

VOLUME 40, NUMBER 1, MARCH, 1999

MARCH IS WOMEN IN HISTORY MONTH

MELISSA BORDERS STEVENSON does BIOLOGUES on Women in History. "Mo" is an energetic performing artist who has been researching, writing, producing and touring her original scripts since 1972. She won a state award for her drug prevention program for school children. She studied theatre at U.C. Santa Barbara and performed with the San Francisco based improvisational troupe, Spaghetti Jam on a weekly basis.

She will present to us 40 minutes of a costumed portrayal of Sarah Winnemucca (1844-1891), a strong willed Paiute woman, educated in the white man's ways, a spokeswoman for Indian Rights and Virginia Reed Murphy (1835-1921), one of the members of the Donner Party who is buried at Oak Hill Cemetery, and two other historical women.

GONE TO THE GOLDEN HILLS

HELEN ARBUCKLE ON DECEMBER 16, 1998

EULOGY TO HELEN ARBUCKLE,

December 19, 1998 by Leonard McKay

All of us here today are lucky to have known this remarkable woman and to celebrate her life and to offer sympathy to her children, Susan and Jim.

Helen Fisher was born on a farm in North Dakota six miles north of the small town of Dickinson. her father had homesteaded land there after his arrival from Cumberland County, England in the 1870's, Her mother's parents, the

Hamman family, came from Germany, and they also settled in North Dakota. Helen was the youngest of four children, and the only girl with three older brothers.

In Helen's words, "While I was growing up, I was practically an only child. My brothers were older, and the nearest neighbors over a mile away. It was so safe to play outside . . . no cars, electric wires, or weirdoes. Sometimes, the neighbors bull got out of his pasture and charged into our yard.

If I tired of brushing and braiding my doll's hair, I could help my mother churn the butter, shell peas from the garden or help my father pump the forge while he repaired tools or turn the grindstone while he sharpened the sickle. Sometimes, I sat on the wagon seat and drove the horses while my brothers loaded the wagon with hay.

After a series of dry years, my folks sold the farm and planned to move to California. Just a week before departure, papa died. Knowing there would be adjustments and adaptations to a new life, my mother bravely made the move to San Jose accompanied by two of my brothers. After a spell of homesickness, we returned to Dickinson, but a winter of shoveling coal and snow changed her mind and we returned to San Jose permanently."

Back in San Jose, Helen attended San Jose High School and graduated in 1927. She then attended San Jose State College and on February 11, 1928, she was initiated into the Starlight Chapter of The Eastern Star. In 1931, she held the Star position of Electa and in 1958, the position of Adah. She continued her membership for 70 years and eleven months. The Starlight chapter is now known as "Bright Star." At an Eastern Star dance at the Masonic Temple, she met young Clyde Arbuckle, who was attracted to the hall by Tillie Brohaska's music and he asked her to dance.

Again, I quote Helen, "From then on things gradually happened. We went together for about two years. We were married August 7, 1932, in the depth of the depression and traveled by railroad pass to the Olympic Games in Los Angeles for our honeymoon. We celebrated our Golden

Wedding in August, 1982, at the Saratoga Foothill Club.

At first, we lived with my mother, then moved to a little furnished house on South 26th Street and started raising cats." Both Helen and Clyde loved cats and in the years that I knew both of them there were many felines with names like Bodelia around. There is the classic story of a newspaper reporter from the *San Jose Mercury* who was assigned to interview Clyde when he was at the old Statehouse Museum at the County Fairgrounds. After a week's assignment, he returned to the Mercury office and the editor asked him what he had produced from the interview. The reporter answered, "Nothing, every time the phone rang, Clyde answered for hours, the only thing I know is- he loves cats."

Their first child, Jim, was born on Palm Sunday in April, 1935 and Susan was born the following year on September 30, 1936. In 1939, the Arbuckles purchased the lot on Franquette where they lived together for 59 years .

As times were tough during the Great Depression, there was very little money for recreation. Their chief activity was hiking, and again I quote, "Because it was free!" Their hikes took them to New Almaden, to the Alum Rock Falls, various destinations in California and a major hike of more than 60 miles in the Yosemite back country. When their children were young, a frequent family vacation was among the redwoods at Big Basin State Park.

