LIVING HISTORY DAY SET

The San Jose Historical Museum is looking for people to participate in a LIVING HISTORY DAY which will recreate San Jose as it was 100 years ago (May 1883). The Living History Day will be held Saturday, May 14, 1983, from noon to 4:00 p.m. at the San Jose Historical Museum (in Kelley Park) 635 Phelan Avenue.

Living history is an interpretive program that uses historically accurate clothing and objects (usually reproductions) as props. Participants assume particular character roles and then reenact a typical, but invented day. Characters may include, but are not limited to, townspeople (all generations), farmers, tradespeople, or anyone who might have been in town.

Based on the idea of Williamsburg or Greenfield Village, single day programs of Living History have been created at several California museums. Among them are the Railroad Museum and Sutter’s Fort in Sacramento, and Fort Point in San Francisco. By using historically accurate clothing and artifacts, live people bring a reality to museums and history that cannot be achieved in the standard exhibit.

The San Jose Historical Museum is ideal for a living history program. It is easy to visualize the streets with horse-drawn vehicles, high-wheel bicycles, street vendors, children, laborers, lawyers, etc. We are planning to have a blacksmith demonstration, a Civil War muster encampment, antique bicycles, and hopefully, a hot air balloon. We have a number of possibilities for horse-drawn vehicles and street vendors. The major need remains for “townspeople” participants.

Participants attend 3 training meetings, research their “personality”, and provide their own costumes and props. The Museum will provide help and training. In addition, many behind the scenes people will be needed to produce the program of Living History events. Three planning/training meetings will be held on Saturdays March 5, April 9, and April 30 at 10:00 A.M. in the Meeting Room of the Pacific Hotel. For further information, contact the San Jose Historical Museum, Nancy Valby, 287-2290, mornings.

TOUR HISTORIC SALINAS LUNCH AT THE STEINBECK HOUSE

WHEN: Thursday, April 14
WHO: Association Members & their Guests
General Public if space allows
HOW: Royal Coach Tours
restroom equipped, air-conditioned bus
TIMES: 8:30 a.m. — 4:00 p.m.
Leaving from, and returning to, the Museum
Parking in the rear lot off Phelan Avenue
COST: $16.00 (includes bus fare, lunch tax and tip)

Join us for a fascinating tour of historic Salinas! We will visit the Boronda Adobe, the Harvey-Baker House, learn about the activities of the Monterey County Historical Society, and lunch at the famous Steinbeck House.

Harvey-Baker House
A Victorian, dating from 1868, this was the home of Isaac J. Harvey, the first mayor of Salinas.

Boronda Adobe
Built by Jose Eusebio Boronda during the Mexican Rancho era, this adobe was restored with the use of handmade materials by the Monterey County Historical Society. It houses exhibits pertaining to the history of the area.

The offices of the Monterey County Historical Society are located in the Brooks House
behind the adobe. Here we will see a slide presentation on the activities of the Society, and enjoy some mid-morning refreshments!

Steinbeck House
The birthplace and boyhood home of author John Steinbeck, this large frame Victorian house is the setting for a luncheon-only restaurant run by members of the Valley Guild. (All profits go to local charities).

Our group will be seated for lunch at 1:15. Following our meal, we will be given a short tour and presentation on the history of the Steinbeck House.

Reservations are limited, and no refunds can be made after April 7. Checks should be made payable to the San Jose Historical Museum Association and sent to: San Jose Historical Museum, 635 Phelan Avenue, San Jose, CA 95112, Attn: Kathy Muller.

Receipt of your check will confirm your reservation. If you have any questions, call the Museum, 287-2290, for more information.

PATRICIA LOOMIS
will be present in the Museum Gift Shop

Pacific Hotel
Sunday, March 13th
2:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.
to autograph your copy of
SIGNPOSTS
A New Year

1983 has started out very well for me, the Museum, and the San Jose Association. On January 2, 1983, I received the official status of Museum Director, giving recognition to the job that I had been performing for sometime. The contract for Dulcie Janzen as Volunteer Coordinator expired in June. I am pleased to report that the City Council and her many hours of work throughout the summer and fall also officially recognized the City of San Jose. Parks and Recreation Department helps the Museum. The City Council is the best small budget any further in the 1983-84 fiscal year and is working on Keller Park management concepts that will assist and enhance the Museum's operation. The Museum continues to rent facilities. Currently the Museum's rental pesos of myself as Museum Director, Wanda Foss as Museum Secretary, Dulcie Janzen as part-time Volunteer Coordinator and the Museum Association funded parttime positions that include Kathy Muller in Newsletter/Association Services, Nancy Valley as Collections Registrar and Virginia Beck as Docent Coordinator. It is a small and part-time staff but their energy, ideas and devotion to the Museum programs are inspiring and have made the difficult times easier to overcome. With the added efforts of the many volunteers the success of the Museum can be assured.

