San Jose Historical Museum Association's Annual Meeting

On October 22, 1996, the San Jose Historical Museum Association will hold its annual meeting at 5:30 PM in the Museum’s Firehouse Meeting Room. Historically, the purpose of the annual meeting is to elect members to the Association’s Board of Directors and, to vote on proposed Association by-law changes. This year the agenda of the annual meeting will be slightly different than in years past.

As has been reported in the Association News throughout the last two years, the San Jose Historical Museum is undergoing a transition from being a city-operated facility to a non-profit operated facility. It is anticipated, at this time, that the initial phase of this transition should occur early in 1997. At the time of transition, the membership of the Association will be asked to approve an organization name change, a slate of governing board members and new by-laws.

The Board of Directors of the Association, at their August 27 meeting, decided that rather than develop a new slate of Board Directors who might be in place for only a short period of time, would continue to serve until the new organization is established, and its board of directors is developed. And, for the same reason, no Association by-law changes are proposed at this time.

As members of the Association you are eligible to vote on the nominations and are invited to attend the annual meeting in order to do so.

The following Board Members have been nominated to remain as Board Directors until such time as the Association transfers its non-profit status and by-laws to the new non-profit organization.

### Inside the Association News

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- Splendors of Imperial China
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- Frontier Village
- German Month
- Annual Corporate Members
- Dates to Remember
- Historical Architecture Lecture Series
- The City Store
- Historic Landmarks Commission Party

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### Special Events

- Vintage Reflections
- Personnel
- Volunteer Council
- Members-At-Large

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### Splendors of Imperial China: Treasures from the National Palace Museum, Taipei and Ying Yang Tour of Chinatown

**WHEN:** Tuesday, October 15, 1996  
**WHO:** Association Members and their Guests  
**HOW:** Royal Coach bus from the Japanese Friendship Garden parking Lot  
**TIME:** 7:45 AM DEPARTURE  
**TIME:** 4:00 PM RETURN  
**COST:**  
$55.00 for Association Members  
$60.00 for Non-members  
(includes lunch)

Our fall bus tour will take us to the Asian Art Museum of San Francisco to see the Splendors of Imperial China exhibit. Drawn from one of the world’s greatest collections of Chinese art, this unprecedented exhibition of hundreds of China’s imperial treasures - many of which have never been seen outside of Taipei - will be presented at only four U.S. museums (the Asian Art Museum is the exclusive west coast venue for the exhibit). We will have a docent-led tour of the 350 item exhibit on the day after the exhibit opens.

After the tour, and a little time for a visit in the museum’s gift shop, we will re-board our bus and journey to Chinatown where we will enjoy a dim sum lunch. After lunch, our tour of Chinatown hostess, Shirley Pong Torres, known as the “Wok Wiz” will share her Chinatown with us.

Please join us and be sure to wear comfortable shoes!

To make your reservation, send in your check, payable to the San Jose Historical Museum Association (SJHMA) and include the reservation form above, as well as a stamped self-addressed return envelope. Mail these to the attention of Judi Henderson at the San Jose Historical Museum Association, 1650 Senter Road, San Jose, CA 95112-2599. Refunds will be made only when there is a waiting list.

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**Name:**  
**Address:**  
**Phone:**  
**# of reservations:**

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**SAN JOSE HISTORICAL MUSEUM ASSOCIATION**  
**1650 SENTER ROAD**  
**SAN JOSE, CA 95113-2599**

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**ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED**

MR WILLYS PECK  
14276 SARATOGA AVE  
SARATOGA CA 95070-8530
In order for our vote to be meaningful and absolutely represent the will of the membership, the Association Board has decided that the outcome on these critical issues should be determined by a majority vote of the membership. Ballots and comprehensive information will be mailed to all voting members in the near future.

Please watch for future information and notices regarding this matter. If you have any questions please contact the staff (287-2290) or me (297-5454).

This month I would like to acknowledge the following Past Presidents for their early leadership of the Association, Brian Serpa (1980-84) and Patricia Borba McDonald (1990-91). Brian is still involved at the Museum as a member of the Association Advisory Board. Patty has come back onto the Board serving as Chair of the Advisory Board and she is also a member of the Governing Board.

Steven M. Cox, President

San Jose Historical Museum

Our Dream For A Schoolhouse is Becoming A Reality

For so many years the volunteers, visitors and staff of the Historical Museum have all asked, when are we going to have a one-room schoolhouse? This dream is becoming a reality thanks to the interest of the College of Education Alumni Association at San Jose State University. This organization had a dream to do a project in the community to "honor teachers." This dream led them to the Historical Museum where they learned about our Master Plan and our desire for an early one-room schoolhouse.

After a lot of work and research by Leonard Epinoso, a member of the Alumni Association and the project director, the Santa Ana School, built in 1872 and used until 1948, was located in Hollister and made available to be moved to the Historical Museum. An agreement was developed creating a partnership between the Historical Museum and the Alumni Association. So with all that in place, this original 1872 Santa Ana school was moved to the Historical Museum grounds on August 11. It now waits for the process of final site selection, architectural work, program development and final fundraising to be completed and will then be available to the public.

