IGNON GIBSON, Director of the San Jose Historical Museum from July 1982 through July 1997, has accepted a new position and promotional opportunity with the City of San Jose’s Office of Cultural Affairs (OCA) which is part of the Conventions, Arts and Entertainment Department (CAED). Her immediate assignment will be to work on the San Jose-America’s Smithsonian 150th birthday celebration exhibition scheduled to be at the San Jose McEnery Convention Center from July 31 through August 31. Mignon will concentrate on related galas, receptions and recruitment of local volunteers.

Her long-term position will be as a City liaison and contract manager for the major cultural facilities managed by the Office of Cultural Affairs. These will include the San Jose Museum of Art, the Tech Museum of Innovation, the Children’s Discovery Museum, the Mexican Heritage Gardens, the San Jose Repertory Theater, and with the possibility of facilitating future projects such as the Fox Theater. She will report to, and work closely with Jerry Allen, Deputy Director of Office of Cultural Affairs, by coordinating many administrative functions and helping to implement the recently City Council adopted cultural plan, “20/21: The Regional Cultural Plan for the New Millennium.”

Mignon Gibson has been with the Historical Museum since September of 1974, a 24-year history of support and contributions to the institution. She became Museum Director in July of 1983 after the effects of Proposition 13 resulted in the Museum staff being reduced to two positions. She focused on program development in all areas including volunteer, education, collections and archives and significantly impacted the physical development of the site. She will be remembered for partner agreements that resulted in major capital developments such as the Trolley Restoration Barn with operating trolley cars and track system, the Gordon House, Ng Shing Gung, the recently dedicated Portuguese Empire and acquisition of over nine homes including the Greeneswalt House, the Hill House, the Markham House and the DeLaz House. She also managed the Museum street and infrastructure project, participated in the Master Plan revision and planned for the Collections and Archives move to new facilities at the City’s Central Service Yard. She is sorry to leave before being able to complete the one-room schoolhouse project sponsored by San Jose State University College of Education Alumni Association, the Sakaye Farm Labor Cottages and the new parking lot.

Mignon also started the facility usage and rental program which promotes picnics, receptions, barbecues and weddings as a revenue stream for the site. She and her staff developed such memorable events as Living History Days, Victorian Christmas and the Civil War Memorial.

Mignon Gibson will be missed. She truly loved the Historical Museum which became the home town she never had during the years she spent growing up and moving around the country. Her love of history, her interest in heritage and roots and her abilities to reach out and network with the community helped bring the institution to this next stage of development. Thank you Mignon.

A celebration in honor of Mignon Gibson and the Historical Museum will be held sometime in August, watch your mail for an invitation.

History Museum of San Jose Now on the Internet

As of April 28, 1997, the History Museums of San Jose has a web site on the Internet: www.serve.com/sjhistory

The web site includes information on events, exhibits and programs at both the San Jose Historical Museum and the Peralta Adobe/Fallon House Historic Site. Also included is information on volunteer opportunities, membership in the History Museum of San Jose and articles of interest from the latest issue of The News. Suggestions for additions and/or modifications are welcomed. You can E-mail the web site at sjhistory@mail.serve.com.

Let your friends and relative across the land know we are up and running.
DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Farewell and Congratulations to Virginia Beck

As the Historical Museum transitions to nonprofit, some staff members have explored opportunities for employment elsewhere with the City of San Jose and have decided to leave the Historical Museum. Virginia Beck, Curator of Education, has accepted a position with the History Resource Department. The City will be in charge of the City-wide training program including the opportunity to teach in the Leadership and Supervision Certificate Program and work on the Continuous Improvement Program for the City.

Virginia Beck has been at the Historical Museum for sixteen years and was responsible for the great organization and tremendous growth of the volunteer and docent programs which recently made the Museum a major force in the City. Virginia Beck was instrumental in both the Living History Days and Civil War Memorial events. She developed many popular education programs including Westward Ho! and the Downtown Walking Tours, and could not have done it without the Chinese Historical and Cultural Project in creating the Golden Legacy Curriculum.

In addition to her work for the Historical Museum, Virginia Beck served as President for Cultural Connections (Northern California Museum Education Consortium) from 1990 through 1994. Always striving for self-improvement and personal skill development, she found time to become a graduate of the City of San Jose's Continuous Improvement Program which trains employees on organization development techniques.