1983 Association Board Starts New Year

The 1983 Association Board met for the first time in January with the Advisory Board and Development Committee in attendance. To start the board year off, a luncheon was organized by Marty Lion and Patty Isenb that enabled members to casually discuss their participation before the business meetings concluded. The Association approved the 1983 budget and began plans that cover many different areas. Space prohibits the mention of details here, but Association members are always welcome to attend the Board meetings held on the fourth Wednesday of every month at noon in the Pacific Hotel. Anyone wishing to become a board member or active on a subcommittee should make his interest known.

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

ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

For this issue I would like to report on the January Association Board meeting and events taking place at that meeting. Your new Board met on Jan. 26th. The newly formed Advisory Committee met in hand, as well as the Development Committee members. These two groups met separately to discuss their role in relation to the Museum.

One of the most important items of business for the Board was the 1983 budget. The Board agreed to finance five issues of this newsletter this year. Kathy reports that she has enough material for five issues and intends to inform you of coming events on a more timely basis. Thus, the Board also passed a motion to move the City of San Jose for permission to operate O'Brien's Candy Shop. The current operator's contract expires this July and the Board desires to take over operations of the candy store and run it for the Museum and the Association's benefit. If we are successful in obtaining operating rights to the candy shop, this will be a real opportunity to expand our involvement with the Museum and produce some income to fund our projects.

Eric Bracher
Association President

FROM THE EDITOR

Thanks to the many who attended, and our excellent speakers, the Winter History Nights lecture series was a great success! If any of you should have suggestions for future lectures or one-day trips, I would love to hear from you.

I am also very grateful to our new advertisers who, along with the advertisers who have supported us for some time, have made it possible for the Museum Association to experiment with bringing this newspaper to you on a bi-monthly basis for the remainder of 1983. By publishing an edition of the Association News every other month (instead of quarterly) I think we can better keep you informed of activities here at the Museum as well as offer more articles of historic interest.

Please patronize our advertisers and tell them you appreciate their support of the San Jose Historical Museum.

Kathy Muller
Editor
DOCENT REPORT

On Feb. 28 a special program was organized for the Monterey County Historical Society Docents. These docents had contacted our Docent Board and requested a meeting. We shared ideas on our programs and explained how our Council functioned. The 1983 Docent Training Program begins on March 7. The Admissions Committee has interviewed about 40 people who have signed up to participate in the 13 week training sessions. The Docent Council Board has planned a Spring Housecleaning Day for April 11. The docents will spend the morning sweeping and dusting in the buildings. Afterwards we will enjoy a Pot Luck Lunch.

Mary Ann Herlicky
Docent Council President

MUSEUM SERVICE COUNCIL

The rains have not dampened our spirits, volunteers have continued to be available for our public rain or shine! This has been a time of joy and excitement as many new volunteers have joined our program. The Gift Shop is now staffed Tuesday through Sunday and for special events. Starting this month, volunteers will be scheduled in the Main Exhibit on weekends to provide security and to act as an interpreter for our visitors. Volunteers meet at 9:30 a.m. the second Saturday of each month for ongoing training and sharing. Please call the Museum 287-2290 for additional information.

Dulcie Janzen
Volunteer Coordinator

COLLECTION NEWS

Next time you visit the Museum be sure to examine the small exhibit on "pillow lace" in the Pacific Hotel Lobby. Lace making was both a gentle lady's pastime and a cottage industry. Although machine-made lace was widely available in the late 19th Century, ladies continued their lace making pastime. Patterns were published in the popular women's magazines and materials were available by mail order. Also undergoing a change are the dresses in the "Vintage Fashion" exhibit in the Gift Shop. Now being displayed are some of the fine garments from the Land collection. At the present time we are negotiating the acquisition of the "Passing Farms" exhibit which has been touring the area for the last year. This exhibit would become a part of our permanent collection. Ultimately the exhibit could be featured as a portion of the agricultural presentation in the Fruit Barn.

Nancy Valby
Collections Registrar

Post Card Photo Contest
Sponsored by the San Jose Historical Museum Association

1. For the purpose of selecting two different color slide pictures of buildings that are located on the grounds of the San Jose Historical Museum at Kelley Park, for use on post cards to be sold at the Museum and throughout the area. Each photographer will receive full credit (printed on the post card) if his photo is used.
2. Winners will have the honor of having their photo appear on 6,000 post cards. Each photographer will receive full credit (printed on the post card) if his photo is used.
3. The contest is open to all persons.
4. Contestants will not be allowed to climb any buildings or the Light Tower, and they must not interfere with or obstruct the visitors' view of Museum exhibits.
5. Photos are to be taken during regular Museum operating hours or when the Museum is open for special events.
6. Name, address, and phone number must be printed on each slide submitted.
7. Send to...Post Card Contest, San Jose Historical Museum, 635 Phelan Avenue, San Jose, California 95112...by April 30, 1983.
8. The winners will be selected by a panel of judges composed of five Museum Association members.
10. All slide photos submitted become the property of the San Jose Historical Museum and will not be returned.