This one-room schoolhouse brings great opportunity for the Historical Museum to work with San Jose State University on a project that will showcase the history of education and create opportunities to acknowledge and thank all the many wonderful teachers of our community. This project has the support of Robert Caret, President of San Jose State University; Dolores A. Escobar, Dean of the College of Education; and the entire Education Alumni Board who have already raised the funds needed to move the building and start the project.

San Jose State University was established in 1857 primarily as a teachers' college and for many years was called San Jose State Teachers College. From 1963 to the early 1970s, the College of Education educated more elementary teachers than any other school in the country.

If you are interested in this project and would like information about how you can help, I will be the Museum's guest at Alumnic Day and thank the College of Education Alumni Association at San Jose State University for their interest in developing this project at the Historical Museum for the benefit of the entire community.

Mignon Gibson, Museum Director

FROM THE EDITOR

My brother-in-law and his family recently moved from San Jose to North Carolina. Although sad to be leaving California, he did remark that he was looking forward to experiencing real seasons (yes, he has said with such that perhaps the summers are there a little too "strong"). I have pondered his comment ever since. Does California, or specifically the Bay Area, not have seasons? Being a native Californian and having lived my entire life here, I have little to compare with, but I do think we have seasons. Not strong, perhaps, but seasons nonetheless.

I got spring fever when temperatures first started to warm and the dormant trees and plants begin to leaf. My thoughts stray and my productivity slips a bit. The feeling passes, but it leaves behind the knowledge that we have passed from the cold, dark, rainy days of winter. And summer, who would dispute the fact that the Santa Clara Valley enjoys some of the best summer weather on earth. Even when it gets too hot, as it did this summer, we all know it won't last for longer than a week, and humidity is a condition we know little about.

I am a fall person. My birthday is in October, my coloring bags for autumn colors and Halloween is one of my favorite holidays. I love the cooler temperatures and colors. And I become energized when the leaves start to turn, shadows get longer and football starts.

Looking at the upcoming calendar of events I can tell I am not the only one who feels the year really starts in September. The Heritage Council's third fall architectural lecture series gets underway this month, the Association is sponsoring a trip to see the Splendors of China at the Asian Art Museum in San Francisco, a number of other groups are sponsoring exhibits and street fairs and the Association's 25th Anniversary party is an event not to be missed.

Please partake at the feast as we enjoy this all-too-short season.

Correction: The article on Westward Ho! in July issue of the Association News was written by Mary Anne Schreier.

Judi Henderson, Editor

FROM THE ARCHIVES

50th Year of the San Jose Historic Landmarks Commission

As the Museum celebrates its 25th anniversary on this site, the City of San Jose's Historic Landmarks Commission is also marking a major milestone: 50 years of service to the City of San Jose. The Commission, the oldest in California, has been involved in many different aspects of the community's heritage from collecting historical materials to landmarking significant structures to promoting the protection of our community heritage.

In the early years the Landmarks Commission was one of the major allies in the development of the Historical Museum at Kelley Park. The Secretary of the Commission, Clyde Aruckle, served many capacities: Secretary to the Commission, City Historian, and Director of the Museum. Thanks to Mr. Aruckle and earlier commissioners such as Theron and Frances Fox and
Ernest Renz, the Museum was allotted the space at Kelley Park to develop as a historic open air museum. The early Commission was instrumental in the gathering of many of the artifacts and documents which are part of the City’s Historic Collections.

Commission work over the years has included the development of the city survey, which identifies many of the historic structures and areas in San Jose. From the basic city survey, the Commission has maintained the City’s Historic Resources Inventory, the list of historic landmarks throughout the City which cites their location and level of historic value. This document has served as an invaluable tool in determining landmark status, area development, and protection of communities.

Designated landmark structures and sites has been a major program of the Commission from the beginning. From thePenita Adobe, to twentieth century commercial buildings in the downtown, landmarks include sites, buildings, parks, and homes ranging from the modest such as the Andrew P. Hill House to the truly grand Hayes Mansion. Today, there are over 100 designated San Jose City Landmarks.

The Commission has encouraged the development of programs for community preservation through various programs administered by the City: facade easements, design criteria, landscape determinations, etc. A crucial tool , the Plan for the Past, was developed in 1989 and now is part of the Commission’s ongoing work.

Currently, the Commission is working with the Museum and other city staff on the City-Wide Collection Policy and supporting the effort to develop collection facilities at the Central Service Yard (Beech Nuts). Other Commission review areas include the naming of city-owned land and facilities, street naming and street names changes, survey updates, archaeological curation, and historical preservation permits, and to advise in the Section 106 process.

Over the years the Historic Landmarks Commission has served as advisors to the San Jose City Council on many issues in the preservation of the City’s history. Steadily working along, occasionally embroiled in controversy, the Historic Landmarks Commission has been both the protector and promoter of our City’s heritage.