Virginia Beck brought tremendous dedication, enthusiasm, professionalism, expertise and love to her position. In addition to managing all the education and volunteer programs, she served as the daily operations manager for the staff team that opens the Museum to the public. This task involved all the opening and closing responsibilities, cash handling, volunteer and staff schedules and details that make a program work. She will be greatly missed and is sincerely appreciated.

Sarah Nunes, Curator, has also accepted a position elsewhere in the City and her accomplishments are acknowledged in the Archives and Collections program. I would also like to thank Sarah for her outstanding work and dedication and wish her the best of luck.

* Mignone Gibson, Museum Director

FROM THE EDITOR

As I began writing my column this month I realized it has been a year since I became the editor of The News. Where this year has gone is any- one's guess. I do want to thank all of you who contributed to the last six issues of the newsletter: believe me, without your articles, ideas and encouragement, I could never have done it.

It has been quite a year. The San Jose Historical Association became History Museums of San Jose and the Association News became The News with a new masthead; we celebrated the Association's 25th anniversary; released Reflections of the Past: the Public's Antiquity of San Jose; continued on the path to nonprofit management of the Historical Museum; secured space at the Central Services Yard for our collections and archives and completed a replaced replica building; hosted several fun and successful events; and said goodbye to many staff members. Stay tuned - I am sure the next twelve months will rival the last twelve.

I just came back from a two week trip to Europe. We spent a week in Italy (the Tuscany area) and a week in the Czech Republic. Two very different experiences, but with a common thread: both cultures respect and preserve their history. Through wars, famine, plague and political upheaval, their historic buildings and histori-
all of this pressure and discomfort is not only going to bring us into the light, but when we express our hands-on level, you will find that the hands-on level will be a mother who will nurture us and help us grow. Reality reply, "Now I know you are crazy."

Yes, we have "reality" and "vision" at the Museum. And out there somewhere is "mother." Things have been uncomfortable. Change is on the way, and we do not know what that will bring. But the birth of a new beginning is upon us, where we will come into the light; a museum where many people will have the experience of times gone by. Where children will live with the Indians, move west with the pioneers and demand that women can vote. Where we will be part of the adventure of building the city; a house at a time. We are in the midst of an explosive growth and look forward to the Portuguese Museum, the Markham House, the Andrew P Hill House, the One Room Schoolhouse, the Sawakley worker cottages and the Perham Foundation Museum becoming part of the Historical Museum. Do you realize the education programs waiting to be written which will make these projects become a reality, not just a vision? All this can be ours. You are the keystone to this museum and you can make it happen. Continue to be a part of this. We need your support.

* Carol Sinclair, Volunteer Council President

VINTAGE REFLECTIONS

**BE YOU MAD ABOUT HATS?** If so, take Vintage Reflections next set of millinery classes and become a Mad Hatter!

* In class you will:
  - Make a paper pattern
  - Learn the mysteries of molding buckram
  - Learn how to wire your hat form
  - Cover, decorate and embellish your one-of-a-kind piece of headwear
  - Have a great time with fellow Mad Hatters!

* Classes will be held August 2, 23 and September 13, upstairs in the Fire House; class times will be 12:30 to 3:30. The cost of the class is $65.00, plus supplies. Contact Julie Peterson at Vintage Reflections (408) 993-8156 to sign up for class and receive a supplies list. Basic sewing skills are needed for this class.

* In the past, on the third session of the Hat Class, we have had a dealer of antique and vintage ribbons, trims, laces, fabrics and wonderful doodads, visit with her wares. As this goes to press, arrangements for her return have not been finalized. See our article next month for confirmation.

* Are there any classes on costuming and/or vintage sewing techniques you are anxious to take? Call Julie and let her know. We will be finalizing our autumn class schedule in the next few weeks.

GOOD-BYE, GOOD LUCK and THANK YOU!

IT IS WITH SUGGESTIONS but with well wishes that we say goodbye to two members of the History Museum staff. Betty Wawro of the Peralta/Fallon House Historic Site Director and Carol Ouellette, History Museum Bookkeeper.