Thank You

Pat Loomis

for the start of an excellent membership year!

The Association

Author Patricia Loomis and Association Board member, Judge Mark Thomas, Jr., at annual Holiday Party. Photo by Charles Shields.

NOTICE

The Pacheco Creek Bridge located at Dunne Lane - San Felipe Road in Santa Clara/San Benito Counties, California will be available for adaptive reuse. The Pacheco Creek Bridge, Bridge No. 37c-301 has been determined as eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. The Pacheco Creek Bridge, located on San Felipe Road 1.6 miles south of Pacheco Pass and State Highway 152, is described as a simple span, pin-connected Pratt through steel truss with steel rolled beam stringers, steel rolled beam floor beams and asphaltic concrete deck, on concrete gravity type abutments. Its single span is 100 feet in length (total bridge length is 104 feet). 23.3 feet in width, and carries a two-lane, 20.3 foot roadway between flex beam railings. Crossing Pacheco Creek at right angles (no skew). The truss provides a vertical clearance of 16 feet 7 inches through its portals. Santa Clara County Surveyor J.F. McCly直营 designed the bridge, which was completed in 1914/15 as a joint Santa Clara/San Benito County project. The bridge was initially supported without supports for Highway Bridges, 1960 edition. It is the second bridge to open the site; in 1894, the original timber deck and stringer systems were replaced; while in 1965, the bridge was painted, resurfaced, and had its bearings cleaned. If your agency or preservation group is interested in the adaptive reuse of this bridge, please contact D.E. Garaventa, Basin Research Associates (415) 487-0923.

HISTORICAL NEWS ITEM

The "Hello" Girl


The "hello" of the new telephone girl of the People's Telephone Company was heard for the first time this morning from the central office to over 300 telephones of the company now in use. The management stated today that it would be only a day or two when all the connections would be completed and the 700 subscribers in all will be in direct communication.

(researched by Leolo Hawes)
Vinous Vignettes
THE GERMAN INFLUENCE

Writers over the years have usually remarked at the particularly Germanic influence in the winegrowing community of the Napa and Sonoma Valleys during their pioneer days. Names like Krug, Beringer, Schramm, Drees and Gundlach remind us of this tradition. The same was true of the French community in the Santa Clara Valley. But almost hidden from view here and in the hills above were a fairly large number of Germans who contributed to our local wine history to an extent that far exceeded their numbers.

There are a few German names among the valley’s earliest vineyardists, but the name of Francis Stock stands out for his importation of top German wine varieties to San Jose in 1859. These he planted in town and, when he retired in 1869, he dug up the grown vines and transported them by wagon to Charles LeFrand’s New Almaden Vineyard. They became the base for his Rieslings, which even Charles Krug greatly admired. Although not a permanent settler here, the fiery Charles M. Weber, founder of Stockton, owned the purveyard land in the valley and was probably the first to introduce the Zinfandel to this area under that name. Until the 1860s this grape had traveled here under the name Black St. Peters, from imports made by French merchant Antoine Delmas.

By the 1890s we see a German name here and there on a valley vineyard and an occasional winery, but the only important connection was The Santa Cruz Mountains above Los Gatos, near Lexington, Wrights and Alma. Here was a regular colony of German settlers, many of whom had bought their land from Emilie Meyers, whose Marc Viata Vineyard is near the summit destined winegrowing operations there for years. The area’s most important individual German winegrower did reside in the valley, however, and his great estate one of the finest in Northern California. This was William Wehner, who founded his remarkable wine operation in 1888 in the Evergreen area. His beautiful winery and home still grace the land above the Villages residential community.

Wehner was important for his successful wine operations, but like many of German descent he had a keen interest in the scientific advancement of viticulture and winemaking. There were others in this area whose contributions were chiefly in this line. William Pfeffer on the West Side above Saratoga made some of the best claret in the state, but his main interest was grape breeding and the development of resistant rootstock to protect the tender European varieties from the dreaded phylloxera root louse. His name is still attached to the Cabernet Pfeffer, a vine he was instrumental in developing and which is now raised commercially only by the valley’s own Almaden Vineyards. Pfeffer worked closely with Napa’s Professor George Husmann and U.C. Berkeley’s famed Eugene Hilgard, both of German birth. All were instrumental in selecting the Rupetra St. George as a sort of universal rootstock for California at the turn of the century.

Pfeffer rarely got angry at his fellow winemakers, but he certainly did voice his disapproval of an event that showed the continued numerical importance of the French in local wine affairs. In 1895 some of the sessions of the district viticultural convention held in San Jose were conducted in the French language, a fact that Pfeffer declared to be a bit un-American. Other Germans in the area made fine names for their wines, not surprisingly most in a Teutonic style from the Riesling grape. One of the finest of these was produced by John Koster at his Mt. Hamilton Vineyard. On the Santa Cruz side George Bram at Vine Hill and A. Lilincrantz near Aptos were also noted for their whites.

