LIVING HISTORY DAY
Saturday, October 13th
11 AM - 5 PM
COME, ENJOY, PARTICIPATE

It's that special time again: Living History Day at the Museum! This truly unique event turns the clock back to 1884 and recreates a day in the life of San Jose and the Santa Clara Valley. Volunteers in period clothing populate the town in such roles as housewife, farmer, local music teacher, widow, sheriff, dressmaker, and mortician. Even Capt. Thomas Fallon, San Jose’s mayor in 1868, will be in attendance.

You won't want to miss this chance to see demonstrations by spinners, weavers, rug makers, lace makers, china painters, blacksmiths, horse shoers and many more. Past special exhibits have included antique phones, antique fire equipment, and old-time fruit drying equipment. You can even pick up a souvenir printed on an 1800's printing press.

Living History Day is a wonderful event to enjoy as a family. Entertainment is for all ages and includes puppet shows, children’s games, a “bank robbery,” a medicine show, and music and dancing. Everyone also enjoys the high-wheel bicycles, still walkers, and the Civil War encampment. Watch out — you may be asked to join the Women’s Christian Temperance Union to picket the beer and wine booths or the suffragettes as they demand voting rights for women.

Association members are encouraged to participate in costume. Two meetings are scheduled on Saturdays: September 15 and October 6 at 10:00 a.m. in the Museum meeting room. Attend these meetings for help on costumes and character ideas. For further information, contact Virginia Beck at the Museum, 287-2390.

On Living History Day the buildings will be open for touring. A wide selection of food and drink will be available on the grounds, plus O'Brien's and the Gift Shop will be open all day.

This is a wonderful occasion for introducing friends and family to the Museum. It will be alive with a warm and friendly “old-fashioned” atmosphere! Admission is $5.00 for adults (19 and over), $1.00 for seniors (65 years and over), and $1.00 for students (12-18 years) and senior citizens (over 65 years); and 50¢ for children (2-12 years). Due to the fundraising nature of this event, there will be free admission only for official participants.

RAILWAY & HISTORICAL FILM FESTIVAL
PRESENTED BY DON OLSEN and GEORGE E. HORN
in cooperation with and for the benefit of THE SAN JOSE HISTORICAL MUSEUM ASSOCIATION
Saturday: October 20, 1984
Sunday: October 21, 1984
Two Shows Each Day: 12:00 Noon & 3:00 P.M.
Admission: $5.00
San Jose Historical Museum
Kelley Park
Pacific Hotel Meeting Room
635 Phelan Avenue
San Jose, California
(408) 287-2290
Parking and Special Entrance off Phelan Ave.

PROGRAM

Part I. “Arrival of the Paris Express” A study of the development of optics and the growth of railroad photography. This film contains the earliest known photographs of locomotives and trains as well as the pioneer motion pictures taken of trains and transit around the world.

Intermission

Part II. A camera study of the Coast Daylight from Los Angeles to San Francisco; commuter “fleet” leaves 3rd and Townsend; Hollister, Santa Cruz and Monterey branches.

RESERVATIONS ARE LIMITED FOR EACH PERFORMANCE. CHECKS SHOULD BE MADE PAYABLE TO THE SAN JOSE HISTORICAL MUSEUM ASSOCIATION AND SENT (ALONG WITH THIS COUPON AND A SELF-ADDRESSED, STAMPED ENVELOPE) TO: THE SAN JOSE HISTORICAL MUSEUM, 635 PHELAN AVENUE, SAN JOSE, CA 95112. ATT: KATHY MULLER.

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY ZIP PHONE

Enclosed please find $____ for _______ tickets. I have indicated my first and second choice of performances and expect to receive my tickets by return mail.

Saturday, October 20, 1984
12:00 Noon
3:00 P.M.

Sunday, October 21, 1984
12:00 Noon
3:00 P.M.

San Jose Historical Museum
635 Phelan Avenue
San Jose, California 95112
ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

In the process of writing the President’s column for the dust jacket of our 1985 membership premium, Ralph Rambo’s Pen & Ink Notes, and Brews, they found the books we have published in the past. Would you believe there have been eleven premium books already? They are as follows:

1974 1670 City Directory*
1975 Sunshines, Fruit & Flowers (out of print)
1978 Ten Years in Paradise*
1979 Sawyer’s History of Santa Clara County*
1979 Santa Clara Valley: Images of the Past
1979 Life in the New Almaden Mines*
1980 Santa Clara, California, Board of Trade Publication, 1887*
1981 San Jose, California’s First City (out of print)
1982 Tracks, Tires & Wirers*
1983 Signposts*
1984 San Jose — And Other Famous Places*

*Available in Museum Gift Shops

For the 1974 book, then-President Terry Graff wrote a column dated October, 1973. He stated: "Several buildings are either completed or under construction in the Historical Park. These include the Print Shop, Umbarger House, and Doctor’s Office. The Association presently has a membership of over 200." As of August 1, 1984, our membership was 1277. The book was completed by Terry and has long since been completed.