Bob was hired in July 1995 as Site Director for the Peralta/Fallon Historic Site. His professional background in education and public administration, as well as his prior nonprofit management experience with the Egyptian Museum, made him an asset to the San Jose Historical Museum Association and the History Museum of San Jose. Bob developed new educational programs at the Peralta/Fallon Site and refined the existing ones. He recently accepted the museum director's position at the Campbell Historical Museum/Ainsley House. We wish Bob Pedretti and the Campbell Historical Museum much success.

Carol Ouellette joined the staff of the San Jose Historical Museum Association in April 1985 as bookkeeper. Carol's bookkeeping and accounting work was always meticulous and "just right." In addition to her bookkeeping responsibilities, Carol and her husband, Frenchy, were always available to help out at museum functions: hauling equipment in their pick-up, counting money, cooking appreciation dinners and giving a hand whenever and wherever needed. Carol was part of the ever-changing San Jose Historical Museum and saw many changes over the past 12 years. The museum staff and volunteers will miss her smiling face and pleasant disposition. We all wish Carol luck and happiness in her future endeavors.

GOOD-BYE AND THANK YOU... YOU WILL BE MISSED.

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Lynne Lukens

MUSEUM STAFF

Wanda Foss... Senior Steno
Jeanne Kondo... Office Specialist II
Leslie Masunaga... Archivist
Monte Duran... Museum Events
Nancy Valby... Curator
Fred Bennett... Trolley Barn Manager
Becky Bockley... Volunteer Support (P/T)
Fawna Ferguson... Volunteer Support (P/T)
Jim Grogan... Volunteer Support (P/T)
Michael Kozowski... Volunteer Support (P/T)
Carol Provvenzals... Volunteer Support (P/T)
MaryAnne Schreier... Volunteer Support (P/T)
Al Spivak... Volunteer Support (P/T)

HISTORY MUSEUMS OF SAN JOSE STAFF

Keith Calceread... Interim President/CEO
Barbara Johnson... Acting Executive Director/
Development Director
Judi Henderson... Publications/Program Coordinator
Toni Evans... Shops Manager
Laureen Lynch... Membership Coordinator
Wells/Wimbley...Peralta/Fallon Program Assistant
Julie Peterson... Vintage Reflections Manager
Pat Lauman... Peralta/Fallon Shop Supervisor
Susan Miller... Shops Scheduler/Supervisor
Christy Ruggiero... Shops Supervisor
Kay Edgar... Peralta/Fallon Shop Supervisor

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VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION DINNER

In Wednesday, June 18, 300 volunteers of the San Jose Historical Museum, the Peralta/Fallon Historic Site and the History Museums of San Jose were guests at a thank you dinner provided by HJMSJ and the City of San Jose. The dinner was held at the Elks Club and the evening consisted of dinner, a short program recognizing and thanking the many museum volunteers, a slide show highlighting the activities the volunteers are involved in and the installation of the officers of the Volunteer Council.

Virginia Beck, the departing Director of Education, and her staff were responsible for the program and HJMSJ staff arranged for the dinner and decorations. Each guest received a Living History Days mug, a remembrance of the popular event. In addition, service pins were awarded to 5, 10 and 15 year volunteers.

It cannot be said often enough how appreciative the staff is of our many volunteers. Without you it wouldn’t happen. Thank you for your time, commitment, expertise and love.
GARDEN CLUB
by Bea A. Gardner

Did you recently see the crazy people playing in the rain and the mud? No—not some of the visiting school kids—it was your museum volunteer gardeners. Who ordered rain for June in California! Someone should have ordered it for the day before our maintenance day to soften the soil. Despite the unreasonable moisture, we had a generous showing of volunteers: Mary Force, Cathy Graff, George Klar, Carl Lindner, Margie McIntyre, Elfriede Price, Cheryl Schroeder, Joy and Gerald Spence and Janna Staeddle. Although we were damp, our spirits were not; we accomplished a great deal, including replanting the bare areas at the Trolley Barn with more gazanias, adding more marigolds around the Fruit Barn, trimming and cleaning the Plaza Roses, and helping Joy and Gerald Spence clean out the water basins under the roses at the Nelson-Deluz house. Not bad for a rainy morning.

Speaking of Joy and Gerald Spence, welcome back. Both were ill as Gerald recovered from surgery. Laurel Perusa, too, has returned, but in a limited capacity after two major surgeries. Nice to have you all back, but please just take it easy. Taking it easy is what Jon Bergstrom has been directed to do for awhile. Carpal Tunnel Syndrome will prevent him from tending part of the Plaza Roses and at the Fruit Barn.