**LIESL MASNAGA, ARCHIVIST**

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**MUSEUM STAFF**

Mignon Gilson . Director  
Wanda Foss . Office Assistant II  
Jeanne Kondo . Clerk/Payment  
Leslie David . Archivist  
Virginia Beck . Curator of Education  
Monte Duran . Museum Educator  
Sarah Heigh Nunn . Curator  
Nancy Valley . Curator  
Fred Bennett . Trolley Barn Manager  
Beverly Blocke . Volunteer Support (F/T)  
Tammy Bocanegra . Volunteer Support (F/T)  
Jim Grogin . Volunteer Support (F/T)  
Michael Kotowski . Volunteer Support (F/T)  
Carol Provost . Volunteer Support (F/T)  
MaryAnne Scheier . Volunteer Support (F/T)  
Al Sprack . Volunteer Support (F/T)  
Beverly Turek . Volunteer Support (F/T)

**ASSOCIATION STAFF**

Barbara Johnson . Acting Executive Director/Development Director  
Judi Henderson . Publications/Program Coordinator  
Toni Evans . Shops Manager  
Carol Ouellette . Bookkeeper  
Nancy Marsella . Membership Coordinator  
Robert Pederson . Penita-Fallon Site Director  
Daniel Williams . Penita-Fallon Program Assistant  
Julie Peterson . Vintage Reflections Manager  
Pat Lawman . Penita-Fallon Shop Supervisor  
Suzan Miller . Shops Scheduler/Supervisor  
Judy Peck . Shops Supervisor

**VOLUNTEER REPORT**

The phones were really ringing at the Pacific Hotel on August 1, 1996. August 1 was the first day that teachers could make reservations for the Museum tour on the 150th anniversary programming for the 96-97 year. Even though some comments were made concerning the increase in some fees, I did not hear of anyone not making a reservation because of that fact. Reservations were being taken for prescheduled museum tours, prescheduled Japanese Friendship Garden tours, prescheduled Downtown Walking tours, Victorian School Kit classroom presentations, Victorian School Kit presentations at the museum, Indian School Kit presentations at the schools, Museum Transportation Experience programs, Decades of Change presentations, Local Women of Distinction program and the History Hike program. The pick-up for the Western Ho! program is so popular and is only offered once a week due to the large volunteer involvement required, the practice in recent years has been to hold a lottery for those applying for the program and assigning reservations to those lucky enough to be selected for a date. Do these activities sound interesting? Maybe those of you who are not already involved should consider becoming an educational volunteer.

Reservations are also being taken for the Portraits of the Past presentations. These programs are historical fashion shows, performed by volunteers, presenting an entertaining view of life in early Santa Clara Valley.

By the time this article is in print, the One Room Schoolhouse should be in its temporary storage location (see Director’s Report). A Santa Ana Valley Schoolhouse Site Committee/Master Planner has been appointed to go over the Master Plan, study possible locations and make recommendations for siting. In addition, a Curriculum Committee has been established whose goal is to provide students with the opportunity to learn about the History of the school specifically about the one-room school experience.

It was HOT, the crowd was large and the Chinese Summer Festival was a huge success.

**DEAN HELMS, VOLUNTEER COUNCIL PRESIDENT**

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**Governing Board Update**

On July 1, 1996, the Stabilization Board transitioned into the Governing Board, reflecting the progress that was made toward creating a unified non-profit history museum. Other tasks were scheduled to be completed this summer to accomplish this goal. Following is an update of the tasks that were completed recently.

The Governing Board held a meeting on July 31, 1996. At this meeting, Steve McClary of Hoge, Fenton, Jones and Appel, legal advisor to the Governing Board, recommended that the Association amend its Articles of Incorporation and bylaws to reflect the Museums’ expanded mission and new organizational structure. The Governing Board will continue their discussion of this subject at subsequent meetings. The Governing Board also voted to narrow their consideration of executive search firms to three finalists. On August 9, 1996, the Governing Board held a conference call, to interview each of the three finalists. Interviewees were asked a set of prepared questions developed by the Board to ascertain their experience with locating executive directors for museums. On August 14, 1996, the Governing Board voted to select Museum Management Consultants, Inc. as the executive search firm to help the Board fill the position of Executive Director of the San Jose Museum of History.

Adrienne Horne will be the Project Manager responsible for the search.

The next Governing Board meetings are scheduled for August 9, 1996, September 11, 1996, and September 29, 1996. Members of the community are encouraged strongly to attend. The meetings are in the evening from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM. The August 29th meeting will be held at City Hall, Fourth Floor, Room 437, and the September meetings are held at the San Jose Historical Museum Firehouse Conference Room.

On August 2, 1996, staff met to discuss the floor plans of Buildings A and D at the Central Service Yard. These buildings will house the museums’ Stockton Street Warehouse collections, some offices, and museum archives. Staff and the project consultant, Sugimura & Associates, will provide revised floor plans incorporating suggested changes.

On August 14, 1996, the Governing Board held a workshop to discuss museum development. Marilyn Snider of Snider & Associates facilitated the workshop. The workshop covered board recruitment and board composition. At this meeting, the Governing Board finalized the number and titles of the committees and assigned committee chairs and vice chairs.

