"Boating on San Fernando Street near Vine Street, March 7, 1911" when walking and driving are impossibilities.

Photograph of Los Gatos Creek at Page Dam demonstrates water's potential. More damaging flooding followed, notably in the 1950s.


PAGE FOUR DAILY PALO ALTO TIMES, PALO ALTO, CALIF

EDITORIAL

Best Christmas Present To This Part of State Is Continued Downpour

Three historic images show Stevens, Los Gatos, and Saratoga creeks providing utter enjoyment. In the 19th and 20th centuries industries such as water bottling, lumber and flour milling, trout hatching, and, of course, agriculture, made use of the running water, too.

Homes are tightly-packed and tightly-backed-up to Saratoga Creek. Photo by L. Christiansen.

needed protection. Towns of the Santa Clara Valley were still small and were located to take advantage of major roads and rail lines, not creeks, and in fact some had been specifically moved away from creeks due to flooding (Broek, 1932; Jacobson, 1984). Water for drinking and irrigation came not from the creeks but from wells which tapped the then-adequate aquifers (Rickman, 1981). The technology for flood control wasn't even available for widespread use until after the first major flood control structures in the U.S. had been built by the Army Corps of Engineers in the 1930s (Pollock, 1990).

The late 1950s saw flood and erosion control structures become prevalent in the study area. The post-World War II population boom in the Santa Clara Valley resulted in many more housing developments along the creeks by the mid-1950s (Brechin, 1988). In 1955 and 1958 several floods occurred on creeks in the area causing much property damage in these new developments (Hart, 1981; Whitman et al., 1985; Mody et al., 1976) In response, most of the creeks in the northwestern valley received flood control structures between the late 50s and the early 70s (Brechin, 1971; Hart, 1981; Witman et al., 1985; Mody et al., 1976). Since the standard flood control practice of that time was to construct structures and channels that could carry more water at faster speeds than the creek would naturally carry (Riley, 1989), all of the creeks in this area were saddled to a lesser or greater extent with such structural alterations. New structures continue to be added to the creeks to correct inadequacies of the older structures (Hart, 1981; *Palo Altan*, 1988).

Another landscape clue to an emphasis on flood control is the regulation of water levels at various points along the creeks to mitigate flooding caused by ground subsidence. Until the late 1960s groundwater was withdrawn from the aquifers underneath the study area faster than they could be replenished naturally, causing land near the bay to subside. Were it not for tide gates that prevent bay water from entering the creeks, the subsided land near the bay would flood during high tides (The Planning Collaborative, Inc., 1980; Mody et al., 1976).

The summer presence of water in Stevens Creek in the upstream part of the study area and its absence in the downstream part also help fight flooding caused by ground subsidence. Creek water, which would normally be lost to the bay during the high-flow winter months, is gathered behind Stevens Creek Dam. Just enough water is released from the dam throughout the summer to ensure that water covers the flatland portion of Stevens Creek that is just downstream of the foothills. This stretch of the creek is where water percolates best from the creekbed down into the aquifer. Replenishing the aquifer in this way has stopped ground subsidence, preventing a further increase in the flood threat. The creek bed is allowed to dry out further downstream, where little beneficial percolation would occur (The Planning Collaborative, Inc., 1980).

Profit

Tightly packed homes whose lots have been backed up as closely as possible to a concrete-lined creek reflect the value our society places on money and profit. Although the study area was largely agricultural prior to World War II (Belser, 1970) the population boom brought much new development. Developers wished to maximize their profit by squeezing as many lots as possible onto the land, including as much of the creek banks as practical (Fowler and Wolfe, 1982). The onset of development raised the asking prices and taxes on the surrounding agricultural land, incenting farmers to sell to developers and further hastening the spread of development (Belser, 1970; People for Open Space, 1980). The cities of the area, which between the 1950s and 1970s gobbled up creekside lands through annexation wars (Belser, 1970; Payne, 1987), encouraged this type of development. The cities hoped increased tax monies from many new homeowners would lighten the financial burden of providing services to the newly annexed lands (Payne, 1987).

The flood control structures discussed earlier are also indirect testaments to how money has influenced the creek landscapes. Creeks naturally flood on occasion, but after development along the banks they flood homes and neighborhoods, causing property damage and threatening lives, instead of

flooding relatively tolerant agricultural land (*Palo Alto Times*, 1955). The control structures and alterations, which the federal government made economically attractive to local agencies (Pollock, 1990), then had to be constructed to protect lives and property (Brechin, 1971; Hart, 1981; Whitman et al., 1985; Mody et al., 1976).

To make matters worse, the height of waters and amount of erosion during floods are increased by development itself. Prior to development, creek channels tend to be stable with large erosional changes happening only over the course of hundreds of years (Whipple et al., 1981). During storms much of the rainfall percolates into the ground before it ever reaches the creeks. However, when the soil is covered by roads, parking lots, driveways, and buildings, the water is unable to percolate in the ground but instead travels through the storm sewers directly to the creeks. (Hammer, 1972). This increase in the amount of water the creek must carry during storms can result in peak flows twice as large as before (Whipple et al., 1981). The increased flow results in increased erosion and enlargement of the channel (Hammer, 1972) which threaten bordering roads and homes until the channel is structurally reinforced.