In more recent years the most remarkable wine concentration of German talent has been noticeable in the resurgence of Paul Masson’s historic winery by Seagrams, in 1943. Alfred Fromm, Franz Sichel and Otto Meyer were all emigres from Germany and all brought winemaking knowhow to the Masson operation. Their talented cellar team was also headed by native Germans, Kurt Oppier and Hans Hyba. Of even more recent importance have been the winemasters at two other large valley premiers, Klaus Mathes today directing the winemaking at Almaden, and until recently German trained Edmund Friedrich guided the development of San Martin’s wine operations. Today, as was the case almost a hundred years ago, the German influence in our local wine industry is mostly noticeable in its talented individuals whose special contributions far exceed their actual number in our winemaking community.

Charles L. Sullivan

Wohrer Winery — main winery at the Cribari operations in Everett. Photo courtesy of Charles L. Sullivan.

HISTORICAL NEWS ITEM
San Jose’s Census

Evening News, August 28, 1897, p. 4, col. 2.

Some one looking over the acts of the legislature, found a provision of law that would authorize the population of San Jose enumerated, but none to compel it. July was selected, but thousands of people were out of town for the summer. Capitola by-the-Sea claimed thousands, Santa Cruz hundreds, not to mention Pacific Grove and Monterey.

The work of four census takers took 20,475 in the year of our Lord 1897. In 1890 the Federal census found it to be 18,080. An increase of 2,415 is disappointing.

The corporate limits of San Jose are narrow from east to west and thousands of San Joseans do not live in the city limits. They have many advantages of living in the city without the expense of a city government. In case of fire the department is too small, and the police it costs a cent.

The census reports call up the urgent necessity of a concerted and determined movement to annex the suburbs and bring all of San Jose into the enlarged limits of the city.

(researched by Leolo Hauke)

B.D. Murphy PORTRAINT GIVEN TO MUSEUM

We are pleased to announce that your Museum has recently been the recipient of an especially significant and locally important portrait — a bronze relief of Bernard Daniel Murphy (1841-1911).

A native of Quebec, Canada, B.D. Murphy immigrated to California at the age of three with his parents and the well-known Murphy/Townsend/Steven Party. He was graduated from Santa Clara College (now the University of Santa Clara) in 1862, studied law and was admitted to the Bar in 1865. He devoted much of his life to the betterment of the San Jose area through his political, cultural and social activities.

According to several biographical histories of the Santa Clara Valley, Mr. Murphy had a distinguished public career. He was elected three times mayor of the city of San Jose, elected twice to the State Senate and once to the State Assembly, and held numerous other public offices. While serving in the State Legislature in 1870, he was instrumental in persuading his colleagues to locate the State Normal School (now San Jose State University) in San Jose. In addition, it was through his efforts as a member of the Lick Board of Trustees that the Lick Observatory was located on Mount Hamilton. The bronze relief portrait of B.D. Murphy was commissioned by the Sainte Claire Club, which is a prestigious organization of leading citizens, and of which Mr. Murphy was a charter member. The portrait, which we assume was commissioned in his honor shortly after his death, hung prominently in the entrance hall of the Sainte Claire Clubhouse which is located at 65 East St. James Street in San Jose. A fire destroyed a part of the Clubhouse in 1949, at which time the portrait was given to one of Mr. Murphy’s descendants, and it has recently been donated to your Museum.

The portrait of Mr. Murphy was created by the noted sculptor Haiq Patigan (1876-1950). This artist was one of the most outstanding sculptors on the West Coast and was particularly known for the realism of his portraitreliefs. Patigan, whose studio was in San Francisco, created this 28" by 23" bronze relief in 1914. A survey of works of art public view in San Francisco (in 1975) revealed that no other sculptor has had as many works placed in the area as Patigan.

Since we do not have the facilities to exhibit this new acquisition immediately, we invite those of you with particular interest to call the Museum for an appointment to view the portrait of Bernard Daniel Murphy.

Helen Kassel
GUARDIANS OF THE GARDEN CITY

When the shining red fire engines zoom by at full speed with flashing beacons and sirens spilling the air, they leave either a frozen scene of bystanders or others who cannot resist the excitement that they generate. If you are one who would follow the engines, you are a fire buff. Here in San Jose, author Richard L. Nailsen, was one of the dedicated buffs who began chasing fire engines at age seven.

With hundreds of sketches of on the spot action, stations, men and equipment, Nailsen turned his attention to recording the past of San Jose’s Fire Department in his well documented history, Guardians of the Garden City.

Published by historian Leonard McKay, Smith McKay Printing Company, Guardians of the Garden City has 254 pages with over 100 illustrations, location maps of various fire companies and an index. Retailing for $13.50, in our Gift Shop, Museum Association members receive a 10% discount.

While dramatic fires were always a part of San Jose’s history, this book is a treasure trove of not only the fire department’s history but views San Jose’s growth from when it was a tiny pueblo through the early 1900’s. Excerpts from Fireman John Cunon’s meticlious diary are quoted.

