President’s Message

As we start this new year many of you are just now receiving your dues renewal notices for 1979. The delay in sending these out is due to several factors. The membership year has been changed to run from January through December, as opposed to July through June as was previously the case. We had hoped to have a major fundraising campaign last fall. The board of directors devoted a substantial amount of time working with a local fundraiser to prepare a campaign. Just before we were to sign a contract he unexpectedly withdrew. As a result we experienced delays in preparing the membership material and the fundraising campaign did not materialize.

The board hopes that you will renew your membership and that you will consider giving more that the minimum donation. The museum needs your support if it is to continue to grow. Proposition 13 has deprived us of any hope of obtaining construction funds from the City of San Jose, so we must depend more than ever upon you for help.

This spring we hope to dedicate the Empire Firehouse and the new entrance to the museum, as well as other structures. I hope you will visit the museum soon and see how it has grown.

Very truly yours,

Paul E. Jacobs
President
San Jose Historical Museum Association

Museum Director’s Report

Major Collection Received

A major boost was given to the Museum’s archival holdings this year with the acquisition of maps, photographs, and miscellaneous records from the real estate firm of James A. Clayton & Company. The year 1978 marked the 112th year of the operation of this firm, one of San Jose’s oldest, and many of the documents donated by the Company date from its earliest years.

Truly a treasure trove for the history researcher, the ledgers, maps, and photographs of early San Jose are currently being processed by the curatorial staff so that this information can be made available to the public.

Association Grant Request Successful

Over $75,000 in federal monies allocated by the Santa Clara Valley Employment and Manpower Training Board are currently being used to improve the Museum’s collection storage area and to make for greater accessibility to the Museum collection and exhibits.

Funded through the federal CETA program, six employees have been hired to transfer the collection to new storage facilities and to complete access for handicapped visitors. The one year project will be completed in September of 1979. Judy Fowler, Museum Association member, authored this successful request.

Prophecy Emerges—Budget Cut

In the City’s most recent struggle to come to grips with the post Proposition 13 financial situation, the Museum’s budget was reduced $20,000 to help alleviate a 1.5 million dollar deficit in the current fiscal year. Areas affected by this cut include utilities for the Museum, the distribution of interpretive brochures and a reduction in the number of exhibitions presented in the Museum’s Changing Exhibition Gallery.

New Museum Entrance Progresses—Slowly

Despite the vagaries of politics and little cooperation from Mother Nature, the Museum’s new entrance continues to rise on the north side of the grounds. Funded through the City’s Capital Improvement Program, the construction of this project was delayed in July, when initial bids were rejected as too high. After long administrative delays, construction was finally begun in September, only to be halted with the first onslaught of the winter rains. Villareal Construction, the successful bidder on the project, has now completed the foundation for the building and the two park restrooms that it will house.
Coming Events
Come See "The Spice of Life..."

The San Jose Historical Museum is featuring "The Spice of Life... A Century of Cherished Mementos and Souvenirs" as a special exhibit from February 14, 1979 through June 30, 1979.

"The Spice of Life..." offers a smattering of typically cherished mementos and souvenirs which reflect the mood of past and present times. These objects are not all unique or valuable, although many have become so over the years, but they do represent inexpensive and commonly collected items and perhaps even suggest the reason for and results of the ageless impulse to collect.

From the early gathering of delicate calling cards, dance programs, and theatre bills which were simply saved for their associative value as pleasant reminders of bygone experience, collecting has become a phenomenon in itself. For postcards, souvenir plates, spoons, and salt and pepper shakers all illustrate items which were and are collected for no other reason than for what they are. Consequently, collecting has become a mass culture marketing event—objects are mass produced for consumer collection.

The objects and reasons for collecting are as diverse as the personalities involved, however, it's unlikely that any of us are missing our cherished mementos or souvenirs. Make sure you get a chance to see this feature exhibit in the Changing Exhibit Room of the Pacific Hotel.

A special opening for members and guests will be held at the Museum March 15 at 7:30 PM. RSVP 287-2290.

Who's Who at the Museum

Charlie Taylor

Charlie Taylor has been with the City of San Jose Parks and Recreation Department for 18 years. Four years ago, he was assigned to work at the Museum as a carpenter.

Before being permanently assigned to the Museum, Charlie worked on all of the original Museum buildings, with the Kelley Park Crew, from pouring the foundation of Dashaway Stables to shingling the roof of the Print Shop.

Born in Nahant, Massachusetts, Charlie moved to San Jose with his wife and children in 1960. Prior to that, he served in the Air Force as a carpenter while stationed in Japan.

Charlie enjoys many interesting hobbies, such as gold mining in the Mother Lode country and bottle collecting. He is an avid history buff on the Pioneers and the Gold Rush Era.

