ASSOCIATION TO HOLD BENEFIT THEATER PARTY

Mark your calendar now and join us for an evening of light-hearted entertainment, as the City Lights Theater Company presents an original musical drama, The Ghosts of Sarah Winchester, written by popular San Jose Mercury News columnist Leigh Weimers and San Jose entrepreneur Gaei Douglass.

The San Jose Historical Museum Association has organized a special benefit evening at the theater on Thursday, July 22nd, 8:00 p.m. with Leigh Weimers and Gaei Douglass as special guests and complimentary dessert and coffee after the performance.

The City Lights Theater, located behind the Old Spaghetti Factory on San Pedro Square, in downtown San Jose, offers an intimate setting for an enjoyable evening of local theater. Guests will appreciate the opportunity to hear Weimers and Douglass discuss the play and answer questions from the audience. The after-theater party will be a time for socializing with friends and other members of the Museum Association.

The City Lights Theater Company will produce The Ghosts of Sarah Winchester — based on legends surrounding this famous local lady — as part of its South Bay New Playwright’s Series. A program designed to give South Bay writers an opportunity to have their works produced, the Series has met with enthusiastic responses. Continued on Page 8

VISIT HISTORIC MONTEREY
WHEN: Thursday, August 13, 1987
WHO: Association members and their guests
HOW: Royal Coach Tours
Parking Lot of the Museum
TIME: 8:00 AM to 5:30 PM
COST: Members $20 (lunch on your own)
Non-Members $22 (lunch on your own)

Join us, with our personal guide, Phil Grasser, as we discover Monterey’s exciting past.

Phil is currently Vice-President of the Association’s Board of Directors. He earned his BA and MA in History from the University of Santa Clara and pursued doctoral studies in Western American History at Brigham Young University. He is a regular lecturer in our Docent Training Program, and an instructor at the California History Center, De Anza College. We are pleased that Phil has agreed to lead us on this exciting tour.

First, we will visit the Monterey Presidio, which was founded in 1770. We will visit the museum there and explore the historic hillside around it.

Next, we will journey to the Custom House and surrounding area. The Custom House is the oldest government building on the Pacific Coast. Here the United States flag was officially raised for the first time by Commodore John Stockton in 1846.

Across from the Custom Plaza is Fisherman’s Wharf. There you will find many restaurants from which you may choose to have lunch.

After lunch, we will travel by bus to Colton Hall. It is the site of the California Constitutional Convention in 1849. We will visit it and the surrounding area.

Reservations for this trip are limited and refunds will be made only when there is a waiting list for the trip. Checks should be made payable to the San Jose Historical Museum Association and sent (along with the reservation form and a stamped self-addressed envelope) to the San Jose Historical Museum, 635 Sanborn Avenue, San Jose, CA 95112. Attn: Earline Shields.

MONTEREY, AUGUST 13, 1987
NAME: 
ADDRESS: 
PHONE NUMBER: 
NUMBER OF RESERVATIONS: 
RESERVATION CONFIRMED: 

INSIDE ASSOCIATION NEWS

Benefit Theater Party 
Visit Historic Monterey 
Staff & Volunteer Reports 
Corporate Membership List 
Endowment Fund 
Duncan Osvald (1963-1987) 
Confessions of Madame Psychic 
Judge Dennis W. Harrington 
Award Winners 
Introducing Patricia MacDonald 
An Update on Vintage Reflections 
Mexican Costumes 
The William Weimers Salute 
Wine Before It’s Time 
Living History Days 
Exhibition: San Jose’s Finest Mystery Photo 
Dates to Remember
**ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE**

"Terrific event." "The classiest act in town." "Nice group of people." "Meticulous organizing." "An excellent job on behalf of the cause and contributors." "A remarkable event." " Huge success." "Terrific family affair." These were just a few of the comments from the nearly 1,000 people who participated in May’s Living History Days. Cari Clark, Deputy Director of San Jose Parks and Recreation, said, "I was truly proud to be a small part of the partnership between City of San Jose Parks and Recreation, the San Jose Historical Museum, and the Historical Society of California in putting this event on and making it such an outstanding presentation to the public."

My congratulations to you, the members of the Association, the volunteers who worked so hard, and to all of the many volunteers and friends that had a hand in preparation of this event. I encourage you to continue to work with the Association and making the San Jose Historical Museum a truly outstanding and widely recognized historical facility in the State of California.

Museum Auxiliary

One of the first people you meet as you enter the Museum is the Auxiliary Volunteer at the Pacific Hotel Lobby Desk. Here is a friendly person with a ready smile and a welcome to the Museum. Those who staff the desk will try to answer your questions regarding the Museum, contact persons at the Museum who may be of help to you.

Public tours begin in the Hotel Lobby and you will be given a tour of the buildings as soon as possible after you arrive. While waiting, there is an excellent exhibit next to the desk depicting the changing lands of Santa Clara Valley. The exhibits in the lobby change from time to time so there is always something new to see when visiting the Museum.

Deck attendants keep records of visitors and processed tickets, answer phones, take and deliver messages. During the week, Museum admission tickets are sold at the desk.