The Garden Club happily welcomes three new members: Pat Pelly-weekend watering at the Cheechi house, Jean Gallop-weekend watering at the vegetable garden, and Cheryl Schroeder-Main Entrance garden. We all look forward to watching the front entrance develop into a beautiful floral welcome.

The museum "Plant Managers" are bustling with pride as the long hours of toil and sweat are now paying off. Hopefully many of you will be out at the museum for the annual 4th of July picnic and fireworks. Besides the red, white & blue flowers at the firehouse, please don't forget to stroll around the grounds throughout the museum to survey the new plantings and the ongoing development at each location. We are very proud of our work and we love sharing the results for the pleasure of others.

Many thanks to the rotating gardeners at the Nelson-Deluz house: Jim Gancy in April/May, Sandy King in May/June, Carmen Bustillos in June/July and Alicia Chisholm in July/August. This garden always makes a cheery welcome at the Phelan Avenue entry.

Please remember if you see a garden being watered—DON'T TURN OFF THE WATER! Some gardeners tend multiple areas and if the water is turned off, it messes up their timing. Thank you for your cooperation.

HELP WANTED, you don't have to be in the Garden Club to help out, there are many opportunities. During the summer months we need more volunteers to water due to heat and vacationing gardeners. All help is appreciated. We can use new members too, who are willing to adopt a particular area, or to water one week a month. For more info, contact Tanya Force at 268-3692.

July maintenance day will be Tuesday July 1, 9:00am-Noon. Our summer business meeting will be Thur., Aug. 21, 10:00am-11:00am at the picnic tables by the Vegetable Garden.

ENDOWMENT FUND DONATIONS

From April 24, 1997 to June 30, 1997, the Endowment Fund of the History Museums of San Jose received the following donations:

In Memoriam: Lloyd Batchelder
John Cochran

Special Thoughts: Laurel Perusa

Gifts to the History Museums of San Jose to honor someone on a special occasion, or as a memorial, may be sent to the History Museums of San Jose Endowment Fund, 1650 Senter Road, San Jose, CA 95112-2599. A letter of acknowledgement will be sent to the person being honored or the family of the deceased.

Save The Date For Air Systems Car Show and Family Fun Fest Saturday, September 6th

"Ladies and Gentlemen, Start Your Engines"

Jen and Christine Davis, organizers of the Air Systems Car Show & Family Fun Fest will celebrate the event's 11th year on Saturday, September 6, 1997 on the grounds of the San Jose Historical Museum. In years past, the Children's Discovery Museum and the San Jose Historical Museum have been the recipients of profits from the Air Systems Car Show: this year, a third recipient will be added, Air Systems Foundation, a nonprofit organization established to promote the education of children through technology and other methods of learning.

Members of the History Museums of San Jose will be receiving invitations to the event in August. In the past, many of you have volunteered at the Air System event. If you have volunteered in the past, or are interested in knowing more, please call Barbara Johnson, 287-2290 for further information on volunteer opportunities. This year we are organizing the volunteer jobs in a different way. Schedules and responsibilities for the event have been refined and changed to better suit the needs of those who give their time and service. We have taken into consideration your comments from past events—you'll notice a difference.

This event is for all ages: there will be something for everyone including fireworkson the Museum grounds at the end of the evening. This is an event you won't want to miss!

MATCHING GIFT PROGRAMS

Barbara Johnson

HISTORIC SITE

When Bob Pedretti left the Peralta Adobe & Fallon House Site on May 9, 1997, I began to fill in on a daily basis, to be of assistance where and when necessary, schedule and get better acquainted with the docents, and above all, learn more about the administrative responsibilities and programs at the site. In addition, I have come to realize the importance of all the individuals who have a part in the development and growth of the Peralta-Fallon Site. Opened to the public in April 1994, today we host thousands of visitors and school children. Each and every person who has ever been involved in the planning, promoting and ongoing day-to-day operations at the Peralta-Fallon Site should be extremely proud. You have developed a successful site.

If you are interested in volunteering at the Peralta-Fallon Site, please call 993-8182. We would like to schedule a docent training class in the very near future.

