

BARRON PARK ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

John King, BPA President



Welcome to spring, Barron Park people! We are very excited to continue gathering together for our annual events throughout the year, and we have a lot coming up!

We had a terrific, and very informative, Annual Meeting on Sunday afternoon, March 16, 2025, with a visit from the Mayor of Palo Alto, Ed Lauing. Warm thanks to Ed for his participation and responsiveness.

At the meeting, we also rolled out our newly designed and functioning Barron Park Association website: bpapaloalto.org Kudos to Board member Maury Green for the countless hours he spent creating the beautiful design, not to mention its ongoing maintenance. We are thrilled that the website can provide updated information on neighborhood activities, discussions, and local businesses. Subscribing members and all residents may now log in to check the status of their membership – and of course to join, renew, and donate to the BPA – with PayPal or a personal check. Go to bpapaloalto.org/#join or go to page 10 of this Spring 2025 Newsletter.

Sadly, in February we lost one of our Titans of Barron Park, Gwen Luce. Gwen had been of service to the Barron Park Association Board and to the neighborhood for more than 35 years. She will be missed for her attentiveness, enthusiasm, energy, and leadership within the association and for the entire community. The month of March brought us sad news of the passing of our neighbor Jeannie Lythcott, well

known to many as a Stanford science educator, public school lecturer, and inspirational voting activist. Later in this Newsletter, you will read tributes to Gwen and to Jeannie by their children.

Perry the donkey's memorial service will be held on Sunday, April 27, at 2:00 p.m. in Bol Park, under the redwood trees. Find more details on page 3.

We look forward to seeing everyone at the annual Bol Park May Fête on Sunday, May 18, 2025, from noon until 3:00 p.m. Don't miss our traditional musicians and dancers and your chance to join the Maypole dance! You and your family will enjoy participating in the arts, crafts, and educational tables throughout the park. Bring everyone and a picnic, if you wish, but note that our much loved food and snack trucks will be on site. Games and sports will be provided for all ages. Please contact me at johnwadeking@gmail.com if you can volunteer to help either before, during, or after May Fête 2025!

Our first Ice Cream Social of 2025 will be scheduled for June. Our annual Movie Night will take place in October, and our Holiday Caroling and Crafts Fair will be held in mid-December. I wish you all a wonderful Spring and look forward to seeing you out in the neighborhood!

If you haven't yet, please join or renew your BPA membership. Go to: bpapaloalto.org/#join or the membership form on page 10.



BOL PARK

**JOIN US FOR
MAY FÊTE 2025!
Sunday, May 18
Noon to 3 p.m., Bol Park**

Come one, come all, Barron Parkers, families, and friends, to join in on our 46-year tradition! This year, May Fête is Sunday, May 18, starting at noon. Enjoy live music and dancers performing all afternoon, with a community Maypole Dance at 2:30. Invite everyone! Make a picnic of it! Bring chairs and a blanket! There'll be food for sale, soft drink and snack vendors, active games and crafts, history and community tables, visits from our beloved Barron Park donkeys, and more!

The May Fête is a volunteer effort. Please join us for the fun prep and set-up! To volunteer or if you have a display or an activity to add, please contact John King at: johnwadeking@gmail.com. See you at May Fête.

Artwork by Susan Breitbard.

Positions on the BPA Board and committees are available; please consider joining an interesting, creative group of folks! Come to a Tuesday evening Board meeting (on Zoom) to learn more; meeting invitations are sent out on our email lists: bpa-misc and bpa-news. My contact info is: johnwadeking@gmail.com Consult page 3 inside for handy BPA addresses and links.

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Silicon Valley Open Studios:

“Hundreds of artists, thousands of ideas, unlimited imagination”

By Rona Foster



Rona Foster, “Red Umbrellas”.

The 38th Annual Silicon Valley Open Studios (SVOS) is an opportunity to connect with artists of all kinds. Your adventure will feature artists throughout San Mateo and Santa Clara counties. It’s a free event, with over 300 artists showing their work during the first three weekends in May, Saturday and Sunday, from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Silicon Valley Open Studios encourage artists and enthusiasts to meet, view original creations, watch demonstrations, and buy fine art and crafts from the source. Visit artists in their individual studios or at group sites where several artists are exhibiting. Discover new artists showing for the first time, or visit some of your favorites. Spend quality time getting to know the artists, and learn about their inspiration and techniques. Find the perfect work of art for your home or office, or commission your own masterpiece!

Rona Foster, Barron Park resident for over 30 years, will host Silicon Valley Open

Studios in her studio on the second and third weekends in May 2025: Saturday and Sunday, May 10/11, and Saturday and Sunday, May 17/18 from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Rona is a painter, mixed media, and clay artist. She’s hosting a variety of artists from the surrounding area. She invites you to explore the art of creative living with artists ranging in media from painting, mixed media, pottery, greeting cards, photography, collage, jewelry, stained glass, colored pencil, and graphite. This is Rona’s 16th year of participation in Silicon Valley Open Studios.

In Barron Park, Silicon Valley Open Studios will be held at: 3858 Timlott Court, Palo Alto

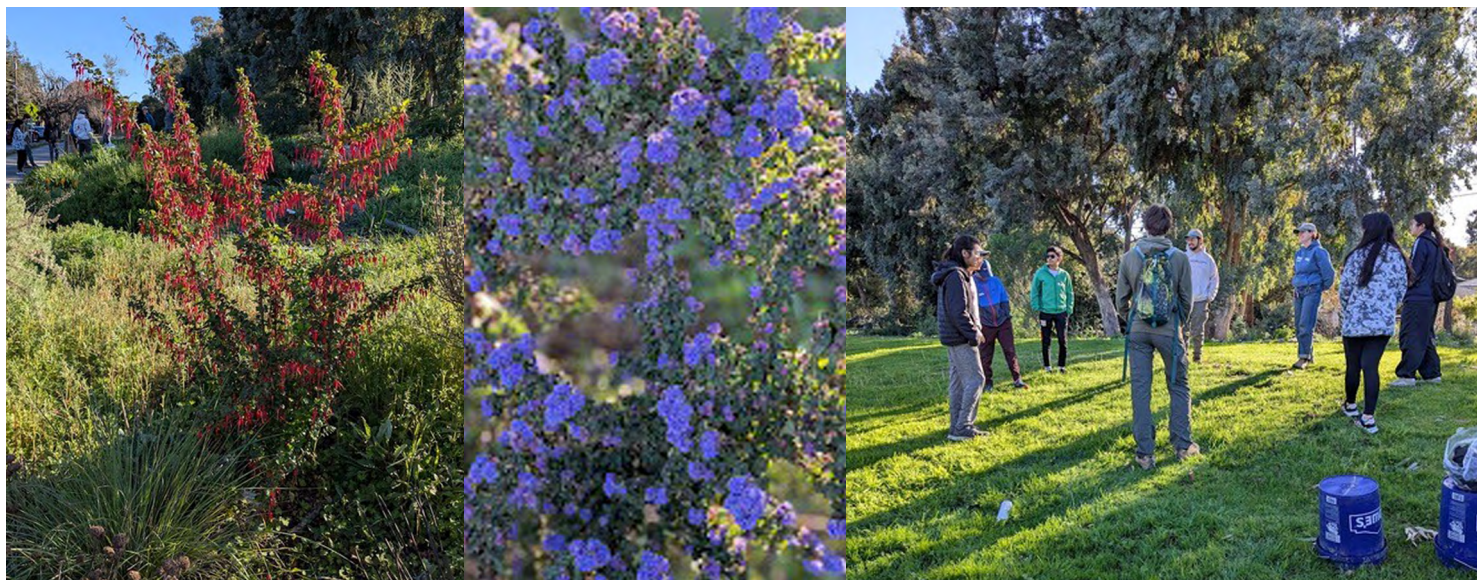
Rona Foster’s landline phone: 650-858-0589

Rona’s web address: RonaFoster.com

Rona at SVOS: svos.org/artist/rona-foster

For more information about SVOS: [SVOS.org](https://svos.org)

Signs of Spring in the Native Garden



Bol Park Native Garden photos L. to r: Fuchsia-flowered Gooseberry; Ceanothus “Dark Star” in bloom; a group of students sponsored by Acterra get their orientation for an upcoming Saturday workday in the garden. Photos by Myrna Rochester.

Perry's Memorial Service Announcement

By the Editors



Photos courtesy of the Donkey Project.



Buddy and Perry, Spring 2021.



Jenny and Perry, Winter 2020.

The memorial service for Perry will be held Sunday, April 27, at 2:00 p.m. in Bol Park, under the redwood trees.

There will be ample time for sharing of stories and favorite memories.

Parking is limited. Please walk or carpool if you can, and plan to arrive early.