When both Jim and Susan were of college age, Helen went to work at the County Recorder's office to help with their thirty five dollar a semester tuition at the University of California, Berkeley, where each of them graduated. After her stint with the Recorder's Office, Helen took courses in writing and photography, and started her literary career. Soon, she was selling articles to western historic magazines, and wrote gardening articles for the *San Jose Mercury*.

One of the unusual feature articles was on "Outhouses," for which she was paid \$75.00, quite a princely sum at that time. She sold enough of her literary work to qualify for membership in Pen Women, and was a member

of the Monday Club until her death. In 1980, she won first prize in the California Pioneer's Essay contest. For a number of years, she has been collecting data on her unfinished book on San Jose Women. She had asked Frances Fox to do the forward for the book. One of Helen's favorite subjects was a prominent turn of the century woman-Carrie Stevens Walter. Carrie worked right alongside of Andrew P. Hill in the saving of the redwoods and the formation of the Sempivirens Club. (See *The Trailblazer*, June, 1998)

Helen was an excellent cook and gardener. Her kitchen with its southern exposure and wood burning stove was the most used room in the house. She entered her home made pies in the Santa Clara County Fair and won many prizes, frequently taking first place. A most precious gift from Helen was a home-grown home-baked rhubarb pie. From the window of that room, they could survey their large and well tended vegetable garden on the rear of the large lot.

In 1978, Helen was appointed to the City of San Jose's Historic Landmarks Commission, an organization originally started by her fellow school classmate, Ernie Renzel, when he was mayor of San Jose. She was active for many years in The California Pioneers of Santa Clara County. Another fellow 1927 classmate at San Jose High was Theron Fox and the Foxes and Arbuckles developed a close and friendly relationship. Now I would like to ask Frances to tell you of their long friendship.

EULOGY FOR HELEN ARBUCKLE

Frances Fox on December 19, 1998

Some people come into our lives and quietly go while others stay, leaving foot prints in our hearts which was how our friendship developed over 35 years ago right from the start when we began attending the Conference of California Historial Society meetings.

Helen prided herself on helping Clyde build their home manually, was an avid gardener with a productive vegetable garden and fruit trees. She often remarked, "We

live off our vegetables and fruit all summer and early fall. We never buy anything."

The last few years, when Jim came home to live, he introduced gourmet foreign food and along with Helen's culinary expertise, they complimented each other.

Actually, she was a woman of all seasons with a wide range of interests, a loving and devoted mother and wife, a woman's rights activist (named Susan after Susan B. Anthony) and was writing a book on women achievers in San Jose, interviewing women in all stations of life.

Despite a busy schedule, if friends were ill, she baked them home-made bread, pies and cookies. When I had a hip replacement, she baked me a delicious rhubarb pie and proudly stated it was made from their own rhubarb plants.

Besides being a homemaker, she led a tour of California Pioneers to Dickinson, North Dakota, her home town, where they were welcomed by the city dignitaries.

Another time, I accompanied her to Toronto to visit Susan, a gracious hostess. One weekend was spent at Susan's cottage overlooking a lake. Susan put us to work, helping with the construction of her house.

Helen and I traveled up and down California to various seminars and she was an excellent traveling companion. Too, Helen had an irreverent sense of humor as she began photographing out-houses. Theron and I visited the Acoma Indian Village in New Mexico, about eleven stories high. There I saw an out-house teetering on the edge of the cliff. I immediately photographed it and gave it to Helen over much laughter. Later, Helen sold a humorous story on out-houses to the *San Jose Mercury News*, but used a fictitious name as the author.

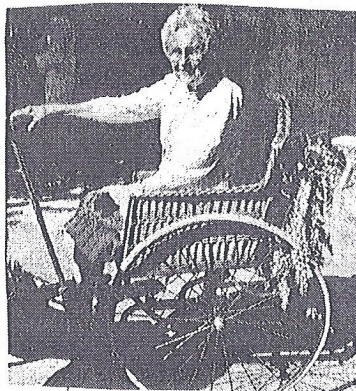
Her 1968 Bug Volkswagon was a great source of joy to her. One time when we were riding and waiting for the traffic signal to change, the car to our left yelled out, "Would you like to sell your car?" She said she had had similar other offers.

