San Jose Historical Museum
Association News

Vol. X, No.5
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September 1990

Stable Stomp '90

Plan to wear your "country best" and join us on Saturday, September 15, for the revival of an old tradition.

The Association will host a fun-filled evening of music and socializing, featuring a delicious barbecue provided by C.B. Hammeck of Los Gatos, and country music by Ed Brown and The Country Express.

This adult social event and fundraiser for the Museum will begin with complimentary cocktails at 6:30 p.m., followed by dinner and dancing. Special instruction in country line dances will be provided to add to the fun.

During the 1970s, in the early years of the Museum Association, Stable Stomps were an annual tradition on the Museum grounds. This year's event will take place on the Museum Plaza under the old-fashioned street lights, with the Electric Light Tower in the background.

Invitations to the Stable Stomp have been mailed to all members of the Museum Association, and the event is open to all. Tickets are $50 each, and the tables will accommodate six or eight people. In plan to encourage party together and join us for a relaxed and special evening!

ASSOCIATION TO HOST CANDIDATES FORUM

Mayoral candidates Frank Fiscalini and Susan Hammer, as well as candidates for the San Jose City Council from District 7, have agreed to participate in a Candidates Forum at the Historical Museum on Monday evening, October 2, 1990, at 7:30 p.m.

The Museum Association is sponsoring the Forum as an opportunity for citizens of San Jose, particularly members of the Association, to meet the candidates and hear their views on the issues.

We have invited candidates for the City Council seat, Dave Fadness and George Shirakawa, because District 7 is the District in which the San Jose Historical Museum and Kelley Park are located.

The Forum will be held in the Empire Firehouse meeting room and refreshments will be served. Please invite your friends and be an informed voter in November! RSVP by calling the Museum at 287-3250.

INSIDE ASSOCIATION NEWS

Stable Stomp Fundraiser ...........................................1
Association Hosts Candidates Forum .........................1
Victoria Garden Bus Tour ........................................1
Staff Reports ......................................................5, 8
1991 Premium Publications ..................................3
Societies and Sections ........................................3
Annual Corporate Members ....................................4
Introducing Joan Coriglia ....................................4
History on Menu for Luncheon Tours ..................4
Fall House Tours ...............................................4
IBM Donates Computer Hardware .........................5
San Francisco Chinatown Bus Tour .........................5
Stella B. Gross ..................................................5
Fall Archives Workshops .....................................5
Historic Landmarks .............................................5
O'Brien's Pioneers Use of Dry Ice ............................6
Book Review: San Jose's Luis Maris ......................6
Peralta and His Adobe .........................................8
La Terra: The Enduring Symbol .............................8
Gilroy 1990 Hall of Fame Awards .......................7
Endowment Fund ...............................................7
State of Candidates for 1991 Association Board ......8
General Association Membership .........................8
Meeting in October .............................................8
Mystery Photo ..................................................8
Dates to Remember ............................................8

VICTORIAN GARDENS:
A HORTICULTURAL EXTRAVAGANZA
SMITHSONIAN TRAVELING EXHIBIT
AT THE McHENRY MANSION
MODESTO

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 2, 1990

WHEN: Tuesday, October 2, 1990
WHO: Association members and their guests
HOW: Royal Coach Tour Bus — leaving and returning to the Phelan Avenue parking lot of the San Jose Historical Museum
TIME: 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

COST: Members $30.00 (lunch and all fees included)
Non-members $35.00 (lunch and all fees included)

A celebration of the rising popularity of horticulture in the second half of 19th Century America is the subject of "Victorian Gardens: A Horticultural Extravaganza," a traveling exhibit from the Smithsonian. It consists of 25 photographs and text panels illustrated with reproductions of period engravings, photographs and drawings. It will be augmented with objects of outdoor furniture, art and flora pieces selected from various northern California private and public collections.

The exhibit is housed at the McHenry Mansion in Modesto, which was built in 1858 by Robert and Matilda McHenry. The architect-builder Jeremiah Robinson used the finest redwood and fir in this Victorian Italianate home.

We will participate in both a self-guided and docent-led tour of the exhibit and the Mansion.

A catered box lunch will be served on the second floor of the Mansion. There will then be time to explore the gift shop and the exhibits on our own before we head back to San Jose.

Reservations for this trip are limited and refunds will be made only when there is a waiting list for the trip. Checks should be made payable to the San Jose Historical Museum Association (SJHMA) and sent (along with the coupon below and a BASE) to the San Jose Historical Museum Association, 1650 Senter Road, San Jose, CA 95112. Attn: Karlene Shields.

VICTORIAN GARDENS EXHIBIT, OCTOBER 2, 1990 (9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.)

