### October 2003

# INSIDE THE EXCHANGE

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Silicon Valley History Online

Historic Drawbridge

Holidays In Store





# Overland Opens at HSJ

On September 16<sup>th</sup> History San José members were treated to a sneak peak of the latest exhibit at History Park - Overland: The California Emigrant Trail of 1,841-1870. This traveling exhibit features 64 stunning, contemporary black and white photographs by scholar and photographer Greg MacGregor of the route traveled by settlers from Missouri to California. HJS added a local component to the exhibit with paintings, artifacts and stories related to the emmigrants who settled in the Santa Clara Valley, particularly the Stephens-Townsend-Murphy Party.

The emotional impact of the exhibit was apparent as people explored the geographically ordered photographs and diary excerpts. Messages of hope and a desire for adventure began the exhibit, while desperation and despair marked entries near the end of this two-thousand-mile-long trace that claimed the lives of approximately one person for every 100 yards.

The member-only preview and reception included a visit from the Wells Fargo Old West Stagecoach, activities from History San José's award winning education program Westward Ho! and "pioneer" finger foods and beverages. The exhibit will be up until June 20, 2004.



Linda Spencer (right) and former board member Roy Bigge pose in the Wells Fargo Old West Stagecoach at the Members-only exhibit opening. In addition to providing the stagecoach for the opening, Wells Fargo is a sponsor of the exhibit. Photo: John Eric Paulson, Master Photographer

# **NEW DIRECTIONS**

### Historic Events Linked at Founder's Celebration

Six years ago a board member of the organization for which I then worked, snipped, with typical east-of-the-Mississippi myopia, "You can't go there. California doesn't have any history."

While Prairie Avenue House Museums operated the oldest extant house in Chicago, the William Clarke House, the new organization that I joined continues to operate the oldest remaining house in San José. Built in 1797 the Peralta Adobe is 39 years older than the 1836 Clarke House! Indeed, the City of San José is approximately 50 years older than the City of Chicago. The fact that no one in Chicago knows that is Chicago's problem.

The fact that most people in San José do not know it is our problem. And that is why we celebrate Founders' Day—to save us from unforgivable historical amnesia.

The Chicago and San José houses share many qualities. Both were built by men who served as early mayors of their respective communities—before American acquisition in San José's case. Each became the symbol of its city's founding. And each was saved through the extraordinary leadership of a small group of remarkable individuals.

While it is important that we remember the people who founded San José over 250 years ago, it also is important that we remember the people who saved the Peralta Adobe only three decades ago. Unfortunately, it is easier to forget a humble structure whose immigrant past is two centuries old and has been all but discarded as a fruit and vegetable storage shed. It is easy to chop off a foot of this historic home in order to make room for a mid-twentieth century building. It is easy to forget—and to lose.

Fortunately, a group of visionary individuals did not forget. (Isn't it interesting how often the most forward-looking visionaries are those with the best memories?) Theron Fox, Leonard McKay, Tom McEnery, and others not only remembered. They acted. And because they acted, the Peralta Adobe remains today a humble, persistent, and perfect reminder of our origins as a city and as a community.

On Friday, November 14th, the Preservation Action Council of San José will honor those leaders who saved the Peralta Adobe as the heroes they are, inducting them as the first members of the San José Preservation Hall of Fame. At 11:00 a.m. the next morning, November 15th, History San José will join the Preservation Action Council and Los Lupenos de San José in publicly recognizing and thanking these same individuals in a Founders Day Ceremony on the grounds of the Adobe itself.

By celebrating the founding of the *Pueblo de San José de Guadalupe* and the preservation of the Peralta Adobe at the same time, we are recognizing the intrinsic link between two events separated by 200 years. HSJ is fortunate to continue the legacy that both the founders and the preservers bequeathed their community, and we hope that we have built upon it.

In 2000, the Peralta Adobe became the first officially recognized site on the Juan Bautista DeAnza National Historic Trail. And Adobe Days remains one of our most popular school program, sold out by noon on the first day of availability this year.

None of this could be happening today without the courageous leadership of our 18th century founders or of the preservation pioneers three decades ago. We who follow can only hope to be worthy of the model of service they have forged and the legacy they have left us all. So, come join us at the 2003 Founders Day event to celebrate the pioneers who both made and preserved the heritage the we can only continue to remember and strive to build upon.