For questions, contact:

barronparkdonkeys@gmail.com



Perry and Niner, Fall 2016

BPA EMAILS AND WEB LINKS SPRING 2025

- **BPA Website:** bpapaloalto.org/
- **BPA Newsletter Archive:** bpapaloalto.org/bpa-newsletter/
- **BPA Membership (Join/Renew):** bpapaloalto.org/#join
- **Membership Questions:** Lisa Berkowitz Landers at: barronpark.paloalto@gmail.com
- **BPA Email Lists:** Join at: bpapaloalto.org/bpa-email-lists/ or write to: listmanager@bpapaloalto.org
- **BPA President:** John W. King at: johnwadeking@gmail.com
- **BPA Treasurer:** John W. King at: johnwadeking@gmail.com
- **BPA Newsletter Editor:** Myrna

Rochester at: mbrbpa@sonic.net

- **BPA Business Liaison:** Paul Yang at: pabloyang@yahoo.com
- **Support for Buena Vista Neighbors:** Karen Ratzlaff at: karen.ratzlaff@hotmail.com
Buena Vista Partners (non-profit) at: buenavistapartners.org
- **Emergency Services Volunteer Program:** Maurice Green at: mauryg3@comcast.net
- **Barron Park Historian:** Douglas L. Graham at: dgrahampaca@gmail.com
- **Senior Connections:** Jaya Pandey at: jaya.jpandey@gmail.com
- **BPA Webmaster:** Maurice Green at:

bpawebman@bpapaloalto.org

- **Barron Park Donkeys:** To volunteer, donate, or purchase merchandise, go to: barronparkdonkeys.org or contact Jenny Kiratli at: barronparkdonkeys@gmail.com
- **Bol Park Native Habitat:** To volunteer, contact Rich Elder at: rich.e.elder@gmail.com
Donate to the Native Habitat through the "Bol Park Fund" at: friendsofpaparks.org/donations2
By mail or phone: Friends of the Palo Alto Parks (FOPAP), Bol Park Fund, 425 Grant Ave., Suite 27, Palo Alto, CA 94306; 650-327-7323.

Business Spotlight: Dave's Backyard Bees

By Margaret Rickling



Rhapsody Rickling staffs the Dave's Backyard Bees Honey Stand. All photos courtesy of Dave's Backyard Bees.

A silver lining of Covid times, Dave's Backyard Bees was born from a science project meant to keep the kids busy and learning while on home confinement from school. What was thought to be a week off turned to two weeks, a month, and then a long-drawn-out year of isolation and remote learning.

Dave Rickling got his first taste of beekeeping at the Ohlone Elementary School Farm where he volunteered on Farm Work Days with the students. (Farm Work Days are a bonus of the Ohlone curriculum and essential for maintaining the live science classroom during the school year.) A woodworker hobbyist, Dave decided to take some scrap wood, hammer it together into a box, and try his hand at catching a swarm of bees after watching a YouTube video. This also gave our kids a chance to continue science and project-based learning (while also giving Mom a much needed break).

With our three little worker bees, Dave set his box out and within a few weeks, he caught his first swarm. What luck! Let's try this again, he mused. Cut, hammer, build. Another bee box built and another swarm was caught! Our



Dave's Backyard Bees at the Palo Alto VA seasonal Farmer's market, which operates May - November on Wednesdays, 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

worker bees were buzzing with enthusiasm and excitement!

Dave soon became "the bee whisperer," as beekeeping came naturally and quickly grew to become a passion for him. He became known around town as our local swarm removal consultant, providing free swarm removal, as well as the provider of fresh local wildflower honey.



"Strawberry" honey bee swarm captured in Palo Alto.

In the early years of Dave's Backyard Bees, Dave maintained both his honey "hobby" and IT position, however when the honey was flowing over and his IT job came to a head, what might have been a difficult decision was made easy when his company had mass layoffs. Dave dove all in and Dave's Backyard Bees took off!

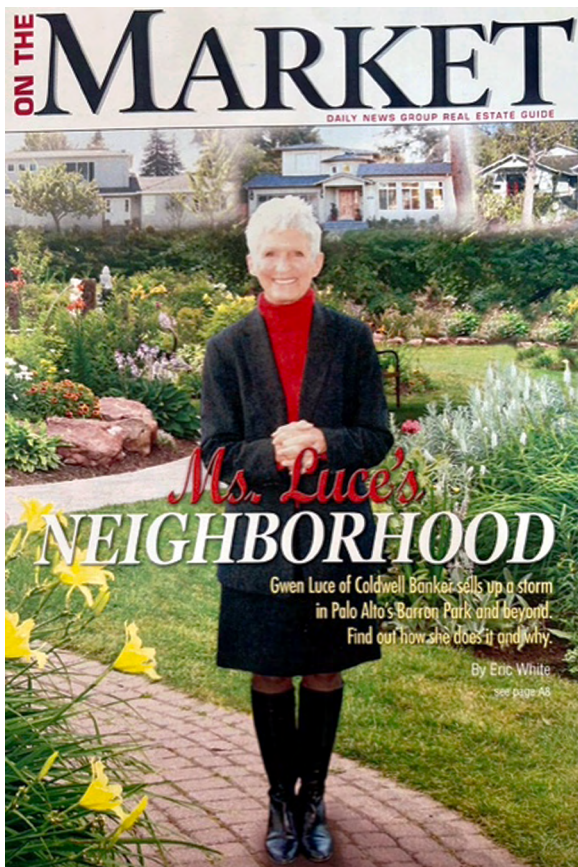
Now in his fifth year, Dave has grown his hives from a single hive to over 200 located in the Palo Alto area and at various estates, from Woodside to San Jose. His children, the "three worker bees" depicted on Dave's honey logo, are still an integral part of helping with the business, involved in all parts of production from donning the bee suit, to jarring and labeling honey, and educating the public and selling honey at markets.

Dave's honey can be found at various farmers' markets as noted on his website and at Barron Park's very own driveway honey stand open 24/7 for our neighbors. (See his website: davesbackyardbees.com)

Public service announcement: Spring is swarming season. Dave provides free bee swarm capture and consulting. Visit him davesbackyardbees.com or write to him at: dave@davesbackyardbees.com

Remembering Gwen Luce, the "Queen of Barron Park" (1942-2025)

By Gwen's Family



Gwen Luce featured in *The Daily News* supplement "On the Market," January 20, 2007. Source: *Palo Alto Daily News*.

Our beloved Gwen Luce passed away peacefully on February 7, 2025, surrounded by her children. Gwen was an extraordinarily active and passionate supporter of the Barron Park community for over 35 years. She was a generous resource to any and all who needed help, be it a home inspection or a Thanksgiving meal. As a long-time member of the BPA Board, she led the Welcoming Committee, served as Emergency Services Block Coordinator, helped manage memberships and mailing lists, and enthusiastically helped at every neighborhood event and celebration, even in her later days. Gwen also enjoyed sharing her garden calendars and forget-me-not-seeds, Hachiya persimmons from her prolific backyard tree, and an utterly diabolical persimmon pudding with hard sauce recipe.

Gwen was born in 1942 in New Rochelle, New York, to Charlotte and Erich Kessler,

Austrian immigrants who sought refuge in the U.S. during World War II. She later attended boarding school in Switzerland, kickstarting her lifelong love of Swiss and French culture, language, and adventures abroad. While attending Mt. Holyoke, she met her husband, Stephen, on a study abroad trip to Spain. The couple lived in Berkeley and New York in the 1960s and '70s, where Gwen completed her Masters in Teaching, while Stephen studied law. They soon welcomed Katie and Steve Jr., settling in Ladera, California. Gwen worked as a French teacher at Ford Country Day School in Los Altos Hills before the family moved to rural Etna in Siskiyou County in the 1980s, where they welcomed their third child, Christina. Gwen often recalled her unique experiences teaching French in Etna – this time with a baby strapped to her back!

In 1984, Gwen became a single mom with three kids to support. She moved her family to Palo Alto and turned to real estate, starting as a receptionist at Cornish & Carey (later Coldwell Banker). Jim Cornish famously called Gwen "a flippin' miracle." She earned her real estate license and sold her first house in 1986. She was able to buy a home for her own family on Laguna Way in 1991. Gwen was nicknamed "The Queen of Barron Park"

in the 1990s, due to her passionate support of the local community as well as her prolific real estate accomplishments here. Wendy McPherson, Manager Emeritus of Coldwell Banker, called her "a vanguard of the real estate industry," due to her remarkable work ethic, geographic farming, and initiating the standard of non-contingent offers and full seller disclosures, a trend now spreading to Southern California. Gwen never retired, closing her final sale on Laguna Avenue this year. To all who inevitably commented on her seemingly infinite energy, she'd say, "It's not energy, it's will!" Her determination and perseverance were inspiring, as was her commitment to the highest ethical standards and empowering the greater good.



Gwen hiking at Fallen Leaf Lake, Lake Tahoe, 2018.



Luce family photo, 2004. L. to r., Steve, Gwen, Katie, and Christina. Photos courtesy of the Luce family.

On the rare occasions that Gwen took a break from her work and volunteering, she enjoyed relaxing and gardening in her beautiful backyard, hiking with her kids near Fallen Leaf Lake in Tahoe, visiting family in Europe and

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Art Seekers of Barron Park

By Maria Gabriel



The Art Seeker's Collective enjoys the results of a productive afternoon! All images courtesy of the Art Seekers of Barron Park.

A couple of things occurred in 2023. First, I had wanted to experiment with “dirty pour” acrylic painting, a technique I had seen demonstrated on YouTube. Second, I had been chatting with a friend about starting a group of people who would like to try doing art with friends in a casual setting. That conversation with my friend got my juices going. After watching those many YouTube videos on “dirty pour,” I was ready to try it on my own. I love sharing art with others, so when I mentioned this new type of art (for me) that I was experimenting with to a new neighbor and her young son (11) they got excited.

