Signposts II 1986
PREMIUM BOOK

Once again the San Jose Historical Museum Association is pleased to offer a unique gift premium book to its members for 1986.

Signposts II by Patricia Loomis is another quality hardbound publication which will enhance your knowledge of the history of the Santa Clara Valley. It is comprised of fifty-three articles, originally written for the San Jose News, which tell the stories of the individuals and families for whom some of our major streets are named today.

Signposts II was designed as a companion volume to Signposts, our 1983 membership premium, but it is a book that stands on its own as well. While Signposts told the history of selected street names within the City of San Jose, Signposts II covers other streets throughout Santa Clara County. In Signposts II you will learn about Charles D. Brauham and his infamous Christmas morning fox hunt through downtown San Jose, and the Santa Cruz mountain ghost towns of Alma and Wright’s Station.

(Continued on page 8)

JOIN US FOR AN AFTERNOON
AT THE
MONTEREY BAY AQUARIUM

When: Thursday, November 21, 1985
Who: Association Members & Their Guests
How: Royal Coach Tours, air-conditioned bus
Times: 11:30 AM - 5:30 PM
Cost: Members - $17.50
Non-Members - $20.00

The Monterey Bay Aquarium has been open to the public for a full year now, attracting thousands of visitors. Located on famed Cannery Row, the Aquarium is the largest in the nation and a showplace of northern California.

The Aquarium is designed for self-guided tours and we will have approximately 2 1/2 hours to explore on our own. The innovative galleries and exhibits feature more than 5,000 creatures, from massive sharks to playful sea otters.

The Portola Cafe, housed in the Aquarium, offers refreshments and a luncheon menu in a beautiful setting overlooking the bay.

Reservations for this trip are limited, so save your spot on the bus today! Checks should be made payable to the San Jose Historical Museum Association and sent (along with the reservation form below and a stamped, self-addressed envelope) to the San Jose Historical Museum, 635 Phelan Avenue, San Jose, CA 95112. Attn.: Kathy Muller.

You will receive the reservation form by return mail as a confirmation.

Monterey Bay Aquarium 11/21/85

Name: ________________________________
Address: ________________________________
Phone Number: ________________________________ Number of Reservations: ____________
Reservation Confirmed: □

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

A few weeks ago I happened to hear Bob Doeër give a talk about the Museum at the Willow Glen Villa where my mother lives.

Believe me, there is none in this wide world more critical of speakers than yours truly, but sitting there I felt "terrific." His presentation was so knowledgeable, so pleasant, and so effective, I was truly impressed.

Bob’s talk was typical of my experience as president of this Association for the past two years. Those involved with the Museum have made contributions of the highest quality. It has been a true honor and wonderful learning experience to rub elbows with such able people.

If I were to mention each individual, this piece would be too lengthy. However, there is one who must be mentioned because I have no doubt of the excellence of his efforts is fully known.

That person is Kathy Muller whose organizational ability has enabled so many of our projects to succeed. For one example, it was her fine touch that coordinated our approach to the City Council on the funding issue. Kathy has that intangible knack of putting programs together and keeping them sailing along smoothly.

You will enjoy working with our next president, Bruce Pohle, about whom I have written in this column and whom I admire very much. You will find him, like Bob Doeër, good, but terrific.

Mark Thomas
Association President

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**MUSEUM SERVICE COUNCIL**

The volunteer "Historic Downtown Walking Tour" is gaining in popularity. On Saturday, Sept. 21st, Lloyd Batchelder led a group of sixteen volunteers and spouses on Part I of the two-part tour. It happened on a perfect (weather-wise) day, ending at noon with lunch at Manny’s Cellar. The tour is most interesting! And to all those who wonder what can be done of so much interest downtown, please sign up for future tours and become enlightened.

Manny’s Cellar opened especially for us on this particular Saturday. We were served an excellent lunch, minced soup, salad, rolls, pitchers of beer and coffee.

We were further entertained after lunch, in Capt. Rollin’s room upstairs at Manny’s Cellar, with an interview written by Ellen Garbokie and performed by Jack Douglas (for Sept. 21st only) playing the part of Sara Knox-Goodrich.