NAME: ___________________________________________
ADDRESS: _______________________________________
PHONE: ______________________ NUMBER OF RESERVATIONS: ______
RESERVATION CONFIRMED: [ ]

See details of a San Francisco Chinatown trip on page 5.

SAN JOSE HISTORICAL MUSEUM ASSOCIATION
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FROM THE EDITOR

Farewell to Carol Carlson

On the afternoon of July 31, friends and co-workers gathered in the lobby of the Pacific Bell building to say thank you to Carol Carlson for her years of dedicated service to the San Jose Historical Museum.

From 1983-1990, Carol was employed as Manager of O'Brien's and the Museum Gift Shop. Her departure was long overdue, however, when she served on the Association's Board of Directors and, as a volunteer, set up and staffed the Museum's first Gift Shop in the front room of the Print Shop. From that humble beginning, Carol shaped the Gift Shop into what it is today — an attractive enhancement to the Museum which also serves as a source of income for our ongoing programs.

Regardless of whether to replace Carol as Shop Manager is Tani "Yamu," another volunteer who comes to us with experience in retail management and an eagerness to contribute to the Historical Museum. Carol has been extremely helpful in working with Tani to ease the transition in management, and Tani's natural enthusiasm and warmth are obvious to all who meet her. We look forward to making her a part of our Museum family.

Carol will be greatly missed by the Museum staff and the many volunteers she worked with so closely in the Shops. We all wish her well and thank her for many lasting contributions to the Historical Museum.

Kathleen Muller

Administrator

MUSEUM AUXILIARY

Eyes on the Museum Volunteers

Two recent occasions have focused the eyes of the community on San Jose Historical Museum volunteers: the dedication of the historic Trolley #1 in Santa Clara on August 3, and the first Weekend Volunteer Recognition Event on August 4.

The trolley dedication, in addition to recognizing the devoted workers in the Restoration Project who brought the trolley back to its original function and beauty, brought a highly visible constituent of costumed Museum volunteers, most of them regulars in the Visitors' Reflections show. Delicato summer dresses, twirling sunshades and nattily dressed gentleman escorts were the order of the day, and made the amusement quite entertaining. The fashion show group, incidentally, is in the process of developing a new short show that extends its time frame into the glory of the '20s.

Those dedicated volunteers who give tours of staff buildings, lobby desk and shops on weekends were especially honored at a barbeque on August 4, since they are typically unable to attend a June event. Association President Patty McDonough hosted this year's present, who then introduced themselves and shared aspects of their participation in the Museum scene. Brunch was served by six staff members and volunteers were able to take home a souvenir wine glass embossed with a drawing of the Gordon House.

Anne Louise Heigh

Auxiliary President

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: ON YOU!

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 Jaxen at 225-2390 or send this coupon in and we will contact you!

Name

Address

City

Zip

Phone

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

DOWNTOWN SHOP

Something new and exciting is the possible location of a downtown site. Through the joint efforts of the Association and Museum staff in negotiations with the Redevelopment Agency, it looks like we will be inhabiting a space on the east side of the San Jose Convention Center. We will have approximately 3,500 square feet which will include exhibit space, a gift shop and an area for walking tours to congregate. Plans include the changing of exhibits, hopefully for the first time in four years. This fall will fall in line with other museums and galleries which makes the adjacent neighbor will be the offices for Art in Public Places. One will definitely complement the other.

The City has been cooperative in helping the Museum to again have a presence in the new core area of the downtown. Developing in this task is Terry Graff, Kathy Muller and Mignon Gibson for their efforts in pulling together an agreement that is looking acceptable to both the Association and the City. Look to Fall 1991 for an opening date.

PATRICIA BORBA MCDONALD

ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT

DOCENT REPORT

Starting off the new "Dozent Year" by looking back may seem a bit backward, but good business practice dictates that an enterprise should look back to get a better idea of where it is going and what it might do to improve.

Five years ago, when I joined the Dozent Council, it consisted of about 100 Dozents who were trained to give only one public tour of the Museum. This tour included all seven buildings then "tourable" and a growing list of unique Outreach Programs and tours.

Today, the Dozent Council is approaching TWO THOUSAND members. We provide Tour "A" and "B," each tour covering the 30 buildings present, plus eight that have been added to the tours. The ugly duckling at the main gate has been transformed into the glorious Gor- dian House; the Chinese Temple is now a suitable home for textile exhibits and Vintage Reflections (the Delux House is in the advanced planning stage); four other buildings are ready for renovation; and the infrastructure and street paving project, the foundation for future growth, will soon be completed.