School Programs

The Adobe Day Program and the Explore the Peralta Adobe and Fallon House educational tours are finished for the 1996-97 school year. Over 6,000 students experienced these wonderful programs. Wells Yowmbly, Peralta-Fallon Site Program Assistant, did an outstanding job with the preparation and coordination of the Adobe Day Program for the past school year. Pat Lauerman, City Store supervisor, kept a cool and controlled manner when 50 school children came into the City Store to shop. She was always kind, courteous and most helpful to the children and teachers. The teachers appreciated the help they received from Pat and Wells. Peralta-Fallon's Explore Program docents were always prepared and so enjoyable everyone pitched in and did their job.

Reservations for Adobe Days and Explore Program are now being accepted for the 1997-98 school year. There are still slots available, but they are filling up quickly, as these are popular field trip experiences for students, teachers and parents. The programs are offered Tuesday through Friday to third, fourth and fifth grade students. Call the Peralta-Fallon offices at (408)993-8182 for reservations.

MATCHING GIFT PROGRAMS

Barbara Johnson

Uniforms and historical clothing.

HISTORIC SITE

The History Museums of San Jose are pleased to be a recipient of General Electric's "More Gifts...More Givers" Program. General Electric employees who are History Museums' members and participated in the program rewarded us with over $900.00.

Under "More Gifts...More Givers" Program, the GE Fund matches dollar-for-dollar every gift of $15 or more GE employees and retirees give to nonprofit groups. Since the program's inception in 1985, more than $36 million in matching funds have been given to organizations at GE business locations.

Other members of HMSJ can also participate in corporate matching gift programs. It is usually a simple procedure. Inquire through the Personnel Department of your company to determine if a matching gifts program is in effect. Laurie Lynch, HMSJ Membership Coordinator, 277-3780. The corporate matching gifts program is a win-win situation for all concerned.

Our thanks to all the GE employees who participated, and to the GE Fund for their ongoing commitment to serve their communities. We greatly appreciate your financial support.
CATHEDRAL OAKS: AN ARTIST’S RETREAT

By Jack Douglas

On over 100 years the mountains above Los Gatos have beckoned artists, writers, and musicians who found the area an inspiring place in which to live. Perhaps one of the most beautiful and diverse areas was the property above the village of Alma known as Cathedral Oaks. The home of artists George Dennison and Frank Ingerson, it was appropriately named, for it stood amidst a magnificent grove of California live oaks. During the 55 year partnership of the two artists, Cathedral Oaks served as a home, studio, informal art school and gathering place for artists of international renown.

George Dennison was the eldest of the two partners. Born in New Boston, Illinois in 1873, he migrated to San Francisco in the 1890’s where he served as secretary and, later, manager of the California State Board of Trade. In this capacity he became involved in the installation of the San Francisco Room in the California exhibit at the Louisiana Purchase Exposition in St. Louis in 1902. This, and similar experiences, led to his being chosen as the head of the Horticultural Exhibit at the Panama Pacific International Exposition in San Francisco in 1915. The massive Horticultural Hall was one of the highlights of this influential world’s fair. It was not until he met Frank Ingerson that Dennison, now 58, decided to follow his true calling and become an artist.

Frank Ingerson was born in Victory Mills, New York in 1880. He attended the Pratt Institute in Brooklyn where he was a student of Marshall Fry. Unlike his partner, Ingerson said he knew he had to become an artist the day he entered law school. After settling in San Francisco, Ingerson began teaching at the California School of Design (1906-1913), with time out for a trip to Europe and further art studies in London. He also taught at San Jose State Normal from 1912-1913 where the campus history lends him for his “marvelous personality and wide artistic training.” It was during this time that the two men established their studio-residence above Alma.

A picture postcard from this period advertises “Cathedral Oaks and School of Art.” It shows Ingerson and Dennison on their property seated in a vintage auto. One of their earliest visitors was the English art tile specialist and San Jose State teacher Albert Solon who met his wife Emma, an art student, during one of the Cathedral Oaks gatherings. (Solon and his partner Frank Schimmel founded the 5 & S Tile Factory in San Jose in 1920.)

Varied Art Forms

Frank and George, or “the boys” as they were affectionately called, were influenced by the Arts and Crafts revival of the early part of the century. They created art pieces of wood, leather, fabric, ceramics and enamel. The two were commissioned to design the interiors and gardens of a number of important buildings, the foremost being the renowned Bliss mansion near Santa Barbara and the Samarkand Hotel also in that city. Dennison’s experience designing exotic atmospheres at various world expositions must have been useful on these projects.