Part II of the tour is tentative for Nov. 9th at this time. It is another Saturday, beginning 1 p.m., and open first to volunteers and spouses. Museum members, please call Mary at the Museum, 287-2290, if you wish to join the walk.

Mary Holland
Volunteer Coordinator

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**FROM THE EDITOR**

Membership in the San Jose Historical Museum Association is sought by all, and November marks the beginning of our Membership Drive for 1986.

For a minimum membership of only $25 again this year you receive a delightful book on local history, free membership in the San Jose Museum News six times a year, a 10% discount in our Museum Gift Shop, and many other advantages associated with the membership.

At the same time you have the satisfaction of knowing you are supporting the Museum’s educational and community programs.

There will be three opportunities in December for you to come to the Museum and encourage others to join us also, 1986 will be an exciting year of growth for the Museum and we look forward to your participation.

Kathy Mullen
Editor
This fall has been a busy time in the collection area. There are three additional gas pumps on display next to the Associated Station. Brown and Kauffman donated the red pump with the unusual dial face. This pump was used by a private water company and then San Jose Water Works in Los Gatos. The other two pumps are more modern in design. They were donated by Tony Sorci who acquired them from a station at Julian Street.

We have also received six street lamps from the City. They are in first class working condition. They have two globes, are old-fashioned in design, and will be incorporated in our future street plans.

There is a fine exhibit of antique irons in the display case in the Hotel Lobby next to the phone booth. This display was planned by Kristina DeLuz, Joy Spence and Barbara Mitchell, who volunteer in the textile collection.

The Museum has been actively participating in a number of loans to other institutions. Among these are some toys for the Vacaville Museum's current exhibit on "Childhood Memories." A model of a carretas was at the Santa Cruz Museum's Piesta Days in early October. The "Old Valley Labels" exhibit and some related artifacts are being shown at the Harvest Fair in October at the County Fairgrounds. Finally, "Paving Farms...Enduring Values" is being loaned to the Lee Gatos Museum for exhibit. It will be on view from mid-November until the end of February.

Three paintings (a portrait of Judge Archer, Alum Rock Falls, and The Cupola) have been removed from the main exhibit area for conservation. The work is being performed at Museum Services. Leonard McKay obtained a grant from the Hugh Stuart Center Charitable Trust to fund the work on two of the two paintings and Museum Services is donating work on the third. This work will appreciate to extend the life of these significant works of art.

The Docent Housekeeping Day in late October once again cleaned our exhibits. The docents have been generously providing this very necessary maintenance service twice a year.

The Museum has an intern in Museum Studies from JFSK University in San Francisco. Micki Ryan's main project is to index the news film donated by KNVT-Channel 11. In addition, she is working on two small projects in support of Living History.

Finally I would like to thank all of the faithful volunteers. There are three: Helen Kenned, caring for our art collection. Joy Spence, Kristina DeLuz and Barbara Mitchell work with the textile collection. Our Archives are staffed by Nancy Martin, Florence Haney, Patricia Loomis, Dian Win, Leola Hawes, Esther Talbot, Marie Barlow, Kay Malavos and Dorothy Was. These behind-the-scenes efforts are essential to the operation of the Museum.

Happy holidays to everyone.

Nancy Valby
Register

Gas pumps recently donated to the Museum. Pumps are on display adjacent to the Associated Gas Station.

Photo by Nancy Valby.

**GIVE SOME LOCAL HISTORY THIS CHRISTMAS!**

The Gift Shop at the San Jose Historical Museum, Kelley Park, has an extensive selection of colorful, informative, gift-style books on local history...

- appropriate for special clients
- your local Board of Directors
- visitors from out of town
- family and friends

Selected Titles include:

- Sights by Patricia Loomis $19.95
- the history of selected street names in San Jose
- Santa Clara Valley Images of the Past $12.00
- a photograph book on the old Santa Clara Valley
- San Jose — And Other Famous Places $19.95
- contains lively anecdotes on San Jose's more recent history
- Ralph Rambo's Pen & Inkings $24.95
- hand-lettered and illustrated nostalgia

**Call or visit:**

San Jose Historical Museum
635 Phelan Avenue
San Jose, CA 95112
(408) 287-2290

Discount for Corporate & Individual Members of the Museum Association
THE LOVE LIFE OF BRIGADIER GENERAL HENRY M. NAGLEE

General Henry Norris Naglee, for whom a San Jose street and neighborhood are named, is generally considered one of our most distinguished soldiers in early United States military history. Naglee was a graduate of West Point, served in the Civil War and the Mexican War. Upon settling in San Jose after his war service, Naglee became a pioneer viticulturist, and produced the much lauded Naglee Brandy. Alum Rock Park was established largely through his efforts and it was he who planted the avenue of trees which led to the park.