The substantial progress we have made as evidenced by the contrast to 1973, brings to mind the song that goes something like this: “You’ve come a long way, baby...”

We have, unfortunately, however, the song coming back to us: " but you’ve still got a long way to go." That fits us to a “T.” The Development Committee is still looking for volunteers to head up specific projects such as...

The San Jose Historical Museum is part of the City of San Jose Parks and Recreation Department.

The San Jose Historical Museum

Museum News

The purpose of the San Jose Historical Museum Association is to support the San Jose Historical Museum through Association membership, fundraising, educational and volunteer services, and the promotion of the image of the Museum in the community.


1985 Officers: Pat Palencia, Maria Rambburg (Chairman), Jim Arkabolt, Eric Brache, Chuck Buckley, Patricia Loomis, Leonard McKay

Advices: Chanice Johnson, Freda Rambo, Patricia Newman, Duncan Ouel, Marjorie Pierce, Rennie Reauds, George Starbird, Cliff Swenson, Amane Warburton

Kathy Muller, Executive Editor

Mignon Gibson, Executive Director

The San Jose Historical Museum Association News is published quarterly. Membership in the San Jose Historical Museum Association includes subscription to the News.

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DIRECTOR’S REPORT

CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN

For our latest membership drive in July, Corporate Memberships have more than doubled under the Chairmanship of Bruce Pohle. Basically a new Corporate Membership program for the Association. The Corporate Memberships are annual donations and a chance for local businesses to become family members with the Museum. The individual memberships which have increased substantially in the past years, the Corporate Memberships will continue to grow and become an important part of the Museum support.

ANN LINDSAY TO BE EVENTS COORDINATOR

This year we have asked Terry Donato who recently left the staff because a move took her to Clear Lake. Filling her position will be Ann Lindsay who has volunteered substantial time the past 10 years. Ann will be responsible for the coordination and development of the rental and event program at the Museum, as well as assisting in promotions for Happy Hollow Park and Zoo and other facilities in Kelley Park. You can read more about Ann on page 8.

THE SAN JOSE ROTARY CLUB LUNCHEON

Instigated by Bruce Pohle and coordinated by past Association President Terry Graff, the San Jose Rotary Club Rotary Club enjoyed a lunch at the Museum on July 18, 1984. David Down, President of the Rotary Club, arranged to have the Keystone Cop and other characters at the Museum, for throwing rolls at the head table. The Rotarians were very impressed with the Museum, O’Brien’s presentation, and the Trolley Barn. Museum Association Board members and staff hosted the event and look forward to doing it again.

FIREFIGHTERS LOCAL OFFERS TO DONATE BAB-QUE CHEF

John DeQuito and “Skii” Bartowiewics representing Local 873, the San Jose Fire Fighters, have approached the San Jose Parks and Recreation Department about donating up to $5,000 and labor to build a deluxe bar-b-que facility for the Museum and other organizations. The fire fighters are often at the Museum cooking for various events and their generous offer will hopefully result in an improvement of their services. On behalf of the Museum I would like to thank the fire fighters for their kind thoughts.

KELLEY PARK MASTER PLAN

Under the direction of the Parks and Recreation Department, the wheels are turning for the re-master planning and updating of Kelley Park that includes Happy Hollow Park and Zoo, Lick’s Landing Friendship Gardens, and acres of undeveloped land along the Coyote Creek. As the project progresses, community members will be invited to participate in the planning process. This project is very important in tying the park together and addressing basic problems of access, parking and public facilities.

Mignon Gibson

Museum Director

FROM THE EDITOR

With the announcement of our 1985 Membership Premium in this issue of The Association News, it seems timely to remind our members that we do publish a book on local history annually and would be happy to give it to you for appropriate manuscripts. If you are a writer yourself or know someone who has written about the history of the San Jose area or the Valley history, you may wish to contact us concerning a future publication to benefit the San Jose Historical Museum Association. For more information, please contact me at the Museum, 287-2280.

Kathy Muller

Editor

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A W. FUNNELL, OILS, GREASES & FATS
IN THE COLLECTION

This summer has continued to be busy. One exciting thing has been our participation in the Santa Clara County Fair. A sizeable collection was allotted in Packard Hall for the display. Using some of the exhibit panels from "Passing Farms — Enduring Values" as a backdrop, agricultural pieces from our collection were shown. In addition, a model of the Light Tower which was part of the old exhibit was featured. Our traveling exhibit panels traced the general history of the area. The display attracted many interested citizens and we were pleased to be a part of the 40th annual Santa Clara County Fair.