The son showed up with an idea already formulating. He wanted to create a beach scene with waves and sandy beaches. We discussed the colors of water and sand. We discussed how to create the color of the sand. He made three panels that connected edge-to-edge with the images that he created. The boy's parents showed up and made their own creations. While we were spreading paint, we realized how much fun we were having chatting and sharing stories. From there we wanted to try again.

After that initial day of experimentation, my friend and I started imagining how an art group would look, how often to meet, the supplies we'd need, and how many participants. A few more neighbors heard what we had been thinking and wanted to participate. Starting with about nine participants, sitting in the backyard playing with paint, laughing, and saying we needed to do this again, I started thinking we needed a name for our fledgling group of artists. The first name I came up with was “Thrill Seekers,” but realized that the name was used by a company in San Diego. So how about “Art Seekers”? That stuck, and so that summer of 2023, we made it official and refer to ourselves as “Art Seekers.”

For me, sharing and learning has been very fulfilling. I have also reconnected with neighbors and made some new friends. One of the participants comes over from Santa Cruz, one from Willow Glen, another from Sunnyvale, and one from Saratoga. One of the participants is in her nineties and is a creative paper artist. She has given me some new ideas for future workshops.

As a group, we run from March through August. In March 2024, Art Seekers started

with “Gelli plate printing,” in April, we had a “Collage” workshop (I was always intimidated by the making of collage), “Card Making” came in May, and in June, over Saturday and Sunday, we had four workshops of two to three persons per session, participating in doing “boiled paper.” In August (our finale for the summer season), we did a “dirty pour.” Everyone seemed to really anticipate that workshop.



An example of “boiled paper” art.

You may wonder what these techniques are? “Dirty pour” (or “acrylic pour”) is the technique of using a few colors to multiple colors, thinned to milk consistency, and pouring the thinned colors onto a canvas in successive layers. The colors blend to create organic-looking cells. “Boiled paper” is the technique of using 140-pound paper (it will hold up during the boiling), foraged plant material, and Rit or Procion commercial dye. The paper and plant material are stacked and pressed with clamps and “boiled for one hour.” The results are always a surprise. Collage takes on many forms and styles using cut or torn paper, fabric, photos, paint, and whatever is available.

As a group, we decided not to go beyond

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Gwen Luce, continued from page 5

Australia, and attending church at Menlo Park Presbyterian. She relished daily strolls through Bol Park to visit the donkeys, the Native Plant garden, and her wonderful neighbors. Gwen truly loved this community and was enormously grateful to all of you for being such a positive part of her very full and storied life. She is profoundly missed, but we'll carry her joyful, generous, indomitable spirit in our hearts forever.

Looking to donate to one of Gwen's favorite causes? She was a great supporter of the Barron Park Donkey Project (barronparkdonkeys.org/donate), the Bol Park Native Garden (friendsofpaparks.org/donations), and The Khodadoust Lab at Stanford (med.stanford.edu/khodadoustlab.html).

ARE YOU AN ARTIST OR WRITER?

Do you enjoy the creative work featured in the BPA Newsletter? Would you like to see your art, photography, crafts, music, published (or unpublished) writing, etc., in a future issue? Please send your idea with a draft Artist's Statement and reproducible samples or a description of your work to Myrna Rochester at: mbrbpa@sonic.net

Art Seekers, continued from page 6

August. After August, people start getting busy with school and coming holidays. It is also a good time to restock paint and supplies and check out some new methods of artistic expression.

This year has been a bit different since I have relocated to Sacramento. Instead of sessions being held at my house, other members have been offering the use of space or backyards in their homes.

2025 started with Card Making, led by our oldest and very creative member, Marilyn Smith, who uses paper for artistic expression. During future workshops, we will be trying "Jen tangles" (look it up) and a few other similar methods. One of the members has asked if we could once again do boiled paper. I am also checking out the process of Gelli plate printing on a larger scale.

If you are interested in any of these techniques, YouTube offers many videos that



A "non-artist's" first attempt at Collage.

show how to do the methods described here.



Paper artist and Barron Park resident Marilyn Smith, with Susan Gibson, visiting from Washington.

Questions? You can contact me, Maria Gabriel, at: mmagabriel@sbcglobal.net



An example of Gelli plate printing from an Art Seeker's Workshop last year.

Art Seekers has brought together people who want to share in experimenting with different methods of art, color, – and socializing. I find it funny that almost everyone in the group of about 20 participants, considers themselves non-artists. Could have fooled me.

Go grab a friend, some paint and paper, and "make some art"!

BPA EMAIL LISTS

The Barron Park Association offers three Email Lists for any resident to post: (1) *bpa-news* for news, information, and announcements; (2) *bpa-misc* for neighbor requests, queries, recommendations, freebies, etc.; and (3) *bpa-issues* to express opinions or initiate discussion on topics of interest. They are hosted on Google Groups. To join a list, go to: bpapaloalto.org/bpa-email-lists/. The link provides information about each list and an easy way to subscribe to one or more of them.

Jean (“Jeannie”) Lythcott

January 1939 – March 2025

Ed. Note: We are happy to reprint Jeannie Lythcott’s BPA Newsletter essay from Winter 2019-20. She was a compelling writer and speaker whose words continue to be relevant today.

From Julie Lythcott-Haims, Jeannie’s daughter:

After living a nomadic life, Mom bought a home here with Dan and me, and she settled

in for 23 years – the longest she’d ever lived in any one place. Mom threw herself into things with unbridled energy belying her small stature. Whether it was creating a gorgeous garden with the green thumb endemic to her British upbringing, co-leading the Barron Park May Fête, being a Donkey Handler, or being the Octogenarian who inspired Palo Alto high schoolers to register to vote in record numbers, Mom never saw a task she couldn’t

tackle. Of all I admire about her, what moved me most was how she handled her cancer and cognitive decline. In the last year of her life, when someone asked her how she was doing, she would say, “Better for seeing you.” And she truly meant it. Even while suffering, she was letting us know that our presence helped her feel better. There’s a lesson in there for us all.

Why I Vote: On Politics, Elections, and Citizenship

By Jeannie Lythcott



Jeannie Lythcott giving a talk on the voting process to high school students in 2019. Photo by Angelina Wang. Courtesy of PalyVoice.

In 1962 I left my home in Yorkshire, England, to take a position as a science teacher in Accra, Ghana, four degrees north of the Equator. It was a few short years after Ghana had gained its independence from Great Britain. Within a few weeks of arriving there I met an African-American physician, George I. Lythcott, M.D., who was Deputy Director of an American USAID program helping Ghana to create its own National Institutes of Health.

We fell in love and got married there. In 1966 he was asked to lead the USA’s contribution to the World Health Organization’s plan to eradicate smallpox in the 20 countries of West and Central Africa. That year we moved to Lagos, Nigeria, where the regional office for that program was located. Our baby girl, Julie, was born there in 1967. The eradication effort was highly successful, reaching its goals a year or so ahead of schedule. All along I had anticipated that when the time came to leave, we would be moving to the USA.

That would mean George would be returning home, and our baby and I would be newcomers to a strange

land. Julie was an American citizen by virtue of being the child of an American parent. Though George assumed I would become an American citizen, it wasn’t so clear in my head. Would I do all that was necessary to become an American or keep my British citizenship and identity?

On the one hand, while in West Africa, I had learned an awful lot that I abhorred about my country of origin. The forts where West

African prisoners were kept until a British ship arrived to take them across the ocean to become slaves still stood in Ghana, evidence of Britain’s role in the slave trade undeniable. Most English people I met there were prejudiced in every way possible against the Ghanaians, from a fundamental assumption that they were not, could not be, on a par with Europeans in any sense. I couldn’t abide most other White folks I met in West Africa. They were overwhelmingly from the greater London and Oxbridge areas, places that treated northerners, Yorkshire folk like me, as if we were second-class humans.

On the other hand, thinking about giving up my citizenship felt as if I were turning my back on Britain and the powerful allegiance I felt for Queen and Country. I needed a clear reason to work toward an American citizenship much stronger and more powerful than that I was married to an American, that my baby was American, or that I was probably going to live the rest of my life in America. In contemplating leaving Britain in this way, I felt disloyal, dishonorable even, and completely lacking in a proper appreciation of what my country had done for me.

Growing up, one of five children, in a tiny, coal-mining village called Ryhill in the West Riding of Yorkshire with Mam and Dad, I didn’t know that we were poor. We were all the same in the village. I recall Mam at the end of the month eating lots of boiled cabbage while we kids had thin porridge, bread, and maybe the scrapings from a jam

jar. My birthday is January 30th, and while they always sang the 'Happy Birthday' song on that day and everyone made a card for me, the birthday cake had to wait until the paycheck arrived on January 31st.

Along with that reality, there were all the astonishing things that Queen and Country did for me and all the other working-class northerners. As the British could begin to imagine the end of World War II, the government made decisions to help England's poor and working classes to become strong, healthy, and fully appreciated citizens.

In my last year at the academic secondary school in 1956-57, a teacher spoke to me about going on to higher education. I applied and won a place at the University of Manchester. I believe I was only the second person from our village to go to a university. Had even the smallest amount of money been required for me to accept this, since three growing siblings were coming up behind me, I would not have been able to go. The government awarded me a scholarship, a university bursary, which gave me all the money I needed to leave my house as an 18-year-old, to get myself to school across the country each year, to buy books and school materials, pay for food, lodging, and clothes. The bursary paid for everything I needed for the three years it took for me to get back home with my degree in hand. Best of all, I did not have to pay the money back. That's what my country did for me and so very many like me.