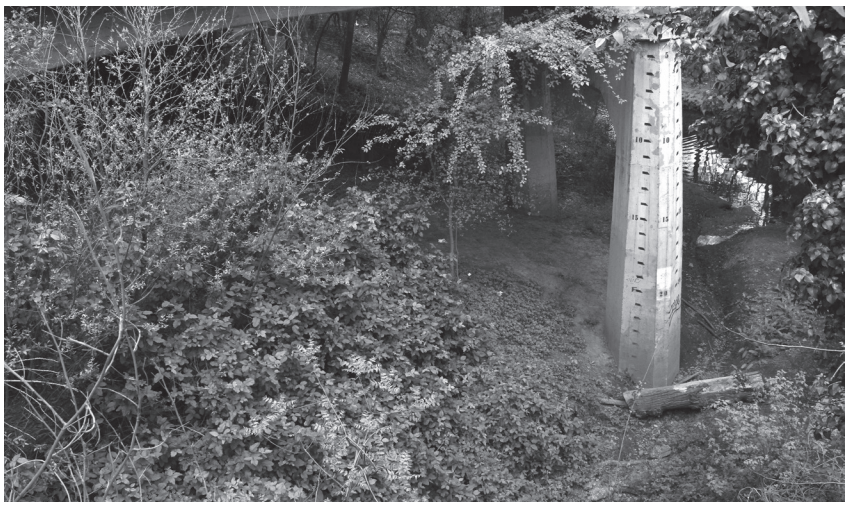
Transport

Several creek landscape elements reveal how highly we value transport; one example is how creeks are often chosen as the route for major roads. In the study area the Stevens Creek Freeway (California State Route 85) and San Tomas Expressway (County Route G4) follow their namesake creeks for a majority of their lengths. In the search for an explanation for these routings a few obvious candidates must be eliminated. Often roads follow waterways to take advantage of the easier grade of the valley, but since most of the entire Santa Clara Valley floor is flat this explanation cannot apply here. Since it is more expensive and difficult to build a bridge over a creek, a creek might act as a barrier that causes the road to follow one bank of the creek instead of crossing it. Again, this explanation does not hold here since both roads cross their creeks several times and some stretches of San Tomas Expressway actually travel on top of a culvert carrying its creek. Neither were these major arterials upgrades to previously existing roads.

Lack of development along the creek may partially explain the location of the Stevens Creek Freeway. Maps from that time show that when the freeway was proposed, Stevens Creek flowed mostly through open fields (as mentioned before, town centers were not located near creeks) where right-of-way acquisitions would be cheaper and easier. Support for this hypothesis comes from the American Association of State Highway Officials' 1957 publication, *A Policy on Arterial Highways in Urban Areas,* which advised that shorelines of rivers and lakes provided opportunities for arterial location because they are often bordered by a clear strip of land which would have protected or infrequent access from one side (American Association of State Highway Officials, 1957).

Although lack of development may explain the route of Stevens Creek Freeway, it cannot explain the route of San Tomas Expressway, since both sides of the creek were bordered by heavy development before the road was built. Ron Shields, who worked for the Santa Clara County Transportation Agency when the expressway was built (1962) and who is now their Deputy Manager of Road Operation (1993) stated that he had "no idea why they put it along the creek" (Shields, 1993). In this case I can only propose that the creek provided a convenient line on the map to traffic planners.

There are other landscape elements that evidence our value of transport. The creeks of the study area provide a direct route through this urbanized area for the transport of electricity via the many power lines strung along them such as the two sets of high tension power lines which parallel Stevens Creek and its freeway (The Planning Collaborative Inc., 1980). Transport emphasis is also seen in road crossings over creeks, which are made as inoffensive as possible to the passing traffic at the cost of the creek. These level crossings physically infringe on the creek and help erase the creeks from our consciousness. Every day thousands of people travel Highway 101, Central Expressway (County Route G6), El Camino Real, and many other arterials without ever knowing anything of the many creeks they are crossing or even that these creeks exist.



Nothing to measure. Coyote Creek, March 2015. Photo by Kiyoshi H.

History

A desire to preserve sites perceived as historically important also motivates the shaping of creek landscapes. Along a stretch of San Francisquito Creek where Stanford University had planned to build housing, remains were discovered of an Ohlone settlement. The settlements were commonly located along creeks (Gullard and Lund, 1989; Rickman, 1981). The development was protested and stopped, leaving an open field (Good, 1992).

David Lowenthal points out that designating a site as historic separates it from the continuity of its environment, and that certain artifacts may be chosen to be preserved at the expense of others (Lowenthal, 1979). This is certainly the case with El Palo Alto, the tall redwood tree by San Francisquito Creek under which the Portolá expedition of 1776 is said to have camped during its exploration of the area and from which the City of Palo Alto takes its name. Many pains have been taken to preserve the tree, including construction of a cement embankment which prevents it from falling into the creek, but which also constricts the creek, causing a flood hazard (City of Palo Alto, 1956). Here also is one of the worst pollution spots on the creek, where the nearby shopping strips, homeless encampments, and auto dealers are blamed for the presence of trash and hazardous wastes (Friedly, 1991). The creek has been neglected and the tree enshrined despite the fact that Portolá probably camped there as much for the presence of the creek as for the tree, and despite the agreement of many historians that today's El Palo Alto: was not actually the tree under which Portolá camped (Gullard and Lund, 1989).

Guadalupe River and Coyote Creek, March 2015. Photos by Kiyoshi H.

Waste Removal

The pollution of San Francisquito Creek near El Palo Alto points out that waste removal is another human value that has been imprinted on the creek landscape. Mosaic tile from the original Stanford University Memorial Church which collapsed in the 1906 earthquake regularly turns up in the bed of San Francisquito Creek (Madison, 1987), showing that creeks in the area have long been used as dump sites. Bricks dumped into the creek over the years have been worn to the same size and smoothness as other cobbles in the creek bed.

Dumping and polluting continue to be problems today. Shopping carts are one item often found in creeks. Trash, raw sewage and toxic chemicals are dumped into the creek resulting in an unpleasant environment and in notices being posted along Saratoga and San Francisquito creeks to stay out of the creek (Friedly, 1991). Public education campaigns warn against causing "nonpoint source pollution" whereby polluting agents deposited on yards, driveways, roads, and other surfaces eventually wash into storm drains and then into the creeks (Santa Clara Valley Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Program, undated). "No Dumping – Flows to Bay" is painted next to storm drains in an attempt to prevent people from dumping hazardous wastes directly in the storm drains.