Recent donations include a Channel 16 receiver from the Fire Department for our firehouse. Visitors will be able to hear calls over the radio. Donations to the costume/textile collection have been received from Mr. and Mrs. George Deshun, Mrs. William Kitchin, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Alger, Mahie Bryan, Kristina DeLuz, and Marcella O'Hannon.

The volunteers in the costume collection area want printed t-shirts of currently popular design for the collection. Shirts must be clean and in excellent condition. Call the Museum, 287-2290, regarding donations.

Nancy Velby
Register

1984 CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP LIST GROWS

As our first annual Museum Association Corporate Membership drive continues, we are proud to list the following members from our local business community:

Patron
Rosicrucian Press
Benefactor
CPS, A Commercial Real Estate Co.
Santa Clara County Title Co.
Southern Lumber Co.

Associate
Alexander Grant & Co.
CRI Properties
Lima Farms Cemeteries
McClintock Metal Fabricators
Morar-Nedeverell Inc.
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Vanguard Construction, Inc.

Sustaining
Beauzay, Hammer, Eszar, Bledsoe & Sprenkle
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Butz's Botanica-Propane Service, Inc.
Burke Industries
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Keystone Co.
Main Hurdman
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O'Hrion Travel Service, Inc.
Paul Massa Vineyards
Pfeiffer Electric
Raisch Equipment Leasing
San Jose Blue Print
South Bay Construction & Development Co.
Western Sales Engineering Co.
Western States Oil
Willow Glen Travel Agency
Wood, Richardson & Graff
Wylie, Blunt, McBride & Jesinger

HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION CORNER

ST. JAMES PARK MASTER PARK
St. James Park was plotted out in 1865 by Charles Lyman and laid out as a parkland in 1868 by noted landscape architect Frederick L. Olmsted. In 1869 elms were planted and the area was named St. James Park. The Park is the focus of the St. James Park District and is surrounded by many handsome historic structures as well as newer buildings. Currently, a master plan for the refurbishment of the Park is being worked upon with the intent that it will again be the major green refuge in downtown San Jose.

HISTORIC MARKER PROGRAM
An historic trail program is being developed through the Historic Landmarks Agency. The first phase of this project is the development of the overall plan, the design of the marker format, and the selection of the sites for the initial markers. This first phase will mark the many historic sites and structures in the downtown area including St. James Park, the downtown Commercial District, Pellier Park, and Plaza Park.

COMMISSIONER WANTED
A position on the Historic Landmarks Commission will be open in October. The primary functions of the Commission are to advise City Council on historic issues, historic landmark and historic district designations, and to review historic preservation permits and other development plans which affect sensitive historic structures; design criteria; promote and encourage the use and rehab of landmarks and sites. The Commission's commitment to preserving the historic fabric of San Jose is evident in many projects, including a media presentation on San Jose's architectural heritage, historic building survey, design criteria, development for The Alameda and downtown areas, general plan amendments, etc. If you feel that you have the commitment and willingness for this program, please apply for the Commission slot. Applications can be obtained from the City Clerk's Office in City Hall.

GOOD-BYE
As this will be my last column and as I will be going off the Commission in October ("tis my slot that's open"). I just wanted to say thank you to the Museum Association Staff (that's you, Kathy, Muller) for having allowed me this opportunity to work for the few years that the commission is working on. The work as an Historic Landmarks Commissioner has been enjoyable as well as challenging. The City of San Jose is coming into its "own" age and the self-recognition and preservation of its heritage is an important aspect of its development. I certainly wish the Commission and the Historical Museum well in continuing to carry on this charge.

Leslie Masunaga
Commission President

RALPH RAMBO'S PEN & INKLINGS 1985 Membership Premium

The Board of Directors of the San Jose Historical Museum Association is very pleased to announce the selection of the membership premium book for 1985, Ralph Rambo's Pen & Inklings. Available in November 1984, this deluxe, hardbound volume, published by the Museum Association, will honor 90 year old Ralph Rambo, premier artist and nautical historian of the Santa Clara Valley. Every new and returning member of the Association will receive a copy with a minimum membership of $25.00. Born and raised in the old Santa Clara Valley, Ralph Rambo began his literary career upon retirement from 50 years of full-time employment. He has produced ten softcover books, several illustrated maps of the Santa Clara Valley, post cards and stationery featuring old Valley scenes — all of which have sold in enormous quantities.