Ark of the Covenant

Their most noted art piece would take two years and much research to accomplish. This was an idealization of the Biblical Ark of the Covenant for Temple Emanu-El in San Francisco. The ark is ten feet tall, made of wrought bronze, with cedars and gold repousse. Weighing over 3,000 pounds, it was decorated with enamel, rubies, sapphires and other jewels affixed to the metal by an almost forgotten ancient technique. The work was cast in London by the only foundry that still used the ancient and arduous lost-wax method. The Ark caused a sensation when it was exhibited in London’s Victoria and Albert Museum in 1927.

Further experiments in the use of enamels in 1931 almost cost the life of Dennison when he had to be rushed to O’Connor Hospital after inhaling toxic fumes from the enamel he was baking. His cremated jewelry was sought after by such celebrities as opera divas Lotte Lehmann and Ernestine Schumann Heink.

Famous Friends

Their international reputation did not prevent them from participating in local Los Gatos events. They helped with sets and costumes for the plays being directed by Lillian Fontaine, and this led to lifelong friendships with her actresses daughters Joan and Olivia. It was Frank and George who drove the teenage Olivia de Havilland to Hollywood for her first professional engagement.

While staying in Paris, the two artists were introduced to the Memphian family who were there while their eleven year old violin prodigy Yehudi was being tutored by violinist-composer Georges Enesco. The Memphians were later invited to Cathedral Oaks where they were so impressed by the setting that they bought the adjoining property and became lifelong friends. Yehudi frequently visited, sometimes being visited by musician friends such as pianist Adolph Baller and cellist Gabriel Rejto, both key members of the noted Alma Trio, to perform at Cathedral Oaks.

The neighboring literary folk were also frequent guests: Colonel Charles Erskine Scott Wood and his wife Sara Bard Field, as well as the children’s magazine publishers Carolyn Smiley and Maude Meghier whose adobe home Casa Tierra is a Los Gatos landmark.

The Ark of the Covenant

Twilight Years

Surrounded by their beautiful home and its natural setting, the partners lived on for many years. George Dennison died in 1966 at the age of 95. Frank Ingerson followed him in 1968 at the age of 88. To make it financially easier for them as they grew older, Yehudi Memphian purchased Cathedral Oaks and allowed them to live out their lives there.

It was Memphian’s wish to eventually retire to the family home on the adjoining property, but the continual demand for his talents (he has just had his 80th birthday and is still going strong) led him to sell all the property at below market value to the Peninsula Open Space Trust in 1988. It was the Trust’s intention to preserve the Cathedral Oaks house and another buildings, but the Loma Prieta earthquake intervened and so damaged the buildings they had to be removed.

And so this once vital artists’ colony has returned to its original natural state. I’m sure Frank and George would approve.

Note: Illustrations courtesy of Barrie and Carol Coate.
SMITHSONIAN IN SAN JOSE:
ATTENTION
HISTORY MUSEUMS MEMBERS

ICENTS WILL SOON be available for the Smithsonian Traveling Exhibit which will be on display at the McEnery Convention Center in July and August. History Museums members can receive free tickets.

➢ Your current museum membership entitles you to 2 tickets per current membership card.
➢ Present your IMSJ membership card(s) at a special Guest Service window at the McEnery Convention Center.
➢ The $3.50 service charge will be waived for museum members.

The Smithsonian Associates, the public programming arm of the Smithsonian, will present "Smithsonian Voices of Discovery" in conjunction with the traveling exhibit. Designed to showcase the people behind Smithsonian research, collections and exhibits, "Smithsonian Voices of Discovery" will bring Smithsonian scholars to San Jose, August 4th to August 8th, to present lectures, seminars and workshops, and to meet informally with small groups. In keeping with the spirit of the national institution, all events will be free of charge, but seating will be limited. The following dates and times have been scheduled for presentations at the Historical Museum in Kelley Park and the Peralta Adobe grounds:

➢ San Jose Historical Museum; Tuesday, August 5, 1997, 7:00 p.m.
  Presenter: Claudia Brush Kidwell, curator of the Division of Social History, Costume Division, National Museum of American History
  Topic: Men and Women Dressing the Part
  RSVP 287-2290

➢ Peralta Adobe Grounds; Thursday, August 7, 1997, 7:00 p.m.
  Presenter: Rayna Green, Director, Native American Program, National Museum of American History
  Topic: Corn is Who We Are: The Story of Pueblo Indian Food
  RSVP 993-8182

Mark these dates on your calendar and plan to attend!