With so many exciting developments going on all the time, it is any wonder that the SAN JOSE HISTORICAL MUSEUM is attracting greater recognition and so many and such enthusiastic volunteers for its programs? The Dozent Council has again elected an exceptional group of individuals for its board, each of whom will chair one of the committees that keep our projects running smoothly. I am looking forward to working with them and seeing this another very successful "Dozent Year."

CAROLYN VOGAN

DOZENT COUNCIL PRESIDENT
FROM THE ARCHIVES

Summer Student Help

The Museum has been very fortunate this summer to include in its support cadre a number of students, ranging from middle school to university levels, working with staff in various Museum Programs.

Student Help (continued)
working in the Archives, Mike has been a longtime volunteer at the Museum; many of you remember him from O'Brien's as one of our younger volunteers. Mike is interested in Museum work and has worked on several projects for the Museum during his vacations. He is currently involved in inventing Archives materials and cataloging photographs, as well as doing some directed research.

The Museum has worked with various programs through the years to include youth in Museum support programs. These programs have included Eagle Scout projects, community outreach programs from high schools, university internships and research assistance, summer youth programs, and many others. This type of relationship is of mutual benefit to the Museum, to the student, and to the community. While the Museum has received valuable assistance in the development of these programs, the students have a chance to provide community service and to be exposed to the workings of a "Living History" complex. We have all benefited from these relationships and encourage "younger" volunteers to become involved in the Museum.

Leslie Mamanaga
Archivist

ARCHIVES

Open Saturdays:
The Archives is open for research on Saturdays, 10 am - 12 pm and 1-4 pm. Please call the Archives for an appointment (267-2290).

IN THE COLLECTIONS

Planning for Ng Shing Gung Exhibits

The dream of reconstructing Ng Shing Gung is constantly true, and construction should begin in September. The goal has been historical accuracy with the constraints of current building codes. The Exhibit Committee has supplied information and advice to the Building Committee, since the building itself will be an exhibit of the exhibit.

During this time the Exhibit Committee has been engaged in research and planning for the exhibits to be installed in the reconstructed temple building. Research will be a continuous process. Based on the research completed to date, basic concepts for the first exhibit have been selected.

The first exhibit proposed for the ground floor will focus on the Chinese in San Jose from 1850 to 1950. San Jose’s Chinatown, the contributions of the Chinese to San Jose and the Santa Clara Valley, family life, Chinese agricultural and business activities, and immigration experiences will be examined in the exhibit. Daniel Quan and Associates will be designing the exhibit in coordination with the Committee and Museum staff.

There continues to be a need for materials that will help illustrate the story of the Chinese in San Jose. The Committee is seeking photographs, documents and objects relating to family life, business and work activities. Anyone with things to donate, loan or be copied should contact the Museum Curators Nancy Valby or Sarah Nanes at 267-2290.

The second floor will house the altar and furnishings saved from the original Ng Shing Gung building. These pieces need cleaning and some conservation treatment. Conservators are being selected to provide the needed treatment.

A volunteer program is being established to clean many of the altar furnishings and special training will be provided at the Museum. Volunteers are asked to give one three-hour shift a week. The program is expected to last about three months beginning in September. Anyone interested in participating in the altar cleaning program should contact Nancy Valby or Sarah Nanes at the Museum, 267-2290.

The Exhibit Committee will be continuing its work of developing the opening exhibit for Ng Shing Gung. The Exhibit Committee members, Daniel Quan, and Museum staff are working toward an exhibit opening in 1991.

1991 PREMIUM GIFT PUBLICATION

ADVANTAGES OF THE CITY OF SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA AS A MANUFACTURING CENTER

The San Jose Historical Museum Association is pleased to announce Advantages of the City of San Jose, California as a Manufacturing Center, a special publication available in November 1990 for Museum members. Originally published circa 1884 by the Society for the Promotion of Manufactures, this rare book is part of the Museum’s collections. Our research has been unable to identify any other copies in the collections of other institutions in California.

We have chosen to reprint the original exactly, as an example of the museum-publication publication popular in the second half of the 19th Century. The book contains advertisements from local businesses of the day and beautifully illustrated sketches of many of the City’s public buildings.

Advantages of the City of San Jose, California as a Manufacturing Center was written in the Flowery, effusive style of the day, to woo potential new entrepreneurs to San Jose and the Santa Clara Valley. The climate, transportation, characteristics of the region, and examples of successfully established businesses are described as enticements for new citizens.

This special book which is only 5" x 7" in size and 70 pages long, will make a wonderful addition to your library of local publications. It will be presented in a keepsake package designed to enhance its unpretentious and charming appearance.

Advantages of the City of San Jose, California as a Manufacturing Center will be available to all new and returning members of the San Jose Historical Museum Association upon the start of our 1991 membership campaign which begins in November 1990.

