San Jose: A Personal View
by Wes Peyton

San Jose Historical Museum

Galeras, early leader in the movement to organize California's farm workers; Clara Shortridge Foltz, California's first female attorney and the woman responsible for the public defender movement; and Ray Blackmore, San Jose Police Chief for 54 years.

Now the San Jose Historical Museum Association is pleased to announce that a selection of these articles, with accompanying photographs, has been compiled into a beautiful hardbound volume to be given as a premium for members in 1990.

The warm and readable stories in this book will bring back memories of life in San Jose in the 1940s, 1950s, and 1960s, and leave you impressed by the contributions of so many of this area's citizens over the years.

San Jose: A Personal View is the sixteenth in a series of books to be published annually by the Museum Association. Available only through membership in the Association for 1990, the book will be given to every new and returning member for supporting the Museum in the coming year. San Jose: A Personal View is 110 pages in length, indexed for reference, and illustrated with over 70 black and white photographs drawn from the files of the San Jose Mercury News and the Archives of the San Jose Historical Museum.

Current members of the Museum Association will be receiving the 1990 renewal information in the mail during the month of November. An additional membership application is printed on page 8 of this issue of the Association News and applications are also available by calling the Museum (287-2290).

1990 memberships in the San Jose Historical Museum Association begin at $30 for individuals and seniors, $40 for families and $100 for corporations. In addition to San Jose: A Personal View, membership benefits include free admission to the Museum, a subscription to the bi-monthly Association News, discounts in the Museum shop, and invitations to exhibit openings, lectures, trips, and special events.

We urge you to join us in 1990 for another year of exciting growth and development. It is projected that we will be completing three new exhibit buildings on the Museum grounds in the next year and starting the construction of the next phase of our street system. Be a part of helping the San Jose Historical Museum move toward completion of its full master plan, while continuing to enjoy the many personal benefits of membership.

San Jose Historical Museum
635 Phelan Avenue
San Jose, California 95112

Address Correction Requested

VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS

Plan to bundle up the kids, pull up the rubber galoshes and wrap up tightly in woolen scarves, ear muffs, and mittens! Brave the cold! Come be warmed to your heart's delight by the nostalgic Christmas of yesteryear "1980's style!" at the Victorian Christmas on December 9 and 10, 1989.

See, hear and smell the magic of Christmas at the San Jose Historical Museum. Victorian vignettes, musical interludes, street car trolley rides, horse drawn wagons, fresh mistletoe, hot roasted chestnuts and needlecraft demonstrations are but a few of the many sights and sounds. Children will be treated to free craft making, holiday ornaments and to a surprise visit by Father Christmas during the children's storytelling hour. From 10 A.M. to 4 P.M. each day, the Museum will come alive with costumed characters and festively decorated buildings. Refresh yourself from the winter cold with hot soup at the Hotel soup kitchen. You can shop for that unique gift or book in the Pacific Hotel Gift Shop and lunch or snack in vintage splendor at O'Brien's ice cream and candy store.

A special donation drawing this year (see page 7) is a doll lover's delight showcasing handcrafted dolls, a handmade and intricate yo-yo quilt and over 100 Victorian ornaments created by the Museum's needlecraft volunteers.

General admission to Victorian Christmas will be $5.00 for adults, $2.50 for seniors, $2.00 for children (6-17) and children 5 and under are free!
ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

As I sit down to write this message, I realize it is the last newsletter article I will write as your Association President. I am glad to reflect on all the successes and accomplishments the San Jose Historical Museum Association has experienced over the past two years, but I have left you to keep abreast of these efforts as they occurred, so I hope you visit the Museum regularly to see what has been happening.

What those past two years have meant for me is a chance to work with enthusiastic and dedicated people toward the common goal of improving the Museum for everyone who uses it. Toward that goal, I have tried to contribute to the planning process for future Museum development. There is no question in my mind that in the not too distant future, the San Jose Historical Museum will be THE historical showcase for the Bay Area. The partnership between the City of San Jose and the San Jose Historical Museum Association has solidified into a working relationship that will enable many of these “dreams” to come true.

I believe the 1980 slate of officers is well-equipped to “make things happen,” and I expect many new and exciting things to appear at the Museum in the next year.