Geraldine Luna started working as Staff Analyst to replace Mark Gerhardt on August 5, 1996. Previous to working with the City Manager’s Office, Geraldine worked with Airport Operations at the San Jose International Airport, and prior to working with the City, she worked with the San Francisco Foundation, and the State of California Bay Conservation and Development Commission. Geraldine will serve on-site at the Museum as the staff liaison between the Governing Board and the Interim Executive Director.

The Governing Board has made a great deal of progress working toward transitioning Historical Museum operations to a non-profit entity. More work and progress lies ahead as the Governing Board begins to create specialized committees to tackle operational issues such as board development, audience development, and fundraising. Volunteers willing to help with these and other issues are needed and are especially welcome. I encourage you to work with us.

ADRIAN M. GARZA,

ENTRANCE EXECUTIVE MUSEUM DIRECTOR, DEPUTY CITY MANAGER

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Dirty Faces Happy Smiles

Those who, in the past, have visited the Stockton Street warehouse or the areas of yard storage at the museum will be "new look" the next time they visit. Tags hang from every item, and the rows are considerably neater than before. (the Stockton warehouse even has aisles now!)

A cadre of volunteers, led by Curators Sarah Nunes and Nancy Valley, and Lucy Skjeiestad, Technical Advisor, have patiently worked piece by piece through the yards and warehouse, tagging and examining each item, describing, measuring, assessing condition and making notes for moving needs.

These facts are being entered into a database which will produce information needed to plan the storage areas at the new storage facility at the Central Service Yard (the old Beech Nut plant across the street from the Museum), where, in about a year, the Museum will have over 35,000 sq. feet of new space for Collections Storage and Archives. The inventory information will also help staff plan the physical move. Knowledge about which such artifacts need to be stabilized, need special care or have unusual moving equipment needs is now known. Additionally, some items or fragments of items, will be recommended for deaccession; other marginal objects need further research before recommendation can be made.

As of August, the yard storage inventory is about 95% complete and the 10,000 square ft. Stockton warehouse inventory is about 75% finished. The work has been very hot and dirty, but the rewards of helping with this very important task and seeing the artifacts come out of the mud and unusual items will be highly rewarding. As for the end result, the Museum will have greater space to house its collections, and the staff will have a clearer idea of what they have and where it is.

As the work continues, the volunteers have continued to be amazed at the variety of items they encounter. Some of the more unusual items include a large metal egg tray, a wooden tool box, and a metal bread box.

This project is made possible through the generosity of the San Francisco Bay Area Regional Park and Open Space District, which has provided funding for the project. The Museum is grateful for their support.

TROLLEY BARN NEWS

Be sure to visit the Trolley Barn on your next trip to the Museum and see the new video highlighting the history of the Keystone Coffee Company. Funded by the Keystone Coffee Company, the video is shown on a video player; also donated by Keystone.

ENDOWMENT FUND DONATIONS

From June 26, 2014, to August 28, 1996, the Endowment Fund of the San Jose Historical Museum received the following donations:

In Memoriam

- Jack Francis
- Enrico (Rick) Bennassati
- Fred Melani
- Melina Melani Chiechei

In Honor of:

- Kathy Muller

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, 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.
25 YEARS...A STORY

Remember the Museum's past
Celebrate the accomplishments of today
Believe in an exciting future

The San Jose Historical Museum Association is proud to be commemorating the 25th anniversary of the Museum, which has supported the city's Historical Museum since 1971...the year the Museum opened its doors at Kelley Park.

We have a story to tell, a chronicle of the Museum's past, and would like to share it with you at the 25th Anniversary event on Friday, September 27, 1996 at the Hyatt San Jose. A portion of the program will be a narrative video featuring some of the people, past and present, who have contributed to the success of the Museum. The video is being written under the watchful eye of the Keystone Coffee Store.

Should you need information or have questions about the event, please call Barbara Johnson 287-2290. We hope you have received your invitation and are planning to join our distinguished honorees and museum friends as we remember the past, celebrate today and believe in the future of the San Jose Historical Museum.

Association Welcomes New Employees

The San Jose Historical Museum Association would like to take this opportunity to introduce two new employees.

Wells Twombly started working as the Program Assistant at the Peralta Adobe & Fallon House Historic Site on June 25, 1996. Wells brings to this position many years of museum experience, in particular, living history. He will be assisting with the educational hands-on program Adobe Days, conducting tours, coordinating and training volunteers and will be involved with day-to-day operations. In his spare time, we hope he will develop and promote new living history activities.

Nancy Marsels began employment in the Association Office as Membership Coordinator on August 5, 1996. Nancy's educational background is in Art Education. She created an art docent program for the Morgan Hill and Oak Grove School Districts and instructed volunteer docents on how to present weekly art lessons at participating schools. Nancy's nonprofit management and organizational skills come from serving as president and business manager of the South Valley Symphony. In those capacities she developed activities and promotional materials that were used as models for other orchestras.

Welcome, Wells and Nancy, to our staff. We look forward to a long and productive working relationship.