Funding for this publication was granted, in part, by the Sheila H. Bronne Charitable Trust and the Sourvinou Academy of San Jose State University.

Membership renewal information will be sent to all current members of the Association in November. Memberships will once again begin at $20 for individuals and senior citizens, and $40 for families. All 1991 members will receive the premium book, as well as a subscription to the Association News, free admission to the Museum during regular hours, invitations to special events, and a 10% discount in the Museum Shops.

MUSEUM STAFF

Migrant GibsonDirectorOffice
Wanda FossSenior StenoJeanne KondoClerk/TypistArchivesLeslie MamanagaArchivistEducation
Virginia BeckCurator of EducationVolunteers
Dan WestVolunteer CoordinatorNancy Freeman (pb)Volunteer Projects
EventsMonte DuranMuseum Events
Collections
Milita Rice-SamaniegoCuratorSarah Heighe NanesCuratorNancy ValbyCurator

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Kathleen MullerAdministrator
Administrative Services
Carolyn Gip GagnonAdministrative Aset.Carol OuelletteBookkeeperEarline ShidlesMembership CoordinatorShops
Tom EvansManagerAnita KasaunaScheduler/SupervisorMarguerite SpencerShops Supervisor

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Life here has been full for Joan. Though she is a qualified RN, she only practiced nursing for two years. Three daughters and a son have been raised on Joan's Italian cooking. She's British, not Italian; but Vice's mother was a wonderful cook and shared her secrets. Joan is proud that all the grown children, three of whom are still San Jose residents, are excellent Italian cooks. Joan has three grandchildren to boast about happily.

Joan appreciates crafts, such as the rug braiding, hooked rugs and quilting done by her mother and grandmother. Neighbor Christina DeLos, who built the Museum house for exhibiting textiles and made her own woven fabrics, was always encouraging Joan to be creative.

"If there have taken the time to make things though I was taught by my mother. I will always remember each one room in her home devoted to a hooked rug frame and handwork. I love to see quilts at the Quilt Museum and appreciate the work of others," said Joan.

In addition to our Mutual Association Board, Joan has recently found herself participating in the San Jose Downtown Association, the San Jose Symphony Board, the Technical Committee of Friends of Guadalupe River Park, and Downtown Working Review Committee. She also finds time to volunteer in O'Brien's. Even her relaxation keeps her moving with tennis and aerobics at the Athletic Club and gardening.

It is Joan's belief that as full development of the San Jose Historical Museum and the community will have a park that is a fabricless community resource. Joan may appear quiet by nature, but she is a person extraordinarily active in improvement causes for the community she loves. The San Jose Historical Museum is fortunate to have found such a bright penny.

HISTORY ON MENU FOR LUNCHEON TIMES

Brown-bag tours of Historic Downtown San Jose are the newest program offered by San Jose Historical Museum docents.

Adapted from the longer pre-scheduled group tours (which are available by calling the Museum at 287-2280), the 1989-90 Docent Community Relations Committee developed four different 45-minute tours to accommodate people who prefer to walk during their lunch hour.

San Jose's fascinating past provides ample material to captivate an audience. Attendees will learn about San Jose's most dashing bank robber, hear a ghost story, thrill to the tale of a notorious kid bandit, and many other tales of old San Jose. Tour groups will also become acquainted with the architecture and early residents of San Jose.

Tours begin at 12:15 p.m. and end at 12:55 p.m., with a different tour each Thursday of the month through October. Starting points are in front of the Santa Clara County Courthouse at First and St. James Streets on the 1st and 2nd Thursday of each month and in front of St. Joseph's Cathedral at Market and San Fernando Streets on the 3rd and 4th Thursday of each month. Tours are free and open to the public. Reservations are not required. If further information is needed, phone the San Jose Historical Museum at 287-5290.

Ellen Garboke

FALL HOUSE TOUR BY VICTORIAN PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION

The Victorian Preservation Association of Santa Clara Valley is sponsoring a Fall House Tour on Saturday, October 7, 1990. The four San Jose houses listed will be open from Noon - 5:00 p.m. Tickets should begin tours by 3:30 p.m. Refreshments will be served at the Briar Rose Bed and Breakfast Inn.

897 Jackson Street, Briar Rose Inn Circa 1875
456 N. Third Street, Henley House Circa 1884
319 E. Washington, McKee House Circa 1887
132 N. Fourth Street, Italianate Cottage Circa 1870

Tickets may be ordered in advance by mailing a self-addressed, stamped envelope and a check or money order for $10 per person, payable to the "Victorian Preservation Association" to VPA, 792 South Third Street, San Jose, CA 95112 ( DEADLINE OCTOBER 15)

The day of the tour, tickets may be purchased for $12 per person at The Henley House or the Briar Rose Inn. Tours are intended for adults. Proceeds are earned are used to support historic preservation. Call Barbara Conley at (408) 578-2684 for information.