Another time, parked in front of McKay's Memorabilia, the parking meter expired and a policeman

started to write a ticket. She hurried over to him and said, "You're not going to give a 90 year old woman a ticket, are you? He hesitated and said, "I guess not." In gratitude, Helen leaned over and kissed his cheek.

We shared so much in common, writing, history, clubs and travel and I know she wants to be remembered with joy. I firmly believe those we hold most dear never leave us completely as they live on in the friendship they have shown us and the enrichment they brought into our lives.

... for some of Helen's articles in *The Trailblazer*, refer to November, 1994, "Historic Female Names in Santa Clara County;" March, 1995, "Ladies' Benevolent Society Home of Benevolence;" June, 1995, "Chaff & Gleanings"; September, 1995, "Chaff and Gleanings"; December, 1995, "Arbuckle's Odyssey"; June, 1998, "Carrie Stevens Walter" and my favorite,



MY HUSBAND THE HISTORIOGRAPHER

by Helen Arbuckle

Something funny happened the other day. I met a person who hadn't heard of Clyde. I started to tell her about him. After two hours she left and I wasn't through yet. . .

Many of you have heard him tell, or read of the circumstances of his birth on Jackson Street in Santa Clara. Although I wasn't present when this event occurred, I have been able to piece together some of the details.

On April 11, 1903, Clyde sprang like the Phoenix from his mother's womb in full voice, total memory spanning centuries of history and adding to the store of information from time to time. Unlike other babies, he did not wear diapers, but a stiff hat and khaki clothing which he continued to wear into the ninth decade of the 20th Century. . .

1999 SANTA CLARA COUNTY PIONEERS
ANNUAL HISTORICAL ESSAY CONTEST

\$1000.00 IN PRIZE MONEY

1ST PRIZE-\$500.00

1ST HONORABLE MENTION-\$60.00

2ND PRIZE-\$250.00

2ND HONORABLE MENTION -\$40.00

3RD PRIZE-\$125.00

3RD HONORABLE MENTION-\$25.

OPEN TO ALL-

STUDENTS AND GENERAL PUBLIC

RULES

SUBJECT-Any person, place or event concerning Santa Clara County from its beginning to the recent past.

LENGTH-Minimum 3000 words-Maximum-10,000 words (10-30 pages text)

CONTENTS-Each Essay must be typewritten in English.

a. Double spaced

b. At least one inch margin and must include:

c. Short introduction or preface

d. Table of contents

e. Bibliography

f. Sources- persons, books or other items consulted

g. Contestants Name, Address & phone number **MUST** appear on the lower right hand corner of the Title Page of the essay.

h. Students must include the name of their school and advisor under their name.

i. Essays must be in an appropriate folder or thoroughly stapled together so they do not come apart.

j. Each essay must be submitted IN DUPLICATE. One copy will go into the Pioneer Archives and the other into The California Room of the San Jose Public Library.

k. Those submitting only one copy will be disqualified but the copy will be placed in the library

l-The Pioneers reserve exclusive publication rights to all essays.

m. None will be returned.

n. First prize winners for the last 3 years are not eligible to compete.

WINNERS will receive their awards at the **Quarterly Luncheon Saturday June 5, 1999**. The first three winners will make a **BRIEF** presentation to the membership at that time.

Lou's Village, 1465 West San Carlos St., San Jose,

DEADLINE-Friday, April 26, 1999

SEND ESSAY TO Campbell-Warburton Law Offices,

111 West St. John, Suite 440, San Jose, CA-95113

(corner of Market & St. John)

FOR ADDITIONAL COPIES OF CONTEST RULES-

HELEN MAC CARTHY --578-4485

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As the Pioneer's year begins, we take a moment to mourn the passing of another of our honored members, Helen Arbuckle. Helen was a fixture at our quarterly meetings, served on the Board of Directors and was instrumental in the establishment of our essay contest. We will miss Helen, but I am certain she and Clyde are together again, roaming the Golden Hills...



We are planning a very unusual program for our March Quarterly meeting. In honor of Women's History Month, Melissa Stevenson will be presenting her Biologues, "Women in History," featuring 4 historic women including Sarah Winnemucca and Virginia Reed Murphy. This should be a very lively program, so please plan to attend.

