HISTORIC HOMES MOVED TO MUSEUM

On Sunday, February 22, three historic houses were moved across San Jose to their new home, the San Jose Historical Museum. From 432 S. 8th Street came the Markham House, home of the poet Edwin Markham. The house and moving costs were donated by the San Jose State University Foundation. The second house, left to the Museum Association by the late Kristena DeLuz, was moved from 11th and Williams Streets. Sale of the lot on that corner will cover the cost of the house and moving.

The Gordon House came from McKee Road, near Town, and its move was funded by Charles Davidson, developer of the McKee property. Immediate plans call for placing the houses in a new residential and restoration work as needed.

ASSOCIATION TO HOST HEIRLOOM DAY & CONSERVATION SERIES

On Saturday, March 28, 1987 the San Jose Historical Museum Association is sponsoring Heirloom Day from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Four vendors - Butterfield & Butterfield, auctioneers and appraisers in San Francisco since 1865, will conduct fair market appraisals of items in the following categories: furniture & decorative arts, antiques, paintings & prints, and Oriental objects. These categories do not include silver, dolls, toys and collectibles. The public is invited to bring a photograph with dimensions and other pertinent information for antiques too large to bring to the Museum.

Heirloom Day is a benefit for the San Jose Historical Museum and appraisal fees are $3 per item for Museum members and $5 per item for non-members. There is no limit to the number of items which can be brought by an individual.

Complimenting Heirloom Day, the Association will also present a six-part lecture/workshop series entitled "Commemorative Night." The series will deal with current conservation and preservation practices for antiques, works of art, and collectibles.

The lectures are scheduled for Monday evenings, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m., March 23 to April 27. Continued on Page 8

SAN FRANCISCO HISTORICAL WATERFRONT TOURS

FORT MASON

AND

THE PRESIDIO ARMY MUSEUM

WHEN: Thursday, April 9, 1987
WHO: Museum Association Members and their guests
HOW: Royal Coach Tours
TIME: Leaving from and returning to, the Museum
8:30 A.M. to 5 P.M.
COST: Members: $15.00
Non-Members: $19.00
(Lunch on your own at Ghirardelli Square)

Join us on an historic maritime tour along San Francisco's waterfront. First, and foremost, San Francisco is a seaport. That's why the first settlers came here, and that's why the city has endured. The National Maritime Museum has preserved the rich flavor of its romantic sailing ship days, and will be the first stop on our tour. The Museum spans more than a century of West Coast seafaring history, from the 1849's to the modern era. Parts of original San Francisco Bay vessels and numerous ship models are displayed on the main floor. Upstairs rangers will lead us through exhibits recalling the days of the California Gold Rush, Cape Horners, and steam schooners. We will experience firsthand the lives of the men and women who built, supplied, and sailed these ships when waterways were still the major means of transportation.

Across from the Maritime Museum is Ghirardelli Square. You will have time to browse the shops and have lunch on your own at any of the many restaurants. Ghirardelli Square was the site of a woolen mill during the Civil War and subsequently the chocolate factory of Domenico Ghirardelli.

At 1:00 P.M. the bus will pick us up in front of the Maritime Museum and take us to Fort Mason. Fort Mason dates from the mid-1850's, when it first served as a command post of the Army. It is now part of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area. A ranger will take us on a walking tour of the upper Fort area. There we will find homes dating from the 1930's, plus the recently rediscovered Black Point Battery, which dates back to the Civil War. We will also, learn what part Fort Mason played in the Earthquake and Fire of 1906.

From Fort Mason, we will get back on the bus and proceed to the Army Museum at the Presidio. The Presidio was first established by Spain's military force in 1776. U.S. troops at the Presidio have seen some one hundred and twenty years of service. They have taken part in every major conflict since the Civil War; participated in the California Gold Rush; and provided relief during the 1906 earthquake and fire. The Museum is housed in a 1963 structure, which originally served as the post hospital. A docent will lead us from the Presidio's early Hispanic Heritage through subsequent events of the 18th and 19th century ending with the 1906 Fire and Earthquake.

Reservations for this trip are limited. Checks should be made payable to the San Jose Historical Museum Association and sent (along with the reservation form below and a self-addressed stamped envelope) to: San Jose Historical Museum, 638 Phelan Avenue, San Jose, CA 95112. Attn: Earline Shields. You will receive the reservation form by return mail as a confirmation.

San Francisco Waterfront 4/9/87

Name: ___________________________________________
Address: _______________________________________
Phone Number: _________________________________
No. of Reservations ______________________________
Reservation Confirmed □ Tear Away Wear Warm Clothing

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

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It is Complex!

Many individuals participate in the Museum’s programs in many different ways. Each activity, each program, each building, each exhibit is a program that when seen in its entirety is a complex operation involving unique skills and technical knowledge. Standards for museums are set by the American Association of Museums, and San Jose Historical Museum has received its accreditation. To be an accredited institution, the Historical Museum must perform all functions of a museum. It must collect, preserve, research, exhibit and interpret. I add promote so that the Historical Museum’s value and resource to the community is advertised.