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IBM's funds for community service in the San Jose Historical Museum Association, among other community organizations, included a new IBM PS/2 Model 90 computer and printer.

A computer-generated grant application was sided by Ken Prolo, whose involvement in the Association's membership program, including the membership program's work on educational programs, was essential.

IBM and the additional hardware will enable the Association to more fully utilize its membership program.

The Association is grateful to IBM, Ken Prolo, and the staff of IBM who supported the Association's membership program.

FALL ARCHIVES WORKSHOPS

- San Jose Historical Museum Archives will be offering two workshops this fall for organizations and individuals desiring assistance in collecting and preserving documents and photographs. The workshops are offered with funding support from the city of San Jose.

**THE ORGANIZED ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORIAN**
September 15, 1991
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon
Fee: $5.00 for registration and materials

This three-hour workshop is designed to assist the non-profit organization's designated historian. If you are appointed to keep the records, collect photographs, newsletters, and other materials for your non-profit organization, this workshop will assist you. It will cover what kinds of materials to save, catalog and indexing suggestions, technical tips and hands-on use of preservation materials.

**MY FAMILY SCRAPBOOK**
October 13, 1991
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon
Fee: $5.00 for registration and materials

This three-hour workshop is designed to help the individual make "heads and tails" of family historical materials, decide what to save and choose ways of preserving items. It will include a section on preserving photographs and photograph albums.

The workshops will be held at the San Jose Historical Museum in the Empire Firehouse meeting room and will be taught by Archives staff.

Further information or to register, contact Leslie Masunaga or Nancy Valley at (408) 297-2290.

CHINATOWN
SAN FRANCISCO
CULINARY WALK AND LUNCH
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 27, 1990

WHEN: Saturday, October 27, 1990
WHO: Association members and their guests
HOW: Royal Coach Tour Bus — leaving and returning to the Phelan Parking lot of the San Jose Historical Museum
TIME: 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
COST: Members $39.00 (lunch included)
Non-members $38.00 (lunch included)

San Francisco's Chinatown is the largest Chinese settlement outside Asia. It consists of a 34-block labyrinth of exotic shops, restaurants, and food markets. We will have an introduction to the secrets of Chinese cuisine through an aromatic walking tour of Chinatown. Our host for the day will be the Chinese Culture Foundation of San Francisco. The use of Chinese ingredients and flavorings will be discussed as we are led through Chinatown to markets, food stores, sweetshops, a Chinese herb store, tea shop, and a fortune cookie factory. Lunch, which is included, will be a "Dim Sum" style lunch at Louie's on Grant Avenue. After lunch, we will have time to explore Chinatown on our own before returning to San Jose.

Reservations for this trip are limited and refunds will be made only when there is a waiting list for the trip. Checks should be made payable to the San Jose Historical Museum Association (SJHMA) and sent (along with the coupon below and a RISE) to the San Jose Historical Museum Association, 1560 Senter Road, San Jose, CA 95121. Attn: Earline Shields.

CULINARY WALK, CHINATOWN, SAN FRANCISCO, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 27, 1990
(8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.)

NAME:
ADDRESS:
PHONE:
RESERVATION CONFIRMED: 1

STELLA B. GROSS

For many years Stella B. Gross was one of San Jose's most prominent women. As many readers will recall, the Charitable Trust created upon her death has been very generous to the San Jose Historical Museum.

Stella Gross was a leader in the activities of the Old Home of Benevolence in San Jose, an institution which the Association's Publications Committee is currently researching for a possible future publication. To include Mrs. Gross in the book, we would need a photograph of her and some additional biographical background. The only information we have found to date was contained in an obituary printed in the Mercury on November 10, 1966, issued by the San Jose Mercury. The obituary reads as follows:

**Stella B. Gross**, 99, former owner of one of the oldest businesses in the state and a resident here for 99 years, died at her home at 1796 Alameda on Tuesday after a long illness.

**Mrs. Gross and her husband**, the late Frederick W. Gross, owned F.W. Gross and Co., which closed in 1980 after almost 70 years of operation.

The firm was located at 53 S. First St. Mrs. Gross disposed of it in 1924 when her husband died. The store was well known for quality ladies apparel.

Mrs. Gross lived at the home on the Alameda since it was constructed about 1890. She was one of the founding members of the Art History Club of San Jose and a member until her death.

She was born in Indiana in 1867 and came to San Jose in 1870, remaining here for the rest of her life.