It has been my pleasure to serve as President, and I have learned a great deal from Mignon Gibson and Kathy Muller, both of whom have given so much effort in the development of what goes on in the Museum. Thank you both for your patience and help over the past two years; it has made my job much easier.

I want to also thank the current Board of Directors, and in particular outgoing Board members Bruce Pohle, Joan Buckley, Dave Doerr, Phil Grassier, Joen Helms, Linda Kelly, Bill Leonard, and Sue Robbins, who have volunteered countless hours while serving on the Board. I intend to remain involved and close to the Museum, as I hope all of you will, for it is YOUR involvement that guarantees the future for the San Jose Historical Museum.

Brian Serpa
Association President

IN THE COLLECTIONS

Loaning Artifacts

Because of the San Jose Historical Museum’s large and varied collection, other museums often approach us with requests for artifacts for exhibits. Artifacts for exhibit purposes benefits the Museum in several ways. It puts more of the Museum’s collection on view to the public and lending Artifacts benefits the Museum throughout the museum community. This further the Museum’s purpose of promoting the history of San Jose and the Santa Clara Valley.

Several conditions must be met by the borrowing institution before the Museum agrees to a loan. First, the loan must be for a limited time period, not longer than one year. Second, the Museum must be able to provide adequate security for the objects while they are on exhibit. The loan mast also be insured in the time it leaves the San Jose Historical Museum until its return. Loan agreements usually take several months to arrange. The curators of the two museums meet to review the list of requested objects. If the artifacts are not available, because they are already on loan, they are too fragile or otherwise unsuitable, then alternatives must be chosen. Once the selection process is completed, Museum curators prepare the artifacts by cleaning them, noting their condition, and packing them protectively for travel. Special conditions for exhibit, if any, are discussed with the borrowing museum. Each object must be properly accessioned and cataloged, and a detailed loan document must be prepared. After these preparations have been completed, the loan is ready to be picked up by the borrowing museum.

Objects from the San Jose Historical Museum are being loaned for two major exhibits this winter. The California History Center exhibit "A Century of Change in the Santa Clara Valley" features two bicycles, several trophies, and photographs of the Garden City Wheelmen from the museum collection. This will be on display from October 7, 1989, to February 17, 1990. The California History Center's gallery, opened by the DeAnza College bookstore, is and is 8:00 A.M.-10:00 Noon and 1:00-4:30 P.M. Monday to Friday and 1:00-6:00 P.M. on Saturday.

The Old Adobe Gallery, operated by the City of Fremont, will present "Tomorrow's Treasures: Antique Toys and Dolls from the San Jose Historical Museum" and "The Private Doll Collection of Jody Joy," from December 8, 1989, to January 14, 1990. This exhibit features a selection of toys from the Museum collection, including examples from building blocks to board games and doll furniture, many of which have never been exhibited before. The Old Adobe Gallery is located in 123 Washington Blvd, Fremont, across from Mission San Jose. It is open Monday through Friday from 10:00-5:00 P.M. and Thursday from 6:00-9:00 P.M. There will be an opening reception for the exhibit on Friday, December 8, from 9:00-10:00 P.M.
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DOCENT REPORT

Our 178 docents are trained and proficient in guiding groups of children and adults through the twelve building exhibits presently open. There are ten additional educational programs offered by the Museum and there are 73 docents qualified to present one or more of these programs by virtue of additional training. Perhaps the most ambitious of these is the Downtown Walking Tour. The vast amount of research done by Ellen Garboke and the late Lloyd Batchelder has been used to develop six different tours of historic San Jose. Tours range in time from forty-five minutes to three hours.

Historic San Jose is that area bounded by San Carlos, Julian, Notre Dame and Third Streets. Within this area are eighty-two structures and/or struc- tures of historical significance dating from 1797 to 1868. During the past year, we have answered the City's requests for specially-designed tours to highlight Destination Downtown and the openings of the Pavilion and Plaza Park.

Now that downtown reconstruction is nearly completed, we hope to increase the public's awareness of this program. Two of our Council's committees are developing programs for two tours for children and for business people who might be interested in a "walking lunch tour."
The San Jose Historic Landmarks Commission recently recommended the designation of the Wehrner Ranch and six adjacent buildings as an Historic Landmark Site. The Wehrner Ranch is located at 415 Villa Vista in the Villages Community in Evergreen.