CALIFORNIA’S SESQUICENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY

STATE OF CALIFORNIA will be celebrating the 150th anniversary of its statehood in 2000. Throughout California over the next two and half years, celebrations will take place commemorating the gold rush and events leading up to California’s acceptance into the Union on September 9, 1950.

San Jose, a bustling pueblo and the site of the first state capital, played an important role in this history. In order to appropriately celebrate the sesquicentennial locally, the Heritage Council of Santa Clara County spearheaded an effort to involve the City of San Jose in planning activities for 2000 B.C.A.

On June 17, the City Council voted to appropriate $50,000 to be used as seed money to plan and coordinate local celebration endeavors. The city department, Convention, Arts and Entertainment, will have oversight responsibility for this project. The first step will be to form a committee of interested individuals who will explore sesquicentennial opportunities. If you are interested in serving on the committee or providing input, please call Judi Henderson, (408) 287-2290.

HISTORIC DOWNTOWN TOURS
MAY - OCTOBER
Free Noontime Walking Tours of Historic San Jose

Every Thursday and the first Saturday of the month

SAN JOSE IS A CITY with a fascinating past and an exciting future. Explore California’s oldest civil settlement. History and face a touch of nostalgia mark these tours. Come with us for a short walk through yesterday. The downtown tour guides are San Jose Historical Museum volunteer docents who specialize in Historic Downtown San Jose. Experience their knowledge and share their enthusiasm on these free tours. For more information, call (408) 287-2290.
"A CHINESE SUMMER FESTIVAL"

Sunday, July 20, 1997

IT IS HARD TO believe that this is the fifth anniversary of the Chinese Summer Festival. Once again the event will be held at the San Jose Historical Museum. The backdrop of the Ng Shing Gung replica and the other historic buildings at the Museum provide the perfect venue for this celebration of Chinese culture. Be sure to mark your calendar—July 20, 1997, 10:00AM - 5:00PM.


The festival offers something for everyone! Children can make arts and crafts items and play traditional games. Stunning martial arts and Chinese folk dancing will visually delight your senses. The Ng Shing Gung Temple’s beauty will awe its viewers. A traditional wedding procession and ceremony will enchant, while traditional Chinese music adds authentic sounds. Treat your taste buds to exotic Asian cuisine. Plus, many other exciting and educational activities. ADMISSION TO THE FESTIVAL IS FREE!!

The Festival is organized by the Chinese Historical and Cultural Projects (CHCP), a nonprofit educational organization. CHCP’s mission is to promote and preserve the Chinese and Chinese American culture. The organization was formed in 1987 to replicate the historic Ng Shing Gung, the cultural and religious center of San Jose’s Chinatown. CHCP continues educating the public through numerous community outreach activities.

For more information on the Festival, contact: Duane Heinz, 867-4514; Gordon Zane, 227-2872; Patrick Kwok, 741-0168; and Rodney Lum, (408) 965-8694 or Fawna Ferguson, 287-2290. For additional information of CHCP and their activities, check their website (www.chcp.org).

THE CITY STORES

WHILE VISITING EITHER the San Jose Historical Museum or the Peralta/Fallon Historic Site or taking a downtown walking tour during the summer be sure to stop and spend some time in The City Stores. What wonderful places to take out-of-town guests!

Always stocked with wonderful Victorian treasures, The City Stores offer season-related products during the summer such as garden gift items, flowered note cards and unusual jewelry. Don’t miss the hand-painted china pieces by a local artist.

For the best selection of local history books, including the recently released, Reflections of the Past: an archeology of San Jose, you cannot top The City Stores. The City Stores will soon have in stock, No Rooms of Their Own: Women Writers of Early California, 1849-1869, a book that has been out-of-print. Other history books, written from a women’s perspective, are also available.

Another not-to-be missed treat during the summer is an ice cream cone (the ice cream is locally made) or an old fashioned soda from O’Brien’s Candy Store located at the San Jose Historical Museum. You can even have a sarsaparilla! O’Brien’s is open Tuesday through Sunday throughout the year.