The couple had one son, Wilmer, who died in France in World War I.

Private graveside services will be held today at Oak Hill Memorial Park under the direction of John B. Doubel Mortuary.

Anyone knowing the whereabouts of a photograph of Mrs. Gross or having further information about her, is asked to contact me in care of the Museum. Many thanks!

Judge Mark Thomas, Jr.
Advisory Board

**THE ORGANIZED ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORIAN**
September 15, 1990
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon
Fee: $5.00 for registration and materials

This three-hour workshop is designed to assist the non-profit organization's designated historian. If you are appointed to keep the records, collect photographs, newsletters, and other materials for your non-profit organization, this workshop will assist you. It will cover what kinds of materials to save, cataloging and indexing suggestions, technical tips and hands-on use of preservation materials.

**MY FAMILY SCRAPBOOK**
October 13, 1991
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon
Fee: $5.00 for registration and materials

This three-hour workshop is designed to help the individual make "heads and tails" of family historical materials, decide what to save and choose ways of preserving items. It will include a section on preserving photographs and photograph albums.
Landmarks (continued)

and a multi-purpose area. The park will provide a large variety of passive and active recreational activities along with many historic and educational areas.

The proposed park is adjacent to the three-story Hayes Mansion. The Hayes Mansion has 41,000 square feet and is owned by the City of San Jose. The park design will complement the Mediterranean style mansion with the formal gardens. The Gardens blend into a large pond, with a wildlife habitat that bridges the passive historic area to the active recreational areas with the park.

San Jose has had a grand past and will have a great future. All three of these projects will significantly add to the enjoyment of those living here or visiting our community.

Landmarks Commission Meetings

The San Jose Historic Landmarks Commission meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month in Room 204 in City Hall. All are welcome to attend.

William Thomas, President
Historic Landmarks Commission

O'BRIEN'S PIONEERS
USE OF DRY ICE FOR PACKING ICE CREAM

Charles M. O'Brien adopted the use of dry ice for packing ice cream nearly sixty years ago. This method had two main advantages. First, it decreased the cost of packing and delivering ice cream. And perhaps more importantly, it was more convenient. As the San Jose Mercury-Herald reported on May 19, 1931: The housewives can lay aside the packages on her pharmacy shelf, with the full assurance that on opening it at the desired time she will find the ice cream in perfect condition. She can unpack it, too, without the smallest danger of melting the daintiest frock.

Prior to using dry ice, a tubby tub of ice and salt kept ice cream cool. This tended to be messy and inconvenient. With the new dry ice packing method, ice cream could be kept for use the following day!

Linda Larson

BOOK REVIEW

San Jose's Luis Maria Peralta and His Adobe by Frances L. Fox

Fifteen years ago Frances L. Fox published San Jose's Luis Maria Peralta and His Adobe. The venerable adobe received the center of efforts for restoration during the time the book was prepared. The Museum's Gift Shop proudly stocks this book in hardcover and paper back for those who wish to read the book. Though the book is fifteen years old, it remains valuable as a resource on the history of the San Jose.

PERALTA CATTLE BRAND

Sketch by Ralph Rambo

Frances recognized the importance of the period of transition during which Luis Maria lived his 50 year life. Walking the Anza trek, living with the California native people, joining the military serve as a leather-jacket soldier and later serving as an important civil authority were his real experiences. What we curiously reflect on are the experiences of this man: founding of cities, burial of eight children, coming and going of famous families. And Native Californians, beginnings of expansion, secularization of missions, multiple governs being most envied, the Treaty of La Paz and the Gold Rush. Incredibly when Luis Maria Peralta died in 1858 he left a $1,380,000 estate.

A modest building, the adobe called house is on the National Historical Register, a small gem of a city the Peralta family history is a testament to the days of W. S. John Street across from the Fallon House.

I encourage anyone who plans to visit the adobe to first treat themselves to this book by Frances Fox. It is punctuated with wonderful sketches by the late Ralph Rambo. Then when peering into the cool adobe, the visitor will see a famous honk which once held much life and a special place in California history.

Carolyn Dip Gustar
HISTORICAL FOOTNOTES OF SANTA CLARA VALLEY

by Jack Douglas

LA TORRE: THE ENDURING SYMBOL

his article is reprinted from the San Jose State University Extended Education Brochure of Spring 1987 and contains photographs from the collections of both the San Jose Historical Museum and San Jose State University Archives.

California's first State Normal School (teacher training institution) had its beginning in San Francisco in 1857, but the "rowdy, immoral" atmosphere of that city convinced the State Board of Education that a peaceful rural environment would be a more fitting place to educate young ladies. After some debate it was decided to take San Jose as the first permanent location for the Normal School.