The Wehrner residence was built in 1889 and was designed by famous Chicago architectur- e firm of Barnham and Root. It is the only known residence in California designed by the firm.

The historic area includes the main residence, a summer kitchen, garden house, brick walk- ways, bridge, 1908 winery, boiler house, terrace walls and heritage trees.

The complex is one of two estate wineries in the Santa Clara Valley that operated prior to the turn of the century and in which the buildings remain relatively unchanged from that period.

The owners of the property supported the land- mark nomination of the Wehrner residence and the ancillary buildings (the summer kitchen and garden house). However, they did not support the designation of the 1908 winery building, winery office and boiler house.

On September 26, 1898, the City Council held a public hearing on the historic designation. The Council meeting was well attended by members of the Villages community. The residents of the Villages expressed the position of the owners of the property. The City Council adopted a resolu- tion designating the Wehrner ranch house, summer kitchen, garden house, rock wall and brick path as an Historic Landmark.

The Greenawalt house, located on the west side of Almaden Expressway approximately 1,050 feet north of Nisene Mid Road, was also recommend- ed by the Historic Landmarks Commission to be an Historic Site.

The Greenawalt house and the tank house were designed and constructed in 1877 by David Greenawalt. The residence is an excellent exam- ple of 19th Century architecture built in classic Italianate style.

The Commission also reviewed two excellent documents: the "St. James Square Historic Dis- trict Design Guidelines" developed by the Depart- ment of City Planning and the San Jose Historic Landmarks Commission. The Draft of the publi- cation "Plan for the Past" developed by the City Council appointed Task Force. These documents will be reviewed in the next issue of the San Jose Historical Museum Association News.

The San Jose Historic Landmarks Commission meetings are held the first Wednesday of each month in Room 204 in the City Hall, 201 North First Street at 7:00 P.M. All are welcome to attend.

William Thomas, President Historic Landmarks Commission

Joe Melohan and son, Chris, in front of the Fruit Barn

INTRODUCING JOE MELEHAN

"I miss open spaces and orchards, and the traffic on Santer Road drives me nuts." These are the words of Joe Melohan who has served as Chair- man of the Development Council for two years and in January will begin duties as the Association Treasurer. But Joe continues, "I must admit that I like the new development of the last few years, because it is becoming more orderly and no longer dismisses the old historical aspects of San Jose."

These are the feelings of a 36 year-old family man with a five-generation history in the Santa Clara Valley. He has an appreciation for the values and background an agricultural home gives to a person, as well as for the opportunities for growth.

Joe was educated at St. Mary's Grammar School in San Jose and Bellarmine College Preparatory. From the "Bells" he went on to become one of the " Fighting Irish" alumni of the University of Notre Dame. Joe is also German and Italian, a local Perruc- ci descendant. Joe is proud of his parents, his great-grandfather's photos is displayed in the San Jose Historical Museum Print Shop. His name was John Stock, and he came in the early 1860's to run a hardware store supplying materi- als to pioneers and gold seekers.

Growing up Joe loved the freedom of open fields in Saratoga where he and brothers, Jim, and John, and sister, Maureen, could freely play. For his son, Chris, and daughter, Maria, he feels the same about their freedom. They have to be driven by car to play in an "open space." Luckily, Joe and his wife, Celeste, enjoy close neighbors and the children have many friends near their Willow Ranch home. He calls the neighborhood "that bed of history in the Decorative Arts and Oriental Works of Art. Customers will have their items appraised on a first-come, first-served basis according to the categories in which their items fall.

Items to be appraised in each category include:

**Furniture & Decorative Arts**
- European and American, antique, porcelain, glass, decorative art and bronze. No silver, coins, manuscripts, stamps or books.

**Paintings**
- Paintings, watercolors, drawings, and sculp- tures. Does not include Old Master, European, American and Contemporary.

**Collectibles**
- Toys, dolls, Disney celluloids, vintage clothing, memorabilia, trains and lead soldiers.

**Oriental Works of Art**
- Rice, cherry, lacquer, porcelain, ceramics, netsuke, and metalwork.

**Heirloom Day** is a benefit for the San Jose His- torical Museum, and appraisal fees are $4 per item for Museum members and $6 per item for non-members. There will be a strict limit of three items per individual to ensure that more people can be served. The public is invited to bring a single item with dimensions and other pertinent information for antiques too large to bring to the Museum.