While the San Jose Historical Museum is part of the San Jose Parks and Recreation Department, it is considered its own separate organization so that it is a Visitor Services and Facilities Division that is made up of special facilities. The facilities include all of Kelley Park with Happy Hollow Park and Zoo and the Japanese Friendship Gardens, Lake Constable Fax with Raging Waters, Franconia Park Farm, Almaden Lake, Alum Rock Park, Overfelt Gardens and others.

What makes the Historical Museum different from other places of interest is that it is a museum — largely an educational institution that owns and exhibits artifacts, that has a mission in mind and that is dedicated to serving the community. Collecting is a profession, preserving collections is a science, exhibiting is an art and interpreting is a skill in the written word and a skilled performance by our Docents.

All this calls for professionalism and integrity. San Jose Historical Museum is a place where people have trained for a specific aspect of museum work, and the staff recently hired come to us after a long apprenticeship and training. Each one is trained for the specific position for which they applied. The history of the fact that is famous and famous of our community roots is in the hands of the San Jose Historical Museum. By collecting, preserving and exhibiting, San Jose Historical Museum is contributing to the history and future of our community.

ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Operating the San Jose Historical Museum is as similar to running a small business like a small business, we employ people, we buy insurance, we use typewriters and many more programs. We are trying to establish the intention of selling it for a profit so that we can support the Museum’s programs, fund new exhibits and restore buildings. The two different differences between your Association and a small business is that your Association depends on the number of members who will pay their share for income, and although we are autonomous, we must consider the City of San Jose as a powerful partner in this effort.

For your membership renewal and Museum participation, remember that without financial and physical support, we could not exist. While we are at it, let’s give a great deal of thanks to the City of San Jose too. Quite often we have to blame our City government for all of our failures, and that has put the good guys of the City Hall in a bad mood. Let’s say “Thank you” for having a Mayor who cares for the preservation of our local heritage and a City Manager with deep roots in our valley and his wife who give from their hearts to the organization of the City Council who recognized they had the Museum to deteriorate over the years and had the guts to fund new positions in the Museum in order to protect their historical investment.

Let’s say “Thank you” to Mayor Overstreet, the new Director of Parks and Recreation, who has the “new kid on the block” but has consistently shown his support for the Museum when we really needed it and is developing his own positive working relationship between the Museum Association and the City of San Jose.

In conclusion, I would like to say “Thank you” to Carl Clark, Deputy Director of Parks and Recreation. He has brought a new face, he has made it a part to participate in Museum functions, attend Museum meetings, and continually stressed the importance of preserving our local history. He has constantly stressed the importance of the San Jose Historical Museum and his desire to work with the Association in making it the top attraction in San Jose.

Finally, a special thank you to Mignon Gibson, the acting Park Manager of Kelley Park. It has been through Mignon’s guidance that the Historical Museum has been used and the relationship with the Museum Association has matured. It was largely through Mignon’s tenaciousness that your Association was finally able to develop a contract with the City of San Jose so that projects on the Museum grounds could be efficiently executed by the City.

You, as Association members, are now seeing the results of all these efforts. A vision of our future Historical Museum. Buildings are being repaired and painted, houses are being moved onto the Museum grounds and new and old programs are mushrooming, new displays are being dedicated, creative teaching aids are being developed and the list is quite rewired, rebubled, and repainted. Most important, lines of communication have been opened between the Association and the City. The last few months we have had to sit around and complain amongst ourselves. We now have a concerned ear at City Hall and the City Office understands our unique problems, and one that will react when appropriate.

The next time you see your Mayor, your Councilperson, or the Parks and Recreation people, remember to say “Thank you” for their support of the Museum.

Mignon Gibson
Museum Director

ASSOCIATION NEWS

The purpose of the San Jose Historical Museum Association is to promote and to support the San Jose Historical Museum through Association membership, fundraising, educational and volunteer services, and sponsorship of the image of the Museum in the community.

Kathy Muller
Executive Director

San Jose Historical Museum
1200 Winchester Blvd.
San Jose, California 95112


DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE: Marvin Bamburg, Thelma, Chuck Bickley, Virginia Hammerness, Judy Henselman, Joan Jensen, Patricia Loomis, Jacqueline Schadt, Charles Walton.


The San Jose Historical Museum Association News is published and distributed to members of the San Jose Historical Museum Association twice each year. Membership in the San Jose Historical Museum Association includes subscription to the News.

Bruce Pohle
Association President

FROM THE EDITOR

Chinese American Women’s Club Luncheon & Fashion Show

On Saturday, March 14, 1987 the Chinese American Women’s Club of Santa Clara County will present a benefit luncheon and fashion show at the Renaissance Restaurant. This event will be given to the Chinese Historical Museum Association to commemorate the opening of the Shing Temple (Joss Temple) on the Museum grounds.