We who staff the Lobby Desk are privileged to meet and converse with persons from all walks of life and many different states of the Union and from foreign countries. For example, our guest book shows that visitors have come from 25 different states and 16 foreign countries since January 1987.

If you are interested in people, the Hotel Lobby Desk is a great place for you to volunteer. It is our privilege to serve the people who visit the Museum.

Joan Helms
Auxiliary President

**DOCENT REPORT**

The latest group of docent trainees have completed their classroom lectures, their in-therapy tours of all the exhibits, and are now in the midst of their evaluation tours before becoming full-fledged Docents. Their group numbered 36 in the final count. Once again, we are delighted to add their names to the Docent Council.

On Monday, May 28th, I conducted our annual Docent Luncheon and there was the usual large attendance. This year it was held at the De Anza Inn. We had an interesting session on the enormous donation of skilled labor and materials to the San Jose Historical Museum. With the Work Day on April 25th and the upcoming mid-June presentation of the documents, Mayor McEnery praised Dial One of San Jose for this outstanding example of community involvement.

**FROM THE EDITOR**

**Chiechi House Restoration Completed**

One of the Museum’s Association’s proudest moments in recent years came during Living History Days when the Chiechi House was opened to the public for the first time. The Chiechi family had an opportunity to visit their home in a small way for the contribution to the Museum. Family members included Prank and Nick Chiechi who were born in the house around the turn of the century, and their descendants. Approximately 35 family members were present, in all.

The Chiechi family traced the home to the Museum and the City of San Jose in 1797 by the late Grace Chiechi. It was stabilized on a foundation and restored at the Museum. After the restoration funds were not available until this past year when the Association’s Board of Directors, acting under the Museum’s general building agreement with the City, undertook the restoration work directly. Association general fund contributions from 1984-1985, and private contributions made the refurbishing of the house possible.

The Museum now has a new and worthy preparing a new exhibit for the Chiechi House which will be completed by September of this year.

Kathleen Muller
Editor

**DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

Marvin Bamberg, Chairman, Chuck Beckley, Virginia Hammermeiers, Rudy Janderson, Joan Jeanes, Patricia Loomis, Jacqueline Schouette, Charles Walton.

**Contributors:** Virginia Beck, Jack Dougan, Ross Allen, Frances Hammermeiers, Patricia Loomis, Virginia Hammermeiers, Joan Helms, Yvonne Jacobson, Grace Chiechi, Pat McEnery, Betty Reger, Jack Ander, Judge Mark Thomas, Nellie B. Parks, Bruce Pohle, Earline Shields, Judge Mark Thomas, Nellie B. Parks.

The San Jose Historical Museum News is copyrighted and published for the benefit of the San Jose Historical Museum Association six times each year. Membership in the Association is open to all persons interested in the Museum. The Association News is available to non-members for $3.00 annually.

**San Jose Historical Museum News**

615 South Santa Clara
San Jose, California 95112

(408) 297-5390

The San Jose Historical Society is the parent organization of the San Jose Historical Museum. The San Jose Historical Society is the parent organization of the San Jose Historical Museum.

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FROM THE ARCHIVES

Looking for one’s "roots" is an ever growing interest in the local community, and the search for family history is another request often asked of the Archives. While the San Jose Historical Museum Archives is not a genealogical library, we do have materials which can assist the individual or family seeking information.

Of prime interest are original marriage certificates, probate records, Book of Wills, deeds and mortgages, and maps denoting plot ownership. The Archives has an obituary index (currently up to 1905), photographs, school records, city directories and histories, and other materials which can help pinpoint the whereabouts of someone's family.

This is one of the most rewarding research areas. It is always delightful to help discover where someone's grandparents lived, or to find what business they worked at. In the Valley are a number of classes and other organizations which are interested in genealogical research, and the Archives can help you make contact with these groups if you desire to do further research.

Leslie Masunaga
Archivist

IN THE COLLECTION

Exhibits and projects are the keynote in collections. In the Pacific Hotel lobby case is the exhibit "Women's Suffrage." The exhibit commemorates women's suffrage tradition and focuses on the California campaign for suffrage.

The exhibit was produced by the California History Center at DeAnza College and the Women's Heritage Museum of Palo Alto. A shirtwaist factory currently underway is the partial restoration of the interior of the Peralta Adobe. A crew of volunteers has been busy replacing the windows and doors, and painting the walls of the sala. Meanwhile, the Woodcavers Association of Santa Clara Valley has been忙 painting the exterior, and is considering building a pavilion on the grounds. Also planned are improved viewing areas and interpretive graphics. The project is scheduled for completion within the year, and it is anticipated that this restoration will substantially enhance our interpretive program at the Peralta. As you know the Chiechi House was open to the public for the first time at Living History Days. This delightful house will reopen in September (watch for your invitation to this gala event) and through the 1970's and 1980's. The period between the wars marks a dramatic change from the Victorian era of the Umbert House. The condition of high electricity will be emphasized. In a home representing the period between the wars, artifacts from the collection will be used.

