

# 9th Annual Pear Festival



Pear Festival at the Commons 2006

Photo provided

The Moraga Park and Recreation Foundation and the Moraga Parks and Recreation Department invite you to attend the 9th Annual Moraga Pear Festival on Saturday, September 29, from 11:00-4:00 at the Moraga Commons.

Inflatables, arts and crafts, live music (littledog2, 11am-12:45pm and City Rocks Revue, 1:30-3:30pm), coloring and pear recipe

contests and of course those irresistible pear pies, will ensure lots of great fun for everyone.

The event starts at 11am and wraps-up at 4pm. The pear recipe and coloring contest winners will be announced at 1:00pm.

### PEAR HISTORY

The majority of pear trees growing in the Moraga Valley are Bartletts, planted by the Moraga

Company, of James Irvine, around 1913, and still going strong in spite of neglect. In May of 1929, the Manager of the Moraga Company, Mr. E.M. Price, wrote several letters to the University of California College of Agriculture and to the California Pear Growers Association, asking how long their trees, by then about 16 years old, would continue producing abundantly. The responses, on file in our History Center, replied that pear trees are some of the hardiest and most long-lived of deciduous trees, and that there were, at the time, pear trees producing after 100 years.

The writers indicated that "if managed properly, (the pears) should be better the second hundred years, than the first hundred." By 1923, Bartlett pears shipped out of the Moraga Valley were sent either to the East Coast, or to the Oakland Canneries and were reputed to be "as fine in quality as any food within the state."



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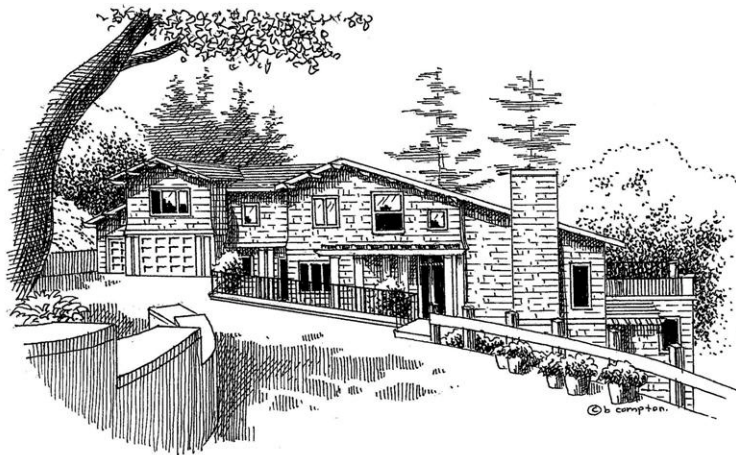
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