The original temple was built in 1930 and remains in use until today. The main temple altar, the majority of the furnishings, and a portion of the building facade were salvaged and are now stored at the Museum. As part of the development of the temple, a replica of the temple will be built and will house the original objects and an exhibit relating to San Jose’s Chinese community.

The Museum Association is very grateful to the Chinese American Women’s Club for their support for this exciting project.

New Ralph Raemo Publication

Ralph Raemo, author of our 1985 membership premium book Ralph Raemo’s Pen & Inkings, has just completed his eighth volume of his reminiscences of the 1906 earthquake in Santa Clara County. The story, to be published by the Rosicrucian Press in conjunction with the Museum, will be in booklet form and entitled Earthquake Diary. It is available for sale in the Museum Gift Shop, hopefully by the anniversary of the quake on April 18th.

1987 Membership Campaign

As we begin the year, the Museum membership continues to grow. Thank you for renewing your membership in the Museum Association. Remember that you can purchase a complimentary copy of Sunshine, Fruit & Flowers, make excellent gifts and will serve to introduce your friends to the exciting programs and events sponsored by the Museum.

Kathy Muller
Editor

MUSEUM AUXILIARY

The Auxiliary of the Association is a vital part of the Museum’s success, donating over 100 volunteers donated 12,000 hours to help staff and maintain the Museum. We serve in the Museum Gift Shop, the Gift Shop, the Hotel Lobby Desk, in the Vintage Reflections Costume Shop, the Archives, the Trolley Barn, and in special events. O’Brien’s Ice Cream Shop is a great place to relax and have a snack served by one of our Auxiliary members, while visiting the Museum. Old-fashioned candy, sodas, sundae, cold drinks and sandwiches can be enjoyed at O’Brien’s Ice Cream Shop. The San Jose Historical Museum has been a great place to enjoy some good food. You will be greeted with friendly, smiling, courteous people who thoroughly enjoy the hours they spend dispensing good will as well as good food. The people who come to O’Brien’s Ice Cream Shop have a great lunch — many of whom remember when O’Brien’s was a place to gather in downtown San Jose.

If you are interested in coming to see us and learn more about the Auxiliary and what you can do to enhance our Museum, call Dulce Janzen, 287-2290. Remember that now might be the time to plan for summer volunteering.

Joan Helm
Auxiliary President

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

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

JMS Conservation Grant

We must meet our application deadline of January 30, 1987 on the JMS Conservation Project Support Grant. The grant proposal is to fund a general survey of the JMS's collection and environmental conditions. The collections to be surveyed includes sixteen restored and reconstructed buildings and their contents, the gardens and vehicles, and the general collection of objects pertaining to the history of San Jose and the Santa Clara Valley. The results of the survey will be used to establish long-range conservation plans, including conservation schedules, storage facilities changes, building improvements, and a Collections and Exhibit Maintenance manual.

We will be notified of the final decision on our application in approximately six months. We are looking forward to beginning the project on January 1, 1987.

UMBARGER GARDEN

The Umbarger Garden (located behind the Umbarger House) is now in a 19th Century mode. Volunteers Virginia Hammerness and Patricia Loomia are planting a late 19th Century household fruit and vegetable garden. It is their purpose to depict a typical garden of a middle class family of the period. Linda Kelly and Sandra Coeelho-Davis have volunteered to recreate a 19th Century herb garden.

The fruits, vegetables, and herbs will be entered in gardening competitions at the Santa Clara County Fair. Additionally, the herbs will be dried and used in potpourri and packaged for sale at the Spring History Days and A Victorian Christmas.

World War I Exhibit

The Los Gatos -- Forbes Mill Museum is opening a new exhibit entitled "Posters of the First World War." The posters are drawn from the collection of George Kane. Included in this collection are such American and French artists as J.C. Leyendecker, Ernest H. Baker, Jessie Wilcox Smith, Walter T. Miller and others. The items are on loan from the San Jose Historical Museum. The items, a McClean saddle with stand, saddle bag, and a pair of stirrups, and a Red Cross foot locker will be on exhibition from February 15 through the month of April. We encourage you to take the time to see the exhibition where objects from our collection are on view.

The Donation

A significant donation of tiles was recently received from Brero Construction, Inc. The construction company, owned by Claudette Weber, has generously donated 8,000 square feet of roof tile. The donation that required two days delivery time came from the Elmwood Rehabilitation Center. It is the same style tile as was used on the Hayes Mansion. The 48 pallets are temporarily stored in the back parking lot and will be removed to their permanent location when the ground is dry enough to support the forklift. We are most grateful to the Brero Construction Co. and Mrs. Weber for the tile donation.