To honor Ralph Rambo on the occasion of his 90th birthday, and to preserve his works in a keepsake volume, the Museum Association has chosen to compile this book, which contains the "best" of Ralph's previously published works with additional material is never before available.

Ralph Rambo's Pen & Inklings is designed to demonstrate Ralph's unique talents as author, artist, printmaker and cartographer. The major portion of the book is hand-lettered in Ralph's unique style, and the entire volume is richly illustrated. Included in a back pocket of the book as a special extra, is Ralph's illustrated map of California, suitable for framing.

Ralph Rambo's Pen & Inklings will be printed by the Rosicrucian Press of San Jose and will contain a Foreword by Theron and Frances Fox. It will be printed in a Limited Edition, as have our other recent premium publications, available only through membership in the San Jose Historical Museum Association. Ralph Rambo's Pen & Inklings, will not be found in area bookstores.

We are very grateful to the Trustees of the Stella B. Gross Charitable Trust, the Hugh Stuart Center Charitable Trust, and the Sourissee Academy of San Jose State University, for their generous assistance in making the publication of this book possible.

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Now serving sandwiches daily, except Monday.

Hours: Tues. - Fri. 11:00 - 4:30
Sat. - Sun. 12:00 - 4:30
PARK BENCH PROGRAM

The commemorative bench program at the San Jose Historical Museum continues to be a popular means of honoring citizens and families of the community, and recently a bench was donated to commemorate the 75th anniversary of a well-known women's organization.

The San Jose Branch of the American Association of University Women was chartered in the spring of 1895, with its first President Mrs. J. O. Hayes, wife of the publisher of the San Jose Mercury.

The purpose of the organization is "continuing intellectual growth, advancement of women and responsibility to society," and this year more than a million dollars in fellowships have been given to women nationally by AAUW for advanced studies. This year's President of the San Jose Branch of AAUW is Mrs. Barbara Bellemore.

Two benches have been donated by the John Pfahl family, one in honor of the family and the other to perpetuate the memory of August Emil and Gertrude Zimmerman, parents of Mr. Pfahl.

The Zimmermans came from Germany to San Francisco early in this century where August worked as a cabinet maker for Lechman Bros. furniture company.

"We (Betty Pfahl) and her brother Bill Zimmerman always wanted to be sure they were not forgotten," Mrs. Pfahl said.

The John Pfahl family came to San Jose from Milbrae in 1962. John Sr. and two of the four sons in the family are certified public accountants.

Mrs. Mark E. Thomas, widow of the long time civil engineer who died in February, has donated a bench in her husband's memory. Mr. Thomas' civil engineering firm was involved in many industrial and municipal improvement projects, including the Guadalupe Corridor Project. His son, Superior Court Judge Mark Thomas, Jr., is President of the San Jose Historical Museum Association.

Charles Wortman and his brothers have honored the memory of their parents, Albert and Frieda Wortman, with a commemorative bench placed on the Museum grounds.

Albert Wortman, who died in 1948, was a familiar figure for many years on The Alameda where he had a magazine and newspaper stand in front of the Franco market.

The Milligan News Agency set him up in business after he was injured in a tractor accident in the 1930s and confined to a wheelchair, according to Wortman's son, Don, who also donated the bench.

The elder Wortman served under Gen. "Blackjack" Pershing in the Spanish American War. Mrs. Wortman, who died in 1978, was active in the First Christian Church in San Jose for many years.

To date, 27 benches have been donated through this Museum Association program. Benches are available for $200 apiece (a tax-deductible donation) and serve as a wonderful memorial, or individual or group gift, to the Museum. For more information on this program, call the Museum at 257-2290. Patricia Loomis

HISTORICAL NEWS ITEM

The San Jose Herald, May 18, 1901.
THE QUICKSILVER MINES OF NEW ALMADEN

Of the many treasures rare that nature has deposited in the county of Santa Clara its quicksilver deposits are the richest, raverst and least boasted of — the only quicksilver mine in America and the second one in the world.

Heavier than gold and more valuable, it is a most important element in the reduction of gold bearing ores. It also enters into the composition of various medicines. A considerable bulk is exported to China where it is resolved back to exquisite vermilion.

An Indian showed Don Antonio Sunal a specimen of the rock with which they colored their faces. The old don tried to extract the coveted metal with mortar and pestle as early as 1824, but gave up the hopeless project. Twenty years later Andres Castillero, a Mexican official, visiting the vicinity, examined the ore and pronounced it cannabal. He at once filed a claim on the ledge, formed a company to develop the property and christened it Almaden after the Almaden lode in Spain.

Development of the mine was slow. Ladders formed of timbers with notches enabled the miners to make their way on the steep incline. The ore was carried out in rawhide panniers on the backs of the miners.