Nancy Valby
Curator

MUSEUM STAFF
Mignon Gibson Director Office
Carolyn Sherrod Staff Technician
Wanda Senior Steno
Jeanne Kondo Clerk/Typist
Archives
Leslie Masunaga Archivist
Education
Virginia Beck Curator of Education
Veronica Cerasoli
Delcie Janzen Volunteer Coordinator
Ellen Garboske (p/t) Volunteer Projects
Events
Deborah Naran Museum Events
Collections
Milita Rios Martin Curator
Sarah Heigho Barnes Curator
Nancy Valby Curator
ASSOCIATION STAFF
Kathleen Muller Administrator
Administrative Services
Carol Carlson Manager
Earline Shields Membership Secretary

ENDEWMENT FUND DONATIONS
During the months of May and June, 1987, contributions were made to the Museum Association's Endowment Fund/Special Projects Fund in honor of the following individuals:

In Memorium
Ethel Zanker Alhambra
Leon F. Fox, M.D.
Susan E. Generalovin
Peter W. Hansen
Lloyd H. Hartman
Charles E. Lackhardt
Florence Kessen
Augusta Meyers
Duncan Ono
Mary Scholl
Barbara & Tor Kessen
William E. Zeigler
To Honor
Mary Kessen
Patricia Loomis

Gifts to the San Jose Historical Museum Association in honor of someone on a special occasion, or as a memorial, may be sent to the San Jose Historical Museum Association Endowment Fund, 639 Phelan Avenue, San Jose, CA 95112. A letter of acknowledgement will be sent to the person being honored or the family of the deceased.

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Winchester Ranch
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IBM Corporation
Loma Prieta Foundation
Lockheed Missiles & Space Corporation
Santa Clara County Community Foundation
Stellia B. Gross Trust

SPREAD THE WORD OF ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP

The San Jose Historical Museum has been growing by leaps and bounds and the Museum Association through its membership programs, side events that grow as the Museum grows, the Association, also, needs to grow.

Help us by:
- telling your friends about the Museum Association
- sharing this newsletter with non-members
- taking the benefits of belonging to the Museum Association
- asking them to join (application in newsletter, additional applications are available at the Museum)
- renewing your membership for 1987, if you have not done so
- asking your employer about Matching Gift Funds
- asking your employer to become a corporate member (corporate membership starts at $100, applications are available at the Museum)
- Remember every member is important to the Association. Thank you for your support.

Earline Shields
Membership Secretary
DUNCAN ONEAL
1903 - 1987

On June 9, 1987 the San Jose Historical Museum lost a trusted friend and advisor with the passing of Duncan Oneal. A member of the Museum’s Advisory Board, Mr. Oneal took great interest in the Museum as an institution charged with preserving the history of the Santa Clara Valley. He supported the Museum through numerous generous grants from the Stella B. Gross Charitable Trust, through donations to the Museum’s collections, and in thoughtful advice and direction. Duncan Oneal and his late wife, Pat, among the first members of the San Jose Historical Museum back in 1974.

Mr. Oneal was a lifelong resident of San Jose, and a partner through the late 60’s in one of San Jose’s oldest and most prestigious law firms, known today as Rankin, Oneal, Center, Luckhardt & Lund. He attended San Jose High School and Santa Clara Preparatory School, earned his BA and law degree from Stanford University.

Mr. Oneal was active in public service throughout his life, and was known as a strong community leader. He served as President of the Santa Clara County Bar Association, and was a director of the U.S. District Court of the Northern California Historical Association, among other accomplishments.

The Museum Association was very honored to have been designated by Duncan Oneal and his family, to act as their organization of choice to allocate memorial donations. All such gifts are placed in the Museum’s Endowment Fund where they will grow and continue to benefit the Museum for years to come.

Duncan Oneal, one of the most distinguished lawyers of this state, passed away on June 9. At his memorial service on June 12, Judge William Ingram, U.S. District Court, and Attorney Burton Wines gave brief addresses which I thought were most insightful and touching. Here are their remarks.

Judge Mark Thomas, Jr.

Judge Ingram’s remarks:

I am here for myself — for all the lawyers through the years who have the honor and great advantage of Duncan Oneal’s guidance in his office — and for the bar generally.

Duncan Oneal came to the bar in 1929. He was 26 years old. He was the son of a great father, Louis Oneal. He had the benefit of the teaching of a formidable triumvirate, William F. James, Arthur Shoup and Maurice J. Rankin.

He had the pleasure of temporary associates who were themselves to make great names at the bar Charles E. Luckhardt, Hugh Stuart Center and Marshall Spener Hall.

Starting then, and for the rest of his life, he had the incomparable assistance and loyalty of Elise M. Daly, who is still at the office, still shepherding the lawyers, unshakable in her allegiance.

As the years passed, he was joined in the practice of law by two fine and able sons — Dan and Louis — and before last Tuesday occurred, he had the joy of knowing that his grandson, Jeff [Oneal], had passed the qualifying examination, and will come to the bar on June 17, next Wednesday, the fourth generation of his line to wear the bar.

Those are the things that he got.