General Naglee

There was a period, however, when the General's name was not so hallowed, a period when the General's name became enmeshed in a public scandal. Both incidents centered around alleged breach of promise to marry situations.

The first began innocently enough when Naglee, for reasons of health, decided in 1856 to leave the ramshackle banking business in San Francisco and settle into the life a country squire in San Jose. At a private party prior to Christmas of that year he met and became enamored of a young San Francisco woman named Mary Schell. It is uncertain whether or not he had genuine intentions of marrying Miss Schell, Naglee put off the decision and took a long journey to Europe in 1860 to study viticulture and to bring back vines to be cultivated on his San Jose farm.

He returned to San Jose only briefly before leaving again by steamer for the east coast to join the Union forces. As a Brigadier General in the Army, he distinguished himself as a leader in the early battles. A hero at the Battle of Fair Oaks (May 1862), he was seriously wounded while leading his troops.

It would be four years before he would see his “beloved” Mary again. During this time he kept up a correspondence with her which suggested in the beginning at least for marriage intentions. Mary Schell was to be deeply disappointed, however, when upon his return in early 1865, Naglee gave her a cold and abrupt dismissal.

The wounded Miss Schell, who had waited over six years for her “Harry,” considered for a time taking the General to court, but her desire for vengeance took a much more creative turn. Mary simply gathered up a collection of some of the General's more intimate and potentially embarrassing letters and had them published by a firm in San Francisco. The volume, which appeared in 1867, was entitled: The Love Life of Brigadier General Henry M. Naglee. Consisting of a Correspondence on Love, War and Politics

The introduction to the book, penned by an anonymous editor, was critical, but also sympathetic, perhaps of a Mark Twain or Ambrose Bierce, was an attempt to exonerate Mary for the publication of the letters by claiming that:
It was with a struggle she consented to have them made public, and then only when it became imperative for her to defend herself from the calumnies of published miscreants. She has endured poverty, reproach and privation, rather than compromise the reputation of the man she loved, not without sacrifices which she publicizes would have secured her ample means; and this too while the ‘amatory penman’ was reaping in the enjoyment of superabundant wealth. Yet these tender misadventures remained locked in secret, beloved mayhap with many a tear. General Schell sent its hydra hiss abroad, and the faithless hero mocked at the ruin he had caused.

Not wishing to miss an opportunity to skewer his subject, the editor attempts to apologize for Naglee’s writing style: “Of the letters themselves, viewed with the most good natured eye, and bearing in mind the fact that heroes are never in good humor at their least attractive, the reader must admit that they are by no means a classic style of literature.” Finally the editor states: “Others (letters) are mere scenes, having in them much that is ludicrous, while all are seasoned with a ‘passionate’ flavor that cannot fail to disgust the palate of the most sensational epicure.”

The editor is correct about Naglee’s writing style, but historians and some of us not perhaps so high minded owe a debt to Mary Schell for making the letters public. Written in a personal style by a figure who had a leading role in our nation’s history, these unique documents are revealing in their insight into events and attitudes of the time.

This rare volume, which has only recently been added to the collection of the San Jose State University’s Special Collections Department, has far too many choice bits to be included in an essay of this length, however, I have tried to select those that are the most representative.

Naglee was in his mid-thirties when he first met Mary Schell. One can only surmise that his active business life had kept him from earlier marriages or perhaps there were women in the West who met the genteel standards of the Philadelphia society in which he was reared. At the time he was courting Miss Schell, he wrote his friend George Ringgold that he was afraid he would never find a woman attractive enough to marry.