In 1884 the Quicksilver Mining Company of New York bought the mine, appurtenances and equipment together with 8,550 acres of land, eighty-six miles of intricate maze of labyrinths from an altitude of 1,724 feet down 2,450 feet in the roughness of the hills. In 1896 produced nearly 36,453 tons of quicksilver.

The payroll has about 250 names of Mexican and English-speaking men living in two very fraternal towns.

A trip through the majestic windings of the mine is an event of one's life where the only relic left of the great big sunny world outside is the flickering, swinging candle. You enter occasionally spacious chambers that sparkle and glint from innumerable stalactites from the roof. The remnants of a shrine are usable where the native miners performed their devotions each morning.

Working in the mercury is most disastrous to the workmen as the fumes are absorbed by the human system, but the miners say they would rather work in the dark caves than in the bright sunlight.

(Researched by Leo Hayes)
From the 1890's on, the Kottingers leased the building to a series of grocery store operators (note the name "Conkling Grocery" on the 1910 photo). Alums of the 1930's will remember the building as "The Pig Pen," a popular college hangout. It was situated between the campus and what was then a heavily populated student residential area. The building has been unused since State acquisition in 1960.

The store's long association with a prominent pioneer family could qualify for the National Register of Historic Places but the staff of the State Office of Historic Preservation who approve National Register nominations feel that the site has been compromised with the elimination of that portion of San Antonio Street and any adjacent contributing historical structures.

The idea of turning Building D into a coffee house was dropped when it became clear that the extensive amount of space required for a kitchen, restrooms, disabled person's access, etc., would barely leave room for the customers. Another factor was the cost involved in bringing the building up to code for such a purpose. Although coffee house hopes have dimmed, there is a vocal group of students, staff and faculty who would like to see Building D restored and possibly used as an art gallery. It is generally agreed that the restoration should include exterior decoration which would give the building the antique look of the 1910 photo. The creative reuse of the Kottinger store would help serve as a reminder to future generations of students of the University's long past, and be an example of how old structures can be integrated with the new to make a more interesting environment.

Jack Douglas
SJU Librarian & City Landmarks Commissioner

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**MUSEUM LOSES TWO GOOD FRIENDS**

In the past month, the Museum has lost two good friends and long-time supporters.

Martha Bulmore, widow of Laurence Bulmore, died recently at the age of 86. Mrs. Bulmore was the first woman president of the San Jose Historic Landmarks Commission. She and her husband devoted years to compiling a history of the New Almaden Quicksilver Mines, where Mr. Bulmore's father was Manager in the late 1800's. The Bulmore's later donated the entire historical collection to the San Jose Historical Museum.

Rudy J. Gjurovich, another long-time Museum supporter, has also passed away. Rudy, King of the Coin Collectors, donated his complete "coin suit" to the Museum years ago and has always been an active participant in Museum Association functions.

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**Book Review**


Using this little book as your guide, you could travel the length of California staying nightly in small, historic hotels and quaint inns. The author has selected a total of 56 small hotels that will make you long for a weekend away. Some of the hotels included, like the Abawamee Hotel in Yosemite or the Pine Inn in Carmel are already famous. But others are charming wayside inns and 19th Century establishments that are exciting discoveries.

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**Book Review**


This remarkable book consists of 101 posters chosen from the Bella C. Landauer Collection of the New York Historical Society, one of the great collections of early American advertising art. The posters advertise railroads, bicycles, theatrical entertainment, circuses, clothing and fashions, and other goods and services. They are very fine examples of the "unsophisticated" era of the American poster and they could have found posted all around the American cities, towns and villages of their day.

Included in this volume are extensive notes on each poster, written by Mary Black, the New York Historical Society's Curator of Painting and Sculpture.
Russell property, where some of our schools and subdivision homes are now located. He still has the original hand-written lease.

One of his favorite things was watching the cars go by on Sunday afternoons. He and his friends sat on the fence on Jacklin Road next to the Oakland Highway. They counted the flat tires as well as the cars, and it was a good day when they talked to the tires, trash cans.

In later years, Mr. Masunaga lived near the Milpitas-Alviso Road. In wintertime frost would come and the young people would walk to school, swinging their land. As they chatted, they would leave tracks in the snow. If they talked, they would leave tracks, making a

RUTHERFORD CHRISTOPHERS

A poster for the Rutherford Christophers.

JEWISH LIFE IN AMERICA

SPECIAL EXHIBIT

IN BERKELEY

The Judah L. Magnes Museum, the foremost Jewish museum in the West, will be presenting the nationally acclaimed traveling exhibition JEWISH LIFE IN AMERICA: FULFILLING THE AMERICAN DREAM, from September 30 to December 30, 1984. The Magnes Museum is located at 2911 Russell Street in Berkeley and is open 16 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday through Friday. The exhibition, which will run through May through Friday, admission is free. The exhibition is open to the public on Saturdays, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is free.