David Crosson President & CEO°

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# SEE WHAT'S NEW AT HSJ



## Silicon Valley History Online Awarded Grant

Seven members of the Silicon Valley Local History Network collaborated on, jointly applied for and were awarded, a Library Services and Technology Act Grant from the California State Library. The \$144,000 grant allows for the creation of *Silicon Valley History Online* (SVHO). Using original photographs, manuscripts, artifacts and ephemera, the SVHO project will assemble, digitize, create supplementary curriculum and post online 1,000 historical images that represent the history of the Santa Clara Valley.

These materials provide a look at life in the Santa Clara Valley through time; including the pre-contact period of the Ohlone people; the Mission Period of the 18th Century; the 19th to mid 20th Century agricultural "Valley of Heart's Delight" era; and "Silicon Valley" from the modern 20th Century. Sub-themes will include Ethnic Diversity, Immigrants, Agriculture, Commerce, Education, Technology, Transportation and Urban Life.

The goal of Silicon Valley History Online is to provide full, open and equal access to a wide audience through

the Internet. Users will include local residents and historians; research scholars and local historians; teachers and students in K-12; and the broader Internet community.

The seven SVHO partners are History San José, Santa Clara University Archives, San Jose State University Special Collections Department, California History Center at DeAnza College, Intel Museum, San José Public Library California Room, and the Santa Clara City Library Genealogy/Local History Room. The first collaborative project of this group was the creation of a Silicon Valley Local History Resources website at <a href="http://www.library.sjsu.edu/subject/history/SVLH.htm">http://www.library.sjsu.edu/subject/history/SVLH.htm</a>.

The SVHO project headquarters is at History San José's Collection Center with HSJ Archivist Paula Jabloner acting as Project Director. By February 2004 look for a demonstration SVHO website.



# SANTA CLARA COUNTY HISTORY

# Historic Drawbridge: A Town on Stilts

# BY JACK DOUGLAS

One of California's most unique municipalities passed into oblivion not too many years ago. Two miles beyond Alviso, the settlement of Drawbridge rose from the marshlands along the railroad tracks that connected Oakland to Santa Cruz. Much of this small hamlet has sunk back into the mire, and only remnants are visible to AmTrak passengers.

Drawbridge was named for the South Pacific Coast Railways bridge across the Coyote Slough at the southern end of San Francisco Bay. Opened in 1880, this narrow gauge railway, which carried passengers and freight between Oakland and Santa Cruz, was absorbed by the Southern Pacific in 1887.

With an elevated rail bed crossing through a series of sloughs and waterways, hunters and fisherman now had easy access to one of the resting grounds for the wildfowl that passed through on the western flyway. The clear waters of the sloughs were home to striped bass, salmon and shellfish. With the permission of the drawbridge tender, sportsmen began to put up duck blinds and temporary shelters for their weekend activities. Soon the shelters became shacks, and by 1894 the first permanent residents had settled in.

It was not long before the train made regular stops on what was called Station Island. Wells were drilled, and fresh water was plentiful. This drain on the aquifers added to the general subsidence of the area so that all the dwellings had to be set up on stilts. Elevated walkways were added that connected to the rail line – referred to as Main Street. Cabin owners paid the railroad a dollar a year for this access.

#### Year-Round Residents

In 1902 a German couple, Joe and Hedwig Sprung, opened their one story Sprung Hotel. Soon a number of gun clubs were constructed for the hunters. By 1906 the town occupied a strip of land seven-eighths of a mile wide that contained two hotels and seventy-nine cabins or duck clubs. The early cabin owners were primarily middle class folks who could afford vacation homes. O.L. Dewey, in his informative booklet (see below), describes the town as two distinct communities, with ethnic Italian, Portuguese, French Catholics on the south end, and Anglo Protestants on the north. Children were discouraged from intermingling.

Many families spent their weekends and holidays at Drawbridge. Swimming and boating were favorites. At its height, the town had as many as 100 permanent residents, and on a good week during the hunting season there would be 500 more visitors filling the hotels, gun clubs and rental units.