**HEIRLOOM DAY SPECIAL**

The San Jose Historical Museum Association Gift Shop is offering four unique books, such as THE COLLECTORS, by Bob Rau. Foreword by Dana Garrett.

Inspired by the hit PBS television series of the same name, THE COLLECTORS is perfect for both the avid and novice collector. Learn about appraisals, auctions and estate sales, tax guidelines and care of collectibles.

**AUTHOR:** Bob Rau is a certified GIA gemolo- gist, certified antique appraiser, and cohost of the PBS show THE COLLECTORS with the show's producer, Dana Garrett.

Available now, 104 pages, 36 color and 7 black & white photos. $19.95 + tax
10% discount for members
CENTENNIAL OF A RECORD RAIN

The local news columns this summer noted that June 30 ended the three driest rainfall seasons in San Jose history. But what they left unremarked was the fact that on July 1 we began the centennial of the wettest season in the city’s history. Should there be some sort of observance to invoke the rain gods to get back into the act?

In that memorable period 100 years ago, 30.30 inches of rain were recorded in San Jose between June 30, 1889, and July 1, 1890. October brought 4.79 inches, November 10.55 inches in December, 6.52 in January, 3.64 in February, and 2.08 in March.

On December 9, 1889, the San Jose News reported under the headline, “Over the Bank”:

The Guadalupe Creek rose nearly four feet during the three hours ending at 2:30 yesterday afternoon. *** A few minutes later several break backs occurred on the east bank of the creek in the old he of Drayton and city limits on the south, quickly flooding all that section of the country from a point two miles south of Willow Street to Ballard Street on the north, ranging in width from one hundred yards to a quarter of a mile and being from three to five feet deep. *** The submerged district at Willow Street was about four hundred yards wide and extended from Lick Avenue to Minnesota and the bridge across the Guadalupe. *** The country in the vicinity of the Agnews Asylum was under water.

An item the following day referred to the “almost incessant and uncomfortable rains of the last 10 days.” That night the deluge carried away five small houses on Boulder Creek. A two-mile irrigation ditch was to be dug along Lick Avenue to carry water to surrounding orchards.

And the rain continued to come. On December 18 the editor of the News noted that Mt. Hamilton’s range was covered with snow and “it will be a little odd to find the Christmas tree loaded down with greenery, but it must be admitted that nothing can be more appropriate at this time of the way of a present.”

On December 23 the paper reported that 15 inches of rein had fallen on the city since October 7, the first day of the rainy season. The city was a sea of mud, but Mayor Boron noted there had been just six winters before that had been equaled.

The Arroyo de la Guadalupe was fed from Santa Clara Valley Water District's float, making the heavy rains and mud, which may have exceeded those of 40 years later, even worse. It was a reason to cancel plans to go to the beach, according to the editor. “It marks the first time in 40 years that there were no good days for the 100-year-old field.” But what about the 100-year drought?

Someone has come up with an idea to restore lost wetlands to the migratory birds and other wildlife by buying up marginal agricultural lands in the San Joaquin Valley and assigning water rights that go with them to the former marsh areas which are being drained for human use.

Well, if this can be done for the ducks, and I’m all for it, how about doing it for people? How about having the Santa Clara Valley Water District float a bond issue to pick up some San Joaquin cotton fields and claim the water that goes with them? There should be enough cotton in the old South and elsewhere to meet our needs.

There will be wet years to come, and don’t play the possibility of that 100-year flood. But if we look for additional sources for extended dry periods, we’ll all be spitting cotton.

Dick Barrett retires from the staff of the San Jose Mercury News and is a member of the San Jose Historical Museum Association. This article first appeared, in longer form, in the Perspective section of the Mercury News on August 6, 1989.

1911 Flooding on Pierce Avenue near Colton in San Jose. SJHM Collections.

DIAMONDS, GIRLS’ BEST FRIEND

With the interest in this fall’s World Series, it seemed timely to publish this reminiscence of girls’ baseball in Gilroy many years ago.

“Girls, play baseball!”

“Not on our field, they can’t.”