Water

I include this value mainly as a point of irony. One of the most basic values that water has for people is for drinking and for watering our gardens, orchards, and fields. Since creeks are one of the main ways nature supplies fresh water, it is reasonable to expect expressions of this value relating to creeks. But this important value appears in the creek landscapes of the study area only where the Hetch Hetchy Aqueduct, which supplies water for much of the study area population, crosses each of them on its way from the Sierras to Crystal Springs Reservoir farther north. The aqueduct runs underground but its presence is marked by a 15-yard wide right-of-way swath that is punctuated at regular intervals by concrete access pipes. Where the aqueduct actually crosses under a creek the top of the aqueduct's concrete casing is visible in the channel bed, the creek water flowing over the top of it.

Home

In addition to tightly packed houses along the creeks there are other signs in the creek landscapes of the value of home. The first is in the presence of desirable neighborhoods next to the creeks. Because of the added cost and difficulty in building bridges to cross creeks, in general, only a few selected arterial roads will cross. In this way the creeks break up the grid pattern of streets common in the study area. This fragmentation creates dead ends, looped streets, and smaller neighborhoods separated from one another by the creek. Less through traffic creates quieter and safer streets that attract residents. Parents are more likely to allow their children to play in the street where there is little traffic; the children play with each other and reinforce a community feeling.

Homeless encampments are a very different realization of the value of home. Creek banks, particularly under bridges, provide "homes for the homeless" which are out of sight, rarely patrolled, and which afford some protection from the elements. El Camino Real crossing of San Francisquito Creek, in particular, often has homeless encampments underneath it. Despite being dispersed regularly, homeless people continue to return to this spot in their search for some form of home (Softky, 1993; Winslow, 1986).

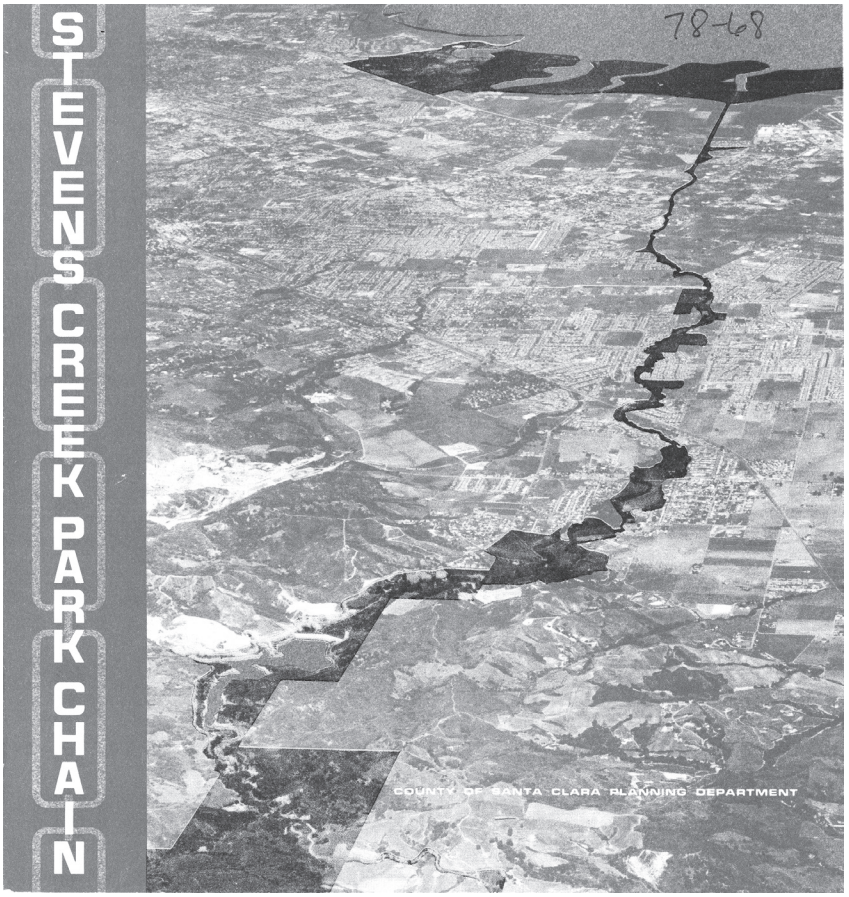
Contested Values

The values discussed to this point have been very powerful in influencing these creek landscapes. The landscapes show little or no evidence that the imposition of these dominant values has been protested or blocked because they conflicted with other values. However, investigation of these creeks discloses other values whose contention is manifest in the landscape.

Recreation and Access

Recreation and access are two values whose contention is evident along these creeks and which go hand in hand, since the majority of people wishing access to the creeks desire access for recreational reasons.

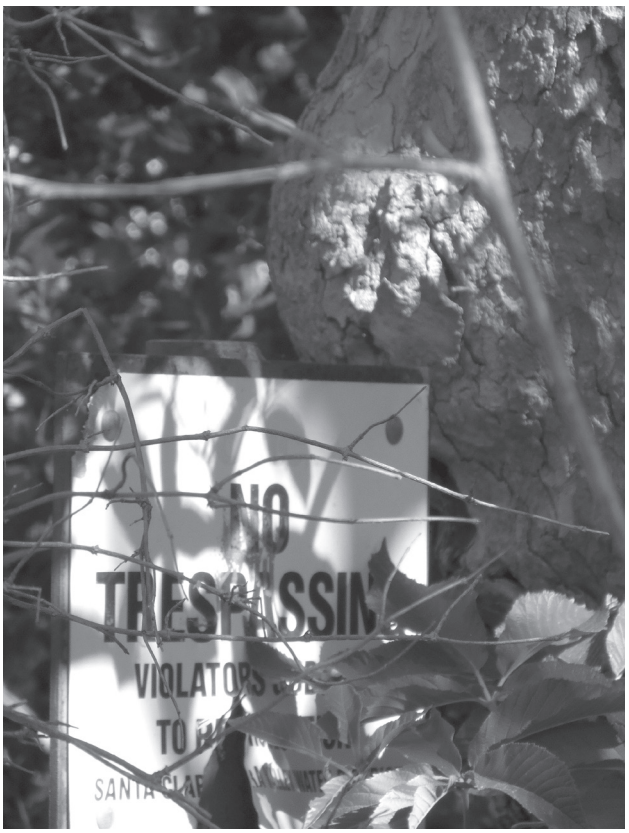
There is much evidence in the landscape of the recreational value people ascribe to creeks. First, children abound in the creeks. On every creek in the study area I either saw children or evidence of children playing in the creek. Every person I spoke with who had grown up near one of these creeks related fond memories of playing in the creek as a child. Gray Brechin, former executive director of the San Francisco-based Urban Creeks Council, writes about these creeks: "There were dams to be built, frogs to be ferreted, laurels to climb, and oak galls, buckeyes, agates, and fossils sent down from the bountiful hills…But most useful, creeks provided a means of escape from the city building above. They were crooked avenues of adventure…" (Brechin, 1988).