Garden Club News

The Museum Garden Club has had an exciting spring and summer. We look forward to the changes autumn will bring to our gardens. The Garden Club entered produce from the vegetable and herb gardens, geraniums from the Greenewalt House and marigolds from the bandstand garden in the Santa Clara County Fair. We were awarded 25 ribbons and 14 were blue!

Maintenance days in the Garden will now be held on the first Tuesday of the month. September's maintenance day will be on Tuesday, September 3, 9:00 AM to noon. October's maintenance day will be on Tuesday, October 1, 9:00 AM to noon. Please join us. Our maintenance days are always productive and full of FUN!

The Museum Garden Club will be represented at the South Bay Home and Garden Show, September 13, 14, and 15. This event will be held at the Santa Clara Convention Center. The show opens on Friday, September 13 at noon and will run through Sunday. The South Bay Home and Garden Show is a great event to attend. Seminars will be held daily, as well a home interior and garden demonstrations. The show is a wealth of information. Please stop by our booth and say "hello."

"Simpler Times in America
An 1890's Day with Thomas Kinkade"

Artist Thomas Kincade will be at the San Jose Historical Museum on Sunday, October 6 from 1:30 to 7:00 PM. Sponsored by the Valley Fair Gallery, the event will feature a hands-on buffet, entertainment and the Thomas Kincade gift gallery. Mr. Kincade will paint an original of the bandstand, share his thoughts and future artistic plans and conduct a question and answer period.

Tickets are available from the Valley Fair Gallery by phone (408) 288-3885 or in person. The tickets cost $20.00 for children and adults.

MT. VIEW BREWER'S FESTIVAL
A SUCCESS FOR PERALTA-FALLON SITE

The Peralta Adobe & Fallon House Historic Site was fortunate to have been selected as one of the participating organizations in the 1996 Mt. View Small Brewers Festival held on July 13th and 14th and received for their efforts a grant in the amount of $2,400. The grant will be used for equipment for Adobe Days, a hands-on educational program for third, fourth and fifth grade students offered at the Peralta Adobe site.

Thank you to the following volunteers who offered their services to help set up the event, and the all time favorite, pour beer: Linda & Mitchell Herschbach, Steve & Kendra Cox, Ron & Ruth Santucci, John & Carol Luckhardt, Maxine Weldon, Barbara Johnson, Pat Kaufman, Frank & Gayle Bolateau, Dave Heagerty, Evelyn Ucovich, Elaine Drake, Gloria Stern, Merylee Shelton, Ellen & Jim Thieme, Scott Friedman, Jonathan Drake, Mike Parish, Ken Gemmil, Laurent Milne, Marge Chiachi, Helen Oliva, Craig Minikewlare, Darlene & Rick Worth, Peter Fenerin, Jo & Maggie Bertaccini, and others.

Without the help of volunteers we would not have received the grant money.

PERALTA & FALLON
ADobe & House
HISTORIC SITE

Love History?
Learn To Live History!

Join the adventure of living history at the Peralta Adobe and Fallon House Historic Site this fall. Classes will begin shortly to train volunteers in the interpretive tech- nique known as "Living History." Though there are many different kinds of living history, these classes will focus on how to develop a historic character from San Jose's earliest days. This variety of living history, known formally as "first person" or "role playing," is growing in popularity at museums all across America and Canada. The amateur form of first person, called "re-enacting" is one of the fastest growing hobbies in both North America and Europe. Come find out what is making so many people excited about history.

The Peralta Adobe and Fallon House staff will offer both an introductory class for those interested in learning the basics of living history and an advanced class for those already involved in living history re-enactments. Each unit will consist of three class sessions. Classes will be taught every other Saturday morning from 9-11 AM at the Fallon House. This beginners class will start on September 24 and continue on October 12 and 26. The advanced course will start on October 5 and continue on October 19 and November 2. Class size will be limited to eight participants, so call soon to reserve your place (408) 993-8182. Class members will have an opportunity to play a part in the upcoming Victorian Wedding and a variety of other living history re-enactments to take place at the Peralta Adobe and Fallon House Historic Site.

WELLS TWOMBLY, PROGRAM ASSISTANT
CANNERIES, COMMUNISTS AND CONFLICT  

By Jack Douglas

California became a battleground of contending ideologies during the Great Depression of 1929-1941. Kevin Starr, historian and State Librarian, describes it well in his recent book Endangered Dreams: the Great Depression in California. In this book he describes the conflict between the communist/socialist groups and the conservative/fascist groups that dominated the political scene during this troubled time.

Agriculturally based business accounted for much of the employment in California, particularly of the poorly educated and ethnic minorities. Militants on the left were quick to seize the opportunity to organize these workers. The American Communist Party’s union has achieved its greatest success in San Jose during the short but bloody cannery strike in July and August 1931.

San Jose, the heart of the fruit growing industry, was the center of the State’s largest canning industry. During the harvest season, or for about six months of the year, thousands of workers, local and migrant, were hired to process the valley’s fruits and vegetables. The work force, 80% of which were women, toiled in hot, grueling conditions, but they were grateful for the opportunity to supplement their family’s income.