Russ Inglerie

Russ Inglerie has worked six years as a City carpenter, assigned to the Museum.

His versatile finish carpentry skills contributed much to the Main Exhibit Room and also much of the fine cabinetry here. He acquired much of his experience during his 16 years as a union carpenter. Among his list of accomplishments can be found in the finish carpentry work completed at the Pruneyard Shopping Center in Campbell.

Russ is a native San Josean. He is married and has a son and a daughter.

Russ is an expert fisherman, hunter and camper. Whenever time allows, Russ takes his four-wheel drive truck up to his favorite fishing hole at Eagle Lake in northern California.

Docent News

Docent Program

In November, 32 docents successfully completed the docent training program, boosting the number of active docents to 55.

This year's Docent Program is not only noteworthy due to the quantity of docents, but also their quality. In one effort to help bridge the gap between children and the non-touchable Museum exhibits, docents are currently assembling a "touchable collection" composed of items related to the exhibits, but which children can handle and explore themselves. Pursuing other avenues to expand the Docent Program, docents are beginning to investigate the possibility of outreach programs to the public schools.

In recognition of its growing ranks and increasing administrative needs, the docent council (all docents) is in the process of adopting its first constitution and bylaws to define the purposes of the program and outline governing needs.

Without a doubt, the docents are reaching their audience, for as one student warmly responded:

Dear Mrs. Southwell,

Thank you very much for taking us on the tour of the San Jose Historical Museum. I had learned many things of my city where I was born. I have learned who were the people who first came here. I just loved the dresses and the paintings from the cupids. I am very sorry that they didn't pay you, but if I had lots of money I would give some money to you for working extra time.

Sincerely yours,
Estella

P.S. The dentists tools were terrible
Roots Revisited

With all the recent attention being given to the wine industry in California, the U.S., and around the world it is interesting to note that San Jose's Mirassou family is celebrating 125 years of winemaking. This places them among the oldest of American winemaking families. It all began in 1854 when Pierre Pellar left his native France and settled in this valley, planting his vineyards under the watchful eyes of Mt. Hamilton. As every San Jose Historical Museum docent well knows, many of the Pellar grape cuttings were carefully transported from France and kept alive by insertion into slit potato ends. The Pelliers were united with the Mirassou family in 1881 when a Pellier daughter married a fellow vintner, Pierre Huste Mirassou. Today they remain a well known and respected name in this popular and fast growing industry.

Exclamation Point

Explore your heritage in needlepoint and create an heirloom.
Top designers include - Barbara Eyre-Dederer, Peggy Nagel - Creative Needle - plus - Peter Laee's Landmark Designs

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Newbury Park, Ca. 91320

A treat is in store for those paying for a family membership in the San Jose Historical Museum Association for 1979. Contributions of $25.00 or more entitles members to a copy of Life in The Mines of New Almaden, a collection of articles about the mine in the 1860's and 1870's. There was national interest in New Almaden at that time and these articles which first appeared in Harper's Magazine and Scribner's portray a very realistic view of the lives of the miners as well as the hazards of mercury poisoning. Included in the Association's publication of over 100 pages are photographs from the Laurence Bulmore collection and a most interesting booklet of cooking, household hints and medical information published at New Almaden in 1890.

Volunteers Needed

Weekend volunteers are needed at the Museum! As the weather improves, more and more visitors are expected. Dedicated people are needed to help at the Admissions desk, staff or give tours of the historic buildings, or give demonstrations of blacksmithing, printing or early day crafts. Weekend hours are from noon to 4:30 pm. We ask volunteers to plan to stay the entire time and to help us at least twice a month. There will be a training session to orient new volunteers this spring. If you are interested in helping at the museum, please contact either Christine Manda or Carolyn de Vries at 287-2290 for more information.

New Equipment Improves Photo Service

A new copy camera, purchased with funds made available by the Museum Association, will significantly increase the number and quality of copies of historic prints available to the public. This service is becoming more and more popular, with orders for an average of 10-15 prints a week coming in from scholarly researchers, advertising and decorating firms, architects and ordinary people with an interest in the history of the Santa Clara Valley.

The Museum staff would like to thank the Museum Association for their support of this valuable facility. Thanks also to Kristina DeLuz whose donation went to the purchase of an enlarger and other darkroom equipment.