Perhaps Naglee became more precious to him at a distance than close at hand. Throughout the wartime separation he wrote to her suggesting that her love alone kept him alive through all the horrors of war and that he would miss her. His letters, always addressed to her “Chere Petite,”Dear dear Harry, Do not be sad, darling little one’, may lead the reader to assume that Miss Schell was rather slight in stature. Be that as it may, he poured out his longings like a lovesick schoolboy:

I hardly know what to say. I have absolutely nothing to tell you, except only that I love you constantly; that I have the most intense desire that you will make me, if possible, more excessively happy than ever. I want again to feel that sweet, dear little void that makes me want you, that makes you mine, that makes you once breathe, in flattering words: Dear, dear darling Harry, how very, very, excessively happy are we, we were made for each other.

Once can understand why Mary waited so long for her ‘Harry’ with such encouragement as the following:

Dear Baby, are we not well mated? Were men ever any more completely so? Have we not loved, and loved and grown lean and fattened on love? Have we not whispered love, purred sweetness, enjoyed unintelligible but to the very, very few that have loved us have loved we?

And later in some reference to a rumor about his character:

I love you, dear Baby! and oh, how intensively, so intensively that to the intensity of my love would be my misery, and pain, and suffering, if my love was forgotten. Forgetting, my dear one; listen not to bad counsels, it matters not from whom; you will come, but let it not remind you that the world is but a passing dream, and that you can rely on almost no one. Who has been to you always, from the first moment you first knew him, as faithful, as watchful, as truly devoted to you, as your own Harry, and in your judgment, will you still last and watch over you always, let what will occur, as he has done and will do?... I feel that you are devotedly, exclusively, wholly mine, body and soul, day and night and day, and every hour of the day.

Perhaps because of the difference in their ages or the custom of the times, the General wrote to his ‘Baby’ in a most patronizing and formalistic way, advising her on personal manners and on behavior:

My dear love, let me ask you to have some employment always near you. You can sew; you can knit; you can practice your knowledge - do anything; but do not find yourself idle. You see Love, how much of Christian goodness I can advise; and see how I would like to try it - not in your tub, for it is too small.

Congratulating himself for his achievement, Naglee goes on to say:

I had not discovered, when I recommended the tub so strongly, the grand combination tub, unifying the gymnastic exercise with bathing. The inventive genius of the Yankee nation is truly astonishing and unlimited.

As if his descriptions were not explicit enough, the General drew a picture of himself poised naked on the rim of his tub. The editor of the letters devoted a full page to a reproduction of this drawing (see below).

Pen & Ink sketch, as drawn by himself.

That the General could be jealous and vindictive was expressed in a letter from Philadelphia shortly after his mother's death:

I would rather lose every relative remains to me than to have you go wrong. I would rather the fires of Hell should enter your brain and breath than that a man should near your lips or touch your hand; and should this happen, from hence and forever stop all communication with me.

Naglee was a democrat, and found it difficult to formulate romantic responses for his second wife. He most resented any attempts to “abolitionize the war.”

Nine-tenths of the Northern people are against the fanaticism (abolitionists), and they would not permit any attempt at any negro insurrection; besides, you have demonstrated in the late Harper’s Ferry affair that negroes won’t go against their masters. I do not wish this interference of politicians in the conduct of the war. They are determined to introduce negroism and make it a ruinous war for the army aid them in their hellish purpose.

Naglee, whose impious nature led to a long history of contempt, has found it difficult to serve under generals whom he considered his intellectual inferiors. Of General Hooker, his division commander, he states:

... one of my troubles comes from the fact that Hooker is inefficient; he is slow and not capable . . . I am too strong for him. My opinions receive favors in Washington to the condemnation of his plans.
Though a proven and fearless leader in battle, General Naglee was denied the promotion he had earned, and summed up his situation well in the following statement:

I have the reputation of being a thorough soldier, and could I only have played the hypocrite, and upheld the negro government, I could have been very prominent in the Army. But, Baby, I not only could not do that, but I could not and would not conceal my utter abhorrence and disgust; the result of which is, I have been incessantly persecuted. I love opposition; there is excitement in it.