The original three volunteer fire companies were the Hook and Ladder, Torrent and Empire. Their rivalries make fascinating reading and when professional status came to the department, many firemen were drawn from the volunteer ranks. It was generations after the volunteers disbanded before the “volunteer spirit” disappeared completely.

When horses were used to pull the fire wagons, the city decided, for economic reasons, to use the horses for other municipal purposes such as hauling gravel. This caused delays, for when the horses were needed they were often some place else and not in the fire house. By 1915 all fire horses were phased out and sold for $75 to $100 each. The original cost was $250 to $300 each. One old fire horse was sold to a milkman and one day on his route a fire engine rattled down the street. The horse took off, wagon and all, to race the engine to the fire, scattering milk cans along the route.

Major fires and the background behind them are explored. One example is the Chinatown fire in 1897 destroying the rickety little settlement huddled along Market and San Fernando Streets in the midst of downtown San Jose.

Then, as now, fireworks on a grand scale were a cause of major fires. Lumber yards and mills also figured in many of our city’s largest fires. Claim Lumber Company, Chase Lumber Company and Pacific Hardware and Steel Company are but a few.

While other fires have risked more lives, or cost more dollars, for sheer spectacle no fires can match the burning of the court house or Penney’s boiler explosion.

The first occurred on May 18, 1951, when the Santa Clara County Court House, a landmark for over sixty years, was burned. The walls were still sound, so the court house was rebuilt eliminating the collapsed dome and adding a third story to the impressive structure.

J. C. Penney’s downtown disastrous boiler explosion on March 22, 1963, at 4:49 p.m. is recounted in great detail. The blast occurred in the basement of the furnace room of the three story concrete building ripping a 100 square foot hole in the floor directly over the furnace room. Scores of shoppers and office workers were knocked over like tenpins. Three people were killed and 71 injured.

Author, Richard L. Nailsen, a native San Josean, graduated from the University of Santa Clara in 1950 with a degree in electrical engineering. When he left the area he pursued his hobby around the country and was made an honorary member of several fire departments in various cities including Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where he has resided for the past 19 years.

Photo by Charlie Shields.
On July 29, 1926 the City of Morgan Hill was the center of international attention when Swedish Crown Prince Gustavus Adolphus and Princess Louise accepted the invitation of the Swedish American Patriotic League of California to dedicate Svedal, the group's newly established summer retreat in Uvas Canyon.

The royal couple arrived by car from San Francisco and were met at Madrone by a Morgan Hill traffic officer. At the outskirts of town they were joined by a mounted escort who led them to the Skeels Hotel (Scooter's Ice Cream today) where, in the words of the Morgan Hill Times, "they repaired to the second story balcony and were greeted by Harry Skeels, owner of the hotel, and his son Clyde O. Skeels." A telegram from the Skeels Hotel was delivered by Mrs. G. F. Bouett of the Morgan Hill Women's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU) who presented the Prince and Princess with a beautiful bouquet of native flowers. Hidden within was a note to the Prince expressing the "keen joy of the ladies in the knowledge that he was a Christian man, a total abstainer, and a strong and influential counselor for good government." Another gorgeous bouquet was provided by Coates Nursery Company, and a basket of flowers was furnished by Mrs. Petray of Coyote and presented by the Mayor's daughter, Miss Norma Eades.

The Prince spoke briefly in both Swedish and English and complimented the Town and the Valley on their beauty and prosperous condition. An attractive street display supplemented rows of American and Swedish flags. The display was provided by the Town Board of Trustees who had voted to spend a substantial sum — $200 — for decorations and greenery wrapped around utility poles "after the time-honored custom in Sweden." The decoration was supervised by a downtown property owner, Rudolf Hencken, who worked two days with a committee including other businessmen, Bill Buchheister, Vertie Edes, George Hencken, J. H. Francis and others to accomplish the special effect. From the Hotel the royal couple proceeded to the Svedal resort in Uvas Canyon where only ticket holders were admitted to the dedication ceremonies.

The accompanying photographs show a crowd of townpeople in their Sunday best. Some who recall the occasion are Norma Edes Link, Executive Director of the Morgan Hill Museum Foundation (she was the "Maiden Mother" mentioned in the Times story), Robert Rice, former Morgan Hill School District Superintendent, and Harvey Barrett of Barrett Insurance of Morgan Hill.

Fortunately, the Svedal Lodge was burned to the ground in October 1979. According to members the greatest personal loss was the destruction of photographs of the royal visit which were proudly displayed on the walls of the building. Another loss was the distinctive and massive Swedish chandelier, (described by League associates as "the size of a small pickup truck"), which hung in the main dining salon. It had been made to order and was imported from Sweden. The bowl that hung in the middle of the chandelier was rescued from the 1906 fire in San Francisco. Installed in 1927, the great fixture blew a fuse the first time it was plugged in and it was necessary to install a larger generator before it could be used. 43 rustic cabins located throughout the grounds at Svedal were unharmed in the 1979 fire, and the president of the Swedish American Patriotic League vowed to rebuild the historic lodge.