Milita Rios Martin
Curator

ALTOS DONATES COMPUTER

Altos Computer System has generously donated an Altos 880 computer to the Museum. This computer, with the computer operating system and software packages for office management, data and word processing, and technical support, will be used in the collections area. Initial use will be for cataloging and inventory. This equipment should prove to be of great value to the Museum and we are extremely grateful to Altos for their generosity. We look forward to having the computer "on-line" this year.

Nancy Valby
Curator

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GENTLEMEN'S DRESS: FORMAL

In February, a representative of a Valley theatrical group called to ask about renting costumes for a turn-of-the-century play. After discussing a number of ladies costumes, costume rental fees and availabilities, she started to wind up the conversation by saying, "We only wish that you rented men's costumes, too." What a pleasant surprise it was for her to learn that the Museum Association's own Vintage Reflections costume shop now has a fine selection of costumes for men of all seasons, degrees of formality/formality and of several working occupations.

Many of the more elegant costumes were donated to the Association by Bay Area dress manufacturers: SELIX FORMAL WEAR, PACIFIC FORMAL WEAR locally, and ABRAMS' of Pacifica and San Mateo. Most of these are complete outfits with jacket, vest, tie, pants and shirt. There are cutaways, morning coats and tails coats, matching or velvet vests, matching or striped pants, ruffled or dress shirts, and a selection of neckwear styles. Additionally, individuals have donated modern suits which are close enough to the older styles to be slightly modified and made still more authentic with the addition of Victorian accessories: stiff collar, brocaded vest, watch chain, bowler hat and spats (even). And we have working men's clothes.

The Vintage Reflections Costume Workshops being held on the second and fourth Mondays through April, 12:30 in the Pacific Hotel meeting room, are at the service of all who wish to dress in Character, AND THAT INCLUDES MEN, AND MEN'S COSTUMES. While masculine mode may cause some to wince away in drousers, the committee is expecting some direct interest by men, but also expect attendance by women who wear costumes and who wish to be escorted by husbands as elegant as they are. Whatever your interest in Victorian costume may be, you should talk to the Vintage Reflections staff representative, Carol Ouellette, to be put in touch with the volunteers who can help you.

And please remember to mention our costume rental service to your club, church group or whoever you know who might be interested in a "Victorian" on stage, at a party or at one of our Historical Museum gala affairs.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Accessibility of materials for an exhibition such as that prepared for Black History month is contingent upon the cooperation of the community who share with the Museum the items of their personal history. The cooperation of individuals and organizations for the loan of photographs and personal memorabilia for the February Current and Black History Month exhibit is greatly appreciated. We wish to thank the private collectors, Local History Committee members, and professional volunteers who made this possible. The following is a list of individuals who have contributed materials to the exhibit:

Judge John Evan Richards

A graduate of San Jose High School and the University of the Pacific in San Jose, Richards obtained his LL.B. from the University of Michigan in 1879. He began practice in San Jose with F.C. Fesler. During those early years Richards taught at the University of the Pacific in the evening and attended to his practice in the afternoons, and spent the evenings writing articles for the San Jose newspapers, primarily the San Jose Daily Mercury.

Richards wrote a short book, Sketches of the Bench and Bar of San Jose which contains many very funny anecdotes. Some of the best of these are found in chapter IV of Sawyer's The History of Santa Clara County, California (1922). When regaling us with humorous tales of early Santa Clara County, Clyde Arbuckle often draws upon Richards' stories.

Richards was first appointed to the local Superior Court by Governor James N. Gillett on September 6, 1877. Judge Richards served until December 23, 1906 when, because of a quirk in the law at that time, he was required to give up his position for 12 days. He returned to office on January 4, 1907.

Judge Richards remained on the Superior Court bench until his appointment to the Court of Appeal on October 1, 1913, by Governor Hiram Johnson.

Richards' quest for re-election to the appellate court in 1914 was hotly contested. One of the methods used by his opponent was to begin a rumor that Richards' middle name was "Evangelina." Thereafter he made it a point to be known as John Evan Richards.

In later life, Richards received many honors including an honorary Master of Arts from the University of Pacific and honorary LL.D. from the University of Michigan. On February 11, 1924, he was appointed to the California Supreme Court and served there until his death on June 25, 1932.

SOURISSEAU ACADEMY LOCAL HISTORY AWARDS

The Sourisseau Academy, Department of History, San Jose State University, announces its annual 1987 Award of Local History in two classifications, one to an individual and the other to an organization, each winner receiving $600.00.

The awards will be granted in one of the following categories:

a. Voluntary service and outstanding achievement in the historical community.
b. Recognizing significant historical activities and accomplishments by an individual or organization.
c. Organizations which stimulate public interest in local history, collect significant archival material, displays, promotion, videotapes and other data.
d. Fostering valuable projects and educational programs for the restoration and preservation of our local history.

e. Research and writing that deepens the knowledge of our community.

Please send nominations with accompanying qualifications to Dr. David Echols, Director, Sourisseau Academy, Department of History, San Jose State University, San Jose, CA 95192. Deadline for submissions, Friday, March 27, 1987. If there are any questions, please phone Awards Chairman, Frances L. Fox, 283-1879.