When Mary's little bombshell struck, more than a few top army officers must have felt the blast. Naglee damned most of them with such remarks as:

I say that Keynes is as much out of his element as that noted hen that sat upon dach's eggs, and in my estimation is much more chicken-hearted — infinitely more selfish. Enough of him! Thank God, I am now entirely beyond his influence, and whilst his star is in the mud, mine slowly ascends, and will shine when Keynes, Hooker, Heintzelman and Peck — all made by stealing credits — are forgotten. These men with McDowell, Sumner and others, have got beyond their depth. By slow degrees, truth will out and justice will be done.

To Naglee's credit, one must remember that Lincoln had many of the same misgivings about his generals.

Naglee's candor caused him to be relieved of a command and shifted back and forth among several military departments. In 1864, he always had the day before the war had, but stayed in Washington long enough to support General George McClellan, the democratic candidate for President who ran against Lincoln.

Did Naglee, upon his return to San Francisco, find Mary a pale reflection of the vision he had had on the battlefields, or did his sense that he was jealous and possessive fears about her were justified? His final letter seems to imply that she had not been all together true to her. "Harry!"

My Dear Friend: I have been quite unwell since my arrival, but not ill enough to be confined to room. I have not called again, for the reason that I have no intention to interrupt any of your friendly associations so agreeably established. I shall always be most happy to know that you are doing well.

There is no question that the publication of these letters was an embarrassment to the General, especially as regards his acquaintances in the East. Even more damaging to his reputation, however, were the subsequent breaches of promise and perjury suits brought a decade later by another young woman by the name of Emily Blake.

But that, as they say, is another story.

Jack Douglas
City Landmarks Commission

ST. JOSEPH’S CATHEDRAL PROJECT

Planning has begun for the restoration of St. Joseph's Cathedral in downtown San Jose and the project architects are asking for our help. They are looking for old photographs of the church and paintings or tinted sketches that might indicate the color of the building in its early years.

If you have a photograph, painting, or drawing you think might help, please call the Museum at 287-2290 and ask for Kathy Muller.

VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS TREE ORNAMENTS

During the Victorian period, the Christmas tree went from a pretty toy and an interesting oddity to the showpiece of the Christmas celebration. These trees were dressed in a marvelous hodgepodge of ornaments, gifts and fancywork.

The Gift Shop at the Museum has replicas of many Victorian and other period ornaments for you to add to your tree this year.

We also have many gift ideas for the whole family: dolls, books, wooden toys, metal toys, doll carriages, stuffed bears, calendars, diaries, smokers, nutcrackers, etc.

Come and see the selection for yourself and don't forget O'Brien's serves lunch daily for your enjoyment!

Tuesday, December 3rd
2:30 - 5:00 P.M.

In conjunction with the Museum Association's Tea and autograph party featuring Patricia Loomis, we will be offering samples of goodies from Heritage Harvest.

5 Festive Cookbooks
by Norma Jost Voth

AND

hot mulled cider from Sunrise Teas & Spices, Inc.

Sponsored by the Gift Shop & O'Brien's
ASSOCIATION MEMBER PUBLISHES LOCAL GENEALOGY

While many of us have had occasion to be curious about our heritage, few have taken the time and effort to research their family background. Association Member Evelyn Martinez not only took the time, she went as far as to write a book about what she discovered.

An eighth generation Californian, Martinez was born in San Francisco where she married at the age of 18. Her early marriage was a direct result of an old world Spanish culture inherited from her mother’s side of the family. “I was programmed,” she claims.

Evelyn developed an interest in her family history after her grandmother began to tell her stories about her English and her Spanish ancestors. Her most intriguing tale was an explanation about the family’s royal “blue-blood” background attached to her maiden name, Story. It seems that some time in the 1700’s, a founding was left at the Story home in England. He was dressed in fine clothes, bearing the insignia of the Castle Cariglia. The son was raised and eventually adopted by the Story family. The child was believed to be the product of a brief interlude between one of the Storys who was a servant at the Castle Cariglia, and one of the Castle’s ladies in waiting.

Martinez found her Spanish heritage even more interesting. Her lineage can be traced back to early Spanish soldiers in Alta California known as "soldados de cuerda" or leather jacket soldiers who were given early land grants by the Spanish government. It is this Spanish background and its entwining with Collier that encouraged her to begin the tremendous task of authoring a genealogy of her mother’s side of her family.