For more on Svedal see Svedal by Muriel Nelson Berson, 1978 or Hills West of El Toro by Dolores De Muro Sepeda, 1978.

Beth Wyman
Beth Wyman is President of the Morgan Hill Historical Society and a member of the Santa Clara County Historical Heritage Commission.

Crown Prince Gustavus Adolphus and Princess Louise greet Morgan Hill citizens on occasion of dedication of Svedal resort — July 29, 1926. The Prince and Princess appear on the balcony at right with Mayor Clyde O. Edes. The Skeels Hotel had just been constructed (see 1926 inscription just below frame at center above balconies), and the balconies were lost in 1929 when Monterey Street was widened to four lanes and 17 feet of the face of the hotel was removed by dynamite to allow for the improvement.

The southwest corner of Second and Monterey Streets in Morgan Hill, Steele's Cash Grocery is Statti's Corner Drug today. Note the flags, bunting, and greenery wrapped around utility poles in the "time-honored Swedish custom." Photos courtesy Gail Hencken Rickard, Ralph Gonzales, and Morgan Hill Historical Society.

The Californians: The Magazine of California History

A new magazine about California history has recently begun publication. The Californians promises to present history in an entertaining as well as enlightening manner. In the "From the Editor & Publisher" column, the husband and wife team of Michael (publisher) and Jean Sherrill (editor) succinctly reveals the place they hope The Californians to take: "...not just another academic journal, not just popular coffee table history, but California history brought to you the way good journalists analyze current events."

And the articles they deliver in their initial issue show the scope that a magazine about California history can print. Pieces contained here include: "Sontag and Evans: Outlaws or Outraged?"; "Montana de Oro: Misty World of Chumash and Eucalyptus"; and "The Western Baby," a fine photographic essay on this popular subject of nineteenth century photographers.

Instead of relying on footnotes, which often distract readers, The Californians uses an annotated bibliography approach which allows readers to pursue on their own those topics they find particularly interesting.

In addition to indepth articles, The Californians publishes a "California History Today" column which makes note of current events, exhibits, libraries and museums, awards, papers and publications. This column is very well organized, employing bold type for the introduction of each item which makes it easy for readers to spot those items which interest them. A notice about our Association's premium, Patricia Loomi's Signposts, is included in this first issue.

I look forward to reading the interesting articles planned for future issues of The Californians. If you would be interested in seeing the magazine yourself, copies are available in the Museum Gift Shop.

You may subscribe to The Californians at a cost of $12/year, using the order form below. If you enclose your check with your order, the magazine will in turn donate $2 of the subscription price to the San Jose Historical Museum Association: I hope you will take this opportunity to support the Museum while enjoying many entertaining hours reading The Californians.

Linda S. Larson

Clip out or copy and send to:

The Californians
333 South Van Ness
San Francisco, CA 94103

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City/state/zip

☐ Please make a donation in my name to: San Jose Historical Museum Association, 636 Phelan Avenue, San Jose, CA 95112.
Patricia Loomis
ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO IN MAY

To set the scene for our May 14th Living History Day, Patricia Loomis created the following picture of San Jose, May 1883.

The late spring rains sprinkled the green countryside with wildflowers and Pat Welch and the other livery stable owners were doing a brisk business among the young blades taking their best girls for Sunday outings.

Picnickers rode the electric cars to Alum Rock Park or strolled the vine-shaded paths in Prentiss’s Gardens along the Guadalupe River. May was a peaceful month in San Jose a century ago with the exception of a sensational murder trial, a couple of arson fires, theft of 15 chickens, a few “traffic” accidents, several burglaries and theft of five head of cattle from John Trimble’s ranch north of the city.

It was mostly routine city government, basket socials, school graduations, a few complaints about the mud holes in the unpaved streets, lodge doings and observance of Memorial Day.

The annual meeting of the Grand Lodge of Odd Fellows met in San Jose, and schools were dismissed during Teachers’ Institute. Real estate was slow, judging by James A. Clayton’s repeated ads offering such bargains as lots close to San Jose Street near Market at $10 a foot, 180 acres near Alum Rock Park for $1,800, and a five room house, barn and well on Grant near First Street for $1,050.

The Pacific Hotel on S. Market Street (in the glow of the electric tower straddling Market and Santa Clara streets) was running frequent one-liners such as “a good dinner with wine” served, farmers looking for workers will find the Pacific, or “for the best 25-cent meal outside of San Francisco, go to the Pacific Hotel.”

County supervisors were wrestling with such routine matters as a petition for the extension of Alum Rock Falls Road, flooding from artesian wells near Alviso, establishment of a pound to control horses and cattle running at large, and advertising for bids for firewood for the infirmary and the county jail.