There was never an attempt to incorporate Drawbridge as a town, and there was no police or fire protection. As a consequence, fires were common. During prohibition, liquor, some of it made in Mrs. Sprung's bathtub, was readily available. In spite of news-



Southern Pacific Coast Rail Road at Drawbridge, CA. c1903. Photo courtesy of: Leonard McKay

paper reports, however, Drawbridge was never a hotbed of criminal activity.

#### Decline and Fall

While Drawbridgers were happily enjoying their playland, serious environmental changes were threatening their town. The sinking marsh was changing the water course, and pollution was entering the South Bay from the ever growing cities of San José, Santa Clara and Fremont. The development of the salt ponds cut off much of the area from boat traffic, and worst of all, the abundant wildfowl were passing over their former resting place to avoid the polluted water. This, with the addition of the Great Depression, seriously diminished the crowds of vacationers.

The little town still held a charm for rugged individualists who continued to live there right up until the 1960's. By then it had become dangerous to live there. Gun toting vandals, attracted to the area by newspaper accounts of it being a ghost town, were setting fires and shooting up the buildings, so that the residents had to be continually on guard. Charlie Luce was the last person to reside in Drawbridge. Charlie, who had spent most of his adult life there, was required to leave in 1979 when the area became a national wildlife refuge.

#### Wildlife Refuge

Named for San José Congressman Don Edwards, who steered that Wildlife Protection Bill through Congress, this San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge is one of our treasures. The Nature Center near Alviso is a wonderful place to observe natural habitats and breathtaking views of the south baylands.

Plans are underway to remove the salt ponds and return the area to marshlands, so perhaps one day we may experience the wonders of these marshes as they appeared to the first settlers of Drawbridge – a small paradise above the Bay waters.

Note: Information about the Wildlife Center activities may be obtained by calling (510) 792-0222.

The illustrated booklet by O.L. "Monty" Dewey, *Drawbridge*, *California: a Hand-Me-Down History*, 1989, is the best source of information on Drawbridge. Copies are available at the South Bay Nature Center. \$3.95.

# HISTORY SAN JOSÉ HAPPENINGS



July 17, 2003 visiting Steinbeck Family gravesites. Left to right: Janet and Tom Lopes, Margaret Enos, Barbara Johnson, David Crosson, Sharron and Carl Cookson, Bobbe George, Henry Yamate and Art Ring. Photo: Art Ring

# Heritage 100 News

September 2003 marks the one year anniversary for the Heritage 100 Membership Club. Membership in Heritage 100 is by invitation and limited to a select group of 100 individuals and families who were living in the Santa Clara Valley before 1950 and helped establish Santa Clara Valley as *The Valley of Heart's Delight*. This group enjoys many social and educational activities not offered through History San José's regular membership program.

One of the benefits/activities of Heritage 100 is an annual trip to a California attraction. This year's trip was to the National Steinbeck Center in Salinas. Prior to the trip, a Heritage 100 member hosted a dinner and introduced the Salinas and Monterey area to the attendees. In addition, Art Ring, a local Steinbeck enthusiast, offered insight on Steinbeck and his writings. The Center's Executive Director met the group for a behind-the-scenes-tour of a new agricultural exhibit. After touring the museum, the group went wine tasting followed by lunch and shopping at the Steinbeck House. Before returning to San José, they visited the Steinbeck graves at the Salinas Cemetery.

Interested in finding out more about Heritage 100? Call Barbara Johnson, Director of Development at 408-918-1053.

# IN-KIND DONORS

Armani Ice Cream Barnes & Noble Almaden Store Bay Area Dolly Rental Nick Buck **Burrel Leonard Estate** Catered Too cWare Diamond Laundry and Cleaners Maryanne Funk Great Water Hertz Equipment Rental Tricia Hill, Hill Design Joseph George Distributors Erna Ketchum Kay Kvenvold LJ Productions Richard Markus Nick Martinez Margie McBride Mike Fox Distributors Vilma Pallette Pathway Research John Eric Paulson, Master Photographer Nancy Peters Julie Pifer Aminah Ramezany Jim Salata, Garden City Construction, Inc. San José Mercury News Santa Clara County Office of Education Linda Spencer Sonoma Chicken Coop **Superior Color** Willow Glen Coffee Roasting Company