There's more. Just after the war was over, the government passed the National Health Service Act. It said that the Minister of Health had the duty to establish a health service to secure improvement both in the physical and mental health of the people and in the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of illness. This happened. Courtesy of the 1944 Education Act, all needy kids from 5 to 18 years of age had a two-course, hot, meat-and-potatoes meal at school lunchtime, every day, free of charge. More, we got a third of a pint of milk daily, also completely free, until the age of 18. Small amounts of cod liver oil — vitamins D and A — and orange juice — vitamin C — were also given to us free of charge, until about age 8. My country helped me and all needy children grow to be strong and healthy.

Then the National Health Service was born to make sure that everybody, regardless of

means, would get the medical treatment they needed with no payment required. People went to doctors and hospitals for whatever ailed them without question and no money was required at the point of delivery. A little bit was taken out of everybody's paycheck to provide this care. Mam delivered five babies; no money down. The youngest, my baby sister, Pat, was born with a cleft, top lip. She had five surgeries to keep it closed as she grew, the last one was mostly a cosmetic plastic surgery at age 16; no money down ever. My two brothers and I were each confined in a contagious disease hospital for three weeks until we got better from scarlet fever; no money down. My other sister, Carol, far away from home competing in a huge outdoor survival contest fell off her bike and broke her leg. The first we knew about it was when an ambulance pulled up outside our house with Carol inside, her leg already in a cast; no money down. That I needed a really good reason to think about becoming an American was obvious.

Becoming an American citizen would require me to recite the following oath renouncing all allegiance to Britain, Queen, and Parliament: *"I hereby declare, on oath, that I absolutely and entirely renounce and abjure all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate, state or sovereignty, of whom or which I have heretofore been a subject or citizen; that I will support and defend the Constitution and laws of the United States of America against all enemies foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I will bear arms on behalf of the United States when required by the law; that I will perform work of national importance under civilian direction when required by the law; and that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; so help me God."*

However, when I thought about becoming an American, I was deeply touched by the very idea of a government of the people, by the people, and for the people. As an immigrant it seemed that this statement of governance was a clear invitation for me to bring my all to the United States of America, to work hard to help make it its best self. I had some idea of what good things a government could do for its people and in America my input would be encouraged and welcomed. I took the invitation and became a citizen in 1968.

I have written to every President who has

been in office since I became a citizen, as well as my senators and representatives. I still get Christmas cards from Presidents Carter and Obama and their wives. I cherish and honor my duty to vote. I do my best to understand what is on the ballot so I know what and for whom I am voting. These days as a member of the League of Women Voters, I am actively helping others to wield the power of the vote, for the League has no interest in for whom others vote, it is *that* they vote that counts. We vote because it is our obligation as citizens to participate in the governance of these United States, and we vote for our own selves as honorable, adult members of the citizenry.

Barron Park Association Spring Newsletter Deadline:

Sunday, June 1, 2025

Please submit articles (in Word if possible) for the Spring 2025 issue of the BPA Newsletter, with photos/images separate from text, by **Sunday, June 1, 2025** (i.e., during the first week of June ☺) to Myrna Rochester at: mbrbpa@sonic.net

Make sure your BPA membership is current at: barronpark.paloalto@gmail.com You may want to send a query in advance with your ideas — for an article, story, report, update, interview, profile, announcement, review, anecdote, or artist's page — to mbrbpa@sonic.net

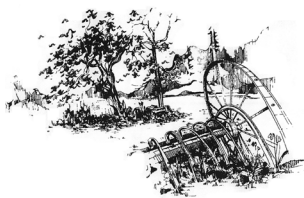
Announcements for activities should be for events scheduled **after July 15, 2025**. The Spring issue will be available in July 2025 by U.S. mail and online.

View the BPA Newsletter in Full Color!

You can read this issue in full color and with live Web links, as soon as it's posted at: bpapaloalto.org/bpa-newsletter/

While you're there, check out our Archive of past Newsletters. You can easily review past activities in the 'hood and catch up on issues you may have missed.

Thanks! The Editors



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Part Two: How Did Our Street Get Its Name?

By Douglas L. Graham, Barron Park Historian

A Continuing Story

The first part of this two-part article appeared in the Winter 2024-25 issue of this Newsletter. It covered all the Barron Park streets located in the North and West Quarters of the neighborhood – 40 streets in all. Generally speaking, those are the streets north of Los Robles Avenue, from El Camino Real (ECR) west to the Veterans Affairs Hospital and the Gunn High School playing fields.

The present article (Part Two) covers the 44 streets in the East and South Quarters of the neighborhood, that is, the streets south of the Los Robles Avenue line and from ECR west to Gunn High School.

The East Quarter (25 Streets)

Los Robles Avenue. Los Robles Avenue is the kingpin of the system of six major “collector” streets that carry the heaviest traffic in the neighborhood. It is an east-west street leading west off of El Camino Real (ECR) between the 3900 and 4000 blocks. It continues west, intersecting with Villa Vista, Villa Vera, and Campana on the left (south) side). On the right (north) side it intersects with major multi-family driveways leading into the Buena Vista Community and two major apartment complexes, followed by La Donna Avenue.

The next intersection is with Amaranta Avenue, the major collector street leading south to the Maybell Tract and then to Arastradero Road via Coulombe Drive. The Los Robles – Amaranta intersection is probably the busiest intersection that is wholly in Barron Park (and it is the only one this author knows of that has been the scene of a fatal automobile accident). If you continue on Los Robles to the west beyond Amaranta, there is another busy intersection, with Laguna Avenue (another major collector) leading north.

The naming of the avenue is simple: *Los Robles* is Spanish for “the oaks.” These were California Valley Oaks (*Quercus lobata*), a white oak species, many of which were scattered widely in Barron Park. They were conspicuous along the historic distributaries of Barron Creek, an intermittent stream on the surface with a steady underground flow in a shallow aquifer that follows the

course of the surface stream. Barron Creek wandered between Los Robles and La Para Avenues in the stretch from Laguna Avenue to La Donna Avenue. This is the long block occupied by the Oak Subdivision. (See “La Para Avenue” in the North Quarter, Part One of this article.) However, we don’t know who named it. Since it was an existing farm lane at least as early as 1880, it probably was given its current name by the Driscoll [strawberry] Company when it began subdividing the Barron Estate in 1920.

Villa Vista (private). The three “Villa” streets are private drives serving the condominiums in the Villas de las Plazas development (County tract #5913), with 38 condos. The tract was laid out in 1976, but the condos were not built until 1981. The development replaced the large McElroy Lumber Yard and Builder’s Supply store that had been the main supply center for residential building, renovations, and repair in south Palo Alto and north Mountain View.

Villa Vista is the “main street” of the development, running south off the 600 block of Los Robles Avenue, connecting with Villa Real, then south in a S-curve to end at Vista Avenue.

Villa Real (private). Villa Real is a one-block east-west crosslink between Villa Vista and Villa Vera.

Villa Vera (private). Villa Vera runs south off the 600 block of Los Robles, intersects with Villa Real, then dead-ends at the property line of the tract.

Vista Avenue. Vista Avenue is a one-block-long public street running west off El Camino Real between Los Robles and Maybell Avenues. According to the Palo Alto Historical Association booklet *Streets of Palo Alto (SOPA)*, the land in this area was owned by Stanford professor Julius Goebel in 1905, who “built houses tucked away on this street in Barron Park,” but the neighborhood was not named until 1925. Vista Avenue was laid out some time between 1905 and 1932 (when it first appears on County plat maps) and was probably named by Goebel.

Wisteria Lane. Wisteria Lane is a one-block-long street running south from Vista Avenue,

halfway between ECR and Verdosa Drive. It was originally named Goebel Avenue, but was renamed by the City in the early 1980s. It was named for the flowering wisteria vine (in accordance with the City’s policy of naming lanes and alleys after trees, shrubs, or flowers). It serves six houses, and it may be a private road.

Encina Grande Drive. Encina Grande and the following six streets described in this section are all in the Encina Grande Park tract of 1946. It is the largest residential development in Barron Park, with 162 single-family homes on ten different streets. The tract runs from Verdosa Drive at the east end, to Amaranta Avenue at the west end, and from Los Robles Avenue on the north to the tract boundary on the south.

The tract replaced three large orchard properties that were in the 100-acre addition that



Encina Grande locator map. Note: Goebel Lane has since been renamed Wisteria Lane.

Edward Barron made to the original Mayfield Farm. At least two of the properties were planted to prune plums in the 1920s; the third, at the east end, may have had a mix of fruit trees. The orchards were all uprooted in 1946 to make way for post-war housing.

The development name *Encina Grande* is Spanish for a large live oak. It was named for a gigantic old California Coast Live Oak (*Quercus agrifolia*) that was located near the

intersection of Encina Grande and Arbol Drives. All the streets of this tract have Spanish names – correct Spanish in these cases. Someone took care to do it right. I assume that the developer assigned all of these names.