Lastly, Thanks to an idea of Melita Kelly and Bob Johnson, Board Members will be wearing new identification badges at the next meeting. Let the board know how you like them as we are studying the feasibility of providing them for the membership.

Hope to see you March 6, 1999.

Eureka!

A HISTORY NOTE FROM LEONARD MC KAY (from the December Meeting)

Christmas in the Park is a thing of beauty and now an annual tradition in downtown San Jose. This all started 48 years ago by the Don and Mary Lima family. Located on the grounds of their funeral home on Willow Street, this outdoor display became so popular with families driving by that a traffic congestion problem was created. It was given to the City of San Jose in 1970. For several years, the display was on the lawn in front of the City Hall on Mission Street.

When Prop. 13 became law, the city cut back on the funding. A large committee of interested citizens was formed to carry on the tradition. As displays were added, more room was needed and it was moved to Plaza Park, now Cezar

Chavez Park, in 1981 where for 17 years it has continued to grow. There are now more than 700 volunteers who repair and erect exhibits, store them and make new ones each year. It is now estimated that nearly a half million people will view this spectacle and a major parade is now televised at the opening.

The city furnishes storage space and assistance in erecting the colorful display. On January 2nd, it is disassembled and put back in storage. At one time, the publisher of a local newspaper objected to it being called "Christmas" and while Christmas survived, the parade is now known as the "Holiday Parade."

In earlier years, during the 1920's and '30's, many of the private mansions on the Alameda, North First Street and Naglee Park area had large, colorful displays in their front yards. The most outstanding home displays on the Alameda competed against each other and an award was given. The Hart family won the "best" category for three years.

The big retail stores, Hale's and Hart's had animated displays in their show windows and people would drive from miles around to see them. These displays were expensive and animated. At the Hart Department Store, they covered all of the front on both the Santa Clara and Market Streets. There was also a moveable display inside the store over the wide stairway to the upper floor. These displays were rented from companies that alternated them among major cities and department stores.

These displays survived the Great Depression of the Thirties but when World War II came, these spectacles were eliminated. It was impossible to find people to repair them, to store and to erect them and our cities were blacked out, so enemy submarines could not target friendly shipping against the coastal silhouette.

After the War, things returned to normal, but downtown business was challenged by the arrival of Macy's and Valley Fair. As you remember, Valley Fair was separated from the Emporium. The promoters of Valley Fair brought Santa to Stevens Creek location by Clydesdale horses in 1972,

by reindeer in December, 1973, and by fire truck in 1974, accompanied by a Shriner's Parade, but the Lima Display was growing and today, we have Christmas in the Park.

One of my loneliest Christmases was spent right at the end of the War in 1945. I had just been transferred for the second time and I ended up in a tiny middle-ages town guarding a big SS camp. I knew no one, my mail hadn't arrived and snow and ice covered the ground. There was a popular song that pretty well summed up my feelings at that time. I would like to read the words of that song to you, because it was our generation that went away to Alaska, Europe, the Pacific and to training camps all over the U.S. I'm sure you remember it.

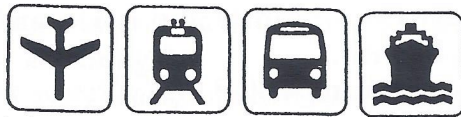
"I'll be home for Christmas,
You can plan on me.
Please have snow and mistletoe
And presents on the tree.
Christmas eve will find me
Where the love light gleams.
I'll be home for Christmas-
If only in my dreams."

It took most of us three and four Christmases to return. I wish each and every one of you a Very Merry Christmas.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Hazel Argillo
Josephine Calleri
Dorothy DeDontney
Joan F. Etheridge
Hazel Regnart Fretwell
Helen Gammell

Ernest and Louise Gifford
Bernice Glendenning Jones
Dorothy Nielsen
Patricia Nuovo
William J. Rahmer
Ray White



Touring With The Californians

Rose Crimi Muench - Tour Director

Nancy Hill - Phone Reservations: 258-3449 Mon-Fri, A.M.