EAST of the GABILANS

By Marjorie Pierce
Foreword and cover art by Barnaby Conrad
An account of the ranches and towns which were once the lands of Mission San Juan Bautista.
$15.00 plus tax at Leading Book Stores and The San Jose Historical Museum.
San Jose Historical Museum Association

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**MEMBERSHIP CLASSIFICATIONS**

- □ Pioneer Circle ($5,000 or More)
- □ Patron Circle ($2,000 or More)
- □ Mission Circle ($1,000 or More)
- □ Pueblo Circle ($500 or More)
- □ Tower Circle ($200 or More)
- □ Century Circle ($100 or More)
- □ Half-Century Circle ($50 or More)
- □ Quarter-Century Circle ($25 or More)

For a pledge of $100 or more —

Bill Me In:

- □ 1 Installment (Jan.)
- □ 2 Installments (Jan., June)
- □ 4 Installments (Jan., March, June & Oct.)

Never Too Late

You should have received your 1979 membership packet but if it was lost in the rush of the holiday season simply clip the coupon below, fill out appropriately, and send in with your tax deductible check.

Thank you.

Make check payable to:
San Jose Historical Museum Association, 635 Phelan Ave., San Jose, CA 95112
Docent Forum

On October 16, 1978, along with the San Jose Art Museum and the Youth Science Institute, the San Jose Historical Museum hosted a docent forum. It was attended by over 200 California docents some coming from as far away as San Diego. It gave the participants an opportunity to share ideas and techniques used in museum tours for school children and the general public. It also gave docents and staff the experience of working with other local public oriented institutions.

Dr. Layton To Speak

The Pacific Hotel will be the location of the 7:30 P.M., March 19 docent meeting. The topic is archaeology and specifically what can be learned by documenting excavations. The program will be presented by Dr. Thomas Layton, Professor of Anthropology at San Jose State University.

OUT OF TOWN

Did you know that eight is a lucky number? At least that's what some people thought when it applied to houses and the number of sides they had. You can see the manifestation of that 19th Century belief at 2645 Gough Street, San Francisco. This is the current address of "Octagon House" which was formerly located across the street and built in 1861 for William C. McElroy. Its architecture was based on ideas popularized by Orson S. Fowler in his book, A Home for All. The house is presently owned by the National Society of Colonial Dames of America and is open to the public. For further information call 415-885-9796.

CAESAR SALAD

It is not known how Caesar Salad got its name, but it is believed to have originated in Southern California in the 1920's. Its fame has spread far beyond that.

to serve 4 to 6

2 medium-sized heads romaine lettuce
10 to 12 croutons, preferably made from French or Italian-style bread
4 to 8 tablespoons vegetable oil
1 teaspoon finely chopped garlic
2 eggs
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
1/4 cup olive oil
4 tablespoons lemon juice
1 cup freshly grated Parmesan cheese
6 to 8 flat anchovies (optional)

Separate the romaine lettuce and wash the leaves under cold running water. Dry each leaf thoroughly with paper towels. Then wrap the lettuce in a dry kitchen towel and chill while you assemble the other ingredients. Cut a loaf of bread into 1/2-inch thick slices. Trim the crusts and cut each slice into 1 1/2-inch squares. In a heavy skillet, large enough to hold all the croutons in one layer, heat 4 tablespoons of the vegetable oil over high heat until a light haze forms above it. Add the croutons and brown them on all sides, turning them with tongs, and, if necessary, add up to another 4 tablespoons of oil. Remove the pan from the heat, then add the chopped garlic and toss the croutons about in the hot fat. Remove the croutons to paper towels to drain, cool and crisp. Plunge the eggs into rapidly boiling water for 10 seconds, remove and set aside. Break the chilled romaine into serving-sized pieces and scatter them in the bottom of a large salad bowl, preferably glass or porcelain. Add the salt, pepper and olive oil, and toss the lettuce with two large spoons, or better still, with your hands. Then break the eggs on top of the salad, add the lemon juice and mix again until the lettuce is thoroughly coated with the dressing. Add the cheese and the anchovies, and mix once more. Scatter the croutons over the top and serve at once on chilled salad plates.

WANTED

The Association is always interested in having new people serve on the Association Board. If you are interested please contact Penny Lowe at 926-9641.
WELCOME

The Association welcomes Carol Carlson as the new chairman of the museum gift shop. Carol is already hard at work with the staff and other association board members investigating other museum gift shops in hopes of increasing the inventory and possibly finding a new location for our present shop. Thank you are in order for Pat Burchfield who was the chairman prior to Carol.

Help! Museum Gift Shop

The Museum gift shop needs additional volunteers to staff the store on weekends. As you know, the gift shop is a way of making money for the Museum Association, and the only way we can do that is if the gift shop is open on weekends when we have visitors. The job is really relaxing and enjoyable—you sit in the gift shop and help people who would like to purchase something. The commitment is one Saturday or Sunday a month from 12-4:30. What an easy way to help your Association!

Please contact Carol Carlson (new gift shop person) at 374-1438.

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