All the streets in this tract were laid out in 1946. They are all called “drives,” no matter how short they may be. The use of the word “drive” may have been inspired by two streets in the original Barron Park Subdivision: La Selva and Magnolia Drives. (See the Encina Grande Park Locator Map on previous page.)

Verdosa Drive. Starting at the east end of the tract, the first north-south street (parallel to ECR) is Verdosa. Its name means “greenish” in at least one Spanish dictionary – but I think for the street, the better translation would be “greenery.” As you read this section, you will see the reason for my interpretation.



View northwest along Verdosa Drive toward Encina Grande Drive, in 1947. Photo courtesy Carolyn Vogt, taken by her father from 4161 Verdosa Drive.

Campana Drive. *Campana* translates as “open country.” It is the first north-south street west of Verdosa, and runs south from Los Robles, crosses Encina Grande, and ends at Flores.

Solana Drive. *Solana* means “a sunny place.” Proceeding west, Solana Drive is the next north-south cross street and runs south from Encina Grande, intersects with Cereza, and ends at Flores.

Arbol Drive. *Arbol* simply means tree in Spanish. (See “Encina Grande,” above.) The gigantic Coast Live Oak covered about half an acre and was left standing in the development until it died. Arbol Drive is one short block that runs south from Los Robles, ending at Encina Grande.

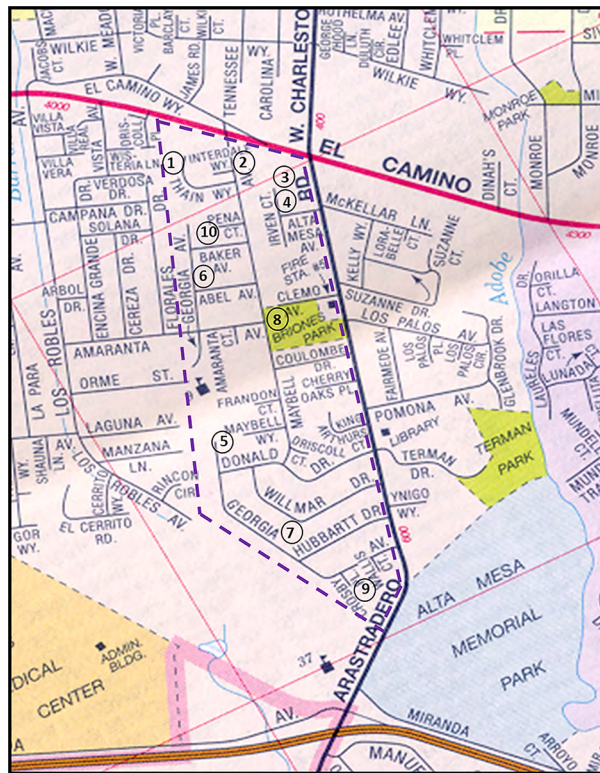
Cereza Drive. Cereza Drive is an east-west street running west one long block from

Solana Drive to Amaranta Avenue. Cereza means cherry. This street probably should have been named *Ciruela* (Plum) – but it wasn’t.



The view southwest along Flores Drive toward Amaranta Avenue, in 1947. Photo courtesy Carolyn Vogt, taken by her father from 4161 Verdosa Drive.

Flores Drive. *Flores* translates as flowers. The street – the last in our list of Encina Grande Park streets – is the southernmost east-west street and runs west from Verdosa Drive all the way to Amaranta Avenue – a very long block.



MAYBELLE TRACT LOCATOR MAP

- | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1 - Barron Square (1978) | 6 - George Reed Tract (1948) |
| 2 - L'Ommie's (1960s - 1990s) | 7 - Green Acres Two Tract (1952) |
| 3 - Kirk's Burgers (1950s - 1960s) | 8 - Juana Briones Park (1968) |
| 4 - Irven Subdivision (1926) | 9 - L'Hermitte Subdivision (1980?) |
| 5 - State Borrow Pit (1932-1956) | 10 - Pena Court (2002?) |

Driscoll Place. This is a cul-de-sac running west off ECR between Vista and Maybell Avenues. It provides access to 26 condominiums that were built at 4120 ECR in 1999.

The author has no record of the name or County tract number. There is no visible name on the buildings.

Maybell Avenue. In the Palo Alto Historical Society booklet, *SOPA*, Maybell Avenue is combined with Maybell Way. The discussion is confusing and concentrates on one short block of Maybell Avenue. It gives a highly inaccurate impression of one of the most important collector streets in Barron Park. Maybell Avenue

is a major thoroughfare for pedestrians, bicyclists, and vehicles serving three schools (Juana Briones Elementary School, Fletcher Middle School, and Gunn High School), as well as one city park (Briones). It is an east-west street running west from ECR at the intersection with El Camino Way, parallel

to Arastradero Road (one block south), ending at Donald Drive about 0.6 miles west of ECR. It was laid out in the large property known as the Maybelle (original spelling) Tract in 1905, and soon thereafter ran as far west as the current location of Juana Briones Elementary School. By 1947 Maybell Avenue had been established along the same east-west line all the way to L'Hermitte Subdivision where Hubbart Street is now.

The *SOPA* booklet alludes briefly to two important stories about the Maybelle Tract. One is that “in early days the area was used by a co-operative devoted to growing seeds and flowers.” (See “Thain Way,” below, or, for more detail, the Winter 1999 issue of the BPA Newsletter – “Lost Neighborhoods.”) The other important

story, about the infamous “borrow pit” in the 600 block, is covered in the discussion of Maybell Way in the south quarter, below. (See the Maybelle Tract Locator Map and Box with ten numbered locations on prior page.)

Interdale Way (private). This is a cul-de-sac leading north off Maybell Avenue to provide access to eight condominiums built in 1985.

Thain Way (private). This is a dead-end street, but it is too long to call it a cul-de-sac. It runs north off the 500 block of Maybell Avenue, then curves around to the east and runs, as a public street, almost to ECR. It then has a locked gate and is extended as a fire lane to ECR, where there is another locked gate at the east end of the large, complex development. It was laid out in 1978 and provides access to the 64 condominiums of Barron Square.

Thain Way was named for the landowner, Janet Thain, who owned a flower farm with multiple greenhouses located on this property. It was probably part of the local seed and flower cooperative mentioned above. Janet Thain was, in addition, a very popular teacher at Barron Park Elementary School, starting there the day it opened in 1948. Several generations of Barron Parkers enjoyed her teaching. Janet and her husband Alexander Thain lived in a big, old farmhouse on a large lot on the west side of El Camino Real just north of Maybell Avenue.

After Janet died, the house was torn down, and the vacant lot on ECR was for many years used only for a billboard. That billboard, with frequent changes in message, became a notable landmark on El Camino. The lot, probably owned by out-of-state descendants of the Thains, is still vacant today. In any case, there has been no recent movement towards a sale or development of this valuable ECR-frontage real estate.

Pena Court. This is a cul-de-sac running north from the 500 block of Maybell Avenue, between Thain Way and Baker Avenue. It was laid out in 1992 and serves eight houses built between 1993 and 1996. The Winter 1992 issue of the then-new BPA Newsletter says, “the name was recommended to the City by the Palo Alto Historical Association . . . to be named for Jose Peña (pronounced PAIN-yah). Peña was the original grantee of the Rancho Rincón de San Francisquito, which covered most of today’s south Palo Alto (area), including the land on which the new street lies.”

SOPA reports, “In 1822, Peña first received permission from the Mission of Santa Clara to occupy 400 acres of its pasture land. He was formally granted a much expanded area (which included the original 400 acres) on March 29, 1841, considered the founding date for the rancho. These are some of the earliest dates in Palo Alto history.” The 1992 naming of the court is the only instance of Peña’s name being attached to any public property in Palo Alto.

Georgia Avenue. Georgia Avenue, like San Jude Avenue, discussed in the north and west quarters above, must confuse some people trying to locate a street address, because it comes in two widely separated segments, one each in the east and south quarters. The first segment of this east-west street starts at the boundary of the Barron Square condominium development and runs west in the 500 and 600 blocks for about a quarter mile, intersecting with Baker and Abel Avenues, then crossing Amaranta Avenue and ending at Juana Briones Elementary School.

Georgia Avenue was laid out in April 1948 as part of the George Reed tract, owned by George and Georgia Reed. It comprised 43 residential lots on Abel, Baker, Georgia, and Maybell Avenues. It had been planted in apricot orchards, with a few scattered “orchard houses, outbuildings and some quarters for farmworkers.”

Abel Avenue. Abel and Baker Avenues were named in 1948. (See “Georgia Avenue” above.) Abel and Baker stood for the first and second letters of the U.S. military alphabet in use during World War Two. Perhaps the developers felt this would attract the attention of new home buyers, who were largely recent veterans.

Baker Avenue. (See discussion of Abel and Baker, above.) But Baker Avenue was also – or maybe principally – named for its developers, Linda and Clark Baker, who bought the land from George and Georgia Reed.

Alta Mesa Avenue. Alta Mesa Avenue is one short block running north off Arastradero Road about 400 feet west of ECR. It ends in a T-intersection with Irven Court. These two streets were laid out in one of Barron Park’s first residential tracts – the Irven subdivision in August 1926. It may have as many as 35 residential lots. The first house was built in 1915 – long before the subdivision was filed with 13 lots – and the last house was not

built until 1977. There is a lot of confusion in my records about this tract: It apparently has about 20 lots north of Irven Court, half of them on Maybell. Some houses were built in that part as early as 1928. Answers to these questions require shoe-leather investigation and maybe a trip to the County Clerk’s office in San Jose.