“They can’t even throw a ball straight.”

“Girls run funny, anyway.”

In 1936, the only baseball diamond at St. Mary’s in Gilroy was in the field next to Monterey Road and it was part of “The Boys Yard.” The boys stood guard over their turf and argued that they needed the whole field. There was no room for girls. The girls, feminists before our time, asked for, bargained for, and agitated for equal treatment. Even in the fourth grade we burned with loyalty to our sex and followed the lead of the “big girls” in seventh and eighth grade.

Sister did listen and promised to find space for us to play softball. She conferred with the other three nuns and with Tim, the handyman around the school. Then she made her announcement, “The girls will not use the boys’ baseball diamond during school hours.”

“Hey, we won,” the boys crowed.

“She will have a ball field of their own.”

“Told you so,” the big girls sniffl and we sniffed along with them.

...in the cow pasture. She was matter-of-fact about it. “Tim should have it ready by next week.”

St. Mary’s had a cow pasture because the nuns had four milk cows. Even when Gilroy city limits moved north and surrounded the convent and school, the nuns kept their cows, their barn, the hay field and the pasture between the girls’ playground and the old church cemetery.

Soon after Sister’s announcement, Tim was on his way out to the pasture armed with a shovel and wheelbarrow. A small army in white middies and navy blue pleated skirts fell in line behind him.

“We want to help.”

“We can, Tim?”

“Please.”

“First thing to do is run them cows off down the field. Slow and easy,” he cautioned. “Now, where do you want this thing?”

“Put home plate there near the gate.”

“No. This side is better.”

“I think it should be close to that oak tree.”

“Not there, dummy. The cows stand around under that tree all day. You know what that means?”

“Okay.”

Tim leaned on his shovel. “Doesn’t look like I’m apt to get much done until you all clear out of here. Go on now, girls.” We watched from the playground side of the fence as Tim stepped off the bases. Next, he cut and shoveled away the sod to make paths between the bases.

Morning recess the next day was our first chance to inspect our new baseball diamond. The big girls led the way. “Last one close the gate. If these cows get out, we’ll be in trouble.”

“We get to play!” third graders wanted to know.

“All the girls, or we won’t have enough to make two teams,” eighth graders decided.

That was just the beginning. We never saw an official rule book. The big girls set rules based on what they knew about softball and made up the rest. Extra strikes were allowed for the little girls until they got better at hitting the ball. The pitcher’s mound was moved according on the strength of the pitcher’s arm. Nobody was left on the sidelines. Positions were invented so that everyone on the team was out on the field at the same time and everyone had a turn at bat. Unfairing was by consensus. If that didn’t work, the loudest voice and common sense usually prevailed.

“Bada.”

“Shes was out.”

“How would you know? You weren’t even looking.”

“Stop fighting or we won’t get our ‘ups’ before the ball rings.”

All it took was a little imagination, a lot of cooperation, and just the right amount of competitive-ness and caring to make girls’ softball on the diamond in the cow pasture a success. The boys never did understand.

Bernadette Barton

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San Jose: City With A Past
The Association’s popular 1989 premium book, features over 100 black and white historic and contemporary photographs of downtown San Jose.

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CLAIRE IRONHILL
REVEALS HISTORY OF POST OFFICE DESK

Public lodgings on the Butterfield Overland stage route south to Monterey took their names from their distance south of San Jose: Ten-mile House, Two-mile House, Six-mile House, Twenty-one-mile House, and so on. Some of these way stations became the focus for small communities.

Twelve-mile House served the community of Coyote, familiar to many San Jose Historical Museum visitors through the Coyote post office exhibit. Eighteen-mile House and the surrounding settlement of Madrone are also commemorated at the post office exhibit in the form of a small desk once used in the Madrone post office.

Madrone was a small farming community similar to Coyote. Its post office, then known as Sherman, was established on December 13, 1867, with Daniel Malloy as the first Postmaster. This was most likely located in Eighteen-mile House. When the Southern Pacific railway line was built in 1869, it bypassed Madrone. The name of the post office was changed from Sherman to Madrone in 1882. The 1889 County Directory lists a post office. The Postmaster, private Postman who moved the Madrone, Madrone Hotel, and agent for Southern Pacific and Wells Fargo.

