

IRMA C. GOLDSMITH.....ACTIVITIES

Evacuated from Hawaii after December 7, 1941, bombing and returned with my two small children visiting my father in Tacoma, Washington, later settling in Palo Alto where we had lived while Colonel Goldsmith was stationed at Stanford University.

Bought on Gordon Way, Los Altos, and lived there for some years, then divided the property before selling and bought a home in Los Altos Hills in the Spring of 1954. Shortly thereafter Bill Simerell asked me to very actively help in the incorporation of the Town. Which I did.

The incorporation was successful and those who had worked on the project then formed the Hills Association to protect it. The first meeting and organization was held one very rainy stormy night. Officers were elected and I served as the first treasurer, as well as District Representative.

FOUGHT MANY BATTLES

The Neary Quarry was destroying our light roads with their heavy loads of gravel and rock, etc. and this was finally brought to a halt by long court action requiring much work from those same people who founded the Town as well as converts who came along later and aided.

Those who opposed the Town now filed petitions to ballot for the survival of the Town..they lost and the election strongly supported the town's incorporation...through again the will of the people and again strong support by the Los Altos Hills Association.

The next threat was the route of #280 which should realistically have been routed along the railroad tracks and not along Purissima Valley thus splitting the town right down the middle. Forces with more money proved to be stronger than the limited number of residents who were pitted against neighboring towns and the University of Stanford.

During this time I worked for the Association to set up a workable trail system and called it the TOWN PATHS so that it would clearly be a part of the transportation system of the town to safely accommodate all those who wanted to walk or ride their horses. Bikes and all wheeled vehicles came under the Vehicle Code and used hard surfaces only and that was of course for the safety of pedestrians and equestrians, including the bicyclists for gravel and dirt are often the cause of serious bike accidents. The Town Path maps I presented were accepted into the General Plan around 1967.

Put on the very first Christmas Party for the new Town to benefit foster children of Santa Clara County. Many old-timers now gone were donors of boxes of apples, various foods and candies and cookies. Toys were of course included. Decorations were put up in Town Hall and others purchased for the roof including Santa and his reindeer and helpers. Frank Duveneck was the first Santa Claus and drove up in his sleigh put together by Ed Holm. whose pet donkey, Nellie, pretended to be a bona fide reindeer hitched to buggy for a sleigh. Her festive-adornments irritated her and she decided not to go along with the idea at all, so patient assistants led her shoving at times to put their point over that she had a traditional duty to perform and must do it..all the way down Concepcion to within sight of Town Hall when Nellie allowed Santa Claus to take over his duties...she pulled the"sleigh"down the entrance with Santa in his red suit, long white whiskers and hearty voice calling "Merry Christmas to all". He then handed out candy sugar canes and small toys to the delighted kiddies; then shook the reins, Nellie tossed her head with the Christmas straw hat askew, long ears sticking out on either side and sleigh bells ringing they dashed away out of view. (Some of those fortunate kiddies are now grown and have told me they remember their first real encounter with Santa Claus and a true "Rudolph"). There was never another party of the several that followed which was as good as that very first one.

Candidates and issues in the various elections required careful scrutiny and constant support of the incorporation basis, so there was never a time to sit and rest and forget. Alertness must always be first.

During this period I helped to found two organ clubs and served the various offices of both and as president several times.

Held all offices of Kappa Kappa Gamma Alumni Association, then helped to found the Delta Chi Mothers Club of KKG in San Jose State College.

Active in various organizations, including the AAUW.

Member, held the offices and served as board member of the Los Altos Palo Alto Horsemen's Association writing for their newsletter. It is now disincorporated with all files and records preserved in the Los Altos Hills Historical Society.

Member San Mateo County Horsemen's Association, served all offices but V.P. and President and served on the Board of Directors for over 20 continuous years. Wrote for the magazine and as historian brought their history from 1939 to date with some 10 volumes. Won various awards, the last as "Outstanding Contributor" for 1973, the highest

award given by the Association, Exhibited my horses in area shows. Gave riding lessons to children and older persons in my riding ring.

Taught and played electronic organ.

Served on the Board of Directors of the Robleda Water Sompany and as secretary. Helped effect merger with the Purissima Water Company and after final papers was responsible for the defunct company paying off all monies due each member according to his balance and deposit.

Secretary for various firms including Stanford University.

Wrote pamphlet for town called "Horses-at-Home -in-Los Altos Hills" for free distribution to foster better understanding between residents who had horses and those who did not. The impact of the booklet which was done in simple clear language with free line drawing was to teach children riding on the roads and trails how to observe safety rules.

Zoning was firmed up by the recall of two council members requiring considerable dedicated work by town supporters. The DeLaRoza lawsuit over multiple low cost Federal housing for Adobe Creek development supported the town in maintaining their acre zoning.

Served the Town as Chairman of the Traffic and Public Safety Committee for four and one-half years. Resigned. During that period our committee cooperated to improve roads and safety conditions by applying for and receiving a Federal Grant of \$14,000 and one for \$15,000. Traffic engineers studied in detail dangerous intersections and provided aerial photography. Purchased two road traffic counters and radar equipment to control speeding. A Bicycle Safety Contest for the children emphasized the Vehicle Code Rules governing the use of bicycles. Two ten-speed bikes were awarded winners together with some 60 other prizes. Cooperation with residents, children and their parents and the Sheriff's Officers was outstanding and highly successful. Contest was open to all in the neighboring towns also. The Traffic Survey was completed and presented to the Town for implementation.

Worked to develop the Los Altos Hills Historical Society with many important improvements and advances made. Served as vice-president and for two years as president. In public service arranged King Tut Tour for small Groups for the benefit of members with small fee for transportation and admittance to the Exhibit. Advances made in the preservation of historic sites prepared for a Town Ordinance.

EDUCATION

Grammar school in Oregon and Washington
 Stadium Highschool--Tacoma, Washington
 Reed College - two years - major liberal arts Portland, Oregon
 Oregon State University - Corvallis, Oregon. BS degree with a major in
 business ----- advertising & journalism

AFFILIATIONS

Kappa Kappa Gamma	Social Sorority	All Offices
Phi Chi Theta	Business Honorary	Secretary
Chi Alph Chi	Advertising honor Society	Founder, President
American Association of University Women		
	College Graduates	Chaired Study Groups
California State Horsemen's Ass		Delegate to 4 conventio
San Msteo Co. Horsemen's Ass.		Ass. Treasurer, Secreta
	Board of Directors 20 + yrs.	Historian, completed ten volumas
Bay Area Qr. Horse Ass.		
Kappa Kappa Gamma Alumnae of Palo Alto		Offices & President
" " " Mothers Club	of Delta Chi, S.J. State College	Founder and V. Preside
Stanford University Faculty Women's Club		
" " Mother's Club		

CIVIC

Helped incorporate Los Altos Hills aiding many others
 Helped to found Los Altos Hills Association, first Treasurer and district
 representative
 Worker money drives for Community Chest, Red Cross
 PTA Los Altos and Mt. View Highschool
 Worker for S.C. County Welfare Dept aiding Foster Children and needy
 persons, especially on birthdays and at Christmas time.
 Worker for over 20 years on Horseplay Fiesta at Hidden Villa in LAH
 proceeds for philanthropy and the Peninsula School

HOBBIES

Reading	Fiction and non-fiction
Writing	Feature, human interest articles
Music	Piano, Auto Harp and Organ
Sewing, Knitting	Won blue ribbon in S.C.Co. Fair for best in the hand- knitted sweater division.
Riding, Training and Exhibiting my own horses,	also teaching