Alta Mesa is Spanish for “high tableland,” cited as the name source by *SOPA*. About a half mile west from Alta Mesa Avenue is Alta Mesa Cemetery. It is interesting that there is no topographic feature in the neighborhood or in the cemetery that would inspire this name.

However, there is a local historical connection for the name – one that is quite possibly the true source. The area on both sides of Arastradero from Foothill Expressway east to ECR was part of Rancho Purissima Concepción – Juana Briones’s land. One of Juana’s grandsons, Alvino “Al” Mesa, told a newspaper reporter in 1937 that his grandmother (Juana Briones) had “owned Alta Mesa ranch west of Mayfield.” This has to be a reference to Rancho Purissima Concepción. Juana’s ranch house on a hilltop was less than a half-mile from the boundary of Alta Mesa Cemetery.

Irven Court. This is a short street (two short blocks) that, together with Alta Mesa Avenue, effectively constitute a cul-de-sac. Irven runs north and south, dead-ending in both directions.

Cleomo Avenue. Clemo Avenue is a north-south street running north from Arastradero and connecting to Maybell Avenue. It divides the 500 and 600 blocks on both streets. It was originally named “Park Avenue” on the 1928 County tract map, but later County plat maps as late as 1949 do not show it even existing. However, it shows up on a commercial street map in 1949, still with the Park Avenue designation.

The Clemo name, however, is firmly nailed down by PAHA’s *SOPA*, and I include the entry here. “Cleomo Avenue was named for William Clemo, who was appointed Palo Alto’s first full-time Fire Chief in 1930. As a young man he served with the Palo Alto Police Department and was later a volunteer fireman. He dedicated his life to fire prevention and was called the ‘fireman’s fireman.’ The old Mayfield Fire Bell that summoned volunteer firemen to duty is now kept at Fire

Station #5, on the corner of Arastradero Road and Clemo Avenue."

The South Quarter (19 streets)

Amaranta Avenue. We've already described Amaranta Avenue as one of Barron Park's major collector streets. It is the main segment of the only north-south through route between Los Robles Avenue and Arastradero Road. In the 1950s there was an opportunity to extend Amaranta all the way to Arastradero instead of ending it in a T-intersection at Maybell Avenue, but it was not implemented. The street later became the object of many citizen protests in the 1960s when the Amaranta-Coulombe through route was established just past Juana Briones Park and Loma Vista (now Juana Briones) Elementary School, impacting both with ongoing traffic and parking problems.

The street is named after the *Amaranthus* plant, a favorite in early twentieth century gardens. *Amaranta* is its Spanish name. Amaranta Avenue was first laid out in the 1946 Encina Grande Park tract and served as the boundary with the 1947 "Rancho tract" to its immediate west in the R-1 (929) zone. It was also included in the 1952 Maybell Gardens tract. *SOPA* says the land between Los Robles Avenue and the Maybell Gardens tract belonged to the Buckley brothers who sold to the developers of Encina Grande and Rancho. In 1949 the street still ended at an orchard. But by 1951, the street had been pushed through to Maybell Avenue even before the August 1952 filing of the Maybell Gardens tract (not "Encina Gardens" as *SOPA* has it).

Amaranta Court. Amaranta Court is a cul-de-sac running west off the 4100 block of Amaranta Avenue. It serves six houses in the August 1952 Maybell Gardens tract, which has a total of 30 lots with Eichler homes on Amaranta Avenue, Amaranta Court, and Georgia Avenue.

Orme Street. The street runs south from the 800 block of Los Robles and ends at the main entrance of Juana Briones Elementary School. According to Bob Moss, who has lived at 4010 Orme for many years, the street was "informally" (privately?) laid out in 1940 when Frank and Gertrude Orme began subdividing their 8.77 acres of young fruit trees (probably apricot). After World War Two, the street was formally filed as part of the April 1949 Orme subdivision (County tract #593). There were 22 lots on Orme and two on Los Robles, all in



Arastradero Road widening project work, August 23, 1963, looking east (toward El Camino Real) from the curve near the Alta Mesa Cemetery entrance. Photo from *Palo Alto Times*, from the Palo Alto Historical Association (PAHA) clippings files.

the R-1 (929) zoning with 10,000-square-foot-minimum lots.

Laguna Way. Laguna Way was laid out in the July 1949 Los Ciruelos Tract (County tract #644) with 24 lots on the Laguna Way cul-de-sac. It is essentially an extension of Laguna Avenue south from Los Robles, although there is a jog. (See "Laguna Avenue" in the West quarter for background on the naming.)

Manzana Lane. Manzana Lane is the third north-south street that leads south off Los Robles Avenue west of Amaranta. *Manzana* is Spanish for apple. The orchard (or orchards) replaced by Manzana Lane were very unlikely to have been apple and were probably apricot. I long wondered why the street was not given the Spanish name for apricot – until I looked it up when researching this article. The answer is simple: There are at least a dozen different words in Spanish for apricot, depending on what country or even province in which it is used. In Mexico, apricots are *chabacanos*. In the majority of provinces in Spain it is *albaricoque*. Neither of these would be easy for local residents (or the Post Office).

The tract name, County number, and filing date for Manzana Lane all remain unidentified. My considered guess is that the tract was filed in 1946. The first of the 16 houses on the street was built in 1947. One record suggested that the tract name could have been "Rancho," but I think that name really belongs to the block immediately west of Amaranta Avenue, as explained in the discussion of that street, above.

Rincon Circle. This is another street with a

mysterious name. *SOPA* explains that *rincón* is Spanish for bend, elbow, or corner. Rincon Circle was named for Rancho Rincón de San Francisco, on which part of Palo Alto was built. But how do we know this? Another theory is that it was named for its shape on a map; it is an elbow-shaped street when mapped.

Rincon Circle is a short cul-de-sac leading east from the upper (west) end of Los Robles Avenue,

close to the Gunn High School property. It leads to seven R-1 (929) lots, several of them much larger than the 10,000-square-foot-minimum size. The tract name, number, and filing date remain unidentified in the Barron Park archive. The first house was built in 1937. Most of the original houses have been replaced by large, new homes.

Maybell Avenue. (See the general discussion of Maybell Avenue in the East Quarter, above.) Maybell continues east-west, south of Amaranta Avenue, intersecting with Coulombe Drive, Frandon Court, and Maybell Way before ending at Donald Drive.

Maybell Way. Maybell Way is a cul-de-sac leading north from Maybell Avenue in the 600 block. It was laid out in April 1959 as part of the tract named McLaughlin Glen #2, with 14 houses built by developer Doug Couch on fill material dumped into the south end of an infamous state "borrow pit." This was an enormous hole created by California Department of Highways in 1933 to provide fill for the Bayshore Highway under construction as U.S. "bypass" Highway 101, the predecessor to today's Bayshore Freeway. (For more detail on the borrow pit, see the BPA Newsletter, Winter 2014, "The State Borrow Pit and Origins of the BPA.")

Coulombe Drive. Coulombe Drive is a one-block street connecting Maybell Avenue to Arastradero Road. It was laid out in 1952 as County tract #1003 (name not known) with 19 residential lots. Although short, Coulombe Avenue is of great importance to traffic patterns throughout Barron Park, as it completed the only north-south through

route from Los Robles Avenue to Arastradero Road. It is essentially a southern extension of Amaranta Avenue, providing Barron Park with the only entrance on the south side that connects to the middle and north of the neighborhood. *SOPA* simply reports that it “was named for Frank Coulombe in 1952” – no details provided.

Frandon Court. Frandon Court was laid out in the July 1955 Frandon Oaks tract (County #1546) with six lots on Frandon Court. *SOPA* says, “The street name combined the first names of Frances and Donald Manning, landowners.” The street is a cul-de-sac leading north from the middle of the 600 block of Maybell.

Georgia Avenue. This disjunct west section of Georgia Avenue was laid out in the October 1958 McLaughlin Glen tract (County #2244). It was laid out on the earth fill that closed the north end of the State borrow pit. (Maybell Way was built on fill earth at the south end of the pit.)

Georgia Avenue leads off from a dead end at Juana Briones Elementary School and proceeds southwest through the McLaughlin Glen and Green Acres Two tracts, intersects with Donald Drive, then turns true south and intersects with Hubbartt Drive. All the lots are in the 600 block of Georgia – an unusually long one. At Hubbartt, it enters L’Hermitte Subdivision, then turns nearly east in its 4100 block, and ends in a T-intersection with Arastradero Road.

Donald Drive. Donald Drive was laid out in the April 1952 Green Acres Two tract – the second largest in Barron Park with a total of 147 properties. It replaced the largest area of orchard then remaining in the neighborhood. The lots are on Georgia (54), Donald (33), Willmar (35), Hubbartt (20), and Arastradero Road (5).

Donald Drive, a north-south L-shaped street, parallel to Willmar, with addresses in the 4100 block, leads north from the middle of the long 600 block on Arastradero. It then winds in an S-curve northwest toward Maybell, intersecting with Maybell in the curve, then runs northwest straight to its end at Georgia Avenue, intersecting with Willmar Drive halfway there. *SOPA* reports that Donald Drive was named “for Donald Moerdyke, son of N. Perry Moerdyke, a Palo Alto attorney and member of the firm responsible for subdividing Green Acres Two.”