Brochure showing a plan for the Stevens Creek Park Chain, County of Santa Clara Planning Department, September 1961.

Of course, adults participate in this adventure, too. I, and many others, have experienced the sense of adventure one gets travelling by bike or on foot along informal or constructed paths that follow and cross the creeks. Hiking along deep canyons among vegetation, wildlife, and running water can provide a refreshing break from the surrounding urban environment. Evidence of this value are the well-used but unmaintained trails which extend along the banks of San Francisquito and Stevens creeks that are publicly accessible.

Unfortunately many barriers exist to creekside access and recreation. Large stretches of creeks are inaccessible behind rows of homes. "Improved" stretches of creeks are owned by the Santa Clara Valley Water District, which uses fences, locked gates, and "No Trespassing" signs to deny access due to liability, safety, and security concerns (Ely, 1993). Security and privacy often take precedence over access and recreation. Unsecured creek channels provide criminals with



Saratoga Creek across from Mitty High School, mainly off limits, April 2015. Photos by L. Christiansen.

Saratoga Creek near San Jose's Murdock Park after a brief rain in a time of drought. This shows how water in our neighborhoods flows to bay, April 2015. Photo by L. Christiansen.

convenient access to adjoining homes (Ely, 1993). Neighbors worrying about privacy and security from "undesirables" have succeeded in gutting plans for maintained trails along both San Francisquito and Stevens creeks (Brechin, 1971; Palo Alto Times, 1976), where the well-used unmaintained trails show that a recreational need exists.

Holes in fences and footprints and bike tracks in the dirt and mud along "secured" stretches of the creeks also show the need for recreation spaces in spite of the barriers. However, relatively few creekside trails or parks exist in the study area. Room for a creekside trail along the Stevens Creek undercrossing of Interstate 280 was requested during the freeway's planning stages but denied. The trail would have been part of a continuous recreational trail from Shoreline Park on the bay to Stevens Creek Reservoir in the foothills (Brechin, 1971). Many parks that do exist along the creeks do a bad job of integrating them into the park. Adobe Creek through Mitchell Park in Palo Alto is concrete-lined and fenced off. Saratoga Creek through Central Park in Santa Clara lacks safe paths down the steep embankment.

An ironic encapsulation of this conflict over recreation and access occurs in Palo Alto's Hoover Park, which borders Matadero Creek. The green fields of the park are separated from the creek's concrete channel by a cyclone fence about eight feet high. The only park amenity placed near the creek is the "pet area" where dogs may freely relieve themselves. In the middle of the park, paralleling the creek, a half-block long artificial creek has been built which runs from an artificial spring, through a winding and boulder-strewn concrete, gutter-like channel, and into a drain where the water is collected and recycled back to the spring. That this artificial creek was built at all shows recognition of the value people find in creeks for recreation and access. That it had to be built because the real creek, so close, was unavailable shows how recreation and access take a back seat to other values.

Aesthetics

Despite what the prevalence of ugly "improvements" along these creeks might imply, concern for aesthetic values, particularly by nearby residents, has been a matter of public record since at least 1940 (Hilton, 1940). Even at the dawn of widespread channelization in 1956, public concern over aesthetics was sufficient to prevent the concrete lining of Matadero Creek between El Camino Real and Foothill Expressway (County Route G5), (Santa Clara Valley Water District, 1976). San Francisquito Creek, whose lush vegetation

makes it appear untouched by humans, actually is cleaned of large amounts of trash every year. The creek has a history of different volunteer groups cleaning it up (McCall, 1989); currently this is done by the Friends of San Francisquito Creek (Fortney, 1990; Madison, 1992).

Friends of San Francisquito Creek is one of many grassroots creek restoration groups that have sprung up all over the Bay Area in the last 5 years. The emergence of this movement has been attributed to the reduction in federal flood control funding and public environmental consciousness (Pollock, 1990). This movement was foreshadowed by F.J. Cebulski, who in a 1971 report on the channelization of Tamalpais Creek in Marin County, called for "a shift in our values" which would "bring about a realization that aesthetic considerations fulfill a need which is becoming all the more important as the greenery left to us recedes beneath the spreading asphalt" (Cebulski, 1971).

The landscape in the study area which best exemplifies this conflict over aesthetics occurs along Calabazas Creek. A concrete ditch, created as usual to control flooding and erosion, carries the creek between the northbound and southbound lanes of Calabazas Boulevard. On either side of the ditch is a black cyclone fence. In a vain attempt to prettify the scene, low shrubs have been planted intermittently along the fence, accompanied by tall scraggly eucalyptus trees at intervals.

Lost Values

Some human values lost out in the competition for shaping the creek landscapes of the area.

Regional interests

Often, instead of working together for the overall good of the creek or area surrounding the creek, each local jurisdiction bordering the creek looks after its own interests, not willing to compromise or cooperate with adjoining or overlapping local jurisdictions. This regional infighting usually leads to inaction, which may be good or bad for the creek.

Conflict between Palo Alto and Los Altos has been good for the upstream portion of Adobe Creek, which forms the border between the two cities. Farther downstream Adobe Creek lies completely within Palo Alto, which has channelized and concrete-lined it. Palo Alto has favored doing the same to the upstream portion, but not Los Altos. Since it is useless to channelize one bank of the creek and not the other, the creek has remained unchannelized (Fortney, 1987).

A concrete box culvert channels San Tomas Aquino Creek in Campbell, April 2015. Photo by L. Christiansen.