It was a wage reduction from 60 cents per hour to 30 cents for the male employees that triggered a strike. Thousands of cannery workers in sixteen local canneries walked off the job in protest. The Communist led Agriculture Workers Industrial League (AWIL) quickly assumed the leadership of the strike, hoping to gain a foothold for organized labor among this unorganized labor force.

St. James Park Rallies

The AWIL leaders used the City’s Saint James Park for a series of speeches and rallies, the largest of which took place on July 31. San Jose police and County sheriff’s deputies were present everywhere and several speakers and attendees were hauled off for disturbing the peace. A Mr. McConnell, age 46, was arrested for seizing an American flag and attempting to lead a parade.

It seemed, at first, that the crowds in the park were inhibited by the police, but during the afternoon a young woman took the podium and challenged the crowd to march on City Hall and force the release of the strikers confined in the jail. San Jose News reporter Jim Chesnut described Miss Minnie Carson as: an industrial Joan of Arc from San Francisco ... who lashed the crowd into a high emotional pitch. Women and boys predominated in the crowd. Several young amazons were inspired leaders, shouting defiance at the police and rushing in where men hesitated.

The police surrounding City Hall fired their pistols in the air hoping to stop the mob of more than a thousand. Pulling at this, they charged into the crowd with night sticks, blackjacks and tear gas. Minnie Carson was hospitalized after being struck on the head by a tear gas bomb, and a bystander was badly burned when a tear gas bomb exploded in his car. The San Jose News reporter Dick Barrett remembers: While this was going on a roll on my forehead burst and somebody asked if I’ve been bit by a rock. Probably I should have said yes and been a hero. Barrett said that the demonstrators pelleted the police with rocks thrown from the giant Clayton Real Estate sign which fronted on Market Street.

For every demonstrator there were at least two onlookers which added to the crowd, making it difficult for the police to get control. After nearly an hour of battle, the rioters were finally dispersed, not by clubs or tear gas, but by the San Jose Fire Department who hosed down the crowds.

Outside Agitators

The cry went up by the cannery’s management and the authorities, as it would in later strikes, that the whole problem was the result of outside agitators, the implication being that they were Bolshevik importers provided by Russia. Under the Communist Syndicalism Act of 1919 alleged radicals were deported for "unlawful acts of violence used as a means to accomplish a change in industrial ownership or control." This act (which was finally declared unconstitutional in 1968) would be used all through the 1930’s to jail union leaders. Police Chief John N. Black was quick to seek U.S. Department of Justice aid in case it would be necessary to round up radical union leaders and deport undesirable aliens.

There is little doubt that union organizers were sent down from San Francisco to take advantage of the situation. Not all the speakers in St. James Park were outsiders, however. Alec Mackay, local society photographer (an unlikely profession for a would-be communist) spoke out vociferously against the establishment and against G. Logan Payne, owner of the San Jose News. The arrests during the riots netted no "agitators," at least not outside agitators. Of the nineteen arrested, excluding one woman, the San Jose News printed the following names: Tony Bruno 28, Julius Redo 23, Paul Orlando 61, James Orlando 20, James Powers 22, and Joe Lello 25. Probably under advisement of union attorneys, most demanded a jury trial. Two were fined $50 and released with this warning from Judge Percy O’Connor: stay with your own bunch and don’t have anything to do with these outside highbinders who came in here for the purpose of making trouble. Most of the defendants were acquitted during the subsequent trials.

Police Reaction

Determined not to be hectored by the strikers again, Chief Blake called in all his officers for riot duty on Saturday, August 1. For perhaps the only time in our history firemen were assigned the duty of directing downtown traffic. In addition to the regular police and auxiliaries, the chief deputized 178 "special officers" for cannon duty. These "officers" were generally recruited from conservative organizations such as the American Legion, although Captain Laffue of the Legion made a point of telling the newspapers that the Legionnaires were neutral on political issues.

According to historian Starr, government issue machine guns were prominently placed at the entrance to a cannon on Stockton Street. Clearly the stage was being set for what could have been a scene from the Russian Revolution.

Strike Dissolves

Fortunately the strikers were not prepared to escalate the conflict, and the gathering at the park on Saturday was smaller and less enthusiastic. Many strikers drifted back to the canneries the following Monday. The canneries, stilled at the height of their season, were quick to process the strikers back to work. In all, only 37 diehards were not rehired.

Political and business leaders could boast
that they had stood up to the threat of Communist, but unionist members of the American Communist Party had for the first time endorsed themselves as a legitimate trade union with many local members. The Union Hall, displaying their new banner: The Cannery and Agricultural Workers Industrial Union (CWAIU) was burned down at 81. Post street and Lightson Alley. By the end of the decade, the canning industry was heavily unionized. The CAWIU, however, was absorbed into the Congress of Industrial Organizations (CIO) in 1935.

The newspapers claimed that the strikers' march on City Hall was the biggest demonstration in the history of the City. It was to be followed two years later by an even greater demonstration in St. James Park where, after threatening all day, the primarily middle class mob broke into the County jail to remove, torture and lynch the suspected killers of Brooke Hart. Chief Black and his officers were conspicuously absent during this gruesome spectacle.