They are surpassed by what he gave: the skill and the grace and the good will, the tough combative ness of his great spirit tempered by innate gentleness of his approach to people and even to adversaries have not been equaled in any courtroom that I know of.

Burt Wines has remarked that he was the last of the generalists. He could draw a will, form a corporation, preside over the acquisition, and sale of properties. He could and did advise the Santa Clara County as far as the Southern Pacific. He could and did advise the San Jose Mercury. He could do all these things well. He was a great lawyer.

A few notes from the trial bar — the small group that carry the burdens of the ultimate test — the courtroom. The group can best he described by William Shakespeare through the mouth of Henry V:

"We few, we happy few, we band of Brothers.

We, who are a part of that band cherished him, we shall cherish his memory. I am sure that I am not alone when I test the professional things I do by this litmus, "what would Mr. Oneal think of doing?"

"HE IS THE LORD BLESS HIM AND KEEP HIM — AMEN"

Burton Wines’ remarks:

I am not going to add to Judge Ingram’s remarks about Duncan in his preeminent status as an attorney. Rather, I want to remind you of the distinguished contribution which he made to the bar in a different capacity — as a family man, as an attorney, and as a friend.

You cannot look at one fact in the remarkable life of Duncan Oneal without recognizing that he was a man who lived by traditional values and standards. He was married to Patty for 50 years. His devotion to and love of her, which she returned in full measure, was there every minute of his long marriage. This was one of his most precious gifts, without Patty was much less than full and incomplete.

I remember when we had a party in 1979 to celebrate his 50 years at the bar. He made some remarks at the end and his face was glowing with happiness. One of the things he said was "I have hardly had any one partner, she got me breakfast every morning, got me ready for work and was waiting for me when I came home at the end of the day."

His associations in the practice of law were impeccable. Elise Daly was his secretary from 1933 until he died, or 54 years.

He practiced with his father for 15 years.

He practiced with Hugg and Center for 48 years.

He practiced with Charles Luckhardt, Sr., for 41 years.

He practiced with Marshall Hall for 24 years and until Judge Hall went on the bench.

He practiced with John Longmott for 28 years and the association ended with Judge Longmott's appointment to the court. Seven of his associates became judges. All told, in the professional sense, he was the leader and apex of his bar.

If you want to be a judge don't bother with the governor, sign on with the Oneal law firm. He was the leader and apex of the firm. And my friends you cannot, you cannot, I guarantee you, look at any law firm in this vast State with its judges, with its great lawyers and all the associates and relationships so lasting and enduring. In one word, he was a rock in his law firm. You never left his law association including the younger ones now in charge of the firm, their opinion of Duncan Oneal. To listen to them talk about him one can sense their complete affection and admiration for Duncan. As a family man he was the leader and apex of all that family life can and should be. His bond with Patty will always be a source of guidance for his sons and his grandsons. And if an evening or had lunch with Duncan that he did not talk about Louis and Dan, about their wives, Shirley and Mary, and his grandsons. He devoted his life to them, his generosity was a natural part of his life. To him it was not some duty to be discharged, but a natural part of his heart.

I recall when I prepared the papers for the admission of Louis Oneal to the American College of Trial Lawyers. There was never any question but that Louis would accept. Of course, Duncan had to keep out of it but he could not.

I completed the submission and Duncan was now an officer on the phone. "Have you heard anything?" "No, Duncan, we submitted the papers two weeks ago in August and he will not be voted up or down until early in March."

Another few weeks and the phone would ring again, "Have you heard anything?" "No, Duncan. Another few weeks "Are you sure his papers went in?" "Yes, I am sure." "Well, I finally got him off my phone by sending him a copy of the papers. Which was against the rules."

Merely to meet Duncan was to inspire your trust and confidence. His integrity was obvious. It was fitting that when the Americans were relocated, a Japanese-American farmer in this community converted all his property to his Japanese-American son as a distinguished fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers. Throughout this state at every gathering of lawyers, the name of Duncan Oneal is recognized, honored, and respected.

Burton Wines' remarks:

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We, who are a part of that band cherished him, we shall cherish his memory. I am sure that I am not alone when I test the professional things I do by this litmus, "what would Mr. Oneal think of doing?"

"HE IS THE LORD BLESS HIM AND KEEP HIM — AMEN"
BOOK REVIEW
FEATURED BOOK FOR JULY — AUGUST

Berkeley's Beyond Columbus Foundation has chosen the novel under review as one of its American Book Award winners for 1987, proclaiming the writer, Dorothy Bryant, as one of America's outstanding authors. Ms. Bryant did research for this book in the Archives of the San Jose Historical Museum, toured the Museum's exhibit buildings and talked to Docents to absorb the history of the Santa Clara Valley. Now in the San Jose Historical Museum Gift Shop ($11.56), Confessions of Madame Psyche vividly portrays Bay Area history, retelling an ancient Greek myth in the process. Prune-picking in Santa Clara County becomes a lesson in discipline.