Ann Lindsay, Special Events Coordinator for Kelley Park, and the newest member of our staff, was born in Washington, D.C. of California parents. She attended the University of Southern California and lived in Florida for eight years before returning to California and working as a Nuclear Medicine Technician in Modesto. While a student at Modesto, Ann also took Stanislaus County Planning Commission.

She moved to the Bay Area in 1976 when she married Peter Stock and enrolled in Cal State University where she earned a BA in English in 1980. She joined the Sports Car Club of America, working as an official at sports car races and helping to organize Concours d’Elegance.

Ann joined the Decent Program of the San Jose Historical Museum in 1981 and has been a member of the San Jose Historical Society School Council, representing the Museum, living history, costume and curatorial research, and as a member of the Decent Council Board.

In her new position as Special Events Coordinator for Kelley Park, Ann works with outside groups interested in renting the facilities and grounds of the Museum and coordinates the publicity and promotion of all of Kelley Park.

P.O. BOX 5460 — SAN JOSE, CA 95150

KEYSTONE COMPANY

COFFEE SINCE 1987

COMPLETE RESTAURANT SERVICE
Frances L. Fox gave the following speech on the occasion of a special fund raising dinner on Tuesday evening we celebrated the 100th Birthday of our Print Shop, which is dedicated to Theron Fox for his ceaseless efforts that have maintained this Museum. In her speech, Frances recalls Theron’s dedication to the idea of a local historical museum for San Jose.

As we are honoring the man responsible for this museum, it is important to note that he worked on the Declaration of Independence and all of the obstacles they had to overcome before their mission was accomplished. But he had a legacy that they have left us and how many people have been affected by it since. Nothing comes easy, but as this Museumacreage never came easily.

It all began in 1847 when City Historian Clyde Arbuckle, started the Museum in the Starbuck Building, which was later moved to the Fairgrounds. Over the years he gathered many artifacts depicting the history of our valley that the 1890’s it was evident that larger quarters for an expanding collection were necessary. Already there were two buildings full of San Jose memorabilia and no place to put them. Also, thanks to Mr. Arbuckle’s diligent pursuit of history, the Museum had been the recipient of additional legacies for further development.

At that time the Historical Museum was under the guidance of the Board of Directors and the San Jose Landmarks Commission and as Theron Fox was president he had to find a new home for San Jose History.

As Theron began his quest early in 1944 it was announced that Mildred Overfelt donated 33 acres on McKee Road to the City for a bicentennial site for the museum. As a result, Mr. Fox became the manager for a historic house section in the park. He emphatically said, “NO! We don’t think the public and kids would support cold condemned shacks and derelict buildings worse than what I have torn down.”

Needing to hear about Emma Prueh offering her property for an agricultural park. He contacted her and at first she was receptive, but later refused. Finally, Mr. Fox found a working farm so succeeding generations could enjoy the farm environment she cherished all of her life, complete with livestock and everything.

Meanwhile Theron desperately needed a corner of a park somewhere and about that time he noticed that the south section of Keller Park was undeveloped. He approached the Planning Commission for the acreage but his request was denied.

Frustrated, Theron said, “I can’t see why the city has to have two zoo when the ghosts of San Jose past are already stalking the streets looking for a place to rest.”

Undaunted, he appealed to the City Council, who referred the request to City Manager, A. P. “Skid” Ford. Ford, a “reconstruction” banker, told the city attorney on whether they had the power to overman the decision of the Planning Commission.

In the interim, it captured the sympathy of the news media who covered his appeals in depth and called it the “Keller Park Case.” Also, gained the support of the community and at one Council meeting 2000 letters from the California Pioneer Society and San Jose County Historical and Genealogical Society packed the Council Chamber to the rafters with such loud cheering that Mayor Joseph P. Minnich called on the audience to restrain themselves.

The fall of 1964, Howard gave his unqualified recommendation that 25 acres of the south end of Keller Park be set aside immediately. In 1965, Theron told a friend he was planning on building the heart of the Landmarks Commission.

At that time Lewis "Trader Lew" Bohrnt offered $1 for the vacant, undeveloped, unoccupied, drawn vehicles, automotive vehicles, motorcycles, music boxes and mechanical bands and the list goes on. And so, it was on August 22, 1965, the City Council in April, 1965, to buy the collection. They replied, “no money.”