Beginning four years ago, Martinez only intended to complete a basic study of her family tree for her own information. Within a year, she knew that she wanted to write a book, “I felt something moving me,” she claims. “I soon began to spend all of my spare time on the book.”

She first turned to genealogy libraries and then began to obtain birth and death certificates of her relatives, which contained the name and birth place of the individual’s parents. For her English background she visited the genealogy archives of the Mormon Church in Utah, where she explains that genealogy study is part of the religion’s doctrine.

For her Spanish heritage she studied at the Sutro Library in San Francisco and at the City of Santa Clara library. For support she joined the “Los Californios,” a club for descendents of Spaniards who arrived in Alta California prior to February, 1848. With their help, and through her research she was able to find that her most famous relative was a man named Pio Pico, the last Mexican governor of California, just prior to statehood.

“It’s really not as hard as people think,” assures Martinez. “It’s like a big jigsaw puzzle.” In order to make time for herself, she marked off 12 hours per week on her calendar which she used for her research. The entire project took four years to complete.

One of the unexpected benefits of her study was that she was able to put together a massive family reunion where she sold 300 of her books in five days. She has since sold out of her first printing and is now on her second.

Martinez’s literary endeavors did not begin with her genealogy. A college graduate with degrees in Administration of Justice, Fashion Merchandising and Religious Science, she has also authored articles for various local Hispanic magazines.

Evelyn Martinez’s book, My Family Back Bone, is available for sale in our Museum Gift Shop for $25.00. It is a genealogy of the Romero, Olivas, Cota, Pico, Eddy and Story families and would be of interest to many Valley residents.

HISTORIC HOME TOUR IN SANTA CLARA

Four historic Santa Clara homes will be opened to the public on Friday, December 13 from 7 to 9 p.m. and Saturday, December 14 from noon to 5 p.m. This special fund-raiser for the Triton Museum of Art expansion project and Santa Clara Historical Preservation projects will feature a variety of architectural styles: a significant example of California Classic, a beautifully ornate Queen Anne, a unique hybrid of craftsman bungalow and colonial revivalism and a late Victorian Eastlake design.

Each of these homes will be festively decorated for the holiday season. In addition, there will be a preview reception with champagne, the Triton Women’s Guild’s annual holiday boutique and refreshments on Friday evening and additional holiday boutiques on Saturday.

Ticket prices for Saturday’s tour and boutiques are $8 for seniors, $8 general admission in advance, $10 at the door. Tickets for Friday’s special champagne reception and tour are $15. Tickets may be purchased in advance by sending a check and stamped, self-addressed envelope to the Historic Home Tour, 726 Woodham Road, Santa Clara, CA 95051. For further information, contact the Triton Museum of Art (408) 247-3754.

LIVING HISTORY DAY WISHES TO THANK THE FOLLOWING SPONSORS:

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San Jose Police Reserve
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DELIVERING PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AND QUALITY MATERIALS SINCE 1904.
Most dinner tables these days are generously endowed with tomatoes served in various sauces or raw in salads as a dish by themselves.

Known scientifically as <i>lycopersicon</i> esculentum, tomatoes are described in Webster's as a fruit, herb and berry. Probably all of these variations are due to the many ways the fruit, herb and berry are used.

Strange enough, tomatoes were once thought to be poisonous and were used mostly for house decorative purposes. Ironically, they were affectionately called "Love Apples." It was not until the latter part of the century that the true value was recognized and became a staple of the American diet.

In the days just before World War I, which was to end all wars, my step-father bought a 12-acre parcel from the Greenwall on the Alameda Road (now expressway, I guess) which was planted in one-year-old prune trees. In order to pay the "taxes" tomatoes were planted between the prunes for the first three years.

As they grew these were truly luscious fruit, measuring an average of five to eight inches in weight and nine to twelve ounces each. These were treated very tenderly and carefully placed in boxes so as not to bruise or injure the skin.

Such defects would result in a mark down in rating at the cannery. I can well remember my Dad spotting the boxes for me and I would carry only two or three at a time and carefully place them in the box of the container. Sometimes a full box of 50 pounds could be picked from four vines.

Then changes began to occur. The experts at the University of California at Davis, then known as the California Agricultural College, tried to eliminate the bruising and to allow for machine harvesting by hardening the skin.