HELP US	MAKE HISTO	DRY	-6	
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Signature			Date	

# HISTORY SAN JOSÉ HAPPENINGS

### Membership Holiday Party

Mark your calendars for Thursday, December 11, 2003 6:00-8:00 p.m. and plan to be at the annual Membership Holiday Party, one of the best-attended membership events of the year. Following the theme of Santa Clara Valley Holiday Traditions, the evening's entertainment will reflect the diversity of the people who live in here and the different ways they celebrate the Winter holiday season. In addition to delicious treats, the evening offers the opportunity for holiday shopping in the Museum store, a chance to renew memberships and purchase gift memberships, and to see the new exhibit.

Because it is a tradition for many members to renew their memberships at the Holiday Party, this year HSJ will offer a very special gift to the first 10 members who increase their membership level the most (\$100 level and above). In return for your increased support, you will receive a signed copy of Greg MacGregor's book, *Overland: The California Emigrant Trail of 1841–1870*. This book is sold out and out of print and HSJ has the only remaining 10 copies! Many of the black and white photos in the new exhibit are in this gorgeous book. So, make these books yours and increase your membership level.



Ballet Folklorico Milpitas performing Aztec Dances at last year's Member Holiday Party. Photo: John Eric Paulson, Master Photographer

# Quarterly classes

Greek Dancing Wednesdays, 7:30pm – 9:00pm

Greek Cooking Saturdays, 10:00am - 12:30pm

Modern Spoken Greek Mondays, 6:30pm - 9: 00pm

For cost and other details on these classes, please call: (408) 247-4685 or visit www.hellinicheritageinstitute.org

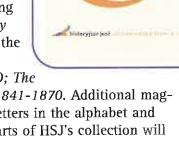
### Vilma Pallette Recognized

History San José is pleased to announce that the Association of Fundraising Professionals – Silicon Valley (AFP) will honor Vilma Pallette as one of the Distinguished Volunteer Fundraisers of 2003. Vilma Pallette is being recognized for service and leadership in chairing History San José's June 2003 fundraising event *Manny's Cellar-Open One Night Only*. As a qualified fundraising volunteer, Vilma offered her leadership skills to motivate and energize volunteers and manage HSJ's first successful fundraising event. Recognition by AFP is an appropriate way to thank Vilma Pallette for sharing her passion, excitement, and support of History San José.

If you are interested in attending the Philanthropy Day Awards Celebration at the Santa Clara Marriott on November 20, 2003, call Barbara Johnson, Director of Development, 408–918–1053 for ticket price and reservations.

### 2004 Member Thank You Gift

As 2003 draws to a close, HSJ is pleased to unveil the 2004 member thank you gift. This magnet reflects the first item in a collector's series of magnets available in the Museum Store. Following HSJ's tag line of *Silicon Valley A-Z*, this particular item uses the letter "0" to correspond with HSJ's new exhibit *OVERLAND*; The



California Emigrant Trail of 1841-1870. Additional magnets utilizing the remaining letters in the alphabet and highlighting corresponding parts of HSJ's collection will be produced. So, be sure to collect all 26.

# Membership Benefits Revisited

HSJ has organized a focus group to review current membership benefits and ways to better serve our supporters. The February issue of *The Exchange* will identify these changes. In addition, each issue of *The Exchange* will feature opportunities, benefits, upgrades, matching grants, and alternative ways to lend financial support to History San José.

As always, the newsletter is full of articles and information on the events at History Park and the Peralta Adobe & Fallon House Site, educational programs for children and adults, volunteer opportunities, Museum Store products and a calendar of events.

# HISTORY SAN JOSÉ HAPPENINGS

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### **NOVEMBER**

Heritage 100 Event Thursday, November 6th, 5:30 - 7:00pm Collection Center

As acknowledgement and thanks to the Joint Plant Trust for their financial contribution to restore a portion of History San José's map collection, Heritage 100 will host a special reception for a behind-the-scenes view of the conserved maps. Conservator Kathleen Orlenko will offer expertise on the conservation process and what to expect for Phase II of the project. HERITAGE 100 MEMBERS ONLY.

