

'Day at the Library' commemorates 10th birthday



Photos Pippa Fisher

Peter Pan Foundation President and Founder Leslie Noel and her cast of characters.

There was quite a crowd in attendance at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center Nov. 9, including some fictional characters from a galaxy far, far away. Why? Because, well, storm troopers!

The Lafayette Rotary Club was providing the barbecue. The Friends of the Library had a huge sidewalk sale and the Historical Society was on hand to answer questions, even rolling out Lafayette's favorite fire truck, Old Betsy,

for the LLLC's 10th birthday celebration.

Along with crafts and story time with children's authors, dancing and musical entertainment was provided by the Peter Pan Foundation, the Contra Costa Performing Arts Society Student Jazz Ensemble and hula with Kaleo o Ka "Aina."

And there was of course plenty of cake.
- P. Fisher



Some traveled from other galaxies to attend.

Thousands of lights adorn historic tree



Photo Pippa Fisher

By Pippa Fisher

And with just a flick of a switch Lafayette is feeling the holiday spirit. The beautiful redwood tree outside Diablo Foods is shining as it does every year at this time - thousands of twinkling lights brightening the night.

It is a familiar sight to those in Lafayette and is a sure sign the holidays are upon us. But not all are aware that the tree has quite a history.

According to Mary McCosker of the Lafayette Historical Society, the redwood was planted by Jennie Bickerstaff Rosenberg, daughter of James Bickerstaff, in the late 1800s.

Jennie first came to Lafayette in 1875 when she was 7 years old. In 1877 the

family traveled back to Pennsylvania because Jennie's mother was sick. However the family returned two years later and James Bickerstaff built a cottage on an acre of land, on what would become the site of today's Diablo Foods, bought from Lafayette founder Elam Brown in 1879. Jennie, who went on to become a longtime teacher in various locations around the county including Moraga and right here in Lafayette, helped her father plant a garden including the redwood that has survived all these years, even after the house was torn down in 1964. Jennie had lived in that house for 85 years when she died aged 93. Diablo Foods has been on this site since 1968.

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