At first glance Confessions of Madame Psyche, the eighth novel of Berkeley writer Dorothy Bryant, appears to be an authentic, first-person account written by Meti-Murrow. Meti-M, the child of a Chinese mother and a drunken Wasp father, is born literally on the fringes of San Francisco society in a shack on the mud flats of Hunters Point in 1895. Meti-M draws a vivid picture of the area's rural atmosphere and its polygot, poor immigrant residents at the turn of the century.

To augment this "authentic" history, photographs from Bay Area archives give flesh and blood evidence as to the "real" existence of the various characters. While the documentary-journal form of the novel throws the reader off balance initially, it also suggests the difficulty of judging between reality and illusion, a recurring theme of Bryant's unusual work. Meti-M's journals provide her with a vehicle for separating the truth from illusion about her life and reality.

Bryant, as "editor," is herself a character acting as a guide through the stages of Meti-M's life. Bryant, as novelist, is the spinner of this tale about an editor named Dorothy Bryant who receives twenty seven journals from the daughter that Meti-M never knew. Editor Bryant says innocently, "I made only such changes [in the journals] as seemed essential to clarity."

Bryant's novel is based loosely on the story of Cupid and Psyche, the myth which tells on one level, of the soul's quest for love. Meti-M's quest is grounded firmly within specific events of the first half of the 20th century and within the Bay Area where most of the action takes place. It is a credit to the craftsmanship and artistry of Bryant that neither the myth nor the Jungian psychology which informs its interpretation intrude on this story which is at times powerful and moving, at times funny and lyrical, at times tragic and grim.

Like the mythic Psyche, Meti-M has two sisters, one of whom, Erika, will play out the role of the ever-hungry Aphrodite of the original myth. In this myth Aphrodite is jealous of the mortal Psyche because of her beauty. She sends her son Cupid to destroy Psyche, but he falls in love with her instead. The lovers are separated and Psyche, in order to regain Cupid's love, must undertake a series of difficult and dangerous tasks.

Under Erika's direction, after the 1906 earthquake, Meti-M begins a twenty year career as a fraud in the role of Madame Psyche, a spiritualist who feeds on the hopeless longing of people to contact their beloved dead. Madame Psyche is a master of illusion and her success will take Erika and Meti-M to England where the terror of World War I helps promote spiritualism. Meti-M attempts to break away from Erika, but she and her lover are caught by the influenza epidemic of 1918 and Meti-M is forced to return to Erika's control; they come back to San Francisco.

Eventually, Meti-M breaks away again, determined to find truth and the way toward goodness. She chooses a difficult path just as she is assured of material comfort. Her decision is based on an intense experience at Ocean Beach in San Francisco which allows her to see the interconnections of all life. For the rest of her life she will try to understand and follow the dictates of her vision, reevaluating it several times before she arrives at the truth.

Her first effort, a utopian commune in the Santa Cruz Mountains, ends in failure, but she learns from the experience that even the Garden of Eden, as appealing as it seems, can defeat her vision. Like Adam and Eve she must move beyond physical love, comfort and security.

The next phase of her life takes place in the orchard-filled Santa Clara Valley during the Great Depression where she learns to submit to the needs of others. Meti-M joins cannery and field workers as they strike for better wages and working conditions. As she picks prunes and picks cherries she learns discipline, just as the original Psyche did when she had to sort piles of grain.

But her most dangerous and difficult task befalls her just when she thinks her life is under control. Erika reenters her life, undertaking to steal an inheritance from her and committing Meti-M to Napa State Hospital, an institution for the mentally ill. At the same time that the world sinks into World War II, Meti-M descends into hell, the final stage of Psyche's ordeal before she renews Cupid.

Despite the sad events of her life, the injustices and the racial hostility she encounters, Meti-M never abandons hope. In one of the numerous touches which makes this book worth reading, Meti-M salvages from a demolished building a stone with the word "Hope" engraved on it. She uses it as a doorstep, to keep the door of her room open.

A clear narrative voice, a compelling story, history, myth, and well-drawn characters are spun together into a richly textured novel, full of insight about the human condition. Through her imagination, Bryant has transformed these facts of regional history into literature just as Meti-M transformed the raw material of her life into spiritual and salvation.

Yvonne Jacobson

Yvonne Jacobson, author of Passing Farms: Enduring Values, California's Santa Clara Valley, has lectured in mythology at San Jose State University and De Anza College.
JUDGE DENNIS W. HERRINGTON

A long-forgotten legend of our legal community is Dennis W. Herrington (1826-1902) who served as a member of the State Legislature in 1863 and was Santa Clara County District Attorney in 1865-67.

Born near Paris, Indiana, Herrington first worked in a trade of cutter and joiner. Misfortune befell him in the loss of his right arm at the age of 19, and therefore he gave up his trade to enter Asbury University at Granville, Indiana.

In 1850 he joined the California gold rush, arriving in Placerville in August of that year. After working in the gold mines and living in Sacrament and Sutterville he settled down in San Jose in 1854.

For the next several years he studied law on the side while working as a teacher. He was admitted to the bar in 1862.