In 1870, the trustees appropriated $45,000 to construct the building shown here on Washington Square. Washington Square, donated to the City of San Jose by Donnor Party member James Fraser Reed as a site for the long-hoped-for state normal school building, was then a swampy wasteland on the east side of town. The Normal School was completed in 1870. The building was extended west on San Antonio Street toward the historic Plaza, the birthplace of California's first civil settlement, until the location of the state's first capitol.

In February 1880, in a blaze that could be seen far away as Gilroy and Santa Cruz, the first Normal School, with all of its equipment and books, was totally destroyed.

Westing no time, the legislators appropriated $100,000 to erect a new building on the ashes of the old. The new Normal School, with its impressive bell tower, was built of brick and mortar in order to discourage further fires. Included in the improvements were plans to landscape the long-neglected Washington Square. This photo (circa 1890) shows the Southern Pacific rail line which ran own Fourth Street until the mid 1930s. Rail service helped to make the Normal School one of the city's first "commuter colleges."

All the fire preventative precautions were of little use when the earthquake of '86 rolled through the Valley. Though not leveled like many other masonry structures, the school was declared unsafe and had to be pulled down.

Below, an aerial photo of Washington Square and parts of downtown San Jose was taken in the early 1890s from atop San Jose's famous light tower. The tower, a replica of which can be seen at the San Jose Historical Museum in Kelley Park, was a 237-foot structure spanning the intersection of Market and Santa Clara Streets.

Undaunted by fire and earthquake, the trustees set about the building of a third teacher's college on the site of the previous two, but this time it was to be constructed of grand steel. In September 1910 the gracious mission style building, with wings enclosing a grassy quadrangle, was ready for the 600 students and 39 faculty to begin a new era in the school's history.

This photo taken of the Quad in the 1930s gives the viewer an impression of the Tower Hall complex as it looked before the wings and arcade were removed. These were torn down in order to provide more open space within the circle of new buildings which were built around the tower.

Newer buildings may come and go, but the ivy-covered tower, long the symbol of the school, will remain a beacon for the future and a link with an illustrious past.

GILROY 1999 HALL OF FAME AWARDS

San Francisco de Las Llagas

The City of Gilroy and the Gilroy Chamber of Commerce will recognize descendants of Rancho de San Francisco de Las Llagas at the Citizen's Recognition Award Dinner to be held at the Ellis Lodge on September 21, 1990. The Hall of Fame Awards were started in 1983 to acknowledge those who have contributed to making Gilroy a fine place to live.

Las Llagas consisted of 22,283.34 acres of valley and foothill landscape beginning at Tennant Road in south Morgan Hill and extending about a mile north of Gilroy at Dry Road. It extended from the crest of the eastern foothill to Uvas Creek on the West.

Evelyn Martinez reports that the name of the Rancho is derived from the "stigmata" or wounds of Saint Francis.

Carlos A. Castro received the original Mexican grant in 1834 from Governor Figueroa. The United States Patent was received in 1860 by Martin Murphy, Jr. and his brother, James Murphy.

Award certificates will be given to the descendants of the following people:

CARLOS ANTONIO CASTRO (son of Joaquin Ysidro Castro & Martina Boutiller) and his wife:

(1) MARIA DEL ROSARIO GARCIA (daughter of Francisco de Paula Garcia and Maria Luisa Ortega)

(2) MARIA JOSEFA ROMERO (daughter of Juan Maria Romero and Maria Lugarda Salgado).

To obtain participation information, particularly if you are a descendant of this family, please contact Evelyn Romero Martinez at (408) 928-1165.

ENDOWMENT FUND DONATIONS

During the months of July and August 1990, contributions were made to the Museum Association's Endowment Fund Special Projects Fund in honor of the following individuals:

In Memoriam

Mabel Guerra
Ralph Rambo
Ramona Longy Stocking
William J. Vargas
Helen West

In Honor

Birthday of Danny O'Doherty
Birthday of Tony Gagnon

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. A letter of acknowledgement will be sent to the person being honored or the family of the deceased.
DIRECTIONS
Kelley Park
San Jose Historical Museum
635 Phelan Avenue
San Jose, CA 95112
(408) 287-2290
City of San Jose Department of Recreation, Parks and Community Services

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

HOURS
10 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Mon-Fri
12 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Sat & Sun

ADMISSION
Adults $2.00
Children (6-17 years) 1.00
Seniors 1.50
Prearranged Group Tours available.

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

MYSTERY PHOTO

Does this spark any memories out there? Our last Mystery Photo of Richard Nixon and several mystery individuals didn't. Perhaps you will have better luck this time. Call Archives at 287-2290.