History Makers
Walking the Overland Trail –
Yesterday, Today & Tomorrow
Thursday, November 13th,
7:00pm.

Barnes and Noble Booksellers at the corner of Almaden Expressway and Blossom Hill Road.

History San José President and CEO David Crosson moderates a panel discussion of the past, present and future of the Overland Trail. Panelists include: Bill and Jeanne Watson, charter members of the Oregon-California Trails Association, formed in 1983 to help preserve and interpret 19th century western covered wagon routes, and Dr. Curtis Grant, explorer and former collector of artifacts left behind by the emigrants. FREE.

Perham Preview and Reception, and Doc Herrold Book Signing Friday, November 14th, 3:30 - 6:30pm. Collection Center

HSJ is opening its doors for exclusive tours of the much talked about Perham collection. This one-of-a- kind collection of pre-transistor technology is available to view for the first time since 1991. In addition, Mike Adams will be signing copies of his just released book *Charles Herrold*, *Inventor of Radio Broadcasting*. FREE.

Preservation Action Council of San José
A Night at the Old Adobe
Friday, November 14th,
6:00 - 9:30pm.
Banker's Club
Join PAC\*SJ as they honor the indi-

viduals, organizations, and companies involved in preserving San José's first landmark, the Peralta Adobe. Enjoy food, music and complimentary beer and wine. Contact Dawn Hopkins at (408) 998-8105 or preservesanjose@netzero.net. Cost: \$45.00 for PAC\*SJ members; \$55.00

Founder's Day Celebration Saturday, November 15th, 11:00am - 12:30pm. The Peralta Adobe, 175 West St. John Street

for non-PAC\*SJ members.

Join co-sponsors History San José, PAC\*SJ and Los Lupenos as they recognize the people of San José and the preservation leaders who helped restore the Peralta Adobe. Performances by Los Lupenos and free tours of the Peralta Adobe are highlights of this event. FREE.

### **DECEMBER**

Santo Domingo Pueblo Jewelry: The Continuous Thread from the Ancient to Contemporary Sunday, December 7th, 11:00am - Noon. Pacific Hotel at History Park Presented by Dr. Rita Yokoi, Director, Museum of Native American Jewelry, Albuquerque, NM and Martine Lovato, Master Jeweler, Santo Domingo Pueblo, NM. Dr. Yokoi will present a historical overview of the differences between dominant southwest styles of jewelry including Santo Domingo handmade bead making, inlay and carving. She will also give tips on what to look for when buying jewelry. Mr. Lovato will speak on his jewelry

making process and his experience growing up in the Pueblo leaning to make jewelry from his mother. FREE.

Holiday Shopping Party Sunday, December 7th, Noon – 5:00pm. Museum Store in Pacific Hotel at History Park

History San José kicks off the holiday shopping season with an afternoon of good cheer and great gifts!
Featured this year are the unique creations of award winning Native American jeweler Martine Lovato.
Additional Native American jewelry selections will be presented by Dr. Rita Yokoi of Silver Hills. Delicious preserves and jams from Village Harvest, a not-for-profit cooperative that brings together neighbors and community organizations to provide food for the hungry, will be available for tasting and purchase. FREE.

Holiday Member Party Thursday, December 11th, 6:00 - 8:00pm. Pacific Hotel at History Park

This annual HSJ member-only event is one of the most popular of the year. Following the theme Santa Clara Valley Holiday Traditions, the evening's entertainment will reflect the diversity of the people who live here and the different ways they celebrate the Winter holiday season. HSJ MEMBERS ONLY.

### **JANUARY**

Heritage 100 event
Thursday, January 29th,
5:30 - 7:00pm. History Park
Presentation on History Park's
Reinterpretation Plan
History San José's Director of
Collections & Exhibitions and Director
of Education will introduce HSJ's new
reinterpretation plan to include a refurbished exhibit at the Chiechi House and
brand new park signage.
HERITAGE 100 MEMBERS ONLY.

# WHAT'S IN STORE FOR YOU?

### Holidays in Store

HSJ's Holidays In Store takes place Sunday, December 7th from Noon to 5:00. This annual event is always a big hit as savvy Bay Area shoppers gather to peruse the latest selections of unique merchandise available in the Museum Store at History Park.