San Jose was coming of age, and in some ways it was not a pretty sight.

Editor's note: Jack Douglass's book Historical Footnotes of Santa Clara County, a collection of these articles, is available in the bookshops of the Historical Museum in Kelly Park and at the Peralta-Fallon complex.

He added an additional 25, retaining all the growing ones. A free booklet described where each specimen could be found in the park.

The park was a great success right from the start but Paul Murphy became too busy with his full time job at SCU, and Laurence Hollings was hired to replace him. Hollings had broad experience, having worked with the famous artist Maynard Dixon, and had worked as a taxidermist with the African exhibit at the Academy of Sciences. His work on the large gorillas at the Academy led to his work on the famous movie, King Kong.

Some of the leaders in the amusement field too started their career working at Frontier Village, particularly Ed Hutton who ran the Santa Cruz Broadwalk until his retirement, and Keith Kittle who is general manager of Winchester Mystery House.

Not all the attractions were financial successes. The Indian Canoe ride nearby bankrupted the Park. A winding canal was dug for the canoes and filled with water. As fast as water was put into it, the canal percolated right into the ground. First, they attempted to continue adding water; this was a disaster. Then a petroleum company advised lining the banks with a petroleum sealing solution; that, too, was a disaster. The canal was finally lined with cement, and when expensive, the canal finally held water.

Eventually, the Park was sold to the Rio Grande Corporation in Denver. The Corporation had plans to expand the Park, but because of city requirements, neighborhood objections and concessions demanded from Southern Pacific Railroad (access to the park was across the main line of Southern Pacific's San Jose to Gilroy route) they decided to close the park and sell the land for homesteads. The city of San Jose purchased the land in the late 1980's and the former Frontier Village is now a city park, Edwelde Gardens.

In October 1980 all the major rides, buildings and equipment were auctioned and only lovely memories remain. I purchased many brochures and poster at the auction. I also met delightful creator, Laurence Hollings, who will soon leave the area for retirement in Arizona.

Frontier Village by Leonard McKay

Laurence A. Hollings is an 81-year-old unheralded designer whose work we all have seen. We probably didn't recognize his creative ability. If you've been to Happy Hollow Park in San Jose, you've seen Danny the Dragon, if you've been to Cunningham Lake you've seen the big sharks, if you've been to the Academy of Sciences in Golden Gate Park in San Francisco you've seen the huge stuffed gorilla in the big glass case. All of this work was done by Mr. Hollings. And, if you remember the wonderful Frontier Village in San Jose, most of the buildings and rides were his design.

Frontier Village was created by Joe Zuki in 1958 when he formed a corporation and offered 110,000 shares for sale at $5.00 a share. Imagine for only a little over a half million dollars, the amusement park got off the ground on part of the old Hayes Mansion Site. Joe first hired my most creative and talented friend, Paul Murphy, as chief architectural designer while Paul was still working at the University of Santa Clara as Director of Publications.

The initial admission prices were 90 cents for adults, 45 cents for children over 12 and free under 12. Initial estimates forecast that the average visitor would spend $2.60 daily and that there would be up to 10,400 visitors a day at the park. The $2.60 included admission, food, rides and shows. Of course, a trip to the tourist could increase the amount you spent because for each fish caught there was a charge! I wonder what the operators of Disneyland would think about an expenditure of $2.60 a person, per day?

Almost everyone who lived in this area during the 1960's and 70's will remember this lovely park just off Monterey Road in south San Jose. It opened on October 21, 1961 and operated for 10 years. As you walked through the stockade entrance, one first saw the brightly colored Victorian train depot with the merry-go-round on the left. Originally, there were ten rides or activities, but the Antique Auto Duster turned the Mine Train, the Kitty Hawk sail plane ride, the Tarantula whirlabout, the Burro Pack Train, the Lost Dutchman Mine, the Petting Zoo Island and the Stage Coach ride.

The Hayes family had imported many exotic trees and shrubs to their estate, and when Zuki acquired the land, 150 varieties remained.

GERMAN MONTH

An exhibit titled "German Pioneers and their Contributions to San Jose and Santa Clara County" will be on display at the Dr. Martin Luther King Library, 180 West San Carlos Street, through the month of October. The exhibit is sponsored by Germaina Verein, Inc. For more information, contact Maria Brand, 270-4888.

DATES TO REMEMBER

September 13-15, 1996 South Bay Home & Garden Show
September 27, 1996 Association's 25th Anniversary Dinner
October 5 & 6, 1996 San Pedro Square Broke Ha Ha
October 5, 1996 Thomas Kinkade Day at the Museum
October 28, 1996 Association's bus trip to the Splendors of China
October 19, 1996 Pumpkins in the Park
October 30, 1996 Macy's Shopping Day

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Campana & Gale
Robie Foundation
San Jose Rotary Foundation
Santa Clara County Community Foundation
San Jose & County Trust Fund
San Jose Academy, B.S.P.
The Valley Foundation
Historical Architecture Lecture Series

The Historical Architecture Lecture Series is set to embark on its third season. Five slide lectures by noted authors will be held in five different San Jose settings starting on Tuesday, September 17 and running, biweekly, through November 12. Admission is $10, with series tickets available for $45. All lectures start at 7:30 PM.