Discovery of hot springs in the foothills east of Madrone contributed to the development of the community in the 1890s and early 1900s. Madrone Soda Springs was as popular a resort as Gilroy Hot Springs some six miles south. A road ran from the Soda Springs to the Madrone railway depot, with a stage line making four trips daily. The resort remained in operation until about 1940. Some of the buildings may still be seen in what is now Henry Coe State Park.

After Louis Pipendorf's death in 1911, the Madrone Hotel was closed. Mrs. Pipendorf served as acting Postmistress until Guy Fogarty was appointed Postmaster in 1911. Fogarty was followed by Nellie Kirby, Tillie Fay, Ethel Hothadard, Alice Kenyon and Irene Borella during subsequent years. These names were taken from information in Husted and Polk's City and County Directories and may be incomplete.

The Madrone Hotel building still exists today as a private residence at Monterey Highway and Peel Drive. The building bears Madrone's former location. Mrs. Claire Ironshell, who grew up in Madrone, describes the Madrone Hotel post office as a typical small building with three rooms, a porch, and a fenced backyard. The Postmaster's family lived in the back rooms.

Mrs. Ironshell's mother, Kathryn Sullivan, Joaquín, served as acting Postmistress in this building from 1943 to 1944. Her mother-in-law, Mary Joaquín, gave her a small roll-top desk to use; this desk is now in the Coyote post office exhibit. According to Mrs. Ironshell, with the Museum acquired the desk, familiar tradition holds that the desk was brought around the Horn in the early 1800s.

Alice Karrer and Preda Carlton served as acting Postmistresses from 1944-1946, followed by Mr. Ronald Madroni, son of Joseph Joaquín, who became Postmaster of Madrone in 1947. After three years of making do with the inadequacies of a small room, Mrs. Joaquín, as Mrs. Ironshell describes as "ramshackle," Joaquín had a new post office constructed at her own expense. This building was dedicated on March 1, 1950. Like the old post office, living quarters for the Postmaster and his family occupied the rear of the building. But unlike the older building, this one had "the latest in indirect lighting and heating" according to a March 30, 1950, newspaper article.

Joaquín rented the building to the Postal Service as reimbursement for his construction expenses. Upon his retirement, the building and the post office was moved to a community garage next door. A few years later, the Madrone post office was closed permanently and postal service provided by Morgan Hill.

Sarah Heigho Nunes Curator

Charles Harmon, artist, lived on Clintonia Street in San Jose and had studios at the old San Jose Post Office Building and later in the Grant Building. He is buried in the Oak Hill Cemetery. Photo of the painting is courtesy of Judge Mark Thomas, Jr.

HARMON PAINTING
ENJOYED BY JURORS

At the turn of this century the local art scene was dominated by three painters: Andrew Hill (1852-1922), A.D.M. Cooper (1856-1909), and Charles Harmon (1859-1936). In his History of San Jose, Clyde Arbuckle describes the trio as the "judges of San Jose's art universe for more than forty years."

The name of Andrew Hill, renowned as the savant of the redwoods, remains familiar because of the school named after him. Cooper stays in the public eye because he produced such a volume of paintings. Indeed, one of Cooper’s best hangs in the chambers of his good friend, Judge John Flaherty.

Charles Harmon retains public presence by his massive painting that hangs in the jury assembly room of the Superior Court building. This painting has quite a history. Harmon received a $1,000 commission to paint East Santa Clara Valley at blossom time for the 1913 World’s Fair. There is no record of what happened to the painting after the Fair until 1936, when it was hung in the library of the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors on the second floor of the old Courthouse on North First Street.

The canvas remained on display until 1954, when a shortage of courtrooms necessitated the Board’s removal to Rosa (now Hedding) Street. The former Board chambers become a courtroom and the painting was promptly covered with drapes. The large 9’ by 18’ oil painting was removed in 1967, after the court moved to a jury assembly room next door in the old Hall of Records (since razed and now an open commons). The difficulty of moving the huge piece were noted in a San Jose Mercury article on February 10, 1962.

Sweat and tears — but no blood — can move the "big picture" in Superior Judge Robert E. Castrillon’s court to County Jury Commissioner Alyce Bums’ jury assembly room on first floor of the Hall of Records Bldg. So opined W. Ray James, San Jose transfer and storage company executive, after a voyage of the enormous eight-foot-by-15-foot oil painting yesterday.