Willmar Drive. As noted above, Willmar Drive is also part of Green Acres Two. It is basically an east-west street with an 80-degree right turn in the middle, with lots in the 4100 block. It leads west from the 600 block of Arastradero Road, in between and paralleling Donald and Hubbartt Drives, then turns north and finally north-east. It parallels Donald Drive and Georgia Avenues until it ends in an intersection with Donald Drive between Maybell and Georgia. *SOPA* gives a naming story: “William Anderson of Moerdyke, Hardy and Anderson, owners and subdividers, named the street in 1952 for his sons Steven William and Greg Martin. Willmar combines William and Martin.”

Hubbartt Drive. The lots on Hubbartt Drive are in the 4100 block. When laid out in 1952, they were on the western border of Green Acres Two. Properties on the west side of Hubbartt backed up to a large apricot orchard until L’Hermitte Subdivision was built twenty years later. Hubbartt Drive leads west from the 600 block of Arastradero for one long block to end at Georgia Avenue. *SOPA* says, “Hubbartt Drive was named by Paul Hardy, an engineer who platted the subdivision Green Acres Two. The street name honored his wife, Shirley, whose family name was Hubbartt.”

Crosby Place. Crosby Place is a small (five-lot) cul-de-sac on the southwest side of Georgia Avenue, laid out in 1972 as part of L’Hermitte Subdivision. As *SOPA* explains, it was “named in honor of Elisha O. Crosby, an important leader in early California Statehood. He was a member of the first State Constitutional Convention and served as an attorney for many land grant rancheros struggling to prove their rights before the U.S. Land Commission. In 1853, Crosby purchased 250 acres of Rancho Rincón de San Francisquito. He named his property Mayfield Farm, which is the most probable origin of the nearby town name.” Crosby built a large farmhouse, which was later added onto by Sarah Wallis and Edward Barron. (See also “Barron Avenue,” in Part One, Winter 2024-25, and “Wallis Court,” below.)

Wallis Court. Wallis Court is an eight-lot cul-de-sac leading south off Georgia Avenue, close to Arastradero Road, like the nearby Crosby Place laid out in 1972 as part of L’Hermitte Subdivision. L’Hermitte replaced the last large orchard in Barron Park – and in Palo Alto – so, the subdivision represents

the end of an era. The little street was named after a woman whose life story seems larger than life: Sarah Wallis.

According to *SOPA*, Wallis Court was named for Sarah and Joseph Wallis, who came to Mayfield in 1857. *SOPA* doesn’t say enough about Sarah Wallis and says too much about her husband! I have added to the *SOPA* account and paraphrased the rest, which follows:

In 1844, at age 19, Sarah walked across the continent with the first wagon train (the Stephens-Murphy party) to cross the Sierra Nevada, two years before the Donner party, and four years before the Gold Rush. She married three times, became a social leader in San Francisco, and made a fortune in real estate. Meanwhile, she met Joseph Wallis, whom she married (as husband number three) and put through law school. In 1857, Sarah bought Mayfield Farm from Elisha O. Crosby, where she and Joseph lived for almost twenty years. Joseph Wallis became an Associate Judge in the Santa Clara Court of Sessions and was active in public affairs.

Sarah Wallis was a major leader in the social and civic life of Mayfield and was responsible for lobbying the San Francisco and San Jose Railroad to establish a station at Mayfield, which firmly established Mayfield as the most significant town in northern Santa Clara County.

However, Sarah’s greatest accomplishment was as the elected head of the newly formed State of California Women’s Suffrage Movement, and in effect, leading the new suffrage movement on the West Coast. Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton considered Sarah Wallis the leading Western suffragist. (See also “Barron Avenue” and “Crosby Place,” in these articles.)

Readers who want to know more about Sarah Wallis should refer to the four-issue serialized story of her fabulous life, which ran in the BPA Newsletter, Part One in Fall 2003, Part Two in Winter 2004, Part Three in Summer 2007, and Part Four in Fall 2007.

Cherry Oaks Place. *SOPA* says the street was named by the developer. The Cherry Oak (*Quercus pagoda*), also known as Cherrybark Oak, is a red oak native to the southeastern United States, especially the Carolinas. Cherry Oaks Place is easy to miss in busy traffic. It is a cul-de-sac leading north off the mid-600 block of Arastradero Road. It is part

of two tracts – the first is County tract #3031 (name not known to this author) – a seven-lot tract filed in April 1966 that contains one lot on Arastradero, four on the east side of Cherry Oaks, and two at the north end. The second tract is County #5513 (name also not known to this author). It was filed in April 1974 and included five lots on the west side of the street from Arastradero to the north end. All the lots have 4100 block addresses.

King Arthur Court. King Arthur Court is also easy to miss in traffic. It is a cul-de-sac going north off the mid-600 block of Arastradero, between Cherry Oaks Place and Donald Drive. It was laid out in August 1955 as part of the Camelot Gardens tract (County #1559). Consistent with the tract name, the street was named King Arthur Court. It would be nice to know who the developer was, for he or she certainly had a good sense of humor. So did one of its residents: King Arthur Court became well known in Barron Park in the 1970s and '80s for one of its houses, which displayed a big "Bah Humbug" sign on the roof every Christmas season.

Arastradero Road. It seems fitting to end this article with the oldest and the second-most important road in the neighborhood – Arastradero Road. How old is Arastradero Road? Let's put it this way: There was a time when, if you wanted to travel through the area now known as Barron Park, there was only one way to go, since there was only one road in the region. It is not known exactly when Arastradero became a regular "road," but it was either late in the eighteenth or early in the nineteenth century, definitely before 1820, before there were any houses or businesses, or even any land grants in the northern part of what is now Santa Clara County. El Camino Real was only a sketchy trail or trails. The main trail ran more or less along today's Middlefield Road, but was unusable most of the time in winter. The "winter route" was probably closer to the current alignment.

But Arastradero was a beaten trail and probably used every summer and fall for its main purpose: dragging or hauling sections of redwood logs from the redwood groves at Corte Madera ("place of wood cutting") in Portola Valley, or from a similar area in Woodside, about thirty miles to Mission Santa Clara (founded January 12, 1777) or to Pueblo San Jose (founded November 27, 1777). The redwood sections were formed into major structural members (joists and beams) and

rough planks (for weatherproof siding on adobe buildings).

The road, or rather the rough track, started at a year-around camp/primitive village near where the village of Searsville later developed as a lumbering town, went east alongside San Francisquito Creek, approximately where Alpine Road runs now, then turned south to wind through the hills along its current path, reaching the greater Barron Park area right about where it does now, at the intersection of today's Foothill Expressway and Arastradero Road. There were several pathways to El Camino Real, but historians are sure that it crossed Adobe Creek either where the pedestrian/bicycle bridge and Hetch-Hetchy aqueduct do now, or near the current ECR. From those points south, the early route is less clear, and there may have been several routes. It seems clear that nobody "named" Arastradero Road; its name reflects the obvious usage and became fixed by common agreement over at least 250 years.

The current Arastradero Road in our neighborhood is a major boulevard and commute route. It serves three public and two private schools, Juana Briones Park, the VA hospital, the southwestern end of the Stanford Research Park, the Alta Mesa Cemetery, and three major apartment complexes, one of them a high-rise.

Proceeding "east" from the traffic light at the Gunn High School driveway, Arastradero intersects with nine streets on the left: Georgia Avenue, Hubbart, Willmar, and Donald Drives, King Arthur Court, Cherry Oaks Place, Coulombe Drive, Clemo Avenue, and Alta Mesa Avenue. In addition, there are at least 26 private driveways. On the right, it intersects with six streets: Ynigo Way, Terman Drive, Pomona Avenue, Los Palos Avenue, Suzanne Drive, and McKellar Lane, and at least 24 private driveways. And you wonder why the traffic is frequently dense? (See the photo on page 14 of Arastradero Road being widened in 1963.)

How to contact the historian: My email address is dgrahampaca@gmail.com, landline: 650-493-0689, or snail mail: 984 Ilima Way, Palo Alto CA 94306. I would especially like to hear from anyone who finds an error of fact or interpretation in this article, or anyone who has information to add or (best of all) a photograph to add to the Barron Park Historical Archive.

BARRON PARK ASSOCIATION

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BPA Board Meetings are held the 2nd Tuesday of most months at 7:00 p.m. All neighbors are welcome.