In addition to serving as a legislator and district attorney, Herrington was a member of the Republican Convention of 1878-79 which formed our present state constitution. One of the issues in that convention was the formation of our Superior Court. There was much discussion as to whether each county should be entitled to its own judge. Herrington’s arguments on this point were eloquent and exemplified by the following portions of the transcript:

Do not make the people travel from one county to another seeking the best man, the most learned or the best-qualified for the luxury than they pay now. Either maintain your school of your brand of system. Either you are right or you are wrong in your determination. Your principles are stronger than the right of the right, and your judges have taken the wrong track. Now, you either ought to be convinced out of your own mind, and your system ought to go to the wall entirely, or else it ought to be maintained in its integrity, and we ought to have the advantages intended by this scheme. Those gentlemen that live in the mountain counties ought to have it brought home to their door, and the State ought to pay for it. Do you understand me? [Laughter]. That is what it meant. But when you come to test the scheme and come down to dollars and cents, you forget the justice that the people are requiring, you forget the trouble it is to litigate, and you sneakingly skulk out of the proposition upon which your whole proposition was based, and leave the people in the same condition that they had themselves got into by coming from one county to another. Now, either honestly abandon your scheme and give that jurisdiction to your County Court, or else you give us justice right at the doors of the people, and pay the additional expense and let your scheme stand consistent with itself. Do not abandon cowardly a system at the behest of your particular justice, and pay thousands of dollars expense. Rather it is worth it or it ought to go down alongside. The scheme ought to stand as a whole, or be condemned as a whole.

Herrington, who maintained law offices in San Jose, was the San Jose City Attorney and the legal advisor to the Santa Clara Town Trustees. He was the father of San Jose attorney Bertram and Clarence Herrington, and Santa Clara Town Justice, the Peace Irving Herrington.

The Herrington family home at the corner of Jefferson and Lewis Streets in Santa Clara was a Santa Clara County landmark for more than 85 years until it was torn down in 1966.

Judge Mark Thomas, Jr.
Advisory Board

INTRODUCING PATRICIA MCDONALD

The Board of Directors of the San Jose Historical Museum Association is proud to count among its members Patricia McDonald who serves as the representative of the Gift Shop and O’Brien’s operations.

Patricia (Patty) McDonald is a partner in the interior design firm of McDonald & Moore Ltd., located on Market Street in downtown San Jose. The firm has been in business for eight years and has been featured recently in Peninsula magazine, Bay Area Accent, the San Jose Business Journal and the San Jose Mercury News. For the last three years it has been among the top 20 contract design firms, as listed by the Business Journal. McDonald & Moore was also honored as the recipient of the 1987 Peninsula ASID Award for a kitchen design in the Designer Showcase mansion of the ASID and American Cancer Society’s fundraiser in Atherton. This home, interestingly enough, was a former residence of Sarah Winchester.

Patty is a fifth generation Californian. Born in Palo Alto, she attended high school in Oakland and earned a B.A. in fine arts from San Jose State University. Prior to her employment in the field of interior design, she was a working watercolor artist who focused on local scenes of Alviso, downtown San Jose, and historic buildings. In the early 70’s several of her works were chosen for inclusion in an exhibition sponsored by the San Jose Watercolors in Saratoga.

And her family live in the Nalgue Terrace area adjacent to downtown San Jose in a home that dates to the 1920’s. Patty will speak about her professional involvement, Patty and her sister, Lynette, owners of the arts in downtown San Jose, active in their children’s activities, and enjoy the world travel they have done through Mike’s involvement in organized rugby.

We are very pleased to have Patty McDonald as a member of our Board of Directors with her particular talents and expertise in interior design and retail sales and her general knowledge and interest in the community. She is a wonderful asset to our organization.

MEXICAN COSTUMES IN SAN JOSE AT THE TURN OF THE CENTURY

No one can definitively say that the Mexicans wore any unique costume during the 1880s. To begin with, there is nothing that suggests that all the Mexican men, women, and children in and around San Jose wore any particular costume that set them apart from the rest of the world during the late 1800s. During the 1880s, the term “Mexican” was used to describe any person coming to the United States from Mexico. This includes “Peninsulars” (born in Spain); “Croollos” (born in Mexico of Spanish blood); “Mestizos” (of European and Indian blood); “Malato” of (European and black blood); “Zambos” (of Indian and black blood); and “Negros” (of black blood).

In Mexico during the 1860s, costumes worn to identify a person’s ethnic background and place of origin, were in vogue until the early 1800s. One can assume that the caste system was brought to California from Mexico; but no one can determine whether or not it continued, since California was a little cutoff from Mexico. Although the Californios were a bit removed from Mexico, they did receive Parian (a growing from Mexico during the Maximilian period (1864-1867).

During the Gold Rush, Mexicans were discriminated against. By the 1880s fair skinned Mexicans were considered a threat to the local community. Those who were unable to blend in were either forced out or left the area of their own accord. Therefore, if one can be determined that the Mexican that remained in San Jose wore the same costumes as the rest of the community.

Still, it is impossible to determine whether they blended with the accepted dress of San Jose, the Mexicans managed to maintain their language, culture, and dress which included traditional costumes for special Mexican festivities.