Snively’s Nine Cent Store on S. First Street was offering “reinforced shirts with real linen bosoms and cuffs” for 99 cents and turkey red handkerchiefs at 25 cents each. H.B. Hoy had a “first class family cow” on his farm near the Eagle School in Berryessa that he advertised for sale.

The first through overland train chartered for exclusive use by a business firm in San Jose arrived from New York with a load of carpets for Lion’s store on S. First Street next to O’Brien’s candy business.

The City Council “indefinitely postponed” action on obtaining a new boiler for the old Amoskeag fire engine after it was discovered the cost would be $2,700. Councilman Kennedy pointed out the city had no money for each, and Councilman Rock opposed “putting money into rattle traps.”

Two men were robbed and shot at the Iowa Stables. They put up a fight but were losing when reinforcements arrived and their assailants ran away. He left his hat at the scene, and it was traced to a saloon where one T.S. Ferguson was recognizable as the suspect by his bruised knuckles and bleeding right ear.

The murder trial involved one Joseph Jewell who was convicted and sentenced to hang for the murder of an aged Santa Cruz Mountain rancher, W.P. Renown. He and John Showers received life in prison at the suggestion of Los Gatos saloon keeper Lloyd L. Majors. Showers and Majors each got life in prison, but in a later trial in Alameda County on a second murder count Majors was also sentenced to hang.

The month of May 100 years ago ended with the 26th annual commencement of the State Normal School. Among the 84 “fledgling teachers” were Hiram A. Clayton of San Jose and Mary P. Chew of Evergreen.

An aerial view of San Jose, about 1882. The view is looking Northeast from top of Electric Light Tower, Market and Santa Clara Streets. San Jose Historical Museum Photo #481. Photo by Loryea and Macaulay.

INTRODUCING
HELEN KUESEL

Helen Kuesel, this month’s featured member of the Association Board, was born here in San Jose and lived in the Edenvale area of the city until about ten years ago. She now resides in Willow Glen. Helen is a graduate of Oak Grove School and San Jose High School. She holds a commercial art degree from San Jose State University and also briefly attended the California School of Fine Arts in San Francisco.

Helen’s life-long interest in art, and particularly her interest in California’s artists has led to a deep volunteer commitment to the care of the art collection here at the Historical Museum. Our collection is significant—including prints, documents, photographs, and paintings by artists such as A.D.M. Cooper, Andrew P. Hill, and Charles Harmon.

Helen first became involved in 1971 when the Historical Museum was in its infancy at the Fairgrounds, under the direction of Clyde Arbuckle. Clyde asked for assistance in cataloging the existing art collection upon the move to our present location here in Kelley Park.

Helen volunteered her time then, went on to other concerns, and came back to volunteer at the Museum in 1977 under the direction of Carator Mignon Gibson.

It is our great fortune that Helen has been a faithful volunteer ever since, working one day each week caring for the art collection and also currently serving as Publicity Chairman on the Association Board.

Helen’s dream is that the important paintings in our collection will someday soon receive the cleaning and care that is so necessary to conserve them. Much of this must be done by outside experts and is consequently costly.

She would also like to see a temperature-controlled building on the grounds large enough to display our collection for all to enjoy.

Helen Kuesel is also on the Board of Directors of the California Pioneers of Santa Clara County and an active member of the Angounsta. She is the mother of one daughter, Shari, and the grandmother of 7-year old Elizabeth.

We are pleased and proud to have Helen on our Association Board and thank her for her work with the art collection, as well as for her efforts to publicize the activities of our Museum Association.

5TH ANNUAL
MERCURY-NEWS CHILI
COOK-OFF TO BE HELD
AT MUSEUM

The 5th Annual Mercury-News Chili Cook-off, benefitting the American Lung Association, will be held this year on the grounds of the San Jose Historical Museum on Saturday, April 30, 1983. Gates will be open to the public from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Admission is $2 for adults; children under 12 will be admitted free.

Chili will be prepared by individuals and teams competing in several different divisions: an “open” division, corporate, restaurant, and media divisions. Entry forms for individuals wishing to compete in the “open” division will appear in the Mercury-News two or three weeks prior to the event. All cooking must be done on the premises, beginning at 12:00 Noon. By 3:00 p.m. the chili should be turned in for judging, and then a Chili Auction, in which the public is invited to participate, will begin.

During the day, blacksmiths will be found in the Dashaway Stables, demonstrating old-time horse-shoeing techniques, and printers will be operating the presses in the Museum’s Print Shop. There will be a Horse-shoe Pitching Contest (Adult, Junior and PeeWee Divisions) as well as a free train ride and puppet show for the children. Coin-operated video games and a Photo Booth will be on the grounds.

The Gem City Jazz Band, Sweet Adelines, and a Barbershop Quartet will provide entertainment throughout the day.

This event is a major annual fundraiser for our local chapter of the American Lung Association, which serves both Santa Clara and San Benito Counties. For more information or advance tickets, call the American Lung Association at (408) 998-LUNG.