In contrast, Stevens Creek has suffered from disagreement among the four cities and one county that have jurisdiction over various parts of it. In the early 1960s, when the Stevens Creek Freeway was being planned, a chain of parks along the creek was proposed to mitigate the negative effects of the freeway (The Planning Collaborative, Inc., 1980). The Stevens Creek Park Chain was envisioned as a wonderful recreational and aesthetic achievement that would stretch from the bay to the foothills and would be the pride of the county (The Planning Collaborative, Inc., 1980). But the cities and the county couldn't agree on who should purchase the necessary property, and some cities were concerned about privacy and security issues on behalf of nearby homeowners. Because of these disagreements, the park chain was never assembled (Brechin, 1971; The Planning Collaborative, Inc. 1980). The State of California came in wielding money and power and put the freeway through anyway along the entire flatland length of the creek. Through at least 1980 there were still plans to try to put together what could be salvaged of the park chain concept along Stevens Creek. The 1980 plan admitted "there remains a continuing problem of responding to community needs... within an existing and future interjurisdictional and interagency framework" (The Planning Collaborative, Inc. 1980).

(Note: Please see Friends of Stevens Creek Trail at www.stevenscreektrail.org/trailupdate.html for the latest on the Stevens Creek Trail)

Signage for creek and trail at Saratoga Creek near Rancho Rinconada in Cupertino, April 2015. Photo by L. Christiansen.

Like Adobe Creek, San Francisquito Creek has benefitted from regional disagreement. The creek forms borders for six cities and two counties. Large scale flood control measures were first proposed after the same disastrous floods of the 1950s that spurred the channelization of the other creeks in the study area (Peninsula Times Tribune, 1990). If the creek had been fully within Palo Alto and Santa Clara County, it might have suffered the same concrete-lined fate of Palo Alto's Matadero, Barron, and Adobe creeks. But the multiple jurisdictions couldn't agree among the choices of an upstream dam, a concrete lining, and a diversion channel (Palo Alto Times, 1968, 1969; Miller, 1971; Walker, 1972). Therefore no plan was implemented, and today only ad-hoc flood and erosion control measures such as wooden retaining walls, loose riprap, and limited stretches of sack riprap have been placed along the creek when loss of roads or structures became imminent. The lack of comprehensive flood control along San Francisquito Creek has left wealthy parts of Palo Alto as the greatest flood hazard in the study area. For the city to receive flood insurance, federal regulations require homeowners there to fill in basements and raise homes higher off the ground if they wish to rebuild or extensively remodel (Gullixson, 1990; San Jose Mercury News, 1990).

San Francisquito Creek also benefitted when local interests fought each other to a standstill over the Willow Expressway, which the state wanted to construct along the creek between Highway 101 and Interstate 280. At one point there was even a plan to combine the expressway with flood control by having the road ride piggyback on a box culvert carrying the creek (San Jose Mercury News, 1969). Although the local jurisdictions initially welcomed the freeway as a solution to burgeoning traffic problems, Palo Alto and Menlo Park fought bitterly over the route alternatives, which would have disrupted well-established, affluent neighborhoods in one city or the other depending on the route chosen. In contrast to the Stevens Creek Freeway, here even the state was unable to overcome local objections and disagreements and eventually shelved the project (San Jose Mercury News, 1965a, 1965b).

This overall lack of action along San Francisquito Creek has left it as one of the most natural creeks in the area. Vegetation is lush and wildlife habitat abundant. Steelhead trout are still occasionally found in the creek and although it is difficult for them to survive in this environment, the creek is sufficiently naturalistic for plans to be afoot to restore the fishery that used to exist.

(See Aaron Kinney: "Palo Alto: Restoration effort benefits steelhead trout in San Francisquito Creek" — 9/5/2013 www.mercurynews.com/san-mateo-county-news/ci_24026432/palo-alto-restoration-effort-benefits-steelhead-trout-san)

Vegetation and Wildlife

Although the vegetation and wildlife of San Francisquito Creek have fared relatively well, these environmental values have been banished along most of the creek landscapes in the study area at the hands of the channelizers. Where several of the creeks once supported fish, now only San Francisquito and Stevens creeks even have the potential to do so (The Planning Collaborative, Inc., 1980; Jacobson, 1992). Life in the creeks requires pools and riffles, shade, gravel or dirt bottoms, and cool, well-aerated water (Brookes, 1985; Ferguson, 1991). Channelization eradicates all of these attributes. When vegetation does make a comeback in the channelized creeks, providing habitat for wildlife, it is scoured to restore the channel's flood-carrying capacity (Whitman et al., 1985).

Summary and Conclusions

In this article we've looked at creek landscapes as expressions of human values. The values form a hierarchy, with some values appearing dominant, others under contention, yet others subordinate. In particular, values such as flood and erosion control, profit, and transport are usually dominant over values such as recreation, access, aesthetics, vegetation, and wildlife,

a conclusion also drawn by Keller (1975) in regard to channelization projects.

It is interesting to note that the values of the dominant group are human-centered and the values of the subordinate group deal with the rest of nature and our relationship to it. This dichotomy shows that we have not valued attention to the interrelationships and interdependencies of all the elements of the creeks' natural systems (including ourselves) and reveals two overarching lost values: balance with nature and integration with nature.

Many of the landscape elements explored in this paper show a lack of balance with nature, which requires understanding natural systems, taking them into account, and compromising with them when altering the landscape. Hemming in of creeks begrudges them any leeway to occasionally flood or change course, events normal for fluvial systems. Flood control structures separate the two primary and complementary elements of the creek: the water and earth. When the stripping of vegetation is added, the creek has been dissociated from the natural systems of which it was an integral part, completely destroying the balance of the system and thus the system. Flood and erosion control structures also provide evidence of the unbalancing of peak water volumes due to the increase in stormwater runoff associated with development. Tide gates and controlled releases from reservoirs are a legacy of ground subsidence caused by the lack of balance between aquifer withdrawal and replenishment.