Rosa Alicia Magana de Fountain

Vintage Reflections Volunteer

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HISTORICAL FOOTNOTES OF SANTA CLARA VALLEY
By Jack Douglas

THE WILLIAM WEHNER ESTATE

High on a hill overlooking the valley sits the majestic Wehner mansion. Looking out through the century old trees, the old home seems to be brooding. Stripped of its vineyards, uncertain of its fate, it waits for the paltry efforts of today's men and women to decide if it will be allowed to co-exist with the ever-expanding Village retirement community.

In the 19th century when the estate was planned, giants like James Lick, Leland Stanford and James Phelan staked the land. Such a man was William Wehner who was described by Charles Sullivan in his book: *Like Modern Edens* as "the most important individual corporate viticulturist growing 1869-1915." Like many of the settlers in the Evergreen area, Wehner was a German immigrant. Unlike them, he made his fortune prior to moving west. A talented artist with a keen business sense, he specialized in the creation of large painted panoramas which were installed in many prestigious buildings in the 1880's and 90's. Among the more celebrated of these was *The Crucifixion of Christ*, *The Battle of Gettysburg* and *Missionary Ridge*. Examples of his work can be seen in several communities throughout the Eastern United States and in pre-1906 San Francisco.

Listed as a farmer when he entered the United States from Hanover in 1860, Wehner would wait until 1870 before returning to the valley, but when he did, it was to be on a large scale. He had the vision and the money to recreate a vast vineyard in the same manner as he had in his home native Germany. The property which he chose was originally part of the Rancho Yerba Buena and was purchased from rancher John McCarty. It was on a western slope and fed by active springs. Under the expert guidance of his brother Ernset, over 300 acres were planted with 175 imported grape varieties, all on resistant root stock. In addition they also planted over 5,000 fruit trees, including apricots, nectarines, peaches, French prunes, pears and olives.

Wehner called his estate Loma Arizas and the winery the Highland Vineyards. Unlike most of the smaller vineyard owners who shipped their bulk product to San Francisco, Wehner produced premium wines under his own estate label. Known as a perfectionist, he may well have had the first scientifically planned and produced operation in the West. He perfected the process of cool fermentation of white wine, and as a result, his sauterne were rated as the finest in California. They continued to receive the highest evaluations nationwide for a quarter of a century.

A man of wealth and culture whose interests kept him away from the ranch a great deal, Wehner, never-the-less, spared no expense in making himself a comfortable country home. He purchased the prestigious Chicago firm of Burnham and Root to design his hillside mansion in 1888. To this firm's credit were such landmark buildings as the Monadnock and Bokery buildings in Chicago, the Flatiron building in New York, the old Chronicle building and the Mills buildings in San Francisco and the Union Station in Washington D.C. The firm did few residential commissions, so their design for the Wehner Ranch is the only known example in California. The famous San Francisco architect Williols Polk began his career in the West as head of the San Francisco office of Burnham and Root, and as he was the architect of many of the homes of San Francisco's elite, he may well have been the principal designer of the Wehner mansion.

The three story mansion is built in a late Queen Anne style. The dominant feature is the repeated use of the round arch in the carriage entrance, doorways and porch windows. It had eight fireplaces and three bathrooms (two more were added later). The enclosed sunporch has a balcony above which leads out from the master bedroom. The house sits on a concrete and stone foundation and has a full basement below grade. Completed in 1891, it was built at a cost of $20,000.

Some of the mansion's most charming aspects are the outbuildings and the landscaping. The summer kitchen has many characteristics of the main house, including arched entryways, steeply pitched roofline and the patterned wood shingles. The small garden house, with its oversize fireplace, distinctive bulbous window and overgrown patio must have been a cool comfortable summer retreat for the men with their cigars. Within the drive that circles the house are lawns and a network of brick paths. The many mature trees include palms, magnolias, fir and a giant monkey pod.

As magnificent as the house and grounds are, the most significant features historically are the many outbuildings from the 100 year old winery operation. These include the distinctive 1890 hillside winery building which utilized the force of gravity to move the crushed product to the fermenting tanks. This building and the adjacent barns are in extremely fragile condition. The larger 1898 winery building which is made of stone and redwood is, however, still functional and is presently being used to cellar wines from the nearby Mirasou Winery.

Taken all together, the buildings on the Wehner Ranch are a complete historical exhibit of a 19th century estate winery, and as such they belong on the National Register of Historic Places.

But by 1915 the aging Wehner had sold a large portion of the estate to Albert Haenette, another experienced German winemaker and businessman from Chicago. Renaming the winery the Rancho Villa Vista, Haenette succeeded Wehner as leader of the Santa Clara Valley grape growers, but he fought a losing battle with the forces of prohibition which closed most wineries in 1918. When prohibition was lifted in 1933, the estate came under the control of the Cribari family who maintained the winery on the site until 1969 when the land passed through the hands of several would-be developers. At one point in the early 60's it was considered as a possible site for the UC campus that was later built in Santa Cruz. Eventually it became the site for the Villages.