ADVERTISING SPACE AVAILABLE

The San Jose Historical Museum Association is offering advertising space in its “Association News,” a quarterly newsletter for our members. The newsletter is mailed to all members of the Association (6 issues) for 1 column by 2” . Additional column inches can be added for $40 per page. If you would like to advertise or can suggest someone who would, please call the editor, Kathy Muller, at the Museum (295-2590).
MUSEUM INFORMATION

Places To Visit

LOCAL HISTORICAL MUSEUMS

American Museum of Quilts & Related Arts
225 El Paseo de Saratoga
San Jose, CA 95130
379-0033

California History Center
DeAnza College
2150 Stevens Creek Blvd.
Cupertino, CA 95014
996-4712

Campbell Historical Museum
Lower Level of Library
70 N. Central Avenue
Campbell, CA 95008
379-3080

Forbes Mill Museum
75 Church Street
Los Gatos, CA 95030
957-7375

Gilroy Historical Museum
195 Fifth St., Corner of Church
Gilroy, CA 95020
847-9955

Los Gatos Museum
4 Tait Avenue
Los Gatos, CA 95030
354-2945

New Almaden Mercury Mining Museum
21570 Almaden Road
New Almaden, CA 95042
226-7869

Saratoga Historical Museum
32040 Saratoga-Los Gatos Rd. & Oak St.
Saratoga, CA 95070
867-4311

Sunnyvale Historical Museum
Martin Murphy Jr. Historical Park
N. Sunnyvale Ave. at California
Sunnyvale, CA 94086
738-0470

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

HOURS
10 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Tue-Fri
12 p.m.-3:00 p.m. Sat & Sun

ADMISSION
Adults $1.00
Children (2-18 years) .50
Groups (12 or more)
(Pre-arranged)
40¢ per child
80¢ per adult
40¢ per senior

Seniors .50

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

SUNNYVALE LECTURE SERIES

The Sunnyvale Historical Society announces its popular Spring lecture/potluck "mini-series" starting April 4th with noted author and historian Frances Fox. Titled "The Historic Triangle," the 3-lecture series will cover San Jose, first pueblo in California; Santa Clara, the flourishing Mission City; and Saratoga, birthplace of the lumber industry in Santa Clara Valley. An in-depth walking tour of Saratoga's historic landmarks concludes the class on June 11th.

 Held on the first Monday evening of the month (April 4, May 2, & June 6), the 7:30 p.m. lectures are preceded by a Pot Luck Supper at 6:15 p.m. at Sunnyvale's Murphy Park (North Sunnyvale Avenue & California Street). Hosted by the Sunnyvale Historical Society, the mini-series program is offered by DeAnza's California History Center as part of its Spring quarter courses.

The series guest speaker Frances Fox has authored six books and numerous historical articles about the Santa Clara Valley. In recognition of her community involvement & historical dedication she has been the recipient of a statewide Award of Merit from the California Heritage Council, the Conference of California Historical Societies, and the California Historical Society, and has been recognized as Woman of Achievement by the San Jose Mercury News.

A day of staff-assisted registration will be held from 9 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 5th, at the California History Center. Phone CHC, (408) 996-4712, for more information. Registration is $7 ($4 without a student body card) + $1 lab fee for persons under 60 years of age. For students 60 and over, the only charge is the $1 lab fee. All students must register before the first class or pay a $2 late fee.

SAN JOSE HISTORICAL MUSEUM ASSOCIATION

Name (Bus.) Phone

Mailing Address (Res.) Phone

Individual Authorizing Contribution

TOTAL ANNUAL PLEDGE

AMOUNT PAID NOW

BALANCE

MEMBERSHIP CLASSIFICATIONS

☐ Pioneer Circle ($25.00)
☐ Patron Circle ($50.00)
☐ Mission Circle ($100.00)
☐ Pueblo Circle ($250)
☐ Tower Circle ($500)
☐ Century Circle ($1000)
☐ Half-Century Circle ($500)
☐ Quarter-Century Circle ($250)

Please indicate method of payment. ☐ Check or money order enclosed. ☐ Master Card ☐ Visa

Expiration Date

(please list all digits from your charge card)

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

To receive your premium by mail, add $2.50 for handling charges.

Make check payable to:
San Jose Historical Museum Association, 635 Fletan Ave., San Jose, CA 95112

Dates to Remember

March 5, 1983
Living History Planning Meeting
10:00 A.M.

March 13, 1983
Autograph Party with Patricia Loomis
2:00 P.M.-4:00 P.M.

Museum Gift Shop

March 14, 1983
Registration for San Jose Family Camp begins
Leinenger Center (286-3944)

April 9, 1983
Living History Planning Meeting
10:00 A.M.

April 14, 1983
Salinas Trip
8:30 A.M. Departure

April 30, 1983
Living History Planning Meeting
10:00 A.M.

April 14, 1983
May 7, 1983
Sister Cities Day
Kelley Park

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