Theron next appealed to civic-minded Ernst H. Renzel, a wholesale grocer and former Council member, who had made the purchase of Keller Park for $1. He immediately turned the property over to the city and bankrolled the collection. The financial arrangement involved a five year lease program between the City and Renzel. He agreed to borrow $25,000 from the First National Bank at 3% interest to buy the collection and he would sell part of the collection back to the city each year for $5,000 and take a lease on the remainder of the items for an additional 81. At the end of five years the city would own the entire collection of relics.

The same year Theron urged the city to save the venerable and aging Peralta Adobe on St. John Street, San Jose’s oldest building, built circa 1799. Negotiations began in September, 1965, and the sale of the adobe for $50,000 was finalized early in 1966. However it wasn’t restored until our nation’s bicentennial in 1976 under the direction of Leonard McKay and our present mayor, Thomas Ensey.

Meanwhile Theron also met with the State Highway Commission (now Caltrans) when Interstate 280 was routed and told them how they could save the historic Roberto Adobe on Lincoln Avenue by shifting the freeway fifteen feet to the north. They agreed. The freeway right-of-way now forms the northern property line of the adobe site.

1965 was a good year for the preservation of our local history. Theron’s employer, the late Edwin Livingston, deserves much credit, because he allowed Theron to take so much time away from the office to obtain this Museum. Currently his sons, Ted and Leland, are generous supporters of our San Jose Historical Museum.

Today the Museum is not only a major tourist attraction but has offered our mobile society a place to come to understand what life was like in the beauty of its setting, and the variety of its historical and cultural background, it gives us an instant connection to our past, sharpening our awareness of the present. San Francisco has its cable cars but we have our Historical Museum. According to a sign that hangs in the main area, “Do you Know the way to San Jose?”, we should add, “Do you know the way to the San Jose Historical Museum?”

1965 was a good year for the Museum experience for both Theron and myself.

Frances L. Fox

A DAY AT ALUM ROCK PARK

A treat that all children in the old Santa Clara County loved was a picnic at Alum Rock Park. Sometimes we would go with our parents in cars, but other times, as a very special treat, our elementary teachers would take us there during the school day.

Part of the thrift was going to the Park on a street car. In the 1930’s and 1940’s there was very little except orchard and fields between the town of San Jose and the range of mountains. The street car would go east down Santa Clara Street, along Alum Rock Avenue, and then into the foothills. It would wind its way along the creek, between high boulders, and among the trees of the Park.

Most often our picnics at Alum Rock Park were with our families, sometimes just our own, but often several families together or a church group. It was an all-day affair, since there were so many things to do. First of all, we children had to go to the "smelly springs" and taste all the "awful water" and make faces at the taste. Then there were the trails to climb, and the creek to wade in, looking for pollision. Then we would ride our bikes up to the falls and, as the creek would be full, we had to be careful climbing on the rocks. In the summer the falls dried up and the creek was shallow and rippled.

Sometime during the day, we would find time to go to the swing and teeter-totter area to play. There were the usual type swings and see-saws, with some that were quite different. These were box contraptions with rounded bottoms and two seats facing each other, hung in swing, and both little kids could push them. Usually we would bring our partner in getting the swing to go higher, dangling the other to make it go completely around. You can imagine the screams that could be heard! Near these were the swings for the teeter-totters. Even the big kids loved those and played somewhat dangerously on them. We loved to bounce our partners as hard as we could, and looking back, it is a wonder that some kids didn’t get hurt. We would hold our partner high in the air, then pushing fast, relying on him to just land on his feet, legs out in the air toward the ground with full force. The teeter-totters must have been made of steel to hold up under the punishment.

Perhaps the most fun of all was to go swimming in the Natatorium. It seemed to us like the biggest indoor swimming pool in the world. When the time came and we were allowed to go swimming, we would rush into the building, get our towels and change into our swimsuits, put our belongings into a locker, loop the key around our ankles for safekeeping, then dive into the warm pool for an afternoon’s fun.

But the brave swimmers and divers went into the deep end of the pool or out to the dock that now sits in the shallow end. The greatest thrill of all was to go down the slide "tickety-split" and splash into the pool. Splash, splash, splash, and scream; water polo, keep-away, and just plain noisy kids—oh, what fun it was for the kids. Only those brave enough to take the first swim of the day.

The end of the day the kids would be hungry. We would have lunch there—hamburgers, hot dogs, and desserts. Oh, the desserts! Pies, cakes, cookies— all homemade and so many kinds to choose from. There were gallons of coffee and lemonade to drink.

At the end of the day, the picnic lunches would be tossed into the car and the kids would be happy, and the parents, too. The car was packed up, and it was time to head back to the city. As the kids got into the car, they would sit in the back seat, and the adults in the front seat, and we would all settle down with thoughts of a day at Alum Rock Park. Wilma Virgo Lea

Theron Fox. Photo by Frances L. Fox.