William Wehner was a leader in the development of the wine industry in California and in the promotion of the valley's wine. His good business sense and scientific management allowed him to weather the economic crisis of the 1890's and the grape and wine prohibition that followed. During the great wine wars of the 1890's, Wehner was a leader of one of the rival wine companies to the California Wine Corporation. By 1901 when most of the valley's smaller operations were on the verge of bankruptcy, Wehner produced 200,000 gallons of wine while making plans for an even bigger operation.

The Wehner estate is an extraordinary cultural resource. It is a mature wine that has developed well in the community similar to that of the Villa Montalvo above Saratoga. Public access is a probe cost. It is part of the Cribari's Wine Estate which allow only homeowners and their guests on the grounds. A controlled private road to the site could solve this problem as it has at Montalvo. Although the Villages has failed to find a use for the mansion so far, the right management might be able to make the property pay for itself through use for catered parties, weddings and other functions. Clearly, moving the mansion off the site (as some have suggested) seems unrealistic, considering the subsequent loss of the building's integrity to its environment, the cost in dollars for the move, and the resultant damage to the mansion.

Preserving the mansion and sharing its splendor and viticultural history with the community is still possible and a campaign is underway. The imagination that William Wehner had when he created his estate. Are there still such people in our age?
15,000 PEOPLE ENJOY LIVING HISTORY DAYS, 1987

The largest number of people ever, over 15,000, enjoyed Living History Days, 1987. On Saturday and Sunday, May 16-17, families, senior citizens, children and singles experienced Santa Clara Valley at the turn-of-the-century. The days were a true community effort as over 2,000 participants including volunteer groups, demonstrators and entertainers came together for this family-oriented event. The days' success was due to a wide variety of individuals and wouldn't have happened without the generous donation of their time, effort and talents. The three Living History Days co-sponsors, the San Jose Parks and Recreation Department, the San Jose Historical Museum Association, and KRON-TV Channel 4, wish to thank these groups and individuals. In addition, this special event received the support of many local businesses. These include: San Jose Mercury News Citicorp Savings Orchard Supply Hardware Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk San Jose State University Office of Continuing Education Beach Nut California Corporation Brammors Patrick Media Group Keystone Company Fry's New York Fabrics Municipal Stadium Bottomley Dist. Co. Inc. Corisse Brook Orchards Roma Bakery Linen Factory Outlet Blossom Floral Shop Mayfair Packing Company American Brothers U-Haul Quito Park Pastries Emerson Flag Company, Inc. Valley View Packing Co. Inc.

Living History Days, 1987, is only recently over but it isn't too soon to begin preparations for 1988. Are you interested in being a real estate salesman, circa 1888, a street sweeper at the end of the old-fashioned parade, or getting a group together to play lawn games? Contact Virginia Beck, Curator of Education and event chairperson, for assistance and participation ideas. (408) 287-2290. Next year you too can be in the middle of the fun and excitement!

EXHIBITION: SAN JOSE'S FINEST

The San Jose Historical Museum has installed an exhibit of selected documents and images of the Police and Fire Departments in the public reception area of the City Council Offices, 6th floor, City Hall, 801 N. First St., San Jose. Covering the period from 1863 to 1938, these works from the Museum's collection reflect the proud history of public safety in San Jose.

Featured are two large framed arrangements of individual photographs of members of the 1907 Police Department and the 1938 Fire Department. Also from the Police Department is a portrait of Captain Thomas Vance who served continuously from 1872 to 1902. There is a photograph of the 1937 Rambler and a group photograph of the 1924 Police Department. The Fire Department is represented by photographs of early equipment and documents.

Funding for the exhibit was provided by the San Jose Historical Museum Association and the San Jose Historical Museum.

The exhibit was prepared by Nancy Valley, Curator, and Helen Kessel, Museum volunteer, and will be on display through August 31, 1987.

For further information about the exhibit, please contact Nancy Valley, Curator, San Jose Historical Museum, at (408) 287-2290.

MYSTERY PHOTO

Can you tell what these children are doing? What company is this? Who are the children? If you have any information please contact the Archives at 287-2380.

SAN JOSE HISTORICAL MUSEUM ASSOCIATION

Mailing Address

Specialize in Personalized Mail: Generation 1

MEMBERSHIP

777 Old Bayshore Highway
San Jose, California 95112

SAN JOSE HISTORICAL MUSEUM ASSOCIATION

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(p) Memberships under $50 add $2.50 to receive your premium by mail.

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[Signature]

Virginia Hammersen

San Jose Historical Museum Association

August 12, 1987

Historic Monterey Tour

Department from Phelan Avenue

8:30 AM

WINE BEFORE ITS TIME

Before you know it, December will be here and so will the Museum's Association's Victorian Christmas. This year we plan to hold three lunches and one high tea as part of the event. The Luncheon Committee is looking for donors or underwriters for two cases of wine per luncheon. If you can help us with a donation of wine or by underwriting this expense, please contact Kathy Muller, Museum. Your contribution will be acknowledged in the luncheon program. Thank you for your help.

Virginia Hammersen

Luncheon Committee Chairman