DATES TO REMEMBER
September 15, 1990
Stable Stomp Fundraiser
6:30 - 11:00 p.m.
Museum Plaza

September 15, 1990
Fall Archives Workshop
"Organized Organizational Historian" at Firehouse
9:00 a.m. - noon

October 3, 1990
Bus Trip to Victorian Gardens in Modesto
8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

October 3, 1990
Fall Archives Workshop
"My Family Scrapbook" at Firehouse
9:00 a.m. - noon at Firehouse

October 23, 1990
General Membership Meeting
12 noon

October 27, 1990
Bus Trip to San Francisco Chinatown
8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

October 28, 1990
Candidates Forum
7:30 p.m. Firehouse

SLATE OF CANDIDATES
1991 Board of Directors - SJHMA

Patricia McDonald
President

Ken Prolo
Vice President

Gerry DeYoung
Secretary

Joseph Melhor
Treasurer

Judge John Herlihy
Parliamentarian

Laurel Pervis
Membership

Joan Cogisilis
Corporate Membership

Patricia Newrminer
Special Events

Gloria Stump
Shops

Charles Walton
Auxiliary

John Cochran
Vintage Reflections

Colleen Kelley
Public Relations

David Crowley
Member-at-Large

Pamela Allison
Member-at-Large

James Beall, Sr.
Member-at-Large

Edward Davilla
Member-at-Large

Veta Gieslenz
Member-at-Large

Terry Graff
Member-at-Large

Sylvia Grevolding
Member-at-Large

Susen Harvard
Member-at-Large

Brian Serpa
Member-at-Large

Tim Stanbird
Advisory Board

Craig Minnewasser
Development Council

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
SET FOR OCTOBER

On Tuesday, October 23, 1990, a short General Membership meeting will be held at 12:00 noon prior to the regular Board of Directors meeting in the Pacific Hotel meeting room. The purpose of this meeting is to approve the following changes to our Museum Association By-Laws and to present the Slate of Candidates for the 1991 Board of Directors. Proposed additions to the By-Laws are underlined and deletions are in brackets.

It is necessary to revise our By-Laws at this time to remain consistent with State laws governing non-profit corporations and to be workable for our growing and changing organization.

If a majority of the membership present at the General Meeting approves the By-Laws changes, they will take effect immediately. Anyone with questions or concerns regarding the By-Laws should contact a Board member directly or call the Museum Association staff at 287-2290.

Only those items of the By-Laws which contain proposed changes have been cited below. Anyone wishing a complete copy of the existing By-Laws should contact the Association staff.

ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP

Section 8. Rights and Privileges

All members shall enjoy equal rights and privileges based upon their membership category.

ARTICLE IV - BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 2. Number

Voting members of the Board of Directors, hereafter referred to as Directors, shall consist of five officers, the chairperson of standing committees designated in Article 4, Section 11 of the Association By-Laws, one member at large for every 250 members of the Association, a representative of the Auxiliary, a representative of the Docent Council, the Chairperson of the Advisory Board, and the Chairperson of the Development Council.

Section 11. Standing Committees

The standing committees of the Association shall include Membership, Corporate Membership, Public Relations, [Docent Council, Museum Auxiliary, Special Events, Personnel, Vintage Reflections, and Shops.]

(The Docent Council shall oversee the operation of the Docent program and act as a liaison between the Board and the Docent Council.)

(The Museum Auxiliary President shall act as a liaison between the Board and the Auxiliary members.)

Section 12. The Development Council

 Liaisons from the City's Historic Landmarks Commission, the City Council, the Docent Council, the Museum Auxiliary and from other organizations as deemed appropriate may serve on the Development Council as non-voting members.)

Section 13. The Auxiliary

The Docent Council

The Auxiliary is a volunteer service group organized to provide supplemental staffing and service assistance for the continuing operation of Museum facilities. A representative of the Auxiliary serves as a member of the Association Board of Directors.

The Docent Council is a volunteer service group organized to provide educational services to the San Jose Historical Museum. A representative of the Docent Council serves as a member of the Association Board of Directors.

SANDOE HISTORICAL MUSEUM ASSOCIATION

Name ____________________________

Mailing Address ____________________________ (Bus.) Phone __________

Zip __________ (Res.) Phone __________

MEMBERSHIP CLASSIFICATIONS
□ 1990 Renewal
□ New Member
□ □ Museum Circle ($200)
□ Pueblo Circle ($500)
□ Tower Circle ($2000)
□ Century Circle ($10,000)
□ Contributive Circle ($5000)
□ Family (440)
□ Individual ($30)
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SANDOE HISTORICAL MUSEUM ASSOCIATION
1535 Seiber Road, San Jose, CA 95112

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