Pauline Hawkins - Treasurer

1223 Redcliff Drive, San Jose, CA 95118-1228

Helen Brooks - Registration at Luncheons

REGISTRATION FOR SPRING TRIPS begins at the March 6 luncheon. Checks are preferred over cash. Please form one line at the Treasurer's table. Non-members and guests may sign up starting March 15. If you do not get a trip flyer at the luncheon meeting, please send a stamped, self-addressed letter-sized envelope to Pauline's address above. Pick-up point (unless otherwise indicated) is at Valley Village, 390 N. Winchester Blvd., Santa Clara, at Dolores St. side.

MARCH 12, FRIDAY

ART of the VICTORIA and ALBERT MUSEUM

This trip is filled. You may place yourself on the waiting list.

Leave: 10:00 A.M. Return: 3:30 P.M. Price: \$ 37

APRIL 7, WEDNESDAY

SAN FRANCISCO CITY HALL and CITY LIBRARY, MACYS SPRING FLOWER SHOW

San Francisco's imposing city hall, built in 1915, reopened after a four year, \$293 million seismic upgrade. We will have a docent tour of the building and a visit to the museum and gift shop. We will also tour the new Public Library across the street. Then we go to John's Grill for the included lunch. A San Francisco tradition since 1908, it features historic memorabilia and reminders of its frequent patron Dashiell Hammett, who included John's Grill in his mystery novel "The Maltese Falcon." Our final stop will be Macys Spring

Flower Show, where the windows and main aisles are decorated with colorful blooms.

Leave: 8:30 A.M. Return: 4:30 P.M. Price: \$ 36

MAY 6, THURSDAY

STANFORD'S CANTOR CENTER and the MUSEUM of AMERICAN HERITAGE in PALO ALTO

The Stanford Museum has been transformed into the Cantor Center for Visual Arts after nine years, a seismic upgrade and the addition of a 42,000 square-foot wing. Our guided tour will coincide with a traveling exhibit entitled, "California Arcadia" featuring paintings of our beautiful state. We will also have time to view other areas, including the Rodin gallery and the newly re-landscaped outdoor sculpture gardens. In down-town Palo Alto, we will visit the American Heritage Museum, housed in the 1907 home of Dr. Thomas Williams. A special exhibit will feature mechanical and electrical devices from 1800 to 1950 common in homes and businesses of the time. A demonstration of an old Linotype machine will be available. The home's lovely gardens will be a bonus treat. Our included luncheon will be at a downtown restaurant nearby.

Leave: 9:30 A.M. Return: 4:00 P.M. Price: \$ 30

JUNE 16, WEDNESDAY SOUTH COUNTY GEMS

We will explore some of the history of our neighbor to the south, Morgan Hill. No, it is not named for a hill; rather it is named for Hiram Morgan Hill, its prominent settler. Our first tour will be Villa Miramonte, which Hill built in 1887 for his bride, Diana Murphy. The home has just been restored. Its gardens were planted in January with 150 rose bushes, which should be in full bloom for our visit. We will then proceed to the Morgan Hill Historical Museum, which documents the early years of the town. Lastly, we travel to the Guglielmo Winery, founded by Italian immigrant Emilio Guglielmo in 1925, and still operated by his grandsons. We will have a guided tour of the winery, the food and wine shop, and wine tasting. We will have an included lunch.

Leave: 9:30 A.M. Return: 3:30 P.M. Price: \$ 35

OUT OF COUNTRY TRIPS

August 13 - 25, 1999 Ireland and Nordic Isles Cruise, Holland America MS Rotterdam, from London to Copenhagen with stops at: Guernsey; Cork and Dublin, Ireland; Isle of Man; Reykjavik and Akureyri, Iceland; Faroe Islands; Shetland Islands; and Copenhagen. (Cost:) \$4300 and up, depending of stateroom. A brochure is available.

INTERESTED in a MISSISSIPPI RIVER CRUISE ?

We will have an interest sign-up at the luncheon for a 7-day Fall Foliage cruise on the "Mississippi Queen" from Minneapolis – St. Paul to St. Louis. Dates are Sept 30 – Oct 8. Price range: \$2800-\$3000. If you cannot attend the luncheon call Nancy Hill.



NEW ALMADEN HACIENDA CEMETERY CREW

Here is the Hacienda Cemetery Crew! Left to right, Richard Hill, Chairman, Manny Carvalho, Ralph Perez, Bob Fisher and Bud Amaral. Missing is John Davalos.