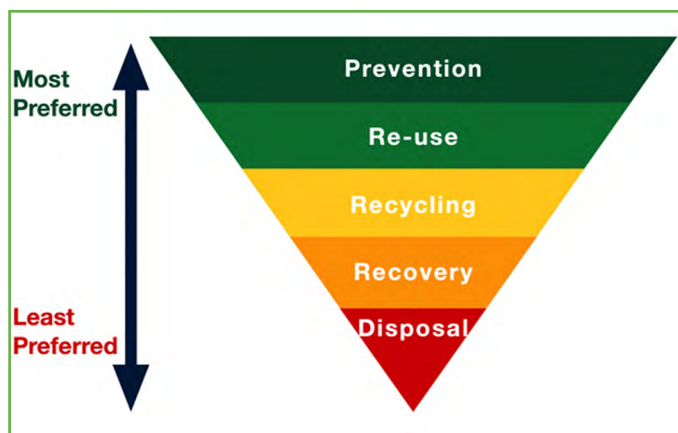
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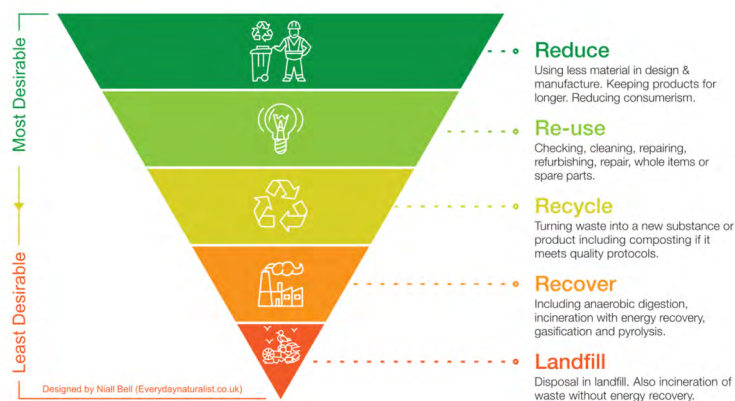
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What Can We Use to Look at Waste?

By Katrina Huang



An archetypical waste pyramid Source: ismwaste.co.uk/help/what-is-the-waste-hierarchy



An archetypical waste pyramid—expanded. Source: [linkedin.com/pulse/understanding-waste-hierarchy-comprehensive-guide-sustainable-64cue/](https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/understanding-waste-hierarchy-comprehensive-guide-sustainable-64cue/)

Did you know that the average American throws out about 4.9 pounds of trash each day? Almost a fifth of that waste is from durable goods such as furniture and appliances that could be repurposed or recycled. Trashing items that could otherwise be reused, refurbished, repurposed, or recycled contributes to the environmentally hostile side-effects of landfill processing. For example, leachate from landfills can escape into the environment and threaten the drinking water supply, while incinerators emit fumes from heavy metals that act as carcinogens and environmental contaminants. Excess plastic that strays from landfills or transported waste joins the 16.5 million tons of plastic that accumulates in oceans each year. This plastic entangles or poisons marine life or otherwise breaks down into microplastics to find their way back to humans as we consume fish and other seafood.

Abandoning the model “reduce, reuse, recycle,” we may adopt a more detailed approach, such as the inverted pyramid (Image #1) that charts waste management “hierarchy.” Study the top of the pyramid. It shows not only the best option environmentally and in terms of energy efficiency, but also, as the largest section, it is the ideal way to show how most waste is or should be dealt with. We’ll discuss the remainder of the chart later in this article.

As you see in Image #2, at the top of the inverse pyramid is *prevention*. This section is sometimes split into “prevention” and “reduce.” Prevention involves not creating

waste in the first place, or keeping it in its original state while preventing the item from descending the pyramid. The prevention of accumulated waste also means obtaining items originally from sustainable sources. Industries often produce and process new products to meet demands that could have otherwise been sustained with reused materials or second-hand products. This process wastes huge amounts of practically all natural resources. Roughly 42 percent of all U.S. greenhouse gas emissions are produced by systems supporting modern consumerism, including extracting resources, producing goods, and transporting materials at every stage.

For example, using easily biodegradable packaging cushion prevents more harmful materials – such as plastic – from being used. In the same way, instead of disposing of a piece of furniture you no longer need, giving it to a neighbor prevents the item from being disposed of and prevents the neighbor from using resources to purchase and transport it, which in turn prevents materials from being extracted and processed from the earth and from animals. Goodwill Industries is an excellent example of prevention: People who donate goods avoid adding waste to landfills, and shoppers avoid buying something completely new.

The next tier is *reusing* or preparing an item to be reused. This step involves minor processing or altering waste in some way, such as cleaning, repairing, refurbishing, or using the item for spare parts. Reusing

requires a bit more energy and processing to the waste than prevention, and thus is somewhat less preferable. Reusing waste can be reconditioning it for the same purpose, such as repairing or resewing a garment, or for a different use entirely, such as using a garment as material as a rag or for an art/craft project. Another example is repairing an old cellphone to give to a student, or selling it for parts to someone who is building something new.

In third place is *recycling*. This involves creating a whole new material or product out of original waste. Ideally, recycling should be implemented if an item cannot be used or repurposed and can only be used for the materials it is composed of. Using eggshells or coffee grounds for fertilizer, for example, can be considered recycling. Recycling also includes making use of resources and systems provided by local trash services such as Green Waste or Recology. Correctly sorting waste into the bins provided is essential to environmental efficiency. In fact, the EPA estimates that 75 percent of landfill waste could be recycled. Of all the waste generated, however, we only recycle about a quarter.

Fourth on our list is using the item for an alternative purpose, such as generating energy, heat, or using it as filling material. If the item cannot be recycled or undergo any of the previous steps, disposing of the material through an alternative use is a next-to-last resort. However, different types of “recovery” lead to different environmental pros and cons. Converting different types of waste



There's huge amounts of waste--especially plastic--in landfills.
Source: biopak.com/au/resources/what-goes-in-landfill

can be effective: Reusing items, recycling materials, or finding alternative ways to repurpose waste can help lessen the negative impact on our environment. Ultimately, working to implement these practices within our community will reduce pollution, reduce strain on our natural resources, and may even

into energy often requires careful regulation because of the potential for pollution. Such processes include incineration, pyrolysis, gasification, and anaerobic digestion.

Disposal without any preservation or recovery is the final option. Within this category, safely processed disposal is favored over unprocessed disposal. This is the absolute last option because of the high volume of waste that ends up in landfills every year. Additionally, in a landfill, plastic waste can take up to 1,000 years to decompose, while plastic bottles take a couple hundred more! Even then, plastic does not fully decompose; it just gets smaller. Similarly, materials such as tin foil and Styrofoam also do not biodegrade. It is thus crucial that as much plastic as possible be recycled and used to its full potential, while materials such as Styrofoam be used as seldom as possible.

The inverted pyramid for waste hierarchy shown here is a revealing guide to the kinds of systemic and individual changes we can make in order to become more sustainable and waste-efficient. There are many different versions of these pyramids, some more complicated and expanded than others. In most of these graphics, however, the hierarchy of waste management aligns with the principle that the most effective methods require the least amount of effort and energy. The broadest steps represented in these pyramids are thus less complicated to implement than most of us perceive.

By preventing waste before it even begins to be waste, we can significantly reduce the amount that needs to be processed or disposed of, thereby conserving valuable resources and minimizing pollution. When it is too late to prevent the *production* of waste, simply preventing it from going down the line

lessen the effects of global warming.

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BARRON PARK ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER SPRING 2025

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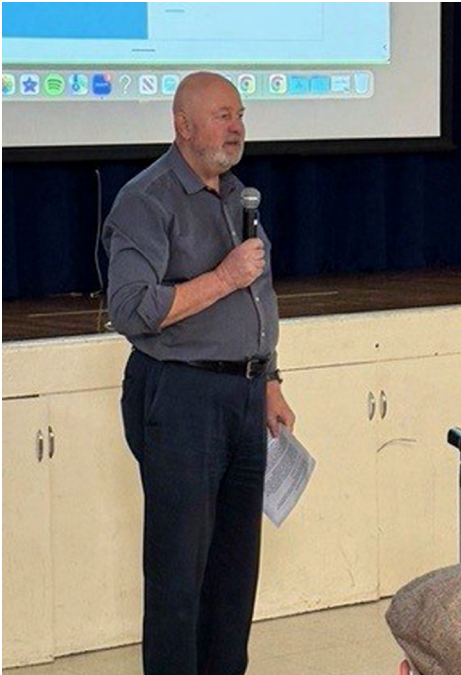
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BPA Annual Meeting



Residents gathered at Barron Park Elementary School on Sunday, March 16, for the Barron Park Annual Meeting. Neighbors brought treats to share. BPA President John King kicked off the meeting by introducing current board members, then walked through the many activities to be hosted by the BPA in the year ahead. John also provided an overview of the new BPA website, bpapaloalto.org. Photos by Doug Burns.



Mayor Ed Lauring introduced himself to Barron Park residents and talked about his work history, his history in Palo Alto, and his plans to connect with residents in neighborhood settings.



Residents asked Mayor Lauring about City priorities, the bond to finance the Cubberly renewal, the plans for protected bike lanes on El Camino Real, and the status of various housing projects, among other topics.

BPA Membership Updates!

By Lisa Berkowitz Landers, BPA Membership Chair

The BPA Babysitter List Returns!

If you are interested in listing a babysitter or receiving the Members' List of babysitters, please email: barronpark.paloalto@gmail.com

Please share this Babysitter list information with other Barron Park families, especially those who are new to the area. For privacy, the list will be restricted to Barron Park Association Members.

Future BPA lists are planned for small chores (for ex., pet sitter, dog walker, yard help) and local referrals (for ex., handyman, gardener, IT help).

New Membership Website Login Process

The new BPA website will allow you to log in to confirm if your membership is current!

To set the password for you or your household, go to the log in section of the BPA Website home page (bpapaloalto.org), and choose "Forgot Password." This will allow you to create a new or replacement password.

If you see an error in your membership status or you have PayPal problems, please email: barronpark.paloalto@gmail.com



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