Leslie Masunaga, Archivist

SOURSIEU Charities
VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: ON YOU!

Don’t let the winter doldrums make you listless! Rejuvenate yourself and give something positive back to the community by becoming a valuable volunteer at the Museum.

There’s a spot for you! Phone Volunteer Coordinator Dulce Janzen at 287-2290 or send this coupon in and we will contact you!

Name ____________________________
Address ____________________________
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Days Available: ____________________________

I would like to learn more about volunteering in regards to the following areas:

☐ Tour Guide
☐ Hotel Desk Attendant
☐ Collection Care
☐ Archives/Library
☐ Gift Shop
☐ O’Brien’s Ice Cream & Candy Store
☐ Special Events
☐ Publicity/Promotion
☐ Costume Bank

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

Under the sink lived a busy family: kindly Mrs. Stewart, who saw to it that our flour-sack dish towels came snowy-white; the Old Dutch Girl, forever faceless, striding along in wooden sabots, dishmop in determined grip, toward her destiny of germ-laden corners; and two grinning imps, the Gold Dust Twina.

A benevolent lady lived in one of the upper cabinets: Lydia E. Pinkham, who bore a strong resemblance to many of the portraits in our family album, and her nephews Trade and Mark Smith, manufacturers of cough drops. These were bachelor brothers, I figured, so totally absorbed in their business that they stared at each other, ignoring those winsome girls next door, the Clabber girl and the Vermont maid.

Then there were the queen bees: Julia Lee Wright, who brought us a delicious nut bread, and Betty Crocker, owner of an inexhaustible collection of pastry recipes and odesments of cutlery, sent upon request. Joining them on rare occasion was Mrs. Mary Sue, gracious provider of boxes of chocolate.

Three were nameless but unforgettable. Of these, one was the elegant, white-hatted chef who dispensed Cream O’ Wheat. He, obviously, was a cook on the S.P. Daylight, for all the Daylight cooks looked exactly like him, chef’s bonnet and all. Another was that jovial purveyor of breakfast oasts, The Quacker. He, I reasoned, was someone vaguely clerical, and there was some confusion in my mind about this: why was a preacher cooking oatmeal? The last was a daughter of the Morton family, who made salt. This absent-minded little girl wandered pleasantly through all the rafts of my childhood, umbrella in hand, leaving a thin trail of salt behind her, the embodiment of insouciance.

Edith Smith

INTRODUCING DOC NEAR

A delightful addition to this year’s Board of Directors is Docent Council President Doc Near. Doc’s involvement with the San Jose Historical Museum began in 1983 when, as a retiree with some extra time, he signed up for Docent training. Since then he has given countless hours of service to the Museum. In addition to leading Museum tours on the site, he particularly enjoys giving tours of the Peralta Adobe in downtown San Jose and the Japanese Gardens adjacent to us in Kelley Park.

Doc is a native of Montana who earned a degree in business administration from the University of Oregon. He is a retired reserve Army officer, having served with distinction as a combat infantry commander in World War II and Korea. For his service, Doc was awarded three bronze stars and two Presidential Unit Citations, among other honors.

For most of his business career Doc was connected with the Ford Motor Company. He operated his own Ford dealership in the state of Washington for 8½ years.

Today Doc lives here in San Jose with his wife Alice. He enjoys golf, stamp collecting, crossword puzzles, and traveling. He is the proud grandfather of three.

Doc stresses that working with his fellow docents has truly been rewarding. He is proud of his association with the Museum and considers it a great honor to have been elected Docent Council President.

We, likewise, are pleased and honored to have Doc Near serving as the Docent representative on the Museum Association Board of Directors.

MYSTERY PHOTO

The family kitchen of my childhood was peopled by friends never heard but always present: disparate personalities of the food industry of the 1930’s, their portraits and signatures daily visible to my imaginative young eyes.

My all-time favorite was the little boy who lived in the log cabin. Somewhere indoors, I believed, were his parents: Uncle Ben and Aunt Jemima. That the child was white and Uncle Ben and Aunt Jemima colored — this was years before the term ‘Black’ was in usage — did not surprise me, for in my small world just about anything was possible.

Can you help identify this lovely lady or tell us anything about her costume? If so, please contact the Archives at 287-2290.

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A TOURIST GUIDE HISTORY OF SANTA JOSE AND ENVIRONS

Since the days of Marco Polo, travelers have relied upon guidebooks to tell them what to see in foreign climes. As a consequence, travel guides from the early Baskett's to the current Frommers are goldmines of information on what is or was currently fashionable in a particular place. For instance, who, in 1940, would ever have guessed that swarms of Japanese tourists would come to the Santa Clara Valley to take pictures of the single car garage where Hewlett and Packard invented the microchip. Times change and so do attitudes of what is important to visit in a given locale.