The second overarching lost value is integration with nature. Many of these creek landscapes show that we are unaware that people also are a part of nature and that our well-being benefits from our interaction and interdependence with the other elements of the creeks' natural systems. Walling creeks off behind fences and containing them within concrete ditches serve to distance us, psychologically as well as physically, from the natural creek environment. Hiding creeks behind rows of homes and building level road crossings of creeks discourage us from even knowing of their presence.

One of the most jarring reminders in the study area of this lack of integration with nature occurs along San Tomas Expressway. There the median strip is occupied by a 20-foot-deep rectangular concrete channel carrying San Tomas Aquino Creek, which is thus completely disconnected from the spacious green park on one side of the expressway and the single family homes on the other side by the northbound and southbound traffic whizzing by at 50 miles per hour. From a car you can only see the top few feet of the ditch, a teasing and unintentionally pointed reminder that there is actually a creek, albeit sterilized, flowing 20 feet below. Here at least there is evidence of the creek. Other nearby stretches are buried underground in a box culvert, completely erasing the creek from our regard.

After all the expressed values have been investigated, most of all, these creeks reveal how the manifestations of values can persist in the landscape long after those values have changed. The basic outlines of these landscapes were fixed between the 1950s and 1970s and still reflect to a great extent the values and technology of this period. They are a legacy of a time when a population boom, uncontrolled development (Belser, 1970), faith in technology as the ultimate solution, and ignorance of natural systems and our relationships with them (Keller and Hoffman, 1977) conspired together to hem the creeks in, hide them away, and necessitate their structural confinement.

Since that time many changes have occurred in our society that would prevent similar landscapes from developing today. First, our society has acquired a new prioritization of values, foreshadowed by the editor of the *San Francisco Chronicle* in 1969 when he said that the "values destroyed by the construction of a huge ditch capable of meeting a one-in-100-years flood" may be "a greater loss than anything the [Army Corps of] Engineers claim to protect" (San Francisco Chronicle, 1969). New values are reflected by the growth and power of the environmental movement, by cutbacks in large-scale federal flood control funding, and by federal policies requiring the consideration of non-structural alternatives to flood control and the integration of environmental and so-

At De Anza College, what goes down must come up at the bay. Photo by L. Christiansen.

cial values into cost-benefit analyses for such projects (Riley, 1989; Pollock, 1990). Where local governments would once promote single-purpose flood control projects, they have now adopted multiple-use philosophies which reflect a broader range of values (The Planning Collaborative, Inc., 1980; Riley, 1989; Ferguson, 1991).

Partly in response to these changes in values and funding priorities, the 1970s saw the completion of many creek studies which increased our knowledge about these systems and about alternatives to harmful creekside development practices (Hammer, 1972; Burn and Ueda, 1975; Graf, 1975; Keller, 1975; Keller and Hoffman, 1976, 1977). The new knowledge and techniques have been successfully applied, demonstrating that creeks can support a broad range of values, both human and environmental (Ferguson, 1991). Setbacks, zoning, new neighborhood designs, and primary-secondary channel designs all have been used to provide access to, and protect the natural system of, the creeks while also successfully addressing such human-centered concerns as subdivision lot yield and the protection of property from flood and erosion damage (Fowler and Wolfe, 1982; Brookes, 1985; Ferguson, 1991; Crump, 1992).

Unfortunately the reprioritization of values, increase in knowledge, and availability of new techniques are too late in most respects for the creeks of the study area. Creeks that have undergone the fewest alterations and have the least encroaching development, such as San Francisquito and Stevens creeks, may still be able to benefit from retroactive application of our latest ordering of values and new techniques. On these creeks, additional structures and channelizing can be minimized and vegetation and wildlife can be accommodated to a large degree.

But there is little hope for the remaining creeks of the study area. There are no undeveloped stretches to which new techniques can be applied from scratch. Development is too pervasive and confining for anything but the most strict and intrusive types of flood and erosion controls to remain in force (Crump, 1992.) Worse yet, the underestimation of flood heights when these "improvements" were first constructed decades ago has forced even more intrusive measures to be remedially applied within the past few years (Hart, 1981; *Palo Altan*, 1988). Despite the new hope offered by more environmentally-friendly techniques, Adobe, Barron, and Matadero creeks have had earth channels replaced with concrete channels, concrete channels widened, and masonry floodwalls erected along their lengths (Palo Altan, 1988). There is simply no alternative due to the close-packed development of the creek banks. Given that the development in the northwestern Santa Clara Valley is here to stay and that flood control remains a priority, nothing else can be done. The legacy of values from decades ago not only persists, it grows.

"Values in the Landscape" by Buck Melton was prepared for Professor Nancy Wilkinson's Geography 820: Seminar in Landscape Geography, Department of Geography and Human Environmental Science, san Francisco State University, May 28, 1993. It is printed here with only minor changes and the gracious consent of the author.

Select internet sources for information on creeks

Acterra, Action for a Healthy Planet:
www.acterra.org/

California Coastal Commission/NPS Water Quality Conditions/Calabazas Creek:
www.coastal.ca.gov/nps/Web/cca_pdf/sfbaypdf/CCA82CalabazasCreek.pdf

City of Palo Alto/Creek Monitor:
www.cityofpaloalto.org/gov/depts/pwd/creek_monitor/creek_monitor_only.asp

County of Santa Clara/Santa Clara County Parks/Stevens Creek County Park:
www.sccgov.org/sites/parks/parkfinder/Pages/StevensCreek.aspx

Creek Connections Action Group:
www.cleanacreek.org/

Cupertino/Cupertino Creeks:
www.cupertino.org/index.aspx?page=1239

Friends of Stevens Creek Trail Stevens Creek Trail Status:
www.stevenscreektrail.org/trailupdate.html

Guadalupe River Park Conservancy:
www.grpg.org/

Oakland Museum Creek and Watershed Map of West Santa Clara Valley:
www.museumca.org/creeks/MapWstVal.html

San Francisco Estuary Institute and the Aquatic Science Center:
www2.sfei.org/

Western Santa Clara County Historical Ecology Study:
www.sfei.org/projects/western-santa-clara-valley-historical-ecology-study

Santa Clara County Creeks Coalition :
www.sccreeks.org/

Santa Clara Valley Urban Runoff Pollution Prevention Program/Calabazas Watershed:
www.scvurppp-w2k.com/ws_calabazas.shtml

Santa Clara Valley Urban Runoff Pollution Prevention Program/
Watershed Watch–Protect Our Creeks and Bay:
www.mywatershedwatch.org/about-watersheds/

Santa Clara Valley Water District/Adobe Creek Restoration Project:
www.valleywater.org/Service/AdobeCreekRestoration.aspx

Urban Creeks Council:
urbancreeks.org

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One Raindrop In Adobe Creek

I am a drop of water,
So small you can hardly see me
But small as I am
I have travelled great distances.
You will find it hard to imagine how far.