Pagoda in Alum Rock Park, c. 1945-50. San Jose Historical Museum Photo #1841.
DIRECTIONAL
Kelley Park
San Jose Historical Museum
635 Phelan Avenue
San Jose, CA 95112
(408) 287-2290
San Jose Parks & Recreation Department

TOURS OF HISTORIC BUILDINGS
For current times call (408) 287-2290

HOURS
10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Tue-Fri
12 p.m.-4:30 p.m. Sat & Sun

ADMISSION
Adults $1.00
Children (2-18 years) .50
Groups (12 or more)
(Pre-arranged) 40¢ per child
50¢ per adult
40¢ per senior
Seniors .50

Costumed women and children form an old-fashioned-looking group for Living History Day. Photo by Nancy Valley.

NOTICE
San Jose Historical Museum Association
Annual Membership Meeting for Elections
Wednesday, October 17, 11:30 AM
Preceeding October Board Meeting
Pacific Hotel Meeting Room

Proposed 1985 slate of Officers for the San Jose Historical Museum Association

Judge Mark Thomas, Jr. President
Robert Down Vice-President
Clyde Arbuckle City Historian
Sue Robich Secretary
Edna Schmidt Treasurer
Diane Paradise Parliamentarian
Virginia Hammerness Membership
Philip Grosser Corporate Membership
Joan Buckley Special Events
Betty Myers Docent Program
Mary Holland Museum Service Council
Earline Shields Gift Shop/O'Brien's
Eric Reicher Speaker's Bureau
Linda Larson Publicity
Francois L. Fox Member-at-Large
Helen Kuehn Member-at-Large
Bill Leonard Member-at-Large
Bruce Pohle Member-at-Large
Sheri Pohle Member-at-Large
John Smuthwaite Member-at-Large

San Jose Rotarians enjoy lunch on the Museum grounds during their recent meeting here. Photo by Wanda Ross.

DATES TO REMEMBER
September 8, 1984
Museum Service Council Branch
Pacific Hotel Meeting Room
10:00 AM

September 15, 1984
Living History Day Planning Meeting
Pacific Hotel Meeting Room
10:00 AM

September 12, 1984
Railway & Historical Film Festival
Pacific Hotel Meeting Room
12:00 Noon & 3:00 PM

October 6, 1984
Living History Day
11:00 AM - 5:00 PM

October 20 and 21, 1984
Railway & Historical Film Festival
Pacific Hotel Meeting Room
12:00 Noon & 3:00 PM

Planning An Event?
RENT-A-MUSEUM
For information call
287-2290

SAN JOSE HISTORICAL MUSEUM ASSOCIATION
Name
Mailing Address (Bus.) Phone
(Pers.) Phone

Individual Authorizing Contribution

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

Please indicate method of payment. Check or money order encloased.
Master Card Visa
Expiration Date
(please list all digits from your charge card)

Master Card customers, in addition to your account number, please list the four digits above your name.

*Help us if you can! Memberships of $50 or more enable us to cover more
than the costs of our membership program.
**To receive your premium by mail, add $3.00 for handling charges.

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

Sold by
Join the family...
San Jose Historical Museum
Volunteer Program

Step into the Valley of the Heart's Delight, circa 1870-1920, at the San Jose Historical Museum, where restored and reconstructed buildings surround the town plaza, and button hooked shoes ring a staccato beat on wooden plank sidewalks.

The Museum's buildings and exhibits include a Homestead with Garden, Doctor's and Dentist's Offices, Post Office, Bank, Fire Station, Stables and Carriage House, Hotel Lobby, Gas Station, Dateline History Room, Clothing Display and a functional Print Shop, Smithy, Trolley Barn, Gift Shop and Soda Fountain. A Research Library and the Sainte Claire Hilton Gift Shop are also administered by the Museum.

The San Jose of yesteryear is brought alive for visitors of all ages by SJHM's family of volunteers. Individual training, ongoing education, reference works and a monthly newsletter prepare volunteers to share the history of their home while meeting new friends. A one year commitment is requested upon joining SJHM's valuable volunteers. What do volunteers receive in return for their commitments? New friends, knowledge, community respect, self-esteem, the thrill of sharing, a sense of pride, involvement and vivacity... the answers are as varied as the members of the Volunteer Program.

Call us today at (408) 287-2290, for information on opportunities for you within the San Jose Historical Museum Volunteer Program. We'd love to welcome you into the family!

SAN JOSE HISTORICAL MUSEUM
Kelley Park
635 Phelan Ave., San Jose, CA 95112
* SAN JOSE PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT. *