James said he will assign a crew of movers to crate the 500-pound painting of East Santa Clara Valley in blossom time early next week, using a crane that belongs to himself, and hoist it out of a courthouse window — the same way it was moved in by Board of Supervisors 30 years ago. Canvas is so large, and so heavy with its glazed plaster-of-Paris frame, it cannot be squeezed through the courthouse door on second floor of the courthouse without dismantling a portion of the courthouse ceiling, James told Mrs. Sunset.

The Jury Commissioner wants the painting rubbing on a broad expanse of blank wall in the jury assembly room — formerly occupied by the County Controller — to break the monotony of the room. Ceiling flood lights, already installed, will enhance the rich colors of the vivid scene.

James said he will move the painting at no expense to the County, Mrs. Sunset stated.

In 1965 the jury assembly room was to be transferred to the new courthouse on North Market Street. Discussions began as to what to do with the painting. After several months, the subject of a San Jose News article on March 19, 1965:

JUDGES WON’T ‘HANG’ BIG PAINTING

Santa Clara County residents called to jury duty from throughout the valley will continue to have a revitalized, uncluttered Superior Court jury chambers as the judges and district attorneys have decided not to relegate a 9 by 18 foot oil of East San Jose in blossom time to a museum status since the view the painting shows is largely a thing of the past itself.

The large painting has been hanging in various parts of the first floor jury assembly rooms.

It sprang into prominence once more when County Jury Commissioner Paul Stelling said he thought the plaster walls of the new courthouse might buckle under the weight of the large painting.

Thursday, judges bunched together decided Stelling should steel himself to working steel wall supports into his discussions with county officials.

The big picture should go along with them to the new courthouse, the jurists decided.

As Judge John D. Foley put it:

"Every time I look at the big picture, I feel a little distress. Distress because it depicts the leisureliness of our valley which no longer exists."

Judge Marshall S. Hall was appointed Chairman of a committee to work with Stelling to move the painting. Stelling’s movement was to brighten the days of the many jurors who convene in Santa Clara County’s Superior Courthouse.

Judge Mark Thomas, Jr. Advisory Board

HOLIDAY GIFT IDEA

The San Jose Historical Museum Association Gift Shop offers special holiday items and books, such as FRANCER by Stephen E. Cosgrove, Illustrated by Carol Heyer.

PRANCER is the story of a little girl named Jessica, and a small town where the hope and joy of Christmas seem to have been forgotten.

PRANCER is based on the forthcoming movie to be released at Thanksgiving 1989.

AUTHOR: Stephen E. Cosgrove is a master at making the magic of believing come to life.

ILLUSTRATOR: Carol Heyer displays her award-winning talents in FRANCER.

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The Victorian Christmas donation drawing last year was a big success — so big we are going to repeat it again this year, with a variety of collectible dolls, graciously donated by individuals and local businesses, will be featured. This issue of the Association News contains a flyer highlighting our generous donors. A big holiday "thank you" to each and every one of them. In addition to the dolls in the drawing, a beautiful yo-yo quilt (see accompanying description) and exquisite tree ornaments created by our dedicated volunteers will be featured.

The dolls, quilt, and ornaments will be on display in the Pacific Hotel lobby after November 6. They will be available for viewing and bidding up to the date on at the lobby desk. Drawing tickets are $1.00 a piece, or six for $5.00. Each prize has been numbered, hence you may buy your ticket and place the stub in a numbered slot which corresponds with the prize of your choice.

To receive tickets by mail, call the Museum at 287-2980 before December 1.

The drawing will be held on Sunday, December 10, at the conclusion of Victorian Christmas. You need not be present to win. Winners will be notified. Items are available for pick up beginning Monday, December 11.

Laurel Persue

THE YO-YO QUILT

For the New England colonists and later for the settlers of America's West, quilting was a necessity, not only because it provided warm bedding, but also because it was a source of income as the women who spent their days struggling to survive. Out of the need for skilled and scrupulous fabric, a brilliant art form emerged — patchwork quilts.