I've done a survey of available tourist guides of California going back to 1870 to see what features the writers thought worth noting in San Jose and our valley. Many of these sites no longer exist, but they live on in the early tourist guides and are piquant reminders of our colorful history.

In 1870, Appleton's Handbook of American Travel describes San Jose as: a busy town in the heart of the Santa Clara Valley, having 9,091 inhabitants. It is rapidly growing, and is the largest resort for San Franciscans, who generally make their excursions here on Saturdays and Sundays...It contains one of the best appeared hotels on the coast, and its Court House, which cost $200,000 to erect, is situated on a beautiful point on the harbor. In consequence of its healthful climate, which is a mean between the harsh winds of the coast and the hot air of the interior, San Jose and its neighborhood are much visited by those having pulmonary complaints.

Appleton, who may never have actually visited San Jose, unwittingly quotes an article in the Springfield Republican which describes the people in San Jose: We see an American with his fine light hair and light eye, a well dressed and fair man, the noblest type of the Mexican race. The houses are tolerably large, but not so large as those in the interior. In the valley the houses, even the largest, are but one story high, and many are but two or three rooms wide. The streets are narrow, and the houses are built closely together.

The commentator from the Republican goes on to comment that the people of San Jose are inhabitants of the valley and that they are of mixed races, with a good proportion of blacks among them. The Republican also notes that the people of San Jose are hospitable and that they welcome visitors.

The Republican article also notes that the people of San Jose are of mixed races, with a good proportion of blacks among them. The Republican also notes that the people of San Jose are hospitable and that they welcome visitors.

In 1870, the San Jose Journal and Vanity, a pictorial compendium compiled by Crockwell in 1870, gives the reader a feeling for how quickly San Jose was being settled at the time: So thickly is the country around settled that a bird's eye view detects with difficulty where the city ends and the suburbs or adjoining towns begin. Three lines of railroad, with fourteen passenger trains daily each way, connect San Jose with San Francisco — two broad gauge and one narrow gauge — besides a water route via the bay. Finely equipped electric railroads traverse the principal streets and connect the suburbs as far as Santa Clara, the city of the interior. Since historic Almaden, an avenue as beautiful as it is venerable.

By 1894 the observatory on Mount Hamilton had become a major attraction: To the traveler on the summit of the coast range, the eye descends a white speck, the dome of the famous Lick Observatory. Here is harbored the greatest telescope, the most perfect astronomical instruments and apparatus...a fine panoramic view leads up to Mt. Hamilton, revealing beautiful vistas at every turn.

Facilitated by the railroads, tourism was in full swing by 1890, and: The Hotel Vendome, a palatial house in the heart of a fine residential section, is a favorite stopping place for visitors and of course of departure for the many points of interest around.

Rider's California, a 1925 guide designed primarily for railroad tourists, provides a map of downtown and many details about the city. Rates for various hotels are listed and bath at the Vendome was $3.50, at the Montgomery $2.50. For diners they suggest the Bohemia Cafe at 53 North First (Italian and French dinners), the Liberty Grille at 56 West Santa Clara St. (Sunday dinner $1.25), the American Grill at 259 South First (oysters and shellfish a specialty), and the Royal Cafeteria at 79 South First. Seven theatres are listed: the Victory on North First (best road attractions and vaudeville), the American (also vaudeville), and the Liberty, California, Lyric, Jose and Rex for motion pictures. Churches, banks roll call lines and motor stage lines are also listed.

Perhaps the most well-known tourist guides of all were the WPA Guides. Compiled during the Great Depression by the Federal Writer's Project and the Works Progress Administration, these thoroughly researched, well-written tourbooks describe the important features of most of our state's history. The California Guide, which has since been reprinted in paperback by Pantheon Books, is a rich source of information and illustration of what our state was like in the 1930's.

The main points of interest for San Jose in this guidebook are: City Hall Park (one of the many names for the Plaza on Market Street) the City Auditorium, St. James Park (with a brief note about the 1895 lynching), and the County Court House. Another important local site at this time was the Edwin Markham House (soon to be moved to the Historic Museum). The South Pacific Pacific Station, through which many visitors arrived, had only recently been built (1936). It is designed in a modified mission style, modernized by bronze doors and window frames. In the waiting room is a mural by J. MacQuarrie depicting an early California scene, with skylcrapers and a railroad train in the background.

The Rosicrucian Park, with its Egyptian Temple, Oriental Museum, Planetarium and Amethystothe Shrine, long large as unique San Jose attractions, as does the Municipal Rose Garden on which: Mrs. Fremont Older gave above from 18 of the 21 California mission gardens. Alum Rock Park, the Old Almaden Village and Quicksilver Mines and Lick Observatory are mentioned as points of interest. The Winchester Mystery House gets only a brief mention, being the: externalization of a psychopathic mind.