Featured this year are the unique creations of award winning Native American master jeweler Martine Lovato. A master craftsman, Martine has been making jewelry in the ancient tradition of his Santo Domingo Pueblo (New

Mexico) since he was a child. Following in the footsteps of his ancestors, he learned to hand cut and shape stones and shells, creating one-of-a-kind mosaics and handmade beads.. His work is original and innovative, yet rich in traditions.

An exhibit of Mr. Lovato's work will be on display at History Park beginning in December and in March his work will be exhibited at the Heard Museum in Phoenix, AZ. In addition he will be the featured artist representing the Santo Domingo Pueblo in a major exhibit at the Museum of Natural History in New York scheduled to open in November, 2004.

A pre-shopping event seminar titled: Santo Domingo Pueblo Jewelry: The Continuous Thread from the Ancient to Contemporary will be held at 11:00 a.m. in the Pacific Hotel the day of the sale. Mr. Lovato will speak about his jewelry making process and his experience growing up in the Pueblo learning to make jewelry from his mother. Dr. Rita Yokoi, founding director of the Museum of Native American Jewelry, historian, educator and author will present a historical overview of the differences between the dominant southwest styles of jewelry. She will discuss Santo Domingo handmade bead making, inlay and carving. She will also provide tips on what to look for when buying Native American jewelry.



Martine Lovato stringing natural turquoise beads Photo: Cheron Bayna, Santa Fe



Handmade bracelet of natural turquoise, jet, spring oyster shell and mother of pearl. Photo: Cheron Bayna, Santa Fe

Dr. Yokoi will present a trunk show after the seminar focusing on the elegant Santo Domingo jewelry that is made with turquoise, stone and shell. All of the jewelry is guaranteed authentic and handmade Native American.

Delicious, locally made preserves, oils and vinaigrettes from Village Harvest will be available for tasting and purchase. Village Harvest is a not-for-profit cooperative that brings together neighbors and community organizations to provide food for the hungry. The cooperative harvests overabundant neighborhood fruit trees and distributes several tons of fruit through Second Harvest Food Bank of Santa Clara County and other similar organizations.

#### MUSEUM INFORMATION

#### SITES

History Park, Kelley Park, 1650 Senter Road San José, CA 95113 408/207-2290, Fax 408-207-2291

Peralta Adobe (t-Fallon House 175 W. St. John St., San José, CA. 9510 400-503-0103, Fax 408-593-6104

Administrative Offices 1659 Senter Road San José, CA 95113 408-207-2290, Fax 408-207-2291 www.bistoryaniosc.com

#### **FEES**

GENERAL ADMISSION FEES
A ticker for both sites is valid two
works from date of purchase.

	One site	Horn, to	
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#### GROUP TOUR FEES

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#### HOURS

History Park Is Gallery, Ture. — Fr., 11:00 a.m.n. S00 p.m., self-guided tours, admission is free. Research Center. Wed 1:00 p.m. — 4:00 p.m., Museum Store: 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., S60 ft O'Brien's cafe: 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., S60 ft Sun., Noon — 5:00 p.m., docent-guided tours, regular admission fee. Lam tour leaves at 3:00 p.m. Museum Store and O'Brien's cafe. Noon to 4:00 p.m.

Peratio/Fullon: Sur.-Sun., Noon to 5:00 p.m., docent-guided fours; regular admission fee, Last tour leaves at 3:10 p.m.

OFFICE HOURS AT BOTH SITES: Man - Fri - 900 a.m. - 5000 p.m.

All school programs and group tours must be reserved. School programs - group tours are affered Moss. - Fil., 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Group tours are offered Tues. - Sun. by reservation only, Call 408-918-1040.

#### **PROGRAMS**

Public Programs: History Makers

School Programs: Experience Allope Bays Experience Victorian Days - Explore
Peralta/Fallon - Explore San Jose's Part Gold Rush Adventure - Historic Transportation
Experience - History (like - School Days in
the 1890s - Victorian School Kit - Westward
Hot - Women Who Made A Difference

Outreach Programs: Ponraits of the Past

The Exchange is published four times a year by History San José, Editor Lynn Crocker