Novelty quilts, such as the puffbush patchwork quilt, cathedral curtains and the yo-yo quilts, emerged during the late Victorian times. The yo-yo quilt became very popular during the 1920s. It has no batting and is thus purely for decoration.

Yo-yo's are circles of gathered fabric that can create a marvelous three-dimensional effect. Making the yo-yo's calls for extreme accuracy, for if each circle is not exactly the same size, joining the circles together will be impossible.

Rosa Fountain

ENDOWMENT FUND DONATIONS

During the months of September and October 1989, contributions were made to the Museum's Endowment Fund, a Projects Fund in honor of the following individuals:

In Memoriam
Marilyn "Ming" Hecht
Beryl Helms
David Hartley
Beverly Miller
John Serpa
Leonora "Pouky" Silva
Effie Turpin

In Honor
Mignon Gibson
for her support of the Chinese Historical Cultural Project

Dulce Jansen
for her Speakers Bureau presentation

Gifts to the San Jose Historical Museum Association to honor someone on a special occasion, or as a memorial, may be sent to the San Jose Historical Museum Association Endowment Fund, 635 Telean Avenue, San Jose, CA 95112. A letter of acknowledgement will be sent to the person being honored or the family of the deceased.
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VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: ON YOU!
Don't get cabin fever this winter. Give something positive back to the community by becoming a valuable volunteer at the Museum.
There's a spot for you! Phone Volunteer Coordinator Dulcis Janzen at 287-2290 or send this coupon and we will contact you.

Name
Address
City
Zip
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Days Available:

Please mail to: San Jose Historical Museum, 635 Phelan Avenue, San Jose, CA 95112. And thank you for your much-needed involvement and support!

Mystery Photo
This is an award-winning photo by former Mercury-News photographer, Mike Conner. Unfortunately, we don't know the date, the event, or the names of the kids. If you can help us identify this photo, please call the Archives (408) 287-2290.

Matching Gift Companies
The San Jose Historical Museum Association has qualified to participate in the matching gift programs of the following companies:

- AT&T
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If you are employed by one of these firms, we urge you to obtain the appropriate form from your employer and send it to us with your 1990 membership. Your gift to the San Jose Historical Museum will then be increased at no additional expense to you.

The I.R.S. now requires charitable organizations to notify donors that only certain portions of donations are tax deductible or eligible for corporate match. The organization must notify donors of the value of goods and services received. If applicable, the current value of contributions is to be reflected in the San Jose Historical Museum Association above $15.00 may be claimed.

Please help us take advantage of the generous corporate support available in our community to benefit the Museum.

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LEW BOHNERT
Almost any place you look on the Museum grounds there is something that was collected and cared for by Lewis Dan Bohnett. In 1965 the City of San Jose acquired, through a generous financial arrangement with Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Renzel, Jr., a huge collection of horse-drawn vehicles, motorcycles, dolls, lamps, clothing and paintings which graced Bohnett's museum and amusement park on Monterey Highway for a number of years.

Trader Lew, as he came to be known, died last August at the age of 72. He and his son and daughter had been living in El Dorado County since 1984.

Lew Bohnett was a native of San Jose and one of its characters. He had a great sense of humor and a wonderful memory. He loved collecting historic items and had outstanding collections of music boxes, carriages, and paintings by San Jose artist Ashley D.M. Cooper. Some of the latter are now on display at the City's new convention center.

Among the items from Bohnett's collection on display at the Museum are the Doctor's buggy, old fire-fighting equipment in the firehouse, and the novelty machines in the hotel lobby. The Dathonay Stables houses a gypsy wagon, hearse, and Studebaker carriage that once belonged to Bohnett.

Some of us remember Lew's hard service during World War II. City Historian Clyde Arbuckle in his History of San Jose notes Lew collected a couple of ancient hanks and rounded up 10 "old crooks" with the idea of conserving gasoline by replacing taxicabs. According to Clyde Arbuckle, Lew was still chalking 20 years later, remembering a couple of antiquated city ordinances which allowed him to infringe on the cab business.

"A business license for a one-horse back cost $5; for a two-horse back, $7.50. On the other hand a taxicab license cost $300," Lew remembered.

The San Jose Historical Museum will be forever thankful Lew Bohnett had an interest in history and collected its memorabilia. Thanks, Lew.

Patricia Loomis

San Jose Historical Museum Association

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