This is what happened.

From a crested wave in an endless ocean
The heat of the sun, thousands of miles away
Drew me up into the wide open spaces of atmosphere.

With myriads of others like me—
My brothers and sisters—
We found ourselves enfolded in a motherly cloud
Floating dreamily over the earth.

There came a storm—
A scurrying wind, jagged knives of lightning
Cutting through our slumber
With more clouds pushing and crowding around us

All of a sudden
Our cloud seemed to tear apart
And I and all the others
Came tumbling through the air
With a great swish and swash,
Striking the branches of the great oaks
And slithering down the slippery leaves
Of the red madrone trees at the top of Black Mountain.

As I dropped off my shiny landing place,
I found myself surrounded by hundreds of others
Small like me, but so many
That we made a great rushing sound
As we raced down the canyon
Singing as we went.

How beautiful were the songs we sang that night!
Soprano tenor and bass
The rocks were like organ pipes
Making crescendos of sound

As the hill tapered off
We flew past sandy flats
More quietly
And seeped around the bulrushes
That tried to restrain us
And out into the sunny expanse
Of open meadow where cows come to drink
Under bridges,
Between steep crumbling banks
Plunging all at once
Into a dark subterranean passage.

We emerged again unexpectedly
Between rich green borders of watercress
And into a pool,
Where waterlilies caught a few of us
On their wide floating leaves

From there the journey was swift
For we were imprisoned within concrete walls
(The flood control of cities and suburbs)
We rushed past houses
And thro' great pipes under the highways
Until at last we reached the bay
And the taste of salt was on our lips
And we longed for the tide
To catch us up
And roll us out again into the great expanse of ocean
Home again.

The next Journey?
Where will it take me?
Who can tell?

From *Hidden Villa Tales* by Josephine W. Duveneck, published by the California History Center, 1973. With thanks to the Duveneck Family.

At the Center

Dr. Mark Jacobson, co-founder of the Solutions Project, and professor of civil engineering at Stanford University, spoke on the subject of making "Wind, Water, and Solar for All Purposes" possible, April 14, at the Kirsch Center. Dr. Jacobson, center, is joined at the head of the class by Natalia Timakova, Energy Management Student, and Bill Roeder, Lead Instructor Energy Management and Building Science Program, De Anza College. Photo by L. Christiansen.

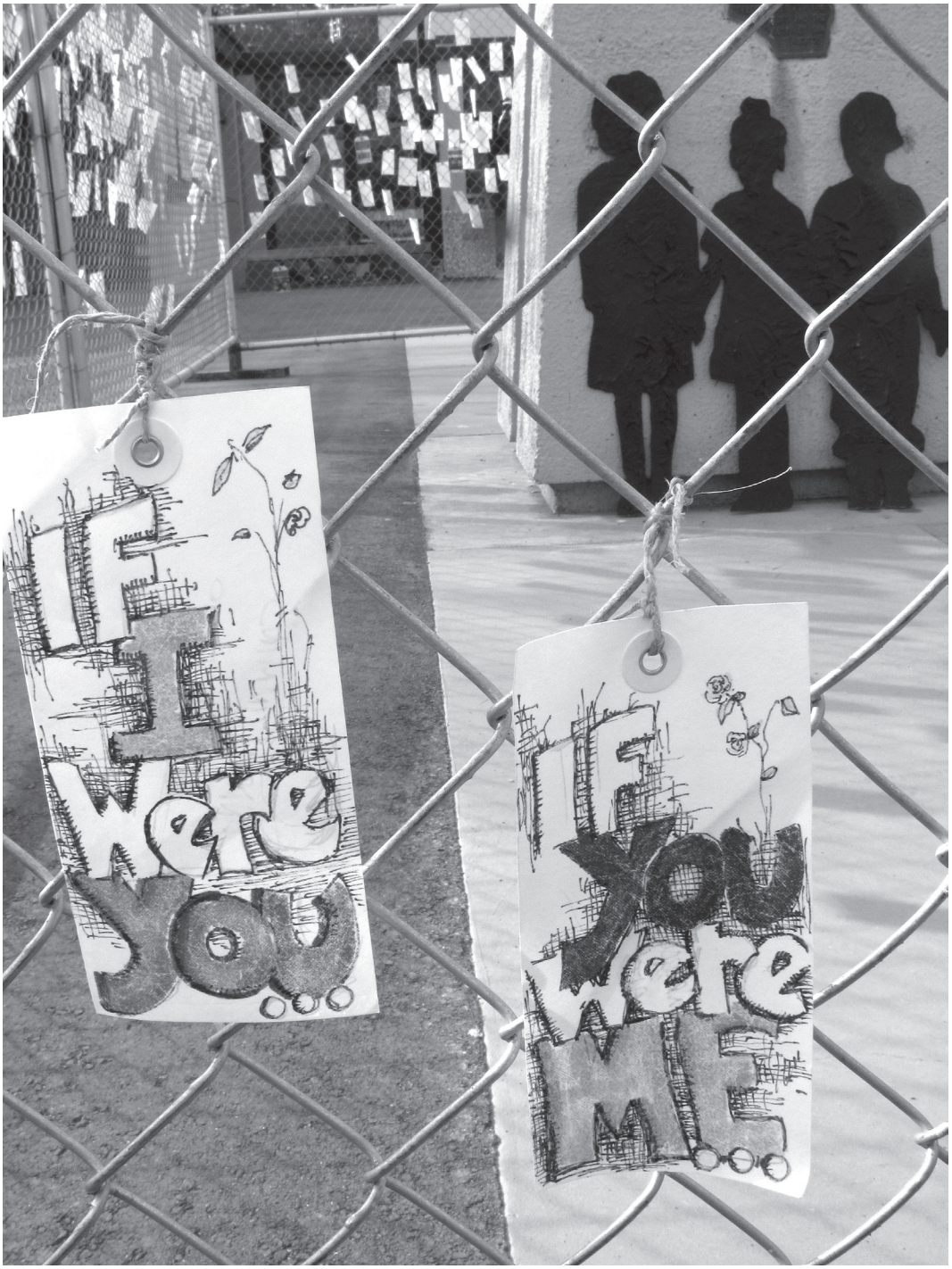
At "Day of Remembrance" event, February 19, 2015: (l to r) Tom Izu, George Tsutsui, Kiyoshi Oshiba, and Kimo Uratani. Mr. Tsutusi and Mr. Oshiba are both former internees. Photo by Azha Simmons.