Old tourist guidebooks are a wonderful way to explore the past and to learn what kinds of attractions appealed to previous generations. They are also reminders of the many man-made and natural wonders which still make this place the Valley of the Heart's Delight.
The Bells at Trinity Church, San Jose

The Christian Science Monitor estimates about 150 real carillons in the United States. Of course, here in the Bay Area we have two major ones, at Stanford and at U.C. Berkeley.

But there’s also one in downtown San Jose. It’s small, only 16 bells (and depending on who you’re talking to, that may only be a chime), with a combined weight of only 6,500 pounds. It’s also rather tricky to play, but the bells were cast by different foundries over the last hundred years. But those bells are real bells, played by hand bell-ringers, in the bell tower at Trinity Episcopal Church on the corner of Church and San Carlos.

The five first bells, shipped around Cape Horn from Boston and hung in 1880, are probably the oldest tuned ring of bells on the West Coast. There are older bells at the Mission, but Trinity’s bells were specifically ordered for it.

A five-note ring in the key of E-flat, and were cast by the Meneely Bell Foundry, in Troy, New York. It was the foundry that cast the bells for the last bell, ordered for the U.S. Bicentennial celebration in 1976, had to be ordered from the Royal Bell Foundry, in Aarle-Rixtel, The Netherlands, and installed by the J.T. Verdin Co. of Cincinnati.

Trinity’s bells are stationary bells (a carillon), not swinging bells—sorry, no tricks of ringers up in the tower swinging on the ropes. Instead, they are played from a console arranged like a piano keyboard, but having wooden bars called batons, which are struck with the side of the flat, rather than keys played with the fingers. These batons are struck by the spring-actuated to activate the organ of the Middle Ages. It is possible to use electronic relays to play the bells from an organ console, but aside from the cost of installation, the electronic relays have to be maintained, lovingly and expensively by electronics experts. They don’t take well to dust and neglect, and it takes an electronics expert to fix them. Our primitive mechanical set-up has been in crisis (Easter Sunday morning, first service, when the E bell went dead) by a handbell-ringer with a pocketful of S-hooks from Orchard Hardware.

Bell-ringing is hot work. In summer, with the sun beating down on it, the bell tower is incredibly hot. It’s also incredibly hot in winter, because its six feet over the furnace, and most of the heat goes straight up. Of course, in winter you can open a window and let the icy draft blow down your sweater-drenched back. In spring, it’s ordeal by elm-beetle. They fly over from the elm trees in St. James Park. From March to June you’re well advised to take a dust brush with you, to sweep the beetles off the bench before you sit down to play. We recommend wearing a mask, and using the dust brush on yourself before leaving the tower. And since the elm beetles are about the size and color of the bells, the crowd will crawl across the pages of music, we have played a stray elm beetle now and then, thinking it was a musical note.

Bell-ringing is also hard physical work. Eric Hatch, author of The Little Book of Bells, notes that many carillonneurs insist on total privacy while playing, not from temperament but from modesty, as the work is so strenuous that two strip to their shorts while playing. MM, yes, Mr. Hatch. They do if they can get away with it. This spring, having finally locked the church behind me, and having the key in my Mighty Paw, I pecked off my white eyeteal Victorian costume and a few minutes later was caught by the law— really, he had his mace as a sheriff—sawing the bells in my Victorian underwear (including kneecap length ruffled drawers and high button shoes). He said he was just wondering how the bells were played. I told myself I was a little more covered up than I would be at Santa Cruz. But I want a lock inside of the tower!

You notice I’m talking from personal experience. A few years ago the church sent out an appeal: more bell-ringers desperately needed. With that kind of invitation, how could I not sign up?

Dr. Jim Angel, the carillonneur at Stanford, gave us a lesson on basic technique, and a book of scales and exercises. Vera Kynaston, for many years our chief bell-ringer, explained the idiosyncrasies of the Trinity bells, and pointed out that if the music calls for notes you don’t have bells for, you can either transpose to a key you do have all the bells for, or fake it around the missing notes, or play something else instead. And every bell you ring (and every wrong note) can be heard all over downtown.

The Trinity bells are played every Sunday for the 10 o’clock service, and by special arrangement for weddings, funerals, concerts, and special community events. So, if you’re downtown in San Jose about 10 o’clock on a Sunday morning, do listen for the historic bells of old Trinity floating (a little off key) over the head of Silicon Valley, and think of the grave bell-ringer pounding on a Medieval clavier in the tower. And please remember, some of the wrong notes aren’t mistakes. They’re just stray elm beetles.

Julie Pifer

HISTORICAL PHARMACY GROUP TO MEET

The Santa Clara County Historical Pharmacy Association will be holding its first general meeting in the Firehouse meeting room at the Historical Museum on Tuesday, April 7 at 7:30 p.m. The program will include a slide presentation on historical pharmacies of San Jose. For more information, contact Larry Mellett at 629-9032 or 299-5000.

A display of pharmaceutical tools and equipment will be on view in the exhibit case of the Pacific Hotel lobby beginning March 9. The display will include items from the Sainte Claire Pharmacy.