SEPTEMBER 17: Shiloh Unruh, James Lick and the Observatory
1996 is James Lick's 200th birthday year. This kick-off talk brings historiographer Shiloh Unruh down from the Lick Observatory to the site of the original Lick House Hotel. Rebuilt after an 1880's fire, the replacement structure is now known as the Security Building at South First and San Fernando Streets. Author of Eye in the Sky, Mr. Unruh will share his collection of historical photos of both the Observatory and Lick's buildings throughout California. A free tour of the upstairs renovation of this landmark building is included.

OCTOBER 1: Stephen Mikesell, California's Historic Highway Bridges: Threatened and Endangered Structures
Author of Historic Highway Bridges of California, Mr. Mikesell is a former historian for CalTrans and the State Office of Historic Preservation. His book is the definitive work on this important subject. The lecture will take place at San Jose State's Engineering Building, Room 199.

OCTOBER 15: Glory Anne Laffey, Historic Buildings in the Public Realm
Recent author of County Leadership, the History of Santa Clara County Government, Mrs. Laffey will lecture on the subject of local government buildings. A former San Jose Historic Landmarks Commissioner and now a historical project consultant, Glory Anne Laffey will give her talk in the little remembered 1913 Firehouse (Chemical 4#) at 265 North Eighth Street.

OCTOBER 29: Doug Keister, Going Out in Style, the Architecture of Eternity
Photographer of Painted Ladies and The Bungalow, Mr. Keister is working on a book about mausoleums and has an intriguing slide show for us to view at the Egyptian Museum and Planetarium. As an adjunct to the lecture, the Rosicrucian Order will sponsor an exhibit of Mr. Keister's photos in their gallery starting in early October through November 2.

NOVEMBER 12: Jack Douglas, Binder and Curtis Architects
This turn-of-the-century San Jose firm, architects of the Jose Theatre, the Twenty Building, the Montgomery Hotel, the Civic Auditorium and more, defined the framework for modern, metropolitan San Jose. Based upon his original research, initially undertaken for an article in the San Jose Historical Museum Association's Newsletter, Mr. Douglas talk will take place in the Binder and Curtis designed theater at Mother Olson's Inn located at 52 North Fifth Street. Come early to the Petite Trianon Theater in order to truly appreciate this Binder and Curtis masterpiece and to enjoy refreshments at this closing lecture of the fall series.

For additional information contact the Heritage Council, PO. Box 26767, San Jose, CA 95159 or leave a message at (408)256-2274. The series is intended to promote the development of a slide and image library on local architecture for the archives at the San Jose Historical Museum.

SAN JOSE HISTORICAL MUSEUM ASSOCIATION

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San Jose

San Jose Historical Museum

Peralta/Fallon Historic Site

175 West St. John Street

San Jose Historical Museum

Kelley Park
1600 Senter Road
San Jose, CA 95112
(408) 287-2290

TOURS OF HISTORIC BUILDINGS

HOURS

10:00 A.M. - 6:30 P.M. Monday - Friday
Noon - 5:30 P.M. Saturday and Sunday

ADMISSION

Adults $4.00
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Seniors $3.00

PERALTA FALLON SITE

Corner of San Pedro & W. St John Streets
San Jose, CA 95110
(408) 593-8182

HOURS

11:00 A.M. - 5:30 P.M. Tuesday - Sunday

ADMISSION

Adults $6.00
Children (4-17 years) $3.00
Seniors $5.00

Historic Landmarks Commission Party

On August 22, the 50th anniversary of the San Jose Historical Landmarks Commission was celebrated at the San Jose Historical Museum. The party, hosted by Leslie Masunaga and Judi Henderson, both former Historic Landmark commissioners, was well attended and a good time was had by all. Rather than wait another fifty years to enjoy each others company, those present decided to make the event an annual one. Hope all the commissioners who were unable to attend this years party will come to next year's gala.

THE CITY STORE

Two new books have arrived in the City Store. Both are authored by longtime association members and Museum volunteers.

Welding the Gavel by Mark Thomas ($24.95)

Welding the Gavel is a book about the San Benito County courts and the area's local history. From the viewpoint of the legal system, it tells of people in Hollister, San Juan Bautista and other nearby communities.

County Leadership, Santa Clara County Government History by Glory Anne Laffey and Robert G. Detles ($19.95)

This book focuses on the individuals who participated in county government as elected officers, primarily those elected to the Board of Supervisors.

Be sure to investigate these new books the next time you are in one of the City Stores.

San Jose Historical Museum, Kelley Park
Peralta/Fallon Historic Site, 175 West St. John Street

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SAN JOSE HISTORICAL MUSEUM ASSOCIATION

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THE SAN JOSE HISTORICAL MUSEUM ASSOCIATION
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REMINISCE WITH THE
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MAYOR SUSAN HAMMER
AND
OTHER DISTINGUISHED HONOREES