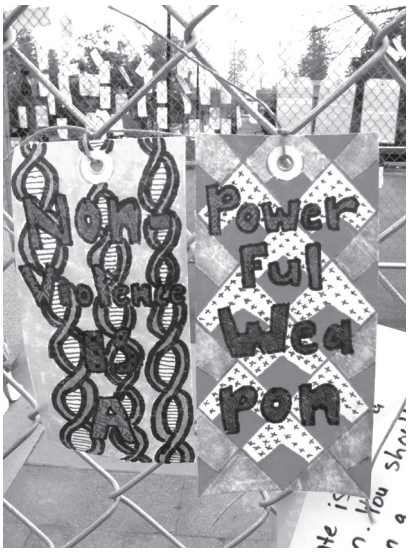
Water Ways, an exhibit by the Los Gatos-Saratoga Camera Club, opened in March. Photos taken at the March 28 reception show photographers, family, and friends going with the flow. The exhibit will continue until June 19.

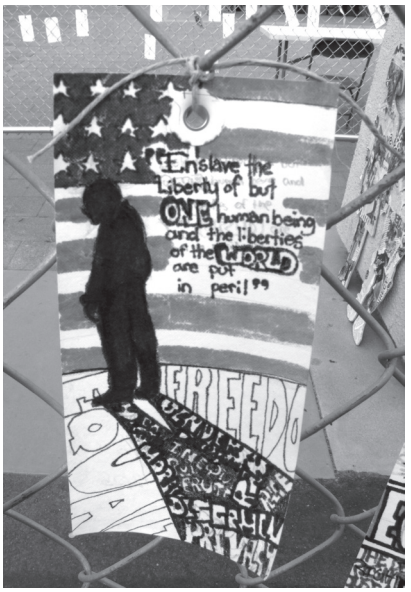
Diana Argabrite at Faculty-led Teach-in, January 22, 2015.

Antonio, Bobby, Maria (mentor) Hugo, Melanie, Yarelia, and Gabriel surround guest speaker, City College of San Francisco professor Ben Bac Sierra, at Student-led Teach-in, March 5, 2015.

At the Center







Civil Liberties Fence Project – a Euphrat Museum/ California History Center/De Anza student collaboration. Photos by Diana Argabrite, March 2015.

SPRING CLASSES

California History Center State and Regional History Academic Program

The following courses will be offered Spring quarter 2015 through the California History Center.
Please see the History class listing section of the Spring Schedule of Classes for additional information
www.deanza.fhda.edu/schedule or call the center at (408) 864-8986.
Some classes may have started by the time you receive this issue. We apologize for the magazine's delay.

Rolling Thunder: Railroads Into California

Course: HIST 52X

Instructor: Chatham Forbes ■ chforbes@msn.com

The transforming technology of the 19th century was steam, and steam powered the railroad into the Western wilderness, terminating in California. This true epic of the American experience brought permanent change to the economy and culture of the state. Over time, railroads became the dominant economic and political power in California, and comparably powerful in the entire nation.

LECTURES: Thursdays 4/23 and 4/30, 6:30–10:20p.m., CHC

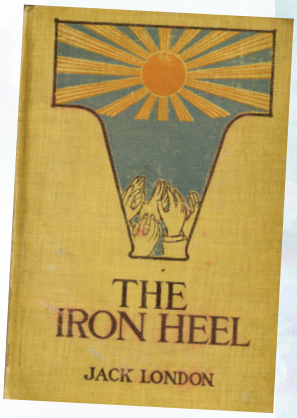
FIELD STUDIES: Saturday 4/25, 8:30a.m.–5:30 PM,Sacramento, and Saturday, 5/2, 9:00a.m.–5:30p.m., Felton

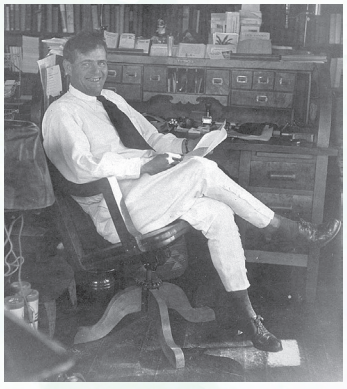
Arc of the Meteor: Jack London in California

Course: HIST 54X

Instructor: Chatham Forbes ■ chforbes@msn.com

The quintessential man of action, gifted and generous, London was as much a participant in the events of his time as he was a writer. Through energy and brilliance he climbed out of a rough youth to world prominence as a controversial voice for the American labor movement.





LECTURES: Thursdays 5/14 and 5/21, 6:30–10:00p.m.

FIELD STUDIES: Saturday 5/16, 8:30a.m.–5:30p.m. Glen Ellen, and Saturday, 5/23, 9:00a.m.–5:30p.m., Carmel

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Robert Levy

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J.T. Preston

Jeanine Stanek

Paul Trimble