The result was obtained with the sacrifice of the large juicy tomatoes, replaced with fruit that has a thick outside rind with a very tough skin. The size usually is slightly smaller than a baseball down to what was used to be called "Niobe's".

As recently as Sept. 23, 1965, the Wall Street Journal noted: "There are consumers who haven't been addressed — like a tomato that tastes vine-ripened..." surveys show that customers are dissatisfied with their current choices.

Ironically, the present-day product is mostly known as "Beefsteak Tomatoes," probably because it takes a knife to cut through the skin. Simply a case of modernization and change that is a long way from progress.

Long live the <i>lycopersicon esculentum</i>!

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PORTUGUESE TROLLEY ARRIVES

A 28-foot trolley car from Portugal arrived at the Museum in October after a long journey across the sea. It was shipped from Portugal to the port of Oakland and then travelled to the Museum courtesy of Peninsula Crane and Rigging Company. Purchased by the San Jose Trolley Corporation for restoration here in the Trolley Barn on the Museum grounds, this Portuguese trolley is a copy of U.S.-made cars bought by Portugal in 1912.

The trolley car is in running order and, in fact, was in service until very recently. It is an 1890s style car which features unique windows in which both sashes slide up into the roof.

According to Fred Bennett, Master Car Builder, plans call for changing the yellow car to a color more in keeping with the time period which it will represent. It is in very good shape and will be fairly easy to restore to beautiful condition.

Be sure to stop by the Trolley Barn to see the latest addition the next time you are at the Museum!
FALL IN THE GARDEN CITY

The Santa Clara Valley is known today as Silicon Valley, but many years ago San Jose was called the Garden City. It was the center of vast agricultural industry, known world-wide for its dried prunes, fruits and walnuts.

Even though the springtime was most everyone’s favorite time of year in the Garden City, there was a second season that was delightful as well. A drive through the orchards in the fall was a treat to the eyes and nose. From a distance one could see fields of orange, that, upon closer inspection, were trays of apricots drying in the sun. Or perhaps the field would be a deep purple, the prunes drying in their turn. There were no dehydrators then, so each orchardist had his own drying yard, usually close to the house or barn. Here he would spread his huge wooden trays of dried apricots and prunes. The aroma was heavenly. Sometimes the sweet smell of fruit would be mixed with the odor of sulphur that was sprinkled on the drying fruit. If you have ever experienced this, you will know why just opening a package of dried apricots today can bring back a flood of memories.

Many a time we would be sitting in church on a Sunday morning in the fall when suddenly all the farmers would get up and leave. The rest of us all knew that it must be about to rain. All those who had fruit in their drying yards had to rush home to cover the trays, or their whole crop would be lost. If it were walnut time, they had to get their nuts in before they wet or they would mildew. Most of the orchardists had come from town about fifteen or twenty miles and they had to be afraid that it would pour before they got their trays covered.

Just before the fruit and nuts were ready for harvesting, the orchards had to be prepared. As one drove through the orchard, the fruit and nut trees were heavy with their crop. Poles propped up the heavy branches to keep them from breaking. The canes which had driven the tractor through the trees, smoothing down the ground as flat as possible to make picking easier and faster. When the time came, ready to be picked, there would be a circle of purple under each tree. Whole families, children and all, would invade the area and pick prunes off the ground, wiping out the pure purple shadow and the lovely sweet smell.

Wilma Virgo Lea

THE MUSEUM’S ARCHIVES WILL BE CLOSED ON WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 27 DUE TO THE THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

SOUTH BAY TRAILS by Frances Spangle and Jean Rushmore. Wilderness Press, 1984, Softbound, 297 pages, photos and maps. $11.95.

For hikers, backpackers, and outdoor lovers in the Santa Clara Valley, this little book is a must! It is the first guidebook to cover all the trails encircling the Valley, plus many trails on the valley floor.

The book covers hundreds of miles of trails in more than 100,000 acres of public open space close to San Jose. Within an hour’s drive you can camp in the woods with your family or even take an extended week-long backpack trip.

For each area, the authors give hiking distance, time required, elevation change, jurisdiction, regulations, facilities, fees (if any) and sources of maps.

South Bay Trails retails for $11.95 in our Museum Gift Shop.

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