ORGAN, BELLS & ARCHITECTURE TOUR PLANNED

On Sunday afternoon, March 22, 1987, the San Jose Public Library California Room will sponsor an organ, bells, and architecture tour of downtown San Jose, as part of its on-going program series that introduces people to their community’s resources and treasures.

The program and tour will start at 2 p.m. at Trinity Episcopal Church, 82 N. Second Street, and will end at St. Joseph’s Cathedral, corner of Market and San Fernando Streets. It will be sponsored by Bernard Hunter, organist, and the bell-ringers of Trinity Church; the Artist, organist of St. Joseph’s Cathedral; and the staff of the San Jose Historical Museum. (Note: free parking is available on weekends at the City parking garage across the street from Trinity.) The tour will begin at the corner of Second (entrance from the driveway at 95 N. Third Street).

The two oldest organs remaining in San Jose are the 1886 tracker-action O’Dell organ at St. Joseph’s Cathedral and the 1894 Hook and Hastings organ at Trinity Episcopal Church.

Each organist will give a 10 to 15 minute talk on his organ (its history, special features, and the goals of organ-builders of the late nineteenth century), then play a 15 to 20 minute selection of the music that could have been played on the instruments when they were built, giving a unique opportunity to hear music of this period, performed on the kind of instrument for which it was written, in a building of the period, with the acoustics of the period.

By contrast, St. Joseph’s with its bare floor, frosted plaster walls, and hardwood pews, is “live.” The O’Dell company capitalized on this, building a small but exquisite 37-tube organ that soars through this great, reverberant space.

The Trinity bell-ringers will also give a brief history of their bell-and-descriptive story of the different styles of bell ringing, followed by a demonstration of the bells. The bells are being heard from outside, so we suggest that the audience leave the church at this point and gather outside, on the corner of St. James Park.

There they will be met by the docents of the San Jose Historical Museum, who will lead the group on a walking tour along the route from Trinity to St. Joseph’s of the oldest section of downtown San Jose, and includes some really delightful examples of Victorian commercial architecture. This is a 4-block tour of 4 mile distance, and will probably take about 45 minutes. People who are not able to walk, or who wish to join the tour later, may gather at St. Joseph’s about 3:30 p.m. The program should finish, at St. Joseph’s, about 4:15 p.m.

The indoor portions of this program will go on, regardless of weather, but in the event of a really heavy downpour, the walking tour will be cancelled.
SAN JOSE HISTORICAL MUSEUM ASSOCIATION PRESENTS

CONNOISSEUR NIGHT

#1 March 23 “An Overview of Conservation Practices,” Leslie Bone, Objects Conservator San Francisco Fine Arts Museums — M.H. deYoung
#2 March 30 “How to Care for Paintings,” Robin Tichane, Conservator and Consultant Textiles and Murals
#3 April 6 “The Care and Handling of Textiles,” Joy Spence, Instructor-Evergreen College Textiles and History of Fashion
#4 April 13 “The Conservation and Preservation of Furniture,” Barbara Shanley, Conservator Specializing in Furniture
#5 April 20 “Conservation Framing of Works of Art on Paper,” Anita Noemig, Senior Conservator, Daedalus
#6 April 27 “Conservation of the Decorative Arts,” Elizabeth Cornu, Objects Conservator San Francisco Fine Arts Museum — M.H. deYoung

SAN JOSE HISTORICAL MUSEUM
PACIFIC HOTEL
7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

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For more information call Militia Rios Martin 408/287-2290

SAN JOSE PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

MAIL TO:
San Jose Historical Museum Association
635 Phealan Ave.
San Jose, CA 95112
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NAME: ____________________________
Full Series: ________________________
Number of Session: Please circle
1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

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DAY TELEPHONE: ____________

Amount Enclosed $ ____________

DECEMBER MYSTERY PHOTO

The last unknown photograph was not quite so unknown and the structure still exists. We have several reports that this was the Liaias School House at the corner of McKeen, Uvas, and Casa. Lomitas Road in the southern area of the Santa Clara Valley. The school has been converted to a private residence which is still occupied. Thanks to all of you who helped locate this structure: Joan Barrica, Al Heath, Loretta Castagnola, George Stickler, David Wood, Neal Benson, Clyde Arbuckle, and Colleen Arndt.

SAN JOSE HISTORICAL MUSEUM ASSOCIATION

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DATES TO REMEMBER

March 14, 1987
Chinese American Women’s Club Luncheon & Fashion Show
Sainte Claire Hilton
11:00 AM

March 22, 1987
Connoisseur Night Series begins
Pacific Hotel Meeting Room
7:30 PM

March 28, 1987
Hairshow Day
Pacific Hotel
11:00 AM-4:00 PM

April 9, 1987
San Francisco Waterfront Trip
Departure from Phelan Avenue Parking Lot
8:30 AM-5:00 PM