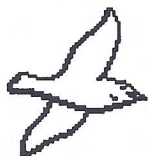
They have worked hard to ready the cemetery for visitors in Historic New Almaden. If you missed the opening of the new museum in Casa Grande, take a trip and see them both.

THE 55th ANNUAL MEETING of THE CONFERENCE of CALIFORNIA HISTORICAL SOCIETIES will be in San Jose, June 10-12, 1999 Mark those dates on your calendar and plan to come for an exciting Conference with people from other historical societies all over the state. The Pioneers are among the 400 societies who are members- therefore you are invited.

There will be a Gold Rush exhibit at the San Jose Museum with costumed docents, followed by a BBQ at the Museum on Thursday, New Almaden will be featured on Friday with a walking tour, lecture and museum tour plus lunch. Dinner will be at the fabulous Hayes Mansion. On Saturday morning, the annual Genealogy Breakfast will be followed by Workshops at the Peralta Adobe and Fallon House. The Annual Awards Luncheon featuring folks like yourselves who work hard for their hometown historical society and museums will be at the San Jose Museum of Art. The afternoon will be dedicated to walking tours of San Jose. Dinner, entertainment and mariachis will be at the Peralta Adobe on Saturday night. The host hotel will be The San Jose Fairmont.

MEMBERSHIP DUES are delinquent after March 1st, 1999. Please send in your dues with a stamped self addressed envelope to Robert & Irene Johnson, 445 North 15th St., San Jose, CA, 95112. We do not want to lose you as members. Please invite your pioneer neighbors join us. Irene & Bob will be at the March meeting to reinstate you or greet new members. **Check your labels to see if you are current.**

GONE TO THE GOLDEN HILLS



Helen Arbuckle, December 16, 1998

Barbara Sawyer, October 8, 1998

Evelyn Lasley, January 15

Kenneth Jorgensen, January 13

Carolyn La Liberte, January 22



1998-99 OFFICERS - CALIFORNIA PIONEERS OF SANTA CLARA COUNTY

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408-299-7400

Leonard McKay-Historian

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San Jose, CA 95111- 2032
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Hacienda Cemetery & Jackson Ranch

Richard Hill

See above

Bud & Marie Amaral

See above

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Californians -Reservations

Nancy Hill

408-258-3449 Before Noon

Californians Treasurer

Pauline Hawkins,
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Submissions to the Trailblazer For the June Issue

must be received by May 1

Mary Lou Lyon- Editor

879 Lily Ave, Cupertino, CA
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(e mail-) (grandmal@nanospace.com)

P.O. BOX 8208 SAN JOSE CA 95155
ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

PIONEER LUNCHEON
SATURDAY, MARCH 6, 1999
AT NOON LOU'S VILLAGE

BIOLOGUES OF
WOMEN IN HISTORY
BY MELISSA BORDERS STEVENSON

554-7587

CORNNED BEEF & CABBAGE
SALAD & ROLLS
FRESH VEGETABLES
MASHED POTATOES
ICE CREAM & COFFEE
WINE AVAILABLE

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FEBRUARY 25, 1999 \$3 BY THE GLASS
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Organization
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Permit No. 543



1999 Trips Interest Survey

Name: _____ Phone: () _____

Address: _____ Zip: _____ - _____

email: _____ fax: () _____

Please indicate the trips of interest to you to help us plan our future schedules. Return this form to the Tour Table at the December 12th luncheon, or mail it to **Rose Crimi Muench**, 1289 Martin Avenue, San Jose CA 95126-2628

OUT OF COUNTRY TRIPS

___ Ireland and Nordic Isles Cruise, August 13 - 25, 1999

Holland America *MS Rotterdam*, from London to Copenhagen with stops at: Guernsey; Cork and Dublin, Ireland; Isle of Man; Reykjavik and Akureyri, Iceland; Faeroe Islands; Shetland Islands; and Copenhagen. \$4300 and up, depending of stateroom. Brochure available.

OUT OF CALIFORNIA TRIPS

___ Virginia, April 19 - 27, 1999. See the description in our tour list.

CALIFORNIA OVERNIGHT TRIPS

DAY TRIPS
